

Transport and Environment Committee

10 am Tuesday 1 November 2016

Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Transport and Environment Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contacts
<p data-bbox="167 436 414 515">Convener Cllr Lesley Hinds</p>  <p data-bbox="167 902 422 981">Vice- Convener Cllr Adam McVey</p> 	<p data-bbox="598 421 1018 987">Councillor Robert Aldridge Councillor Nigel Bagshaw Councillor Gavin Barrie Councillor Chas Booth Councillor Steve Cardownie Councillor Nick Cook Councillor Marion Donaldson Councillor Karen Doran Councillor Nick Gardner Councillor Bill Henderson Councillor Allan Jackson Councillor Karen Keil Councillor Mark McInnes</p>	<p data-bbox="1088 430 1380 548">Stuart McLean Committee Services ☎ 0131 529 4106</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>Community Policing Performance Update – April to June 2016</p> <p>The Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee on 9 September 2016 considered an update on the joint working activities and detailed performance carried out under the SLA with Police Scotland from April to June 2016.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to note the content of the report and to receive the next update in December 2016.</p> <p>The report was referred to the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee and the Transport and Environment Committee for information.</p>	<p><u>For further information:</u></p> <p>Contact: Michelle Miller, Head of Safer and Stronger Communities 0131 529 8520 Michelle.Miller@edinburgh.gov.uk</p>

Forthcoming Activities:

None

Recent news	Background
<p>Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative Project</p> <p>In September, Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative (ECSC) completed the installation of 1.4MW of solar PV panels across 24 Council owned buildings. The panels are expected to generate 1,140MWh of electricity each year. It is estimated that 70% of this electricity will be used directly by the host buildings, displacing grid electricity and creating an associated carbon reduction of 356 tonnes of CO2/year. The total carbon reduction associated with the project, including exported electricity, is estimated at 508 tonnes of CO2/year.</p> <p>The scheme is the largest community solar project in Scotland and the biggest urban community project in the UK. In recognition of the success of the project, it has been nominated as a finalist for the Best Community Project at the Scottish Green Energy Awards 2016.</p> <p>To qualify for the previously secured Feed in Tariff rates, the PV installations had to be completed by the end of September 2016. Credit is due to ECSC and their installation contractor for all the hard work in achieving this goal and also to the host buildings for their support in delivering the works.</p> <p>Now that the panels are live, ECSC and the Council are in the process of setting up arrangements to pay for solar generated electricity used on site. The price paid by the</p>	<p>In 2015, the Council signed an agreement with Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative (ECSC) granting a licence to ECSC to install community-owned solar panels on Council-owned buildings.</p> <p>On 20 August 2015, the Council appointed Councillors Chas Booth, Bill Henderson and Lesley Hinds to the Board of Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative. There are now 11 members on the ECSC Board.</p> <p>ECSC launched their public share offer on the 29 September to raise the £1.4m of capital required for installations.</p> <p>ECSC will create a community benefit fund</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>Council is fixed at 2014/15 prices. The Council will receive an increased financial benefit from the scheme as electricity rates continue to rise.</p> <p>Going forward, ECSC will be working with host schools and Council officers to develop educational and awareness raising materials relating to the project and wider environmental issues.</p>	<p>which will distribute up to £1m in grant funding over the 20 year duration of the agreement.</p> <p>In addition, ECSC will engage the board of directors and the wider public in energy related activities across Edinburgh.</p> <p>There is potential for Council buildings, and associated communities, to benefit directly from the scheme.</p>

Forthcoming Activities:

None

Recent news	Background
<p>Parks Quality Assessments & Green Flag Award</p> <p>Green Flag Awards</p> <p>Green Flag Award is a way of recognising parks of high quality. Judged on an annual basis, each park submitted for a Green Flag Award undergoes thorough scrutiny by independent assessors. Because of its exceptionally high number of Green Flag awards, Edinburgh is part of the Green Flag Group Award Scheme. This means existing Green Flag Award winning sites are automatically awarded Green Flag if the standard is maintained following self assessment and a peer review process.</p> <p>In 2016 the Council secured 30 Green Flag Award parks, plus a Green Flag Community Award for Corstorphine Walled Garden. Seven Acre Park became the 30th GFA park. There are a total of 69 awards across Scotland.</p> <p>2016 PQA (Parks Quality Assessment) Results</p> <p>Using the Green Flag Award methodology we are able to assess the quality of all our public parks and major green spaces each summer. In 2016 141 parks were assessed, including a new park at Fountainbridge Green and the re-opening of Atholl and Coates Crescent gardens following</p>	<p><u>For further information:</u></p> <p>Contact: David Jamieson, Parks & Green Space Manager 0131 529 7055 david.jamieson@edinburgh.gov.uk</p>

Recent news

the completion of post-tram works.

Overall parks quality continues to improve. Areas of improvement since 2015 include signage, personal security, litter management, environmental sustainability, pesticide reduction, tree maintenance, biodiversity, community involvement, information, education and marketing, and the range, quality and safety of equipment and facilities.

96% of parks now meet the Council's minimum quality standard, leaving only six sites across the city to be brought up to grade. 74% of Edinburgh's parks are now deemed 'Very Good' or 'Excellent', with 22% assessed as "Good" and 4% as "Fair". Of the 140 parks previously assessed, 27 improved, 7 deteriorated, and 106 retained their quality status.

The average Park Quality Score increased across every Locality, those in South East Edinburgh having the highest average score and those in the North East having the lowest average score.

The city's "top 6" parks in 2016 are:

- Pentland Hills Regional Park
- Seven Acre Park
- Easter Craiglockhart Hill
- Ferniehill Community Park
- Prestonfield Park
- Starbank Park

Notably, all have an active Friends Group and all are Green Flag Award parks.

The quality of a small number of parks has worsened since 2015. Those requiring particular attention over the coming year are Dalmeny Street Park, Silverknowes Park, Union Park, Gorgie/Dalry Community Park and Meadowspot Park.

A copy of the Park Quality Assessments for 2016 can be found at

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20177/awards_and_competitions/363/green_flag_parks

Background

Forthcoming Activities:

None