

Transport and Environment Committee

2.00pm, Friday 9 March 2018

Present

Councillors Macinnes (Convener), Booth, Bruce, Burgess, Kate Campbell (substituting for Councillor Barrie), Child (substituting for Councillor Arthur), Cook, Fullerton (substituting for Councillor Key), Gloyer, Mowat (substituting for Councillor Douglas) and Watt (substituting for Councillor Doran).

1. Finalised Strategy for Setted Streets

1.1 Deputation

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Ms Diana Cairns and Dr Margaret Munro on behalf of Portobello Amenity Society and Portobello Heritage Trust in relation to the report by the Executive Director for Place on the finalised strategy for setted streets.

The deputation highlighted the following:

- their support for the strategy, specifically the desire to retain setted streets in the Portobello area and their opposition to removing setts to be replaced with asphalt surfaces.
- the majority of residents they had engaged with had also expressed support for the retention of setted streets.
- a recent petition which had garnered significant support for retaining setts.
- the integral importance of setted streets for Edinburgh's townscape and the character of the city, particularly throughout its conservation areas.
- the practical benefits of setts such as their durability and longevity meaning they were more sustainable than alternative surfaces as they did not require maintenance or replacement often.
- the desire for a smooth transition and effective traffic management while work was being carried out at Brighton Place.

The deputation requested the Committee considered the following:

- to support the strategy outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Place and ensure that setted streets were retained.

1.2 Report by the Executive Director of Place

Following the completion of further consultation and engagement, the final Strategy for Setted Streets was presented to the Committee. The results of the consultation

exercise and details regarding the funding for the care and maintenance of setts were set out in the report by the Executive Director of Place.

The key principles of the strategy, set out in Appendix 2 of the report by the Executive Director of Place, included the cultural and economic value of setts, traffic management considerations and the contribution to place-making by enhancing the relationship between streets and buildings in Edinburgh.

Decision

- 1) To note the report highlighting further information on the agreed actions.
- 2) To approve the finalised strands of work and the principles for setted streets as detailed in appendix 2 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 3) To note the incorporation of the principles into the Edinburgh Street Design Guidance Fact Sheet for setts and its subsequent inclusion into Part C Detailed Design Manual for the Edinburgh Street Design Guidance previously approved by the Transport and Environment and Planning Committees.
- 4) To note the close partnership working and input of Historic Environment Scotland, Edinburgh World Heritage and the British Geological Survey in the formulation of the strategy for setted streets.
- 5) To approve the additional principles outlined in connection with different techniques used to lay setts; the required skills associated with their maintenance and the supporting information on the sustainability of setted streets provided as detailed in paragraphs 3.22 – 3.26 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 6) To acknowledge the level of support for the retention, maintenance, repair and laying of new setted streets as demonstrated through the responses received via the consultation exercise undertaken.
- 7) To approve the reconstruction of the setted carriageway in Brighton Place, as detailed in paragraphs 3.31 – 3.35 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

Declaration of interests

Councillor Kate Campbell declared a non-financial interest in the above item as she had previously expressed an opinion on the retention of setts.

Councillor Child declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a Portobello resident and a member of Brighton and Rosefield Residents' Association, Portobello Amenity Society and Portobello Heritage Trust.

2. Minutes

Decision

- 1) To approve the minute of the Transport and Environment Committee of 7 December 2017 as a correct record.

- 2) To approve the minute of the Transport and Environment Committee of 25 January 2018 as a correct record.

3. Transport and Environment Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan

The Transport and Environment Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for the period from 1 March 2018 to 17 May 2018 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To agree that a report on the Congestion Action Plan would be presented to the Committee within two cycles.
- 2) To otherwise note the Key Decisions Forward Plan.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan, submitted.)

4. Transport and Environment Committee Rolling Actions Log

The Transport and Environment Committee Rolling Actions Log for March 2018 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To approve the closure of actions 1, 10, 11, 14, 20, 21, 24, 26, 34 and 36.
- 2) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

5. Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin

The Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin for March 2018 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To welcome the update entitled 'Plastic Bottles' in relation to the motion by Councillor Burgess on 'Public Water Bottle Refill' approved by Council on 21 September 2017, which outlined a water bottle refill scheme pilot in Leith aimed at reducing the disposal of single-use plastic bottles with a view to rolling this out across the City.
- 2) To note that a further motion, 'Reducing Plastic Bottle Pollution' by Councillor Burgess, approved by the Transport and Environment Committee on 10 August 2017 noted that "plastic bottles are used during Edinburgh council service delivery, including school packed-lunches, and requests a report on ways of reducing this use".
- 3) To note there was a report outstanding on reducing plastic bottle use within the council and agreed to extend the report to include reducing the use of all single-use plastic items by the council, its arms-length organisations and contractors, such as use of plastic cutlery, straws and containers, and also to report on what the council could do to encourage reduction of single-use plastics across the City as a whole.

