

North West Locality Committee

6.30pm, Tuesday, 11 September 2018

Queensferry Road Roadworks (Scottish Power and Care Home)

Item number	8.5
Report number	
Executive/routine	Routine
Wards	1, 3, 5
Council Commitments	

Executive Summary

This report describes the detailed planning and programming undertaken to facilitate the following roadworks and offers a summary of the site operations.

Scottish Power Transformer Cabling Project

In June and July of this year Scottish Power carried out works on Quality Street, Queensferry Road and Clermiston Road North. These works are part of the major upgrading project which is underway in the Barnton/ Drumbrae/ Saughton Road North areas. New high voltage cables are required to upgrade the existing power infrastructure in the area. The above works are essential to facilitate the replacement of existing primary transformers which are now at the end of their working life.

Queensferry Road Care Home Utility Service Connections

In July 2018 McLaughlin & Harvey attempted to carry out four utility service connections for the new care home currently under construction at 565 Queensferry Road. Three of the planned connections were not completed during the agreed two-week occupation.

Queensferry Road Roadworks (Scottish Power and Care Home)

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
 - 1.1.1 Notes the content of the report including the detailed planning undertaken by officers of the North West Locality team.
 - 1.1.2 Notes the works completed to date and completion works required
 - 1.1.3 Notes the detailed planning and commitments sought in advance of any further completion works

2. Background

Scottish Power Transformer Cabling Project Planning:

- 2.1 In January 2017 Scottish Power and their contractor (Clancy Docwra) approached the Council to discuss the installation of ducts on Queensferry Road as part of the strategic North Edinburgh power infrastructure project. In the course of planning and programming these works the North West Locality team had several meetings with Scottish Power, Lothian Buses, Stagecoach, and colleagues from our Transport City Wide networks team.
- 2.1 The project proposals were presented to the June 2018 City Wide Traffic Management Group Meeting. At this meeting the project was put on hold for one year due to conflicting works on the A8 corridor at Roseburn Terrace, Haymarket.
- 2.2 Scottish Power, the North West Locality team and other stakeholders met in Spring 2018 to plan and programme the works for the summer holiday period. The proposed start date was Monday 18th June 2018 with the following arrangement:
 - 2.2.1 Two teams would operate independently on Clermiston Road North and Quality Street working towards Queensferry Road.
 - 2.2.2 At the start of the School Summer holidays the Utility would then move on to Queensferry Road to complete the installation of the ducts between the two sites.
 - 2.2.3 The cable installation and completion of any remaining works would be carried out during the October Mid-term break, if required.
 - 2.2.4 Scottish Power and their contractor agreed to work long shifts (up to 12 hours) to maximise productivity during the occupation of Queensferry Road and take advantage of the light nights.

- 2.2.5 Scottish Power and their contractor agreed to carry out a letter drop to residents affected by the works, issue a press release, erect advanced warning signs and contact Traffic Scotland to make use of Variable message Signs on the Trunk Road network.
- 2.2.6 This new proposal was taken to the May 2018 City Wide Traffic Management Working Group (CWTMG) meeting for approval – this was granted following a detailed discussion with Lothian Buses, Police Scotland and Transport officers.

Queensferry Road Care Home – Utility Connections Project Planning

- 2.3 In April 2018 Clancy Traffic Management (on behalf of McLaughlin & Harvey the contractor constructing the home) contacted the North West Locality team to discuss utility connections required for the new care home at 565 Queensferry Road.
- 2.4 The applicant for the occupation confirmed that a two-week lane closure would be required to make four separate utility connections (power, gas, water, telecoms).
- 2.5 During this occupation the applicant (McLaughlin & Harvey) agreed to work longer shifts to make use of the available time period and lessen the impact on commuters.
- 2.6 These proposals were also taken to the May 2018 CWTMG meeting for consideration. The group felt that by carrying out both sets of works at the same time the overall impact on the strategic route would be lessened by reducing the overall period of disruption.
- 2.7 These works were also programmed to occur during the Edinburgh and Fife School Summer holidays.
- 2.8 Alternative routes during this period were to be protected from significant or conflicting roadworks.

