

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00 am Tuesday 27 October 2015

Present:

Councillors Hinds (Convener), McVey (Vice-Convener), Aldridge, Bagshaw, Barrie, Booth, Cardownie, Nick Cook, Donaldson, Doran, Gardner, Bill Henderson, Jackson, Keil and McInnes

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Transport and Environment Committee of 25 August 2015 as a correct record.

2. Key Decisions Forward Plan

The Transport and Environment Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for the period January 2016 to March 2016 was submitted.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for January 2016 to March 2016

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan, submitted)

3. Rolling Actions Log

The Transport and Environment Committee Rolling Actions Log updated to 27 October 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 note the rolling actions log and to approve the closure of actions 5, 8, 22, 25, 31, 32 and 33.
- 3) To note the expected completion date for rolling actions 2, 10, 16, 18, 20, 21, 23, 26, 28, 29, 30, 34, 35 and 36 had been revised.

(References – Act of Council No 12 of 24 October 2013; Rolling Actions Log 27 October 2015, submitted)

4. Transport and Environment Committee Decisions – October 2014 – August 2015

On 19 June 2014, the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee had agreed increased monitoring for the dissemination and implementation of committee decisions. It had been agreed that a report outlining all decisions taken in the previous year with an update on the implementation of decisions and recommendations to discharge actions would be presented to Executive Committees annually.

An update was provided on decisions taken by the Transport and Environment Committee, not included on the Rolling Actions Log, for an initial period covering October 2014 to August 2015.

Decision

- 1) To note the position on the implementation of Transport and Environment Committee decisions as detailed in the appendix to the report.
- 2) To note that an annual summary report would be presented to Committee in 12 months time.

(References – minute of the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee 19 June 2014 (item 9); report by the Deputy Chief Executive, submitted.)

5. Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin

The Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin for 27 October 2015 was presented.

Decision

To note the Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin.

(Reference - Business Bulletin - 27 October 2015, submitted)

6. Update on the Street Scene Project

In October 2014 the Transport and Environment Committee approved a new policy for trade waste. Details on how the policy had been implemented across Edinburgh was provided.

Decision

- 1) To note the content of the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities.
- 2) To ask that an update report be submitted regarding the next phase of the project to a future meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee.
- 3) To thank staff for their work in delivering the project.

(Reference – minute of the Transport and Environment Committee 28 October 2014 (item 21) report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

7. Policies – Assurance Statement

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee had previously agreed to strengthen governance arrangements and develop a framework relating to Council Policies. Details were provided of the Transport and Environment Policies which had been reviewed and assessed as current, relevant and fit for purpose.

Decision

- 1) To note the Council policies detailed in the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities had been reviewed and were considered as being current, relevant and fit for purpose.
- 2) An update on the review process to be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee, this should also include a review of the maintenance fees of presentation seats.

(Reference – minute of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 3 September 2013 (item 4); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

8. Pentland Hills Regional Park Boundary Bill – Response to Calls for Evidence

The Council had been invited to provide evidence in relation to the Pentland Hills Regional Park Boundary Bill. In order to meet the consultation deadline, the Council's response to the call for evidence had been submitted by the Acting Director of Services for Communities in consultation with the Convener.

Decision

- 1) To ratify the written responses to the calls for evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Finance Committee and the Pentland Hills Regional Park Boundary Bill Committee made by the Convener on behalf of the Council on (Appendices 1 and 2) of the Acting Director of Services for Communities report.
- 2) To request that when making their oral submission in support of the extension of the Pentland Hill Regional Park Officers highlight that there could be other possible funding options, as well as Scottish Government.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Bill Henderson declared a non-financial interest in the above item as Convener of Pentland Regional Park Joint Committee and Forum.

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

9. Public Utility Company Performance 2015/16 Quarter 1 (April, May and June 2015)

Details were provided of the performance of Public Utility Companies (PUs) during the period April 2015 to June 2015 (Quarter 1), for the 2015/16 financial year. Details were also provided on the proposals for managing PU performance in 2015/16.

Decision

- 1) To note the report and performance information shown in Appendix A of the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, including the arrangements for securing an improved level of performance from all Public Utilities.
- 2) To publicise those public utility companies that had signed up to the Edinburgh Road Works Ahead Agreement.
- 3) Opposition members to be invited to future meetings with public utility companies.
- 4) Officers to approach the Scottish Government to ask that consideration be given to increasing the fixed penalty notices and to report back to a future Transport and Environment Committee meeting.

