

Minutes

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00 am Tuesday 13 January 2015

Present:

Councillors Hinds (Convener), McVey (Vice-Convener), Bagshaw, Barrie, Booth, Brock, Doran, Gardner, B Henderson (substituting for Councillor Lunn), Jackson, Keil, McInnes, Mowat and Perry.

Also present:

Councillor Main (see item 12 below)

1. Deputation: South Charlotte Chapel – Delivering the Local Transport Strategy 2014-19: Parking Action Plan Update

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Senior Pastor Paul Rees, South Charlotte Chapel, Edinburgh and Derek Lamont, Minister at St Columba's Free Church, Edinburgh in relation to a report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities that outlined the progress made regarding parking policies and actions related to The Local Transport Strategy.

Mr Rees outlined his objections to the introduction of parking charges in the city centre on Sundays. Mr Rees cautioned that the introduction of parking restrictions would erode the feeling of community that exists in the city centre. Mr Lamont shared Mr Rees' objections to the introduction of parking charges in the city centre during Sundays. Mr Rees stated that the introduction of parking charges would impact on the wider community not only those attending church.

The Convener thanked the deputation for their presentation and invited them to remain for the Committee's consideration of the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities at item 4 below.

2. Deputation: South Morningside Primary School Parent Council - Updated Pedestrian Crossing

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Alan Rehfisch on behalf of South Morningside Primary School Parent Council in relation to a report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities on the pedestrian crossing priority list.

Mr Rehfisch requested that the Council install a zebra, or light controlled, crossing on Braid Road, near the Cluny Centre. This he felt would give children a safe route from the main building to the annex where they attend PE classes.

Mr Rehfisch questioned the assessment taken of the area adding that it fell short of the standards necessary to draw the conclusions outlined in the report.

The Convener thanked the deputation for their presentation and invited them to remain for the Committee's consideration of the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities at item 5 below.

3. Deputation: Friends of the Meadows – Annual Review of Major Events in Parks

The Committee considered a deputation request from Heather Goodare, on behalf of Friends of the Meadows, in relation to the 2014 annual review of events carried out by the Parks and Greenspace Service.

The deputation suggested that the Committee should revise its decision to allow events in the Meadows to last up to 28 days and that at times of such budgetary constraints those hosting events should be charged a market rate.

The Convener thanked the deputation for their presentation and invited them to remain for the Committee's consideration of the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities at item 6 below.

4. Delivering the Local Transport Strategy 2014-19: Parking Action Plan Update

An update was provided on the progress made regarding the policies and actions related to parking as outlined in the Local Transport Strategy

Decision

- 1) To note the content of the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities.
- 2) To note that the potential for introducing restrictions on Sundays, in advance of the measures that will be implemented as part of the Parking Action Plan, would be investigated and a report submitted to Committee in two cycles.
- 3) To note that the further report would include consultation with relevant stakeholders, as before, and would investigate a range of options. The report would also include details of the legal implications for equalities.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 14 January 2014 (item 5), Transport and Environment Committee 3 June 2014 (item 7) report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

5. Updated Pedestrian Crossing Prioritisation 2014/15

An update was provided on the pedestrian crossing priority list for 2014/15.

Decision

- 1) To approve the updated pedestrian crossing priority list for 2014/15 set out in Appendix 1 of the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities.
- 2) To note the locations that did not meet the priority list criteria in Appendix 2 to the Acting Director of Services for Communities report.

- 3) To approve the updated construction list and note the results of the public consultations setting aside any representations to allow construction to progress in Appendix 3 to the Acting Director of Services for Communities report.
- 4) To note the outcome of a review of the prioritisation of existing traffic signals without pedestrian crossing facilities and associated funding requirements as requested by the Transport and Environment Committee on 23 November 2012.
- 5) To note the priority list (Appendix 6) for renewing and upgrading traffic signals and that this would be used as the basis for the programme in 2014/15 and 2015/16.
- 6) To carry out a PV2 assessment of the 62 signalised junctions without full pedestrian crossing facilities and to receive the results of the assessment, in the annual report on Pedestrian Crossing Prioritisation in late 2015.

(References – Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee 28 July 2009 (item 11); Transport and Environment Committee 23 November 2012 (item 6) and 3 June 2014 (item 15); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

6. Annual Review of Major Events in Parks

The results of the Annual Review of Major Events in Parks 2014 were submitted.

