

Minutes

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 21 March 2017

Present:

Councillors Hinds (Convener), McVey (Vice-Convener), Aldridge, Bagshaw, Barrie, Booth, Cardownie, Cook, Doran, Gardner, Bill Henderson, Jackson, Keil, Mowat (substituting for Councillor McInnes), Redpath (substituting for Donaldson)

1. Deputation: Merchiston Community Council

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Kay Smith from Merchiston Community Council in relation to 'Gull De-Nesting'.

The deputation requested that that the City of Edinburgh Council approve a gulls de-nesting service within a limited area of tenement streets in North Merchiston and that a working model to deal with problem colonies of gulls breeding be developed.

Miss Smith reported that a focused pilot starting by the end of April 2017 could target a limited but particularly problematic area, including both sides of Bryson Road, Watson Crescent, Tay Street and Fowler Terrace where the majority of gull nests were found during the 2012 pilot. This publicly provided and co-ordinated service would be the most efficient form of operation as pest control operatives can access the roofs of several streets through just a few entry points.

The Convener thanked the deputation for her presentation and invited her to remain for further debate on the issues raised.

Motion

- 1) To note continuing concern amongst residents in and around tenement areas over the increasing and invasive urban gull population.
- 2) To note that the Council had in the past acknowledged the issue and following a campaign by Merchiston Community Council, agreed to carry out a pilot de-nesting service in 2012.
- 3) To note that the pilot – which involved two operatives on six days between April to June – was seen to yield positive benefits but was not continued because of a budgetary decision.
- 4) To note that the matter was referred to the South Central and South West Neighbourhood Partnership to allow them to consider funding the proposed North Merchiston Pilot.

- 5) To note that a working group of officials, local residents and local members had been established to formulate a multi-agency approach to tackle the number of gulls within Edinburgh, and that an update on the actions taken following the meeting of the working group will be included in the Petitions Committee Business Bulletin on 30 March 2017.
- 6) To recognise that the pilot in 2012, although viewed as 'successful' at the time did not prevent the issue from returning.
- 7) To note that advice from national agencies such as RSBP state that prevention is the best long term solution as gulls are creatures of habit and would continue to return unless effective preventative measures are in place.
- 8) To recommend that any future proposals include a focus on preventative measures to prevent the problem reoccurring.
- 9) To agree to report back to the next Transport and Environment Committee the outcome of the working group's deliberations.
 - moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor McVey.

Amendment

- 1) To note the ongoing public concern regarding the gulls nuisance including a petition to the Petitions Committee asking for a gulls de-nesting pilot in North Merchiston.
- 2) To note that from April to September sections of certain tenement streets in Edinburgh harbour well established colonies of breeding gulls known to attract other breeding gulls.
- 3) To Note that over 60 percent of the 107 nests and 166 eggs removed by the Council from seven tenement streets in North Merchiston in 2012 were found in just three streets which were accessed by internal stairs onto linking roof tops. In the process hundreds of properties were freed of gulls' nests and 166 fewer gulls were born.
- 4) Noting administration concerns on financing, agrees to a new, focussed pilot starting by the end of April 2017 to target an area more limited than that of 2012 but to include both sides of Bryson Road, Watson Crescent, Tay Street and Fowler Terrace (as a minimum), keeping accurate records of time and resources involved in order to evidence an effective model of working for future planning.
- 5) Considers that, as the proposed work is temporary and short term - involving just two operatives over 35/6 days from April to July, and no specialist equipment - this limited pilot could be accommodated within existing resources, with data gathered also aiding the work of the gulls working group, which recently met for the first time.

- 6) To note concerns expressed by residents and community groups over a lack of meaningful progress in formulating a multi-agency approach to tackling the gulls problem in Edinburgh, as was approved by Committee last March and concerns that the large number of individual properties involved in the process mean it cannot be effectively owner-led.
- moved by Councillor Cook, seconded by Councillor Mowat.