(Reference – minute of the Transport and Environment Committee, 18 June 2012 (item 17); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

10. Street Lighting – Roll Out of Light Emitting Diode (LED) Lanterns Across The City

On 14 January 2014, the Transport and Environment Committee considered a report titled Street Lighting – Result of White Light Pilot Project, and noted that further business cases/financial models to upgrade the remaining stock would be reported to Committee.

Following the recent replacement of a further 7,000 lanterns, details of the business case and optimum timeline for upgrading the remaining street lights across the city were provided.

Decision

- 1) To approve the business case in principle and to refer the Acting Director of Services for Communities report to Council for formal approval of the prudential borrowing.
- 2) To note that the lessons learned from the Salix project had directly informed the design solution that would be used in any further roll out of LED lighting.
- 3) To ask Officers to provide residents with advanced warning of any future work in their street regarding the roll out of LED lanterns.

- 4) To ask Officers to liaise with the relevant department concerning the removal of trees/branches that reduce the effectiveness of the lanterns.

(Reference – minute of the Transport and Environment Committee, 14 January 2014 (item 13); minute of the Finance and Resources Committee, 16 January 2014 (item 23); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

11. Assessing Supported Bus Services: Further Report

A report on the development of a revised system for the procurement of supported bus services, including a tool to assess value for money and non-financial benefits of these services was provided.

Decision

- 1) To approve the recommendations on weightings to be applied to the assessment of supported bus services.
- 2) To note that there would be a further report to Transport and Environment Committee on 15 March 2016.

(References – minute of the Transport and Environment Committee 25 August 2015 (item 20); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

12. Future Bus Lanes Expansion Plans and Bus Lane Camera Enforcement Update

A review of previous and current transport studies had been undertaken and identified a number of potential locations for future bus lanes. Approval was sought to remove two redundant bus lanes at Bread Street and the A1 eastbound off-slip road at Newcraighall.

Decision.

- 1) To note the contents of the Acting Director of Services for Communities report with regard to future bus lane expansion plans.
- 2) To note the plans for further expansion of bus lane camera enforcement and that the first new sites would become operational in the last quarter of 2015.
- 3) To note that Leith Walk would be assessed for suitability for bus lane camera enforcement.
- 4) To approve the proposals to deploy bus lane cameras to enforce the general traffic ban on Princes Street.
- 5) To note that a new bus lane camera came into operation at the Shore on 3 August 2015.
- 6) To approve the commencement of the statutory procedures necessary to remove the existing bus lanes on Bread Street and the A1 eastbound off-slip road at Newcraighall.

- 7) To discharge the outstanding remit from the Transport and Environment Committee of 26 August 2014 to report back on future bus lane expansion plans for the city and to provide an update on bus lane camera enforcement.
- 8) To ask that Officers explore using existing street furniture to host additional CCTV cameras.

(References – minute of the Transport and Environment Committee, 26 August 2014 (item 14); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

13. Carriageway and Footway Capital Investment Strategy

Approval was sought for a new strategic approach to capital investment in the city's roads and footways.

Decision

- 1) To approve the new approach to carriageway and footway investment.
- 2) To note that a further report, detailing the full investment strategy for carriageways and footways would be presented to the Transport and Environment Committee on 12 January 2016.
- 3) To request that within the annual assessment of the condition of the city's roads report that Officers report against the new investment strategy (graph 3.6).

(References – minute of the Transport and Environment Committee, 28 October 2014 (item 14) report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

14. Roseburn to Leith Walk Cycle Route and Street Improvement Project – Public Consultation for the Preliminary Design

Details were provided of the creation of a 'family-friendly' cycle route between Roseburn and Leith Walk.

Decision

- 1) To note the content of the Acting Director of Services for Communities report and the preliminary design.
- 2) To approve commencement of public consultation on the scheme.
- 3) To ask that the material available for the public consultation be drafted in user friendly language.

(References – minute of the Transport and Environment Committee, 3 June 2014 (item 12); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

15. Services for Communities Financial Monitoring – 2015-16 – Half Year Position

Details were provided of the half year monitoring position for Services for Communities together against the approved 2015/16 revenue and capital budgets.

