

The Highland Council

Inverness City Committee – 8th June, 2009 Streetscene & Streetscape Works Officer & Community Engagement Arrangements

Agenda Item	9
Report No	ICC 40/09

Joint report by Director of Transport & Environmental & Community Services and Inverness City Manager

SUMMARY

This report details proposals which will allow Officers, Members and the wider community to appropriately contribute towards general Streetscene issues and plans for future Streetscape works. The Committee is invited to endorse the Programme of engagement detailed in this report. The recommendations support outcome 4.i Paragraph 3 of the Council's Single Outcome Agreement 'our communities take a greater role in shaping their future'.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The current arrangements are summarised as follows:

- Member engagement – Members have been receiving reports at every City Committee, giving detail on the monitoring of the current Streetscape contract. Members for Inverness Central Ward have also been members of the City Centre Traffic Management Stakeholder Group, chaired by the Provost.
- Community Engagement – The Stakeholder Group referred to above, meeting approximately every 6 weeks, has been the principal opportunity for representatives of the Community affected by the works having their say. The members of the Stakeholder group are:
 - Provost
 - City Manager
 - Integrated Transport Manager
 - TECS Traffic Officer
 - TECS Area Technical Manager
 - ROK – Streetscape Contractors
 - Land Use Consultants – Streetscape
 - Inverness Chamber of Commerce
 - Central Ward Members
 - BID
 - Northern Constabulary/Traffic Wardens
 - Bus operators/Tour bus operators
 - Road Haulage Association
 - Inverness Taxi Association
 - Licensed premises representative
- Officer/Service Delivery Partners – in relation to the Streetscape works, the Integrated Transport Manager and the City Manager have led an Officer group which comprises of:

- TECS Area Technical Manager
 - TECS Lighting
 - TECS Traffic Officer
 - Planning Area Officer
 - Planning Head of Environment
- In respect of matters other than Streetscape, the City Manager has led the City Action Group which is an Officer Group dealing with all Streetscene issues other than Streetscape, examples include
 - Formulating a policy for the use of the Streetscene in the City Centre.
 - Improving waste management regimes specifically, improving maintenance of the Streetscene environment and managing waste collection more effectively.
 - Generally improving the visitor experience to the City Centre.

2. PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE

2.1 Stakeholder Engagement

2.1.1 Geographical Remit - Up until now the City Centre Traffic Management Stakeholder Group has had its remit restricted to dealing with issues relating to the implementation of the Streetscape contract. All members of this group understand that through its operation, an effective link has been created between public agencies and the wider community.

Recommendation: That the Committee agree to formally confirm that the geographical remit of this group be extended to include all City Wards. Further that it be renamed the 'Streetscene Management Stakeholder Group'.

2.1.2 Terms of reference – this formula would be effective in dealing with all matters relating to Streetscene Management across all City Wards, which are common across Ward boundaries. This would not duplicate or prejudice in any way the existing links between Ward Members, Officers and their individual communities. The only way an issue would be referred to the group would be either by Ward Members from the individual Ward or collectively by the City Committee.

Recommendation: The Committee is invited to agree to the extension of the remit of the Stakeholder Group along with its renaming. Further that in the event Ward Members from individual Wards or the City Committee determine that a matter should be dealt with through the group, that it be agreed that the relevant Ward or Wards affected be allowed to nominate members from their Ward to sit on their group in respect of the relevant matters.

2.1.3 Current Issues – the following issues are currently relevant:

-the monitoring of the remainder of the current Streetscape Project including snagging:

- the arrangements for the maintenance of the new Streetscape and pre-existing areas

- the Streetscene issues referred to above, including Waste Management regimes and general environmental improvements.

Recommendation: The Committee is invited to agree to the remit of the Group to be extended to include 'all issues relating to the physical improvement/maintenance/management of the Streetscene in any part of the City Wards. This to include matters which would generally improve amenity'.

2.2 Member Engagement

- 2.2.1 City Committee – The reporting mechanism to the City Committee would remain unchanged. Members would receive reports at Committee, as appropriate, giving an update on the progress made by the Stakeholder Group, with an accompanying action plan which would be more generally drawn to include all the projects underway not just Traffic Management.

Recommendation: The Committee is invited to agree to receive reports as appropriate to the City Committee giving detail on the progress of Stakeholder Group.

2.3 Governance

- 2.3.1 The Streetscene Stakeholder group sits well with the Community Planning arrangements for the City. Many of its members are also contributors to the Inverness Partnership. The objectives of the Inverness Partnership tie in with those of this group, in that they support improvements to public amenity space.
- 2.3.2 The Council has given delegated powers to the City Committee to manage Community Planning arrangements for the City Wards. The Stakeholder Group is not a decision making body but would make recommendations to the Council, through the City Committee, with regard to any matters within its remit. The Group would continue to give members of the City Committee who sit on it, the opportunity to listen to the concerns of the Community and would help them and colleagues apply their general role of scrutiny across what we do as a Council for our Community.

3 STREETSCAPE WORKS – CITY CENTRE - THE NEXT PHASE

- 3.1 There is currently £1.7m in the TECS Capital Programme for further phases of Streetscape works over the next 2 financial years. Potential projects are:
- Stephen's Street – implementation of this is already approved and will get underway this financial year
 - Treatment of Crown Road retaining wall – implementation of this is already approved and will get underway this financial year
 - Huntly Street – streetscape works combined with flood prevention works will give a better overall scheme which will include traffic modelling and revised traffic management
 - Academy Street – Extensive traffic modelling is required in order to develop a suitable solution
 - Station Square
 - Margaret Street
 - Bank Street
 - Ness Walk – from the Cathedral to Eden Court
 - Comprehensive City Centre pedestrian/road user signs

It will not be possible to deliver all of these projects within the available budget but it will be important to develop a prioritised list, in consultation with Stakeholders to be tackled as and when funds become available (with City wide Forums being utilised where appropriate). Stephen's Street and Crown Road retaining wall have been deferred from the current Streetscape programme as there are insufficient funds to complete them under this phase. Noting that both these projects have received support from members and the Community previously, it is proposed that they be treated as a priority.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The proposed Engagement structure and projects will be managed and delivered within existing resources

5. RECOMMENDATION:

The committee is invited to agree:

- i. the recommendations detailed above;
- ii. the approval (for its interest) of the existing projects for Stephens Street and the Crown Road Retaining Wall;
- iii. the remaining Projects outlined in Paragraph 3 above, be developed and (subject to (iv) below) that they be reported back to the Committee for comment, prior to being presented to the TECS Committee with a recommendation to approve; and
- iv. the plans for engagement for the next phase of Streetscape Works.

Signature:

Designation: Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services

Signature:

Designation: Inverness City Manager

Date: 29th May 2009

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Background Papers: None