

Maureen Child, Labour

Introductory speech

Her experience and responsibilities in the council have been in communities rather than transport

Worth looking at Labour manifesto - good section on cycling & transport, called “Getting Round the City”.

Continued commitment to 10% of transport budget for cycling – this includes the capital budget and the revenue budget.

Money must be spent wisely – appreciate input from spokes and from individuals

Conditions need to feel safe, especially for children.

Motorist lobby has a loud voice – need more balance, also including walking, which everybody does.

Questions in groups

Funding: 10% promise (as in speech). Also want to increase use of other non-car modes and of all-ability cycling.

Also promising more cash for road maintenance.

Onroad segregated routes:

Commitment to finding more road space for cycling, and for pedestrians.

Need to overcome objections of businesses – need to make a good environment for everyone, not just a cycle route

Segregation will prevent people parking in cycle lanes.

Princes Street future: Not in the pipeline at present, but would like to see it improved. Council currently sees George St as the main E-W cycle route.

Bike parking at new buildings: there is a requirement for this but quality varies

Police issues: great priority needed for road safety; but there are police officers trained in use of speed guns.

Tram extension: Labour committed to extension to Leith. Must be designed compatible with other uses of the roads, including impact on cycling. The actual route is already defined through the Parliamentary procedure.

Summing-up speech

Enjoyed this style of hustings, going round groups.

Interesting that congestion charge highlighted in groups. She was hugely frustrated that council proposal for congestion charge was defeated – would have supplied much cash for public transport & active travel.

Essential to constrain car traffic, to allow better conditions for all, including air quality. Congestion charge would have made a big difference in this too.