

Leader's Report

City of Edinburgh Council
27 October 2011

1 Low Carbon Conference

Over 400 delegates attended the Edinburgh International Conference Centre on 28/29 September for the second Scottish Low Carbon Investment Conference. Organised by the Chamber of Commerce, and supported by Scottish Enterprise, the conference brought together senior politicians, financiers and utilities chiefs from around the world to discuss emerging renewable energy and low carbon economy opportunities.

Scotland is planning to invest £140 billion on a range of projects across the country, Europe's most ambitious carbon reduction target.

US Vice President, climate change campaigner and Nobel Laureate, Al Gore praised Scotland's commitment to renewables and the low carbon economy saying "Scotland has not only provided inspiring leadership; you are exploiting one of the greatest resources anywhere on the planet".

The conference was part of the Scottish Low Carbon Investment (SLCI) project, a government-backed initiative which supports companies, develops clear business plans and seeks low carbon projects across Scotland. In addition, the project also aims to provide technological solutions in order to attract investment and create wealth.

2 Providing for Our Residents

Edinburgh Trusts

I recently attended the launch of the Edinburgh Trust that brings together over thirty poverty related trusts into one new trust administered by Elizabeth Finn Care. Valued at £12.4 million and previously administered by the Council the new trust focuses on providing local solutions for local people and continues to reflect the objectives of the original trusts.

The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator used this reorganisation as a best practise case study in its annual review concluding with "We hope that this project will be seen as an example for similar applications by local authorities in Scotland, unlocking substantial sums of unused assets for the charity sector." For more information visit www.elizabethfinncare.org.uk

Tell Us Once

Our registrars have started a new service – Tell Us Once. This allows those registering a birth or death to pass essential information to various local council services and national organisations without having to contact each service or organisation individually. Similar projects have shown that essential information is available more quickly and removes duplication.

I look forward to seeing the service develop over the next few months.

3 Providing a Modern, Effective, Integrated Transport Network

Road Safety

Earlier this month the *Streets Ahead* road safety partnership hosted the second *Go Safe! Ziggy's Road Safety Mission*. Involving nursery teachers and early years practitioners, the aim is to engage and inspire young children and adults to go on their own road safety learning journey. Instead of focusing solely on gaining knowledge and understanding, road safety education for young children now aims to develop positive attitudes and behaviours. This event follows the successful Young Driver event held at the end of September to increase awareness amongst sixth year pupils of the risks and responsibilities of becoming a new driver.

Traffic Reduction and Public Realm

Following public consultation, the design improvements for The Shore have been finalised. Key to the proposals is making the area safer for pedestrians; improving pedestrian movement and enhancing the overall look of the area. Specific proposals include: stopping general traffic travelling north from Tollbooth Wynd to Bernard Street, (except buses, cycles and emergency vehicles), widening and upgrading the main footpath, replacing the guard rail on the water side with granite bollards, relocating the bus shelter on the water side; and creating a gateway feature and planting. The works will be undertaken from mid October until April 2012.

Walkway Improvements in Kirkliston

Following the successful development works along the Kirkliston to Newbridge walkway, work along the Kirkliston to Dalmeny walkway has started. This involves resurfacing and widening the 3 mile section to encourage better use of the walkway for pedestrians and cyclists.

4 Improving Care Services

Reshaping Care for Older People

The Council has recently endorsed proposals to improve a wide range of services for older people. Under the Reshaping Care Agenda Edinburgh will receive over £6 million from the Scottish Government's Change Fund. Working with NHS partners, and other stakeholders including service users, an action plan for the city is being developed. Building on what we know works best for older people, we will be investing in key services such as home

care, therapy services, community nursing, equipment and home adaptations and voluntary and community based services.

Care Home for Drumbrae

Work has begun on the Council's £9.5 million Care Home at Drumbrae. The 60 bed home, being built on the site of the former Drumbrae Primary School, is the fifth new care home the Council has commissioned as part of its strategy for providing high quality care for older people.