- 4) To agree that a briefing on Low Emission Zones would be provided to members ahead of a report being considered by the Committee.
- 5) To otherwise note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin, submitted.)

Declaration of interests

Councillors Booth and Macinnes declared non-financial interests in the above item as Directors of Transport for Edinburgh.

6. Winter Weather – Edinburgh

The Convener ruled that the following item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, be considered as a matter of urgency to allow the Committee to give consideration to this matter.

A presentation was provided to members on the recent adverse weather which had affected Edinburgh outlining how the council responded to this, the impact the weather had on the city and lessons which had been learned for future.

Decision

To note the presentation.

7. Edinburgh’s Local Transport Strategy Review

The current Local Transport Strategy (LTS) which spanned from 2014 to 2019 was due to be reviewed and a new strategy was to be developed. A report was presented which set out the process for the review of the current strategy and sought approval of the arrangements for public and stakeholder engagement to begin to inform a new LTS.

The new LTS would be aligned with various other ongoing projects being undertaken by the council and at a national level. Work had been carried out to identify transport and mobility trends and to review the current LTS policies to inform the consultation process.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress made to date through Edinburgh’s Local Transport Strategy 2014 –2019.
- 2) To agree the arrangements for engagement with stakeholders and the public outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Place.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

8. Melville Crescent Public Realm Project – Update

An update was provided on work which was being undertaken to identify a solution to provide improved public realm at Melville Crescent as part of the City Centre West to East Cycle Link and Street (CCWEL) Improvements project. The CCWEL project intended to improve the cycling infrastructure between west Edinburgh and Leith Walk.

A report was presented which set out details of the design process and options for the development of Melville Crescent, stakeholder and public engagement activities and

how the preferred design had been developed. Approval was sought to proceed with the implementation of the preferred design.

Decision

- 1) To note the report and the stakeholder engagement and consultation which had been undertaken prior to arriving at the proposed design.
- 2) To agree to proceed with the preferred design for Melville Crescent.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

9. Bustracker and Bus Station Information System – Future Strategy

The current Bustracker and Bus Station Information Management systems had become outdated and their use was being reviewed. The systems which provided real-time vehicle location information were used by Lothian Buses to manage and track their bus fleet, and the council to provide passengers with service information.

The Committee was asked to authorise the procurement of new real-time information and information management systems to replace the current systems and to incorporate the replacement of on-street real-time information signage in to the procurement exercise. A further report providing options would be provided to the Committee on completion of the exercise.

Decision

- 1) To authorise the procurement of new Bus Station Information hardware and software management system and procure a new Content Management System (CMS).
- 2) To approve the advancement of the on-street Real Time Passenger Information signage aspect of the project under the same contract, via an output based specification, to challenge the current market.
- 3) To note that a future report would detail the outcome of the procurement exercise and would include the preferred supplier, bus station information system solution and pricing schedule for on-street sign options to inform what sign replacements could be undertaken with the available budget.
- 4) To approve the continued use of Atkins Global in assisting the Public Transport team in delivering all systems.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

Declaration of interests

Councillor Booth and Macinnes declared non-financial interests in the above item as Directors of Transport for Edinburgh.

10. Road, Footway and Bridges Investment – Capital Programme for 2018/19

At its meeting on 22 February 2018, the Council approved the Capital Investment Programme for 2018/19 to 2022/23. Approval was sought of the proposed allocation for transport infrastructure which included roads, footways, street lighting and traffic signals, and the structures budgets and programme of works for 2018/2019.

The report set out the programme of carriageways and footway works which had been prioritised in line with existing strategies, the road structures programme for 2018/19, an additional allocation for the first stage of development of a new Burnshot Bridge, locality allocation and cycling allocation.

