

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday 1 November 2016

Present:

Councillors Hinds (Convener), McVey (Vice-Convener), Bagshaw, Balfour Barrie, Booth, Cardownie, Nick Cook, Dixon (substituting for Councillor Henderson), Donaldson, Doran, Gardner, Jackson and Mowat (substituting for Councillor McInnes).

1. Deputation: Adult City Single Tickets

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Paul Stevenson as the principal petitioner, Ewan Walker of Edinburgh Foodbanks and Mark Kennedy Cyrenians in relation to a report by the Executive Director of Place 'Adult City Single Tickets'.

The deputation raised the following key issues:

- The Adult City Single tickets helped the most vulnerable in society, the withdrawal of them has had a detrimental impact on a number of groups.
- The withdrawal had also impacted on the deputations endeavours to improve the chances of employment for those using their services.
- Lothian Buses had introduced a discounted day saver scratch card but this does not help those that only require a single journey ticket.
- The withdrawal of the Adult City Single ticket has meant that the Council having to spend £3 on the alternative scratch card for a journey that normally costs £1.60.

The deputation asked for Committee support to ensure that the most vulnerable in society had access to public transport and suggested that a number of city smart cards with one journey each be sold to those charities that had previously purchased Adult City Single tickets, as a sustainable, fare alternative.

The Convener thanked the deputation for their presentation and invited them to remain for the Committee's consideration of the report by the Executive Director of Place at item 2 below.

2. Adult City Single Tickets

A petition 'Lothian Buses to continue to accept Adult City Single Tickets' had been lodged following Lothian Buses decision to withdraw the Adult City Single ticket. The Committee was asked to note that Lothian Buses had been asked to fully investigate the potential of the citysmart card proposal.

Decision

- 1) To note the content of the report by the Executive Director of Place.

- 2) To note that Lothian Buses had been asked to fully investigate the potential of the citysmart card proposal and to agree that a report back on the possibility and what would be required to set it up would be submitted to the Transport and Environment Committee in January 2017.
- 3) To request that Lothian Buses ensure that those charities with a proven need can access the subsidised day saver card until such a time that a resolution to the issues outlined by the deputation are resolved.

(References – Petitions Committee 14 April 2016 (Item 5); Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee 10 May 2016 (Item 2); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

3. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Transport and Environment Committee of 30 August 2016, as a correct record.

4. Key Decisions Forward Plan

The Transport and Environment Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for November 2016 was submitted.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for November 2016.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan, submitted)

5. Rolling Actions Log

The Transport and Environment Committee Rolling Actions Log updated to 1 November 2016 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the rolling actions log and to approve the closure of actions 2, 6, 16, 20, 26, 27 and 31.
- 2) To note the expected completion date for rolling actions 13, 15, 19, 21, 22, 29, 30 and 33 had been revised.

(References – Act of Council No 12 of 24 October 2013; Rolling Actions Log 1 November 2016, submitted)

6. Committee Decisions – October 2015 – August 2016

On 19 June 2014, the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee 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 the period covering October 2015 to August 2016.

Decisions

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

(References – Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee, 19 June 2014 (Item 9); Transport and Environment Committee, 27 October 2015 (Item 4); report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

7. Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin

The Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin for 1 November 2016 was presented.

Decision

To note the Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin.

(Reference - Business Bulletin – 1 November 2016, submitted)

8. Waste Improvement Plan

Approval was sought for the Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan. The Plan identified and addresses issues that impact on waste collection performance and street cleanliness.

Motion

- 1) To approve the Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan.
- 2) To note the intention to give presentations on the Improvement Plan to Neighbourhood Partnerships, Community Councils, local business forums, Edinburgh World Heritage, Trade Unions and other stakeholders as part of a wider programme of engagement.

3) To note the intention to provide progress reports to future meetings of the Transport and Environment Committee.

- moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor McVey

Amendment 1

1) Whilst welcoming the intention of the Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan, Committee expresses concern at the elementary nature of many of its actions and the time it had taken to address fundamental service failings.

2) Considers that many of the issues with waste and cleansing services would have been avoided had the Council implemented an 'alternative business model' for service delivery in 2011, which offered guaranteed contractual improvements.

