

Seafield Sounding Board (Thursday 7th August 2025)

Attendees:

- Councillor Danny Aston, City of Edinburgh Council (ward councillor)
- Dave Bisset, Scottish Water
- Siobhan Davitt, Craigentinny Community Council
- Kyle Drummond, City of Edinburgh Council (Sustainable Development)
- Malcolm Fraser, Fraser/Livingston Architects
- Councillor Joan Griffiths, City of Edinburgh Council (Ward Councillor) [in the chair]
- Justin Kenrick, Action Porty
- Stephen Lovejoy, City of Edinburgh Council (Planning)
- Cathy MacLean, Action Porty
- Iain McFarlane, City of Edinburgh Council (Planning)
- Lesley McGrath, LarnerMcGrath Planning Consultants
- Frazer McNaughton, Action Porty
- Jamie Simpson, Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home
- Dave Thomson, Craigentinny Community Council
- Neil Tulloch, Leith Harbour / Newhaven Community Council
- Councillor Iain Whyte, City of Edinburgh Council (Ward Councillor)

Notes:

1. Welcome and appointment of Chair

- JG asked attendees to introduce themselves before speaking.

2. Note of last meeting

- The note was agreed.

3. Update on Seafield Masterplan and consultation process

- Responses to the stage 3 consultation are being assessed.
- SEPA has agreed to the use of its information for a wave overtopping study; this work is now underway and is expected to conclude towards the end of the year.
- The above will inform the final version of the masterplan.
- SL summarised the responses to the stage 3 consultation.
- MF asked if slides could be shared. IMF noted that information needs to be formally shared with elected members first. JF felt it was reasonable for slides to be shared provided it was clarified that this was not the final position. **SL will circulate slides.**
- JG queried the next steps. IMF explained that officers would review responses and prepare a schedule of responses. This could then go to Planning Committee at that point or be held back until the wave study was complete. JG noted the importance of keeping people up to date and suggested providing an interim update to elected members.

4. Updates from landowners/developers

- IMF noted that Buccleuch Property was seeking to dispose of its asset in Seafield, the Hyundai showroom at 22 Seafield Road East.

- DB noted concerns around development being “bitty”. IMF noted that this was a frequent issue where there are multiple landowners. The purpose of the masterplan is to give the Council a much stronger definition of what is and is not acceptable on the site.
- LMG noted Royal London still does not intend to redevelop its landholding.

5. Updates from community

- MF queried what would happen on the back of the wave overtopping study.
- MF noted the Steering Group would like to input into any revisions of the masterplan on the back of the study. MF noted there are five “live” issues: wave study; land swap; funding of infrastructure; Freeport; and City Mobility Plan.
- KD noted that there will be retained non-domestic rates income as part of the Forth Green Freeport (FGF) initiative and a strategy has been produced for the utilisation of this. Annual investment plans will be prepared for consideration by the FGF Board and the relevant Council Committee.
- MF asked for reporting to consider sources of infrastructure funding.
- **IMF undertook to provide a presentation on what the relevant planning policies set out in terms of infrastructure funding to the Steering Group and Sounding Board.**
- JMG suggested covering detailed items in the Steering Group.
- FMC asked about the orbital bus route. **IMF undertook to provide an update on this.** SL noted that the team that deals with road improvements have been involved.

6. AOB

- N/A

7. DONM

- To be scheduled once there is more to report.