

35154

The Council's maternity/paternity leave policies

Does the council have a formal policy in place for maternity, paternity, adoption and kinship care for all councillors? If yes, please provide a copy.

No, the Council does not have a policy in place at this time.

If no, does the council have any informal arrangements in place by which it would make provisions for maternity, paternity, adoption and kinship care for all councillors?

COSLA have published family leave guidance for Councils in Scotland  
[https://www.cosla.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0027/17838/Family-Leave-Guidance-May-2020.pdf](https://www.cosla.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0027/17838/Family-Leave-Guidance-May-2020.pdf)

Does the council have a formal policy in place for maternity, paternity, adoption and kinship care for councillors with a Special Responsibility Allowance? If yes, please provide a copy.

No, there is no formal policy in place. However, the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2020 now allows Councils to agree a leave of absence for councillors. This allows the Council to pay another councillor remuneration for the role that due to absence can not be fulfilled without breaching the regulations regarding senior councillor remuneration. This has not yet been used at the City of Edinburgh Council for family leave purposes but it has been used for covering long term illness.

If no, does the council have any informal arrangements in place by which it would make provisions for maternity, paternity, adoption and kinship care for councillors with a Special Responsibility Allowance?

No, but the legislation now allows the Council greater flexibility to cover senior councillors and it is expected that this would be utilised for any senior councillor in this position.

Conservation Management

The number of local sites under positive conservation management is a data set released for England which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-sites-in-positive-conservation-management--2/nature-conservation-local-sites-in-positive-conservation-management-in-england-200809-to-201819>

We are trying to establish a similar data set for Scottish councils.

Local Sites are sites designated locally for their substantive nature conservation importance, either for wildlife or geology. Sites in positive conservation management are defined as those sites which are being managed in order to conserve their nature conservation interest.

Request for information on the number of local sites under the council's remit and the percentage of which are actively managed for conservation purposes

The number of Local Biodiversity Sites partly or fully under the council remit is **48**. Of these, **34** are at least partly managed to conserve nature, or **71%**.

Information on our biodiversity conservation and other subjects is published on our website at the following link: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/conservation-2>