Decision

To note the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 28 August 2014 (item 6); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

7. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Transport and Environment Committee of 28 October 2014 as a correct record.

8. Key Decisions Forward Plan

The Transport and Environment Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for the period March 2015 to June 2015 was submitted.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for March 2015 to June 2015

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

9. Rolling Actions Log

As part of a review of the Council's political management arrangements, the Council had approved a number of revisions to committee business processes including the requirement that Executive Committees introduce a rolling actions log to track committee business.

The Transport and Environment Committee Rolling Actions Log updated to 13 January 2015 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note that future actions agreed by the Committee calling for further reports or information would be added to the Rolling Actions Log.
- 2) To agree to close actions 2, 3, 4, 18, 19, 20, 26, 27 and 40.

(References – Act of Council No 12 of 24 October 2013; Rolling Actions Log 13 January 2015, submitted)

10. Business Bulletin

The Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin for 13 January 2015 was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin, submitted)

11. Assessing Supported Bus Services

Approval was sought for a proposed set of criteria to evaluate supported bus services and the development of a methodology that would assess value for money and non-financial benefits.

Decision

- 1) To approve the proposed criteria to be used in the assessment.
- 2) To approve the development and application of an assessment methodology that would evaluate both value for money and the social, economic and transport related benefits provided by supported bus services.
- 3) To note the intention to present the outcomes of the assessment to the Committee on 17 March 2015.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 27 August 2013 (item 16) and 14 January 2014 (item 12); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

12. Delivering the Local Transport Strategy 2014-19 - 20mph Speed Limit Roll Out – Proposed Network

Following a period consultation approval was sought for a revised speed limit network for the city.

Councillor Main was heard as a local ward member and expressed support for the initiative. Councillor Main asked that consideration be given to including Cluny Drive and Greenbank Crescent in the proposed 20mph network.

Motion

- 1) To approve the proposed network of 20mph roads set out in the report as a basis for the necessary legal orders.
- 2) To note that a detailed implementation plan would be presented to Committee in March 2015.
- 3) To discharge the outstanding action from March 2013 to report back on the proposed implementation of 20mph at Charlotte Square and the wider residential area.
- 4) To thank officials involved in developing the proposed 20mph network.
- moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor McVey

Amendment

- 1) To note the report: delivering the LTS 2014 to 2019 - 20mph Speed Limit Roll out.
- 2) To note the Committee's concerns:
 - i) that the scale of the network proposed exceeded the guidelines proposed in the Local Transport Strategy by extending beyond predominantly residential areas and the City Centre.
 - ii) that the network proposed did not conform to the principle that "It is important that there is a good degree of public acceptance of the speed limit on any given road; this would ensure compliance without the need for undue call of police resources".
 - iii) that taking this action forward at this time for legal order would lead to significant objections which would make the network proposed unsupportable.
 - iv) regarding the enforcement of the proposed network; effects on emission and congestion and to propose that there were other road safety measures which should be prioritised such as fixing potholes and broken pavements which would improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport and other vehicle drivers.
- 3) To note that period 9 of the SfC budget monitoring position showed an £8.3m shortfall primarily caused by the savings targets identified in the 2013/14 budget not being implemented and that there was no financial information attached to the report.
- 4) Therefore, Committee:
 - i) rejects the proposed network of 20mph roads as set out in this report as a basis for the necessary legal orders and subsequent implementation plan
 - ii) calls for a further report showing proposals for the City Centre and residential streets which had expressed support for 20 mph and associated implementation costs within once cycle.

- moved by Councillor Mowat, seconded by Councillor Jackson

Voting

For the motion	-	11 votes
For the amendment	-	3 votes

Decision

- 1) To approve the proposed network of 20mph roads set out in the report as a basis for the necessary legal orders.
- 2) To note that a detailed implementation plan would be presented to Committee in March 2015.
- 3) To discharge the outstanding action from March 2013 to report back on the proposed implementation of 20mph at Charlotte Square and the wider residential area.
- 4) To thank officials involved in developing the proposed 20mph network.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 19 March 2013 (item 10) and 14 January 2014 (item 5); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

13. Response to Smarter Choices, Smarter Places Funding

Approval was sought for further development of proposals that would be taken forward by the Council using monies allocated from the “Smarter Choices, Smarter Places” fund.

