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THE GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL (GEORGE SQUARE) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 202_



Report

George Square is the city's civic centre, principal urban space, place of national and international interest and the host of numerous major events. The Council proposes to restrict traffic around George Square to improve the ambiance following the Public Conversation undertaken in October 2019. The public response from the event request the following:

- A more sustainable or green Square.
- A reduction in traffic or an element of pedestrianisation.
- A place to sit and relax.
- High Quality public area
- Public involvement in design of final layout.

The Council is committed to carbon reduction to meet the statutory annual targets using:

- Green infrastructure and optimise greening principles.
- Mitigate against climate change using surface water management principles.
- Promote and prioritise sustainable transport.
- Tackle poor air quality.
- Introduce SMART infrastructure and pilot integrated sustainable urban solutions.

In line with the public feedback and taking essential access into consideration the Council propose to close the east and west sides of the square to all traffic except cycles and restrict the south to public transport between 7am and 7pm in line with other city centre public transport priority measures like West George Street measures on the north of the square. This will provide the opportunity to assess the impact these measures have during the duration, maximum eighteen months, this experimental order is in force. It is the intention to progress development of the square to meet the public aspirations and to tie into adjacent planned future city centre improvements to provide a pleasant and safe city centre location for all.

It is intended that the experimental order will commence from July 2020, subject to consultation approval, after the European Championships which will have temporary restrictions in George Square during the games period. An experimental order overrides the current restrictions and can be removed or amended during the implementation period if deemed necessary.

It is intended that a permanent order will be advertised to implement the final layout for the future George Square before this experimental order expires. This will be subject to extensive consultation to ensure the measures meet all future aspirations.

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