

Item 6.1 - Business bulletin

North East Locality Committee

2.00pm, Tuesday, 26 March 2019

Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers, Edinburgh

North East Locality Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Maureen Child</p>  <p>Vice Convener: Councillor Amy Mcneese-Mechan</p> 	<p>Councillor Chas Booth</p> <p>Councillor Ian Campbell</p> <p>Councillor Kate Campbell</p> <p>Councillor Mary Campbell</p> <p>Councillor Marion Donaldson</p> <p>Councillor Joan Griffiths</p> <p>Councillor Callum Laidlaw</p> <p>Councillor John McLellan</p> <p>Councillor Adam McVey</p> <p>Councillor Gordon Munro</p> <p>Councillor Susan Rae</p> <p>Councillor Lewis Ritchie</p> <p>Councillor Alex Staniforth</p>	<p>Veronica Macmillan Committee Team Leader</p> <p>Email: veronica.macmillan@edinburgh.gov.uk</p> <p>Tel: 0131 529 4283</p> <p>Evelyn Kilmurry, North East Locality Manager</p> <p>Email: evelyn.kilmurry@edinburgh.gov.uk</p> <p>Tel: 0131 529 7894</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>Powderhall Railway Path: Progress Update</p>	<p>Contact: Andrew Easson</p>

At its meeting on [4 September 2018](#), the Committee considered a Business Bulletin item relating to the potential to establish a walking and cycling route along the Powderhall Railway Line. This contained a commitment to report back to Committee on progress by March 2019.

Members of the cross-service officer working group that has been established to consider this issue subsequently met with representatives of Leith Central Community Council (LCCC) and the Powderhall Railway Path Working Group (PRPWG) on 5 December 2018. This was a constructive meeting and LCCC and PWPRG provided officers with helpful information on several issues.

On 7 February 2019, officers met with representatives of Network Rail (NR) to discuss the scope for undertaking a feasibility study for a walking and cycling route.

NR advised that they are currently investigating options for increasing passenger service capacity on the east side of the city. They expect to submit an evaluation of these options to Transport Scotland (TS) for consideration in mid-2020.

Some of these options could potentially involve running passenger services on the section of the Powderhall Railway Line to the east of Easter Road. NR will not therefore be able to make any decision on the future use of this section of the Line, prior to TS deciding on whether to take forward any or all of these options for further detailed investigation.

In addition, the whole length of the Powderhall Railway Line is formally designated as a strategic rail freight link. This designation would have to be removed before NR could determine the line to be surplus to future requirements and allow its use for any other purpose.

Prior to doing this, NR would first have to undertake a statutory consultation process with all freight operating companies, who have a formal right to object. NR were unable to provide a timescale for how long this process could take but advised that it was likely to be lengthy. Officers requested that NR initiate this consultation process, to establish the position of the freight operators to the potential removal of the designation.

There is also a long-term lease in place between NR and the freight operator that formerly serviced the now closed Powderhall waste transfer facility. NR advised that they

Road Safety and Active
Travel Manager
Place – Development
0131 469 3643 or

are unable to unilaterally terminate this lease and that, even if the operator were to agree to surrender it, the affected section of the line would still have to go through the consultation process described above and the lease would have to be offered to all other freight operators.

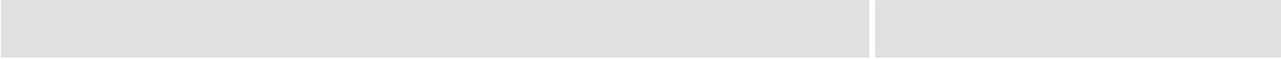
Given the uncertainties that currently exist over the future use of the Line, the Council cannot commit at this stage to the significant work and cost associated with the extensive site investigation works required for a full feasibility study. However, officers will continue to engage with NR, LCCC and PWPRG and will seek to gather relevant records and information that would assist with a possible future study, should a realistic prospect emerge for the delivery of a walking and cycling route along the Line.

Spokes Low Cost Cycle Initiatives

The Spokes Low Cost Cycle Initiative projects were reported to the Transport and Environment Committee on 28 February 2019. Of the projects that were identified as potential ways to boost cycle use there were five projects within the North East Locality. Two of the projects are already in progress through design While another project will be delivered as part of planned works in the new financial year.

However, two of the projects were not recommended by Officers. Please see list of North East projects below:

Locality	Street	Location	Brief Description	Status	Deliverability	Duration to be delivered	Comments
North East	Seafield Promenade	From Kings Place in a north west direction for approximately 1 km	Painted features for cyclists i.e. meandering lines to follow, start/stop lines for measured distance	Complete	Not recommended	N/A	There are already conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians on the promenade. Marking features that would encourage cyclists to weave on the promenade would increase the potential for conflict with more vulnerable users
North East	Brunstane Road South	Bridge over railway line	Provide wheeling ramps on steps	on going	Deliverable	Short to Medium Term	Active Travel team investigating possibility of being taken forward by Sustrans to allow for earlier delivery
North East	Kings Place	Through car park area	Mark out shared use path through car park connecting Portobello and Seafield Promenade	on going	Deliverable	Short Term	Currently being taken forward as a NEF project through Portobello and Craigmillar Neighbourhood Partnership
North East	Leith Walk	Various	Speed sensors on traffic lights that change to red when someone speeding approaches	Complete	Not deliverable	N/A	Traffic signals should not be used to control vehicle speeds. This should be addressed by implementing environmental or physical changes supplemented with enforcement. Public transport would be delayed unnecessarily.
North East	Restalrig Road South	Junction with London Rd/Portobello Rd/Restalrig Rd South	Introduce cycle lane on approach to junction	on going	Deliverable	Short Term	During resurfacing works planned for this location later in 2019 we will look to implement and advanced stop line and lead in lane.



Forthcoming activities:
