

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 5 December 2024

Park Lighting Project Update

Executive/routine
Wards

Routine
All

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Culture and Communities Committee notes this update on progress on the Park Lighting project.

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Park Lighting Project Update

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report sets out progress with Park Lighting Project and sets out some of the challenges and next steps in implementing lighting schemes.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Park Lighting Project aims to create safer routes through parks and open spaces as fear of crime and concerns for personal safety can lead to avoidance of using these spaces and restrict options for walking and cycling through the city, especially after dark.
- 3.2 Previous reports have set out the standards and lighting guidance being followed in developing park lighting proposals that combine technical solutions with the demand for safer access to parks and open spaces.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The core principle of assessing lighting requirements seeks to provide ‘the right light in the right place at the right time and for the right reason’ by focussing on the categorisation of route hierarchy. This can be determined through assessing each location and obtaining detailed site knowledge, views on use of the parks or open space, ambient lighting conditions, and views from community engagement.
- 4.2 Priority will be given to installing new lighting, but each site will be assessed to develop a holistic lighting approach. If necessary, any existing lighting will be checked against the records held, upgraded, and adopted by the Council and connected to the Street Lighting Central Management System (CMS).
- 4.3 Although a priority list has been developed, the pace of delivery will change depending on several factors (such as scale of project, heritage or wildlife impacts, other investment, and progress of individual lighting designs).

Progress Update

- 4.4 Appendix 1 provides a summary of the current status of lighting projects in parks and open spaces. Some highlights include:
- 4.4.1 Lighting improvements at Hailes Quarry Park should be well underway by the time Committee takes place, as works were scheduled to commence in November 2024;
 - 4.4.2 Work on Gyle Park has been delayed while the reinstatement works are carried out following works by Scottish Water. It is anticipated that the lighting project will deliver improvements by spring 2025;
 - 4.4.3 Several lighting proposals are being tendered including: Hunters Hall Park (36 new lighting columns); Ferniehill Community Park lighting (13 new lighting columns and a new Scottish Power connection); and St Marks Park (seven replacement plus two new columns);
 - 4.4.4 The Ratho Station Park lighting proposal was updated to include the new paths being installed by a housing developer in the area. The design team have worked with the developer on incorporating ducting and other works to support the lighting project as part of the path works;
 - 4.4.5 Some preparatory work is also programmed (such as installing a new supply pillar at St Marks Park). Such work is necessary to ensure that power is available nearby to manage the additional capacity;
 - 4.4.6 Allison Park, Kirkliston, includes removal of an existing lighting column as well as eight new lighting columns;
 - 4.4.7 St. Katharine's Park will have its lighting controls updated so that the lighting can be controlled effectively through the Street Lighting Central Management System (CMS); and
 - 4.4.8 Lighting designs have been developed for St. Margaret's Park, Dundas Park, Redhall Park, Baronscourt Park, and Marchbank Park. These designs are currently being reviewed.

Central Management System (CMS)

- 4.5 It is aimed to connect all lighting in parks and openspaces to the Street Lighting CMS. This will provide the ability to tailor adaptive lighting to meet the needs of local situations (such as increasing the output near hotspots for crime or antisocial behaviour or to brighten illumination of key path intersections during busy periods).
- 4.6 An advantage of the CMS is the ability to reduce energy use through trimming (turning lights on later) and dimming (reduce light output during off-peak times).
- 4.7 Adaptive lighting provides an opportunity to adjust switch on and off times, adjust brightness, allow for part-night lighting, or switching off lighting (which can support festive or ambient lighting for particular events).

Solar lighting solutions

- 4.8 Part of the design process is looking to implement alternatives to mains-power supply for lighting by making use of hybrid or full-solar lighting to contribute to the city's net zero ambition by 2030. Assessing the sites for suitability, and ensuring lighting solutions are robust and durable, has resulted in five parks and open spaces being considered for solar lighting solutions: Hailes Quarry Park; Redhall Park; Roseburn Park; Baronscourt Park; and Ferniehill Park.

Design factors and challenges

- 4.9 Some general factors have been identified that impact the overall delivery of lighting projects, as outlined below. Some of these factors are based on current market factors, and Council officers are working on minimising the impacts on project delivery where possible.

Ecological surveys

- 4.9.1 Ecological surveys are required for lighting proposals to consider how to mitigate and minimise the impact on wildlife and to identify sensitive species through luminaire choice, applying timers or dimmers, or other technical or design approaches.

Parks investment

- 4.9.2 Where possible, lighting investment will be aligned to other park development work (e.g. the redevelopment of West Pilton Park and integration of lighting for new public toilets at Leith Links, Inverleith Park, and the Meadows). While change the programme of implementation for these sites (relative to the initial prioritisation framework), it allows the Council to make holistic improvements that maximise the value of the investment.

Procurement

- 4.9.3 The current procurement frameworks were set up predominantly for lighting roads and streets. Lighting proposals for parks and open spaces can be more imaginative and allow for lighting design options that would not otherwise be suitable or implemented for roads and streets (e.g. new solar lighting technologies, floodlighting, or light-up park infrastructure). Officers are currently working on plans to ensure that future procurement frameworks provide the necessary flexibility to progress with more innovative lighting solutions in parks. However, in the short term, this may impact on the timelines for project delivery.
- 4.9.4 The availability of luminaires, lighting columns, and associated materials is also a factor in the delivery of the programme. At present, supply lead-in times vary between four and 12 weeks.

Contractor availability

4.9.5 While having a procurement framework makes some aspects of obtaining quotations easier, it also relies heavily on contractor availability. Contractors continue to be extremely busy in this area of construction work, which is delaying progress on park lighting projects and increasing costs in some instances.

Community engagement

4.9.6 Community engagement is crucial to ensure that lighting proposals meet expectations, and local views are considered over the prioritisation of routes and uses of parks and open spaces. In some instances, obtaining timely feedback has been challenging.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The spatial audit and technical guidance lay the foundations for the standards of design of outdoor lighting provision for parks and open spaces across the city.
- 5.2 Many of the city's parks and open spaces, including those on the priority list, have existing lighting to some extent. As part of each site's design assessment, existing lighting upgrades will be incorporated, as required, to meet the technical guidance principles.
- 5.3 An updated project plan for implementation of parks and open space lighting projects is provided in Appendix 1. It is acknowledged that the pace of implementation of individual sites will vary, and the project plan remains dynamic to take this into account.
- 5.4 Engagement with relevant community representatives and local ward councillors is included as part of the design work for individual sites. Designs for sites with heritage interest or as part of the World Heritage Site will involve liaison with Edinburgh World Heritage.
- 5.5 There will be some disruption to park and open space users as lighting projects are implemented. Working with the installation contractors will aim to minimise temporary path closures and ensure sites are properly reinstated.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 An initial capital budget of £500,000 has been allocated for investment in park and open space lighting (this includes employee costs to support delivery). It is anticipated that the total cost up to March 2025 for the seven schemes which should be completed this financial year will be £344,000.
- 6.2 Some costs may be mitigated with warranties and guarantees from suppliers.

- 6.3 There will be ongoing revenue budget requirements for inspection, repairs, and maintenance of lanterns, columns, and ancillary equipment. While these costs will continue to be monitored, it is anticipated that they can be contained within existing budgets.
- 6.4 Continued progress will be dependent on additional capital funds being allocated in the Council budget for 2025/26.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 Improvements to lighting in parks and open spaces in all areas of the city will reduce any equality impacts. Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) information was considered as part of the initial prioritisation list within the spatial audit.

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.

Environmental Impacts

- 8.3 Subject to technical and site-based constraints, proposed park lighting designs consider the Council’s key priorities of net zero by 2030, and the Nature Emergency declared in 2023. Lighting designs consider sustainability as a key design principle and aim to reduce impact on wildlife and mitigate the impacts of climate change (e.g., use of alternative sources of power).

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

- 9.1 There is no statutory requirement to light parks and open spaces; however, lighting these areas does offer valuable benefits as an essential aid to safety and facilitates a thriving night-time economy.
- 9.2 Friends' groups, community councils, and other community interest groups advocate the need for lighting in some parks and open spaces. Community engagement forms an integral part of the development of lighting proposals.
- 9.3 The impact of new lighting in some areas may be sensitive. Where necessary, planning consent may be required, which will include an additional opportunity for public consultation.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 [Guidance on Park Lighting – Committee Report – May 2023](#) – which sets out the prioritisation framework
- 10.2 [Park Lighting Project Update – May 2024](#) – which includes the technical guidance document.

11. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Updated Parks and Openspace Lighting Project Plan.

Appendix 1 – Updated Parks and Openspace Lighting Project Plan

Park Name	Location	Ward	Locality	Site Priority	Provisional Start Date	Provisional End Date	Comments	Proposed Framework Cost	Proposed Equipment Cost
Hailes Quarry Park	Dumbryden Dr, Edinburgh, EH14 2TF	7	South West	1	Nov-24	Jan-25	Design in progress, awaiting information from supplier on hybrid solar solution and solar eye wayfinding lighting. Delivery for final equipment 14 October (Charge controllers) 15 November (Panels)	£15,344.02	£30,160.52
Gyle Park	Glasgow Road Edinburgh, EH12 8LJ	3	North West	2	Feb-25	Apr-25	Delayed due to reinstatement works within the park.	£106,104.18	TBC
Hunters Hall Park	Niddrie Mains Road, EH16 4ND	17	North East	3	Jan-25	Feb-25	Design in progress, no lighting on main path through park.	£100,298.64	TBC
Ferniehill Community Park	Ferniehill Road, Edinburgh, EH17 7AF	16	South East	4	Sep-24	Oct-24	Issued to local group & councillors for comment.		

Park Name	Location	Ward	Locality	Site Priority	Provisional Start Date	Provisional End Date	Comments	Proposed Framework Cost	Proposed Equipment Cost
Roseburn Park	Riversdale Cres, Edinburgh, EH12 5NZ	6	North West	5	Nov-24	Dec-24	Site may be suitable for possible PV & battery storage on existing CEC property. Reach out to local community group.		
Leith Links	Links Gardens, EH6 7QR	13	North East	6	TBC	TBC	Awaiting information on proposed scheme within park. Unlit areas to be looked at with a view to providing new units. Paths which are not illuminated to be looked at in the first instance.		
Ratho Station Park	Hillwood Rd, Ratho Station, Newbridge, EH28 8PY	1	North West	7	Nov-24	Jan-25	Design in progress. New layout required to include new paths installed by developer.	£43,142.10	TBC
Pilrig Park	EH6 5DW	12	North East	8	Nov-24	Dec-24	Unlit path past school to be illuminated. Existing old columns to be replaced.		
Redhall Park	Kilncroftside, EH14 2HG	7	South West	9	2025	2025	Solar solution being considered along the length of the path following comments from local groups.		
Nicolson Square Gardens	Nicolson Square Gardens, Edinburgh, EH8 9BJ	15	South East	10	2025	2025	Consult with EWH prior to design.		