3. Main report

Scottish Power Transformer Cabling Project - Works Phase

- 3.1 Scottish Power's contractor installed the necessary traffic management for the Phase 1 works on Clermiston Road North (Full closure) and Quality Street (northbound closure) on 16 & 17 June 2018 as agreed

- 3.2 Work began on Monday 18 June, however, due to an issue on the Clermiston Road North site the contractor suspended the Quality Street site to allow Council Edinburgh Roads Services vehicles a turning facility on the A90. This was not discussed with the Locality team and the site was reinstated on Thursday 21 June 2018. Due to this unannounced suspension the majority of production was lost during the first week of the occupation at the Quality Street.
- 3.3 On Sunday 1 July it was expected that Scottish Power would reopen Quality Street and commence works in the centre of Queensferry Road. As a function of incomplete work Quality Street remained closed for an extended period until the reinstatement was completed.
- 3.4 On Monday 2 July 2018 the new Queensferry Road central island occupation was partly introduced to maintain the mainline A90 programme. Despite the prior agreement Scottish Power did not contact Traffic Scotland to make use of the Trunk Road Variable Message Signs (VMS) system on the M90 and A90.
- 3.5 As planned during this stage of the mainline works the Network Management team adjusted signal timings to prioritise tidal traffic flows on the A90.
- 3.6 Early on Thursday 5 July 2018 Scottish Power completed the works on Quality Street and the mainline central traffic management arrangement was fully installed. Quality Street reopened and Clermiston Road North remained closed to maximise through traffic flows.
- 3.7 Unfortunately, on the morning of Saturday 7 July 2018 the contractor hit a gas main that required the road to be closed due to the extent of gas escape and adjacent sources of ignition.
- 3.8 Scottish Power finally completed the Quality Street to Clermiston Road North section of the duct installation. Clancy Docwra completed their works prior to the Festival Embargo and vacated the site on Saturday 28 July. They did not complete the westbound spur from Clermiston Road North to the bus stop or the cable installation.
- 3.9 Despite an agreement that Scottish Power's contractor would work longer shifts to take advantage of the lighter days during the occupation it was evident this commitment was not realised, despite frequent representation from the North West Locality team.
- 3.10 During the Clermiston Road North closure the Locality team also resurfaced the majority of the road. These works were planned to take advantage of the road closure under existing traffic management arrangements to avoid further traffic congestion.

Care Home Utility Connections - Works Phase

- 3.11 The traffic management contractor appointed for the Care Home project installed the planned occupation adjacent to the site after morning peak on Monday 16th July. To alleviate traffic flows heading to Drum Brae North, Clermiston Road North was reopened in a southbound direction. The available traffic signal green time on Whitehouse Road was reduced to maintain traffic flows on Queensferry Road.

- 3.12 The following service connections were made/attempted:
- 3.12.1 Gas – SGN completed the connection in advance of the programme.
 - 3.12.2 Water – Scottish Water completed a site temporary connection.
 - 3.12.3 Electricity - Scottish Power did not make the necessary connection as the appropriate cable location was identified at the Drum Brae North junction.
 - 3.12.4 Telecoms – BT were due to construct a joint chamber near the Drum Brae North junction. This was not possible and the connection was required on Barntongate Avenue.

Stakeholder Consultation

- 3.13 In advance and during the recent work regular updates have been offered to local Councillors, Community Councils and key stakeholders.
- 3.14 Updates were offered to Elected Members from Wards 1,3,5 and 6 and adjacent Community Councils, including traffic management plans and projected programmes.

