

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 17 August 2023

Response to motion by Councillor McFarlane – Tollcross Clock

Executive/routine
Wards

Executive
All

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Committee notes:
 - 1.1.1 This update on the current arrangements for the Tollcross Clock and that funding to cover its repair and reinstatement is likely to be covered by the Council's Common Good account;
 - 1.1.2 That engagement with key stakeholders will continue to explore potential options for the reinstatement of Tollcross Clock (interim and permanent) and short-term improvements to pedestrian, cycle and public transport at Tollcross Junction as part of the next stage of the Lothian Boulevard project and School Travel Plan Review; and
 - 1.1.3 That a report will be prepared for Committee once potential options, as noted in paragraph 1.2, have been explored.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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Tollcross Clock Update – Response to Motion by Councillor McFarlane

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report responds to a [motion](#) by Councillor McFarlane amended by Councillor Graham and subsequently approved by Full Council on 24 November 2022. The motion primarily requested an update on the restoration and reinstatement of the Tollcross Clock.

3. Background

- 3.1 Tollcross Clock is category C listed. Historic Environment Scotland's Statement of Significance notes the clock as being an important Edinburgh landmark, establishing the identity of the Tollcross area.
- 3.2 In November 2021, the Council and contractors, Smith of Derby, identified that it required significant off-site restoration. Due to concerns raised at the time, the clock was removed from its central location within the Tollcross Junction on 10 March 2022 for safe storage until the restoration could be completed. In February 2022, Elected Members and community councils were informed of the need to remove and restore the Clock via an email briefing.

4. Main report

Clock Restoration

- 4.1 On 24 November 2021, a quote of £59,753 plus VAT was received from the contractors Smith of Derby. This for the safe removal, restoration and installation of the clock, with restoration and planning for installation expected to take four months.
- 4.2 Applications to fund the work required have so far been unsuccessful via the following grant schemes:
- 4.2.1 Historic Environment Repair Grant; and
 - 4.2.2 Historic Environment Support Fund.
- 4.3 Since Councillor McFarlane's motion was approved, the Council's Legal team have confirmed that the clock is likely to have [Common Good](#) status and that this could allow a process for accessing funds from the Common Good account to restore the

clock. An update will be provided to Committee to confirm progress and next steps as soon as possible.

City Centre Transformation Programme – Lothian Boulevard

- 4.4 Tollcross has been identified as a priority junction in the Council's recently published [Major Junction Review update](#), ranking second out of 40 priorities where improvements to pedestrian and cyclist safety are required. Feasibility work to identify improvements is now being taken forward as part of the Lothian Road Boulevard project, which is part of the Edinburgh City Centre Transformation programme.
- 4.5 A [report](#) to Committee in April 2023 confirmed that funding for Lothian Boulevard RIBA stages 0-2 had been awarded and the project design has commenced. The project area includes the full extent of Tollcross Junction and, subject to continued funding and approvals, construction is estimated to start in summer 2028.
- 4.6 Engagement sessions with key stakeholders, including the Tollcross Primary School Parent Council, are expected to commence in November 2023. Discussion on the reinstatement of Tollcross Clock will form part of these sessions with the [Tollcross Primary School Travel Survey 2022](#) used to inform the proposals.
- 4.7 The Lothian Boulevard project funding does not make provision for short-term temporary measures for improving pedestrian, cycle and public transport provision of Tollcross Junction or the interim reinstatement of the Tollcross Clock. Options for early interventions will however be explored with stakeholders during the forthcoming engagement sessions and subsequently reported to Committee for consideration. Thereafter, potential funding streams can be explored.
- 4.8 All siting options for the clock's reinstatement will be assessed against the ability to enable safe access and maintenance in situ.

Planning Process

- 4.9 Listed building consent and planning permission would be required if, post repair, the clock requires to be repositioned from its original location at the centre of the junction. If it is determined that the Clock requires repositioning, this would be assessed against impacts on its setting including views to it from key public vantage points and any impacts on pedestrian and vehicular movement.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Stakeholder engagement for Lothian Boulevard will commence in November 2023 and will progress the key actions sought by the motion. Funding will continue to be sought for the repair of Tollcross Clock in addition to costs associated with its potential interim reinstatement subject to the outcome of the forthcoming engagement and further Committee consideration.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The Tollcross Clock's restoration and reinstatement is likely to be covered by funds from the Council's Common Good account. An update will be provided to Committee once investigations have been completed.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 There are no anticipated equality or poverty impacts as a result of this report. The Lothian Boulevard project will be the subject of an Integrated Impact Assessment.

8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 There are no anticipated climate and nature emergency implications as a result of this report. The Lothian Boulevard project will seek to maximise positive impacts for climate and nature.

9. Risk, Policy, Compliance, Governance and Community Impact

- 9.1 Engagement will form a key part of the next stages of the Lothian Boulevard and associated projects including the School Travel Plan Review. There are no anticipated risks in meeting approved Council policy associated with accepting the recommendations in this report.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 Transport and Environment Committee [Major Junctions Review Update report](#) 20 April 2023
- 10.2 Transport and Environment Committee [Sustrans 'Places for Everyone' Funding for Projects](#) 20 April 2023

11. Appendices

None.