

Minutes

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday 7 December 2017

Present

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

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Transport and Environment Committee of 5 October 2017 as a correct record.

2. Transport and Environment Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan

The Transport and Environment Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for the period from 7 December 2017 to 1 March 2018 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To add the Congestion Action Plan report to the Key Decisions Forward Plan.
- 2) To otherwise note the Key Decisions Forward Plan.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan, submitted.)

3. Transport and Environment Committee Rolling Actions Log – December 2017

The Transport and Environment Committee Rolling Actions Log for December 2017 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To approve the closure of actions 10, 12, 19, 25, 30 (action 2), 31 and 32.
- 2) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

4. Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin

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

Decision

- 1) To note the Business Bulletin update on Gull de-nesting.

- 2) To note previous cross-party recognition of the urban Gulls issue and of the success of the 2012 de-nesting pilot in North Merchiston.
- 3) To note longstanding campaigning efforts and public petitions organised by Merchiston Community Council and residents to tackle the urban Gulls nuisance, with two previous public petitions each attracting hundreds of signatures.
- 4) To express disappointment that the Bulletin did not contain an update on the work of the Gulls working group as previously indicated it would; understands that this was due to the group meeting on only one occasion, meaning it had no meaningful opportunity to formulate potential approaches to tackling urban gulls as remitted.
- 5) To move forward work in tackling the problem of gulls colonising in urban areas, the committee agreed to a report being brought before the March meeting which accurately reviewed the actions of other relevant local authorities in Scotland as well as that of relevant English authorities and any other agencies which had been proactive in this area so that future possibilities for action in Edinburgh would be identified.
- 6) To agree that Councillor Cook would provide a list of English Local Authorities that had used various methods to control the gull population.
- 7) To agree that a report would be brought to committee providing options on the replacement of the Armadillos at Leith Walk and to note that the Leith Programme Oversight Group would provide democratic oversight of this.
- 8) To otherwise note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin, submitted.)

5. Slateford Road/Shandon Place Junction – Traffic Signal Priorities

The Committee was provided with various options to resolve ongoing issues at the Slateford Road/Shandon Place Junction which had resulted in a petition being brought before the Committee in August 2017. The petition highlighted residents' concerns that the traffic light priorities at the junction caused danger to pedestrians and confusion among drivers. Committee members had visited the site and were asked to consider the options presented in the report.

Decision

- 1) To note that a review of the site at the Slateford Road/Shandon Place junction had been undertaken to observe traffic compliance with signals.
- 2) To note that the junction was not a priority for full refurbishment at present, according to the City of Edinburgh Council agreed maintenance criteria.
- 3) To agree that Option 3 (altering junction staging, simplifying signal heads and having an all stop pedestrian stage) should be progressed, subject to the successful outcome of detailed design.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 10 August 2017 (item 9); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

6. Roads Services Improvement Plan

An update report on the progress of the Roads Services Improvement Plan which was approved by the Committee in August 2017 was presented. The progress had been positive and outstanding road defects had reduced from 2400 to around 1200 since the implementation of the improvement plan, including a decrease in the number of Category 1 defects. A review of the road inspection and defect reporting process was scheduled to be completed in December 2017 with training being delivered to officers.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress made implementing the actions in the Improvement Plan to date.
- 2) To note that improvements required in street lighting have been added to the improvement plan which was approved in August 2017.
- 3) To commend the work of officers in significantly reducing the number of defects.
- 4) To agree to receive a further report that included the issues raised about active travel within 2 cycles.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 10 August 2017 (item 6); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

7. Traffic Regulation Orders at West Crosscauseway, Chapel Street, Quarry Close and Buccleuch Street

Approval was sought to abandon the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and Redetermination Order (RSO) following the receipt of numerous objections lodged in response to the advertised proposals. The TRO formed part of the Causeway Project to improve West Crosscauseway. An alternative proposal was outlined in the report which addressed concerns raised by the objectors. Approval was also sought to commence the statutory procedures to make a new TRO and RSO.

Decision

- 1) To abandon the proposal contained in the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO 16/44) and Redetermination Order (RSO 16/12), as advertised, considering the objections received.
- 2) To approve the commencement of the statutory procedures to make the necessary TRO and RSO as described in the report.

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

8. Electric Vehicle Action Plan

The first Electric Vehicle Action Plan was presented to the Committee for approval. The Plan aimed to promote the use of electric vehicles, reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality in the city. Measures were set out which would increase charging infrastructure across the city and encourage the use of electric vehicles through the

introduction of Strategic Charging Zones and work would be undertaken to support infrastructure installation, collaboration on projects and to keep up with developments in the field.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Electric Vehicle Action Plan.
- 2) To note that a Strategic Business Case for EV charging infrastructure would be reported to Committee in June 2018 and to agree that the Strategic Business Case would include consideration of infrastructure for e-bikes and e-cargo bikes.
- 3) To note the financial and practical challenges identified with bringing new electric supply to many areas and to agree that future work would also give consideration to the feasibility of installing electric vehicle charging points in residential areas via the utilisation of existing lampposts.
- 4) To agree that consideration would be given - in addition working with public and third sector bodies – as to how possible private sector partnerships might also help in delivering required electric vehicle infrastructure solutions and financial savings for the local authority.
- 5) To agree that the Electric Vehicle working group, as outlined in paragraph 3.15 of the report, would consider the following points and would report the progress of these actions to the Carbon, Climate and Sustainability Member Officer Working Group:
 - possible adjustments to planning guidance to include requirements on cargo bike / e-bike provision;
 - developing a council cargo bike pilot for appropriate council deliveries;
 - the potential to adapt street lighting columns to incorporate EV charging points.
- 6) To agree the action plan would be further revised following the first progress report being presented to the Committee in late 2018 to ensure it was a fully integrated e-mobility action plan prioritising a modal shift from car to other modes, consistent with the targets in the Council's local transport strategy.