Outstanding Works

Scottish Power Transformer Cabling Project

- 3.15 Scottish Power propose to carry out the remaining cabling and duct laying in one simultaneous operation. During this stage of the completion works it will necessary to close Clermiston Road North to Northbound traffic. Appropriate detailed information to confirm the exact traffic management, programme and resource commitment is yet to be received.
- 3.16 Stage 1 - Scottish Power propose to start at 19:00 on Friday 12 October 2018 and working right through to 06:00 Tuesday 23 October.
- 3.17 Stage 2 - Cable pulling will take approximately six days (two days to excavate, two to pull, two to reinstate).
- 3.18 For both stages of work Scottish Power have agreed to work 12 hour shifts where noise regulations allow. The Utility has also agreed to improve public and stakeholder communications including an apology for the recent traffic congestion caused as a direct result of their works.

Care Home Utility Service Connections

- 3.19 To complete the service connections on Queensferry Road (Scottish Power, BT and Scottish Water), it will necessary to close Drum Brae North to Northbound traffic.
- 3.20 The first phase of the works is planned to commence at 19:00 hrs on Friday the 28 September through to 06:00 hrs on Monday 1 October 2018. During this phase it will be necessary to occupy two lanes on Queensferry Road, limiting traffic to one lane in each direction. This is required to allow Scottish Power to complete the necessary power connection. During this period the contractor has confirmed 24/7 resources.

- 3.21 The second phase of the works will commence on the morning of Monday 1 October 2018, during this period one lane will be available on Queensferry Road Westbound and two lanes will be provided on the Citybound lanes. Should the works run into technical difficulties a contingency plan to plate the excavation has been agreed.
- 3.22 A full submission of Traffic Management drawings, written assurances from Scottish Power and relevant sub-contractors working on behalf of the Applicant will be required before any approval is offered (final approvals meeting planned for Wednesday 12 September 2018).
- 3.23 Both projects were agreed in principle at the City-Wide Traffic Management Group meeting held on Tuesday 7 August 2018 subject to satisfactory submission of committed planning, programming and resource documents.
- 3.24 These complex roadworks have reinforced the need to improve utility co-ordination and management in the following areas:
- 3.24.1 Advance planning and detailed programming
 - 3.24.2 Advanced signage and communications with road users
 - 3.24.3 Adequate local Transport resource to monitor and manage Utility operations
 - 3.24.4 Appropriate Utility resource deployment to ensure commitments made are delivered
- 3.25 These lessons have been taken on board for the remaining works scheduled for September and October.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Improved commitment and planning from Utility companies and contractors working on the road network will reduce the impact on road users on strategic and local routes.
- 4.2 Increased supervision and management to ensure Utility companies and developers are appropriately monitored and work to agreed traffic management strategy, communicate with all stakeholders on progress or delays due to engineering difficulty encountered, and ensure works are resourced adequately to meet programme deadlines.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 There is no additional financial cost in the ongoing co-ordination, planning and programming of Utility and contractors works.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 Utility infrastructure works on strategic routes will always have an impact on road users. The Authority is likely to experience significant reputational damage if works are seen to be delayed or appropriate resources are not visibly committed to site operations.
- 6.2 All Utility companies are duty bound to mitigate the impact of their works under the terms of the Transport Scotland Act 2010.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 Consideration has been given to the relevance of the Equalities Act 2010 and there will be no negative impact on those covered by the Protected Characteristics.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 The successful management and delivery of roadworks on strategic routes in the City will have a positive impact on detrimental vehicle emissions, road safety, public transport journey times and active travel.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Utility companies and contractors are obliged to inform road users and stakeholders as appropriate.
- 9.2 In advance of these works member briefings were sent to local Elected Members, Community Councils and key stakeholders.
- 9.3 The City-Wide Traffic Management Group engages with many key transport related stakeholders and providers when making decisions on strategic routes. The purpose of this review group is to consider and scrutinise all appropriate planned roadworks on strategic routes.

10. Background reading/external references

None.

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11. Appendices

None