All the Council's new care homes have been designed to a high specification and include activity rooms, hairdressing rooms and support facilities. The new care home is part of Edinburgh's *Live Well in Later Life* strategy, which aims to provide a wide range of quality care and support to meet older people's needs. The home is expected to open in April 2013.

Museum Collections for Care Homes

A joint venture between Older People's Services and Museums and Galleries will provide older people who attend day centres or are resident in care homes with greater access to the museum collections. Council volunteers will bring the collections to older people across the city, running interactive sessions and developing an exhibition with the day centre and care homes. At a recent event at Oaklands care residents were able to look at hairdressing and fashion memorabilia from the wartime era and share memories.

Direct Payments

Health and Social Care have produced a series of DVDs which tell the stories of people who receive Direct Payments. Clients and carers provide practical examples of how direct payments give more choice and control over the services they receive by allowing them to purchase this directly. For more info visit www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20043/paying_for_care/1183/direct_payments

Consultation on HIV Services

The Council is reviewing the services it provides for people with HIV and Hepatitis C. We are committed to continuing to provide the best possible services and to developing a broader range of support. The consultation runs until 12 December. For information please visit www.edinburgh.gov.uk/hiv or email hiv@edinburgh.gov.uk or call 0131 553 8305

5 Looking after Edinburgh

Edinburgh Local Development Plan

The Planning Service has prepared the Edinburgh Local Development Plan (LDP) to replace the Edinburgh City Local Plan and the Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan. The emphasis is on where change is needed and where there is a choice of how to do so. Issues covered include housing, shopping and leisure, economic growth, climate change and environmental resources, quality of place and infrastructure provision. A consultation will run until the end of January 2012. An online version including key dates will be available from the end of October at [Development Plan](#)

Waterfront and Leith Development Framework

The Waterfront and Leith Area Development Framework has recently been approved by Planning Committee. This framework is an intermediate between the current local plan and the new Edinburgh Local Development Plan. The Framework will inform the preparation of plans across the Waterfront. More information is available at [Area Development Framework](#)

Old and New Towns - World Heritage Management Plan

The [Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site Management Plan](#) has been launched and provides a framework for the management of the Edinburgh Old and New Towns World Heritage Site that will sustain its outstanding universal value.

Edinburgh Lighting Strategy

The Council's draft Lighting Strategy covers all forms of lighting from street lighting to its role as an art form. The strategy has two strands: one relating to a safe night-time environment, the other to the promotion of the city. Comments are sought with the draft strategy available at [Lighting Strategy](#)

Strategic Development Plan

The [Strategic Development Plan](#) is prepared by SESplan, a partnership of six councils in South East Scotland, and sets the housing requirement for Edinburgh up to 2024 and the broad areas where future housing growth should be directed. It also identifies strategic improvements to transport and other infrastructure required to support existing and future development. The Proposed Strategic Development Plan was recently ratified by member Councils and it will be published for public representations on 7 November.

After Dark Debates

A series of 'After Dark Debates' hosted by the City Design Leader, Ricardo Marini have commenced. Each debate focuses on the speaker telling their own Edinburgh story and how the city has influenced their thinking. The programme is available on [After Dark Debates](#). The debates are held at Waverley Court, East Market Street, and are free and open to everyone.

Business Continuity and Severe Winter Weather

Following on from last winter's severe weather events, the Council has been revising its Severe Winter Weather Contingency Plan. To test this plan and ensure it is fit for purpose, Exercise White Mantle was held on 7 October. Nearly 60 people representing business critical activities from all departments attended the event coordinated by the Corporate Business Continuity Team. Delegates considered a wide range of issues, many of which arose during the previous two winters, which allowed attendees to practice an incident response, identify gaps and propose solutions. The plan will now be finalised to ensure an efficient response in the event of severe winter weather.