Motion

- 1) To note the breakdown of the allocation of the capital budget for 2018/19 set out in Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 2) To approve the programme of proposed works for 2018/19, as detailed in section 3 and in appendices 5, 6 and 7 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 3) To approve the programme of proposed bridge works for 2018/19, as detailed in section 3 and in appendix 8 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 4) To note the use of external consultants to carry out principal bridge inspections and design work as detailed in paragraphs 3.39-3.49 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 5) To instruct officers to bring back a report to the next Committee meeting with an overview of outstanding infrastructure projects and investments.
- 6) To agree that Executive Director of Place would ensure that the correct classification in relation to ward boundaries was used in future Committee reports.

- moved by Councillor Macinnes, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment

- 1) To note the breakdown of the allocation of the capital budget for 2018/19 shown in appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director of Place with the exception of the workstream for cycling allocation.
- 2) To instruct that a report with the exception of items pertaining to the above be brought back in one cycle detailing how this can be subsumed into the carriageways and footways workstream to best benefit all carriageway and footway users.
- 2) To approve the programme of proposed works for 2018/19, as detailed in section 3 and in Appendices 5, 6 and 7 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 3) To approve the programme of proposed bridge works for 2018/19, as detailed in section 3 and in appendix 8 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.

- 4) To note the use of external consultants to carry out principal bridge inspections and design work as detailed in paragraphs 3.39-3.49 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 5) To instruct officers to bring back a report to the next meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee with an overview of outstanding Infrastructure projects and investments which detailed all road and footway improvements which had previously had monies granted to them in the capital programme but had not been carried out, with dates when these would be undertaken and details when roads, which had served as diversion routes for major infrastructure projects, such as the tram, would have the necessary works to repair the damage caused carried out.
 - moved by Councillor Cook, seconded by Councillor Mowat

Voting

- For the motion - 8 votes
For the amendment - 3 votes

(For the motion – Councillors Booth, Burgess, Child, Kate Campbell, Fullerton, Gloyer, Macinnes and Watt.

For the amendment – Councillors Bruce, Cook and Mowat.)

Decision

- 1) To note the breakdown of the allocation of the capital budget for 2018/19 set out in Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 2) To approve the programme of proposed works for 2018/19, as detailed in section 3 and in appendices 5, 6 and 7 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 3) To approve the programme of proposed bridge works for 2018/19, as detailed in section 3 and in appendix 8 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 4) To note the use of external consultants to carry out principal bridge inspections and design work as detailed in paragraphs 3.39-3.49 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 5) To instruct officers to bring back a report to the next Committee meeting with an overview of outstanding infrastructure projects and investments.
- 6) To agree that Executive Director of Place would ensure that the correct classification in relation to ward boundaries was used in future Committee reports.

(References – Act of Council (No 3), 22 February 2018; report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

11. Roads Asset Management Plan (RAMP)

A first draft of the Roads Asset Management Plan (RAMP) was presented. The RAMP was part of a national project to ensure consistency across all Scottish local authorities. It set out the nature and condition of transport assets, namely carriageways, footways,

structures, street lighting and traffic management systems, and aimed to establish future maintenance and management of the road network within the budget available.

A further report with the final draft of the RAMP which encompassed other assets including cycling facilities, park and ride sites and public realm would be presented to the committee at a later date.

Decision

- 1) To approve the first draft of the Roads Asset Management Plan, set out in Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 2) To note that a final draft of the Roads Asset Management Plan would be presented to the Committee within three cycles.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

12. North Bridge Refurbishment

Inspections of North Bridge which had recently been undertaken found the bridge to be in poor condition and identified repairs required to address health and safety concerns and ensure the bridge could continue to be used.

The report presented highlighted the complex structural work the refurbishment would require, contractor involvement which had taken place during the pre-construction stage to date, the scope of the core work to be undertaken and potential additional work which would be investigated.

