

Minutes

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 29 October 2013

Present

Councillors Hinds (Convener), Orr (Vice-Convener), Aldridge, Bagshaw, Barrie, Booth, Brock, Doran, Gardner, Bill Henderson, Jackson, Lunn (substituting for Councillor Keil), McInnes, Mowat and Perry.

1. Deputation: Essential Edinburgh: Response to Report

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Andy Neal (Chief Executive) on behalf of Essential Edinburgh, in relation to the report on Building a Vision for the City Centre.

The deputation was supportive of the report, particularly:

- The continuation of buses using Princes Street
- The incorporation of residential properties and café culture at the junction of Castle Street and Princes Street.
- The review of bus routes and subsequent passenger movement.

Mr Neal commented that he hoped that work could begin in the spring of 2014.

Decision

The Convener thanked the Deputation for the presentation and invited Mr Neal to remain for the Committee's consideration of the report by the Director of Services for Communities at item 5 below.

2. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Transport and Environment Committee of 27 August 2013 as a correct record.

3. Key Decisions Forward Plan

The Transport and Environment Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for the period January 2014 to March 2014 was submitted.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for January to March 2014.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

4. Business Bulletin

The Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin for 29 October 2013 was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

5. Building a Vision for the City Centre – Consultation Outcome

Following consultation with a number of key stakeholders, approval was sought for the overarching objectives and changes to be trialled as part of a long term strategic vision and delivery plan to improve the City Centre.

Motion

- 1) To note the outcome of the consultation process.
- 2) To agree to proceed with the trial proposal outlined in paragraph 2.24 of the Directors report.
- 3) To note that monitoring and evaluation of the trial will be regularly carried out through an oversight group.
- 4) To note that targets are to be established, monitored and evaluated to determine the success of the trial along with other associated initiatives.

- moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor Orr

Amendment 1

Insert the following after 3.1.1 and renumber accordingly.

“notes the increasing evidence that greater pedestrian and cycling provision, rather than car parking, increases footfall and spending in city centres (in particular, the Living Streets report entitled ‘The Pedestrian Pound’) and instructs officers to study this evidence and include consideration of it in the comprehensive review of parking provision in the City Centre.”

- moved by Councillor Bagshaw, seconded by Councillor Booth

Amendment 2

Committee

- 1) Notes the outcome of the Consultation Report
- 2) Deletes 3.1.3 & 3.1.4
- 3) Agrees to commission a comprehensive survey of the origin and destination of users and visitors of all modes of transport to fully understand the patterns of City Centre travel as detailed at paragraph 2.28 of the Report
- 4) Bus services will continue to operate in both direction for the 12 month trial to allow assessment if impact and integration of the tram service.

- 5) Improve the quality and function of the space at the junction of Castle Street and Princes Street to allow for a greater range of activities to take place. This will include the implementation of an operation plan for markets in Castle Street.
- 6) Continue to work with retailers to extend their opening hours.
- 7) Work with all the main bus operators including Lothian Buses to review bus frequency and volume along Princes Street with a view to reducing the numbers crossing the City Centre.
- 8) Review the traffic management arrangements following the introduction of tram passenger service in 2014, specifically in relation to the relationship between bus and tram services and movement.
- 9) Undertake a comprehensive review of parking provision in the City Centre including investigation of alternatives to on street parking, with a view to maintaining the current levels, but creating more space for pedestrians and cyclists.
- 10) Increase cycle parking provision in the City Centre.
- 11) Review the timing of key City Centre junctions with a view to increasing the pedestrian priority.
- 12) Investigate the options for improving the management of trade waste to maximise recycling and minimise the amount of on-street waste and collections.
- 13) Undertake a systematic approach to de-cluttering and removal of unnecessary street furniture and signs. It will also progress targeted repair of damaged footways and carriageway within the City Centre area.

