

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am Tuesday 15 January 2013

Present

Councillors Hinds (Convener), Orr (Vice-Convener), Bagshaw, Barrie, Booth, Brock, Doran, Gardner, Bill Henderson, Jackson, Lunn, Mowat and Perry.

Also Present

Councillor Aitken.

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Transport and Environment Committee of 23 November 2012 as a correct record.

2. Transport and Environment Key Decisions Forward Plan

The Transport and Environment Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for January to March 2013 was presented.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for January to March 2013.

(Reference – Transport and Environment Key Decisions Forward Plan January to March 2013, submitted.)

3. Mortonhall Crematorium Investigation – Initial Findings

The initial findings of the preliminary investigation into Mortonhall Crematorium were presented. The investigation had been initiated following questions raised by SANDS Lothians regarding the recovery of ashes from the cremation of babies who had died before, during or soon after birth. 150 families had registered enquiries directly with the Council seeking to establish whether ashes had been recovered from the cremation of their babies.

Decision

- 1) On completion of the initial fact finding investigation, to commission a suitable independent person to oversee and direct any further enquiries required and to consider the recommendations included in the report by the Chief Executive and any others. This might include looking at policy and practice in other local authority areas since initial enquiries suggested there were variations in practice across Scotland.
- 2) In order to inform the further investigation, to immediately review, along with other key stakeholders such as The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM), the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities (FBCA), NHS Lothian, Funeral Directors, Edinburgh Interfaith Association, Sands UK and SANDS Lothians, current policy, practice, equipment and staff training at Mortonhall Crematorium to ensure that communications with funeral directors, hospital staff and bereaved parents was compliant with current national guidance, and that record keeping was similarly compliant. Written policy and guidance should be produced, in conjunction with stakeholders and should be published.
- 3) In dialogue with bereaved parents, to continue discussions about an appropriate memorial.
- 4) To continue to facilitate counselling support to bereaved parents directly and/or through SANDS Lothians or other appropriate organisations.
- 5) To note that in view of the volume of work to be undertaken and the need to make progress quickly, independent auditors were carrying out further investigation into communications with bereaved parents regarding the recovery of ashes and the records held at Mortonhall both before 2001 and between then and 2011.
- 6) That bereaved parents who had made enquiries should receive a full explanation regarding the recovery or non-recovery of ashes and should have access to all the records informing that explanation. In order to ensure complete and accurate information, this would be done on completion of the investigation. Any enquiries received in future would all receive full and detailed information.
- 7) To note that the Chief Executive would continue to maintain a dialogue with the Scottish Government on issues arising from this investigation which might have wider significance.
- 8) To note that the Chief Executive would write to those bereaved parents who had contacted the Council advising them of the Committee's decision.

- 9) To note that the Chief Executive would provide a briefing paper to members detailing the information sent to parents.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

4. Proposals for Enhancing Bus Network Links to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh

Completion of a new Public Transport Link between the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh (RIE) and Greendykes constructed as part of the Investment Zone Plan for South and East Edinburgh provided an opportunity to create new bus links for the area.

Enhanced public transport provision would form a key element in stimulating future business and residential development in the Bio Quarter and Craigmillar Town Centre areas. Options for improving bus services utilising the new link were outlined.

Councillor Elaine Aitken was heard as a local ward member.

Decision

- 1) To authorise an open tendering process to establish the cost of enhancing bus service 18.
- 2) To note that several options would be explored as part of the tendering process in order to ensure best value should Committee wish to award any contract.
- 3) That options for bus tracker, low floored buses, public holiday cover and extension of the route to Queen Margaret University be included in the tender.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

5. Recycling Redesign

The Policy Review and Development Sub-Committee of the Transport and Environment Committee, at its meeting on 20 December 2012, had identified a preferred option to replace the existing red and blue box recycling scheme.

Approval was now sought for the replacement scheme to allow the commencement of procurements and the development of an affordable business case.

Motion

- 1) To approve Option 1 as the preferred option for a new kerbside recycling service subject to the development of an affordable business case.
- 2) To approve the development of Option 1 on the basis that the service would be delivered in-house; this would be subject to satisfying Best Value requirements through the development of the business case.

- 3) To note the intention to report further on the full business case for Option 1.
 - 4) To note the intention to bring back reports on a recycling communications strategy and on recycling provision in high density housing areas.
- moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor Orr

Amendment

- 1) To agree recommendations 3.1(a), (c) and (d) in the report by the Director of Services for Communities.
 - 2) To amend recommendation 3.1(b) to read as follows:

"To approve the development of Option 1 on the basis that the service would be subject to tendering to ensure Best Value requirements."
- moved by Councillor Mowat, seconded by Councillor Jackson

Voting

For the motion - 11 votes
For the amendment - 2 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Hinds.

