

Business bulletin

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 12 September 2019

Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Transport and Environment Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Lesley Macinnes (Convener)</p>  <p>Councillor Karen Doran (Vice-Convener)</p> 	<p>Councillor Scott Arthur Councillor Eleanor Bird Councillor Stephanie Smith Councillor Claire Miller Councillor Steve Burgess Councillor Nick Cook Councillor Scott Douglas Councillor Gillian Gloyer Councillor David Key</p>	<p>Veronica Wishart Senior Executive Assistant 0131 469 3603</p> <p>Veronica MacMillan Committee Services 0131 529 4283</p> <p>Sarah Stirling Committee Services 0131 529 3009</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>Choked drains/road gully clearence maintenance information update</p> <p>The Council gully clearing service inspect and clean gullies on a two-yearly cycle. If a gully has been identified as sensitive this will be arranged twice a year. The public can report blocked gullies by ringing the numbers or filling in the online form on the Council webpage:</p> <p>Report a blocked Gully</p> <p>There are over 55,000 gullies adopted and maintained by the Council all subject to a rolling programme of inspection and maintenance. Sensitive locations prone to flooding are prioritised from historic data, local knowledge, inspections and</p>	<p>For Further Information</p> <p>Contact: David Strachan Acting Structures and Flood Prevention Manager Transport Infrastructure 0131 469 5763</p>

reports from members of the public. There are 1,333 sensitive gullies.

Historic records review between 27 June 2018 and 27 June 2019 as follows:

30,172 gullies were visited and 23,760 unblocked.

Members of the public raised 3,378 blocked gully reports.

Number of gullies attended by Ward:

Ward 1 - Almond – 2,341

Ward 2 - Pentland Hills – 1,897

Ward 3 - Drum Brae/Gyle – 3,071

Ward 4 - Forth – 4,023

Ward 5 - Inverleith – 3,632

Ward 6 - Corstorphine/Murrayfield – 2,705

Ward 7 - Sighthill/Gorgie – 1,961

Ward 8 - Colinton/Fairmilehead - 481

Ward 9 - Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart - 641

Ward 10 - Morningside - 666

Ward 11 - City Centre – 2,219

Ward 12 - Leith Walk – 1,031

Ward 13 - Leith – 1,207

Ward 14 - Craightinny/Duddingston - 944

Ward 15 - Southside/Newington – 1,102

Ward 16 - Liberton/Gilmerton – 1,331

Ward 17 - Portobello/Craigmillar - 920

384 temporary traffic parking restriction orders for gully access are slightly behind schedule, however it is anticipated that the 24-monthly gully attendance schedule target will be met by 31 March 2020, assuming a fully operational gully fleet.

The gully service strives to attend sensitive gullies twice a year during June and November.

There were 158 sensitive gully locations behind schedule for attendance during June 2019 due to resources and weather issues, planned for completion in July.

The programme/rota is subject to change dependent upon weather conditions or other circumstances.

June/July 2019 saw extreme rainfall events during which 402 floods and 1,004 blocked gullies were reported.

If the gully reported is not causing flooding or a potential public health/safety issue and is due to be cleaned in the next few months it will be programmed in when the gully vehicle is next in that area.

Open Streets: creating people friendly spaces

Open Streets was developed around five objectives, set out in Transforming our Places including promotion of a healthy, active, and inclusive city. Open Streets aims to achieve this through a programme of monthly street closures, creating a “people friendly” route around the Old Town.

Open Streets seeks to increase public exploration, use and awareness of the connected areas in the Old Town with an intention to provide “vehicle free” spaces for use by the community. Reflecting the vision of placing people at the heart of future change in the way we connect in the city centre.

Open Streets launched on the 5 May with an opening event hosted by the City of Edinburgh Council. The event attracted participation on the day from key stakeholders including; Transport Scotland, the Active Nation Commissioner for Scotland, Lee Craigie and the Walking and Cycling Commissioner for Greater Manchester, Chris Boardman. Wide media coverage focused on the positioning of Edinburgh as the first city in the United Kingdom to lead on a regular programme of street closures.