- moved by Councillor Mowat, seconded by Councillor Jackson

In accordance with Standing Order 20(7) Amendment 1 and paragraphs 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of Amendment 2 were accepted as an addendum to the motion

Voting

For the motion (as adjusted)	-	13 votes
For amendment 2	-	3 votes

Decision

- 1) To note the outcome of the consultation process.
- 2) To note the increasing evidence that greater pedestrian and cycling provision, rather than car parking, increases footfall and spending in city centres (in particular, the Living Streets report entitled 'The Pedestrian Pound') and instructs officers to study this evidence and include consideration of it in the comprehensive review of parking provision in the City Centre."
- 3) To agree to proceed with the trial proposal outlined in paragraph 2.24 of the Directors report.
- 4) To note that monitoring and evaluation of the trial will be regularly carried out through an oversight group.

- 5) To note that targets are to be established, monitored and evaluated to determine the success of the trial along with other associated initiatives.
- 6) To agree to commission a comprehensive survey of the origin and destination of users and visitors of all modes of transport to fully understand the patterns of city Centre travel as detailed at paragraph 2.28 of the Report
- 7) To improve the quality and function of the space at the junction of Castle Street and Princes Street to allow for a greater range of activities to take place. This will include the implementation of an operation plan for markets in Castle Street.
- 8) To continue to work with retailers to extend their opening hours.
- 9) To work with all the main bus operators including Lothian Buses to review bus frequency and volume along Princes Street with a view to reducing the numbers crossing the City Centre.
- 10) To review the traffic management arrangements following the introduction of tram passenger service in 2014, specifically in relation to the relationship between bus and tram services and movement.
- 11) To undertake a comprehensive review of parking provision in the City Centre including investigation of alternatives to on street parking, with a view to maintaining the current levels, but creating more space for pedestrians and cyclists.
- 12) To increase cycle parking provision in the City Centre.
- 13) To review the timing of key City Centre junctions with a view to increasing the pedestrian priority.
- 14) To investigate the options for improving the management of trade waste to maximise recycling and minimise the amount of on-street waste and collections.
- 15) To undertake a systematic approach to de-cluttering and removal of unnecessary street furniture and signs. It will also progress targeted repair of damaged footways and carriageway within the City Centre area.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 19 March 2013 (Item 28) and 4 June 2013 (Item 11); report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

6. Appointment of Recycling and Resources Manager

Approval was sought to extend the appointment of the Recycling and Resources Manager, on an interim basis, for a further period of 9 months. The appointment to this post was necessary to deliver a programme of cultural change, implement the asset management system between September and December 2013 and introduce the new recycling service in 2014.

Decision

To approve the appointment of an Interim Recycling and Resources Manager on a consultancy basis, for a further period of 9 months.

(References – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

7. Transport for Edinburgh Ltd and Lothian Buses Board Composition

The recruitment process to appoint the three remaining non-executive directors with transport experience to Transport for Edinburgh Ltd and Lothian Buses was now progressing. The Council's recruitment committee had met to approve the advert and specification for these appointments. It was anticipated that one of the candidates would also be appointed as the Chair of Lothian Buses.

The recruitment process was due to be completed at the end of November 2013 with the recommendations of the recruitment committee along with the composition of the Lothian Buses Board being brought before Council on 12 December 2013 for decision.

Decision

- 1) To note and approve the process for the recruitment of non-executive directors to Transport for Edinburgh and Lothian Buses.
- 2) To note that the appointment of the non-executives and the proposals for the composition of the Lothian Buses board would be reported to the Council meeting on 12 December 2013.

(References – Act of Council No 10 of 22 August 2013; report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

8. Parking in Central Edinburgh During the Winter Festival

Information was provided on proposals to implement free parking in the city centre over the winter festival period (2013). This would support late city centre shopping and promote the Edinburgh City Centre Experience which aimed to boost the local economy by attracting visitors to central Edinburgh.

