

Business bulletin

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 27 February 2020

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

Transport and Environment Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Lesley Macinnes (Convener)</p>  <p>Councillor Karen Doran (Vice-Convener)</p> 	<p>Councillor Scott Arthur Councillor Eleanor Bird Councillor Claire Miller Councillor Stephanie Smith Councillor Gavin Corbett Councillor Nick Cook Councillor Scott Douglas Councillor Kevin Lang Councillor David Key</p>	<p>Veronica Wishart Senior Executive Assistant 0131 469 3603</p> <p>Veronica MacMillan Committee Services 0131 529 4283</p> <p>Sarah Stirling Committee Services 0131 529 3009</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>Edinburgh City Centre Transformation (ECCT)</p> <p>At the Council meeting of 19 September 2019, the Finalised Edinburgh City Centre Transformation Strategy was approved.</p> <p>Procurement is in progress for the £0.52m award from Sustran’s Places for Everyone grant scheme to develop feasibility studies from January 2020, including: the city centre pedestrian priority zone, Lothian Road Boulevard design (including interim improvements to the West End junction) and Waverley Valley pedestrian/cycle crossing.</p> <p>In December, Daisy Narayanan’s secondment to the Council ended. As ECCT Project Director, Daisy made an immense contribution to bringing together this forward-thinking Strategy and the community of support it enjoys. We wish her well in resuming her full-time role as Director of Urbanism at Sustrans.</p> <p>Work is now underway to plan, resource and develop delivery of the Strategy’s later stages, supported by a successful funding award of £1m from Sustrans. Progress will be reported to Transport and Environment Committee in May 2020.</p>	<p>Will Garrett Spatial Policy Team Manager</p> <p>Wards affected: 11 – City Centre</p>
<p>Single Use Plastics Working Group</p> <p>A cross party working group has been established to consider the issues arising from the use and disposal of single use plastics. The group has been considering what measures the Council has in place, what more we could be doing and what barriers there might be to this. A focus of the group will be how the Council as an organisation operates and carries out its business, and so far the group has heard from officers in Waste and Cleansing and Commercial and Procurement Services, and will soon be meeting with Catering. There is already lots happening, in particular through Waste and Cleansing’s contract with Changeworks to deliver education services and other projects. In the current financial year, they’ve held 9 single use plastics workshops and 2 assemblies to raise awareness and give advice about single use plastics, and at Abbeyhill Primary helped to develop a waste free party kit to lend to parents and for use in the school itself, to help tackle plastic use both at home and in school.</p>	<p>Karen Reeves, Technical Manager</p> <p>Wards affected: All Wards</p>

Changeworks run the Zero Waste Leith project, funded by Zero Waste Scotland. This has signed 51 businesses up to the Refill scheme where people can go into a café with their own water bottle and get it refilled with tap water. This helps reduce plastic bottle use on the go, while 110 businesses have already joined the Zero Waste Leith Business Charter which helps encourage responsible production and management of waste.

Two potential projects have received initial development funding from Zero Waste Scotland under their Action on Plastics Framework, and two proposals have been developed, which will be presented to Zero Waste Scotland for approval. Those are Clever Canteens which focus on reducing plastic use in school canteens and encouraging use of those canteens, and a coastal business charter focussed on hospitality and food service businesses in Joppa and Portobello. A decision is expected in spring 2020.

Commercial and Procurement Services (CPS) are also actively working with services to assist them in reducing their purchase of products that use single use plastics. For instance, work is currently underway to cease the use of water coolers across all Council properties, and where a replacement is required then to source a cost-effective alternative. CPS are also currently working on an updated Procurement Strategy for the Council, which will be presented to Finance and Resources Committee in March 2020. The new strategy will specifically cover the Council's intention to reduce, and where practical cease, the use of single use plastics. More generally, CPS support all service areas in their purchasing activity, and provide constructive challenge to help ensure purchasing is aligned to the Council's strategic objectives, including environmental sustainability, this being embedded in the Council's procurement processes.

Catering have been proactive in reducing plastic use, through the use of refillable cups, switching from individual yogurts and drinks cartons to larger containers where possible, replacing plastic stirrers with alternatives and replacing packed lunch packaging with more sustainable alternatives. Further positive steps are planned for 2020. However, this highlights the need for us all to play our part - for example if we takeaway food from the canteen or cafe, we could all have our own reusable cutlery at our desks so we don't need disposables, regardless of what they are

made of. We must be mindful that alternative disposable items also have their own environmental impact.