Park Name	Location	Ward	Locality	Site Priority	Provisional Start Date	Provisional End Date	Comments	Proposed Framework Cost	Proposed Equipment Cost
Allison Park	Carmel Road, Kirkliston, EH29 (DD)	1	North West	11	Dec-24	Jan-25	Existing column to be removed. Existing path to be illuminated. Design in progress.	£28,266.05	TBC
Baronscourt	Baronscourt Terrace, EH8 7EN	14	North East	12	2025	2025	Drawing issued to local groups for comment. Consider solar solution, to see if site is suitable.		
Braidburn Valley Park	Comiston Road, Edinburgh, EH10 5TE	10	South East	13	2025	2025			
Saughton Park & Gardens	Balgreen Road, Edinburgh, EH11 3BQ	6	North West	14	2025	2025			
St. Katharine's Park	Liberton Gardens, EH16 6ND	16	South East	15	2025	2025	Existing lighting to remain. Existing panel to be converted to CMS	£2,000.00	£1,000.00
Lochend Park	Lochend Road S, Edinburgh, EH7 6DQ	14	North East	16	2025	2025			
Montgomery Street Park	Montgomery St, Edinburgh, EH7 5NH	12	North East	17	2025	2025	Contact local community groups to discuss requirements.		
Coates Crescent Gardens	Coates Crescent	11	South East	18	2025	2025	Existing levels to be checked due to proximity of tram stop. Possibly lighting around monument. Consult with EWH prior to design.		
Hillside Crescent Gardens	Hillside Crescent, EH7 5EA	12	North East	19	2025	2025	Consult with EWH prior to design, existing EHW		

Park Name	Location	Ward	Locality	Site Priority	Provisional Start Date	Provisional End Date	Comments	Proposed Framework Cost	Proposed Equipment Cost
							conservation plan in place for park.		
London Road Gardens	London Road, Edinburgh, EH7 5DX	12	North East	20	2025	2025	Consult with EWH prior to design.		
Davidson's Mains Park	East Barnton Avenue, Edinburgh, EH4 6AQ	1	North West	21	2025	2025	Arrange meeting with Tree officer		
Figgate Park	Mountcastle Drive N, Edinburgh, EH8 7SE	14	North East	22	2025	2025			
Marchbank Park	Deanpark Place, Balerno, Edinburgh, EH14 7NL	2	South West	23	2025	2025	Issues with existing columns to be rectified. Design in progress.		
Fairmilehead Park	Camus Avenue, Fairmilehead, EH10 6QU	8	South West	24	2025	2025	No lighting on site. Contact local community groups.		
Dundas Park	Dundas Avenue, South Queensferry, EH30 9JL	1	North West	25	2025	2025	Issue with existing columns to be rectified. Lighting on path to park to be added. Design in progress. Solar solution being considered.		
Inverleith Park	Inverleith Park, Edinburgh, EH3 5PA	5	North West	26	2025	2025	Issues with existing columns / lanterns on site to be rectified. Consult with EWH prior to design.		
Henderson Gardens Park	Henderson Gardens, EH6 6BX	13	North East	27	2025	2025	Consult with local community groups.		

Park Name	Location	Ward	Locality	Site Priority	Provisional Start Date	Provisional End Date	Comments	Proposed Framework Cost	Proposed Equipment Cost
Colinton Mains Park	Oxgangs Road North, EH13 9EB	8	South West	28	2025	2025	Existing paths not illuminated to be considered. Contact local community groups to discuss.		
Spylaw Park	Bridge Road, EH13 0JX	8	South West	29	2025	2025	Existing Paths to be illuminated. Contact local community groups to discuss		
Victoria Park	Victoria Park, Newhaven Road, EH6 5PY	4	North East	30	2025	2025			
St. Marks Park	Warriston Road, EH7 4HN	12	North East	31	Dec-24	Jan-25	Supply pillar to be upgraded in advance of works being carried out. Design in progress.	£17,924.19	TBC
Gayfield Square	Gayfield Square, EH1 3PA	11	South East	32	2025	2025	Consult with local community groups, possibly bollard lighting on existing path running through park. Consult with EWH prior to design.		
Bruntsfield Links	Melville Drive, EH9 9EX	10	South East	33	2025	2025	Consult with EWH prior to design.		
Inchcolm Park	Inchcolm Terrace, South Queensferry, EH30 9SF	1	North West	34	2025	2025			
Hopetoun Crescent Garden	Hopetoun Crescent, EH7 4AX	12	North East	35	2025	2025			