6 Supporting Edinburgh's Economic Competitiveness

Delivering Capital Growth

In August 2010, the Council published [Delivering Capital Growth](#) which: identified the key challenges for the city, presented a vision for 2030 and outlined key actions for the Council and its partners. The Planning Committee noted the first annual review of Delivering Capital Growth and the progress made. A number of key milestones have been reached including approval of the Strategic Investment Plan and Open Space Strategy and provision of support to nearly 5,000 prospective, new and existing businesses through the Edinburgh and Lothians Business Gateway.

7 Providing Safe, Warm and Affordable Homes

Affordable Housing Boost for the City

A key priority for the Council is to deliver more affordable homes. Around 1,600 affordable homes are needed each year. For the first time the number of new homes approved for start has come close to matching the need. 1,212 affordable homes are currently under construction in the city and a further 1,558 homes have been approved for start by March 2012. Investment in these homes will support approximately 2,180 jobs and lead to an overall investment of £296 million in the city, with a further £122 million being generated for the wider economy.

The Council's house building programme is also expanding. £1.53 million has been provided by the Scottish Government for homes at Fort House and Greendykes. Fort House is being developed with Port of Leith Housing Association and 102 new affordable homes are planned. Greendykes has planning consent for 57 new homes, of which 14 will be for affordable rent.

Contracts for 277 new affordable homes have also been agreed for new mid rent homes through the National Housing Trust Initiative (NHT).

A New Outlook for Sighthill

The regeneration of North Sighthill took another positive step as Glenalmond, Hermiston and Weir Courts - once home to 285 families – were demolished. Former residents and hundreds of bystanders watched as the three multi-storeys came down on Sunday 25 September. Poster competition winner Lewis Reynolds aged nine, joined the oldest residents Maureen and William Murdoch in pushing the plunger to demolish the blocks.

The demolition is part of the Council's regeneration plans under the 21st Century Homes project with up to 1,300 new homes being built as part of new mixed tenure communities, comprising 50 per cent affordable housing, with the remainder for private sale.

You can view the blowdown on [Youtube](#). For information on 21st Century Homes visit [21stcenturyhomes](#)

Successful Start for Housing Incentive Scheme

A scheme offering Edinburgh tenants financial help in moving to smaller homes has seen a 67% increase in applications. The aim is to free up larger homes and allow families who are living in a property with three or more bedrooms to move to a home more appropriate to their needs.

The scheme started in May 2011 and tenants can benefit from up to £1,000 worth of help in moving. Nine tenants had used the scheme by the end of August with a further 122 people seeking to move.

Edinburgh Building Services Retains Prestigious Award

Edinburgh Building Services has been awarded Gold by Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) for its approach to occupational health and safety. This is the second consecutive year it has achieved Gold.

Universal Home Insulation Scheme

The Council has secured £660,000 from the Scottish Government's Universal Home Insulation Scheme to deliver insulation measures across the South of Edinburgh covering Liberton, Gilmerton, Fairmilehead and Pentland Hills.

All homes within these areas will be offered free insulation measures without any qualifying or means-tested criteria. For information call 0800 512 012.

8 Working in Partnership with Local Communities

Meet the Funders

Community Planning staff organised a "Meet the Funders" event in Gilmerton on 20 September, attended by over 120 people, to introduce community groups to organisations who provide grants for projects in the area. Future events are planned across the city.

Western Community Safety Postcard

A Community Safety Roadshow held at the Rannoch Centre on 6 October launched a community safety postcard highlighting the success of the West Edinburgh Community Forum in tackling issues such as dog fouling, broken glass and anti-social behaviour.

9 Promoting Culture, Sport and Leisure

Edinburgh's Summer Festivals

Over 3.6 million people enjoyed the summer festivals this year, despite a very wet August, which saw the city's heaviest rainfall in 20 years.

The Edinburgh International Film Festival featured a variety of film premieres and its largest ever short film programme.

The Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival programme continued its trend of attracting a broader demographic, appealing to younger audiences. Highlights included performances by Konrad Wiszniewski and Rene Marie; a celebration of Swedish jazz; and a successful Mardi Gras.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo sold out again this year. Traditional favourites such as the Massed Pipes and Drums were joined by the 90-strong Brazilian Marine Corps Martial Band, the German Mountain Army Band and a unique Dutch Bicycle Band.

