EDINBVRGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Committee Minutes

South Central Neighbourhood Partnership

Edinburgh, 12 October 2009

Present:- Councillors Perry (Convener), Godzik, Johnstone, Gordon Mackenzie, MacLaren, McInnes and Rose; Deborah Wickstead, (Lothian and Borders Police), Thomas Graham (EUSA – substitute), Robert Aitken (NHS Lothian), Alastair Philp (Marchmont/Sciennes Community Council), Bridget Stevens (Merchiston Community Council), Ann Wigglesworth (Tollcross Community Council), Jo Scott (Southside Community Council) and Sue Tritton (Grange/Prestonfield Community Council – substitute).

1 Edinburgh Tram - Presentation

Mike Connelly of **tie** ltd gave a presentation on the Edinburgh Tram project. Issues raised in the presentation included: -

- the Edinburgh Tram project reflected a long term strategy for the movement of large numbers of passengers.
- aside from the transport scheme itself other benefits had arisen from the construction phases to date. There had been a huge improvement in the service infrastructure around the works and a number of archaeological finds had been recorded which would increase knowledge about the city's past.
- of the world's top 50 cities, 35 had some form of light rail.
- so far £278m had been spent. The anticipated final cost was £542.5m plus an as yet unidentified figure which was dependent on the outcome of the contract disputes process which was underway.

The following points arose during the questions session: -

- Links between the Tram and passengers arriving at Edinburgh Waverley: - at present there was no link between Edinburgh Waverley and the Bus Station. The objective of better integrated transport could be achieved under the Haymarket Project which could bring some breathing space to Waverley Station.

- Electricity Supply – environmental concerns: - no decision had yet been taken on sourcing the required electricity. While cost was clearly a significant issue, the costs and benefits of selecting a "green" energy supplier would be considered at the appropriate time.
- Increase in Air Travel: - it was accepted that the Tram would allow easier access to the airport and therefore contribute to making air travel easier. However, Edinburgh Airport was now the busiest in Scotland and required better transport links.
- Edinburgh's population: - the growth in Edinburgh's population could not be accommodated by the existing bus operations – an increase in population of 50,000 to 60,000 was anticipated.
- Effect on Bus Operator - significant doubt existed at the effect of the Tram funding on the future financial wellbeing of the bus operations in the city: - the Tram would help to increase Edinburgh's attractiveness as a place to invest. Princes Street would be reopened by December. The first route would provide opportunities to add further tram sections later. The business plan was now approximately two years old and a new one was in preparation. Its publication would give everyone to opportunity to analyse the latest financial position.
- Too few Tram stops, particularly on Princes Street and the extent of Public Consultation/Participation: - having additional stops would detract from the overall speed of the journey. The construction of further routes would give opportunities for additional stops in the area. Discussions had been held with equalities groups. It might prove possible to widen the remit of Passenger Focus to include the interests of bus and Tram passengers.
- Other issues raised in the discussion included: -
  - Proposals for the relocation of the Paolozzi statues at Picardy Place.
  - No funding for later phases had been identified by either the Scottish Government or other agencies.
  - Once the first phase was open there could well be demand in other areas for further connecting routes to be added.
  - The Trams would have 78 seats with the remaining capacity standing; the one third/two thirds split was common in Tram systems elsewhere.
  - There would be a common fare structure and connectivity in ticketing arrangements.
  - The inevitable disruption caused to residents and businesses during the construction phase had been acknowledged by the Council.

- Fares from the City to the Airport would carry a premium as was the case with the present bus fares.

The Convener thanked the representatives from **tie** ltd for the presentation.

Decision

To note the presentation

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Perry and Gordon Mackenzie declared a non-financial interest in the above item as non-Executive Directors of **tie** ltd.

2 Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of meeting of the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership of 10 August 2009 as a correct record, subject to the amendment of the decision at paragraph 7.2 to read as follows: -

"To refer the following question to the Partnership's Business Meeting for consideration as a future agenda item: -

> "As previously agreed/promised by Councillor Perry (at last Neighbourhood Partnership meeting) when will the Neighbourhood Partnership have further discussion on adverse effect on Lothian Buses by its merger into new company TEL, also forthcoming massive financial deficit for CEC due to tram project cost overrun and impact on CEC services."