Following the launch, there have been two further demonstrator events in June and July with activities organised by community groups. The aim is to encourage participation from residents, businesses and the community in an inclusive programme that provides opportunities to use the spaces differently.

The programme is taking a break over August and September and will resume a second three-month phase in October. The full 18-month programme will run until December 2020 with funding in place to manage this from Sustran’s, “Places for People” programme.

The feedback from participants, residents and businesses has reflected broadly positive views. There have been concerns about the communication to residents and arrangements for blue badge holders. More detailed guidance has been prepared and

[Vivienne Robinson,](#)

Open Streets
Project Manager

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distributed to residents' groups, churches, and businesses to redress some of these concerns.

Evaluation and Monitoring plans include footfall monitoring, visitor/resident/business surveys and participant focus groups. An interim report will be prepared for October Committee to provide feedback on the impacts of the first phase of Open Streets.

Delivering safer streets for pedestrians in the Old Town

A range of public realm, safety and transport initiatives were undertaken this summer to improve the festival experience in the city for both local people and visitors.

At the Convenor and Vice Convenor's request, officers will shortly be writing to stakeholders requesting submissions for the report. These will be used to evaluate the activities undertaken and will inform the future recommendations. It is hoped that the submissions received will be included within the appendices of a report on the outcomes and next steps. This report will be presented to committee later this year.

[Steven Cuthill](#), Local Transport and Environment Manager

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Sustrans Scotland Awards for both GNT and Leith Walk to Shore connection.

Sustrans Scotland announced a positive outcome for the Council's bid to the Community Links Plus Stage 2 funding round, on 31 July. The two distinct elements of the bid (with a combined estimate value of £22.8M), will be separated and funded at different stages of the Places for Everyone (formerly Community Links Plus) fund.

The George Street and First New Design project (GNT) element of the bid was chosen as one of five projects in Scotland that will receive a multi-year funding agreement through Places for Everyone (Stage 2) fund, which runs until 2023.

The Leith element of the bid has been successful in being progressed as a Places for Everyone (Stage 1) project, which means 100% of design development costs are funded within the next year. This allows the Council to develop a design sufficiently to be able to reapply for Stage 2 funding in 2020.

The detail of the capital funding award associated with GNT will be confirmed through a formal funding agreement. Council officers and Sustrans Scotland are working together to finalise the necessary financial details, in line with conditions of the offered award. A key condition of the award is that the delivery of GNT is reprofiled, within a shorter timescale, with a

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completion date of 2023. This is reflected within the City Centre Transformation (CCT) delivery plan, as the GNT project represents a key element of CCT.

Work is underway to bolster a GNT project team to work within the overall delivery structure for City Centre Transformation projects. New GNT project team arrangements will integrate Places for Everyone partnership support from Sustrans Scotland.

Road Condition and Capital Delivery

The condition of Edinburgh's roads is assessed annually as part of the Scottish Roads Maintenance Condition Survey (SRMCS), an independent survey of road conditions in all 32 Scottish local authorities. The survey provides each local authority with a Road Condition Index (RCI) which identifies the percentage of roads in need of maintenance. The RCI consists of three categories of deterioration: Red, Amber 1 and Amber 2, with roads in the red category being in the worst condition.