Decision

- 1) To approve the core scope of structural refurbishment work.
- 2) To note that approval to appoint a contractor to undertake the core scope of structural refurbishment work, would be the subject of a separate report to the Finance and Resources Committee.
- 3) To note that if repair work was not undertaken, the bridge would continue to deteriorate and it might have become necessary to impose a weight restriction that could impact its usage by public transport and freight traffic.
- 4) To note that the netting which had been installed was temporary and that if the refurbishment work was not undertaken it would need to be replaced with the replacement commencing in early 2021.
- 5) To note that design work for potential additional enhancements was ongoing and that public consultation would be undertaken on these designs during the summer of 2018.
- 6) To note that final designs for potential enhancements, for which separate tendered prices will be obtained from the contractor, would be reported to the Transport and Environment Committee to decide whether or not these works were to be incorporated into the contract.
- 7) To note that there would be no obligation on the Council to progress potential additional enhancement works through the North Bridge Refurbishment contract.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

13. Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan – Final Update

In November 2016, the Committee approved the Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan, a 65-point action plan which had been developed to improve services across the city. Since approval, regular updates had been provided to the Committee.

A report was presented which highlighted the continuous improvements which had been made throughout this period. 63 of the actions had been completed and it was recommended that the project be closed.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress made on implementing the actions within the Improvement Plan and the impact on service performance to date.
- 2) To note that the Committee would continue to receive further update reports with a refocused version of the action plan on a regular basis.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee, 1 November 2016 (item 8); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

14. Roads Services Improvement Plan

A progress update was provided on the Roads Services Improvement Plan. Key points included a reduction in the backlog of outstanding defects and improvements which had been made to the categorisation of defects, allowing for a more effective response and contributing to the reduction of outstanding category 1 defects.

Further updates would continue to be provided to the Committee.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress made with implementing the actions in the Improvement Plan to date.
- 2) To agree to highlight the dependencies that had and had not been confirmed and to inform Committee members.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

15. Leith Programme Close-Out Report: Constitution Street to Picardy Place

The Leith Programme which was approved in July 2012 consisted of 6 phases of works totalling approximately £9 million to improve road, footway and cycle networks on Constitution Street, Leith Walk and Picardy Place. Four of the six phases had been completed, with the 2 remaining phases being incorporated in to the ongoing Edinburgh Tram York Place to Newhaven project. Should this project not proceed, the two remaining phases would be completed.

Decision

- 1) To note that the delivery of Leith Programme Phases 5 and 6 had been incorporated into the Edinburgh Tram York Place to Newhaven project.

- 3) To approve the cancellation the Leith Programme Phase 5 Public Hearing.
- 4) To agree to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place in relation to the decision on the cancellation of the Leith Programme Phase 5 TRO and RSO, and to clarify whether it would be possible to put the TRO and RSO on hold until a decision was made by Council in October 2018 on the potential York Place to Newhaven tram extension, in consultation with the Convener and transport spokespersons of each political group.

(Reference – Finance and Resources Committee, 31 July 2012 (item 36); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

16. Place Directorate – Revenue Monitoring 2017/18 – Month Eight Position

Committee considered a report that presented the month eight revenue position for the Place Directorate. A break-even budget position for 2017/18 was projected, dependant on the delivery of mitigating actions which had been identified as detailed in the report.

Decision

- 1) To note that Place Directorate had identified proposed remedial measures to fully address existing budget pressures and while a number of risks remained around delivery of these mitigating actions, a break-even position was forecast.
- 2) To note that approved savings in 2017/18 totalling £7.323m were 85% on target to be delivered; £6.199m. Remedial measures identified by Place Directorate included management plans to deliver the remaining savings.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

17. Special Uplifts Service

An update report was presented on changes which had been made to the charging structure for the special uplifts service, setting out data which illustrated the effect of the changes.

Decisions

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To note the intention to procure a pilot collection service to encourage reuse of materials within a defined area.
- 3) To agree that further changes to the service or pricing structure be postponed to avoid undermining the pilot.
- 4) To agree that the Head of Place Management would confirm to members of the Committee the area that had been procured for the pilot collection.
- 5) To agree that a question would be added to the Edinburgh Survey on the awareness amongst residents of the Special Uplifts Service.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

18. Seafield Waste Water Treatment Works – Council Odour Monitoring and Assessment Programme Update

On 5 October 2017, the Committee requested a report on ways to make it easier for residents to report odour incidents and the possibility of allowing residents to report these online. The report provided an update on the work which had been undertaken to date to implement this and the findings of the odour monitoring and assessment programme from September 2017 to December 2017

Decision

- 1) To note that the systems were being improved to allow residents to report odour release from Seafield Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) to the Council by completing an online reporting form on the Council's website. An updated Seafield web page had been designed and published on the corporate Council website.
- 2) To note that an information leaflet containing revised and updated Council contact details was being designed which would be distributed to approximately 3600 households in the Leith Links area of the City.
- 3) To note the findings of the Council's continuing odour monitoring and assessment programme from 1 September 2017 to 31 December 2017.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

19. Public Spaces Protocol

Following consultation, a protocol had been developed to assist the council and partners to consistently balance the use of high-demand public spaces in the city centre.

