



**Glasgow City Council**

**Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee**

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

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**Item 3**

**29th April 2025**

## **FIREWORK CONTROL ZONE UPDATE 2025**

### **Purpose of Report:**

To update Committee on the review of the Firework Control Zone (FCZ) process in 2024 and on the plans in place for 2025.

### **Recommendations:**

That Committee note the content of the report.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ✓

consulted: Yes ☐ No ✓

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the Firework Control Zones (FCZ) legislation, its application in 2024 and the plans for 2025. Reference can also be made to the City Administration Committee paper which can be found here [Discretionary Power Firework Control Zones](#).
- 1.2 The Scottish Government passed two new pieces of legislation relating to the sale and use of fireworks.
- 1.3 The Fireworks (Scotland) Miscellaneous Amendment Regulations 2021 amended the Fireworks (Scotland) Act 2004 and was as a result of the Independent Review Group set up following initial consultation on fireworks.
- 1.4 The Scottish Government then ran a further consultation on the remaining recommendations, some of which also required primary legislation. This resulted in the formation of The Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Bill which became the Act, Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022
- 1.5 The Act brings in restrictions on the amount of fireworks that can be purchased by the public, the times when fireworks can be purchased and restrictions on times, dates and areas where the public can use fireworks.
- 1.6 The Act also set out the essential components of Firework Control Zones, including the offences committed within a zone, exceptions to the offences and the requirements of local authorities. On 22 June 2023, the Scottish Government issued Guidance on Firework Control Zones for Local Authorities.

## **2. Firework Control Zones**

- 2.1 The ability to designate, amend or revoke a FCZ is a discretionary power for local authorities.
- 2.2 A [report](#) was presented on 12 March 2024 to the Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods Committee on FCZs and associated detail on their designation. This report proposed that, should the Council wish to utilise the power, a proportionate and evidential-based approach is taken and that FCZs are in effect around the period of 5 November when the use of fireworks is most prevalent, and they can be purchased in shops.
- 2.3 Before designating a place as a FCZ or amending or revoking an existing FCZ, a local authority must prepare and publish a proposal in relation to the

designation, amendment or revocation of the zone. The local authority must also carry out a consultation on the proposal.

- 2.4 It is a criminal offence for a person to ignite a firework in a FCZ, knowingly or recklessly throw, cast or fire a lit firework into a FCZ. This includes on private property such as a garden.
- 2.5 The offence applies on all days that the zone has effect unless the designation specifies particular days on which the zone is to operate, in which case the zone applies on these days only.
- 2.6 Officers from Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability (NRS) have been overseeing the process which has facilitated the consideration and designation of Firework Control Zones in the City.

### **3. Review of Process in 2024**

- 3.1 A total of 19 FCZ applications were received in 2024. Two of these were not progressed as they were outwith Glasgow City Council's boundary. One was not progressed as it was a request to set off fireworks, which is not what the legislation is intended for.
- 3.2 A further application was not progressed on first review as it covered two local authority areas (Glasgow City Council and East Dunbartonshire Council). This was appealed in line with the guidance and, following an amendment to the boundary, at the request of the applicant, the application progressed to the consultation stage.
- 3.3 A total of 16 applications therefore progressed to the consultation stage. These were from the following areas:
  - Alexandra Park
  - Anniesland
  - Broomhouse
  - Cardonald
  - Dennistoun
  - Knightswood
  - Linn Park
  - Pollokshields (4 separate applications)
  - Shawlands
  - Shawlands & Strathbungo
  - Summerston

- Toryglen
- Woodlands & Park

#### **4. Panel**

- 4.1 A panel, chaired by a NRS Head of Service, comprised Police Scotland, The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Trading Standards, and the Performance and Information Management Unit. The panel reviewed reports from an online consultation conducted via SMART Survey, the Council's approved consultation platform, alongside firework-related crime statistics spanning three years.
- 4.2 Each application was assessed through discussion of the consultation findings, crime data, and intelligence from panel members. As a result, three of four applications for a Fireworks Control Zone (FCZ) in Pollokshields were approved in full, while the fourth was approved with a slight boundary reduction due to less compelling evidence. It was unanimously agreed that sufficient evidence supported establishing a FCZ in Pollokshields. Initially planned for November 2024, legal requirements for a 60-day notice period prior to activation led to its deferral to November 2025.
- 4.3 Applicants were allowed to request a review of the decision by an independent review panel, separate from the initial assessment group, ensuring impartiality. Six applicants submitted further evidence in support of their cases.

#### **5. Pollokshields Firework Control Zone**

- 5.1 The Pollokshields Fireworks Control Zone (FCZ) has now been publicised through social media, Elected Member briefing, community stakeholders and is accessible on the dedicated Glasgow City Council FCZ webpage.
- 5.2 Following the panel's decision in 2024, the Pollokshields FCZ will officially take effect in November 2025. There is no need for reapplication as the area has already been published and will be active from 1 November 2025

#### **6. Review of the 2024 FCZ Process and Lessons Learned**

- 6.1 To enhance the effectiveness of the Firework Control Zones' (FCZs') process and address any challenges from previous year, the following key measures have been identified and implemented:  
**Advance Publicity:**

- Publicise the application process.
- Share information with community groups, elected members, social media, press, etc.

**Accessibility:**

- Provide details of application / consultation process at libraries to highlight to non-ICT citizens.

**Animal-Related Groups:**

- Explore complaint statistics from animal protection related groups, as these may not be reported to Police Scotland.

**Firework-Related Accidents:**

- Request firework-related accident statistics from the NHS.

**Timeline Adjustment:**

- Ensure that decision-making process and any potential reviews are concluded earlier to ensure there is sufficient time to publish any FCZs at least 60 days in advance of any implementation.

**Feedback for Unsuccessful Applicants:**

- Provide brief reasons for unsuccessful applications at the outset.
- Publish survey reports as soon as possible, noting the 60-day notice period for successful applicants.

**Review Requests:**

- Any review requests for rejected FCZ applications, if received within the 28 day period, and if successful, will still allow for sufficient notice requirement for implementation.

**Leadership and Monitoring:**

- Allocate a lead officer for the FCZ process.
- Provide a monitoring officer, not necessarily full-time, throughout the year.

## **7. Review of the City Wide FCZ Consultation**

- 7.1 In response to a Council [Motion](#) on 16 May 2024, a citywide FCZ consultation was launched on 10th September 2024 . This closed on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024.
- 7.2 It should be noted, a citywide firework control zone would not be within the scope of the Scottish Government legislation due to the specific guidelines set

forth in the Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022. FCZs have not been designed as a measure to cover a whole local authority area, or to cover extensive parts of a local authority area. The geographic size or area covered by each FCZ must, therefore, be evidence-based and proportionate.

- 7.3 This legislation empowers local councils to designate firework control zones in specific areas, rather than across entire cities. The intention is to allow communities to have a greater say in how fireworks are used locally, addressing issues such as antisocial behaviour, impacts on vulnerable groups, animals, and the environment. Implementing a citywide control zone would exceed the discretionary powers granted to local authorities and would not align with the targeted approach designed to fit the Scottish context.

## 8. City Wide Consultation Summary

- 8.1 A total of 2,692 people responded to the consultation, 2,437 of whom were residents of Glasgow. Few younger (under 35 years) and older (75+ years) respondents took part in the survey and most respondents were women (68% versus 29% being men). For this reason, the results of this survey can be read as being **indicative but not representative** of the views of the residents.
- 8.2 Six in every seven respondents were supportive of a Glasgow-wide Fireworks Control Zone (86%), whilst one in ten were opposed to this (11%).
- 8.3 The opinions of Glasgow **residents** were very similar with 87% supporting of a Glasgow-wide Fireworks Control Zone and one in ten opposing this (11%).
- 8.4 The main issues referred to by respondents who support the FCZ were noise disturbances (90% of all those who support), concerns for livestock and pets (88%), safety concerns, including harm to people (75%), the environmental impact, including smoke and litter issues (63%), and concerns about damage to property (54%).
- 8.5 Twenty-four emergency and care workers of the 226 who took part in the survey, had been affected by the use of fireworks in 2023, such as by being attacked with fireworks and treating burns in emergency care.
- 8.6 The main reasons for opposing a FCZ included that it feels too authoritarian and infringes on personal freedom (22% of those who oppose the FCZ), that it will impact family and community enjoyment (22%), and that the use of fireworks has increased due to the lack of organised displays (18%).