Voting

For the motion	-	11 votes
For the amendment	-	4 votes

Decision

- 1) To note continuing concern amongst residents in and around tenement areas over the increasing and invasive urban gull population.
- 2) To note that the Council had in the past acknowledged the issue and following a campaign by Merchiston Community Council, agreed to carry out a pilot de-nesting service in 2012.
- 3) To note that the pilot – which involved two operatives on six days between April to June – was seen to yield positive benefits but was not continued because of a budgetary decision.
- 4) To note that the matter was referred to the South Central and South West Neighbourhood Partnership to allow them to consider funding the proposed North Merchiston Pilot.
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- 6) To recognise that the pilot in 2012, although viewed as ‘successful’ at the time did not prevent the issue from returning.
- 7) To note that advice from national agencies such as RSBP state that prevention is the best long term solution as gulls are creatures of habit and would continue to return unless effective preventative measures are in place.
- 8) To recommend that any future proposals include a focus on preventative measures to prevent the problem reoccurring.
- 9) To agree to report back to the next Transport and Environment Committee the outcome of the working group’s deliberations.

2. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Transport and Environment Committee of 17 January 2017, as a correct record.

3. Key Decisions Forward Plan

The Transport and Environment Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for March 2017 was submitted.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for March 2017.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan, submitted)

4. Rolling Actions Log

The Transport and Environment Committee Rolling Actions Log updated to 21 March 2017 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the rolling actions log and to approve the closure of actions 1, 3, 7, 13, 15, 16, 19, 21, 25 and 26.
- 2) To note the expected completion date for rolling actions 2, 10, 12 and 28 had been revised.

(References – Rolling Actions Log 21 March 2017, submitted)

5. Committee Decisions – November 2016 – January 2017

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 November 2016 to January 2017.

Decision

- 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 Committee in 12 months time.

(References – Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee, 19 June 2014 (item 9); Transport and Environment Committee, 1 November 2016 (item 6); report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

6. Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin

The Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin for 21 March 2017 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin.
- 2) To note that work on the resurfacing of Brighton Place would be postponed until the settled streets report returns to the Transport and Environment Committee on 1 August 2017.

(Reference – Business Bulletin – 21 March 2017, submitted)

7. Annual Review of Major Events in Parks 2015/16

The Committee was asked to note the findings of the annual review carried out regarding the planning and management of major events in parks.

Decision

- 1) To note the content of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 2) To note the Committee's thanks to all who had contributed to the findings contained within the report.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee, 26 August 2014 (item 6), report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

8. Landfill and Recycling

An update was provided on performance in reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill and on the increasing amount of waste recycled for the period October – December 2016.

The report updated the Committee on the levels of complaints received and provided details of Trade Waste Compliance with proposed actions to address issues around third party commercial waste bins being left unattended and a review of glass exemptions that had previously been granted.

Decision

- 1) To note the content of the report in respect of landfill, recycling and complaints performance.
- 2) To approve the proposed approach to tackling increasing examples of businesses leaving waste bins unattended outside of prescribed collection times and to revisit the existing food and glass exemptions granted to businesses. The success of this would be subject to a future report to Committee.
- 3) To agree that members of the Transport and Environment Committee would undertake a site visit to the Millerhill recycling facility.

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

9. Smarter Choices, Smarter Places Programme 2017-2018

Details were provided of funding allocated from the Scottish Government for 'Smarter Choices, Smarter Places' (SCSP) for 2017/18. A total of £456,081 had been allocated on the basis of 50% match funding from the City of Edinburgh Council. Approval was sought to further develop and deliver a plan for spending these monies.

Decision

- 1) To note the allocation of £456,081 of revenue funding from Scottish Government in 2017/18 on a 50% matched basis as part of the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places initiative, to pursue and enhance the promotion of sustainable transport.
- 2) To agree the broad programme of initiatives, as set out in the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 3) To agree to delegate powers to the Senior Manager – Roads Network, in consultation with the Convener and Vice Convener, to further develop and deliver a plan and detailed programme for spending these monies, as previously agreed for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 programmes.
- 4) To note that regular updates would be included in the Transport and Environment Business Bulletin regarding the expenditure of the revenue funding to pursue and enhance the promotion of sustainable transport.

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

10. Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan – Progress Update

A progress update concerning the delivery of actions contained within the Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan was submitted for consideration.

Decision

To note the progress made on implementing the actions within the Improvement Plan to date, with majority of actions being on track or completed.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee, 17 January 2017 (item 8); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

11. Redesign of Recycling Services in Tenements and Flats

Details were provided concerning proposals to allow for the expansion of recycling services for households in tenemental and other flatted properties which would assist the Council in meeting its recycling objectives.

Decision

- 1) To approve the amended strategy for the siting of communal recycling bins in flatted properties, to specify the use of two mixed recycling bins in addition to separate bins for glass, food and landfill, so that the service would be ‘future proofed’ to take account of the likely development of a national system for sorting waste across Scotland.
- 2) To note the development of a communal redesign project and to agree to receive a further report towards the end of the calendar year that advises on the development of a communal bins redesign proposal, which outlines the feasibility studies that intend to shape the scope of a future project.

