

City of Edinburgh Council

10.00am, Thursday 19 September 2019

Edinburgh City Centre Transformation – Finalised Strategy – referral from the Transport and Environment Committee

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. For Decision/Action

- 1.1 The City of Edinburgh Council is asked to agree the decision taken by the Transport and Environment Committee.

Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

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Referral Report

Edinburgh City Centre Transformation – Finalised Strategy

2. Terms of Referral

- 2.1 On 5 October 2017, the Transport and Environment Committee agreed the scope of a programme to transform central Edinburgh with an aim to improve its public realm; prioritise sustainable travel on foot, by bike and public transport; and through these changes enable a wider range of sustainable development and public health outcomes.
- 2.2 On 16 May 2019, The Proposed Strategy was approved for consultation by the Transport and Environment Committee. Between 27 May and 7 July 2019, 3,056 responses to the ECCT survey and a further 28 written responses were received.
- 2.3 On 12 September 2019, the Transport and Environment Committee considered the Finalised Strategy, which presented the consultation feedback and how this influenced the strategy. The report also included the ten-year Programme Delivery Plan (PDP) and funding strategy, alongside performance measures to monitor the outcome of delivering ECCT.
- 2.4 **Motion**
- 1) To note the outcome of public consultation on Edinburgh City Centre Transformation's (ECCTs) Proposed Strategy and draft Environmental Report and how this had influenced the Finalised Strategy.
 - 2) To note the proposed outcome-based performance measures included in the Finalised Strategy and the development of a ten year Programme Delivery Plan (PDP) including a funding strategy and resourcing requirements.
 - 3) To note the early actions in the PDP, in particular those to implement selected traffic free streets in the Old Town, to reduce traffic displacement and to strengthen alignment between city centre projects.
 - 4) To note the funding award of £0.520m from Sustrans Scotland's 'Places for Everyone' grant scheme in order to progress the following projects identified in the PDP:

- i) To support creation of a pedestrian priority zone in the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh by undertaking a feasibility study of filtered permeability for vehicle traffic.
 - ii) To develop outline concept designs for street space re-allocation on Lothian Road to create a multi-modal boulevard.
 - iii) To explore options for routing a new pedestrian and cycle bridge across the Waverley valley.
- 5) To approve the finalised ECCT Strategy and PDP to guide the future design, operation and management of the city centre.
- 6) To agree that progress updates would be reported to Transport and Environment Committee every six months with key gateway PDP reviews in years 3, 5, 7 and 10.
- moved by Councillor Macinnes, seconded by Councillor Child

Amendment 1

- 1) To note the outcome of public consultation on Edinburgh City Centre Transformation's (ECCTs) Proposed Strategy and draft Environmental Report and how this had influenced the Finalised Strategy.
- 2) To note the proposed outcome-based performance measures included in the Finalised Strategy and the development of a ten year Programme Delivery Plan (PDP) including a funding strategy and resourcing requirements.
- 3) To note the early actions in the PDP, in particular those to implement selected traffic free streets in the Old Town, to reduce traffic displacement and to strengthen alignment between city centre projects.
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 - iii) To explore options for routing a new pedestrian and cycle bridge across the Waverley valley.
- 5) To approve the finalised ECCT Strategy and PDP to guide the future design, operation and management of the city centre.
- 6) To agree that progress updates would be reported to Transport and Environment Committee every six months with key gateway PDP reviews in years 3, 5, 7 and 10.

- 7) To note the requests from members of the public for clearer information about how the strategy would meet its stated principle of “inclusive and accessible”.
 - 8) To note that as ECCT moved forward there would be opportunities to increase inclusivity and accessibility through detailed proposals.
 - 9) To request a suite of communications in a variety of accessible media and formats which consolidated all of the relevant information from the strategy about how inclusivity and accessibility would be protected and improved.
- moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Corbett

Amendment 2

- 1) To note the outcome of public consultation on Edinburgh City Centre Transformation’s (ECCTs) Proposed Strategy and draft Environmental Report and how this had influenced the Finalised Strategy.
- 2) To note the proposed outcome-based performance measures included in the Finalised Strategy and the development of a ten year Programme Delivery Plan (PDP) including a funding strategy and resourcing requirements.
- 3) To note the early actions in the PDP, in particular those to implement selected traffic free streets in the Old Town, to reduce traffic displacement and to strengthen alignment between city centre projects.
- 4) To note the funding award of £0.520m from Sustrans Scotland’s ‘Places for Everyone’ grant scheme in order to progress the following projects identified in the PDP:
 - i) To support creation of a pedestrian priority zone in the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh by undertaking a feasibility study of filtered permeability for vehicle traffic.
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 - iii) To explore options for routing a new pedestrian and cycle bridge across the Waverley valley.
- 5) To approve the finalised ECCT Strategy and PDP to guide the future design, operation and management of the city centre.
- 6) To agree that progress updates would be reported to Transport and Environment Committee every six months with key gateway PDP reviews in years 3, 5, 7 and 10.
- 7) To agree that the draft City Mobility Plan, due before the committee in December 2019, should detail how the ECCT commitment to prioritise public transport would be delivered. Specifically, this plan should address;
 - (i) The importance of bus connections running to, from and through the city centre.

ii) The accessibility of such bus services within the city centre.

