

Note of meeting

Active Travel Forum

2pm, Wednesday 25 April 2018

Present:

Elected Members

Councillors Lesley Macinnes (Convener), Booth, Doran, Gloyer and Key.

Organisation Representatives

Gary Bell (Paths for All), Emma Crowther (University of Edinburgh), Dave De Feu (Spokes), Gemma McCluskey (Sustrans), Kim Harding (Edinburgh Festival of Cycling), Peter Hawkins (Cycling UK (Scotland)), David Hunter (Living Streets Edinburgh), Peter Jackson (Cycling Scotland), Patrick Kilduff (Edinburgh University Students Association), Isobel Leckie (Causey Development Trust), Martin McDonnell (Spokes), John White (Lothian Buses).

City of Edinburgh Council Officers

Sean Gilchrist (Roads Renewal Manager), Thomas Haddock (ATAP Senior Project Officer), Bryan Mackie (Project Officer), Rurigh McMeddes (Stakeholder Liaison Officer), Daisy Narayanan (Project Director), Phil Noble (ATAP Team Leader), Richard Pearson (Project Officer), Andrew Smith (Senior Planning Officer).

1. Introduction

Councillor Macinnes welcomed members of the Active Travel Forum and advised that the three key topics for discussion today would be City Centre Transformation, Tram Extension and George Street projects.

2. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of 29 November 2017 as a correct record, subject to the following amendment in Section 3, the bullet point beginning “No reports....” should read “The promised reports on one-way streets, parking in cycle lands, and main road cycling provision had not been published. Phil Noble confirmed

that the reports would not be published separately but would feed into the 2018 ATAP review”.

3. Active Travel Forum Update

Phil Noble gave a presentation that provided updates on key areas related to active travel.

Updates were provided on the following:

- Tram and Bicycles at Festival Time
- Dropped Kerb Discussion Update
- Key themes from Active Travel Forum Review Workshop
- Active Travel Forum Plus

The following main points were discussed:

- Transport for Edinburgh (TfE) had advised that there would be no blanket ban on Tram and bicycles during the Festival. At busy times it was at the discretion of the Ticket Sales Assistant (TSA).
- City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) had procured the services of Capita to carry out an initial priority assessment of the dropped kerbs from existing GIS data. This work was expected to be finished by the end of May 2018.
- Once the programme of works was finalised, CEC would award a contract to a consultant to carry out the improvements.
- Feedback from the discussion at the Active Travel Forum Review Workshop included extending the membership to the localities, having more public members, having pupils and schools representation and community council representation.
- Feedback on the time and location of the Forum included holding the Forum out with working hours, having the Forum in a different sized room and holding the Forum more often.
- It was suggested by members that various discussion platforms could be held, that included an online forum discussion page, shared emails, open discussion and more time for questions from the floor.
- It was suggested that there should be more focus on walking and updates on the ATAP refresh.
- It was suggested that in September 2018 an ‘Active Travel Forum Plus’ could be held with a wider membership, guest speakers, and that explored the positive impacts of Active Travel on mental and physical health, childhood obesity and predictors for the future, economic performance and wellbeing on the street.

Councillor Macinnes encouraged members to come forward with ideas of themes and topics that could be discussed by the Forum. The following points were raised:

- There was a need to focus on the relationship between the Council and active travel.

- Currently there was not the opportunity to raise urgent topics and it was suggested that this could be added to future agendas.
- A list of topics could be circulated around the Forum that were focussed on the delivery of the Active Travel Plan (ATP) and activities that could be done in relation to this.
- It was suggested that the Forum was held 3 or 4 times a year during the day.
- Suggestions were made that outside speakers and Council officers from other departments should be invited to the Forum.

Decision

- 1) To note the updates.
- 2) To agree that the 'Active Travel Forum Plus' would be considered again at a later date.
- 3) To agree that Council officers from the Planning Department would be invited to the next Active Travel Forum in September 2018.

4. City Centre Transformation Consultation Presentation

Daisy Narayanan provided a presentation on the Central Edinburgh Transformation Project.