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

12. ‘A’ Boards

Details of a strategic approach to ‘A’ Boards across the city were submitted. The strategy aimed to improve the environment and quality of streets as well as addressing the best management arrangements to ensure delivery and compliance.

Decision

- 1) To note the analysis carried out to date.
- 2) To instruct the Executive Director of Place to prepare a strategy for ‘A’ Boards following appropriate consultation and engagement.

- 3) To thank Karen Stevenson for the report and her services to the City of Edinburgh Council.

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

13. Bus Lane Network Review – Objections to Traffic Regulation Orders

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

Motion

- 1) To note the objections raised to two advertised Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) and the Council comments in response.
- 2) To set aside the objections and to give approval to Traffic Regulation order TRO/16/87A which permits motorcycles to use the bus lanes during operational hours.
- 3) To set aside the objections to TRO/16/87B which alters the operating times of the all day bus lanes, converting them to peak hour operation.
 - moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor McVey.

Amendment

- 1) To note the objections raised to two advertised Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) and the Council comments in response.
- 2) To set aside the objections and to give approval to Traffic Regulation order TRO/16/87A which permits motorcycles to use the bus lanes during operational hours.
- 3) To uphold the objections to TRO/16/87B which alters the operating times of the all day bus lanes, converting them to peak hour operation
 - moved by Councillor Bagshaw, seconded by Councillor Booth.

Voting

For the motion	-	13 votes
For the amendment	-	2 votes

Decision

- 1) To note the objections raised to two advertised Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) and the Council comments in response.

- 2) To set aside the objections and to give approval to Traffic Regulation order TRO/16/87A which permits motorcycles to use the bus lanes during operational hours.
- 3) To set aside the objections to TRO/16/87B which alters the operating times of the all day bus lanes, converting them to peak hour operation.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee, 17 January 2017 (item 12); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

14. Leith Street Temporary Management Arrangements

The Committee was asked to approve a recommendation made by the Traffic Management Review Panel regarding the temporary traffic management arrangements in Leith Street.

Decision

To approve the recommendations by the Traffic Management Review Panel that Leith Street would be closed between Calton Road and Waterloo Place for a period of 44 working weeks between 4 September 2017 and 26 July 2018 to facilitate essential deep drainage and carriageway and footway reconstruction, realignment and renewal.

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

15. Objections to Traffic Regulation Order TRO/13/45 – Greenways Parking Places Charges

Details were provided of a proposed traffic regulation order regarding the introduction of parking charges in Greenways' parking places.

Decision

- 1) To note the objections received.
- 2) To agree to convert free parking places on Ardmillan Terrace to shared use parking places to enable residents to purchase S4 parking permits allowing them to park in the bays outside their homes.
- 3) To set aside an objection regarding Slateford Road.
- 4) To proceed to make the Traffic Regulation Order as advertised.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee, 27 August 2013 (item 9); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

16. Road, Footway and Bridges Additional Investment – Capital Programme 2017/2018

Approval was sought for the expenditure of an additional £2.5m capital and £2.5m revenue budgets for 2017/18.

Decision

To approve the breakdown of the additional £2.5m capital and £2.5m revenue budgets for 2017/18 shown in appendix 2 to the report by the Executive Director of Place.

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

17. SEStran’s Proposal to Move from a Model 1 to a Model 3 Regional Transport Partnership

The Committee was asked to note the content and conclusions of the report by the Executive Director of Place and to support SEStran in continuing to develop proposals regarding a move a Model 3 Regional Transport Partnership under the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005.

Decision

To note the content and conclusions of the report by the Executive Director of Place and to support that SEStran should continue to develop the proposal for further consideration.

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

18. Transport for Edinburgh Update

Details concerning the development of business cases regarding Edinburgh Bus Station and Council Park and Ride Sites was provided.

Decision

- 1) To note that Transport for Edinburgh had undertaken initial scoping work concerning Edinburgh Bus Station and Park and Ride Sites, and that officers would work with Transport for Edinburgh to comprehensively review work to date and assist with the development of Business Cases.
- 2) To agree to delegate approval of the final business cases to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Convener and Vice Convener, as well as group transport spokespeople.