Decision

- 1) To note the allocation of £446,000 of revenue funding from Scottish Government in 2015/16 on a 50% matched basis as part of the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places initiative.
- 2) To agree the broad programme of initiatives, as set out in the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities
- 3) To delegate powers to the Acting Director of Services for Communities, in consultation with the Convener, Vice Convener, the Active Travel Forum, and Transport and Environment spokespersons to further develop and deliver a plan and detailed programme for spending these monies.

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

14. SEStran Regional Transport Strategy Refresh: Response to Consultation Draft, October 2014

Approval was sought for the Council’s response to the Regional Transport Strategy Refresh Consultation Draft October 2014.

Decision

To approve the SEStran Regional Transport Strategy Refresh, Consultation Draft, dated October 2014, subject to the changes set out in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 of the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities.

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

15. Review of Tables and Chairs Summer Festival Trial in George Street

Approval was sought to begin consultation regarding the extension of the George Street trial to other areas of the city centre during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2015.

Decision

- 1) To extend the operating hours of the current tables and chairs permit system in future years for premises on George Street for the duration of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.
- 2) To agree that, during the advertised operating period of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, businesses on George Street may apply for permission to use tables and chairs until midnight instead of 10pm (noting that it is the responsibility of businesses to apply for and obtain the appropriate License and that this report does not seek to fetter the discretion of the Licensing Board or Regulatory Committee).
- 3) To consult with key stakeholders, on extending the operating hours of the current tables and chairs permit system, on a similar trial basis, to the premises within the City Centre Ward that are located within 150 metres of an official Festival or Fringe venue, and to premises attached to Fringe venues at the Pleasance, Bristo Square and George Square during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2015.
- 4) To receive a report on the outcome of the consultation at the Committee's meeting in March 2015, prior to any further trials of extended operating hours for tables and chairs permits.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 3 June 2014 (item 24), report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

16. Leith Walk (Pilrig Street to Duke Street) - Public Hearing of Objections to Traffic Regulation Order

A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) had been advertised by the City of Edinburgh Council in November 2013 in support changes on Leith Walk between Pilrig Street and Duke Street. Objections received to the TRO had been referred to a public hearing and to Scottish Ministers.

The Reporter's recommendations in relation to the TRO decision were detailed. Approval of the Reporter's recommendations in relation to the TRO was sought.

Decision

To accept the Reporter's recommendations, as summarised in the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities and to make the Traffic Regulation Order.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 18 March 2014 (item 3), Transport and Environment Committee 28 October 2014 (item 26); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

17. Proposed Priority Parking - Murrayfield Area, Edinburgh

Approval was sought to commence the legal process to introduce a Priority Parking scheme, on a phased basis, in the Murrayfield Area.

Decision

- 1) To note the content of the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities.
- 2) To set aside the objections to the traffic regulation order and approve the making of the traffic order as advertised.
- 3) To approve the phased implementation of the Murrayfield Priority Parking Area.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 29 October 2013 (item 19); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

18. Craiglockhart Traffic Calming - Results of Consultation

A financial contribution of £40,000 had been secured through the planning process for the introduction of speed reducing measures in the Craiglockhart area. A consultation was undertaken to gather the views of the local residents on the provision of traffic calming on streets in the area. This report summarised the responses to the consultation.

Decision

- 1) To note the results of the consultation to introduce traffic calming in the Craiglockhart area.
- 2) To note the extension of the proposal in accordance with the consultation results.
- 3) To set aside the objections to the proposal and approve the installation of road humps in the Craiglockhart area.

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

19. Park and Pitch Drainage Programme

Twenty-six locations within parks and recreational grounds had been identified as requiring drainage improvements. An update was given on the progress made in delivering improvements to drainage.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress in implementing the park and pitch improvement programme.
- 2) To note that improvement works will be carried out on 12 of the city's parks and recreation grounds as detailed in the report.
- 3) To refer the report to the Culture and Sport Committee for consideration.

(References – Act of Council No 1 of 7 February 2013; report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

20. Green Flag Award and Parks Quality Assessments

In 2014, a record 26 parks were awarded a Green Flag, and 124 of Edinburgh's 137 parks and green spaces met or exceeded the parks quality standard, established to ensure quality across all of the Council's greenspace estate.

