

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 19 March 2013

George Street: Festival Traffic Management

Item number	8.11
Report number	
Wards	11 – City Centre

Links

Coalition pledges	P24 and P31
Council outcomes	CO20
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1

Mark Turley

Director of Services for Communities

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Executive summary

George Street: Festival Traffic Management

Summary

In August 2012 George Street was closed to all traffic, under a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO), between Hanover Street and Frederick Street. This was to facilitate event space for the Spiegelterrace.

Although Lothian Buses were negatively impacted with delays to service. No other significant traffic management or safety issues occurred as a result of the George Street closure, 2012.

There is an application to hold an event on George Street this year between Hanover Street and Frederick Street requiring the closure of this section of road. This report seeks approval to pursue the necessary TTRO.

There are other event proposals being developed for George Street during August 2013.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee:

1. authorises officers to pursue a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order, closing George Street to traffic between Hanover Street and Frederick Street during August 2013.
2. refers this report to both the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee and Economy Committees for noting.

Measures of success

No significant traffic management or safety issues occur as a result of the TTRO.

George Street increases the 'festival destination' appeal of the New Town and attracts increased visitor numbers.

Financial impact

The costs associated with promoting the TTRO, traffic management costs and the loss of parking income will be met by the event organiser requiring the TTRO.

Equalities impact

The proposed road closure will help meet our duties to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations by providing an accessible event space for all to enjoy.

If Officers are tasked to pursue a TTRO, a full Equality and Rights Impact Assessment will be carried out to ensure that any potential negative impacts, for example the removal of disabled parking, will be considered and actions taken to mitigate against these.

Sustainability impact

The proposed TTRO will help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh by encouraging economic opportunity. In addition, the closure of this section of road to traffic will create a more welcoming and attractive environment for activities it will also contribute to better air quality.

Consultation and engagement

The TTRO will be considered by the City Wide Traffic Management Group whose members include the emergency services.

Background reading/external references

None

George Street: Festival Traffic Management

1. Background

- 1.1 In August 2012 George Street was closed to all traffic, under a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO), between Hanover Street and Frederick Street. This was to facilitate event space for the Spiegelterrace.
- 1.2 There is an application to hold an event on George Street this year between Hanover Street and Frederick Street, requiring the closure of this section of road.
- 1.3 To facilitate this closure a TTRO is required.
- 1.4 Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs) are required when roads or footways are temporarily closed, or when parking controls or speed limits are introduced. TTROs are for limited periods of time and do not require a consultation period.

2. Main report

- 2.1 The requirement to close George Street in 2012 was considered by the Events Planning Operations Group (EPOG). The EPOG referred traffic management issues to the City Centre/Leith Neighbourhood team. This put forward traffic management arrangements to the City Wide Traffic Management Group.
- 2.2 An EPOG was held on 12 February 2013 to consider the impact current proposals would have on businesses, traffic management, and public safety. Business and event representatives highlighted a range of views held by traders.
- 2.3 The City Wide Traffic Management Group met on 27 February 2013 and considered the closure of George Street between Hanover and Frederick Street during August 2013. Lothian Buses have no issues with the proposal on the condition that the West End bus gate is opened as anticipated. No other issues were raised.
- 2.4 Traffic modelling is being carried out to assess the impact with current traffic arrangements in the City centre.

2.5 To facilitate the street closure and ensure appropriate traffic management arrangements are put in place a TTRO is required to:

- Close George Street both sides between its junction with Frederick Street and No 63 and between its junction with Hanover Street and No 37.
- Erect road closure information signs on George Street, Hanover Street and Frederick Street.
- Erect advanced warning signs on George Street.