- moved by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Webber

Amendment 3

- 1) To note the report recommendations.
- 2) To recognise the merits of a programme to transform central Edinburgh, in particular: to improve its public realm; prioritise sustainable travel on foot, by bike and public transport; and through these changes enable a wider range of sustainable development and public health outcomes, all while seeking to make use of a joined-up approach to city centre management.
- 3) To nonetheless express disappointment and concern at the continued lack of specifics around many elements of ECCT - many of which remained purely aspiration in nature and consider this unacceptable for what was termed a 'finalised strategy'.
- 4) To note the lack of detail around bus service changes particularly concerning, given the additional pressure the council had already placed on Lothian Buses and the huge inconvenience lesser services could have on Edinburgh's working population and their families - the numbers of which could not be catered for by a 'hopper bus'.
- 5) To note that Lothian Buses had formally voiced its concerns in respect of the above and the resulting consequences for the firm's financial viability.
- 6) To note that, despite assurances full funding details would be provided, little fresh financial detail was provided, with the report acknowledging huge uncertainty around later stage projects, which were deliverable only 'as and when' funding might have theoretically become available.
- 7) To agree for a revised, focused and detailed plan to come back to committee which progressed with a management and operations centre and to seek to demonstrate that the Council could complete - within agreed budgets and timescales - the following flagship place making projects: George Street and First New Town Project, a refreshed Royal Mile Action Plan and the CCEW cycle link. All projects would include robust monitoring and impact assessments to inform future decision making.
- 8) To agree that Open Streets required to run in its current iteration for far longer to enable meaningful data gathering and stakeholder engagement which could also be used to inform future place making project decisions.

- moved by Councillor Cook, seconded by Councillor Hutchison

In terms of Standing Order 21.11, Amendments 1 and 2 were accepted as addendums to the motion by Councillor Macinnes.

Voting

For the motion - 8 votes

For amendment - 3 votes

(For the motion – Councillors Arthur, Bird, Child, Corbett, Lang, Macinnes, McNeese-Mechan and Miller.

For the amendment – Councillors Cook, Hutchison and Webber.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Macinnes:

- 1) To note the outcome of public consultation on Edinburgh City Centre Transformation's (ECCTs) Proposed Strategy and draft Environmental Report and how this had influenced the Finalised Strategy.
- 2) To note the proposed outcome-based performance measures included in the Finalised Strategy and the development of a ten year Programme Delivery Plan (PDP) including a funding strategy and resourcing requirements.
- 3) To note the early actions in the PDP, in particular those to implement selected traffic free streets in the Old Town, to reduce traffic displacement and to strengthen alignment between city centre projects.
- 4) To note the funding award of £0.520m from Sustrans Scotland's 'Places for Everyone' grant scheme in order to progress the following projects identified in the PDP:
 - i) To support creation of a pedestrian priority zone in the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh by undertaking a feasibility study of filtered permeability for vehicle traffic.
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 - iii) To explore options for routing a new pedestrian and cycle bridge across the Waverley valley.
- 5) To approve the finalised ECCT Strategy and PDP to guide the future design, operation and management of the city centre.
- 6) To agree that progress updates would be reported to Transport and Environment Committee every six months with key gateway PDP reviews in years 3, 5, 7 and 10.
- 7) To note the requests from members of the public for clearer information about how the strategy would meet its stated principle of "inclusive and accessible".
- 8) To note that as ECCT moved forward there would be opportunities to increase inclusivity and accessibility through detailed proposals.

- 9) To request a suite of communications in a variety of accessible media and formats which consolidated all of the relevant information from the strategy about how inclusivity and accessibility would be protected and improved.
- 10) To agree that the draft City Mobility Plan, due before the committee in December 2019, should detail how the ECCT commitment to prioritise public transport would be delivered. Specifically, this plan should address;
 - (i) The importance of bus connections running to, from and through the city centre.
 - ii) The accessibility of such bus services within the city centre.

2.5 In accordance with Standing Order 29.1, the decision was referred to Council for approval.

3. Background Reading/ External References

3.1 [Webcast of the Transport and Environment Committee – 12 September 2019](#)

4. Appendices

4.1 Appendix 1 – Report by the Executive Director of Place