Decision

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

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

16. Objection to Proposed Waiting Restrictions – Seaforth Drive / Groathill Road South / Groathill Avenue Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) 14/31

Details were provided of a proposed TRO to introduce waiting and loading restrictions on sections of Seaforth Drive, Groathill Road South, Groathill Avenue and Groathill Avenue South.

Decision

To note that four objections had been withdrawn following amendment of the original proposal, and to discharge the remaining objection allowing the Traffic Regulation Order, as amended, to be made.

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

17. Sustainable Scotland Network Conference 2015

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 3 November 2015, under paragraph 3.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference.

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

18. Resolution of Fly-Tipping at Caroline Park Avenue EH15 1HY

The Petitions Committee on 3 September 2015 considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive outlining the petition 'Resolution of Fly-Tipping at Caroline Park Avenue, EH5 1HY'. The Committee agreed to refer the petition to the Transport and Environment Committee for consideration.

Decision.

To note that the Forth Neighbourhood Partnership Team had arranged for the area task force to clean up the area.

(References – minute of the Petitions Committee 3 September 2015 (item 5); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

19. Landfill and Recycling

An update was provided on performance regarding the amount of non recyclable waste sent to landfill, and the amount of waste recycled for the period April to July 2015

Decision

- 1) To note the contents of the Acting Director of Services for Communities report.
- 2) For comparison purposes details of the financial impact of the increasing levels of recycling to be included in future reports (e.g. reduction of carbon tax).
- 3) Members to forward any complaints regarding the assisted collection service directly to Head of Services – Environment who will investigate.
- 4) To invite members of the Waste Services team to a future meeting of the Committee to present an overview of the project, including what worked well.

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

20. Carbon Literacy – Motion by Councillor Hinds

The following motion by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor McVey was submitted in terms of Standing Order 29.1.

“The Carbon Literacy initiative is a unique behavioural change project originating in Manchester. It is designed to address the issues around climate change by assisting individuals to make small simple steps to reduce their carbon footprint. This year the Manchester programme will offer everyone who lives, works or studies in the city a day’s worth of carbon literacy training. Individuals who become trained can then in turn train others. The Scheme has grown across the Manchester region and the wider North West. Manchester City Council is reporting clear benefits from the initiative both in terms of reducing carbon and in developing genuine community partnerships.

Given the Council’s aim to reduce carbon emissions by 42% by 2020, there is an obvious link with the Carbon Literacy Programme, the Council’s SEAP which has a specific objective to address behaviour change across Edinburgh and the role of the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership in delivering initiatives across the city.

In light of the above, the Committee is requested to call for a report that looks at the potential for a Carbon Literacy or equivalent initiative in Edinburgh and in particular the role of the ESDP in delivery of such a programme. The report should also address any costing or resource implications.”

Decision

To approve the motion.

21. Weed Control and Use of Glyphosate – Motion by Councillor Booth

The following motion by Councillor Booth, seconded by Councillor Bagshaw was submitted in terms of Standing Order 29.1.

“ This committee notes:

1. That earlier this year, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), an arm of the World Health Organisation (WHO), classified glyphosate as “probably carcinogenic to humans”;
2. That several countries, including Holland, Denmark and Sweden, have banned or restricted the use of glyphosate by local authorities and that some cities, including Chicago and Paris, have voluntarily made their public spaces glyphosate-free;
3. That glyphosate forms the basis of herbicides used by the Council to control weed growth on streets and in parks and green spaces, and that around 4,700 litres of herbicide are applied by the council each year;
4. That council officers are already investigating alternatives to the use of glyphosate;

This committee believes that:

5. Where substantial evidence of the negative impact of chemicals on human health and the wider environment exists, the council should pursue the precautionary principle and should seek to utilise other weed control methods where evidence of such negative impacts does not exist;

The Committee therefore agrees:

6. To continue to investigate alternatives to the use of glyphosate for weed control and undertake at least two pilots to trial alternative weed control strategies, presenting a report to committee within twelve months with options and costs of alternative weed control methods.
7. To phase out the use of glyphosate by the Council as soon as an effective and cost-effective alternative weed control strategy has been identified.

Decision

To approve the motion.