

# Transport and Environment Committee

1000hrs, Tuesday, 15 March 2016

## Car Free Sunday 2016

Item number	7.10
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	

### Executive summary

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Authorisation is sought to hold a Car Free Sunday event in Edinburgh, on 25 September 2016. This will encompass the closure of four residential streets to traffic selected by Localities and events held on the road space made available to benefit residents and visitors.

### Links

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Coalition pledges	<a href="#">P50</a>
Council outcomes	<a href="#">CO18</a> , <a href="#">CO22</a> , <a href="#">CO26</a>
Single Outcome Agreement	<a href="#">SO2</a>

## Car Free Sunday 2016

### Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
  - 1.1.1 authorises the Executive Director of Place to proceed with arrangements for Car Free Sunday event on 25 September 2016; and
  - 1.1.2 authorises the Director of Place to arrange events on the spaces created by the closure of streets selected in Localities, with the assistance of an external contractor.

### Background

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- 2.1 A Car Free Day event encourages motorists to give up using their cars for a day. Car Free Days events have been held since 1973, but become more organised since the International Accessible Cities Conference in 1994. Since 2000, 22 September has been set as European Car Free Day.
- 2.2 The City of Edinburgh Council has organised Car Free Days in the past, involving the closure of George Street. The Greener Leith organisation arranged the closure of part of The Shore in 2009. The Portobello Transition Town organisation arranged a Car Free Day/Bike Full Day on 1 September 2013.
- 2.3 More recently, Neighbourhoods have tried to encourage play on streets, by closing streets on an ad hoc basis, for example in the Craigroyston area.
- 2.4 It is now felt that a more organised approach to a car free event is desirable, on a weekend as close as possible to European Car Free Day. At a weekend, residents and visitors of Edinburgh will have more time to enjoy the benefits of the activities to be arranged as part of event.

### Main report

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- 3.1 Authorisation is being sought for holding a Car Free Sunday in Edinburgh on 25 September 2016. This will involve closing streets to through traffic between 1000 and 1700hrs. It is intended that four residential streets in the City of Edinburgh Council area, one in each of the Localities, will be closed on a temporary basis.

- 3.2 Each Locality will identify and select a road within its area for inclusion in the Car Free Sunday event. The process of selection will involve the Localities consulting stakeholders, such as Community Councils and local bodies, to obtain information on the roads that local residents wish to close and the alternative use of the space they would like, such as play streets.
- 3.3 Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders will be required, to permit the temporary closure of the roads for the Car Free Sunday event.
- 3.4 Some events organised for the closed streets, such as markets, are likely to require the Council's Licensing team to consider applications for the appropriate types of licence. This will incur the payment of licensing fees.
- 3.5 Advance publicity will be provided, to advise road users and bus passengers of the finalised road closures and any temporary changes to bus routes required to accommodate the event.
- 3.6 The event arranger selected for Car Free Sunday events in the Localities will be required to collect qualitative feedback from visitors.
- 3.7 A report on the outcome of the Car Free Sunday 2016, including consideration of the potential for future events, will be submitted to Committee during January 2017.

## **Measures of success**

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- 4.1 Success of the event will be the use of four streets in Localities for events to benefit local communities, rather than carry road traffic.

## **Financial impact**

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- 5.1 The cost of the Car Free Sunday community based events in Localities is anticipated to be met from the Planning and Transport budget in 2016-2017.

## **Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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- 6.1 Holding a Car Free Sunday would be consistent with the Council's Local Transport Strategy 2014-2019. There is a risk that closing residential streets on a Sunday could generate objections from some members of the public.

## **Equalities impact**

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- 7.1 To mitigate the impact of Car Free Sunday 2016 on people with impaired mobility there will be advance publicity of the events. The period of the closure will be limited between 1000 and 1700 hrs. This will allow access before and after the events.

## Sustainability impact

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- 8.1 A Sustainability, Adaptation and Mitigation (SAM) assessment has been carried out. The limited nature of the event is not anticipated to have an immediate overall effect on these areas. Any longer term changes in car use behaviour will reduce the impact of road traffic on air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

## Consultation and engagement

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- 9.1 Localities will consult with stakeholders on the location of roads to be closed and the type of activities to benefit from the freed up road space.

## Background reading/external references

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None.

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### Links

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<b>Coalition pledges</b>	<b>P50</b> - Meet greenhouse gas targets, including the national target of 42% by 2020.
<b>Council outcomes</b>	<b>CO18</b> - Green – We reduce the local environmental impact of our consumption and production. <b>CO22</b> - Moving efficiently – Edinburgh has a transport system that improves connectivity and is green, healthy and accessible. <b>CO26</b> - The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives.
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	<b>SO2</b> - Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health.
<b>Appendices</b>	None.