



Item no

Committee Minutes

Cycle Forum

Edinburgh, 17 January 2013

Present:-

Councillor Orr, City of Edinburgh Council
Ian Maxwell, Spokes
Ruairidh MacGlone, Bike Station
Emma Crowther, University of Edinburgh
Chris Brace, Services for Communities, City of Edinburgh Council
Phil Noble, Services for Communities, City of Edinburgh Council
Peter Hawkins, CTC/Spokes
Lisa Black, SEStran
Jim Davidson, Services for Communities, City of Edinburgh Council
Trevor MacDonald, Services for Communities, City of Edinburgh Council
Sara Dorman, Pedal on Parliament
Steven Murrell, Services for Communities, City of Edinburgh Council
Brian Curtis, CTC/Cycling Scotland
David Given, CEC Planning, City of Edinburgh Council
Nathan Kaczmarski, Cycling Scotland
Chris Hill, City Cycling Edinburgh
Dave du Feu, Spokes
Sandy Scotland, Spokes

Apologies:-

Duncan Ross, CTC Scotland
Graham Hall, City Development, CEC
Suzanne Forup, Bike Club
Kirsteen Torrence, CTC
Keith Irving, Livingstreets
Katherine Taylor, SUSTRANS

1 Welcome and Introduction

Councillor Orr welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained the role of the Forum, which was to influence the shared direction of travel.

2 Minute

The minute of the Cycle Forum meeting of 27 September 2012 was approved as a correct record, subject to the following:

An amendment to those in attendance: Chris Hill is no longer representing ChangingPace.

An addition to item 4 (after 4.6) "Councillor Orr had spoken to the taxi licensing body, asking them to adopt cycle-awareness training as carried out by Lothian Buses".

An addition to item 7.2: "Chris Brace said that a public bike counter was planned and should have been included in the list of projects. SPOKES was keen to see this at an early date and re-affirmed its long-standing offer to make a token contribution to the cost."

3 Tram

Trialling on Tram Bike Carriage

Trevor MacDonald gave details regarding the tram project, which included cyclist safety with relation to the trams infrastructure, the trial of bike carriage on trams and cycle parking at tram stops.

Cyclist safety included consultation, aspects of street design and raising public awareness. After an initial 6 month period without bike carriage, there would be a limited off-peak trial regarding the carriage of bicycles on trams to assess safety, suitability and customer reaction.

Most "off-street" stops will have bike racks incorporated. For on-street stops it is envisaged that cycle parking will be provided in the local vicinity.

Discussion took place about cyclist safety in Princes Street and mention was made of a site meeting that will take place with Spokes to investigate locations of concern.

4 Active Travel Action Plan – Format and Invitees

An update was given on the review of the Active Travel Action Plan (ATAP) currently underway and how it would be consulted on.

Decision

That Phil Noble would discuss with Dermott Gorman NHS representation on the ATAP Steering Group. Mr Gorman is also to be invited to the next meeting of the Cycle Forum.

5 Planning Issues – Bike Sheds in Gardens

David Givan reported that cycle storage in residential property was either provided through requirements for cycle parking in new developments or through individual applications for structures (normally sheds) within existing gardens.

Some residents had erected bike sheds that were not compliant with planning regulations. Spokes felt that:

- a. The Council should take an approach to such sheds that was consistent with a policy of encouraging cycling; and
- b. There needed to be more clarity regarding what was likely to be acceptable.

Discussion had taken place with Spokes and Planning, with a view to agreeing on guidance for residents.

6 Cyclist Safety

6.1 Road Safety Plan

An update was provided on the Cycle Safety initiatives being pursued by the Council. Cyclists are a key priority area within the Road Safety Plan. Specific cycling actions from the Plan's interventions include data analysis, promotional campaigns and cycle training.

6.2 Get Britain Cycling

Dave du Fu gave details of Get Britain Cycling, which was an inquiry by the UK All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group on cycling safety. He indicated that, UK wide, the number of cycling casualties was now on the increase and one factor might be more cyclists using busy roads.

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It was suggested that in Edinburgh, although the number of casualties might be marginally rising, the casualty rate was probably falling as the increase in cyclists in Edinburgh was significantly greater than the increase in cyclist accidents.

Decision

That SPOKES report to the next meeting of the Forum on ways of making policies more effective and changing practices to improve safety for cyclists.