Developing Scotland’s Circular Economy-Scottish Government Consultation

The Scottish Government carried out a consultation to inform the development of the [Circular Economy Bill](#). This is a key piece of legislation which will help to make Scotland a more sustainable place, both in terms of protecting the environment and in developing our economy. The Circular Economy means moving away from a model where we manufacture goods, use them and dispose of them, to one where, if we can’t avoid using something, it is designed to be used again.

The Council’s response was wide ranging and detailed, with input from a range of services, including Policy and Insight, Environmental Enforcement, CPS and Waste and Cleansing. Overall our response is supportive of any measures proposed and makes a range of suggestions to complement those proposed. We are particularly encouraging towards new business models which prevent waste arising, treat waste as a resource, and tackle the growth of single use items, and the development of the “sharing economy” including tool and toy libraries, traditional libraries, refill shops and repair services. We are also keen to see local authorities supported to work with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) both to grow local economies and to explore innovative business approaches. Our response also highlights concerns that some of the responses to the use of single use plastics, e.g. simply substituting other disposable materials will not address environmental problems and may create new ones. This issue is also now emerging at a national level.

A copy of the full response is available from: [Angus Murdoch](#)

[Angus Murdoch](#),
Technical Coordinator,
Waste and Cleansing

Wards affected: All
Wards

Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 Part 1: Draft Revised Guidance for Local Authorities and National Park Authorities 2019

Officers have submitted a response to the Scottish Government consultation on their draft updated Land Reform Scotland Act (LRSA) Statutory Guidance. The Guidance has been updated to reflect amendments made to the 2003 Act when Part 9 of the Land Reform (Scotland)

[Martin Duncan](#), Access
Officer

Wards affected: All
Wards

Act 2016 commenced, and also the experience gained by Access Authorities over the almost 15 years since the Act came into force.

Consultation respondents will contribute to the finalising of the revised statutory Guidance. Once available, a link to the final Guidance will be provided in a business bulletin to a future Transport and Environment Committee.

Air Quality Action Plan 2008 Revision (Nitrogen Dioxide)

Every local authority that has an active Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) is required to provide an Air Quality Action Plan as a means to address the areas of poor air quality that have been identified within the AQMA. Edinburgh currently has six AQMAs, five of these for the pollutant nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).

Edinburgh's existing Air Quality Action Plan for NO₂ was last revised in 2008, however we report annually on the progress on actions in the Plan through the Air Quality Annual Progress Report. The focus of the revision to the Action Plan will be the implementation of a Low Emission Zone scheme for the city. Work is ongoing to develop the scheme, with SEPA and Transport Scotland helping to assess the different options. The Council is also engaged with the Scottish Government and the other four major Scottish cities implementing such schemes to ensure a consistent national approach prior to the end of 2020.

The new Air Quality Action Plan will also need to take account of the measures that are required to support the Low Emission Zone scheme as well as the developing Cleaner Air for Scotland (CAFS) Strategy and Edinburgh's City Mobility Plan. The new CAFS Strategy is expected to be consulted upon in Spring 2020 and completed by the end of the year. The City Mobility Plan will be going out for public consultation in February and will be reported on at Committee in Autumn 2020.

A further update on the Air Quality Action Plan for NO₂ will be provided to Committee with the Air Quality Annual Progress Report in Autumn 2020.

[Will Garrett](#)

Spatial Policy Team
Manager

Wards affected: All
Wards

Viewforth Bridge Update

The traffic modelling work was completed before Christmas and the consultant's report has now been received. The report findings are inconclusive and do not identify any one

[Steven Cuthill](#), South East
Locality Transport and
Environment Manager

recommended option amongst the three options that were explored.

Engagement with ward councillors from Morningside and Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart is being undertaken to review the report and discuss the findings, and consider their views on the options.

This will then be followed with discussions with Merchiston Community Council and the Boroughmuir High School Parent Council.

The outcome of these discussions will inform recommendations for a report for consideration by the Transport and Environment Committee in May 2020.