Motion

- 1) To agree to implement a zero charge, from 2 to 28 December 2013, at the various pay and display parking places on the roads listed in Appendix 1, between the hours of:
 - a) 5.00pm to 6.30pm on the roads within the Central Zones of the Controlled Parking Scheme;
 - b) 5.00pm and 5.30pm on the roads within the Peripheral and Extended Zones of the Controlled Parking Scheme.
- 2) To instruct the Director of Services for Communities to advertise the relevant notices to introduce this arrangement.
- 3) To note that a further report would be submitted next year to the Committee on ways in which sustainable transport contributed to positive promotion of the city centre.

- 4) To agree that, in future, any consultation process on similar proposed schemes would include residents.

- moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor Orr

Amendment

Delete the recommendations as set out in the report by the Director of Services for Communities and replace with:

- 1) To note that in the evaluation of the similar previous scheme half of those who had used free parking said that it made no difference to their decision to stay on in the city centre and that the cost-effectiveness of it has not been prove.
- 2) To note the decision of Full Council of 22 November 2012 '[t]o regret the decision to begin the process of initiating the winter campaign without dully evaluating experience to date but accept, at this late stage, that the winter scheme as described in the report but the Director of Services for Communities should go ahead for the planned period of 3 December 2012 to 5 January 2013 inclusive and '[t]o request that sufficiently in advance of any future such schemes, a full option appraisal as to various means of achieving the objectives in a way which was consistent with the city's transport, planning and long term sustainable development goals be presented.
- 3) No further action to be taken until that decision has been duly implemented.

- moved by Councillor Bagshaw, seconded by Councillor Booth

Voting

For the motion	-	14 votes
For the amendment	-	2 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Hinds.

(References – Act of Council No 14 of 22 November 2012; report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

9. Trade Waste Policy Options

Approval was sought for options for mitigating or eliminating the adverse impact of current trade waste collection arrangements and practices with a view to developing a city wide policy. The report identified limiting the presence of bins/bags and the collection of trade waste to certain times of the day as the preferred option and proposed carrying out three pilots in order to evaluate the effectiveness of this approach.

Decision

- 1) To agree to trialling timed trade waste collections in Rose Street (and its lanes), the High Street and Leith Walk for a period of up to nine months commencing 6th January 2014.

- 2) To note the intention to submit progress reports to this Committee on the outcome of the pilots before and after the Summer Festival Period.
- 3) To note the importance of having a compliance team in place to provide information and enforcement to businesses and to support the implementation of the three pilots.

(References – Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee 23 November 2012 (Item 7); report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

10. Towards a Litter-Free Scotland – Consultation on a Strategy to tackle and prevent Litter and flytipping

The Council had been invited to comment on the Scottish Government Consultation on a strategy to tackle and prevent litter and flytipping. The closing date for responses was 27 September 2013. Details were provided on the response which had been prepared in consultation with elected members and submitted by Services for Communities on behalf of the Council.

Decision

To note the response to the consultation document set out in Appendix 1 of the report by the Director of Services for Communities.

(Reference – Transport and Environment Committee 27 August 2013 (Item 6) report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

11. Events in Parks and Greenspace

The Council's Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto provided a strategic and proactive approach to planning and managing events within Edinburgh's parks and greenspaces.

Approval was sought to carry out a review and consultation exercise to determine if changes were required to the Manifesto.

Decision

- 1) To acknowledge the success of the Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto in managing events in parks in a more sustainable manner.
- 2) To note the more general issues being raised by stakeholders regarding the management of events in the city's parks.
- 3) To approve a review and consultation exercise to determine whether changes were required to the Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto and to identify any further improvements to the management of events in Edinburgh's parks.

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee 31 August 2010 (Item 8); report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

12. Chair

At this point in the proceedings, the Convener (Councillor Hinds) vacated the Chair and the Vice-Convener (Councillor Orr) assumed the Chair.

