

Minutes

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday 10 August 2017

Present:

Councillors Macinnes (Convener), Doran (Vice-Convener), Arthur, Barrie, Booth, Bruce, Burgess, Cook, Douglas, Gloyer and Key.

1. Picardy Place Junction

1.1 Deputation – Spokes and Living Streets

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Martin McDonnell from SPOKES and David Spaven from Living Streets in relation to the Picardy Place Junction.

The deputation made the following points:

- That the redesign of a significant city centre junction and surrounding streets presented an opportunity for traffic reduction, development of active travel infrastructure, and improvement of the public realm.
- The design's planned significant improvement over the present highly sub-standard conditions for both cycling and walking in the area, was welcomed, but there were major concerns over the design and the consultation process.
- The policies such as the Scottish Government's Designing Streets (2010), the Council's Edinburgh Street Design Guidance (2015) and the Council's Local Transport Local Transport Strategy 2014-2019 were succeeding and new developments should help maintain these.
- There were specific design issues, such as excessive emphasis on provision for vehicles, the narrowness of cycle paths, the possible conflict caused by shared cyclist/pedestrian space, the loss of some green space and the opportunity to remove the central island and gyratory intersection.
- The Council was encouraged in its ongoing consultation and design processes to take on board these concerns and to work towards a final design which was both a symbolic and practical demonstration of the importance of active travel and place, rather than movement in a much-used area of the City.

The Convener thanked the deputation for their presentation and invited them to remain for consideration of the motion by Councillor Booth at the item 9.3 below.

1.2 Motion by Councillor Booth.

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

Committee:

- 1) Notes the decision of council on 10 March 2016 in regard to the regeneration of the St James Quarter, including a decision on the future governance of the Growth Accelerator Model (GAM) works programme and cross-party members' oversight of the project;
- 2) Notes that the Transport Projects Working Group has not met since the council election in May;
- 3) Expresses concern at the lack of public consultation on changes to a significant element of the city's transport infrastructure;
- 4) Agrees that public consultation on proposed changes to the Picardy Place junction should take place as soon as possible;
- 5) Agrees that the redesign of a significant city centre junction and surrounding streets presents an opportunity for traffic reduction, development of active travel infrastructure, and improvement of the public realm;
- 6) Therefore agrees to receive a report within one cycle setting out options for achieving this in Picardy Place and surrounding streets, and that this report will also set out the decision-making process to date on Picardy Place, and the proposed future decision making, and in particular what the democratic oversight of the process has been.”

Decision

- 1) To agree to hear the deputation.
- 2) To approve the terms of the motion by Councillor Booth subject to the amendment of decision 2 to read:

“Notes that the Transport Projects Working Group had not met since the Council election in May 2017 and looks forward to the anticipated agreement of the Central Development Working Group and the report or progress of the GAM agreement to this group.”

- 3) Committee Services to notify the deputations of the decision made.

2. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Transport and Environment Committee of 21 March 2017, as a correct record.

3. Key Decisions Forward Plan

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

Decision

- 1) To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for August 2017.
- 2) To agree that the Executive Director of Place would report on improvements to cycling, safety and tram interface to the next meeting of the Committee.
- 3) The Executive Director of Place to report on the City Centre and the Public Realm to the next meeting of the Committee.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan, submitted)

4. Rolling Actions Log

The Transport and Environment Committee Rolling Actions Log updated to 10 August 2017 was presented.

Decision

To note the rolling actions log and to approve the closure of action 25.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log 10 August 2017, submitted)

5. Business Bulletin

The Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin for 10 August 2017 was presented.

Decision

To note the Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin – 10 August 2017, submitted)

6. Road Services Improvement Report

Approval was sought for the Roads Services Improvement Plan. The plan identified the different issues that impacted on road asset management performance and the actions that the service would take to address them. Progress on implementing the plan and the impact it was having on performance, complaints and road condition would be reported to the Transport and Environment Committee on a regular basis.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Roads Services improvement plan.
- 2) To note the intention to provide progress reports to future meetings of the Committee.

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

7. Delivering the Local Transport Strategy 2014-2019: Parking Action Plan

At its meeting of 7 June 2016, the Committee approved a report on the draft Parking Action Plan (PAP), including options for Sunday parking controls and proposals for a policy driven pricing strategy.

Approval was sought on the progress made since the PAP was approved.