3) Agrees in principle that should the Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan fail to deliver measurable, sustained service improvement, Committee should be willing to instruct Officers to bring forward a report detailing potential options for alternative delivery models for waste collection and cleansing services.

- moved by Councillor Nick Cook, seconded by Councillor Mowat

Amendment 2

1) To approve the Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan, subject to consultation with the trade unions.

2) To note the intention to give presentations on the Improvement Plan to Neighbourhood Partnerships, Community Councils, local business forums, Edinburgh World Heritage, Trade Unions and other stakeholders as part of a wider programme of engagement.

3) To note the intention to provide progress reports to future meetings of this Committee.

- moved by Councillor Booth, seconded by Councillor Bagshaw

Voting

For the motion - 9 votes

For amendment 1 - 3 votes

For amendment 2 - 2 votes

Decision

1) To approve the Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan.

2) To note the intention to give presentations on the Improvement Plan to Neighbourhood Partnerships, Community Councils, local business forums, Edinburgh World Heritage, Trade Unions and other stakeholders as part of a wider programme of engagement.

- 3) To note the intention to provide progress reports to future meetings of the Transport and Environment Committee.

(References – Minute of Transport and Environment Committee 12 January 2016 (item 14); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

9. Seafield Waste Water Treatment Works – Monitoring of Scottish Water Odour Improvement Plan

The number of sewage nuisance complaints received via the Council's Seafield Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) Odour Monitoring and assessment programme was outlined.

Decision

- 1) To note the findings of the Council's monitoring and assessment programme over the periods 1 March 2015 to 31 October 2015 and 1 March 2016 to 31 October 2016.
- 2) To note the outcome and actions arising from a Council investigation into a major odour incident resulting from a temporary shutdown of the Thermal Hydrolysis plant which had caused an increase in complaints of odour from local residents throughout the month of October 2015.
- 3) To note the outcome and actions arising from a Council and Scottish Environmental Protection Agency investigation into complaints received from local residents relating to a burning odour that peaked during the period mid-April to mid June 2016.
- 4) To note that following the Council's request to Scottish Government to review the 2005 Code of Practice that such a review is now underway as detailed in paragraphs 3.20 to 3.22 in the report by the Executive Director of Place and urges the Scottish Government to ensure that local residents are invited to fully participate in the review.
- 5) To instruct officers to continue, for one further year, the odour monitoring and assessment programme. This includes responding to complaints of sewerage nuisance and carrying out monitoring when activities which pose an odour release risk are due to be implemented within the Waste Water Treatment Works.
- 6) To agree that should a major incident occur officers are instructed to consult with the Convenor, Vice Convenor and Group spokespeople on how the Transport and Environment Committee should be updated.
- 7) To note the ongoing concerns expressed by the Leith Links Residents' Association and other local residents at the unacceptable odours which had emanated from the Seafield plant in recent months and agree that the Convenor writes to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform for an updated timeline on when the review of the Code of Practice would be complete and to encourage a speedy conclusion to this process.

To also request a meeting with the Convener, Vice Convener and appropriate Community representatives once this review had been completed to discuss:

- (i) the outcome of the Code of Practice review;
 - (ii) future investment proposals for the Seafield plant; and,
 - (iii) possible future options in relation to the renewal of the contract to operate the Seafield facility.
- 8) To note that some residents no longer report odour incidents, either because they feel it makes no difference or because they report that it is too difficult to do so, and to agree to bring forward proposals to make it easier for residents to report odour incidents, including but not limited to online or digital ways to register such incidents.
- 10) To note the disappointment that the Scottish Water report was not available for consideration by the Transport and Environment Committee.

(References – Minute of Transport and Environment Committee 2 June 2015 (item 29); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

10. Alternatives to the Use of Glyphosate-Based Herbicide to Control Weeds on Streets and Green Spaces

A range of alternatives concerning the use of glyphosate-based herbicides for the control of weeds was outlined. The Committee was asked to approve an Integrated Weed Control Programme.