(References – Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee of the Transport and Environment Committee 20 December 2012 (item 2); report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

6. Transport Annual Report (2011-2012)

Progress against the performance indicators in the Transport 2030 Vision and in the Council's Local Transport Strategy 2007-2012 was detailed together with information on the Active Travel Action Plan and the Road Safety Plan. An update was also given on the cycle improvements proposed for the Meadows/Bruntsfield to Lothian Road corridor.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress against targets as set out in Appendices 1 to 3 of the report by the Director of Services for Communities.
- 2) To recognise the reduction in road casualties and the contribution Edinburgh had made to national road safety by exceeding the 2010 casualty reduction targets.
- 3) To note that further updates would be submitted to Committee on the cycle improvements proposed for the Meadows/Bruntsfield to Lothian Road Corridor.

- 4) To discharge Councillor Burgess's motion from 2 August 2011 Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee meeting.

(References – Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee 2 August 2011 (item 9) and 29 November 2011 (item 23); report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

7. Developing a New Local Transport Strategy: Issues for Review

Approval was sought for the draft 'Developing a New Local Transport Strategy: Issues for Review' report for consultation purposes. The proposed Local Strategy would be aligned with the Scottish Government's National Transport Strategy and Regional Transport Strategy.

Decision

To approve the Issues for Review Report for consultation with the general public and key stakeholders.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

8. Public and Accessible Transport Action Plan

Approval was sought for the Public and Accessible Transport Action Plan (PATAP) for consultation purposes. Information on the new protocol for coloured surfacing in bus and cycle lanes and Advanced Stop Lines was also submitted.

Decision

- 1) To approve the draft PATAP for consultation purposes.
- 2) To note that this included an action to progress a review of future Community and Accessible Transport provision.
- 3) To extend the Community and Accessible Transport Service Level Agreements for one year and to continue operating Taxicard at current levels.
- 4) To note the new protocol for coloured road surfacing.
- 5) To refer the Community and Accessible Transport aspects of the report to the next meeting of the Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee for further detailed consideration.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

9. Access to Waverley Station

The Department for Transport (DfT) had been working with Network Rail to mitigate the risk of vehicle-borne terrorist attacks on railway station concourses. As a result of discussions between the Council and Network Rail it was proposed to allow access into Waverley Station for taxis and specialised disabled organisation vehicles by means of a controlled entry system.

Approval was sought to commence statutory procedures to make the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders to introduce the prohibition and restrictions and to make the necessary Redetermination Order.

Decision

- 1) To commence the statutory procedures to make the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders to introduce the prohibition and restrictions.
- 2) To commence the statutory procedures to make the necessary Redetermination Order.

(References – Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee 21 February 2012 (item 34); report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

10. Traffic Management Developments in Royston and Monmouth Terrace

Information was given on traffic calming measures which had been installed in Royston and Monmouth Terrace. The Neighbourhood Partnership would continue to monitor the effectiveness of the traffic calming measures.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To discharge the outstanding remit from the former Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee.

(References – Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee 24 November 2009 (item 6); report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

11. Automated Recycling Points

In response to a motion by Councillor Mowat, details were given of an investigation into the use of automated recycling facilities linked to deposit schemes to encourage recycling. Information was provided on the use of automated recycling points in European countries and their limited use in the UK. In addition, Zero Waste Scotland intended to pilot this technology in partnership with a number of retailers during 2013.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To provide a further report once the findings of the Zero Waste Scotland pilot became known.

(References – Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee 18 June 2012 (item 3.7); report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

12. Utility Company Performance

Utility companies had a statutory right to maintain their pipes and apparatus and a legal duty to work with the Council as Roads Authority to minimise disruption and delays. It was the Council's responsibility to manage and co-ordinate all road works across the city and to monitor the performance and quality of work done by utility companies.

A comprehensive framework to monitor the performance of utility companies had been introduced and performance information in relation to the first two quarters of 2012/13 was provided.

Decision

- 1) To instruct the Head of Transport to maintain and, where possible, enhance the scrutiny and monitoring of all road works, including the Council's own works, ensuring that accurate information about the reason for, 'ownership' and duration of the works was displayed in respect of each site.
- 2) To agree that the Head of Transport lead in developing a revived Edinburgh Road Works Ahead Agreement, involving the wider community of Edinburgh for a potential launch in the summer of 2013, proposals for which to be brought back to the Committee for final agreement.
- 3) To note the performance information as detailed in appendix A of the report by the Director of Services for Communities.
- 4) To note the trend information as detailed in appendix B of the Director's report.
- 5) To agree that quarterly performance reports would be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.
- 6) To invite the new Scottish Road Works Commissioner, Elspeth King, to meet with the Transport and Environment Committee at the earliest opportunity.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

13. Landfill Tax Consultation

Approval was sought for the Council's response to the Scottish Government's consultation on Landfill Tax. Responses were required to be submitted by 15 January 2013.

Decision

To approve the response for submission to the Scottish Government by 15 January 2013.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

14. Services for Communities Financial Monitoring 2012/13 – Month 8 Position

Details were provided of the month 8 revenue and capital monitoring position for Services for Communities.

Decision

To note Services for Communities financial position at month 8.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

15. Transport and Environment Performance Report - October/November 2012

Performance management information for Transport and Environment for the period October to November 2012 was given.

Decision

To note the performance information for the period October to November 2012.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

16. Proposed Waiting Restrictions – Spylaw Bank Road

Information was given on objections received during the public consultation period on the proposed introduction of waiting restrictions on Spylaw Bank Road.

Decision

- 1) To continue consideration of the matter to the next meeting of the Committee on 19 March 2013 for a site visit.

- 2) To seek the views of Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service on the proposals.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

17. Objections to Nine Hour Parking Places Traffic Regulation Order

Information was given on objections received during the public consultation period on amendments to the charging structure in certain nine hour parking places in zones N1, N5, S2, S3 and S4 of the Controlled Parking Zone.

Motion

- 1) To repel the three objections and proceed to make the Traffic Regulation Order.
 - 2) To note that the usage of all nine hour parking places would be monitored during the first six months after the charges had been changed and that a report on the results of the monitoring process would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.
 - 3) As a result of discussions between elected members and officials on the potential impact of a reduced rate of charge within the affected parking places, to commence the legal procedure to increase the maximum charge in nine hour parking places in Zones N1, N5, S2, S3 and S4 from £3 per day to £4 per day.
- moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor Orr

Amendment

- 1) To repel the three objections and proceed to make the Traffic Regulation Order.
 - 2) To note that the usage of all nine hour parking places would be monitored during the first six months after the charges had been changed and that a report on the results of the monitoring process would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.
 - 3) To maintain the existing maximum charge to ensure that public transport remained a financially attractive alternative to car use in line with the Council's existing policy.
- moved by Councillor Bagshaw, seconded by Councillor Booth

Voting

For the motion	-	11 votes
For the amendment	-	2 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Hinds.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

18. Part-Time 20 mph Speed Limits at Schools – Stewart’s Melville College

Approval was sought to commence the statutory procedures to extend the part time 20mph speed limit north of Queensferry Terrace to include the new puffin crossing scheme proposed for construction in 2013/14 and to introduce a part time 20mph speed limit on Belford Gardens at its junction to Queensferry Terrace.

Decision

To commence the statutory procedures to amend and introduce the Traffic Regulation Orders required for the part-time 20 mph speed limits on Queensferry Terrace and Belford Gardens as indicated in appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Services for Communities.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

19. Polwarth Gardens – Objections to Traffic Regulation Order

Approval was sought to commence the statutory procedures to create a bus boarder adjacent to the kerbside at Polwarth Gardens. One objection had been received as part of the consultation process.

Decision

- 1) To repel the objection received to the proposals associated with the bus boarder on Polwarth Gardens.
- 2) To make the Traffic Regulation Order as advertised.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

20. Warriston Gardens – Amendment to Parking Charges

Approval was sought to commence the statutory procedure to vary the Traffic Regulation Order governing the Controlled Parking Scheme to amend the parking charges on Warriston Gardens.

Motion

- 1) To commence the statutory procedure to vary the Traffic Regulation Order governing the Controlled Parking Scheme to amend the parking charges on Warriston Gardens.
 - 2) That parking in this section of Warriston Gardens be monitored and a report on the information gathered presented to the Transport and Environment Committee within 12 months of the change to the parking charge coming into effect.
- moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor Orr

Amendment

To move in similar terms to the motion and that the existing maximum charge be maintained to ensure that public transport remained a financially attractive alternative to car use in line with the Council's existing policy.

- moved by Councillor Bagshaw, seconded by Councillor Booth

Voting

For the motion - 11 votes
For the amendment - 2 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Hinds.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

21. Lower Granton Road Realignment – Objections to Traffic Regulation Orders

Approval was sought to commence the statutory procedures to support the Lower Granton Road Realignment proposals. Five objections were received as part of the consultation process.

Decision

To repel the five objections for the reasons detailed in appendix 1 of the report by the Director of Services for Communities and make the Traffic Regulation Orders as advertised.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

22. Traffic Regulation Order Proposal – Abbeyhill Crescent

Approval was sought to commence the statutory procedures to introduce the prohibition and parking restrictions at Abbeyhill Crescent.

Decision

To commence the statutory procedures to make the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders to introduce the prohibition and parking restrictions as detailed in appendix 1 of the report by the Director of Services for Communities.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

23. Temporary Pedestrian Crossings – Motion by Councillor Bagshaw

The following motion by Councillor Bagshaw was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16.1:

“Committee:

1. Notes that when road or other works require traffic signals to be turned off, including pedestrian crossing facilities, and temporary traffic lights are put in place for vehicles, no signalled provision is currently made for pedestrians.
2. Believes that this sends out the wrong message on the relative priority of pedestrians and vehicles and poses unnecessary risk to people crossing roads, including young people, and older or disabled people.
3. Believes that, as a matter of principle, provision should be made for pedestrians except in the case of short-term emergencies.
4. Calls for a report within two cycles on the feasibility of providing temporary pedestrian crossing facilities at all planned road or other works where pedestrian lights are turned off; the arrangements to be made with utilities to ensure compliance; and the timescale required for providing equipment to achieve this.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Bagshaw.