

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday 17 August 2023

Petition for Consideration: Petition to the CEC Transport and Environment Committee regarding East London Street

Executive/routine
Wards

Executive
City Centre

Recommendations

- 1.1 To consider the terms of the petition 'Petition to the CEC Transport and Environment Committee regarding East London Street' as set out in Appendix one.

Dr Deborah Smart

Executive Director of Corporate Services

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Report

Petition to the CEC Transport and Environment Committee regarding East London Street

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 'Petition to the CEC Transport and Environment Committee regarding East London Street' had been received. The petition received 165 signatures.
- 4.2 The petition calls on the Council to address the issue of excessive traffic, particularly out-of-service buses, using their street to avoid road works and closures associated with various transportation projects in the area.

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.

Equality and Poverty Impact

- 6.2 Any proposals would require an equality and poverty impact assessment.

7. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 7.1 Any proposals would require to be considered and agreed in line with the Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 and Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.

8. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

- 8.1 Any proposals would require full community consultation.

9. Background reading/external references

- 9.1 [Minute of the City of Edinburgh Council 22 June 2017.](#)

10. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Petition – Petition to the CEC Transport and Environment Committee regarding East London Street

Appendix 1 - Petition to the CEC Transport and Environment Committee regarding East London Street

Date made available for signatures	Date closed for signatures	Petitions Title and Petitions Statement	Wards affected
15 June 2023	10 August 2023	<p>Petition to the CEC Transport and Environment Committee regarding East London Street</p> <p>This petition is submitted on behalf of and with the support of the residents of East London Street.</p> <p>For at least three years, we have sought a reduction in the number of out of service buses using East London Street to leave and return to the Lothian Buses garage on Annandale Street. East London Street has been used by these buses and other traffic to avoid road works and closures associated with the Trams to Newhaven and other transport projects in the vicinity. Despite promises of improvement, out of service buses are continuing to use East London Street from very early in the morning until late at night. This usage is creating significant nuisance in terms of both noise and vibration for the residents of East London Street especially at night when their sleep is being disturbed on a nightly basis. This is having a detrimental impact on their health and well-being.</p> <p>The number of vehicles using East London Street, as a result of the diversions required by the Trams and other projects, has resulted in significant damage to the largely setted road surface adding to noise and vibration levels. Given continuing city centre road construction works and its location just</p>	City Centre

		<p>outside the boundary of the new Low Emissions Zone, there is concern that the increased traffic on East London Street will not return to the levels experienced prior to its use as a primary diversion for the Trams Project. This is of concern to both the residents of East London Street and to the parents of children at St Mary's RC Primary School.</p> <p>Although the primary focus of this petition is on East London Street, there is a similar problem on many of the other residential streets in the New Town again mainly because of the use of these streets by out of service buses and other traffic being diverted to avoid road closures and congestion.</p> <p>We, the undersigned, seek the following actions by the City of Edinburgh Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· An immediate and sustained reduction in the number of buses and other heavy vehicles using this street to 2019 levels; in particular between the hours of 7.00pm and 7.00am· A traffic count to determine the current volume and speed of vehicles using East London Street to inform decisions about improving traffic management on this predominately residential street.· Urgent repairs to the road surface to rectify the damage caused by the use of East London Street as a primary diversion route for the Trams project· A longer-term plan to better manage the traffic on this street both in terms of number and speed of vehicles, which will effectively mitigate the impact on residents and pupils at the primary school.· Replacement of setts with tarmac in the central running lanes to reduce noise and vibration as has already been undertaken in the adjacent London Street.	
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