

# Transport and Environment Committee

**10.00am, Thursday, 17 June 2021**

## **East Craigs – Proposed Low Traffic Neighbourhood**

<b>Executive/routine Wards Council Commitments</b>	<b>Executive 3</b>
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### **1. Recommendations**

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- 1.1 Transport and Environment Committee are asked to:
  - 1.1.1 Note the feedback received to early engagement on the proposal to develop a Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) in East Craigs;
  - 1.1.2 Agree not to progress with plans for an East Craigs LTN at this time;
  - 1.1.3 Note that, in recognition of the areas for improvement highlighted in the engagement to date, officers will consider if other measures could be appropriate for this area; and
  - 1.1.4 Note the engagement on Concept Designs for Corstorphine and Leith commenced on 4 June and will run until 4 July 2021.

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# Report

## East Craigs – Proposed Low Traffic Neighbourhood

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report provides an update on the early engagement carried out in advance of the introduction of a Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) in East Craigs and recommends not progressing with further engagement at this time.
- 2.2 The report also updates Committee on the early engagement on LTNs for Corstorphine and Leith.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 The Council's [Active Travel Programme](#) includes a package of works, known as West Edinburgh Link, to improve walking and cycling connections to the Gyle/Edinburgh Park from both the north (East Craigs and Barnton) and the south (Sighthill, Calders, Wester Hailes and Colinton). Projects to also upgrade QuietRoutes 8 and 9 will improve connections from the east, enhancing connections from west Edinburgh towards the city centre. Local school travel plans had also highlighted safety concerns for pupils walking and cycling to school.
- 3.2 On [20 May 2020](#), Policy and Sustainability Committee approved plans to create space for walking and cycling across the city, in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This included proposals for neighbourhood areas including East Craigs and Leith.
- 3.3 On [20 August 2020](#), Policy and Sustainability Committee considered proposals for the creation of an LTN in East Craigs as part of the Council's Spaces for People (SfP) programme and noted that some residents in East Craigs had expressed concerns relating to the lack of consultation on the proposed LTN in their area. Committee agreed that, as well as moving forward with the SfP LTN proposals, the permanent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process for East Craigs LTN should be accelerated to the earliest possible time to allow full public consultation to take place.
- 3.4 The introduction on an [LTN in East Craigs](#), as part of the SfP programme, was approved by Transport and Environment Committee on [1 October 2021](#). This report also explained the intention to carry out an enhanced notification process for proposed LTNs in Corstorphine and Leith. This enhanced notification would include

wider publicity and more time for responses. Once complete, these projects would be presented to Committee for approval. This report was referred to Council on 15 October 2020.

- 3.5 On [12 November 2020](#), Transport and Environment Committee approved the commencement of an Experimental Traffic Order (ETRO) and proposed full public consultation prior to a later decision by Committee, as part of the process for the introduction of an [LTN in East Craigs](#). This was also approved by Council on 19 November 2020.

## **4. Main report**

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- 4.1 LTNs create a safer and more comfortable street environment for residents walking, cycling, wheeling and spending time in the local streets and outdoor spaces by reducing the volume and speed of traffic.

### **East Craigs LTN**

#### **Community Engagement**

- 4.2 Following the approval of the commencement of an ETRO and proposal to carry out full public consultation, community engagement took place in February and March 2021.

- 4.3 This engagement included:

- 4.3.1 Leaflets sent to all households and businesses in the project area;
- 4.3.2 Information in the press and on social media; and
- 4.3.3 Community Reference Group meetings, including representatives from Community Councils, Parent Councils, community organisations, local groups, local business representatives, and local members of the Access Panel, Living Streets and Spokes.

#### **Emerging Themes from the Early Engagement**

- 4.4 From the Community Engagement meeting, the following themes emerged:

- 4.4.1 **Accessibility** – considering access in and out of the proposed LTN area on surrounding strategic roads and pathway and pavement maintenance. Craigs Roads was highlighted as an area to improve and the community asked that the proposals be mindful of bus services and accessibility to existing bus services;
- 4.4.2 **Traffic** – the right turn from Craigs Road onto Drum Brae South has been highlighted as a problem, as were pavement parking, congestion at Maybury roundabout and using this area to avoid the main arterial routes; and
- 4.4.3 **Placemaking** – particularly on Craigs Road and on the existing path network and green spaces.

