

Amendment by the Conservative Group

Committee - Transport and Environment

Date - 19th August 2021

Item – 7.1 Active Travel Measures – Travelling Safely (Formerly Spaces for People)

Committee;

Rejects the rebranding of Spaces for People given that the programme is no longer required for its intended purpose and believes given widespread public opposition and a scathing audit opinion that Spaces for People does not form a sound basis on which to build this Council's active travel strategy going forward.

Regrets the lack of meaningful consultation on the bulk of the Spaces for People schemes and a failure by the Council to listen to feedback from the residents once schemes were introduced.

Acknowledges the reputational damage caused to the Council by the profoundly undemocratic manner by which the Spaces for People programme was foisted on the citizens of Edinburgh, as well the negative impact on the lives of our citizens and businesses at a time when they most needed our support.

Notes with concern the red opinion issued by our auditors on the Spaces for People programme and asks Senior Administration Councillors and officers to reflect on the unlistening and uncollaborative approach taken in rolling out this programme.

Rejects recommendations 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3 and 1.1.4 of this report and instructs officers to bring a report to committee in one cycle detailing the conclusion of the programme and plans for the removal of all remaining Spaces for People infrastructure (except those measures at schools which were supported by the public).

Considers that given the intended temporary nature of the Spaces for People programme that sufficient funds should have been held back from the grant funding to the Council to facilitate the removal of said schemes in full.

Instructs officers to bring back a report in one cycle with proposals to expand the Active Travel Forum to ensure cross party representation and membership from a broad cross section of stakeholders to ensure future decisions on active travel are better informed.

Recognises the detrimental aesthetic impact of much of the Spaces for People infrastructure on our cityscape and commits to consultation with heritage bodies in designing any permanent infrastructure.

Agrees that the Spaces for People TTROs have provided a more than adequate timeframe to assess the impact of individual schemes and that ETROs should not be used to further expand these temporary schemes.

Instructs officers to bring back a report to this committee in three cycles setting out the approach to be taken going forward in developing the city's active travel infrastructure following consultation with the expanded Active Travel Forum. The report should include the outcomes of recommendations 1.1.5 and 1.1.6 of this report, which, if given approval, should then be implemented through the normal TRO process. It should also detail the status of previously planned permanent Active Travel Schemes and actions that can be taken to ensure these are actually delivered.

Agrees that all new Active Travel schemes proposed in future will be developed through full consultation with impacted residents and businesses, ward Councillors, Community Council's and other local stakeholders as appropriate.

Moved by: Councillor Graham Hutchison
Seconded by: Councillor Iain Whyte