

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 17 May 2017

Central Edinburgh Transformation – Progress Report

Item number	7.4
Report number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	All
Council Commitments	18, 19

Executive Summary

This report provides a progress update on the Central Edinburgh Transformation programme following approval of the Scoping Report in [October 2017](#).

It outlines the project governance for Central Edinburgh Transformation, including the appointment of a Project Director; progress made in developing a strategy through the Central Edinburgh Development Working Group; the alignment of the Council's investment in streets and city centre public realm with Central Edinburgh Transformation; and outlines the communications and engagement plan for the programme.

Central Edinburgh Transformation – Progress Report

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Committee:
 - 1.1.1 Notes the project governance arrangements and progress made in developing the Central Edinburgh Transformation programme;
 - 1.1.2 Approves the draft vision and objectives which will guide subsequent project delivery; and
 - 1.1.3 Approves the revised project programme (Appendix 1) and draft Communications and Engagement Plan (Appendix 3).

2. Background

- 2.1 This report provides a progress update on Central Edinburgh Transformation following approval of the Central Edinburgh Transformation Scoping Report in [October 2017](#).

3. Main report

Project Governance

- 3.1 The governance structure for the project is shown in Appendix 2 of this report. The Central Edinburgh Development Working Group (CEDWG) had an initial meeting in early December with follow up meetings on 23 March 2018 and 24 April 2018.
- 3.2 In March 2018, Daisy Narayanan was seconded to work with the City of Edinburgh Council in the role of Project Director for Central Edinburgh Transformation. This secondment agreement is for one year. Daisy's substantive role is as Deputy Director with [Sustrans Scotland](#).
- 3.3 The Project Director reports through a Project Board of Council officers, and into CEDWG, where the Central Edinburgh Transformation strategy is discussed together with matters relating to the future of the city centre.
- 3.4 Key policy and strategy decisions will be reported to the Transport and Environment Committee at draft and finalisation stages. This structure is summarised in Appendix 2.
- 3.5 The project programme has been revised based on the discussions with the CEDWG and the Project Board and is included in Appendix 1 for approval.

Strategy Development, Vision and Objectives

- 3.6 At the CEDWG meetings the discussion has focused on how central Edinburgh functions as a place - its mix of uses, public spaces, transport links and how these are perceived by communities; baseline data on the social, environmental and economic make-up of the city centre; lessons learned from past projects and the approaches other cities are taking to adapt to their historic cores to 21st century demands.
- 3.7 Positive and wide-ranging discussion has sought to establish a strong link with the themes of the Edinburgh 2050 City Vision, to ensure that the city centre is future-focussed, respectful of its heritage, inclusive and that the wellbeing of central residential communities is at the forefront of decisions.
- 3.8 There was agreement that to work collaboratively with organisations and individuals in order to generate creative solutions to the challenges the city faces in terms of population growth and the quality and capacity of its streets, public spaces and transport infrastructure.
- 3.9 The outcome of the CEDWG sessions has been to establish a working vision, aims and objectives to guide the future transformation of the city centre. The working vision for Central Edinburgh is as follows:
 - 3.9.1 'Our shared vision is an exceptional capital city centre that is for all, a space for people to live, work, visit and play. A place that is for the future, enriched by the legacy of the past.
 - 3.9.2 To achieve this vision, we will work collaboratively to create a city centre that is the heart of Edinburgh's communities, its cultural and civic life, and the focal point for its economy.'
- 3.10 This is supported by five aims (in no particular order):
 - 3.10.1 To ensure people living in the city can experience a great quality of life, make use of their public space and benefit from attractions and festivals.
 - 3.10.2 To provide a city centre that is inclusive, safer, healthier and easier to travel to and move around.
 - 3.10.3 To offer exemplary streets and spaces that match the city's outstanding built and natural heritage.
 - 3.10.4 To create a transformed city centre that powers Scotland's economy, energised by civic, cultural and commercial activity.
 - 3.10.5 To make better use of public space to create shared experiences and ensure visitors feel welcome.
- 3.11 A set of 15 working objectives expand on the vision and aims, relating them to delivery and emerging themes of the 2050 Edinburgh City Vision and feed-back from related engagement, such as The Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site Management Plan 2017-22. These are set out in Appendix 4.

- 3.12 The working aims and objectives will be reviewed and refined as the project develops in dialogue with stakeholders and as further issues and opportunities for the development of the city centre are explored.