13. Winter Weather Preparations 2013/14

Preparations and arrangements to deal with any severe winter weather event had arisen from a comprehensive review of winter weather preparedness following the severe winters of 2009/10 and 2010/11. A summary was given of the key measures and maintenance plans which had been put in place for winter 2013/14.

Decision

To note and endorse the action taken to prepare for winter 2013/14.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 23 November 2012 (Item 11); - report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

14. Chair

At this point in the proceedings, the Vice-Convener (Councillor Orr) vacated the Chair and the Convener (Councillor Hinds) assumed the Chair.

15. Road and Pavement Prioritisation Review 2013

Approval was sought for amendments to the procedures currently being used to prioritise road and footway resurfacing throughout Edinburgh.

Decision

- 1) To approve the reduction in the bus weighting as shown in Appendix B of the report by the Director of Services for Communities.
- 2) To approve the allocation for Type 3 and Type 4 carriageways as detailed in section 2.4 of the report.
- 3) To approve the allocation for local footways as detailed in section 2.9 of the report.
- 4) To approve a review of on-road cycle prioritisation at a future date, as detailed in sections 2.11 and 2.12 of the report..
- 5) To request that the Director of Services for Communities report back to Committee in advance of the budget being set for the 2014/15 financial year.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 23 November 2012 (Item 4); report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

16. Road and Footway Investment – Capital Programme for 2014/15

Approval was sought for the allocation of the Road, Footway and Street Lighting Capital budget and programme of works for 2014/15.

Decision

- 1) To approve the allocation of the capital budget for 2014/15 shown in Appendix A of the report by the Director of Services for Communities.
- 2) To approve the programme of proposed works for 2014/15, as detailed in section 2 of the report and in Appendices B and D to the report.

- 3) To approve the proposal to submit a 2013/14 update report to Committee in January 2014, as detailed in section 2.27 of the report.
- 4) To note that reasons for deferral of schemes be included in future reports.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

17. Review of Subsidised Bus Service Contracts 2013

Approval was sought for the continuation of the Council funding or part-funding a number of Local Bus Service Contracts. The annual Council budget for this purpose amounted to £1.15m, plus £80,000 agreed for 2013/2014.

Decision

- 1) To agree that the current Subsidised Bus Service Contracts funded by the Council in the main represented good value for money and helped to achieve key aims of the Council.
- 2) To note that a number of contracts were to be tendered in the near future and that others would be re-tendered within the next 12 months.
- 3) To note that the performance of Hogmanay Free Night Bus service N43 would be monitored.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

18. Temporary Pedestrian Crossing - Motion by Councillor Bagshaw

In response to a motion by Councillor Bagshaw, information was provided on the current practice and future use of portable traffic signals for pedestrians at road works and the reasons for these procedures.

Decision

- 1) To approve the future use of portable traffic signals for pedestrians at road works where appropriate.
- 2) To acknowledge that the Highways Agency specifications should be followed and only type approved equipment used.
- 3) To note that Public Utility (PU) and other road maintenance contractors would be consulted on the appropriate use of portable traffic signals, for pedestrians, whenever roadworks were being planned.
- 4) To note the intention to incorporate the use of portable traffic signals for pedestrians into a revised version of the Edinburgh Roadworks Ahead Agreement (ERWAA).
- 5) To note that there may be significant financial implications for contractors, PUs and the Council, but recognise the need to balance those implications against the requirements of vulnerable road users such as young people, the elderly and the disabled and instructs officers to ensure provision of portable pedestrian facilities for any work lasting over three days on the basis that it be considered

by the Member/Officer Working Group in the first instance and reported back to Committee in 6 months.

- 6) To discharge the motion by Councillor Bagshaw.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 15 January 2013 (Item 23); report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

19. Priority Parking Update – Various Areas, Edinburgh

An update was given on the progress of investigations into the introduction of priority parking schemes in various areas around Edinburgh. Recommendations were made based on the results of the investigations.