The 65th Edinburgh Festival Fringe achieved record attendance at a record number of shows. Over 1.8 million tickets were issued for 41,689 performances of 2,542 shows in 258 venues across the city.

The Edinburgh International Festival had a strong year for international audiences, with people coming from 75 countries, over one-third of the world's nations. Over 2,500 artists from 38 nations performed at the Festival.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival attracted almost 800 participants from 40 countries. Highlights included pre-publication readings and the Donald Dewar Memorial Lecture by former Lord Advocate Dame Elish Angiolini.

Congratulations to everyone involved in ensuring Edinburgh retains its international reputation as Festival City

New Technology at Corstorphine Library

In advance of the introduction of "Quick Serve" self service technology at Corstorphine local managers met over 40 members of the public on 5 October to hear their views and answer questions. The new technology will allow staff to spend more time helping customers, and, by removing counters, create a more open and welcoming space.

Get up and Go

On Thursday 6th October the Council hosted the Get Up & Go awards which promote access to health and fitness activities for older citizens. My congratulations to the 3 winners: Colin Burton, Ageing Well Volunteer, LGBT Age Project and Read Aloud, Edinburgh Libraries.

Merchiston Tennis and Bowling Club- Opening

I am delighted to note that Merchiston Tennis Club formally opened their refurbished courts on 1 October. The South Central Neighbourhood Partnership Communities Grants Fund provided £1000 towards floodlighting to provide light for play and minimise the light spillage onto the surrounding area. The combined effect of the works will be to enable the club to open the courts all year round and in the evening.

10 A Clean, Green, Attractive and Environmentally Sustainable City

Britain in Bloom Awards

Edinburgh has achieved its best performance to date by winning Silver Medals for "Sustainable Landscaping" for the Edinburgh University's Pollock Halls and for the "Best Public Park" for the Royal Botanic Garden.

The judges assessed three areas, Horticultural Achievement, Environmental Responsibility and Community Participation. They were especially impressed by The Royal Bank of Scotland Garden, the Duddingston Community Garden, Dr Neil's Garden, Dunbar's Close and the commitment of Essential Edinburgh to city centre improvements.

Other areas that received a mention were the conservation and volunteer projects in Holyrood Park, the Edible Hedge in Pilrig Park, the Scottish Cafe herb bed in Princes St Gardens, the City Chambers floral displays, the Local Heritage Conservation - 12 Monuments Project and the Environmental Warden fly posting initiative.

Outbreak of Salmonella Bareilly in 2010

In 2010 there was a serious outbreak of Salmonella food poisoning across the UK, with a number of cases in Edinburgh caused by a strain of bacteria known as Salmonella Bareilly. Edinburgh's Food Safety Team and Scientific Services Team worked closely with the Food Standards Agency and the NHS Lothian Outbreak Control Team and played a crucial role in identifying the original source of the contaminated bean sprouts. This was an excellent piece of work that has recently been reported by the Health Protection Agency.

11 Investing in our Children and Schools

Scottish Learning Festival

Edinburgh was represented at the Scottish Learning Festival on 21/22 September at the SECC with a showcase of our work in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing at our stand. Two Edinburgh Head teachers delivered seminars on leadership which were very positively received. Jacqueline Scott, (Trinity Primary School) delivered a seminar on Leading Curriculum for Excellence while Pauline Walker, (Gracemount High School) delivered a seminar on Developing Leadership across the School.

Early Years sector also delivered a seminar, highlighting effective partnership working, involving Gylemuir Primary School and St George's School. This seminar also highlighted good practice in eco-development, expressive arts, literacy and numeracy.

Family Group Decision Making Scottish Network Event

In partnership with the charity Children First, the Edinburgh City Family Group Decision Making Team hosted the Scottish Family Group Conference Network Day on 2 September. It brought together staff from local authorities and the voluntary sector across Scotland to discuss the role of the Family Group Meetings in decision making and planning. Gillian Tee, Director of Children and Families, highlighted Edinburgh's commitment to this model and how it can shape the planning and decision making for children thus leading to improved outcomes.