Wards affected: 9 and 10

Public Spaces Management Plan

On [28 January 2020](#) the Culture and Communities committee considered an update report on the development of a Public Spaces Management Plan (item 9.1). This plan will replace the existing Edinburgh Park Events Manifesto and Public Spaces Protocol and will be supported by a number of operational guides for applicants on Council policies and procedures. It is also hoped that, in implementing the new plan, it will be possible to simplify the application process for events in public spaces.

A draft of the new Plan is due to be considered by Culture and Communities Committee in March 2020 before public consultation takes place.

[Gareth Barwell](#), Head of Place Management

Wards affected: All

Public Transport Priority Action Plan - A90 Update

At the Transport and Environment Committee on 20 June 2019, a paper titled 'Public Transport Priority Action Plan' was discussed. Committee requested further information on the work the Council is undertaking to improve traffic flow on the A90. The tables below provide an update of each measure.

[Ewan Kennedy](#)

Service Manager – Transport Networks

Wards Affected:
1, 3, 5, 6 and 11

Long Term/Strategic Measures	
Measure	Update
Bus lanes on A90	<p>Shortly before the Committee meeting, a meeting to discuss road infrastructure, including bus lanes on the A90, was held with Council staff members, the Committee Convener and Vice Convener, and members from the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Queensferry and District Community Council; • Kirkliston Community Council; • Cramond and Barnton Community Council; and • Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes Association. <p>Significant concerns were raised that the proposal to convert the inside lane into a bus lane along the A90 corridor would result in displaced traffic into neighbouring local areas, particularly Cramond and Davidson's Mains. It was agreed that bus lanes would not work in isolation but should be introduced as part of a wider improvement.</p> <p>Public reaction to press articles on social media mirrors the concerns raised at the above meeting.</p> <p>Bus lanes on the A90 will be reconsidered as part of a package of measures which will likely emerge out of the Scottish Government Second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2).</p> <p>At the Committee meeting the report was referred to the West Edinburgh All Party Oversight Group.</p> <p>A consultation was undertaken with local ward Councillors from Almond, Inverleith and Drumbrae/Gyle wards, to update them on the progress to date and seek their views.</p> <p>Two responses were received from Councillors. Both expressed concerns that some of the affected Community Council members and Ward Councillors were not invited to the road infrastructure meeting where the A90 was discussed. The Council will ensure that all affected parties are included in any future discussions.</p>
Medium Term Measures	
Introduce bus lane at Dolphington onslip	<p>A feasibility report has been received from the consultant. The report includes details of how a bus lane could be accommodated at the Dolphinton onslip to the A90, by widening the carriageway. The report includes recommendations and high level cost estimates. Council Officers undertook a preliminary cost benefit analysis and found it would take approximately six years to pay back the scheme in terms of value of time saved for bus users. This project has been progressed to the preliminary design stage</p>

	and a consultant is currently being tasked with undertaking this work.
Refurbish Blackhall junction	Preliminary designs are in development, and the feasibility of several options is being considered. This will include delivering better provision for pedestrians and improved priority for buses at the Blackhall junction on the A90.
Introduce bus priority at signals	A replacement bus tracker system is being procured; a centralised traffic signal bus priority connection will be delivered as part of the system. This will allow selective bus priority to be granted at traffic signals along the A90 and across the wider city.

Short Term Measures

Repair damaged SCOOT loops	SCOOT is a system of traffic responsive network control for traffic signals and is used along the A90, as well as across other parts of the city. The system uses inductive vehicle loop detectors to provide real time traffic data and let it optimise the traffic signal timings correctly. The damaged loops that were identified have now been repaired.
Introduce SCOOT at Barnton, Drum Brae North and Craigleith junctions	SCOOT control is being extended to take in Barnton, Drum Brae and Craigleith junctions on the A90. New loops have been cut and a SCOOT system upgrade installed. The junctions should be fully operational on SCOOT by the end of the year.
Introduce SCOOT gating	SCOOT gating can be used to control the entry of general traffic into congested parts of the network, such as the A90. It could be used to selectively restrict general traffic on the A90 to allow better priority for buses. Its use will be investigated and trailed once SCOOT has been commissioned on the additional junctions later in the year.
Amend advanced directional signage	Work to redirect strategic traffic for Queensferry on the A8 corridor via Newbridge is now complete; with new and amended signage installed.
Bus lane extension at Blackhall	Preliminary designs are in development. Two possible designs have been developed and the Council are consulting with Lothian Buses on feasibility.
Repair variable message signs	Roll out repair of VMS signs currently underway.