7 Active Travel Action Plan – Review of Actions

Phil Noble reported on the Active Travel Action Plan (ATAP), indicating that there had been a review of actions after two years and it was expected that there would be a report to the Transport and Environment Committee in June. There would be three stages, which would be a review of progress, a consultation with partners, and an internal delivery strategy.

Details were provided on the progress on activities, the recent recruitment of a new Transport Officer in the cycling team, the expected recruitment of an additional cycling officer and the current funding situation. A questionnaire would be sent to partners, inviting comments and suggestions on actions and priorities within the ATAP.

7.1 Cycle Network – Management SFC

Winter Gritting

Details were given on the winter gritting of off-road cycle paths that has now been included in the city-wide programme. Positive comments on this were received.

Decision

That Chris Brace forwards the positive comments regarding the gritting to the Road Services team.

Revenue Project Bank

Details were given on the new revenue funded 'Project Bank'. This is available from the 5% allocation of the transport revenue budget for cycling, of which £200,000 is ring-fenced for maintenance in 2013/13. Bids for this could be placed by internal Council departments including the six Neighbourhood Teams and the Natural Heritage Service

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Discussion took place on the possibility of submitting suggestions to the Neighbourhood Teams.

Decision

That Chris Brace circulates information regarding the Project Bank to members of the Forum.

7.2 Cycle Network – Development: 2013/14 Programme

The draft programme for capital investment in the development of the cycle network was detailed and circulated for the 2013/14 financial period [see separate attachment with these minutes].

Details were given of the draft projected budgets. Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets was expected to be around £257K, Sustrans circa £1M (subject to bids currently submitted) and Transport Scotland £600K (for the A90 route). The Council will provide a Cycle Block of at least 5% [6% now confirmed] of the transport budget. This would give a potential total capital investment of around £2.5m in 2013/14.

Decision

That Chris Brace consider the inclusion of a cyclepath next to a section of the West Approach road as part of a review of the 'Family Network' of cycle routes.

7.3 Cycle Promotion and Marketing

Details were given on progress on cycle promotion and marketing including the development of the Active Travel Marketing Plan. Further details were provided on route based markings that will be used to promote the 'Family Network' of cycle routes.

Decision

SEStran to forward information to Chris Brace regarding their upcoming bike events.

7.4 Cycle Training

An update was given on school cycle training, which included the number of schools delivering training and the number of pupils being trained.

8 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

8.1 Traffic Count

Chris Brace has made no further progress with inputting the information on the latest Central Edinburgh Passenger and Transport Study on to the Council Website. This would be undertaken as part of a revision of the cycling pages that is expected to happen over the summer.

Decision

To continue to the next meeting of the Forum.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Nation-Wide Forum

The Convener indicated that he would be meeting with Cycling Scotland to discuss the idea of a nation-wide cycling forum to be held in Edinburgh, to promote cycling.

Decision

To note the position.

9.2 Reports for the Cycle Forum

Members of the forum were encouraged to provide reports in advance of meetings on areas of interest to the forum. [Please submit reports for the next meeting by 5 April 2013].

Decision

That members contact Chris Brace or Jim Orr if they wanted reports for the Cycle Forum to be included on the agenda.

9.3 Leith Walk

Details were given on Leith Walk cycling improvements and it was noted that a second, cycling specific, workshop has been held. A consultation was currently taking place with all stakeholders.

Decision

To note Chris Hill's concerns regarding the lack of progress on cycling improvements on Leith Walk.

9.4 Cycling Action Plan for Scotland – Re-Fresh Exercise

Details were given of the refresh exercise by the Scottish Government of the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland. Cycling stakeholders were invited to contribute to the exercise.

Decision

That Nathan Kaczmarek send the letter on the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland to Chris Brace.

9.5 Quality Bike Corridor

There was a discussion on the George IV Bridge – King's Buildings Quality Bike Corridor. Some members were concerned that although £650,000 had been spent, there had been limited progress, the needs of cyclists were being overlooked and preference was given to maintaining parking.

Discussion took place and it was agreed that this was a strategic issue.

Decision

1. To note that concerns had been expressed that parking had been given priority over cycling.
2. That this issue should be considered as part of the current review of the ATAP and of the Council's Local Transport Strategy.

10 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 25 April 2013 at 2.00 pm [**now changed to 17 April 2013 at 2pm**].