Park Name	Location	Ward	Locality	Site Priority	Provisional Start Date	Provisional End Date	Comments	Proposed Framework Cost	Proposed Equipment Cost
St. Margaret's Park	Corstorphine High Street, EH12 7SZ	6	North West	36	2025	2025	Consult local community group. Supply pillar to be upgraded, in advance of works taking place. Design in progress.		
Drumbrae Park	30 Drum Brae Terrace, Edinburgh, EH4 7SF	3	North West	37	2025	2025			
Atholl Crescent Gardens	Atholl Crescent, EH3 8HA	11	South East	38	2025	2025	Existing levels to be checked due to proximity of tram stop. Possibly lighting around monument. Consult with EWH prior to design.		
Meadows	Melville Drive, EH9 9EX	11	South East	39	2025	2025	Paths not currently illuminated to be looked in the first instance. Consult with EWH prior to design.		
Bauks View	Brown Street, Briery Bauks, EH8 9RP	15	South East	40	2025	2025			
King George V Park (Currie)	Lanark Road West, Currie, EH14 5RT	2	South West	41	2025	2025			
St. Patrick Square	EH8 9EZ	15	South East	42	2025	2025	Consult with EWH prior to design.		
Starbank Park	Starbank Road, EH5 3BX	4	North West	43	2025	2025			
Hays Park	13 Niddrie Mains Drive, EH16 4RR	17	North East	44	2025	2025			

Park Name	Location	Ward	Locality	Site Priority	Provisional Start Date	Provisional End Date	Comments	Proposed Framework Cost	Proposed Equipment Cost
Calton Hill	Calton Hill, Edinburgh, EH7 5AA	11	South East	TBC	2025/2026	2025/2026	Consult with EWH prior to design.		
Princes Street Gardens	Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2HG	11	South East	TBC	2025/2026	2025/2026	Consult with EWH prior to design.		
Harrison Park	West Bryson Road, EH11 1EH	9	South West	TBC	2025/2026	2025/2026	Existing column to be removed.		
Regent Road Park	Regent Road, EH8 8EJ	11	South East	TBC	2025/2026	2025/2026	Consult with EWH prior to design.		
Easter Drylaw Park	Easter Drylaw Drive, Edinburgh, EH4 2RT	5	North West	TBC	2025/2026	2025/2026			
Rosefield Park	Rosefield Place, EH15 1BD	17	North East	TBC	2025/2026	2025/2026	Flood lights to be replaced, Contact local community group to discuss.		
Rocheid Path	Arboretum Avenue, EH3 5NU	5	North West	TBC	2025/2026	2025/2026			
Orchard (Brae) Park North & South	Queensferry Road, EH3 3HW	5	North West	TBC	2025/2026	2025/2026			
Ferry Glen	Station Road, South Queensferry, EH30 9JY	1	North West	TBC	2025/2026	2025/2026			
Craigmillar Castle Park Including Hawkhill Woods	Old Dalkeith Rd, Edinburgh, EH16 4TB	17	North East / South East	TBC	2025/2026	2025/2026			
Portobello Park	Milton Road East, Eh15 1JJ	17	North East	TBC	2025/2026	2025/2026			

Park Name	Location	Ward	Locality	Site Priority	Provisional Start Date	Provisional End Date	Comments	Proposed Framework Cost	Proposed Equipment Cost
River Almond Walkway	Cramond Glebe, EH4 6JN	1	North West	TBC	2025/2026	2025/2026	CLE10-15 lanterns to be converted to LED in advance of works being carried out.		
Gypsy Brae	West Shore Road, EH5 1QD	4	North West	TBC	2025/2026	2025/2026	Lighting from West Shore Road to be considered within this scheme.		
Colinton and Craiglochart Dells	Lanark Road, EH14 1JF	9	South West	TBC	2025/2026	2025/2026			
								£313,079.18	£31,160.52
								£344,239.70	