Water of Leith: Water of Leith Basins Partnership Agreement

An agreement has now been reached between the key partners on the ongoing management of accumulations of litter and debris in the Water of Leith basins. This new agreement will ensure that there is ongoing monitoring of the basins and that monthly clean-up operations take place to remove accumulations. The partners involved in the agreement are:

- City of Edinburgh Council
- Forth Ports Ltd
- Water of Leith 2000 Ltd
- Bluefield 1502 LLP
- Water of Leith Conservation Trust
- Friends of Water of Leith Basin

The Water of Leith Conservation Trust (WOLCT) have kindly agreed to take on the role of coordinating volunteer litter picks. This work has been assisted through the donation of funding from Water of Leith 2000 Ltd for the procurement of equipment to assist with the clearance of litter and debris. The Friends of Water of Leith Basin have also kindly agreed to take on the role of patrolling the basin areas on a regular basis and reporting any significant accumulations to Forth Ports and City of Edinburgh Council to arrange removal by a specialist contractor.

[Gareth Barwell](#), Head of Place Management

Wards affected: 2, 5, 6, 7, 12 and 13

Roads Improvement Plan Update

On Friday 11 October this Committee received an update on the progress against the Roads Improvement Plan. Taking account of the service realignment, Committee agreed to receive a new Roads Improvement Plan which recognises the service realignments and the changes in responsibilities.

There is also a commitment to develop an improvement plan for the newly created Network Management and Enforcement Service.

Progress

Further review identified the dependencies between Roads and Transport Infrastructure and Network Management and Enforcement services, therefore, it was concluded that any improvement plans for both of these areas should be presented to committee at the same time. Consequently,

[Cliff Hutt](#), Roads and Transport Infrastructure Manager

Wards Affected: All

both improvement plans are now being developed and it is intended to report on these both to Committee in May.

The Roads and Transport Infrastructure Improvement plan will carry forward any of the outstanding actions from the original Roads Improvement Plan as well as new improvement actions identified by the new management team.

Several new improvements actions have already been identified e.g. development of Team Plans for each team (covering what they do, roles and responsibilities, KPIs and resources etc.); review of all procedures/records and updating of Operations Guides for each team; development of a Design Partnership Framework to augment existing in-house design resource; comprehensive review and updating of existing Transport Assets inventory; enhanced training for all Roads Inspectors to ensure consistency of inspection; setting up of a “one-stop shop” Development Management Team; Improved co-ordination between Assets/Roads Operations/Network Management teams; and establishment of a robust process for recovery of costs for 3rd party damaged Roads Assets. A number of these new actions can only be delivered once the full realigned structure is in place.

Governance

Steering and working groups have been set up to oversee the development and implementation of both emerging plans.

Population of the Structure

All Senior Management (Tier 3) and Operations/Transport Managers (Tier 4) roles within Network Management and Enforcement, Roads and Transport Infrastructure and Strategic Planning have now been filled.

The matching and assignment of the Team Managers/Senior Engineers (Tier 5) has been concluded, albeit three posts remain unfilled and are being re-advertised.

Matching and assignment for Grade 7 posts and Grade 6 posts is now underway.

Further down the Structure, more direct matches will be possible, speeding up the process. Therefore, it is anticipated that the matching and assignment process should be completed for all staff by the end of March.

In parallel, the Environmental Wardens team has been transferred and incorporated within the Network Management and Enforcement service area.

Bus Lane Camera Enforcement Update

Work continues to expand the Council's network of bus lane enforcement camera sites in line with the Public Transport Priority Plan.

Seven new camera sites, previously reported to Committee, went live in 2019.

A further five new sites were reported to Committee through the business bulletin in December 2019 and are listed below:

- Stenhouse Drive
- A8/Corstorphine Road
- Willowbrae Road
- Queen Street
- Drum Brae South

Unfortunately, initial investigations have revealed that it is not possible to implement sites at Willowbrae Road and Queen Street at this time. This is due to other major works progressing in Queen Street and power supply issues in Willowbrae Road. These two sites will be kept under review for future phases.

Therefore, it is proposed to replace these sites with:

- Duddingston Park, and
- Duddingston Park South.