## 9. Fireworks

9.1 The legislation governing Firework Control Zones (FCZs) in Scotland, as outlined in the Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022, primarily focuses on the use of fireworks rather than their sale.

9.2 Within a FCZ, it is illegal to set off most types of fireworks, except for category 1 fireworks like sparklers, crackers, and party poppers. However, the sale of fireworks is not restricted by the FCZ legislation.

### 9.3 **Licensing, Storage & Underage Sales**

9.3.1 The Trading Standards Service is responsible for licensing process relating to the storage of fireworks as well as numerous other legislative requirements associated with the sale of fireworks including age-restricted sales.

9.3.2 All traders who intend to store fireworks must be licensed in terms of the Explosive Regulations 2014 on an annual basis. Further information regarding fireworks licences can be found at [Storage of Fireworks Licence - Glasgow City Council](#)

### 9.4 **Other Measures**

9.4.1 Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability (NRS) form part of a wider action plan with local stakeholders to reduce issues as much as possible within local communities in the lead up to and around 5 November.

9.4.2 Across the city, to minimise the cause and effects of firework misuse, bonfires and the associated dangers, a Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) group was re-convened in 2024, including;

- Scottish Fire and Rescue
- Glasgow City Council (GCC)
- Police Scotland
- Crimestoppers
- Fearless and other partner agencies

9.4.3 A joint protocol was agreed for identifying, reporting and the removal of bonfires/bonfire material alongside an education and youth engagement strategy, which evaluated analytical data, identified hotspot areas for disorder and targeted education resources in local communities.

9.4.4 On Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 November, Scottish Fire and Rescue, Police Scotland and NRS operated a Multi-Agency Command and Control (MACC)

centre to monitor and deploy operational resources to remove as much bonfire material as possible from within local communities, to minimise the impact on neighbourhoods, identify the highest risk locations and maximise public safety as much as possible.

9.4.5 The MATAC Public Protocol for 2024 can be found [here](#).

- Resident reassurance letters in our agreed hotspot locations to remind residents of firework guidelines and encourage reporting.
- Scottish Fire and Rescue worked with local Primary Schools and NRS provided pupil and parent/guardian communications to local Secondary Schools.
- Community information leaflets were disseminated, in order to provide residents with up-to-date information on the legalities around the use of fireworks, highlight reporting mechanisms for any community concerns and also to remind people that fireworks and bonfires often have a detrimental effect on community safety for those living nearby.

9.4.6 NRS is working alongside youth providers to help challenge and change behaviours and identify where more positive diversionary activities can take place in future.

9.4.7 For the coming firework season, NRS is part of a Pollokshields Firework Stakeholder group, alongside Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue, Pollokshields Community Council, Education and local diversionary groups, in order to discuss and plan collective engagement, early intervention and education plans for November 2025

## **10. Approach for 2025**

### **10.1 Engagement with other Local Authorities.**

10.1.1 The Firework Control Zones (FCZs) in Edinburgh were established in four specific areas: Niddrie, Balerno, Seafield, and Calton Hill. These zones were in effect from 1 – 10 November.

10.1.2 No arrests were made as a result of any FCZ breach, however, what was noted was an increase in antisocial behaviour and disorder on 31 October 2024, the day before the control zone came into force.

10.1.3 There was also a reduction in firework sellers noted in Edinburgh, however, GCC had an increase of 3 sellers requiring a new licence when compared to



the previous year, as well as an additional all-year-round licence.

10.1.4 Following discussions with Edinburgh City Council regarding their lessons learned from 2024 and plans for 2025, the time period for the application process has been amended.

10.1.5 The application window has been shortened to four weeks. This adjustment allows for a longer consultation period of eight weeks, aligning more closely with the Local Authority Guidance. Consequently, the consultation process will commence on 18 April 2025 and conclude on 13 June 2025.

