

Business Bulletin

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 14 September 2023

Dean of Guild Court Room - City Chambers

Transport and Environment Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Scott Arthur (Convener)</p> 	<p>Councillor Aston Councillor Bandel Councillor Cowdy Councillor Dijkstra-Downie Councillor Dobbin Councillor Faccenda Councillor Lang Councillor McFarlane Councillor Munro Councillor O'Neill</p>	<p>Alison Coburn Operations Manager</p> <p>Rachel Gentleman Committee Services</p> <p>Carolanne Eyre Committee Services</p>

Recent news	Contact for further information
<p>Trams to Newhaven Update</p> <p>Outstanding public realm works are ongoing at certain locations and are expected to be completed by early September 2023. Outstanding landscaping works will take place during October / November 2023 in line with the planting season.</p> <p>Transport and Environment Committee asked that the project consider locating smaller planters at certain locations on Leith Walk to deter pavement parking. Planters have been located along the route at appropriate locations as part of the final landscaping design. It has not been possible to secure additional smaller and narrower planting units for deployment in the buffer zone between the carriageway and the cycleway as this has the potential to impact on the opening of vehicle doors and to impinge on cyclists' use of the cycleway.</p> <p>The project team has engaged with colleagues in the parking enforcement team to increase the number of patrols and enforcement activity along the route to reduce the instances of pavement parking. Since 1 June 2023, 24 parking tickets have been issued to vehicles incorrectly parking on the pavement. Where the driver is present, Parking Attendants will always ask them to</p>	<p>Hannah Ross</p> <p>Wards Affected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">11 – City Centre12 – Leith Walk13 – Leith

remove their vehicle from the footway in the first instance to remove the hazard for pedestrians on the footway and cyclists using the cycleway. Where a driver is not present or refuses to move, then a parking ticket will be issued. In many instances, drivers return to their vehicle and move on before a parking ticket is issued. In addition, since the start of June 2023, there have been four parking attendants dedicated to Leith Walk, which has since been boosted following the introduction of the Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ). At present, the parking enforcement team is averaging approximately 500 visits to Leith Walk a month.

Transport and Environment Committee asked about the provision of bike racks at the newly refurbished Steads Place. Leith Walk is particularly narrow at Steads Place and locating bike parking in this location would not be possible. As part of the final designs, bike parking is available in the vicinity at Manderston Street and at the Kirkgate.

Committee also asked whether complaints were still be received regarding the design of new crossings along the route. There have been four complaints about crossings on the route in the last three months;

- One in respect of cycle crossing on the route and phasing;
- One about cars still turning left onto London Road from Leith Walk;
- One on crossing to the Newhaven tram stop; and
- One on crossing Lindsay Road.

Update on Zebra Markings for Side Streets

On [25 November 2021](#), the City of Edinburgh Council approved a motion entitled Call for Action on Zebra Markings for Side Streets.

On [31 March 2022](#), Transport and Environment Committee approved proceeding with a study to monitor the operation of existing low cost zebra crossings in Edinburgh, at locations that are not on the public road network.

On [2 March 2023](#), it was reported to the Committee that Edinburgh Napier University (ENU) were conducting a similar research project. The Council has engaged with the research leads at ENU to identify areas where the Council could seek to supplement the study with further research work.

[Andrew Easson](#)

Wards Affected: All

As a result of this engagement, the Council has recently agreed to work with ENU and their partners (Transform Scotland) to co-host a hybrid event to publicise their study and its outcomes to other Scottish Local Authorities, Regional Transport Authorities and Transport Scotland.

It is also intended to invite representatives from [Transport for Greater Manchester](#) and [Cardiff Council](#) to attend and to present on their recent experiences with on-street trials of low cost zebra crossings.

This will hopefully build a consensus of support for the potential benefits that low-cost zebras could bring and advance the case for taking forward on-street trials in Scotland.

In addition, the Council recently become aware of a newly constructed zebra crossing on a public street in Stirling, where the installation of belisha beacons had been temporarily deferred to accommodate the UCI Cycling World Championships.

Following liaison with Stirling Council, a short video survey was commissioned to record user behaviour at the crossing. A further survey will be undertaken after the beacons are operational and the footage from both surveys will then be analysed to assess whether there were any significant variances in behaviour.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Update

This bulletin provides an update regarding the Council's ongoing progress in expanding EV charging provision across Edinburgh and responds to the motion approved by Committee on 2 March 2023.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points – General Update

The latest phases of new EV charging units have been installed across the city and should be commissioned in the coming weeks. This will add an additional 22 public chargers (44 bays) onto the Council's EV network and will also provide 37 new charging units for the Car Club, allowing the current service provider, Enterprise, to add around 70 new EVs to their fleet in Edinburgh. Further information is available online:

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/electricvehicles.

[Gavin Brown](#)

Wards Affected: All

Enforcement Update

Overstay penalties continue to be applied, to discourage the blocking of the limited number of EV chargers, and parking attendants are also patrolling all the on-street EV charging places every day. Over 500 parking tickets have been issued to non-EV vehicles incorrectly parked in EV parking places in the past 12 months.

Officers are continuing to review the enforcement approach, maximum stay periods and overstay penalties that are in place to ensure that drivers have sufficient time to charge their vehicles, whilst also encouraging an adequate turnover of vehicles in the limited charging places that are available.