Decision

- 1) To approve the abandonment of priority parking proposals in Groathill/Maidencraig, Brunstane and Roseburn for the reasons detailed in the report by the Director of Services for Communities.
- 2) To note the progress made on proposals in Blackford/Nether Liberton, Murrayfield, Lockharton, Priestfield and Craigleith areas.
- 3) To repel the objections received during the formal consultation on priority parking in the Blinkbonny area.
- 4) To approve the phased introduction of the Blinkbonny Priority Parking scheme.
- 5) To note the intention to consult with residents in the Saughton and Balgreen areas around the future tram stops on potential parking problems and to ascertain if parking controls were required.
- 6) To note the intention to consult with residents in the Craighour area regarding the relocation of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children (RHSC) to ascertain if parking controls were required if parking problems arise.

(Reference – Transport and Environment Committee Report 19 March 2013 (Item 38); report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

20. Vehicle Activated Speed Signs - Priority List of Future Sites

Approval was sought for the construction of Vehicle Activated Speed Signs (VASS) at two sites, on the A8 at the Royal Bank of Scotland's HQ and on the A90 Hillhouse Road on the westbound carriageway to the west of the Blackhall dip.

Decision

- 1) To approve the introduction of VASS equipment at the two sites detailed.
- 2) To note that each site would be consulted upon with residents, relevant Neighbourhood Partnerships and local Councillors prior to any installation works.

(References – Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee 4 May 2010 (Item 10): report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

21. Broughton/Stockbridge – Amendment to Parking Charges

Approval was sought to commence the statutory procedure to vary the Traffic Regulation Order governing the Broughton/Stockbridge Parking Scheme to amend the parking charges on Broughton Street, Rodney Street and Dean Haugh Street from thirty minutes maximum stay to one hour maximum stay.

Decision

To commence the statutory procedure to vary the Traffic Regulation Order governing the Broughton/Stockbridge Parking Scheme to amend the parking charges on Broughton Street, Rodney Street and Dean Haugh Street from thirty minutes maximum stay to one hour maximum stay.

(Reference - report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

22. Landfill and Recycling Update

An update was provided on performance in reducing the amount of waste being sent to landfill and increasing recycling. The positive trend in performance was continuing with the amount of waste sent to landfill so far in 2013/14 reducing by 4,998 tonnes or 8% when compared against the same period last year. Based on tonnage data for the period ending August 2013 and taking into account seasonal factors it was forecast that 132,708 tonnes would be sent to landfill this year, 4,538 tonnes or 3.3% less than the previous year.

Decision

To note the performance information.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

23. Saughton Park and Garden Heritage Lottery Fund Project Board

It was proposed to establish a project sounding board made up of elected members, relevant officials and representation from the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society to help facilitate the restoration of Saughton Park and Gardens.

Decision

- 1) To note the project governance and management arrangements being put in place.
- 2) To establish a project sounding board consisting of local ward members and the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee.

(Reference – Transport and Environment Committee 27 August 2013 (Item 28); report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

24. Ban cycling on City Centre pavements by Cyclists over 12 Years

The Petitions Committee had referred a petition entitled 'Ban cycling on City Centre pavements by cyclists over 12 years' to this Committee for consideration.

The Petitions Committee had otherwise agreed:

- 1) To note that the Director of Services for Communities would investigate the possibility of including the promotion of cyclist/pedestrian safety within the Active Travel Action Plan & Road Safety Action Plan.
- 2) To note the discussions on the possibility of holding a city wide initiative in response to the issues in the petition
- 3) To note that Police Scotland would provide statistics on the number of and location of pedestrian/cyclist collisions and the number of fixed penalty notices issued for cycling on the footpath to the City of Edinburgh Council.
- 4) To ask that the issue of footpath cycling and its consequences be discussed further at Tactical and Co-ordination Groups (TAC) of Neighbourhood Partnerships and that an update be provided to the Petitions Committee within 12 months on any actions that have been taken.