10.1.6 This engagement with Edinburgh City Council has been instrumental in refining our approach to the implementation of FCZ in Glasgow, ensuring that we incorporate best practices and adhere to required timelines.

10.1.7 Discussions with South Lanarkshire Council informed that no requests for a Firework Control Zone were received so no further action was required.

## 10.2 Timelines

10.2.1 The timeline for all key dates related to the Fireworks Control Zone (FCZ) process is outlined in the appendix. Applications for 2025 officially opened on 14 March 2025. Further details are available in **Appendix 1**.

## 10.3 Conclusion

10.3.1 The overall approach taken in 2024 for the implementation of Firework Control Zones (FCZ) was sound, drawing on lessons learned and feedback from other local authorities this will be replicated and improved.

10.3.2 The process will be meticulously overseen by officers from Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability (NRS), ensuring a proportionate and evidence-based approach. Both the panel and review panel's thorough assessment of applications, incorporating consultation findings, crime data, and intelligence, demonstrated a robust methodology.

10.3.3 Insights from other local authorities highlighted areas for improvement, such as the need for advance publicity, better accessibility, and wider data collection.

10.3.4 To prevent a repeat of any shortcomings, timelines have been adjusted to meet key deadlines earlier, ensuring the 60-day notice requirement is met, and enhancing overall efficiency and effectiveness for 2025

10.3.5 FCZs are one tool used to address the use of fireworks. NRS will continue to work with local stakeholders to plan collective engagement, early intervention, and education efforts, ensuring a comprehensive approach to firework safety and community well-being.

## 11. Resource Implications:

*Financial:* There will be financial costs associated with staff time, publication, promotion and communication costs. It is anticipated the Scottish Government will provide funding to support the management of FCZs.

*Legal:* None.

*Personnel:* This will be resourced from existing staff. The impact will be monitored.

*Procurement:* Procurement of signage will be resourced from an existing procurement framework.

**Council Strategic Plan:** Grand Challenge 4 - Deliver essential services in a Sustainable, Innovative and Efficient way for our Communities.

### **Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:**

*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?*

Positive impacts have been identified as part of the Scottish Govt – Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment particularly in relation to the following groups: people with autism and other sensory issues, and people suffering from PTSD who are more sensitive to loud bangs and flashes; pregnant women who are more sensitive to loud bangs during their pregnancy; children and young people who are more likely to be harmed, or to cause harm by fireworks ; and men who are more likely to be harmed, or to cause harm by fireworks.

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio- economic disadvantage.*

No impact identified.

#### **Climate Impacts:**

*Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:*

No

*What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?*

n/a

*Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?*

Yes, the proposal will contribute through requiring event providers to understand and reduce their emissions.

**Privacy and Data  
Protection Impacts:**

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report:

The platform that will be used for community requests and consultations is SMART survey. SMART Survey is the Council approved consultation platform.

**12. Recommendations:**

That Committee note the content of the report.

## Appendix 1: FCZ Timeline 2025

Action	Date
Promotion of application process and Publication of existing FCZ	14/3/25
Application process opens	14/3/25
Application process closes	11/04/25
Consultation process opens for 8 weeks no later than	23/4/25
Consultation process closes	18/6/25
Consultation analysis	19/06/25 – 24/06/25
FCZ Panel (Police, Scottish Fire & Rescue and GCC) meeting to consider requests / consultation reports /, assess evidence and make decisions on whether a FCZ will be implemented	W/C 30/06/26
FCZ outcome decisions to be notified to applicants.	06/07/25
Request for a review (period of 28 days) commences	07/07/25 – 04/08/25
FCZ Review Panel (Police, Scottish Fire & Rescue and GCC but none of the same officers from original panel)) meeting to consider review requests.	22/08/25
Applicants are to be notified of decisions whether FCZ will be implemented or not by	25/08/25
Publication of any FCZs, including any resulting from any review of original decision	25/08/25  (Statutory notice period of at least 60 days in advance of FCZ implementation for this year would be no later than 01/09/25)
FCZ start date	01/11/25
FCZ end date	10/11/25