

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday 14 October 2021

Petition for Consideration: Resurfacing particularly noisy cobbled streets- Learmonth Terrace, Dean Park Crescent & Comely Bank Avenue

Executive/routine Wards Council Commitments	Executive Inverleith
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1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To consider the terms of the petition 'Resurfacing particularly noisy cobbled streets- Learmonth Terrace, Dean Park Crescent & Comely Bank Avenue' as set out in Appendix one.

Stephen S. Moir
Executive Director of Corporate Services

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Report

Resurfacing particularly noisy cobbled streets- Learmonth Terrace, Dean Park Crescent & Comely Bank Avenue

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Transport and Environment Committee is asked to consider a petition at this meeting.

3. Background

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 At the meeting, the committee can:
- a) request a report on the issues raised by the petitioner and the committee;
 - b) agree that the issues raised do not merit further action; and/or
 - c) agree to take any other appropriate action.

4. Main report

- 4.1 A valid petition entitled 'Resurfacing particularly noisy cobbled streets- Learmonth Terrace, Dean Park Crescent & Comely Bank Avenue' has been received. The petition received 50 signatures.
- 4.2 The petition calls on the Council to reduce noise pollution by resurfacing Learmonth Terrace, Dean Park Crescent & Comely Bank Avenue with a smooth surface.
- 4.3 The petition also calls on the Council to introduce speed reduction measures to bring down the speed of the traffic on these roads.
- 4.4 To assist committee with the consideration of this petition, officers considered any immediate implications of this proposal. The renewal of setted streets form part of the infrastructure programme of capital renewal works. Setted streets are prioritised for investment based on a condition assessment score from a roads technician which is multiplied by a prioritisation weighting. The prioritisation weighting is based on vehicle and cycle use. Learmonth Terrace, Dean Park Crescent & Comely Bank Avenue do not currently merit inclusion within the 3-year programme of setted street renewals.

- 4.5 At its meeting on 9 March 2018, the Council's Transport and Environment Committee approved the Finalised Strategy for Setted Streets. As part of this report, it was agreed that setted streets should be retained in the World Heritage Site and in Conservation Areas. Learmonth Terrace, Dean Park Crescent or Comely Bank Avenue are all situated within the New Town Conservation Area. Therefore, when these streets merit inclusion in a programme of setted streets renewals, the proposal will be to replace the existing setts.
- 4.6 Learmonth Terrace was inspected in September 2021 to determine if any small-scale maintenance was required. The result of this inspection was that no maintenance is currently required on the setted street. Learmonth Terrace, Dean Park Terrace and Comely bank Avenue will continue to be inspected line with the approved risk-based approach to safety inspections and repairs to any urgent/dangerous defects that are identified will be carried out.
- 4.7 The Council's current approach to the installation of speed reduction measures, including physical traffic calming measures, was set out in a report to the Transport & Environment Committee on 11 October 2019, titled [Evaluation of the 20mph Speed Limit Roll Out](#). Further details were provided within a subsequent report to the Committee on 27 February 2020, titled [Approach to Extension of 20mph Limits](#).
- 4.8 The use of physical traffic calming measures will generally only now be considered where there is either a significant history of speed related collisions or where average vehicle speeds remain excessively high following the use of other speed reduction measures. The Council's Road Safety Team undertakes regular collision investigations into all streets within the city, using the collision details supplied by Police Scotland (who are responsible for the collection of all personal injury road traffic collision data within its force area). From this analysis, it is possible to determine locations where the collision rate is giving cause for concern and where road safety remedial works may require to be implemented.
- 4.9 In the latest available 3-year period (to the end of May 2021) there was no pattern of personal injury collisions reported to the Police at Learmonth Terrace, Dean Park Crescent or Comely Bank Avenue.

The Road Safety team undertakes bi-annual batches of traffic surveys at locations where speeding concerns have been raised. Traffic data allows us to direct our resources to the locations where there is significant speed limit non-compliance. An average recorded traffic speed of less than 24mph within a street with a 20mph speed limit is considered to be within normal tolerance. A traffic survey was undertaken on Dean Park Crescent, between Comely Bank Avenue and Ann Street, on 28 March 2019 to 3 April 2019. An average speed of 19.3mph was recorded.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The committee will determine next steps at this meeting.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 Any proposals would be required to be fully costed, including any legal implications and agreed through the annual budget process.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 Any proposals would require full community consultation.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [Minute of the City of Edinburgh Council 22 June 2017.](#)
8.2 [Minute of the Transport and Environment Committee 9 March 2018](#)

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Petition - Resurfacing particularly noisy cobbled streets- Learmonth Terrace, Dean Park Crescent & Comely Bank Avenue

Appendix 1 - Resurfacing particularly noisy cobbled streets- Learmonth Terrace, Dean Park Crescent & Comely Bank Avenue

Date made available for signatures	Date closed for signatures	Petitions Title and Petitions Statement	Wards affected
1 April 2021	2 July 2021	<p>Resurfacing particularly noisy cobbled streets- Learmonth Terrace, Dean Park Crescent & Comely Bank Avenue</p> <p>With respect to Edinburgh's history and heritage, and the beautiful visual effect cobbled roads have, many people living on Learmonth Terrace, Dean Park Crescent and Comely Bank Avenue are experiencing distressing and disturbing noise pollution from vehicles driving at pace over these cobbled roads.</p> <p>This petition is to request Edinburgh Council to cover these three roads with a smooth surface and thus reduce greatly the noise pollution suffered by residents on and near these roads.</p> <p>In addition, this petition would like to request Edinburgh Council introduce speed reduction measures on all three roads to bring down the speed of traffic, much of which is well over the stipulated 20mph.</p>	Inverleith