Motion

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To approve the following three protocols:
 - Enforcement Protocol
 - Controlled Parking Zone and Priority Parking Protocol
 - Private Roads Protocol.
- 3) To agree that a report would be brought back to Committee to address the issues raised regarding the enforcement of parking protocols.
- 4) To approve the proposed pricing structure and to agree that there would be a consultation over a 3 month period on whether to introduce a diesel surcharge and report would be brought back to Committee.
- 5) To note the progress made on 22 of the actions within the Parking Action Plan (PAP) and that eight of those actions were now considered to be complete.
- 6) To note the revisions to the proposed timescales for delivering changes to the

operation of the Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ), including proposals for Sunday parking restrictions, shared-use parking and visitor permits.

- 7) To recognise that commuting by car to park in residential areas contributed to congestion, air pollution and was impacting on some residents and therefore to request a report on the potential to use parking restrictions to reduce commuter parking.
 - 8) To agree that single streets or small groups of streets would not normally be considered unless such areas were near rural villages in relation to parking pressures.
- Moved by Councillor Macinnes, seconded by Councillor Doran

Amendment

Delete report recommendations and replace with:

- 1) To note the report.
 - 2) To note with regret the decision of the previous Transport and Environment Committee to approve introduction of Sunday parking charging in Edinburgh.
 - 3) To note the decision to do so was taken despite the opposition of over 80% of respondents to the Council's public consultation on the matter, with said consultation attracting a significantly higher response rate than that typically received by such exercises.
 - 4) Recognising the opportunity presented by the start of a new committee session, to instruct officers to bring back revised proposals, within two cycles, in respect of the Parking Action Plan which do not progress further the introduction of Sunday Parking charges in Edinburgh.
- Moved by Councillor Cook, seconded by Councillor Bruce

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion - 8
For the amendment - 3

(For the motion: Councillors Arthur, Barrie, Booth, Burgess, Doran, Gloyer, Key and Macinnes

For the amendment: Councillors Bruce, Cook and Douglas.)

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To approve the following three protocols:
 - Enforcement Protocol
 - Controlled Parking Zone and Priority Parking Protocol
 - Private Roads Protocol.
- 3) To agree that a report would be brought back to Committee to address the issues raised regarding the enforcement of parking protocols.
- 4) To approve the proposed pricing structure and to agree that there would be a consultation over a 3 month period on whether to introduce a diesel surcharge and report would be brought back to Committee.
- 5) To note the progress made on 22 of the actions within the Parking Action Plan (PAP) and that eight of those actions were now considered to be complete.
- 6) To note the revisions to the proposed timescales for delivering changes to the operation of the Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ), including proposals for Sunday parking restrictions, shared-use parking and visitor permits.
- 7) To recognise that commuting by car to park in residential areas contributed to congestion, air pollution and was impacting on some residents and therefore to request a report on the potential to use parking restrictions to reduce commuter parking.
- 8) To agree that single streets or small groups of streets would not normally be considered unless such areas were near rural villages in relation to parking pressures.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee, 7 June 2016 (item 5); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

8. Parking in Dumbiedykes and the Pleasance Areas

Details were provided of the lack of enforcement of resident's parking in the Dumbiedykes and Pleasance Areas and the increased level of commuter and non-residential parking in area.

A motion submitted by former Councillor Orr was approved by Committee in June 2016 and instructed officers to investigate the possible introduction of parking controls, in consultation with residents and to report to back to Committee.

A summary was provided of parking issues, the outcome of the consultation process and recommendations to introduce parking controls.

Decision

- 1) To note the outcome of the public consultation.
- 2) To approve the start of the statutory procedure to introduce parking controls in the affected areas. This was in line with the Parking Action Plan and was based on the current pricing structure and will be revised if the pricing structure changes.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee, 7 June 2016 (item 22); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

9. Petitions for Consideration: Lothianburn Park and Ride and Redesign the Traffic Light Priorities of at the Junction of Slateford Road and Shandon Place

The City of Edinburgh Council at its meeting on 22 June 2017 agreed the Petitions Committee be discontinued and that petitions would be sent to the responsible executive committees or in future locality committees for consideration.

The Committee was asked to consider two valid petitions.

(a) Lothianburn Park and Ride

The petitioner, Douglas Chisholm and Councillor Neil Ross spoke on behalf of the petition.

Mr Chisholm indicated that in order to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution on the A702 and reduce commuter parking in Morningside, the residents of Morningside and surrounding areas petitioned the Council to work with the Scottish Government and Midlothian Council to build a Park and Ride facility at Lothianburn.

Councillor Neil Ross stated that many of the local residents were supportive of a park and ride scheme. This would provide a solution and he drew attention to the Park and Ride scheme at Straiton Park which was well-utilised. The same would apply to Lothianburn which would provide positive outcomes as there would be shorter car journeys, easy parking, a reduction in on-street parking and a reduction in air pollution. Therefore, Councillor Ross asked the Committee to take the proposals forward.

(b) Redesign the traffic light priorities of Slateford Road and Shandon Place.

Alex Stewart spoke on behalf of the petition.

Mr Stewart indicated that the current traffic light set up at the junction prioritised cars along Slateford Road in a way that was dangerous for pedestrians and confusing for car drivers.

The junction was a route to Craiglockhart School for children in the catchment area, for nursery children to Tynecastle Nursery and secondary students to Tynecastle High School. It was a route for pedestrians from Shandon to the shops along Gorgie Road and to the bus stop into town on Slateford Road.

Local residents who used the junction daily saw near misses of pedestrians caused by drivers going through red lights on a regular basis. The design of the lights meant car drivers could easily misunderstand the priorities and go through a red light without realising it.

Decision

- 1) To note the issues raised by the two petitions.
- 2) To consider the terms of the petitions 'Lothianburn Park and Ride' as set in Appendix one and 'Redesign the traffic light priorities at Junction of Slateford Road and Shandon Place' as set in Appendix two of the reports by the Executive Director of Place.
- 3) To agree that in relation to the Lothianburn Park and Ride Petition:
 - (a) The Executive Director of Place would liaise with Midlothian Council and report to the Committee in two cycles on the issues relating to Park and Ride
 - (b) To consult with and involve the local community councils (especially Fairmilehead) as part of the review of the Lothianburn Park and Ride petition.
 - (c) To discuss the Number 11 bus route with Lothian Buses as part of the review of the Lothianburn Park and Ride petitions.
- 4) To agree that in relation to the Slateford Road and Shandon Place Petition, the Executive Director of Place to liaise with the petitioners and arrange for a site visit to inspect the crossing and report back to the Committee in two cycles.

(References – Act of Council (No.2), 7 June 2016; report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

10. Appointments to Working Groups – 2017/18

It was reported that the Committee was required to annually re-appoint the membership of its Working Groups for 2017/18.

Decision

- 1) To defer the reappoint of the Future Transport Working Group until the next meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee meeting in October 2017 to allow reforms to the remit of the Working Group based on changes to policy.
- 2) To agree to replace the Transport Projects Working Group with the Central Edinburgh Development Working Group and approve the revised remit and membership of the Working Group as described in the report.
- 3) To appoint the membership of the Working Groups for 2017/18 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, apart from the Future Transport Working Group.

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

11. Re-Appointment of Non-Executive Director to the Board of Lothian Buses Limited

It was reported that Mr Donald Andrew MacLeod was appointed to the Board of Lothian Buses Ltd (“LB”) as a Non-Executive Director on 1 September 2009. He was most recently re-appointed to the Board in July 2015. This appointment was for a further two years and was due to lapse on 31 July 2017.

Approval was sought for Mr MacLeod to be re-appointed to the Board for a further year, until 31 July 2018.

Decision

To approve the re-appointment of Mr Macleod to the Board of Lothian Buses (LB) for a further year, ending on 31 July 2018.

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

12. Updated Pedestrian Crossing Prioritisation 2017/18

Details were provided on an updated pedestrian crossing priority list and on consultations undertaken for locations approved in the previous report to the Transport and Environment Committee meeting on 7 June 2016.

Decision

- 1) To approve the updated pedestrian crossing priority list for 2017/18 as per Appendix 1 of the report.
- 2) To note the locations that did not meet the priority list criteria in Appendix 2 of the report.

- 3) To note the results of the public consultations and set aside any representations to allow construction to progress in Appendix 3 of the report.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee, 7 June 2017 (item 12); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

13. Waste and Cleansing Service – Performance Update

An update was provided on the performance of the Waste and Cleansing service. This included progress in reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill and increasing the amount of waste recycled in 2016/17. It also outlined proposed actions to further reduce the amount of waste landfilled and increase the amount recycled throughout the 2017/18 period.

In relation to cleanliness the report provided the results from the cleanliness of city surveys and a summary of the work and initiatives being carried out to improve cleanliness.

Decision

- 1) To note the report in respect to landfill, recycling and cleansing performance.
- 2) To note the proposed actions to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill, increase the amount of waste recycled and the initiatives being undertaken to improve cleanliness.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 21 March 2017 (item 10); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

14. Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan – Progress Update

Details were provided of the progress concerning the delivery of actions contained within the Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan.

Overall there continued to be good progress made in delivering the actions contained within the Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan. However, due to a number of factors the individual missed bins performance in July had reached an unacceptable level. Officers were working to address this as a priority, and the introduction of the Routesmart Routing Software would see complaints continue to drop as crews were provided with higher quality information.