Decision

- 1) To adopt a policy that seeks to reduce the amount of glyphosate-based herbicide used by the authority to control weeds, limits the use of chemical herbicides only where there is no effective or reasonable alternative, uses the least harmful product and is applied in the safest way using the minimal amount of herbicide.
- 2) To note the intention to develop, implement and report back to the Transport and Environment Committee within 12 months an Integrated Weed control Programme with achievable targets and objectives for the control of weeds along roadsides, pavements, other hard surfaces, and in parks and other green spaces. This programme to focus on the application of mulches and cultural maintenance, mechanised weed brushes, rippers and path edgers, and electricity and to include a timetable for the phasing out of the use of glyphosate within the authority and hope to have alternatives in place.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

11. Surface Water Management Plan

Surface Water Management Plans (SWMPs) aim to identify options to reduce local flooding and include a realistic action plan to implement, or deliver, the agreed management measures. Details were provided concerning the process to be followed in identifying vulnerable areas to flooding and how these risks would be managed.

Decision

- 1) To note the content of the report and that SWMPs would be developed by 2018.
- 2) To note that additional road gullies and drainage improvements would be installed at Mid Liberton to alleviate the existing surface water flooding problems.
- 3) To approve the use of consultants to develop SWMPs.
- 4) To note the timescales in developing the SWMPs and the installation of drainage at Mid Liberton.

(References – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

12. Bus Lane Network Review – Outcome of the Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders Trial

The Committee was asked to approve the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order to make the permanent alteration to the operating times of the all day bus lanes, converting them to peak hour and to permit motorcycles to use with flow bus lanes during operational hours.

Motion

- 1) To note the findings of the surveys carried out to evaluate the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order which had converted all day bus lanes to peak hour operation only.
- 2) To approve the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order to make the permanent alteration to the operating times of the all day bus lanes, converting them to peak hour and to permit motorcycles to use with flow bus lanes during operational hours.
- 3) To note that the extent of the bus lane network and the hours of operations would continue to be reviewed and requests for amendment, particularly from bus operators and cycling groups, would be reported back to Committee in the future.
- 4) To note that investigations would be undertaken on the feasibility of providing cycle facilities within existing bus lanes.
- 5) To agree that a report would be submitted to the Transport and Environment Committee in January 2017 outlining the engagement undertaken with bus companies regarding the extension of the Bus Lane Network and related enforcement issues.

- moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor McVey

Amendment

- 1) To note the findings of the surveys carried out to evaluate the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order which had converted all day bus lanes to peak hour operation only.
 - 2) To not approve the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order to make the permanent alteration to the operating times of the all day bus lanes, converting them to peak hour, but does approve the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order to make the permanent alteration to permit motorcycles to use with-flow bus lanes during operational hours.
 - 3) To note that the extent of the bus lane network and the hours of operations would continue to be reviewed and requests for amendment, particularly from bus operators and cycling groups, would be reported back to Committee in the future.
 - 4) To note that investigations would be undertaken on the feasibility of providing cycle facilities within existing bus lanes.
- moved by Councillor Bagshaw, seconded by Councillor Booth

Voting

For the motion - 12 votes
For the amendment - 2 votes

Decision

- 1) To note the findings of the surveys carried out to evaluate the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order which had converted all day bus lanes to peak hour operation only.
- 2) To approve the promotion of a Traffic Regulation Order to make the permanent alteration to the operating times of the all day bus lanes, converting them to peak hour and to permit motorcycles to use with flow bus lanes during operational hours.
- 3) To note that the extent of the bus lane network and the hours of operations would continue to be reviewed and requests for amendment, particularly from bus operators and cycling groups, would be reported back to Committee in the future.
- 4) To note that investigations would be undertaken on the feasibility of providing cycle facilities within existing bus lanes.
- 5) To agree that a report would be submitted to the Transport and Environment Committee in January 2017 outlining the engagement undertaken with bus companies regarding the extension of the Bus Lane Network and related enforcement issues.

(References – Minute of Transport and Environment Committee 2 June 2015 (item 18); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

13. 8% Budget Commitment to Cycling in 2015/16 – Summary of Expenditure

The Committee was asked to note the Council's capital and revenue expenditure on cycling in the 2015/16 financial year. The Council achieved 7.36% for capital expenditure and met the 8% target for revenue expenditure.

Decision

To note the summary of Council expenditure on Cycling for 2015/16.