Project Alignment

- 3.13 Work has begun to ensure alignment across projects and programmes to deliver a consistent approach and high quality.
- 3.14 A number of high profile projects are already underway (or committed to) in the city centre, that seek to improve the quality and experience of the public realm, prioritise access for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users, including:

The preliminary design for George Street and First New Town

- 3.14.1 The development of a long-term design to reduce traffic and make the roads safer for pedestrians and cyclists in the First New Town on George Street, Castle Street, Frederick Street and Hanover Street.

The City Centre East-West Cycle Link

- 3.14.2 The development of a new cycle route linking the Roseburn path to Leith Walk via the city centre. This route will form part of National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 1, and will be a key part of Edinburgh's Quiet Routes network.

Picardy Place

- 3.14.3 Plans for Picardy Place have been progressing to enhance the public realm; improve pedestrian and cycling provision; support the existing public transport network; and future-proof for any extension to the tram, and changes to the city centre as a whole.
- 3.15 Although each project is at a different stage, coordination is being achieved through teams working together under the scope of Central Edinburgh Transformation. This includes regular co-ordination meetings to share the findings of project specific engagement, design and layout, materials palettes and traffic modelling.
- 3.16 This is crucial to ensuring that delivery is effectively programmed and resourced and for the quality of the city's built heritage to be reflected by outcomes on the ground which provide a legible, safe and welcoming city centre.

Communications and Engagement Plan

- 3.17 A communications and engagement plan has been developed for Central Edinburgh Transformation and is included in Appendix 3 for approval.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Initial measures of success will include:
- 4.1.1 successful stakeholder engagement;
 - 4.1.2 publication of a central Edinburgh transformation programme;
 - 4.1.3 added value to current projects and initiatives; and

4.1.4 developing baseline monitoring and evaluation.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 Whilst there are no further financial implications for the Council arising from this report, there may be a requirement for resources to be allocated to support engagement activities, further technical studies and proposals. The cost implications of any of these projects will be reported through the relevant Committees as they progress.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The project is being shaped by a governance structure with a new Project Director reporting to a Project Board. The contribution of elected members and cross-party governance and leadership will be facilitated through the cross-party CEDWG.
- 6.2 The CEDWG is supported by senior management reflecting integrated service delivery from Place Management and Development, Culture, Localities, Strategy and Insight, and Communications.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 There is no relationship between the matters described in this scoping report and the public sector general equality duty. An Integrated Impact Assessment will form an integral part of developing a city centre vision.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 There will be significant potential for positive impacts on sustainability and this will be assessed as the project progresses.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 A Communication and Engagement Plan is set out in Appendix 3. This aims to ensure that a high quality engagement experience is achieved, involving interested parties at the right times with positive outcomes for the future development of Central Edinburgh and its communities of interest.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 None.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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11. Appendices