Decision

To note the content of the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 26 August 2014 (item 25); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

21. Landfill and Recycling

An update was provided on performance in reducing the amount of waste being sent to landfill and increasing recycling. The positive trend in performance was continuing with the amount of waste sent to landfill reducing by 3.5% compared with the same period for the previous year.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 15 January 2013 (item 13) and 27 August 2013 (item 25); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

22. Attitudes to Recycling

Waste Services had undertaken research and evaluation to better understand recycling attitudes across the city.

The research would be used to create a targeted communications and engagement strategy to allow for more effective delivery of recycling campaigns and ensure the service was responsive to residents needs.

Decision

- 1) To note the contents of the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities.

- 2) To agree for an updated communications and engagement strategy to be brought to Committee in Autumn 2015.

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

23. EU Mayors Adapt

The benefits of signing up to the ‘Mayors Adapt’ initiative were outlined to the Committee. The initiative aimed to increase support for local activities, provide a platform for greater engagement and networking by cities and raise public awareness about adaptation and the measures needed.

Decision

- 1) To agree the Council becomes a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors Initiative on Adaptation to Climate Change, known as EU Mayors Adapt.
- 2) To note a climate change adaptation action plan would be developed and presented to Committee for consideration in Winter 2015.

(Reference – Transport and Environment Committee 28 October 2014 (item 8); Director of Corporate Governance, submitted)

24. Tree for Every Child Scheme

An update on progress made in developing A Tree for Every Child scheme was provided.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress in developing the Tree for Every Child scheme.
- 2) To note that a further update report would be brought back to the Committee in Autumn 2015.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 27 August 2013 (item 32) and 14 January 2014 (item 9); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

25. Services for Communities Financial Monitoring: Period 9 2014/2015 (based on period 8 data)

Details were provided of the period 9 revenue monitoring position for Services for Communities together with the outturn positions against its approved revenue and capital budgets for 2014/15.

Decision

To note the Services for Communities financial position and actions underway to manage pressures.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 28 October 2014 (item 16); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

26. Corporate Performance Framework: Performance from April to September 2014

An update was provided on Council performance against Transport and Environment strategic outcomes, covering the period from April to September 2014.

Decision

To note the performance for the period from April to September 2014 and to agree the actions for improvement.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 10 June 2014 (item 7); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

27. Public Utility Company Performance 2014/15 - Quarter 2 (July, August and September 2014)

Performance information relating to public utility companies for the second quarter of 2014/15 (July to September 2014) was submitted. Also provided were comments on the performance and progress of the Roadwork Support Team (RST) including the additional Inspectors, employed on a temporary basis, to allow the Council to inspect 100% of public utility reinstatements.

Decision

To note the report and performance information shown in Appendix A, including the arrangements for securing an improved level of performance from all Public Utilities.

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

28. Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative

An update was provided regarding the current position of the development of a community owned solar energy scheme on Council buildings by Energy Community Solar Co-operative (ESCo).

Motion

- 1) To note the content of the report and the ongoing dialogue with ECSC.
- 2) To note that there had been positive engagement with ECSC by officers to assist in driving the project forward.
- 3) To note that the feed in tariff (FIT) rate would be reduced in March 2015, which was likely to reduce community benefit payments and might affect the viability of some sites if the scheme proceeded at post-March 2015 FIT rates.
- 4) To note the potential for schemes to "pre-register" for the current FIT rate prior to March 2015.
- 5) To note that a decision made at March 2015 committee would be too late to allow for pre-registration for current FIT rates.

- 6) To delegate decision making on this issue to the Acting Director of Services for Communities in consultation with the Convenor and Vice-Convenor and opposition spokespersons once the final proposal from ECSC had been received and officials had reviewed and assessed it.
- 7) To agree to receive a report on any decision taken on this matter.
 - moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor McVey

Amendment

That no further action would be taken on the Energy Community Solar Co-operative scheme.