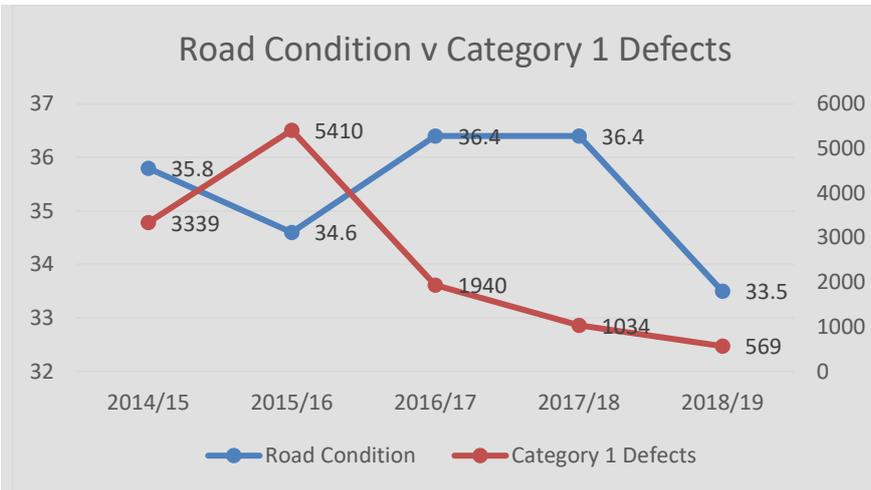
The RCI is calculated as a two-year average and Edinburgh's latest RCI is 34.5%. This is a 2.9% improvement from the previous year's figure of 36.4%. This represents the lowest RCI in Edinburgh since 2011/12 and the biggest single year improvement 2008/09.

The improvement in the Road Condition Index is directly related to the new investment strategy that was introduced in 2015/16. The strategy has a preventative approach to road renewals and targets roads in the amber category using surface treatments. This preventative approach treats more roads within the Amber condition categories and less within the Red, thus significantly slowing their deterioration and negating the need for more robust, expensive treatments. It significantly increases the number of roads treated in each financial year.

The improvement in the overall condition in Edinburgh's road network has also contributed to a reduction the number of Category One (most urgent) defects identified each financial year. The graph below shows the road condition index and number of Category One defects in Edinburgh over the past five years.

[Sean Gilchrist](#)

Road Asset
Manager, Place
Management
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The value of capital scheme delivery increased in 2018/19 compared with the previous financial year. A full list of schemes delivered in 2018/19 will be reported to this committee in October 2019. This report will also detail the improvements achieved to date in 2019/20, including maintenance, public realm and active travel.

Annual Update on Transport Arms Length Companies – 20 June 2019

Committee considered the Annual Update on Transport Arms Length Companies on [20 June 2019](#). The financial table under results and dividends was incorrectly presented, so although the numbers are correct, the table rows are not correctly labelled. Please find below the updated table.

	£000	
	2018	2017
Revenue	160,629	152,884
Profit before income tax expense	2,302	10,008
Provision for income tax expense	(1,590)	(2,639)
Net profit for the year	712	7,369
Dividend	7,691	6,790

[Alison Coburn](#),
Operations Manager

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Improved Access to Edinburgh Airport

On [24 January 2019](#) the Housing and Economy Committee noted a report on Improved Access to Edinburgh Airport and requested that this be shared with the Transport and Environment Committee/Planning Committee.

[David Cooper](#)

0131 529 6233

Workplace Parking Levy (WPL)

The Committee is to note that the Transport (Scotland) Bill includes the Workplace Parking Levy (WPL) as an agreed amendment. The legislation, if implemented in its current form, would provide the Council with the power to apply a levy on workplace parking spaces held by employers.

There is a commitment within the Council to explore the possibility of introducing a WPL. The Council's City Centre Transformation Plan, City Mobility Plan and the recent Council commitment to set a Carbon Neutral Target of 2030 give a further clear policy context for consideration of a WPL in Edinburgh. To properly examine the option it is necessary to increase the evidence base around parking provision in the city.

Expert advice has been sought from Sue Flack, the lead officer responsible for developing the successful WPL in Nottingham City. A contract has also been put out to tender to fully scope the parking provision in the city. Once we have this detail a more robust business case on the impact and benefit of a WPL in Edinburgh will be brought to committee with plans, as appropriate, to consult with businesses and citizens.

[Paula McLeay](#),
Policy and Insight
Senior Manager

Forthcoming activities:
