

QUESTION NO 1

**By Councillor Beal for answer by the
Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 17 September 2026**

Question

- (1) Given the answer at the last Council meeting, can he indicate how many streets on a ward by ward basis have been cleared of weeds in the last 12 months, be it via the 'Pride In Our City' team, the new Weed Clearing team or other teams?

Answer

- (1) The Street Care Team- Pride in Our City have cleared a total of 525 streets over the previous 12 months, as shown below. This does not include weed removal undertaken as part of normal street cleaning operations, which is not currently recorded separately.

2025- Month	Completed Streets
September	43
October	54
November	34
December	68
2026- Month	Completed Streets
January	36
February	37
March	67
April	69
May	23
June	35
July	32
August	20
September (to date)	7
Grand Total	525

Question

- (2) How many complaints about street weeds have there been in the last 12 months on a ward by ward basis?

Answer

- (2) There has been a total of 1,464 complaints across all wards. Broken down as per the below table:

Ward number	Complaint numbers
1	97
2	111
3	92
4	88
5	71
6	62
7	127
8	74
9	83
10	89
11	117
12	61
13	66
14	99
15	43
16	102
17	81
NCA	1
Grand Total	1464

Question

- (3) How much 'community demand' has there been to self-weed streets across the city?

Answer

- (3) The areas (or individuals) that have requested no spraying take place and are therefore looking to self-weed are:

Balerno Area (Pesticide Free Balerno)
Jocks lodge Area, Meadowfield Drive
Lismore Crescent & Avenue
Scone Gardens
Wilfred Terrace
Abercorn Road
King's Road
Bellfield Lane
Woodside Terrace
Abercrombie Road
Hamilton Drive/Parkside
Eildon Street
Saunders Street
Barntongate Street
Grange Association Area

Question

- (4) Has there been any estimate done of the cost of the damage caused by weeds to pavements and roads over a five year period?

Answer

- (4) No

QUESTION NO 19

**By Councillor Miller for answer by
the Convener of the Planning
Committee at a meeting of the
Council on 27 August 2026**

Numerous instances have been reported to me where residents ought to have received notifications of planning applications but notifications have not arrived, and therefore they have been excluded from engaging in the planning process. I understand that there are external contracts in place to fulfil delivery of planning notifications, for example Royal Mail, and therefore wish to understand how the Council ensures its obligations to notify are achieved.

Question

Can the convener please provide details of Council assurance processes around producing, sending and ensuring delivery of neighbour notifications, including the fulfilment stages of the process carried out by partners including Royal Mail

Answer

The neighbour notification process follows a standard procedure undertaken on receipt and validation of all planning applications. The procedure is as follows-

- 1) The planning application site boundary is plotted in the computer system using a standard 20m buffer around the plotted polygon to pick up neighbours that should be notified. If the buffer is on the boundary of another property the system will manually add the neighbour to ensure all neighbours are correctly notified.
- 2) The neighbour notification list is generated based on all post coded addresses that are picked up within the 20m buffer zone.
- 3) When the planning application is acknowledged and made valid, the neighbour notifications which have been selected will be turned into a PDF by the computer system and sent to the Reprographics team daily, who then issue the copy directly to Royal Mail for printing on a bespoke envelope and posting.

Supplementary Question

Thank you to the Convener for their answer. In my written question I asked how the council gains assurance on the fulfilment stages of the process carried out by partners including Royal Mail, but I'm afraid that doesn't seem to have been included in the answer. Therefore I would like to ask the Convener if they can clarify for me please how the council receives assurance on this part of the planning notifications process, which was the reason I lodged this question as I've had numerous instances where notifications have been sent by the council but not received by constituents in my ward.

Supplementary Answer

The Council is responsible for sending neighbour notification letters. It sends letters via Royal Mail. Responsibility for delivering neighbour notification letters lies with Royal Mail as the Universal Service Provider, and they have a legal requirement to deliver every letter sent via them for which there is a postal address. Additionally, Royal Mail are regulated by Ofcom, and there is a process in place whereby Royal Mail can be fined if it does not meet its legal obligations, which includes the delivery of mail.

The report in April this year to the Transport and Environment Committee on 'Communicating road and pavement improvements' included various commitments to publish information on the Council's website. In the absence of the expected progress update in September:

Question

- (1) When is it expected that details contained in the annual Transport Capital Investment programme, along with explanatory information on the Roads Condition index, will be published on the Council's website?

Answer

- (1) It is expected to be available on the Council website before the end of 2026.

Question

- (2) What progress has been made to make information on planned carriageway and footway maintenance more accessible to the public online, including the ability to search by location for the condition of a road and when scheduled maintenance or resurfacing is next planned?

Answer

- (2) Draft carriageway and footway future programmes will be made available on the Council website from the start of 2027/28, in conjunction with the approval of the annual maintenance programme. There will be the facility to view the future schemes on a map.

Citizens will continue to be able to report the condition of a road through the existing online reporting function.

However, we will not look to publish condition data from the Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey on the Council website because there is too much information to make this data meaningful to the public. We have four defect categories (cracking, profile, texture and rutting) each with varying levels. The treatment intervention levels are different for each treatment type, depending on the road classification (A, B, C and Unclassified). Data is provided to the Council in street sections, not road name, and each classification of road is scanned using different frequencies.