

## PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

## Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee

9 November 2016

## Perth City Centre Community Street Audits

## Report by Director (Environment)

This report provides information about the street audits that were carried out in the city centre of Perth. This collaboration approach, working with key partners, has provided an innovative insight into the problems being experienced by vulnerable pedestrians and identified issues affecting their ability to use the city centre.

**1. BACKGROUND****Aims and Partners**

- 1.1 In response to reports of issues affecting pedestrians with both visual and mobility disabilities walking in the city centre of Perth, Perth and Kinross Council contacted Living Streets (Scotland) for support to carry out audits of the city centre streets for access and walking.
- 1.2 The Traffic & Road Network team aims to ensure that, where possible, the city centre is accessible, safe and welcoming to pedestrians of all ages and abilities, and that city centre streets allow residents, workers and visitors alike to enjoy the city centre on foot.
- 1.3 As a result, a partnership project was developed with Living Streets (Scotland), Perth and Kinross Council and the Centre for Inclusive Living Perth and Kinross (CILPK), with input from Vision PK. In addition, participation was also sought from additional stakeholders both within the Council and externally. This included input from the City Centre Team, as well as the NHS Tayside Falls Service Manager.
- 1.4 The walkability of a place can be understood by considering 5 Cs: that walking facilities are **Connected; Convenient; Convivial; Comfortable; Conspicuous**.

**Connected** – Do good pedestrian routes connect the places people want to go?

**Convenient** – Are routes direct, crossings in the right place, and easy to use?

**Convivial** – Are routes attractive, well-lit and safe, and is there variety along the street?

**Comfortable** – What is the quality and width of the footway, and what obstructions are there?

**Conspicuous** – How easy is it to find and follow a route? Are there surface treatments and signs to guide pedestrians?

- 1.5 The audits were carried out based on the 5 Cs. When assessing the quality of walking facilities against these criteria, it is important to consider factors that affect a broad range of pedestrians. This includes able bodied pedestrians, wheelchair users, motorised scooters and pedestrians with crutches or canes. Pedestrians in this group require adequate space to manoeuvre when walking, and have additional needs with regards to accessing pavements and other facilities provided at a different grade to the carriageway.
- 1.6 The aims of the project were to:
- Identify access, safety and other issues affecting pedestrians of all ages and abilities, and particularly pedestrians with disabilities making journeys on foot to, and within, the city centre.
  - Seek agreement from participating stakeholders on the priorities for improvement and inform key stakeholders decision making, as well as support forward planning for the city centre.

### **Audits**

- 1.7 Following discussion with the partners, 5 “audit routes” were identified which were to form the focus of the project:
- Audit 1 – Pedestrian zone, High Street, St John’s and City Hall
  - Audit 2 – South Street, Charterhouse Lane and Canal Street
  - Audit 3 – Kinnoull Street and Scott Street
  - Audit 4 – Mill Street, Bridge Lane and George Street
  - Audit 5 – Perth Rail Station and Bus Station to High Street
- 1.8 A summary report of the Walkable and Accessible Perth City Centre Community Street Audits is attached in Appendix 1.
- 1.9 A number of issues were identified during the various street audits and recommendations were produced from the information gathered. The interested stakeholders assessed the findings of the report and a list of priorities has been identified. This is shown in Appendix 2.
- 1.10 Copies of the full report Accessibility and Walkability – Perth City Centre are available in the Members’ Lounge.

## **2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.1. A list of priorities has been created following consultation with the various stakeholders. It is proposed to begin to work through the recommendations identified in the report and shown in the list of priorities.

- 2.2 The priorities identified will be carried out as funding allows and £10,000 has been allocated from the Cycling Waking Safer Streets (CWSS) budget for 2016/17. This will allow a start to be made to improving the overall “Walkability” of Perth City Centre. The prioritisation will be done in consultation with the Centre for Inclusive Living Perth and Kinross, and Living Streets.
- 2.3 It is intended to continue to address the priorities identified in the report in the coming years as funding allows. Opportunities will also be taken to improve the infrastructure when works in the city centre are undertaken.
- 2.4 The Traffic and Network team will continue to work closely with CILPK and Living Streets (Scotland) to identify and address issues for access and walking in the City of Perth as well as other burghs in the Perth and Kinross area.

### 3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to note the audits carried out in the city of Perth and approve the list of priorities identified from these audits.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Committee:
- (i) notes the contents of the report on walkable and accessible Perth City Centre Community Street Audits as shown in Appendix 1.
  - (ii) approves the list of priorities shown in Appendix 2.
  - (iii) approves the continuation of the street audits in the city of Perth and other burghs in the Perth and Kinross area.

#### Author

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#### Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Barbara Renton	Director (Environment)	4 October 2016

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	<b>Yes</b>
Corporate Plan	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	<b>None</b>
Workforce	<b>None</b>
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	<b>None</b>
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	<b>Yes</b>
Strategic Environmental Assessment	<b>Yes</b>
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	<b>Yes</b>
Legal and Governance	<b>Yes</b>
Risk	<b>None</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	<b>Yes</b>
External	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	<b>Yes</b>

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partnership (CPP) brings together organisations to plan and deliver services for the people of Perth and Kinross. Together the CPP has developed the Perth and Kinross Community Plan which outlines the key things we think are important for Perth and Kinross.
- i) Giving every child the best start in life
  - ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
  - iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
  - iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
  - v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations
- 1.2 It is considered that the actions contained within this report contribute to all of the above objectives.

## Corporate Plan

- 1.3 The Council's Corporate Plan 2013-2018 outlines the same five objectives as those detailed above in the Community Plan. These objectives provide a clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resource allocation. It is considered that the actions contained in the report contribute to the objectives as outlined in paragraph 1.2 above. These objectives are met by implementing schemes which promote road safety and encourage healthy sustainable travel.

## **2. Resource Implications**

### Capital

- 2.1 In Report 16/244 Cycling Walking Safer Streets (CWSS) Projects 2016/17 £10,000 was allocated for the provision of minor measures to improve the city centre for pedestrians with visual and mobility impairment.
- 2.2 It would be proposed to identify similar budgets in the coming years to address the priorities identified during the city centre audit process, and further audits in other Perth and Kinross burghs. The identified measures and budget requirements will be reported to Committee as part of the annual CWSS Projects report.

### Revenue

- 2.3 There are no revenue resource implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.
- 2.4 On-going maintenance costs estimated at £500 per annum will be prioritised within the Roads Maintenance Budget from 2017/18.

### Workforce

- 2.5 There are no workforce implications arising from this report.

### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.6 There are no land and property, or information technology implications arising from the contents of this report.

## **3. Assessments**

### Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

3.2 This section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

(i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

#### Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a legal requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that applies to all qualifying plans, programmes and strategies, including policies (PPS). The proposals have been considered under the Act and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

#### Sustainability

3.4 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.

3.5 The proposals contained within the report are assessed to have a positive impact on sustainability, particularly with regard to encouraging sustainable modes of travel.

#### Legal and Governance

3.6 The Order will be promoted in accordance with The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 1999.

#### Risk

3.7 There are no significant risks associated with the implementation of this project.

### **4. Consultation**

4.1 The Head of Legal and Governance, the Head of Democratic Services and the Head of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

4.2 Living Streets (Scotland), Centre for Inclusive Living Perth and Kinross (CILPK), Vision PK and NHS Tayside have been consulted and support the proposals.

### **5. Communication**

5.1 Copies of the full report will be provided for the interested parties who took part in the project.

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

## **3. APPENDICES**

- 3.1 The Summary Report and the list of identified priorities are as shown in Appendices 1 and 2.

