

Business bulletin

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 1 December 2020

Virtual - Via Microsoft Teams

Policy and Sustainability Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Adam McVey</p>  <p>Vice Convener: Councillor Cammy Day</p> 	<p>Councillor Adam McVey (Convener)</p> <p>Councillor Cammy Day (Vice-Convener)</p> <p>Councillor Robert Aldridge</p> <p>Councillor Kate Campbell</p> <p>Councillor Nick Cook</p> <p>Councillor Neil Gardiner</p> <p>Councillor Gillian Gloyer</p> <p>Councillor Graham Hutchison</p> <p>Councillor Lesley Macinnes</p> <p>Councillor Melanie Main</p> <p>Councillor John McLellan</p> <p>Councillor Rob Munn</p> <p>Councillor Ian Perry</p> <p>Councillor Alex Staniforth</p> <p>Councillor Susan Webber</p> <p>Councillor Iain Whyte</p> <p>Councillor Donald Wilson</p>	<p>Jamie Macrae, Committee Officer</p> <p>Louise Williamson, Assistant Committee Officer</p>

Recent news

Edinburgh Biodiversity Duty Report 2018-2020

All public bodies have a statutory duty to further biodiversity conservation and to report on how this is achieved every three years. These statutory requirements come from the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011. The required report for City of Edinburgh Council has been prepared and is due to be published and submitted to Scottish Government by 1 January 2021.

In complying with this Biodiversity Duty, public bodies must have regard to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. The Duty aims to do more than safeguard ecosystem services by protecting habitats and species. It is also about connecting people and their environment, contributing to health and wellbeing and inspiring communities. Work to improve biodiversity in Edinburgh is aligned with wider sustainability objectives, supports the Council target for zero carbon 2030 and helps adapt our city to climate change impacts through the Edinburgh Adapts programme.

The majority of what we deliver is achieved through the Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership and Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan. This is a coalition of more than 30 partners from Council services and a number of external organisations such as NatureScot, Scottish Wildlife Trust, RBGE, RSPB, Water of Leith Conservation Trust and less well-known bodies such as Buglife. The partnership is currently chaired by RBGE.

The Biodiversity Duty report outlines what the Council is doing across all directorates to further biodiversity conservation. The main outcomes for biodiversity are delivered by Planning and Building Standards and Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries. Other services such as Housing, Strategy and Insight, and Procurement also support biodiversity objectives. Further information is available in the [full report](#).

Compliance with the statutory biodiversity duty helps achieve a sustainable Edinburgh by incorporating biodiversity into many of the Council's existing activities and actions, thus helping to create a resilient natural environment, reduce carbon emissions, improve social

Background

For further information contact Caroline Peacock (caroline.peacock@edinburgh.gov.uk) or Susan Falconer (susan.falconer@edinburgh.gov.uk)

justice, economic wellbeing and good environmental stewardship.

Tourism and Hospitality Sector Recovery Plan

On [9 July 2020](#) Policy and Sustainability Committee noted the importance of Business tourism to the city's hospitality sector and the importance of business tourism in helping many of Edinburgh's sectors access the global market. Discussions are on-going with partners from Edinburgh International Conference Centre, Edinburgh Hotels Association, Edinburgh Tourism Action Group, Surgeons Quarter, The University of Edinburgh and VisitScotland to develop a long-term approach for business tourism in the city. The long-term approach developed will be presented to Committee as soon as possible.

Edinburgh Slavery and Colonialism Legacy Review

Since the [Policy and Sustainability Committee](#) agreed a set of actions in support of Black Lives Matter to address historic racial injustice and stem modern day discrimination in Edinburgh earlier this year, work has progressed to research and collate a shortlist of potential members for a new and independent Slavery and Colonialism Legacy Review Group.

Following discussion with Councillor McVey and other Group Leaders in October, the Chief Executive extended an invitation to Sir Geoff Palmer OBE to be Chair, which he has accepted. Sir Geoff is a well-known Professor Emeritus in the School of Life Sciences at Heriot-Watt University, and a human rights activist. He has worked closely with the Council, academic representatives, and other stakeholders in recent years to review and revise the interpretation for the Melville Monument in St Andrews Square. He regularly speaks on contemporary anti-racist issues and publishes on Edinburgh's historic links with the transatlantic slave trade. A press release to publicly announce his appointment will be issued this month.

The Culture Service is providing ongoing support to the Chair to appoint the remaining Group members, finalise their terms of reference and the plan for review of the public realm. Future bulletins will report progress on all of these issues, and any queries in the meantime should be directed to gillian.findlay1@edinburgh.gov.uk

Measures taken by Police Scotland to ensure the good road behaviour of cyclists

Edinburgh Division have worked with our Roads Policing colleagues to deliver a variety of educational materials and events to educate all road users around increased road-safety and to ensure all road users are aware of each other. Some of the specific work which impacts on the safety of cyclists, includes:

- Numerous bike marking events held where crime prevention officers security marked bikes and Roads Policing officers providing cyclists literature and advice to promoting safe cycling.
- During October officers ran the darker nights "Autumn Awareness" campaign on a number of topics, including road and cycling safety.
- Crime prevention officers, alongside Community Policing Teams and Roads Policing officers have conducted road checks across the city and provided advice and guidance to drivers and cyclists.
- Community officers have been working with local cycle shops offering cycle maintenance training for young people to ensure pedal cycles are appropriately maintained and fit for use on the road with funding opportunities are being explored to extend this scheme.
- Cycling safety messaging has been promoted through our extensive social media channels alongside general road safety messaging for all road users including the "Be Prepared. Be Safe. Be Seen" campaign. The campaign is aimed at all road users, to encourage safer driving and cycling during the darker nights.
- Edinburgh Division, through the Divisional Road Safety board have developed a suite of measures which we are keen to develop into a range of analytical products, to enhance road safety throughout Edinburgh. This work will include problem profiling, monthly tasking and delivery analysis leading to quarterly higher level analysis to improve road safety.
- Various Operation Close Pass days have been run across the city to educate drivers regarding safe passing of the cyclists.

Contact:
Sean Scott
Chief Superintendent
Police Scotland

Update report on a full assessment being made of the implications of the Covid-19 emergency addressing the risks and mitigation identified for Edinburgh, any public feedback that might alter priorities and any altered national Police priorities and that these be worked into an updated, dynamic plan.

Edinburgh Division are not changing the published Policing Priorities due to the Covid pandemic but working practices have been up amended to maximise public and officer safety. These changes are flexible, as the pandemic and government restrictions around it change.

- Chief Constable Iain Livingstone has commissioned John Scott QC, to independently review Police Scotland's use of their Covid emergency powers.
- The Chief Constable has set up and chairs a Strategic Oversight Board (SOB). The purpose of this group is to oversee the long-term success of the three strategic outcomes communicated publicly by the chief constable in support of the Scottish Governments' aims in tackling the crisis, these are:
 - To support the reduction of deaths and harms caused directly by COVID-19;
 - To enhance public confidence and trust in policing in Scotland;
 - To protect and improve the safety, health and wellbeing of our people.
- Police Scotland and Edinburgh Division have amended their attendance at non-priority calls, in line with the changing Scottish Government guidelines, to meet public expectation whilst taking measures to prevent the spread of the disease.
- Local Policing Appointments have been managed via telephone or digitally throughout the lockdown and flexibility was built in to allow operational responses to changing situations.
- Public engagement has been carried out throughout the pandemic, through both national and local engagement, with this engagement including updates around policing responses, education, highlighting the importance of reporting Covid disability hate crimes, policing response to incidents, crime prevention and police powers.
- Organisational learning has been captured at both a national and local level, to improve efficiency and to

streamline processes, complementing the above work.

- Divisional operations Superintendent sits on a joint weekly meeting with Snr CEC managers to discuss new and emerging covid restrictions. This covers gatherings in public areas, licensing issues, response to antisocial behaviour, events and protests.
- Partnerships Chief Inspector sits on weekly health led universities meeting to coordinate response to COVID-19 outbreaks / plan for student departure/return and attends associated Incident Management Team meetings to ensure appropriate intervention and mitigation measures are identified and implemented from a policing perspective.
- Edinburgh Division supporting NHS Lothian led planning for mass COVID-19 vaccination programme.

Forthcoming activities:
