

# Business bulletin

## Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 1 October 2020

Virtual Meeting, via Microsoft Teams

# Transport and Environment Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Lesley Macinnes (Convener)</p>  <p>Councillor Karen Doran (Vice-Convener)</p> 	<p>Councillor Scott Arthur            Councillor Eleanor Bird            Councillor Gavin Corbett            Councillor David Key            Councillor Kevin Lang            Councillor Claire Miller            Councillor Stephanie Smith            Councillor Susan Webber            Councillor Iain Whyte</p>	<p><a href="#">Veronica Wishart</a>            Senior Executive Assistant            0131 469 3603</p> <p><a href="#">Veronica MacMillan</a>            Committee Services            0131 529 4283</p> <p><a href="#">Martin Scott</a>            Committee Services            0131 529 4237</p>

Recent news	Further information
<p><b><u>Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) Update:</u></b></p> <p>The Council was awarded £455K in March 2020 for the financial year 2020-21, and has since been awarded additional funds of £100K in August, to support communications and monitoring for the introduction of temporary measures to create more space for walking and cycling under the <a href="#">Spaces for People</a> programme.</p> <p>Overall spend to date is £120K. The <a href="#">SCSP programme</a> ends on 31 March 2021, and the Council is working on plans for a future bid for 2021-22, which would be expected to be submitted in January 2021.</p>	<p>The SCSP programme has been reviewed since submitting the bid in January 2020, to ensure projects are relevant and appropriate during these times. A summary of the changes to the programme are outlined in this note.</p> <p><a href="#">‘Be Bright Be Seen’</a> will remind road users to ‘look</p>

The Council has run the [‘Paths for Everyone’](#) campaign, initially asking path users to stay local and physically distance when using paths, and now, is asking users to adhere to the code of conduct.

Since April, the Council has supported the Bike Station’s [‘Hero Bikes’](#) project, providing refurbished bicycles to key workers to enable safe and reliable transport to work.

[Workplace travel planning](#) has recently resumed to offer local support to businesses as they move through this situation. Due to the widespread absence of work-related travel over the past few months ie homeworking remains the norm for many businesses at present, this support was paused until now. Workplaces are affected differently by the measures set out in [Scotland’s Route Map](#) and will each have their own future plans.

In July, the Council commissioned research to understand employer and employee intentions as we move through this pandemic. This is being supported by Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, and the Federation of Small Businesses.

Businesses are being asked to [register their interest](#) in participating on an ongoing basis.

Since July, the Council has been running a series of promotional (subsidised) offers in collaboration with [Edinburgh Cycle Hire](#), to enable people who do not own their own bicycle to cycle, as a safe and reliable mode of transport.

Promotions have included 14 days of free unlimited trips for all to coincide with the opening of non-essential shops in early July, in conjunction with a similar offer in Glasgow as part of a [national campaign](#), and a [‘Back to Work’](#) pass available to coincide with some workplaces returning in mid-July

### **Taxi Rank Review**

Following a motion put forward by Councillor Webber on 28 July 2020 at Full Council Committee and taking into account the Green addendum, which required this to be reported back to Committee in one cycle, this Business Bulletin has been prepared to outline the process that will be followed to address each point raised. Please note that a full report will follow but will take time to produce. A full assessment of taxi rank provision will need to take

out for one another’ this Autumn/Winter.

There is significant opportunity for the Council to influence sustainability of work-related travel at this time of change, as per behaviour change literature and practice.

This follows on from an initial survey with the largest 25 employers in the city.

From September, a new pass is available to Council staff; and another for students in all higher education institutions in the city. Each higher education institution has financially contributed to this offer.

### **Contact**

Stuart Lowrie

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cognisance of many projects that are ongoing, or planned, such as Places for People and City Centre Transformation. In addition, travel patterns and journey types have changed due to Covid-19 and this could have a long lasting effect on transport demand across all modes.

Motion Issues to Address:

- 5) Requests that signage and road markings for existing taxi ranks are refreshed to permit the enforcement of the road regulations and to ensure they are available for use by licensed taxi cabs and to make them more accessible for passengers.
  - Taxi Stances are established through the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, however, to enable enforcement through the current parking enforcement contract, a Traffic Regulation Order is also required. This parking enforcement requires standard signs and road markings that need to be legible and properly maintained.

Therefore, an inspection of all existing taxi ranks will be undertaken and a refresh of the lining and signage will be carried out as required. This inspection will also review all current taxi rank provision to ensure appropriate orders are in place to allow enforcement of the ranks.
- 6) Instructs the pending review of taxi rank spaces be expedited.
  - A dedicated internal project resource has now been put in place.
  - Transport Consultants, Jacobs, have been procured and appointed to undertake a city wide (not just city centre) review. This is being coordinated with live City Centre Transformation (CCT) workstreams.
  - A project steering group has now been established
  - Timescales to be developed and discussed with Jacobs to align with CCT inputs.
  - Budget for consultancy assistance provided by Licensing..
- 7) Welcomes the reallocation of road space as part of Spaces for People, outlined in 1 above, while recognising that taxis form part of a strategy to help people move around the city without recourse to a

private car; and that therefore there is a legitimate expectation of taxi-drivers to have access to earmarked space which is convenient for passengers to be picked up and dropped off; and further therefore, to agree that review of taxi rank spaces should come to the appropriate Committee within one cycle and include options for reallocating space currently provided for on-street parking of private cars to taxi ranks.

With the implementation of any new traffic management in the city, which does include Spaces for People, it is inevitable that changes are required to the existing kerbside use and taxi stances will be affected through these processes. However, an exercise 'reallocating space' cannot be carried out until the aforementioned review is complete.

### **Low Emission Zone Scheme - Update**

In February 2020, the Committee agreed that a proposal be developed for the Traffic Commissioner to consider a Low Emission Zone (LEZ) scheme for buses, that would be enforced through Traffic Regulation Conditions. This would maintain progress to implement a LEZ in 2020, as per the Programme for Government Commitment 2017/18.

As guided by Scottish Ministers during the recent pandemic response, this work was paused and now revised dates for LEZ implementation have been set out.

LEZs are now to be introduced across Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee and Glasgow between February and May 2022.

The regulations and guidance that are necessary for local authorities to be able to introduce and enforce LEZs following primary legislation [Transport (Scotland) Act 2019], are being developed and expected in Spring of next year, dependent on the parliamentary timetable. In accordance with this, the Council will develop and consult on a final scheme in preparation for implementation in 2022.

### **Contact**

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### **Review of Scientific Services**

Scientific Services has undergone a review over the past 12 months as part of the Council Change Strategy. The

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recommendation of that review is that service continues in-house, with investment in more modern equipment and an increased income target which the management of the service are confident can be achieved.

There is no longer a proposal for a national Scientific Service, and it is therefore recommended that the outstanding action around a review of Scientific Services is now discharged from the forward plan of this committee.

### **Open Streets Programme**

Further to the Open Streets update at Transport and Environment Committee on [11 October 2019](#), please find below the list of consultees.

In addition, there were two general consultation sessions arranged, a visitor and resident survey, a survey of businesses and a review of staff and volunteer feedback.

Looking ahead, there is a plan to set up resident and business focus groups.

[Ian Buchanan](#)

### **Wards affected**

City Centre

## **Open Streets – Programme Consultees**

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### **Community Groups**

Old Town Community Council  
Edinburgh Old Town Association  
Edinburgh Old Town Community Trust  
Neighbourhood Churches

### **School and Youth Community Groups**

Active Schools, Sports clubs  
Canongate Youth  
Street Soccer  
Royal Mile Primary School

### **Residents and Housing Groups**

Dumdiedykes Residents Association  
Croft -an-Righ, Viewforth Housing  
Whiteford House, Veterans Residence  
Salvation Army

### **Cultural and Interest Groups**

City of Literature Group  
Scottish Storytelling Centre  
Museums and Galleries (CEC)

Edinburgh World Heritage

**Business Engagement**

BID networking meeting

Meetings, Radisson Hotels

**Equalities and Accessibility**

Access Panel

**Forthcoming activities:**

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