Traffic surveys on both roads have revealed a high level of misuse and complaints have been received from bus operators.

[Gavin Sherriff](#), Acting Senior Transport Team Leader - Parking

Wards affected:

6, 7, 11, 14 and 17

Tram Construction Update

Work has commenced on Constitution Street and enabling works to create a single lane city bound continue on Leith Walk. Enabling works are also underway at Ocean Terminal. Separately some ground investigation work is continuing along the planned route to allow more detailed planning for the construction phase. The forecast outturn cost of the project remains within the budget set when the project was approved.

[Hannah Ross](#), Senior Responsible Officer – Tram Newhaven to York Place

Wards affected:4, 11, 12, 13

The programme dates for forthcoming work phases are:

- 6 March – Traffic management installed at Lindsay Road with utility diversions to commence two weeks later. The scheduled completion date for this section is Summer 2021.
- 13 March – Traffic management installed at Ocean Drive with utility diversions to commence two weeks later. The scheduled completion date for this section is Autumn 2020.
- 28 March 2020 – Traffic management installed at Leith Walk with utility diversions to commence two weeks later. The scheduled completion date for this section is Summer 2021, with improved public realm works due to be completed Autumn 2021.

In developing the construction strategy for the project, a number of lessons from the first phase of tram and good practice in other European cities have been adopted. The traffic management plans allows us to open up large work sites at any one time, enabling both utility works and the main tramway construction works to take place continuously. It also means that, with fewer traffic management changes, those affected by the works will be able to adapt to the temporary arrangements.

While large work sites will be established, work will not be taking place in every area all the time. Although this means there will be periods where there is no activity for several weeks in some areas, the construction strategy only works by taking these large site areas.

The Support for Business scheme has commenced on Constitution Street. Generally the itison voucher scheme has been well received with 2,600 vouchers sold to date. The project has engaged with the business collective set up by the businesses on Constitution Street and has adopted the #StrongConstitution hashtag (developed by the business collective) on relevant signage and on social media. In addition, an open for business campaign has been running through Facebook and Instagram for Constitution Street. The team continue to work with businesses interested in the Support for Business scheme.

The project also invited the Lothian Joint Valuation Board to meet businesses to discuss possible reductions in Non Domestic Rates. The logistics hubs are working well with deliveries being made to the hubs to facilitate last mile

delivery and to date, the cargo bike based at the Mitchell Street logistics hub has clocked up over 20kms of distance. Delivery companies are also working with the team, for example Heineken have started to use smaller lorries to make deliveries in the area which assists with access. No additional trips are required by the use of a smaller lorry. Four logistics hubs for Leith Walk on Montgomery Street, Albert Street, Dalmeny Street and Foot of the Walk will be set up in advance of the main works starting on 28 March 2020 and the team are continuing to work with artists on schemes to encourage animation and footfall. Planning for the extension of the business support scheme to Leith Walk is nearing completion with implementation to commence in Spring 2020.

Two public events took place on 4 February (Lindsay Road and Ocean Drive at Ocean Terminal) and McDonald Road Library on 11 February (Leith Walk) where over 100 residents and businesses attended to meet the team and get information on the planned works. A letter to 29,000 residents is being delivered throughout February outlining the next three phases of work.

Archaeology work on the project continues. The South Leith Parish Church wall is not yet fully demolished but over 60% deconstructed and we anticipate that we will find some historic graves under the wall and Constitution Street at that point. A time capsule dating from 1898 and updated in 1961 was found in the plinth underneath the Robert Burns statue which is being conserved. When the plinth is replaced the 1898 time capsule including the 1961 update will be replaced inside the plinth along with a further time capsule from our time. The contents will be developed seeking input from the local community.

Summertime Streets 2020

On 5 December 2019, Committee noted the feedback received on Summertime Streets 2019 and agreed, in principle, to proceed with a 2020 programme.

Officers have been working on an outlined plan which will be refined by the end of February and will be presented to Committee in March 2020.

An information exchange/consultation forum is planned for early – mid March and will include both Elected Members, residents, local businesses and key stakeholders in discussions on the planning for 2020. This will include

[Ian Buchanan](#)

Wards affected:11 – City Centre

discussions on how to engage more effectively with residents and local businesses.

Forthcoming activities:
