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THE GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL (CITY CENTRE) (TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT) ORDER 2010 (VARIATION No31) (GEORGE SQUARE) ORDER 202_



Report

Glasgow City Council undertook a city-wide Public Conversation about George Square in October 2019, focusing on how people use the square, their opinion on the current layout, what it means to the city and their aspirations for a future layout. The feedback aligned with previous consultations undertaken in 2017 and 2018 and the main priorities were:

- A more sustainable or green square.
- Reduction in traffic and provide elements of pedestrianisation.
- An attractive place to sit and relax.
- High Quality public area
- Events space.

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.

An experimental Traffic Regulation Order was commenced in 2020 to consult on implementing initial measures to meet these objectives. However, the Coronavirus pandemic stopped the consultation before it could be completed. The Government's Spaces for People programme implemented temporary measures in June 2020, using emergency powers legislation. These measures were based on the proposed Experimental Order along with additional safe space for social distancing. These initial measures were amended and upgraded in 2021, which have received positive public feedback.

It is intended to consult on proposals to implement a permanent Traffic Regulation Order, based on the previous temporary measures implemented. To meet the above objectives and provide a footprint for the redevelopment of the Square and link with the proposed Avenues programme for surrounding streets. The development of the Square and Avenues will be subject to separate consultation to allow feedback on their design and final layout.

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This Order aims to provide the following measures:

- Close the east and west sides of George Square to all traffic except cycles to improve safety and the pedestrian experience.
- Close Hanover Street at George Square to all traffic except cycles to improve safety and the pedestrian experience.
- Restrict access to George Square south to buses, taxis, licensed private hire cars and cycles only between 7am and 7pm to provide vital public transport links while reducing traffic.
- Remove all parking from the inner area of George Square for the future development.
- Provide 24 hour taxi ranks on West George Street, George Square North (Millennium Hotel) and Ingram Street.
- Provide evening taxi ranks at Queen Street and St Vincent Place with daytime loading.
- Relocate disabled parking on Cochrane Street and provide disabled parking on George Street to replace current disabled parking on the north side of George Square.
- Relocate disabled parking from Ingram Street to South Fredrick Street for improved access.
- Relocate motorcycle parking on Cochrane Street and George Street.
- Amend parking and loading to ensure local businesses can receive vital deliveries while restricting non-essential car trips.

These proposals are in line with current Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council policies aimed at improving the health of citizens, support the economic vibrancy of the city centre, enhance the quality of pedestrian spaces, reduce harmful emissions and noise and enhance road safety and personal security.

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