- 4.5 A survey on the Council's Consultation Hub attracted 817 responses, 94% of which were from people who indicated they were residents in the area. The key themes emerging from the survey on Streets where conditions could be improved were:

- 4.5.1 Where walking conditions could be improved (Maybury Road, Craigs Road, Maybury Drive, Drum Brae and Glasgow Road) 117 responses confirmed all local pathways could be improved, with 488 suggestions for improvement. 188 responses indicated no areas for improvement;
  - 4.5.2 Where cycling could be improved (Maybury Road, Drum Brae, Glasgow Road, Craigs Road and North Gyle Terrace) 53 responses confirmed that all local pathways could be improved, with 365 suggestions for improvement. 187 responses indicated no areas for improvement; and
  - 4.5.3 Where access or conditions could be improved for walking and cycling to schools (Craigs Road, Glasgow Road, Drum Brae, Maybury Road and general school pick up and drop offs), there were 377 suggestions for improvement and 380 responses indicated no areas for improvement.
- 4.6 The survey asked specific questions about traffic and speed levels before the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic within the local area:
- 4.6.1 81 responses indicated general issues at school drop off and pick up times, with 323 suggestions for improvement and 347 responses indicating no areas for improvement;
  - 4.6.2 135 responses made suggestions for improvements to reduce speeds in the areas, while 263 responses indicated no areas for improvement; and
  - 4.6.3 Within the proposed LTN area, Craigs Road was the street that received the largest number of comments (57) that there were high levels of traffic at certain times. These comments focused around there being higher levels of traffic around school drop off and pick up times
- 4.7 56% of survey responses indicated that residents are concerned or very concerned about the impact of proposed developments and increased traffic in East Craigs, with Maybury Road being the most commonly recorded street.
- 4.8 The feedback from the survey indicates that there are improvements which could be made to conditions for walking and cycling in the area, particularly at school drop off and pick up times. However, in the majority of themes, survey respondents indicated that there are no areas for improvement.
- 4.9 Taking account of all of the feedback received to date, officers recommend that plans for a LTN in East Craigs should not progress at this time.
- 4.10 At a later date, officers will further analyse the areas for improvement that were identified in the feedback received so far to determine potential next steps for the East Craigs LTN.
- 4.11 The summary report of the consultation findings is now available on the West Edinburgh Link [website](#).
- Early Engagement on other LTNs**
- 4.12 In parallel with the early engagement for the East Craigs LTN, community engagement (as set out in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3) took place for Corstorphine and Leith.

- 4.13 The results of this engagement in both areas identified that areas where safety for walking, cycling, wheeling and access to public transport could be improved.
- 4.14 Concept Designs have now been developed for both areas and engagement on these has now commenced.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 If Committee agree the recommendation to not progress with East Craigs LTN, officers will undertake further analysis on the areas identified for improvement to determine if other measures would be appropriate for this area. If appropriate, further proposals will be brought forward to a future meeting of this Committee.
- 5.2 Engagement is continuing on Concept Designs for LTNs in Corstorphine and Leith, with an [online survey](#) on Concept Designs for each area. These surveys went live on 4 June and close on 4 July 2021. Paper copies of the surveys are also available. It is intended to report back the outcome of these surveys to a future Transport and Environment Committee.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 There are no financial impacts arising from the recommendations in this report.
- 6.2 The cost of the engagement for East Craigs to date, and the on-going engagement in Corstorphine and Leith has been met from Scottish Government, Places for Everyone, grant funding (administered by Sustrans).

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 In October 2020, it was proposed to carry out an enhanced notification process with wider publicity and more time for responses for the LTN projects in both Corstorphine and Leith.
- 7.2 In November 2020, the Council approved the commencement of an ETRO and proposed a full public consultation prior to decision at a later Transport and Environment Committee for the introduction of a LTN in East Craigs.
- 7.3 In February 2021 early engagement on all three LTNs commenced. Details of the community engagement undertaken is outlined in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 of this report.
- 7.4 A survey was created for each project and residents were invited to submit their views through the survey online (on the Council's Consultation Hub) or by post.
- 7.5 The results from the East Craigs survey show a significant number of respondents felt that no improvements were required in this area. On the basis of this, officers recommend that further development of plans for an East Craigs LTN should not progress. Officers will investigate the areas which were identified for improvement

and will consider whether other appropriate measures could be introduced to address these improvement areas.

- 7.6 Feedback from the surveys in Corstorphine and Leith show positive support for measures to make it safer for people to walk, cycle and wheel in these areas. Based on this, and traffic data for the area, further engagement is underway on draft Concept Designs for LTNs in both communities. The results of this engagement will be reported to Committee with recommendations on next steps.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 None

## **9. Appendices**

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- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Proposed Scope and Area for East Craigs LTN