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

9. Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan – Update

An update on the progress made in delivering the Waste and Cleansing Improvement Plan was provided. The Plan was developed to address concerns raised by residents and Elected Members that waste collection and street cleansing services were insufficient. Fifty-seven of the sixty-five agreed actions had been delivered to date and work was progressing to complete the remaining eight actions. Overall, the Plan had been successful in improving the performance of the service.

Decision

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

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

10. Nuke Watch Report – “Unready Scotland and the critical gap in our response to the transport of nuclear weapons”

A report was published by NukeWatch UK, a campaign group which monitored the movement of nuclear weapons, in August 2017 which stated that Scottish Local Authorities had not conducted risk assessments of the convoy process for transporting weapons by road. The group believed this constituted a breach of law as Councils were not appropriately safeguarding the public.

At a meeting of the Council in September 2017, the Convener made a commitment that a report would be provided to the Committee in response to a question raised by Councillor Burgess regarding the NukeWatch report. The report outlined the processes and governance arrangements relating to nuclear weapons in Edinburgh.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To instruct that any significant changes or developments would be reported to future meetings of the Committee.
- 3) To agree that an update would be provided in the Business Bulletin to the next Committee meeting on whether it was appropriate for the report to be referred Nuke Watch.

(References – City of Edinburgh Council 21 September 2017 (item 4); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

11. Enhancing Communal Bin Collections

Details were provided of a project that was developed by Waste and Cleansing Services to take place over a three to five-year period in order to improve ongoing problems with communal bin collections. Communal bins were currently being emptied twice weekly and were often overflowing resulting in low public confidence in the system. The report outlined the key changes which were proposed and sought approval to begin a trial period.

Decision

- 1) To approve a project to redesign the existing communal bin service.
- 2) To note that an assessment of alternative communal collection systems would be undertaken as part of the project.
- 3) To approve a trial to implement every other day collection for on-street communal bins within a selected area from Ward 12 (Leith Walk).
- 4) To agree to receive a detailed progress report within six months.

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

12. Place Directorate – Revenue Monitoring 2017/19 – Month Five Position

Committee considered a report that presented the projected five-month revenue monitoring position for the Place Directorate. A break-even budget position for 2017/18 was projected, dependant on the delivery of mitigating actions which had been identified as detailed in the report.

Decision

- 1) To note that Place Directorate had identified proposed remedial measures to fully address existing budget pressures and while a number of risks remain around delivery of these mitigating actions, a break-even position was being forecast.
- 2) To note that approved savings in 2017/18 totalling £7.323m were currently 81% on target to be delivered; £5.916m. Place identified remedial measures include management plans to deliver the remaining savings.

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

13. Policies – Assurance Statement

Details were provided of an annual review of the Council's policies concerning transport and environment. The report highlighted the changes which had been made to Council policy as a result of the review to ensure all Council policies remained current, relevant and fit for purpose.

Decision

To note that the Council policies detailed in the report had been reviewed and were considered as being current, relevant and fit for purpose.

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

14. Review of Edinburgh Design Guidance – referral from the Planning Committee

On 12 October 2017, the Planning Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Place on the consultation responses to the draft revised Edinburgh Design Guidance.

The report was referred to the Transport and Environment Committee for noting of the revised standards for car parking.

Decision

To note the revised standards for car parking.

(References – Planning Committee, 12 October 2017 (item 3); report by the Head of Strategy and Insight, submitted)

15. Age Limitation of Taxis and Private Hire Cars (Air Quality) Consultation Update – referral from the Regulatory Committee

On the 24 October 2017 the Regulatory Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Place on the consultation responses received on the feasibility of introducing a maximum age limit on taxis and private hire cars licensed by the City of Edinburgh Council.

The report was referred to the Transport and Environment Committee for noting of the proposals.

Decision

- 1) To note the proposals detailed in the report.
- 2) To agree that an update report would be referred to the Transport and Environment Committee following consideration by the Regulatory Committee.

(References – Regulatory Committee, 24 October 2017 (item 1); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

16. Motion by Councillor Cook – Road Safety Issues on Greenbank Lane

The following motion was submitted by Councillor Cook in terms of Standing Order 29.1:

Committee:

- Recognises longstanding residents' concerns over the volume and speed of traffic on Greenbank Lane.
 - Calls for a report, in two cycles, on a variety of potential road safety measures that could be implemented on Greenbank Lane, including the feasibility of introducing a one-way system."
- moved by Councillor Cook, seconded by Councillor Douglas

Decision

- 1) To approve the terms of the motion by Councillor Cook.
- 2) To agree that a report on the motion would be submitted to a meeting of the relevant Locality Committee.