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Hinds, McVey and Bagshaw declared a non-financial interest in the above item as Board Members of Transport for Edinburgh.

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

19. Safety first – close the bridge! – referral from the Petitions Committee

The Petitions Committee had referred a petition entitled 'Safety first – close the bridge!' to the Transport and Environment Committee for consideration.

Decision

To note the referral report from the Petitions Committee

(References – Petitions Committee, 23 January 2013 (item 5); report Head of Strategy and Insight, submitted)

20. Request to Close Viewforth at the South Side of the Union Bridge Canal

Details were provided regarding concerns about the number of pupils walking to Boroughmuir High School and the potential conflict with vehicles.

Decision

To agree that the Transport and Environment Committee would visit the site to observe the issues that had been raised.

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

21. Cultivating Communities: A Growing Success 2017-2027

Approval was sought for the implementation of new allotment strategy for Edinburgh 'Cultivating Communities: A Growing Success'.

Decision

- 1) To note the consultation on a new allotment strategy.
- 2) To approve the allotment strategy Cultivating Communities – A Growing Success 2017-2027.
- 3) To thank Officers for the work carried out in developing the allotment strategy.

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

22. Public Utility Company Performance 2016/17 Quarter 3 (October, November and December 2016)

Details were provided of the performance of Public Utility Companies during the period October 2016 to December 2016 (Quarter 3), 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 – Transport and Environment Committee 18 June 2012 (item 17); report by the Executive Director Place, submitted)

23. Parking on Polwarth Terrace, Edinburgh

Approval was sought to commence the legal process required to introduce, on an experimental basis, additional parking provision on Polwarth Terrace.

Decision

- 1) To note the content of the report by the Executive Director Place and its appendices.
- 2) To approve the commencement of the legal process required to introduce, on an experimental basis, the parking places detailed within the report.

(Reference – Transport and Environment Committee 25 August 2016 (item 26); report by the Executive Director Place, submitted)

24. Priority Parking in South Morningside

Approval was sought to commence the legal process required to extend the South Morningside Priority Parking Area.

Decision

- 1) To note the results of the consultation process.
- 2) To commence the legal process to extend the B2 priority Parking Area (PPA).

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

25. Roads Contract Management: Follow Up – referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

The Convener ruled that the following item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, be considered as a matter of urgency in order that it be considered timeously.

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee had referred a report entitled 'Roads Contract Management: Follow Up' to the Transport and Environment Committee for scrutiny.

Decision

To note the referral report from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee.

(Reference – Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee 9 March 2017 (item 8); report by the Executive Director Place, submitted)

26. Implementation of 20mph – Motion by Councillor Mowat

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

Committee:

Notes with concern the volume of additional signage that is being installed to facilitate the 20mph zones across the City and is especially concerned where additional poles are being placed on streets in Conservation Areas and the World Heritage Site where there is no other pavement clutter which is contrary to the Council's policy on reducing street clutter and that roundels are being painted onto setted streets; and asks:

- 1) That the guidance issued to Councillors on the implementation of 20 mph speed limits is reviewed to ensure that installation is in line with this guidance.
- 2) That the relevant legislation is provided to Committee demonstrating that these signs are necessary and that the contractor had been correctly instructed in the placement of these signs.
- 3) Where signs had been installed or roundels painted on the road in contravention to council policy or guidance these are removed.
- 4) Any further installation of traffic signage to advertise the 20mph zones subject to consultation with local councillors to prevent any further unnecessary works being carried out.

Amendment

- 1) To note with concern that some Conservative Councillors are seeking additional 20mph signage and others seeking less.
 - 2) To agree to circulate a note of the legislation surrounding 20mph signage as well as the guidance followed by officers to all Councillors.
 - 3) The Committee further notes that the Conservative Group appears to had no consistent criteria in relation to which streets should be considered for 20mph. In light of this, Committee looks forward to receiving the Conservative Group's clear proposals on this matter.
- moved by Councillor Hinds, Seconded by Councillor McVey

Voting

For the motion - 3 votes

For the amendment - 11 votes

Decision

- 1) To note with concern that some Conservative Councillors are seeking additional 20mph signage and others seeking less.
- 2) To agree to circulate a note of the legislation surrounding 20mph signage as well as the guidance followed by officers to all Councillors.
- 3) The Committee further notes that the Conservative Group appears to had no consistent criteria in relation to which streets should be considered for 20mph. In light of this, Committee looks forward to receiving the Conservative Group's clear proposals on this matter.