Decision

- 1) To note the terms of the Petition.
- 2) To request the Director of Services for Communities to submit a report to the Transport and Environment Committee on 14 January 2014 on the issues raised in the Petition.

(References – Petitions Committee 5 September 2013 (Item 3); report by the Head of Legal, Risk and Compliance, submitted.)

25. Solar Photovoltaic Energy – A Strategic Approach

The Economy Committee had considered a report by the Head of Economic Development setting out an approach to supporting jobs and investment in the city's energy sector and detailed proposals to develop the business potential of solar photovoltaic energy arrays.

The Economy Committee agreed

- 1) That the Economic Development Service develops, in collaboration with other Council services, a strategic framework to support jobs and investment in the city's energy sector, building in provision for solar photovoltaic arrays and other innovative technologies.
- 2) To receive an interim report on the energy framework by February 2014.
- 3) To instruct the Director of Services for Communities to identify Council Land (such as landfill sites) which could be allocated for the necessary 25 years to ensure adequate return on investment and report back within one cycle.
- 4) To note that it was the responsibility of the Transport and Environment Committee for delivering these projects.
- 5) To recommend to the Transport and Environment Committee that solar photovoltaic array projects on these sites should be delivered at no capital cost to the Council.

- 6) To recommend to the Transport and Environment Committee that a proportion of the electricity produced by these projects be directed to mitigate against fuel poverty in the City.
- 7) To refer the report by the Head of Economic Development to the Transport and Environment Committee.

Decision

To note the report.

(References – Economy Committee 17 September 2013 (item 13); report by the Head of Legal, Risk and Compliance, submitted.)

26. Britain in Bloom Award

The City of Edinburgh had been announced as the winner of Large City category and awarded a gold medal in this year's "Britain in Bloom" Awards.

Members thanked and congratulated all staff and groups for their hard work and endeavour in achieving the gold medal.

Decision

- 1) To recognise Edinburgh's success in the Britain in Bloom Awards 2013.
- 2) To note the opportunity for Edinburgh to go forward into the "Entente Florale Europe" stage of the competition.
- 3) That arrangements be made to formally recognise the various partner organisations, community groups and volunteers who helped achieve this award for the City.

(Reference – report by the Directors of Services for Communities, submitted)

27. Public Utility Performance, Quarter 2 (13/14)

Performance information relating to public utility companies for the second quarter of 2013/14 (July to September 2013) was submitted.

Decision

To note the report and the performance information.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee, 27 August 2013 (Item 17), report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

28. Sustainable Scotland Network Conference 2013

Decision

To note the action taken by the Director of Services for Communities in consultation with the Convener, in authorising the attendance of Councillor Burgess at the Sustainable Scotland Network Conference in Edinburgh on 7 November 2013.

(Reference – report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

29. Study Trip on Integrated City Sustainable Solutions in Copenhagen

Decision

To note the action taken by the Director of Corporate Governance, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, in authorising the attendance of Councillor Orr on the Study Trip on Integrated City Sustainable Solutions in Copenhagen on 19 and 20 September 2013.

(References – report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

30. Braid Road – Motion by Councillor McInnes

The following motion by Councillor McInnes was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16:

“Committee:

- 1) Notes the hard work of Braid Road Residents over the last thirty years in highlighting the excessive speed on Braid Road, a residential road, supported by their political representatives of all parties.
- 2) Notes also the efforts by the Road Safety Team at the Council to measure the speeds of traffic on Braid Road and to look at solutions to improve the situation.
- 3) Agrees, given the Council’s commitment to 20mph speed limits on all residential areas of the city, that a report is requested in what measures can be taken to ensure Braid Road is part of the scheme and that this report returns to committee in three cycles.”

Decision

- 1) To approve paragraphs 1 and 2 of the motion.
- 2) To agree that traffic speed issues on Braid Road would be addressed as part of the overall report back to Committee on 20mph speed limits.