Appendix 1 Revised Project Programme

Appendix 2 Project Governance

Appendix 3 Communications and Engagement Plan

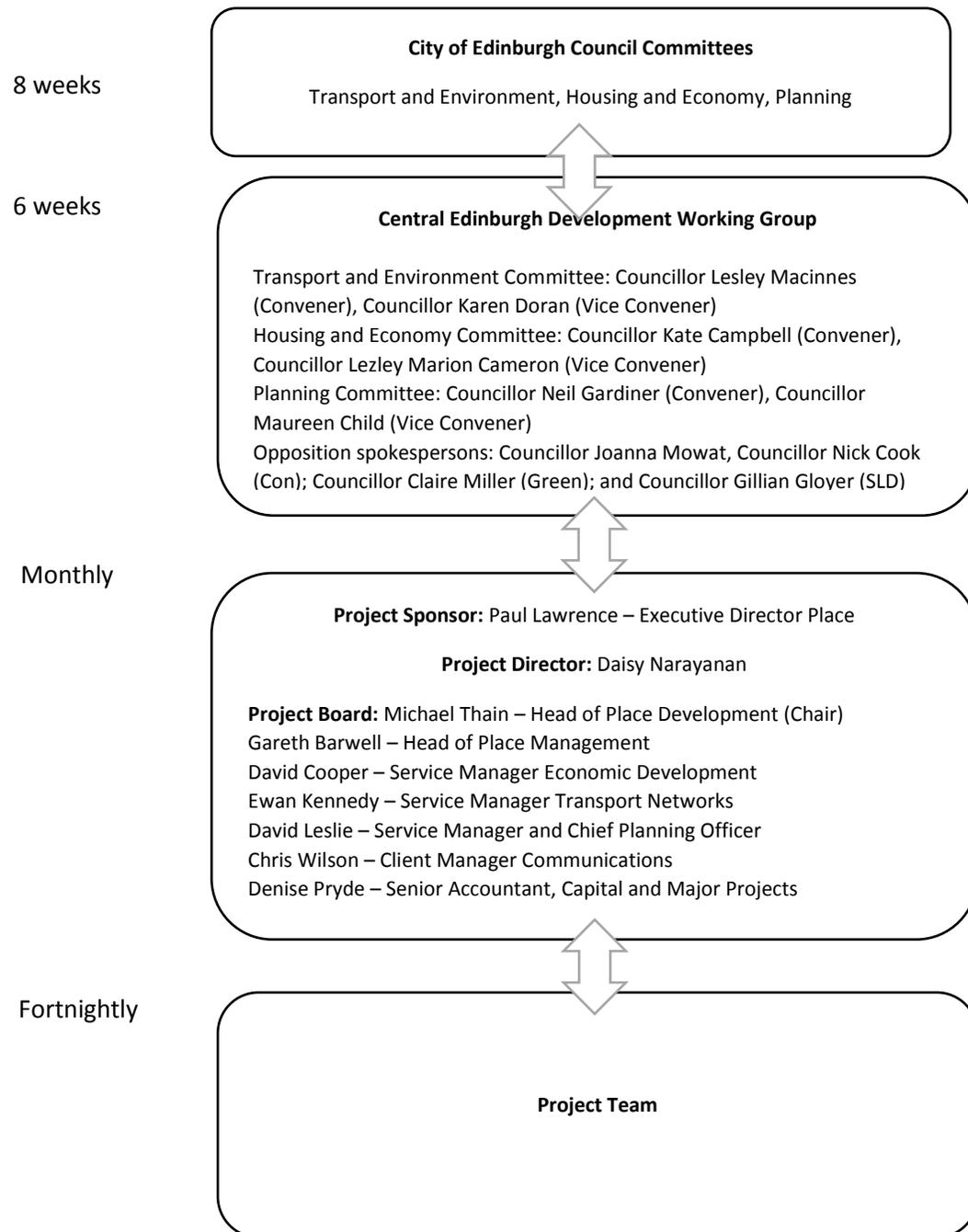
Appendix 4 Working Objectives

Central Edinburgh Transformation

Revised Project Programme

Stage	Timeframe	Actions
Analysis and Stakeholder Co-production	Mar – May 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidate data, past engagement and mapping • Benchmark other cities • Explore potential options • CEDWG and key stakeholder workshops • Progress Report to Transport and Environment Committee on strategy development, project alignment and engagement.
Prepare Prospectus	May – Aug 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish working vision and objectives following stakeholder engagement • Appoint consultants • Develop potential scenarios and test modelling • Prepare prospectus linked to LTS and LEZ to be used as an engagement toolkit. • CEDWG gateway decision • Report prospectus to August Transport and Environment Committee.
Prospectus Consultation	Sep – Oct 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 week consultation period on potential scenarios for Central Edinburgh linked to LTS review and LEZ regime.
Prepare Proposed CET Strategy	Nov – Mar 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review consultation responses • CEDWG to determine preferred scenario to be prepared. • Key Stakeholder workshops/meetings • Develop Proposed CET Strategy • Report Proposed CET Strategy to March Transport and Environment Committee.
Proposed CET Strategy Consultation	April – May 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 week consultation on Proposed Central Edinburgh Strategy linked to LTS review and LEZ regime
Finalisation and Adoption	June – Aug 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review consultation responses • CEDWG to agree finalisation changes • Key stakeholder meetings • Ensure alignment with LTS and LEZ • Subject to scope of changes required, report finalised CET Strategy to August Transport and Environment Committee.

