

Work begins soon on Leith Connections

Work will begin soon on a scheme which the council says will create safer, more welcoming places to walk, wheel, cycle and spend time in Leith.

The first phase of Leith Connections will introduce measures to limit through traffic and improve streets for pedestrians and people cycling in areas around Constitution Street, Leith Links and the Shore.

Construction will begin on 10 April and is expected to take until late June. The changes will include improved pedestrian crossings, planting and seating in newly created pedestrian spaces, community-inspired artwork and decluttering of pavements by removing excess street furniture.

There will also be new traffic layouts on several of the streets which will prioritise people travelling on foot, or wheeling or biking. These include the closure of Sandport Place Bridge to motor traffic, bus gates at the Shore and Links Place and modal filters to prevent through traffic in some areas. All residential and business properties will still be accessible by motor vehicle, while blue badge parking will be unaffected. Full details are available on the Leith Connections [website](#).

Leith Connections designs draw from two years of engagement with the community and local stakeholders, encompassing online co-design workshops, public drop-in sessions and focused

meetings. Some of the measures, those to the east of the Shore, will be implemented on a trial basis under an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO).

The project is being funded through Places for Everyone, an active travel infrastructure programme funded by the Scottish Government and administered by Sustrans.



Burgess Street (before)



Burgess Street (after)

Cllr Scott Arthur, Transport and Environment Convener, said: “Leith Connections is a really exciting opportunity to create safer, more welcoming spaces to walk, wheel and cycle in Leith, as well as for spending time with friends or visiting local businesses.

“These changes have drawn on feedback from the community, as well as the Council’s own monitoring. They will also provide better connections to popular walking and cycling routes nearby, like the north Edinburgh path network and the Water of Leith walkway and soon, protected cycle lanes on Leith Walk, delivered as part of the Trams to Newhaven project.

“The team has drawn up a robust monitoring and evaluation plan so that once it’s in place, they can understand the benefits and impacts of Leith Connections. I look forward to hearing what the community thinks too, as part of the ETR0 process. I shall be watching this installation closely as I am keen to see more schemes like this in Edinburgh.”

Michael Melton, Grant Manager at Sustrans, said: “We are

pleased to be working with City of Edinburgh Council to make Leith a safer and more accessible place to walk, wheel, cycle and spend time. The Leith Connections project has been shaped by the local community, with changes including new traffic layouts, improved pedestrian crossings and community-inspired artwork.”

Officers are to closely monitor the impact of the project through automatic traffic counts, air quality monitoring, market research and focus groups. Information gathered will feed into recommendations for the future of the project.

Further phases of Leith Connections will deliver protected cycle lanes running from the Foot of the Walk to Ocean Terminal (delivered in parallel to the Trams to Newhaven project) and from the Hawthornvale path to Seafield. These plans are still under development and will include additional improvements to the public spaces in the area.

[Leith Connections](#)



John's Place (after)