

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 11 January 2024

Transport and Local Access Forum

Executive/routine
Wards

Routine
All

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Transport and Environment Committee is asked to agree the Terms of Reference for the Transport and Local Access Forum (Appendix 1).

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Executive Director of Place

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Report

Transport and Local Access Forum

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report seeks approval for the Terms of Reference for a newly created Transport and Local Access Forum. This Group combines the responsibilities of the Transport Forum, the Local Access Forum and the Active Travel Forum into a single working group.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 16 March 2023, the Council [agreed](#) to combine the Transport Forum, the Local Access Forum and the Active Travel Forum into a single working group.
- 3.2 The Council also agreed that Councillors Arthur, Aston, Bandel, Lang and Munro would be the five Councillor members on the working group.

4. Main report

- 4.1 This report sets out the draft terms of reference for the new Transport and Local Access Forum (Appendix 1).
- 4.2 It is proposed that the group should meet a minimum of twice per year, with one meeting dedicated to the statutory remit of the Local Access Forum. The other meeting will focus on transport and active travel.
- 4.3 Proposed external representation on the working group is set out in Appendix 1 and comprises representatives from a variety of external organisations. For transport discussions, user representatives and local neighbourhood area nominees will also be invited.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If Committee approve the recommendations in this report:
- 5.1.1 Officers will contact the external organisations to be invited to participate in the working group to confirm the decision of the Council and the approved Terms of Reference;

- 5.1.2 Arrangements will be made to set up the Transport and Local Access Forum meetings for 2024. Administrative support for the group will be provided by the Place directorate; and
- 5.1.3 A short summary of each meeting will be included in the Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There are no financial impacts arising from this report. The cost of supporting the Transport and Local Access Forum will be met from existing resources.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 Transport and Local Access Forum will ensure that the positive and collective roles of external organisations is reflected in the work of the Council. One of the key activities of the Group will be to understand how the Council's strategies, policies and procedures in respect of local access, transport and active travel can improve the experience of citizens moving in and around the city.

8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 As a public body, the Council has statutory duties relating to climate emissions and biodiversity. The Council

“must, in exercising its functions, act in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of emissions reduction targets”

(Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019), and

“in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions”

(Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004)

- 8.2 The City of Edinburgh Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and committed to work towards a target of net zero emissions by 2030 for both city and corporate emissions and embedded this as a core priority of the Council Business Plan 2023-27. The Council also declared a Nature Emergency in 2023.
- 8.3 The contributions received through the working group will help the Council to achieve its ambitions in respect of net zero by seeking input from external organisations on how the Council can encourage responsible local access, transport and promote walking and cycling.
- 8.4 The Working Group will also discuss the climate and nature emergency in the context of the work of the Council, seeking advice, guidance and assistance from external representatives on how improvements can be made.

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

- 9.1 The purpose of the Transport and Local Access Forum is to ensure that the positive and collective roles of external organisations is reflected in the work of the Council.
- 9.2 The Local Access Forum, which is incorporated within the Forum's remit, was established under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Every access authority has a forum in their local area.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 [Local Access Forum – Guide to Good Practice.](#)

11. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Terms of reference for the Transport and Local Access Forum

Appendix 1 – Draft Terms of Reference

Title	Transport and Local Access Forum
Purpose	To seek and secure external advice, assistance and support from external organisations and individuals to inform the work of the Council
Remit	The remit of the of the Group will incorporate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport; • Active Travel; and • Local Access.
Frequency	The Working Group will meet at least twice per year. One meeting per year will be dedicated to Local Access, with the remaining meeting primarily focusing on transport and active travel. Further meetings may be arranged on either remit at the request of members.
Meeting Venue	Meetings may take place in person or online, with the meeting venues to be agreed when meetings are set up. The first meeting on each theme will take place in person.
Meeting Focus	
Local Access	On local access, the forum will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advising the access authority, and any other person or body consulting the Forum, on matters relating to: (i) the exercise of access rights (ii) the existence and delineation of rights of way (iii) the drawing up and adoption of a plan for a system of core paths; and • Offering, and where accepted, giving assistance to parties who are in dispute about: (i) the exercise of access rights (ii) the existence and delineation of rights of way (iii) the drawing up and adoption of a plan for a system of core paths (iv) the use of core paths. <p>The Forum may also act as a statutory consultee on proposed Exemption Orders (section 11), Byelaws (section 12) and Core Paths Plans (section 18). As an advisory group, the Forum is unable to take decisions or adjudicate in disputes.</p>
Transport and Active Travel	On transport and active travel, the forum will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a city-wide forum of experts and citizens to consider the city’s future transport needs; • Consider the positive and collective roles of walking and cycling in the city’s future transport system and lifestyle needs; • Scrutinise, influence and enhance the city’s strategies and services relating to transport, place making and leisure; and • Review the delivery of current policy to promote its positive results.

<p>Membership</p>	<p>The Councillors nominated to participate in the working group are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Scott Arthur (Chair) • Councillor Danny Aston • Councillor Jule Bandel • Councillor Kevin Lang • Councillor Marie-Claire Munro
<p>External organisations to be invited to participate (limited to one representative per organisation unless otherwise agreed. The representative may change depending on the topic)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Services (Police Scotland, Fire Scotland and Scottish Ambulance Service) (All meetings) • Living Streets Edinburgh (All) • Paths for All (All) • Spokes (All) • National Farmers Union Scotland (Local Access) • Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust (Local Access) • Ramblers and Scottish Canoe Association (Local Access) • British Horse Society (Local Access) • Scotways (Local Access) • CTC Scotland (Local Access) • City Cycling Edinburgh (Local Access) • East Lothian Council (Local Access) • Lothian Golf Association (Local Access) • Scottish Land and Estates (Local Access) • Scottish Golf (Local Access) • Edinburgh Access Panel (Scottish Disability Equality Forum) (Local Access) • Ramblers Association (Local Access) • Mortonhall Estate (Local Access) • National Farmers Union (Local Access) • Sustrans (All) • Midlothian AO (Local Access) • Rosebery Estates (LAF) • Defence Estates (Local Access) • Scottish Canals (Local Access) • Water of Leith Conservation Trust (Local Access) • Forth Estuary Forum (Local Access) • Gogarburn Bicycle Users (Transport) • Sestrans (Transport) • Festival of Cycling (Transport) • University of Edinburgh (Transport) • TfE (Transport) • Lothian Buses (Transport) • Edinburgh Trams (Transport) • Chamber of Commerce (Transport) • Bus Users Group (Transport) • Essential Edinburgh (Transport)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Federation of Small Business (Transport)• Edinburgh Airport (Transport)• Transport Research Institute (Transport)• Institute of Advanced Motorists (Transport)• Passenger Focus (Transport)• Transport Scotland (Transport)• Transform Scotland (Transport)• Central Taxis (Transport)• Cockburn Association (Transport)• Equalities Transport Advisory Group (Transport)• NHS Lothian (Transport)• Road Haulage Association (Transport)• Breakdown Services (RAC/AA) (Transport)• Motorcycle Action Group (Transport)• Scotrail (Transport)• Scottish Water (Transport)• Edinburgh World Heritage (Transport)
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