2.5 If other proposals are developed into deliverable event applications, traffic management arrangements will be brought to this committee.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee:

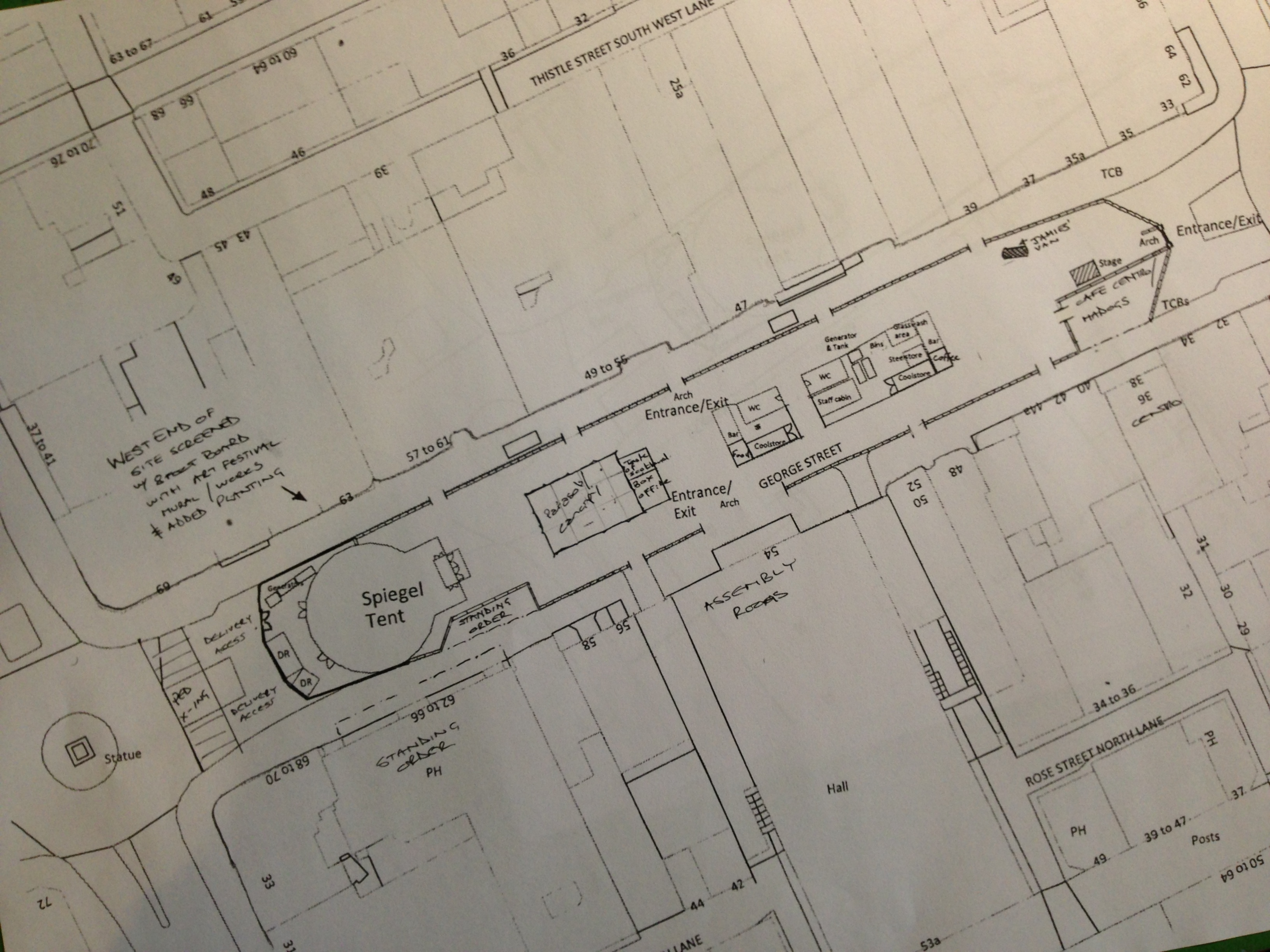
- 3.1 authorises officers to pursue a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order, closing George Street to traffic between Hanover Street and Frederick Street during August 2013.
- 3.2 refers this report to both the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee and Economy Committees for noting.