The following points were highlighted:

- People had different views on what the City Centre Transformation project was and time had been spent trying to review the focus of the project and explain the outcomes.
- There would be an alignment between the City Transport Strategy (CTS), Low Emission Zones (LEZ) and the Central Edinburgh Transformation (CET). Stakeholder workshops would be held from 8 – 10 May 2018, engagement with the public would commence and potential options formed from October to November 2018, proposed strategies would be developed and LEZ regime from November 2018 to January 2019 and then consultation would take place on options from April to May 2019. The LEZ should be implemented early in 2019, and the CTS and CET mid-2019.
- The Edinburgh City Vision was to create a city centre that was for all, and a place for people to live, work, visit and play.
- The biggest challenges that faced Edinburgh was, as a growing city, its capacity to cope with growth, the quality of public realm – street clutter, street management, congestion, air pollution, coherence in wayfinding, consistency of approach in city centre design and dominance of vehicular traffic.
- Edinburgh had a beautiful built environment and it was important not to lose that legacy.
- It was important to meet the needs of businesses in the city and the people that lived in the city and there was currently a disconnect between the two.
- The Working Aims of vision for the city were that people living in the city experienced a great quality of life, made use of their public space and benefited from attractions and festivals, that the city centre was safer, healthier and easier to travel to and move around, that there were exemplary

streets and spaces to match the city's outstanding built and natural heritage, to have a transformed city centre that powered Scotland's economy, energised by civic cultural and commercial activity, and streets and spaces that provided for shared experiences and where visitors felt welcome.

- There was a potential tension between residents and visitors, and it was important to understand how each of these groups engaged with the City Centre.
- Balancing quality of life with festivals and attractions required more refining.
- Alternative forms of transport would have to be promoted to travelling by car into the city centre, and although this would be challenging, there were cities that had successfully achieved car free city centres.
- Consideration could be given to restricting delivery vehicles coming into the city centre.
- There was a need to be careful about the types of drivers that were restricted from coming into the City Centre, i.e disabled drivers.
- There were 5,600 buses on Princes Street every day and the congestion created was not sustainable. Lothian Buses were open to service routes changing and the positive and negative impacts this could have.
- It was important that the project was delivered in a positive way and lots of discussion and consultation took place.

Decision

- 1) To note the update.
- 2) To agree to invite Councillors Rankin and Key to the Central Edinburgh Development Working Group.

5. Tram Extension to Newhaven Update

Darren Wraight and Steve Jackson provided an update on the consultation that had taken place over the last 6 weeks on the Trams to Newhaven project.

The following points were highlighted:

- There had been over 1,500 attendees at public and business events.
- Positive engagement had taken place whether people were for or against the project.
- There had been 1200 online responses so far, of which 76% were local residents.
- The key themes that had emerged from the consultation were:
 - Access to premises on Constitution Street.
 - Cycling provision from Pilrig Street to Foot of the Walk and on to Newhaven.
 - Use of a central reservation.
 - Access to and from Balfour Street (and Cambridge Gardens etc.) including location of stop
 - No right turns from non-signalised onto Leith Walk.
 - Lack of crossing points on Leith Walk between Pilrig and Foot of the Walk.

- Elm Row design.
- A more detailed presentation would be given at the next Forum as more information would be available.
- Internal workshops and external forums would be arranged and discussions would take place with Councillor Macinnes and Phil Noble about this.
- Concerns were raised about lack of cycling provision and lack of potential restrictions of traffic. Assurance was given by officers that all options would be looked at and would tie in with works going on across the city.

Decision

To note the presentation.

6. George Street and First New Town Design Concept Update

Phil Noble provided an update on the George Street and First New Town Design Concept project.

The following points were highlighted:

- The Project covered George Street, also Castle, Frederick and Hanover Street and junctions with Charlotte and St Andrew Square.
- A Stakeholder workshop and public drop in sessions were held during the winter of 2017/18.
- Consultants WYG and LDA Design were currently working on concept designs and would focus on how junctions with intersecting streets and squares could be improved for people walking or riding bikes, and how the streets could become a desirable place for people of all ages, interests and abilities to spend time, shop and pass through.
- A wider consultation would commence in late June 2018, preceded by Stakeholder engagement across a wide range of groups including Active Travel representatives.
- There would be close liaison with the Central Edinburgh Transformation team.
- The Design development would take into account other projects including City Centre West East Link, Meadows to George St, St Andrew and Charlotte Square public realm upgrades.
- The aim was that the city centre projects would all go in a positive direction at the same time.

Decision

To note the update.

7. Future Active Travel Forum

The next Active Travel Forum would be held on 4 September 2018 at 10.00am.

Decision

To note the date of the next Active Travel Forum.

8. AOCB

Officers were asked for an update on the progress of the 3 major cycling projects that were underway. Phil Noble advised that they were procuring a consultant at the moment as well as advertising for staff for all projects.

Decision

To note the update.