Decision

- 1) To agree to adopt the Public Spaces Protocol set out in appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director of Place for implementation;
- 2) To agree to review the Public Spaces Protocol after a full year of use;
- 3) To agree to a future review of the use of the Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto and the Public Spaces Protocol, to align and deliver a more coordinated approach to events in Edinburgh;
- 4) To note the planned review of management and licensing arrangements for Castle Street and High Street, taking into account the Public Spaces Protocol; and
- 5) To agree that when reviewing the terms and conditions, to consider condition 10 - the noise created by generators and whether it was necessary to use diesel generators, and condition 14 – the requirement for recycling to be enforced as part of waste management arrangements.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

20. Motion by Councillor Jim Campbell – Daily Waste Uplifts

The following motion was submitted by Councillor Cook in terms of Standing Order 29.1:

“Council

Thanks officers for the daily waste uplift failures that are reported to Group Business Managers.

Tasks the Head of Place to report to the Transport and Environment Committee in two cycles how the different data sets will be merged into one meaningful daily report, to include failed waste uplifts as proportion of planned uplifts.

Furthermore, requires an investigation of the earliest date meaningful dynamic daily waste uplift performance data can be published live on the City of Edinburgh website to inform citizens and stimulate data innovation.”

- moved by Councillor Mowat, seconded by Councillor Cook

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Jim Campbell as adjusted:

“Council

Thanks officers for the daily waste uplift failures that are reported to Group Business Managers.

Tasks the Head of Place to report to the Transport and Environment Committee in two cycles how the different data sets will be merged into A meaningful report, to include failed waste uplifts as proportion of planned uplifts.

Furthermore, requests a report on the best use of data to inform citizens in this area within 2 cycles.”

21. Motion by Councillor Booth – Suspicious Disappearance of ‘Fred’ the Golden Eagle in Pentland Hills

The following motion was submitted by Councillor Cook in terms of Standing Order 29.1:

“Committee:

- 1) Notes with grave concern reports of the suspicious disappearance of ‘Fred’ the Golden Eagle, who hatched from a nest in the Scottish Borders to the only breeding pair of Golden Eagles in the region, and who, according to his satellite tag, was in woodland near Currie in January 2018, within the Edinburgh Council boundary;
- 2) Notes that Fred’s satellite tracker is reported to have suddenly and inexplicably stopped transmitting on 21 January 2018, and then to have mysteriously started transmitting again on 24 January 2018, with a GPS location some 15 miles offshore of St Andrews, Fife.

- 3) Further notes that RSPB Scotland and Raptor Persecution UK regard Fred's disappearance as highly suspicious and believe it is likely that he has been illegally killed;
- 4) Notes that the Golden Eagle is a magnificent and majestic bird and one of the largest birds of prey in the British Isles, notes that it is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, but notes that nonetheless it has been illegally killed and persecuted in the past;
- 5) Notes that a Scottish Government-commissioned study in 2017 found that 41 of 131 satellite-tagged Golden Eagles had disappeared in suspicious circumstances, most of them at or near to managed grouse moors;
- 6) Notes that the Scottish Government have established a working group with a view to establishing a licensing regime for game-shooting estates;
- 7) Agrees that the suspicious disappearance of Fred is deeply regrettable, and urges anyone with any knowledge of this incident, or any other incidents of possible wildlife crime, to contact Police Scotland on 101 or alternatively call the RSPB's new confidential raptor crime hotline on 0300 999 0101;
- 8) Agrees that the Council Leader will write to the Cabinet Secretary for the Environment expressing the council's grave concern at this incident, asking her to outline a timetable for the introduction of the licensing of game-shooting estates; offering the council's cooperation with any such licensing regime, and offering the council's support for consideration of stiffer penalties for wildlife crime;
- 9) Agrees to refer the matter to the Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee, to ask them to consider writing to landowners in the region highlighting this incident and encouraging them to report any suspicious activity to Police Scotland or the RSPB."

- moved by Councillor Booth, seconded by Councillor Burgess

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Booth.