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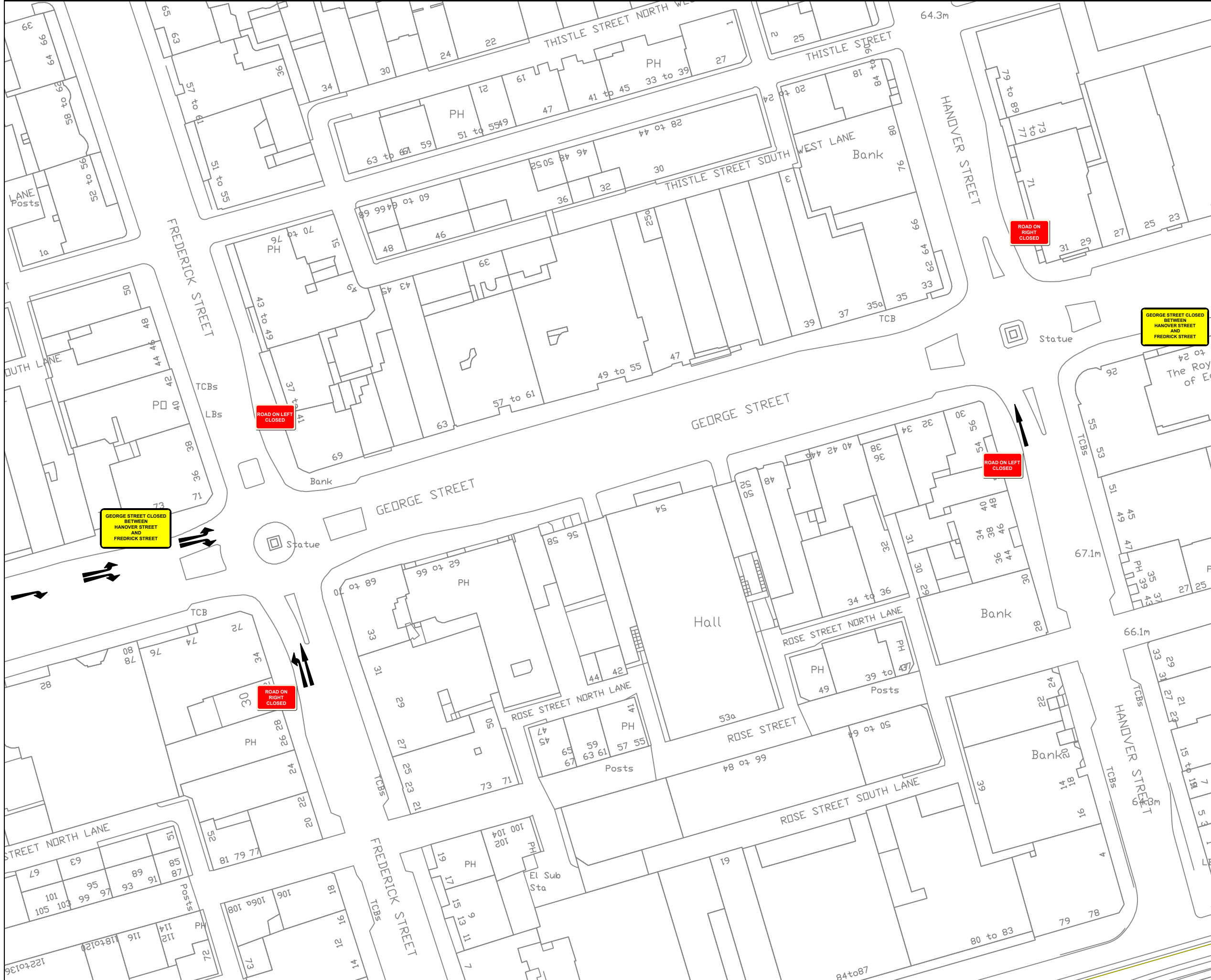
Director of Services for Communities

Links

Coalition pledges	P24 - Maintain and embrace support for our world-famous festivals and events P31 - Maintain our City's reputation as the cultural capital of the world by continuing to support and invest in our cultural infrastructure
Council outcomes	CO20 - Culture, sport and major events – Edinburgh continues to be a leading cultural city where culture and sport play a central part in the lives and futures of citizens
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1 - Edinburgh's Economy Delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all
Appendices	1 Spiegelterrace draft Site Plan 2013 2 George Street closure marking and signs - Layout 2012



Road Markings during the Road Closure.



REVISION	DETAILS	BY	DATE	CHECKED



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Edinburgh EH11 2Y1
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ROADS SERVICES
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Revised Road Markings

Date: 24-07-12	Job No: 70121065	Drawn by: Marcus O'Mara
Scale: 1		Checked by: Scott Findlay