(References – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

14. Secure On-Street Cycle Parking

The Committee was asked to note the results of a pilot project to trial the installation of covered, on-street, and secure cycle parking for use by residents and to approve a further roll-out of this secure cycle parking scheme to other areas of Edinburgh.

Decision

- 1) To note the outcomes of the trial.
- 2) To approve a further roll-out of this scheme to other areas of Edinburgh and modification of all the existing sites to use the units procured through this further roll-out.
- 3) To approve the proposed methodology for the selection of new sites, with the exception of the criterion requiring that a majority in favour of residents within 100m be in favour, as detailed at point 3.19, with that requirement changed to 'Residents within 100m – would seek to establish significant support.
- 4) To agree that a report would be submitted to the Transport and Environment Committee in January 2017 regarding a tenemental scheme which would also include details concerning charging.

(References – Minute of Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee 21 February 2012 (item 17); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

15. Update on the Street Scene Project

An update regarding Phase Two of the trade waste policy, whereby trade waste receptacles are no longer to be stored on public land, was provided.

Decision

- 1) To note the content of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 2) To agree in principal that no trade waste bins would be located on the street and that trade waste comprising food and glass would only be permitted to be located on the streets under exceptional circumstances.

- 3) To agree that details concerning trade waste, particularly food and glass, would be reported via the Cleanliness in the City report to be considered in January 2017.

(References – Minute of Transport and Environment Committee 28 October 2014 (item 21); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

16. 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 2016, was detailed. The City of Edinburgh Council had achieved a score of 71 with 92% of the streets surveyed being clean.

Decision

To note the content of the report by the Executive Director of Place.

(References – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

17. Delivering Air Quality

Approval was sought for a course of action that would be initiated to support the Council's and government's objectives for cleaner air.

Decision

- 1) To note the content of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 2) To agree to the development of a positive promotion of air quality issues to improve public understanding, including publicising air quality information source from the air quality monitoring stations.
- 3) To agree to the broadening of the Future Transport Member-Officer Working Group's remit to oversee a joined up strategy approach to air quality, transport and spatial planning.
- 4) To investigate the potential benefits of using a Low Emission Zone (LEZ) and /or Clean Air Zone (CAZ) approach in Edinburgh.
- 5) To agree that an update report concerning potential benefits of using a Low Emission Zone (LEZ) and /or Clean Air Zone (CAZ) approach in Edinburgh would be submitted to the Transport and Environment Committee in January 2017.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

18. Cammo Estate: Local Nature Reserve Declaration

The Committee was asked to note and that the declaration of Cammo Estate Local Nature Reserve would take place in November with certified copies of the declaration available for public inspection.

Decision

- 1) To note the findings of the consultation exercise seeking views on proposals to declare Cammo Estate as a Local Nature Reserve.
- 2) To note the declaration of Cammo Estate Local Nature Reserve would take place in November with certified copies of the declaration available for public inspection.
- 3) To refer the report to the Planning Committee for information.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Karen Keil declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a member of Cammo Estate Advisory Board.

19. Public Utility Company Performance 2016/17 Quarter 1 (April, May and June 2016)

Details were provided of the performance of Public Utility Companies (PUs) during the period April 2016 to June 2016 (Quarter 1), for the 2016/17 financial year.

Decision

To note the report and the arrangements for securing an improved level of performance from all Public Utilities.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

20. Landfill and Recycling

Details regarding the amount of waste sent to landfill, and the amount of waste recycled for the period July to September 2016 was submitted.

Decision

To note the content of the report by the Executive Director of Place.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

21. Place Financial Monitoring 2016/17 – Half-Year Position

A forecast of the outturn position for Place against its approved 2016/17 revenue and capital budgets was provided.

Decision

To note the Place financial position and the actions underway to manage pressures.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

22. Internal Audit Quarterly Update Report – 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2016 – referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee on 23 June 2016 considered a report by the Chief Auditor which contained a summary of the findings and status of work from the Internal Audit plan of work. The report was submitted to the Transport and Environment Committee for information and noting.

Decision

To note the audit report with high risk findings concerning the Contract Management of Roads.

(References – Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee, 23 June 2016 (item 7); report by the Interim Head of Strategy and Insight, submitted)