



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Colin Keir MSP
Edinburgh Western Constituency

Councillor Lesley Hinds
Convenor Transport & Environment Committee
The City of Edinburgh Council
High Street
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Dear Lesley

As you will be aware, the Local Development Plan (LDP2) will be determined by the City of Edinburgh Council Planning Committee on the 26th February 2015.

With longer standing proposals for development such as the International Business Gateway looking like they will be given the go ahead, local residents in the western suburbs and towns are rightly concerned over traffic management and rising levels of pollution. This is particularly felt within the communities around the Queensferry Road and Corstorphine Road corridors as well as South Queensferry.

In your capacity as Convenor of the City of Edinburgh Council Transport and Environment Committee I would like to ask what CEC have planned for these areas in the medium and longer term.

It is clear that planning proposals for the general area as they sit just now look as if future development is not sustainable without a transparent vision for improvement of movement of traffic including public transport. The transport assessments that I have seen are obviously not credible and would not do anything but exacerbate what is currently a desperate situation.

The effect of gridlock at the Barnton and Maybury junctions is at critical point, particularly at peak times. East Craigs, West Craigs and Cammo residents are particularly badly hit.

There is also the issue of access to the Barnton junction at Whitehouse Road which is used heavily at peak times as well as drivers using Gamekeepers Road and Davidsons Mains as rat runs to Barnton. There are the on-going pressures of the Blackhall junction which as a local councillor you will be well aware of.

It is clear that Maybury junction along with the roundabout at the northern end of the city bypass adjacent to the tram depot will not be able to take much more before permanent gridlock will be apparent at peak times.

My constituents and I have serious concerns over the traffic management at South Queensferry; particularly should the LDP2 proposals allow development at Builyeon Road.

I'm sure that as Convener of Transport you will be aware of the overflow of traffic into South Queensferry when there are problems on the Forth Bridge approaches or surrounding roads into the town making the area appear to be a large car park.

There are serious concerns over the levels of air pollution on Queensferry Road and St Johns Road which are among the worst air contaminated roads in the whole of the UK.

Air quality has been measured on these two roads for some time now. There have been various initiatives such as state of the art engines being fitted to Lothian Buses vehicles that travel along these corridors. I would therefore appreciate your views on what extra actions you will be proposing in the medium and long term given that efforts so far have not brought air pollution levels down to acceptable levels.

In light of any new developments in the west of the city being passed in future, I would be keen to know what assessment has been made on the air quality of these roads and how you intend to tackle the problem.

The city of Edinburgh is an economic driver for Scotland. We know that every town and city must grow. The difficulty our city has is that there is no connected vision between development and methods of sustainable transport that anyone is aware of in relation to the west of the city.

With two of the three main western road arteries going through Edinburgh Western constituency and the unprecedented concern there has been from local residents and groups in the western suburbs and towns, I would like to ask you to consider each of the points I have raised.

If there is no clear vision moving forward addressing the problems I have raised on behalf of my constituents in the west of the city then I fear traffic gridlock, major health issues and the holding back of the economic potential of our capital city and nation.

Given these issues are within the locus of your remit within the City of Edinburgh Council local authority area I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Keir MSP