Stenhouse Primary Africa Links

Stenhouse Primary celebrated their links with Malawi on 29 September by hosting an event involving teachers who had travelled from Malawi to join the school and the community. Those assembled were entertained with songs and poetry in Gaelic, French and English, Highland Dancing, and performances from the School's Africa choir who had entertained the Education, Children & Families Committee earlier in the year.

Pride of Britain Winner

Julie Coghill, one of our foster carers, was a Pride of Britain award winner at a ceremony on 5 October. Julie was recognised for her work with vulnerable babies. Julie has been a foster carer for 15 years and most of the 45 children she has looked after have come from mothers with a history of drug abuse during pregnancy.

Edinburgh Head Teacher Joins National Attainment Group

I am pleased to report that Lindsey Robertson, Head Teacher at Castleview Primary School, is to join a national working party to advise the Education Minister on attainment. Lindsey will join two other Scottish Head Teachers and two former Head Teachers to advise Mike Russell on ways of improving attainment among pupils in Scottish schools. Castleview is widely recognised as delivering a high quality of education and serving its community and I am delighted that Lindsey has been recognised for her excellent leadership.

Foster Care DVD is 'First' for Scotland

For the first time in Scotland the Council has produced a film to recruit more foster carers for the city. 'Becoming a Foster Carer with the City of Edinburgh Council' aims to answer any questions that prospective carers may have and provides an insight into the process of becoming a carer.

There is a huge shortage of carers for babies, children and young people. All carers receive a fee, allowances and out of pocket expenses, full training and ongoing support. More info is available at [fostering](#)

12 Edinburgh Disasters Response Committee

Since its formation in 2009 the Edinburgh Disasters Response Committee (EDRC) – led by Edinburgh-based aid agency Mercy Corps and the City of Edinburgh Council - have launched three emergency appeals. These are for very different natural disasters: the earthquake in Haiti, the floods in Pakistan and, most recently, the drought and food crisis in East Africa.

The EDRC's first appeal was launched in January 2010 in response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti which killed more than 230,000 people. The appeal raised £390,000.

The second appeal was launched just 6 months after Haiti, when in June 2010 the worst monsoon related floods deluged Pakistan affecting more than

20million people. Once again Edinburgh responded raising £131,000 to help people in the Balochistan region access clean water and sanitation facilities.

This year's appeal has been in response to the drought and food crisis in East Africa specifically in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. East Africa is currently suffering its worst drought in six decades, with autumn and spring rains having failed and rivers completely dried up. Livestock are dying in massive numbers. These extreme conditions have led to a severe food crisis affecting more than 12.5 million people across the region. Since its launch in July the appeal has raised £125,377 for Mercy Corps. This money is already helping 1,021,148 people in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia survive through emergency food distribution, clean water delivery and cash-for-work activities that allow people to earn much needed income. Information about all appeals can be found at www.mercycorps.org.uk.

13 Valuing and Developing our Staff

2011 Staff Awards for Excellence

The Council held its annual Staff Awards for Excellence ceremony on Friday 14 October.

The awards recognise the work of our staff and also demonstrate the Council's values – putting customers first, looking after Edinburgh and becoming a top performing Council. The evening is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the major achievements of our staff, who in these trying financial times, are focused on providing high quality services for Edinburgh. I congratulate all our staff for their continued dedication and commitment to rise above challenges and work towards a common goal of providing quality services and building on Edinburgh's reputation.

I was particularly pleased to present the Managers of Day Support Services – Disability Services with the Leader's Award in recognition of their continuous efforts to help and improve the lives of vulnerable individuals. Their work has been carried out with great skill and understanding.

The ceremony would not exist without the support from our sponsors. Thanks to our main sponsor, BT (our ICT partner) as well as Viridor, Community Information Support Ltd, Blue Arrow, iMPower, Matic Media, Midland HR and Jadu.