Central Edinburgh Transformation – Organisational Chart



8 weeks

City of Edinburgh Council Committees
 Transport and Environment, Housing and Economy, Planning

6 weeks

Central Edinburgh Development Working Group
 Transport and Environment Committee: Councillor Lesley Macinnes (Convener), Councillor Karen Doran (Vice Convener)
 Housing and Economy Committee: Councillor Kate Campbell (Convener), Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron (Vice Convener)
 Planning Committee: Councillor Neil Gardiner (Convener), Councillor Maureen Child (Vice Convener)
 Opposition spokespersons: Councillor Joanna Mowat, Councillor Nick Cook (Con); Councillor Claire Miller (Green); and Councillor Gillian Gloyer (SLD)

Monthly

Project Sponsor: Paul Lawrence – Executive Director Place
Project Director: Daisy Narayanan
Project Board: Michael Thain – Head of Place Development (Chair)
 Gareth Barwell – Head of Place Management
 David Cooper – Service Manager Economic Development
 Ewan Kennedy – Service Manager Transport Networks
 David Leslie – Service Manager and Chief Planning Officer
 Chris Wilson – Client Manager Communications
 Denise Pryde – Senior Accountant, Capital and Major Projects

Fortnightly

Project Team

Central Edinburgh Transformation Draft Communication and Engagement Plan

Mandate

The City of Edinburgh Council is developing a strategy and action plan to co-ordinate the future development of Central Edinburgh.

This will help deliver the aspirations of the Edinburgh 2050 City Vision, specifically to enhance its streets and public spaces and to prioritise access for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport.

Background

The future development of Central Edinburgh is a matter of interest for, and will impact upon, all those who live, work, study and visit the city.

In particular, key groups include: the city's central residential communities, local businesses, third sector and member organisations, transport providers, Network Rail, the further and higher education sector and the development industry.

Central Edinburgh Transformation (CET) is being prepared in parallel with a review of Edinburgh's Local Transport Strategy and implementation of a Low Emission Zone regime.

Each project will share policy objectives and geographies and will be dependent upon city-wide solutions including:

- Strategic connectivity city-wide and across the city-region;
- Local connectivity and environmental quality for communities across the city's four Localities; and
- Connectivity and transformation of the city centre and its public realm;

CET will set the strategic direction around which project delivery will be aligned. Current projects, including preliminary design proposals for George Street and First New Town and implementation of Picardy Place will also inform its development.

The development of parallel strategies and projects will ultimately determine how people move around and experience the city and therefore engagement needs to be taken forward through an integrated approach.

Outcomes

The overall aim is to ensure that a high quality engagement experience is achieved, involving interested parties at the right times with positive outcomes for the future development of Central Edinburgh and its communities of interest.

All interested parties should be:

- aware of the background to CET and its link to delivery of the Edinburgh 2050 City Vision;
- understand how Central Edinburgh has evolved and its current and future challenges including demographic change, economic growth and environmental quality;
- informed about current projects and be able to input to the consultation on the draft CET proposals;
- aware of the links between options for change in the city centre and the draft LEZ regime and LTS objectives;
- confident that they have contributed to the development of CET strategy via workshops, meetings, focus groups or online feedback.
- aware of the opportunities to be involved in future delivery, including strategic partners and community-led initiatives.

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

In order to ensure communities of interest are involved in shaping all stages of developing the strategy, the following engagement approach is set out as follows:

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

March – May 2018

Past and Parallel Engagement Review – pre-engagement will be informed by review of past engagement carried out through Edinburgh 2050 City Vision, South East Edinburgh Locality Improvement Plan, Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site Management Plan and current project delivery e.g. George Street and First New Town.

Briefings, Workshops and Focus Groups – Inform and share information with interested parties, including project timetable and consultation stages. Seek feed-back on key issues and opportunities to inform preparation of a prospectus.

Edinburgh Transport Forum

28 Feb 2018

Advisory and consultative body on citywide transport issues including experts, citizens and interested parties

Edinburgh Development Forum

27 March 2018

Improving communication and understanding between people involved in the development industry

Edinburgh Access Panel

5 April 2018

Early dialogue to ensure policy and projects improve

accessibility for people with physically disabilities and sensory impairments.

Community Council Briefings by Locality

Working together with briefings on LDP2

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| • North East Locality | 21 March |
| • South East Locality | 22 March |
| • South West Locality | 26 March |
| • North West Locality | 27 March |

Year of Young People

tba

Continuing to work with Children and Families and Planning Aid Scotland to give young people a greater voice in issues affecting them and the future of the city.