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, 21 March 2017 (item 10); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

15. Leith Walk Works

The following motion by Councillor Doggart was remitted from Full Council on 29 June 2017 in terms of Standing Order 29.1.

- 1) Council regrets the inconvenience caused by the collapse of the Council's contractor Land Engineering, the company responsible for undertaking the Phase 4 repairs to Leith Walk between Pilrig Street and McDonald Road. Council specifically regrets the additional disruption caused to the residents and businesses of Leith Walk and Leith by the company's collapse and the inevitable delays incurred to the works programme.
- 2) Council instructs the Executive Director of Place to report within one cycle on the circumstances of the appointment and subsequent collapse of Land Engineering detailing the procurement processes used.
- 3) In particular, the report should detail:
 - the work undertaken, if any, to assess the financial viability of Land Engineering in light of the company's large losses in 2015.
 - an explanation of whether and when any subsequent reviews of the company's financial position took place after the awarding of the contract.
 - whether any bonds, or other indemnities, were included in the contract.
 - the financial consequences of the demise of Land Engineering for council tax payers.
- 4) Council further instructs the Executive Director of Resources to provide a report to the appropriate Committee detailing any potential improvements to procurement processes that could be undertaken to improve financial checks on contractors' viability both before and for the duration of any future long term contracts."

Decision

To approve the terms of the motion by Councillor Doggart with the following amendments:

- (a) To delete paragraphs 2 and 3 of the motion.
- (b) To amend paragraph 4 of the motion to read: "Council further instructs the Executive Director of Finance to provide a report to the Finance and Resources Committee detailing any potential improvements to procurement processes that could be undertaken to improve financial checks on contractors' viability both before and for the duration of any future long term contracts."

16. Weeds Issues Across the City

The following motion by Councillor Laidlaw was remitted from Full Council on 29 June 2017 in terms of Standing Order 29.1

Council recognises that the current surfeit of weeds and overgrown vegetation on our streets, pavements, footpaths and verges is unacceptable, undermines the fabric of the city and has not been properly addressed since the ban of the use of glyphosate and that current arrangements to split weed control between Waste and Cleansing and Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries are under-resourced and have failed to address the problem and that sporadic use of eight gardeners and one soon to be delivered weed stripper is not sufficient.

Council notes that current arrangements do not meet DEFRA's Best Practice Guidance Notes for Integrated and Non-Chemical Amenity Hard Surface Weed Control which state 'local authorities have a duty of care to the public untreated weeds in block paving may create a trip hazard.' and that weed build up is also covered by the Environmental Protection Act.

Council instructs the Director of Place to take immediate action on the recommendations of the report of the Transport & Environment Committee, 1 November 2016, Item 7.3 'Alternatives to the use of glyphosate based herbicide to control weeds on streets and green spaces be revisited' to be put into action within one cycle, particularly targeted on the worst affected areas, including a particular focus on the world heritage site ahead of the Festival season.

Council asks for a report from the new Transport & Environment Committee to review full integration of weed removal into the Waste and Cleansing function as part of proposed improvements to street cleaning.

Motion

To approve the terms of the motion by Councillor Laidlaw.

- moved by Councillor Cook, seconded by Councillor Douglas.

Amendment

To approve the terms of the motion, subject to the deletion of the sentence '....since the ban of the use of glyphosate...' in paragraph 1 and the deletion of paragraph 2.

- Moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Booth.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion - 3
For the amendment - 8

(For the motion: Councillors Bruce, Cook and Douglas)

For the amendment: Councillors Arthur, Barrie, Booth, Burgess, Doran, Gloyer, Key and Macinnes.)

Decision

To approve the terms of the motion, subject to the deletion of the sentence '....since the ban of the use of glysohate' in paragraph 1 and the deletion of paragraph 2.

17. Reducing Plastic Bottle Reduction

The following motion by Councillor Burgess was submitted in terms of Standing Order 29.1.

Committee:

Recognises the large quantity of plastic bottles that are currently disposed of and littered in the City and end up polluting the environment;

Notes the interest at national level in a deposit return system for drinks containers and agrees that Edinburgh Council should write to Scottish Ministers in support of this initiative;

Notes the success of such systems, especially in Scandinavia and the Baltic countries, at reducing both litter and associated costs for local authorities;

Further notes that plastic bottles are used during Edinburgh council service delivery, including school packed-lunches, and requests a report on ways of reducing this use.

Decision

To approve the terms of the motion by Councillor Burgess.