3 Neighbourhood partnership Review - Update

Proposals were submitted for the future meeting arrangements of the Neighbourhood Partnership and associated matters.

Decision

1. That four meetings of the Neighbourhood Partnership and four Business meetings take place each year.
2. That the Business Meetings should take place at 6.00 p.m. approximately three weeks prior to the Neighbourhood Partnership meetings and include agenda planning matters.
3. That themed meetings be considered, where appropriate.

4. To discontinue the practice of having a surgery between 6.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. as it was not well used.
5. To retain public question time but to encourage the early submission of questions. In future, written answers to questions would accompany agendas.
6. That no meetings be held in August.
7. That given difficulties experienced in booking alternative locations, the City Chambers Business Centre be the preferred, but not exclusive, venue for meetings of the Neighbourhood Partnership.
8. That the next Neighbourhood Partnership meeting be held on Monday 11 January 2010 and that the Neighbourhood Manager consult on the remainder of the meetings timetable with a view to
   - avoiding clashes with meetings of community councils;
   - showing other associated meetings in the timetable; and
   - avoiding school holidays and Council recess periods.

(Reference – report by the Neighbourhood Manager, submitted.)

4 Fairer Scotland Funding Progress Report

Details were given of progress made on decisions taken about Fairer Scotland Funding allocations in the Dumbiedykes area and an update given on the Fairer Scotland Fund in the South Central area generally.

The Neighbourhood Manager had recommended that the Neighbourhood Partnership: -

1) note the report.
2) approve the proposals for the investment of the Fairer Scotland Fund in Dumbiedkyes for an employability service as outlined in paragraph 3.8 of the report.
3) support the recommendation in principle to buy into the Capital City Partnership job service contact.
4) approve the suggested allocation of funding for the employability project.
5) note the timescales for the spend of the Fairer Scotland Fund.

Decision

1) To continue the matter to the next meeting for final decisions on bids to the Capital City Partnership and other Fairer Scotland Fund project proposals.

2) That the next report reflect further discussions on: -

   - avoiding duplication of provision across partner services;

   - the impact on existing service delivery, e.g. the Canongate Youth Project and the Prestonfield Neighbourhood Project; and

   - specification of desired outcomes.

(Reference – report by the Neighbourhood Manager, submitted.)

5 Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Group

The Neighbourhood Partnership was invited to consider the establishment of a group to support the development of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links, including working towards a Greenflag award.

On 20 August 2009, the City of Edinburgh Council agreed as follows: -

1) To approve the finalised Parks Events Manifesto for the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links, subject to an amendment to Principle 1 of the Manifesto that the maximum occupancy allowable be reduced from six weeks to four weeks.

2) To note that this would form part of the city-wide Parks Events Manifesto to be presented to the Policy and Strategy Committee by October 2009.

3) To note that a future report would be presented on improving the surfacing and infrastructure of the Meadows.

Following the Council's decision, the Neighbourhood Partnership was invited to consider the report originally submitted to the meeting of 10 August 2009. The Neighbourhood Manager confirmed that the group would not be a "management" group, but rather be an advisory group working with Council management and staff.

Decision

1) To establish a Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Group.

2) That the Group comprise: -

- one representative each from Southside Community Council, Marchmont/Sciennes Community Council, Tollcross Community Council, Merchiston Community Council, the Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links and the Edinburgh University Students' Association;
- the Neighbourhood Environment Manager, the local Parks Manager, the Community Parks Officer, the Parks and Greenspace Manager, and
- two elected members.

3) that a draft remit be presented to the Neighbourhood Partnership for approval;

4) to ask the specified organisations to nominate their representatives for membership of the group and note that the elected member representatives would be decided at a later date.

(References – Act of Council No 2 of 20 August 2009, report by the Neighbourhood Manager, submitted.)

6 Tollcross Regeneration Update – Proposed Shop Front Improvements

An update was provided on the progress of the Urban Centres Programme Improvement Scheme in Tollcross. It was intended to undertake local consultation about proposals for the streetscape area directly outside the King's Theatre.

Following consultation with traders, there was interest in the improvement of shop frontages through a grant scheme. Improvements to shop frontages would bring added value to the improvement of the area.

£20,000 had been allocated for the scheme with grants available of up to 60% of the total value of the works or £500. Further consultation with traders would be carried out if the Neighbourhood Partnership approved the allocation of funding to the scheme.

Decision

1) To note the progress made with the Urban Centres Programme in Tollcross.

2) To approve in principle the allocation of £20,000 from the total capital budget of the Urban Centre Programme Improvement Scheme to the shop front improvement scheme.

(Reference – report by the Neighbourhood Manager, submitted.)

7 Southside Corridor Environmental Improvement Plan

Information was given about the Southside Corridor Environmental Improvement Plan and the recent funding bid to the Scottish Government's Town Centre Regeneration Fund to upgrade St Patrick's Square.

The Plan aimed to create a more attractive, vibrant and usable external environment that raised standards, secured best value, was sustainable and addressed the needs of local residents, businesses and visitors.

Decision

1) To note the report.

2) That if possible the colour version of the Southside Corridor Environmental Improvement Plan be made available on the Neighbourhood Partnership's Website.

3) To consider if it was possible to extend the boundaries of the area covered by the Plan.

(Reference – report by the Neighbourhood Manager, submitted)

8 Neighbourhood Partnership Community Grants Fund

Details were given of applications to the Neighbourhood Partnership's Community Grants Fund.

Decision

1. To recommend to the Neighbourhood Manager that the following grants be paid for the purposes outlined, and subject to any conditions described, in the report: -

    a) Falcon Bowling and Tennis Club - £5,000

    b) Friends of the Hermitage of Braid and Blackford Hill – £5,000

    c) Friends of the Hermitage of Braid and Blackford Hill – £805

    d) Edinburgh South Cricket Club - £5,000

e) Marchmont/Sciennes Community Council - £3,606

2. To note the award of £5,000 to the Meadows Festival Association under delegated authority.

3. To recommend no award to Blackford Girlguiding as the group had not submitted revised costs associated with an event to mark the centenary of Girlguiding.

(Reference – report by the Neighbourhood Manager, submitted)

Declaration of Interests

Alistair Philip declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a member of Marchmont/Sciennes Community Council.

9 Temporary Greening of Development Sites

The Council had considered a report by the Directors of City Development and Services for Communities on ways in which the Council could support developers in maintaining sites in as safe and attractive conditions as possible until market conditions improved, including landscaping possibilities.

The report had concluded that there appeared to be no case, or resources available, for actively pursuing a temporary greening initiative at present but that the situation would be kept under review.

The Council had received a deputation from the group Save Our Old Town – Edinburgh who had asked the Council to undertake various measures on a number of sites including ones in Council ownership.

The Council had noted the Directors' report and refer it to Neighbourhood Partnerships.

Decision

To note the report.

(References - Act of Council No 3 of 20 August 2009; report by Council Secretary, submitted)

10 A City for All Ages – Edinburgh's Joint Plan for Older People: Progress Report

The Policy and Strategy Committee had considered a report by the Director of Corporate Services which provided an update on Edinburgh's Joint Plan for Older People.

The Policy and Strategy Committee had agreed: -

1) To note the progress made on the implementation of the Joint Plan.
2) To note that the strategy evaluation findings would be reported by November 2010.
3) To refer the report by the Director of Corporate Services to the Edinburgh Partnership, the Edinburgh Community Health Partnership, Health and Social Care Joint Board of Governance, Lothian NHS Board and Neighbourhood Partnerships.

Decision

To note the report.

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee of 9 June 2009 (item 12); report by Council Secretary, submitted)

11 Public Question Time

Members of the public attending the meeting had been invited to submit questions on matters of local concern. Three questions had been submitted.

Decision

To note that written responses would be given on the following issues:

- Accidents in the vicinity of Braid Road and possible accident prevention measures – Director of City Development to respond.
- Patient Groups/South Edinburgh Public Patient Forum – NHS Lothian to respond.
- Tollcross Shop Front Improvement Scheme – removal of lap dancing silhouettes – the Neighbourhood Partnership agreed that the question be expanded to include reference to the powers available to the Council to control sauna advertising – Director of City Development to respond.

12 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 11 January 2010 in the City Chambers Business Centre.