Meetings with key organisations

tba

Specific meetings with key stakeholders, including transport providers, NHS Lothian, Edinburgh World Heritage, Living Streets, Spokes, Sustrans, Essential Edinburgh and Old Town BID group to inform them of preparation of CET and gain input to future direction and delivery of actions.

An initial briefing was also given to the Civic Forum in Dec 2017, with discussions underway on a follow up meeting.

CONSULTATION: PROSPECTUS

Aug – Oct 2018

- **8 week consultation period** – on potential options/scenarios for CET linked to LTS and LEZ.
- Engagement to be supported by a prospectus/green paper on key issues related to place quality and movement.
- Prospectus to include case studies of how other cities are adapting to challenges, including reference to Edinburgh's partners in the EU [SUMPs-UP](#) programme.
- Stakeholder, Community Council and public engagement events reflecting the geographies and communities of interest for the scenarios proposed.
- Opportunity, subject to resources, to include participatory approaches to engagement such as Place Standard walkabout by sub-area/online dialogue approaches by topic.
- Online survey – setting out key issues and gauging preferences towards key options for change.
- Information on key projects in the city centre to be set out to improve understanding of changes contributing to CET.

- Consultation to be promoted online, through social media, via Localities, Edinburgh City Libraries and working in partnership with Transport for Edinburgh and Edinburgh Leisure.

PREPARE PROPOSED CET STRATEGY

Nov '18 – March 2019

- Review consultation responses and feedback to Central Edinburgh Development Working Group.
- Undertake any necessary follow up studies
- Develop Proposed CET Strategy
- Prepare a consultation summary to show how comments have been listened to and have influenced the draft strategy in 'we asked, you said, we did' format.
- Report Proposed CET Strategy to Committee

CONSULTATION: PROPOSED CET STRATEGY

Apr - May 2019

- **8 week consultation period** – on Proposed CET Strategy linked to LTS and LEZ.
- Present proposed plan to stakeholders and communities of interest.
- Check-back that proposals address the key issues and aspirations.
- Online survey – setting out key issues and gauging preferences towards key options for change.

FINALISATION AND ADOPTION

June – Aug 2019

- Review consultation responses.
- CEDWG to agree finalisation changes.
- Key stakeholder meetings.
- Report finalised CET Strategy to August Transport and Environment Committee.

PUBLISHING

- Publishing of leaflets/flyers related to the prospectus will be investigated.
- Consultation information will be posted on line through the Council's consultation hub
- The Proposed CET will be published online.
- An online web resource will be developed for CET which sets out the context to the project, vision and objectives and provides a link to current infrastructure projects e.g. George Street and First New Town, CCWEL etc.

RESOURCES

Appropriate resources should be made available at the pre-consultation, consultation and post-consultation phases.

- A Smarter Choices Smarter Places funding application has been submitted to support the combined approach to engagement across the LTS, LEZ and CET with advice from Strategy and Insight.
- Workshops to be led by staff working across the Place Directorate in addition to any consultant support.
- A dedicated stakeholder liaison role will be identified to provide a consistent point of contact.
- Planning Technicians and Service Delivery Team to provide support in terms of preparing visual material, posting consultation materials and social media.

Appendix 4

Working Objectives by 2050 Edinburgh City Vision theme:

FAIR

- To ensure surrounding communities and wider city benefit from a transformed city centre.
- To provide liveable streets and public space that is accessible for all.
- To improve air quality and reduce noise pollution.
- To promote road safety and personal security.

CONNECTED

- To create a multi-modal, integrated solution for urban mobility.
- To prioritise access and movement by foot, by bike and public transport and reduce vehicular dominance.
- To create a network of public spaces, parks and gardens linked by coherent, safe and secure pedestrian and cycle routes.
- To promote a sustainable and efficient public transport system.

THRIVING

- To maintain and enhance thriving residential communities, improve health and quality of life.
- To support businesses and the city centre's retail, entertainment, cultural and leisure role.
- To create an environment fit for a growing city-region, to power Scotland's economy.

INSPIRING

- To ensure streets and public spaces enrich and revitalise the historic environment.
- To ensure new development enhances the city centre, its streets and public spaces.
- To provide a high quality platform for the city's civic, cultural and community life.
- To encourage innovation, climate change adaptation and resilience.

Appendix 4

Working Objectives by 2050 Edinburgh City Vision theme: