

Transport and Environment Committee

1000 hrs, Tuesday, 3 June 2014

Delivery of the Local Transport Strategy 2014-2019

Item number	7.2
Report number	
Executive	
Wards	All

Executive summary

This report seeks approval for the delivery and monitoring arrangements proposed for the implementation of the new Local Transport Strategy 2014-2019. It also notes the intention to review the governance and funding arrangements for the Active Travel Action Plan.

Links

Coalition pledges	P18 , P19 , P45 , P46 , P50
Council outcomes	C09 , C019
Single Outcome Agreement	All

Delivery of the Local Transport Strategy 2014-2019

Recommendations

- 1.1 To approve the delivery and monitoring arrangements for the implementation of the Local Transport Strategy 2014-2019.
- 1.2 To note the intention to review the governance and funding arrangements for the Active Travel Action Plan and in the meantime the intention to continue the employment of the Active Travel (Walking) officer. These matters will be the subject of a report to Committee, before the end of 2014.

Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 14 January 2014 Committee authorised the draft Local Transport Strategy 2014–2019.
- 2.2 This report seeks approval for the delivery and monitoring arrangements proposed for the implementation of the new Local Transport Strategy 2014-2019.

Main report

- 3.1 At its meeting on 14 January 2014, Committee agreed a report entitled “*Local Transport Strategy 2014-2019*”, which authorised the new Local Transport Strategy 2014–2019 and the use of a more defined set of three, high–level, indicators to monitor progress with the new strategy.
- 3.2 The three main, high-level, targets identified in the new Local Transport Strategy to be monitored are:
 - Modal share for all trips by residents in the City of Edinburgh Council area.
 - Modal share for travel to work.
 - Road Safety Targets for reductions in the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions.

3.3 The Local Transport Strategy includes 88 actions needed for the implementation of policies that will, collectively, contribute towards the three high-level targets. These actions will be incorporated into the Action Plans on Road Safety, Active Travel, Intelligent Travel Systems, Parking, Public and Accessible Transport and Roads and Pavement Maintenance, which support the Local Transport Strategy. From the 88 actions, the Local Transport Strategy identified five that would be given priority in 2014. Three priority actions will be implemented as part of Action Plans:

- Road Safety and Active Travel Action Plans - Consulting with the public and stakeholders on detailed proposals for the 20mph network for the city centre, main shopping streets and residential areas. A new action in this Plan, arising from the Issues for Review consultation, is to pilot the introduction of Schools Streets at three to five locations. A separate report on the draft 20mph network for consultation is scheduled for consideration by Committee on 3 June 2014.
- Parking Action Plan - Reviewing city centre parking, Sunday parking and Residents' parking as part of an overarching Parking Action Plan. Proposals for taking this forward are being reported to this Transport and Environment Committee.
- Public and Accessible Transport Action Plan - Investigating a proposal for supported bus services, including pump-priming of new services. This will be tied to a review of the methodology for prioritising supported services, as set down in the Public and Accessible Transport Action Plan.

Two other priority actions, which will be implemented outside these Action Plans, are:

- Protecting our Environment - Evaluating options to reduce emissions in the city centre, with a view to reporting to Committee at the end of 2014. This work will be carried out in collaboration with the Scientific and Environmental Services functions. It will assist with the Council's Air Quality Action Plan and any local Low Emission Strategy that emerges from the Scottish Low Emissions Strategy during 2014.
- Travel Plans - Preparing a business plan for a new travel planning function in the Council. It is proposed to present this to Committee in September 2014.

3.4 To manage the process of delivering the Local Transport Strategy items, an officer level Local Transport Strategy Steering Group will be established, involving staff from Transport, Economic Development, Planning, Community Safety and the Neighbourhood Teams.

3.5 Officer level Action Plan Working Groups will be set up, with a remit to deliver the prioritised actions directly connected to their Action Plan. These Action Plan Working Groups will be supervised by and report to the Steering Group.

- 3.6 In addition to the above, there is an action in the Local Transport Strategy, concerned with the Refreshed Public Transport Strategy for the Queensferry Crossing. This strategy is the responsibility of Scottish Ministers. Working in partnership with West Lothian Council and Transport Scotland, the Council will commission a study of means of improving the public transport links through Newbridge.
- 3.7 Good progress has been made in implementing the cycling related actions in the Active Travel Action Plan (ATAP), but further resources are needed to help move forward with walking related actions. An officer, currently on secondment, is employed within the Strategic Planning team to progress walking related items in the ATAP and the preparation of the Council's Street Design Guidance. It is intended to continue and enhance progress with the walking aspects of the ATAP. With this in mind it is proposed to review the staff resources and funding of the ATAP, with a view to an increased commitment to walking, and report back to a future Committee with proposals. In the meantime, it is proposed to extend the secondment of the Active Travel (Walking) officer. This will be funded from existing budgets, including for Capital projects being led by the officer, with continuing match funding up to March 2015 being sought from Paths for All.
- 3.8 The outcomes and indicators from the Transport 2030 Vision were previously reported as part of the Transport Annual Report, considered by Committee. These are listed in Appendix 1 of the Local Transport Strategy document. However, this approach to monitoring was felt to be too complex and diverse to allow customers to focus on progress with the Council's policies. It is therefore desirable to develop a new, more focussed, approach to monitoring progress with the new Local Transport Strategy 2014–2019.
- 3.9 At the end of each financial year, commencing in mid 2015, Committee will receive a report on the monitoring of progress with the Local Transport Strategy 2014–2019. The report will cover high–level, Local Transport Strategy targets, and progress with the first set of priority actions. It will also suggest future priorities for action in the later years of implementing the strategy. Six months later, Committee will receive a Business Bulletin on progress with projects.

Measures of success

- 4.1 The establishment of a Local Transport Strategy Steering Group and Action Plan Working Groups for each of the associated Action Plans, by December 2014.
- 4.2 Delivery to Committee of a progress report on high–level indicators and priority actions, by March 2015.

Financial impact

- 5.1 The resource implications of individual projects and initiatives will be the subject of separate reports.
- 5.2 Implementation of the recommendations in this report will involve staff time during the financial years 2014–2015 to 2018–2019.
- 5.3 These costs will be met from the staff budget for Services for Communities.
- 5.4 Walking officer costs will be met from the approved Transport budget.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 If the recommendations in this report are not accepted the impact would be:
 - a reduced ability to meet the targets in the Council's Local Transport Strategy 2014-2019; and
 - a reduction in progress on the walking related actions in the Council's Active Travel Action Plan.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 The Local Transport Strategy 2014–2019 has been the subject of an Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment. Monitoring the progress of the Local Transport Strategy will help to assess the delivery process for actions that implement policies which enhance rights.
- 7.2 Monitoring will not infringe rights, particularly that of legal security.
- 7.3 The actions under the Parking Action Plan could include Sunday Controls. Sunday Controls will be subject to a consultation as part of the implementation process. These are known to be of concern to particular car using faith groups. Potential mitigation measures will be identified prior to the consultation.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 The impacts of this report in relation to the three elements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties have been considered, and the outcomes are summarised below.
- 8.2 Relevant Council sustainable development policies have been taken into account and are noted at Background Reading later in this report.

8.3 The proposals in this report will:

- reduce carbon emissions because the Local Transport Strategy 2014-2019 actions reduce the need for travel, encourage active travel and improve fuel efficiency;
- increase the city's resilience to climate change impacts because actions in the Local Transport Strategy 2014–2019 will reduce the need to travel and improve fuel efficiency;
- help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh because actions encouraging travel on foot, by bike and public transport improve air quality, road safety and personal health. Encouraging alternatives to car use assists with social inclusion;
- help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh because actions to encourage sustainable travel widens the jobs market for both employers and employees. It also assists in reducing congestion, which improves the efficient operation of the road network; and
- help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh because actions to encourage walking, cycling and public transport as alternatives to car travel will impact positively on energy efficiency.

Consultation and engagement

9.1 The draft Local Transport Strategy document was the subject of public and stakeholder consultation and comment during 2013.

Background reading/external references

A copy of the report to the 14 January 2014 Transport and Environment Committee, entitled: *Local Transport Strategy 2014–2019*, can be found at Council Papers OnLine, at:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3067/transport_and_environment_committee

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Links

Coalition pledges	P18 – Complete the Tram in accordance with current plans. P19 – Keep Lothian Buses in public hands and encourage the improvement of routes and times. P45 – Spend five per cent of the transport budget on provision for cyclists. P46 – Consult with a view to extending current 20mph zones. P50 – Meet greenhouse gas targets, including the national target of a 42 per cent reduction by 2020.
Council outcomes	CO9 – Edinburgh residents are able to access job opportunities. CO19 – Attractive Places and Well Maintained – Edinburgh remains an attractive city through the development of high quality buildings and places and delivery of high standards and maintenance of infrastructure and public realm.
Single Outcome Agreement	All
Appendices	None.