The winners are detailed at Appendix A.

CPD Accreditation

Training and continuing professional development (CPD) for accountancy within the Finance Department have been assessed by CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) as Platinum, the highest level of award possible. It is only awarded to employers demonstrating best practice, having integrated policies for training students and implementing internal staff development initiatives to aid continued professional development.

Communications Service

At the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) Public Sector Excellence Awards the Council's Communications Team received gold for the *Modernising Pay* internal communications campaign and *Dog Fouling in North Edinburgh* campaigns. The team also received silver for *Communications Team of the Year*.

In addition, at the CIPR Scottish Awards, for private and public sectors, the *Modernising Pay* campaign was awarded silver.

And, rounding off this success, the team also took gold for the best use in social media for the Youth Parliament Election Campaign as well as the Grand Prix award for overall "best of the best" at the Some Comms Awards.

Well done to everyone involved.

Bereavement Services

On Sunday 2 October 2011 Nicola Barry, columnist for the Sunday Express, wrote an uplifting article commending the excellent and committed work from Council Gravediggers at Colinton cemetery. It was very rewarding to read such positive feedback. Well done to those featured.

David Jack

David retires this month after a distinguished career in local government spanning 38 years. After qualifying as a town planner David began his career as a Planning Assistant in West Lothian County Council. He joined Lothian Regional Council in 1973 and became Assistant Director in 1990. At local government reorganisation in 1995 David was appointed Head of Strategy and Management, becoming Head of Performance Strategy and Policy within the Department of Corporate Services.

Following Jim Inch's retirement David took on the role of Acting Director of Corporate Services on an interim basis. As has been the case throughout his career, David carried out this role with great commitment and professionalism. He has always been a source of sound advice and support to elected members and he is held in very high regard by colleagues in partner agencies as well as in the voluntary sector where he has shown true commitment to partnership working and to the principles of public service. David will be missed by all those he has worked with and I wish him a long retirement.

Pat Cameron

Pat first joined Edinburgh Corporation in 1968 after 14 years in the Royal Navy. After an absence of 5 years Pat again took up employment in 1987 working as a warden for the Housing Dept, later moving to work as a Park Patrol Officer before joining the City Officer Section in 1997 to support the Lord Provost in discharging their civic duties. Pat has had a long and varied working life and thoroughly deserves an enjoyable retirement.

James Pinkerton

James has left the Council after a long and distinguished career spanning both Health and Social Care and Children and Families

One of James's key achievements was to set up the Emergency Social Work Service and 24 hour Social Work Team response to out of hours emergencies across three local authorities. Before that time, social workers had to be on call from home. James also oversaw the introduction of Social Care Direct for Health and Social Care and Children and Families in 2006 - the first contact centre specifically for community care services in Scotland. In recent years, James has played a key role in COSLA's Strategic Migration work.

I am sure members will join with me in wishing James every happiness and success in the future.

Councillor Jenny Dawe
Council Leader

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Customer First – Individual

Winner - Robert McLellan, Floor Supervisor, Corporate Services

Customer First – Team

Winner - FAST Team, Health and Social Care

Working Together – Individual

Winner - Ailsa Cunningham, Senior Solicitor, Corporate Services

Working Together – Team

Winner - Getting it Right for Every Child Team, Children and Families

Inclusive City – Individual

Winner - Scott Donkin, Partnership Development Officer, Services for Communities

Inclusive City – Team

Winner - Braidburn School Team, Children and Families

Smarter Working – Individual

Winner - David Moreland, HR Service Development Analyst, Corporate Services

Smarter Working - Team

Winner - Managers Day Support Services - Disability Services, Health and Social Care

Improving Value - Team Only

Winner - Web Services Project Team, Corporate Services

Leading the Change - Individuals Only

Winner - Ken Shaw, Service Manager, City Development

Chief Executive's Award for Services to Edinburgh

Winner - True Grit Team, Services for Communities

Leader's Award

Winner - Managers Day Support Services - Disability Services, Health and Social Care