

Item 6.1 - Business bulletin

Transport and Environment Committee

2.30pm, Tuesday, 5 March 2019

Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Lesley Macinnes</p>  <p>Councillor Karen Doran (Vice-Convenor)</p> 	<p>Councillor Scott Arthur Councillor Eleanor Bird Councillor Chas Booth Councillor Graeme Bruce Councillor Steve Burgess Councillor Nick Cook Councillor Scott Douglas Councillor Gillian Gloyer Councillor David Key</p>	<p>Veronica MacMillan Committee Services 0131 529 4283</p> <p>Sarah Stirling Committee Services 0131 529 3009</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>Open Streets – Further information</p> <p>At Transport and Environment Committee on 28 February 2019, Committee requested further information on the Open Streets proposals.</p> <p>The objectives and evaluation framework set out what open streets is looking to achieve and measures for how the programme will be evaluated.</p> <p>A staged approach to implementation has been proposed for an aspirational old town loop, with the first phase</p>	<p>Aspirational old town loop map</p> <p>Open streets consultation findings</p> <p> Proposed open streets. first phase.p</p> <p> Objectives and evaluation framewo</p>

closing sections of the loop in May, June and July for open streets.

Further stages will be informed by evaluation and monitoring of the first stage and ongoing community and stakeholder engagement.

Development of Open Streets loop

The aspirational old town loop is based on responses to the public consultation undertaken in Autumn 2018. Consultation showed 75% of respondents support Open Streets. Of respondents that expressed a preference for streets to be included, 41% identified old town streets. The remainder identified areas in the New Town and towns (such as Corstorphine, Stockbridge, Tollcross, Bruntsfield/Morningside, Southside/Newington, Newhaven, Leith, Dalry, and Portobello).

The initial development for Edinburgh's Open Streets options, required the identification of areas in the city centre that do not impact tram operations; and do not affect major bus routes significantly. The remaining preferences for areas identified in the consultation were developed into large, medium, and small sized areas. These have been assessed against the objectives (see attached objectives and evaluation framework in the background section of this update). The small area option best meets the objectives and has the least amount of risk around deliverability.

To inform the first phase of Open Streets, each section of the loop was assessed against how feasible and challenging it will be to deliver on the basis of red, amber, or green. The feasibility assessment takes into account sections with critical access issues (for example Johnston Terrace as raised by the Scottish Tourist Guides Association) and which will require further work before they can be included in future phases of Open Streets.

Consultation highlighted concerns about potentially restricting access to places of worship by the proposed start time of 10am. The proposed start time for Open Streets has consequentially been revised to 12pm for the first phase. Further discussions with key groups will take place to inform timing decisions for later phases.

Concerns have also been raised about access for blue badge holders and assurances are given that access will be provided within the Open Streets areas.

For further information

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Community and stakeholder engagement

Engagement has primarily been about promoting Open Streets and encouraging people to make the most of the space available. This has involved a range of community stakeholders.

During the first stage of open streets, a programme of 'demonstrator days' will be developed to showcase what can be done with the space when it's not dominated by traffic.

Discussions to date have identified the potential issues people may have with the road closures and how these can be managed. The engagement is also being used to identify organisations the Council could work with to support evaluation (such as Universities and city deal partners).

Feedback through this process has been positive on the principles supporting Open Streets and public statements in support of the programme have been made by stakeholders (such as Edinburgh World Heritage). Engagement will continue throughout the Open Streets programme as an iterative process.

Funding and resourcing

To deliver Open Streets Edinburgh, funding of £50,000 has been made available to the Council by Paths for All, and is supporting the appraisal of options proposals, detailed design of the closures and communication of Open Streets.

Ongoing costs will include physical closures, traffic management, and some support to help activate the space. Resourcing will be required by the Council to coordinate the programme (including engagement, working with stakeholders, and evaluation reporting). Funding bids for similar amounts as 2018/19 (around £50,000) are being prepared for the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places programme. Further support and partnership options with wider interest groups are being explored.

Next steps

The [Open Streets](#) web page is being updated as details on the programme develops. A specific email address has been established (openstreets@edinburgh.gov.uk) as a central point of contact within the Council.

The next steps for Open Streets include the following areas of work.

- Working with technical consultants, Lothian Buses, emergency services and Council services to refine closure plans and traffic management, and to put Temporary Traffic Regulation Order(s) (TTRO) arrangements in place.
- Further partnership, recruitment and management with businesses, community groups, third sector organisations, and transport operators (including public transport and taxi operators).
- Engagement with stakeholder groups and individuals to ensure Open Streets is fully accessible (including communication on Open Streets).
- Ongoing development and implementation of a communications plan leading up to the first stage, and throughout the programme.
- Working with other events and planned closures to align, share resources, manage messaging, and ensure appropriate traffic management is in place.
- Further development of options to address the more challenging areas of the loop.
- Testing of ideas emerging from Edinburgh City Centre Transformation, to inform future stages of Open Streets and vice versa.

Further reporting

- August 2019 report on first stage and detail on next stages.
- March 2020 – report setting out early evaluation and monitoring findings and recommendations for the future of Open Streets.