- moved by Councillor Mowat, seconded by Councillor McInnes

Voting

For the motion	-	10 votes
For the amendment	-	3 votes

Decision

- 1) To note the content of the report and the ongoing dialogue with ECSC.
- 2) To note that there had been positive engagement with ECSC by officers to assist in driving the project forward.
- 3) To note that the feed in tariff (FIT) rate would be reduced in March 2015, which was likely to reduce community benefit payments and might affect the viability of some sites if the scheme proceeded at post-March 2015 FIT rates.
- 4) To note the potential for schemes to "pre-register" for the current FIT rate prior to March 2015.
- 5) To note that a decision made at March 2015 committee would be too late to allow for pre-registration for current FIT rates.
- 6) To delegate decision making on this issue to the Acting Director of Services for Communities in consultation with the Convenor and Vice-Convenor and opposition spokespersons once the final proposal from ECSC had been received and officials had reviewed and assessed it.
- 7) To agree to receive a report on any decision taken on this matter.

(References – Corporate Policy & Strategy Committee 3 December 2013 (item 11) report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

29. Cleanliness of the City

The outcome of the Cleanliness Index Monitoring System (CIMS) assessment of Edinburgh's streets, which had been undertaken by Keep Scotland Beautiful in September 2014, was detailed.

The City of Edinburgh Council had achieved a score of 72 with 95% of the streets surveyed achieving the nationally recognised standard of cleanliness. The national standard of cleanliness is a score of 67.

Decision

To note the contents of the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities.
(Reference – report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

30. Objections to Traffic Regulation Order - Casselbank Street

Details were provided of an objection received during the consultation on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to make permanent the current position of the City Car Club bay and Doctor's parking bay on Casselbank Street.

Decision

- 1) To note the objection received to the advertised Traffic Regulation Order, and the Council's comments in response.
- 2) To set aside the parts of the objection relating to the City Car Club and Doctor's parking bays, and give approval to make the Order as advertised.
- 3) To note that a separate statutory process was being progressed for the appointment of the taxi stance on Casselbank Street, and that objections to this, including the part of the objection considered in this report that related to the taxi stance, would be reported to the Regulatory Committee.

Declaration of interest

Councillor Barrie declared a non-financial interest in the above item as Convener of the Regulatory Committee.

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

31. City of Edinburgh Play Strategy - referral from the Education, Children and Families Committee

The Education, Children and Families Committee had considered a report City of Edinburgh Play Strategy and referred it to this Committee for consideration.

Decision

To note the terms of the referral from the Education, Children and Families Committee.
(Reference – referral report by the Education, Children and Families Committee 9 December 2014, report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

32. Young Street Experimental Traffic Regulation Order

Details were provided of an objection received during consultation on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce approved changes to road layout on Young Street.

Decision

- 1) To note that the necessary works to change signage and the direction of the one way system on Young Street commenced on 30 December 2014, with the trial commencing in late December 2014 to December 2015.
- 2) To note the responses to the objections and the steps that had been taken to address those objections.
- 3) To agree to set aside the objections, on the basis that, by implementing changes using an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order, objections would be further considered should Committee decide to make the Order permanent.
- 4) To note that the Council had procured a year-long monitoring and research package to analyse the impact of a similar Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) trial on George Street, on the surrounding city centre neighbourhood (including Young Street), and on businesses, pedestrians, cyclists, and different modes of transport which currently used George Street and surrounding streets.
- 5) To note that a report would be brought to Committee in December 2015 analysing the trial's impact and making further recommendations based on the research outcomes

(References – Transport and Environment Committee Transport 29 April 2014 (item 1) and 26 August 2014 (item 7); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

33. Sustainable Scotland Network Conference 2014

Decision

To note the action taken by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, in consultation with the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee, in approving attendance by Councillor Burgess at the Sustainable Scotland Network Conference in Edinburgh on 25 November 2014 under the urgency provisions set out at paragraph 3.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference.

(Reference – report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

34. Parking in Polwarth Terrace – Motion by Councillor McInnes

The following motion by Councillor McInnes was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16.1.

"Instructs officials to produce a report in two cycles on parking in Polwarth Terrace specifically to investigate the requirement for no parking on so much of the Terrace."

Decision

- 1) To approve the motion.
- 2) To ask the Acting Director of Services for Communities to report back to Committee within 2 cycles.

35. Resolution to consider in private

The Committee, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, excluded the public from the meeting for consideration of item 36 below on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 6 and 11 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

36. Transport Companies Update – Verbal update

The Committee received a verbal update regarding issues faced by Transport for Edinburgh.

Decision

- 1) To note the verbal update.
- 2) To ask that the Director of Corporate Governance provide a further update at a future meeting of the Committee.

(Reference – verbal update by the Director of Corporate Governance)