**Item 2**

**3rd October 2023**

**Glasgow City Council**

**Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee**

**Report by George Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability**

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# Street Play 2024

**Purpose of Report:**

To update Committee on the proposal for Street Play in 2024

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that Committee note the content of the report.

Ward No(s): Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐ consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

***PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING**:*

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## 1 Background

1.1 Historically there has been a desire to support community opportunities by temporarily closing roads whilst at the same time implementing the overarching strategy to reduce car use across the City.

1.2 Street Play was introduced a number of years ago as 'Playing Out'. The concept was introduced to encourage regular removal of cars from local areas/roads and free them up for community/resident play. It has had varying success since its inception; more recently this is likely due to a combination of the impact of COVID-19 and the reduction in publicity and promotion. It was a citywide activity and very much focused on play rather than events. Events are subject to significant regulatory restrictions and not aligned to a simple but effective change of use from road to a play area.

1.3 There is no legal or widely accepted definition of 'street play' but for the purposes of this initiative it refers to activities that reflect 'play' and do not require any form of licence or separate permission.

1.4 The City Centre Transport Plan, which was approved on 1 December 2022, contains reference to the "City Centre People First Zone" (PFZ). This is a proposal around a high quality public realm area where people are able to easily and safely walk and wheel around. It should ensure people feel they have priority and vehicles are the guests. Street Play is an initiative that supports this plan.

## 2.0 Current Street Play Process

2.1 There are currently 2 designated weekends for Street Play each year. These usually fall on the May and September bank holiday weekends. NRS events administer Street Play and process the associated applications.

2.2 Applicants can apply for a closure for the period between 10am to 4pm each day, or shorter if required. Applications which incorporate commercial activity and/or require a licence of any sort are not permissible under the guidelines.

2.3 Applicants wishing to apply for a road closure will be directed to the council website to download and complete the simplified closure request form: https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/streetplay

2.4 Once completed and returned to the council it will be processed by NRS' Events team. The applicant will be advised of approval or rejection and the reason for rejection. Insurance will have to be covered initially by the applicant but they are then reimbursed by Glasgow Life. Glasgow Life administer the insurance reimbursement process up to the value of £147.

## 3.0 Proposals

3.1 It is proposed that in 2024 the number of Street Play weekends increases to 4 across the year. Glasgow Life has confirmed that they will continue to support the initiative and the process of reimbursing the insurance costs. Once an assessment is made of the popularity and support for this enhanced number of weekends, an increase to this could be explored for future years. There is also scope to consider extending Street Play to encompass car free zones around schools. Consideration will also be given to identify opportunities for schools and school communities to apply for Street Play activities to support behaviour change in the local community.

3.2 A communication plan that supports the awareness and promotes the uptake of Street Play will be devised and implemented. The revised plan will involve social media content, website updates, press releases and pro-active engagement with previous applicants.

3.3 A short survey will be issued to previous participants to try to identify what improvements could be made to increase uptake, this will include suggestions on the dates of the weekends and to capture suggestions for an improved application process.

## 4.0 Challenges

- There is an increased likelihood of repeat applicants with the consequential impact to local communities potentially resulting in negative reactions/complaints.
- There is a risk that the road closure is used for events rather than play. The application form is specific in the conditions attached to Street Play but, in reality, the details of the road use may only come to light after the weekend.
- In addition, potential impacts to existing permissions for outdoor areas and citywide events will require to be assessed.

## 5.0 Next Steps

5.1 The survey to previous participants will be issued early October 2023. Thereafter, confirmation of the Street Play weekend dates will be shared via a launch of the initiative in January 2024.

## 6 Policy and Resource Implications

**Resource Implications:**

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| *Financial:* | There is no budget allocated for Street Play. In 2022, this resulted in a cost to NRS of £7,500 and to Glasgow Life of £840. Should we implement a higher profile approach to the strategy the consequential financial impact |

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| | could be significant. |
| *Legal:* | N/A |
| *Personnel:* | An increase in the number of weekends and subsequent applications would require additional resource |
| *Procurement:* | N/A |
| **Council Strategic Plan:** | The plan supports the grand challenge: Fight Climate Emergency in a Just Transition to Net Zero. |

**Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

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| *Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.* | N/A |
| *What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?* | No significant impact. |
| *Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.* | N/A |

**Climate Impacts:**

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|---|---|
| *Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:* | The proposal supports the overall implementation of the city's Climate Plan, including its vision for a fairer, greener and healthier city. |
| *What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?* | The proposal seeks to address the climate and ecological emergency by encouraging communities to close roads to traffic and use these spaces for play. |
| *Will the proposal* | Yes, the proposal will contribute through a |

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| *contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?* | regular reduction in the use of vehicles in communities. |

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| **Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:** | |
| Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report Y/N - **N** | |
| If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out | |

## 7 Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee note the content of the report.