It should be noted that the following maximum stay periods are now in effect at all of the Council's public chargers (and will continue to be reviewed by officers):

- 7kW – 12 hour maximum stay (applied 24/7)
- 22kW – 3 hour maximum stay (applied between 8am and 8pm)
- 50kW – 1 hour maximum stay (applied 24/7)

Pathfinder and Procurement

Officers have been working very closely with Transport Scotland and the Scottish Futures Trust to finalise the Council's Pathfinder business case. This will outline the Council's approach to encouraging private sector investment into the EV charging market in Edinburgh.

A copy of the finalised Pathfinder business case will be circulated to the transport spokespersons of each group when it is available.

In the meantime, work continues on the Council's procurement strategy for future EV infrastructure and investment, all of which will be heavily influenced by the final Pathfinder business case. A full report outlining the proposed procurement strategy will be presented for Committee to consider early 2024.

This report will also consider some of the additional points which were raised approved motion (March 2023), such as the possibilities for lamppost charging and the potential need for 150kW and 350kW charging points.

Supported Bus Services

[Daisy Narayanan](#)

Rural West Edinburgh Stakeholder Meeting

Following on from the request of Committee in June 2023, an all stakeholder meeting in respect of bus services in rural west Edinburgh (including Ratho) took place on 7 September 2023. It was challenging to agree a date on which all stakeholders are available to attend, however on 7 September representatives from McGill's, Lothian Buses, community councils for Ratho, Balerno and Kirkliston have all confirmed attendance. The agenda for this meeting will cover existing supported bus service provision, challenges, opportunities, operator input on commercial network and will seek suggestions from local communities for inclusion in the tender options.

Supported Bus Service Review and Procurement

As noted in the [update](#) to Committee on 17 August 2023, a review of supported bus services across the city is now underway. The review will include the current supported services contracts, identify problems and opportunities (including service performance) and will make recommendations for specifications for the Supported Bus Services in the future (including developing tender documentation). These recommendations will form the basis of a procurement exercise.

A summary of the current supported bus services is provided in Appendix 1.

At present, the programme remains on track to report the outcome of the procurement process to Finance and Resources Committee in January 2024. Weekly meetings between officers from both Public Transport and Procurement, with Transport Consultants have been programmed.

Consultation with Bus Users, Residents and Accessibility Groups

In February 2020, immediately prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, Committee noted that consultation with bus user groups, residents and accessibility groups would take place to discuss how to maintain and increase bus accessibility and patronage. As Committee is aware, the pandemic significantly impacted on bus operators and patronage and, for a significant period, the outlook for the commercial bus network looked challenging without Scottish Government funding. This funding has now ended and fortunately patronage levels have recovered to

Wards Affected: All, particularly Ward 1 – Almond and Ward 14 – Craigenlinny/Duddingston

a level where the pre-covid commercial network looks like it can be sustained.

This means it is anticipated that the areas that are remote from commercial services and, therefore, will be considered for supported service provision remain largely the same. Provision is prioritised to areas with no, or few, alternative public transport options and focussed on ensuring access to health care, education, employment and retail. It is therefore proposed to focus consultation in areas of existing and previously highlighted need.

Consideration of options to serve both Dumbiedykes and Lady Nairne/Meadowfield are being included in this work. Whether or not services can be delivered to one or both of these areas is dependent on bus operator interest and cost.

Next Steps:

The upcoming milestones on the development of proposals for supported bus services are:

- Monthly Business Bulletin updates for Transport and Environment Committee;
- Community consultation to gather ideas and connectivity demand – this process is now underway;
- Pre-Tender Bus operator consultation to help develop routes that are efficient, reliable and affordable – this process is now underway;
- Additional community consultation on route options (anticipated for October/November);
- Develop tender specifications and associated documents (anticipated for October);
- Tenders – including options for enhanced operating hours and/or frequencies (anticipated for November);
- Tender assessments (anticipated for December);
- Report to Finance and Resources Committee on 25 January 2024; and
- Award contracts, with effect from 1 April 2024.

Tram to Bioquarter

On 9 February 2023, a [report](#) was provided to the Council on the Scottish Government's Strategic Transport Project Review. This confirmed that a Strategic Business Case (SBC) for tram linking Granton Waterfront to the Edinburgh BioQuarter (and beyond) is currently being progressed as a priority.

The SBC continues to make progress and is expected to be completed by Q2 2024. Current activities are focused

[Daisy Narayanan](#)

Wards Affected: All

on the preparation of a public consultation exercise, which is due to commence early next year. In advance of this, Committee will be updated on the consultation and engagement plans.

Stakeholder engagement sessions are underway and are helping inform the consultation material and to support the development of the SBC. Officers have recently hosted workshops with NHS Lothian, The University of Edinburgh, and Network Rail, and are regularly engaging with Transport Scotland, East Lothian Council and Midlothian Council at Project Board and City Region Deal level.

Route appraisal is also being undertaken as part of the development of the business case. Route options, challenges and opportunities will be presented to the public during the consultation exercise.

Appendix 1 – Current Supported Bus Services in Edinburgh

Service	Route	Operator	Contract Award
13	Findlay Gardens to Quarry Retail Park	Edinburgh Coach Lines Limited	Fully subsidised at a maximum cost of £0.219m per annum
20	Chesser to Ratho Village (including Ingliston Park and Ride)	First East Scotland Limited (now McGill's Scotland East Limited)	Fully subsidised at a maximum cost of £0.499m per annum
63	Queensferry to Riccarton (including extension to Balerno Terminus)		Fully subsidised at a maximum cost of £0.370m per annum
68	Gyle Centre to Turnhouse		Fully subsidised at a maximum cost of £0.078m per annum