

# Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 17 May 2018

## Edinburgh Playing Out Pilot Evaluation

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Item number         | 7.14               |
| Report number       |                    |
| Executive/routine   | Executive          |
| Wards               | All                |
| Council Commitments | <a href="#">18</a> |

### Executive Summary

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A report titled *Playing Out* was presented to the Transport and Environment Committee on Tuesday [7 June 2016](#). The Committee agreed for a pilot Playing Out scheme to take place in Edinburgh, followed up with a report summarising the findings. This report meets the June 2016 follow up report recommendation.

The Playing Out pilot ran in Edinburgh from April to August 2017. To inform an evaluation of the pilot, a public consultation was conducted, aimed at those who were involved in, or directly affected by the Playing Out pilot.

There is strong support for the Playing Out scheme to continue in the future. Based on the results of the evaluation and legal advice, it is recommended that Playing Out becomes Council policy.

## Edinburgh Playing Out Pilot Evaluation

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
  - 1.1.1 notes that the results of the evaluation have been largely positive;
  - 1.1.2 agrees to implement Playing Out as Council policy;
  - 1.1.3 notes that Locality teams will continue to be responsible for managing and facilitating Playing Out;
  - 1.1.4 notes that further work will be required to improve the guidelines; and
  - 1.1.5 notes that a review will take place every three years to assess costs of Playing Out and alignment with wider Council priorities.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 Early in 2016, the Council received requests from residents in Edinburgh for them to hold Playing Out sessions in their local areas. In [June 2016](#), a report was presented to the Transport and Environment Committee, recommending that a pilot arrangement be developed to assist communities wishing to hold the sessions.
- 2.2 Before the pilot took place, the Council developed a protocol and a set of guidelines for residents wishing to apply to hold a Playing Out session. The guidelines were intended to be simple and easy to follow, based on best practice of other Councils leading Playing Out schemes in England. The full set of guidelines used for the pilot in Edinburgh are included, for reference, in [Appendix 1](#).
- 2.3 Initially the pilot was held at the beginning of the 2016 school summer holiday period. As only a small number of enquiries were made, insufficient evidence was available to evaluate the pilot at the end of the period. A second pilot was run from April to August 2017 to cover both the Easter and summer breaks.
- 2.4 The Playing Out model was initiated by parents in Bristol and enables residents to provide and promote play in their communities using short-term, resident-led road closures on a regular basis. The Playing Out model is intended to be a community-led initiative, where the organising residents are responsible for consulting with other residents to gain agreement for the sessions, organising volunteers to support the sessions, and erecting and implementing road closure signs and barriers. Playing Out policies are now in place in around 50 local

authorities across England. A summary of how other local authorities in England operate their Playing Out policies is included in [Appendix 2](#).

- 2.5 The benefits associated with Playing Out include, children spending more time outdoors, making new friends, developing a greater sense of place and learning new skills. These benefits align with key Council and central government policies.
  - 2.5.1 The [Edinburgh Council Play Area Action Plan 2011-2016](#) states that every child and young person in Edinburgh should be able to access free-play opportunities and play facilities which are accessible, affordable, culturally sensitive and relevant to their needs and play aspirations.
  - 2.5.2 Playing Out is in accord with the [Local Transport Strategy 2014-2019](#), as it supports the city's economic, social place-making roles, as well as the role of streets as movement corridors.
  - 2.5.3 The 2013 Scottish Government [Play Strategy for Scotland: Our Action Plan](#) refers to play in all sectors across Scotland and highlights the role of all involved, including at home and in the community.

### 3. Main Report

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- 3.1 This section of the report sets out the evaluation study objectives, details of the pilot, and considerations going forward.

#### **Evaluation Study Objectives**

- 3.2 The April 2016 Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Report titled *Playing Out*, set out the purpose and process of organising Playing Out sessions. The objectives for this pilot evaluation were derived from the 'Measures of Success' outlined in the April 2016 report, as set out below.
  - 3.2.1 The Playing Out events provided a safe and beneficial opportunity for children to play in their street.
  - 3.2.2 The Playing Out events resulted in children making new friends.
  - 3.2.3 The Playing Out events increased children's sense of place and belonging in the community.
  - 3.2.4 The Playing Out events resulted in increased inter-generational community cohesion.
  - 3.2.5 The current guidelines are fit for purpose and not burdensome to Council Officers or applicants.

#### **The Pilot in Edinburgh**

- 3.3 In total, the Council approved 54 Playing Out sessions to take place across 30 streets. A summary of the socio-economic characteristics of the approved streets is provided in [Appendix 3](#).
- 3.4 A Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice (TRN) was issued for each road closure date during the pilot, which permits up to five closures per street with no associated

advertising requirements. It was agreed that during the pilot, the Council would cover all costs, including assessing and approving road closures and providing, delivering, and collecting, road closure equipment. It has been estimated that each session during the pilot cost the Council approximately £1,500.

### Evaluation of Edinburgh Playing Out Pilot

- 3.5 To inform the evaluation of the pilot in Edinburgh, a public consultation ran from December 2017 to January 2018. Results were analysed, alongside additional feedback received throughout the pilot from Council Officers, the public, and organisers. The evaluation methodology and results are detailed in [Appendix 4](#).
- 3.6 The consultation included questions designed to test how well the objectives of the pilot were met. Table 3-1 sets out a summary of respondents' views against each of the study objectives, and summarises any implications for the Council should it decide to implement Playing Out as policy.
- 3.7 Overall, the pilot is considered to have met its objectives, with minor changes to the guidelines to be considered if Playing Out is implemented.

Table 3-1 Respondents views on each of the Study Objectives

| Objective   | Level of agreement from respondents | Comments from respondents  | Overall assessment/ implications for the Council |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <i>The events provided children with a safe and beneficial opportunity to play.</i> | 90% strongly agree/agree.           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A variety of play activities were observed during the sessions.</li> <li>- Comments suggesting the sessions provided a safe traffic-free space.</li> <li>- No negative comments.</li> </ul> | This study objective has been met by a majority. |
| <i>The events resulted in children making new friends.</i>                          | 83% strongly agree/agree.           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Positive comments made about children making new friends, existing friendships strengthened, and different age groups playing together.</li> <li>- No negative comments.</li> </ul>         | This study objective has been met by a majority. |
| <i>The events increased children's sense of belonging in the community.</i>         | 88% strongly agree/agree.           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Positive comments about sessions fostering a sense of community spirit were made.</li> <li>- No negative comments.</li> </ul>   | This study objective has been met by a majority. |

|   |                           |   |  |
|---|---------------------------|---|--|
| <i>The events increased community connections between</i> | 90% strongly agree/agree. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Positive comments made about sessions enabling interactions between different generations.</li> <li>- Comments indicated that community connection made</li> </ul> | This study objective has been met by a majority. |
|---|---------------------------|---|--|

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <i>different generations.</i>  |   | <p>during sessions have extended beyond the sessions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No negative comments.</li> </ul>   |   |
| <i>The current guidelines are fit for purpose and not burdensome to Council officials or applicants.</i> | Of the four questions asked a majority agree that every aspect of the guidelines was fulfilled.                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A mixture of comments made about the guidelines.</li> <li>- Some positive comments about the sessions being organised and set up correctly.</li> <li>- Other comments indicated issues related to appropriate consultation and lack of awareness of Playing Out amongst the public and residents.</li> </ul> | <p>If Playing Out is implemented, consideration needs to be given to improving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the consultation process before and after sessions are approved.</li> <li>- awareness of Playing Out including more publicity, and having a regular day /time for the sessions.</li> </ul> |
|  | Of the three questions asked, a majority found every process related to organising sessions was very easy/easy. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A mixture of comments made about process.</li> <li>- Some respondents had no issues organising, while others experienced poor communication from the Council and issues related to delivery /collection of road closure equipment.</li> </ul>  | <p>If Playing Out is implemented, consideration needs to be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- improving communication between the Council and organisers.</li> <li>- ensuring road closure equipment is delivered/collected as agreed.</li> </ul>  |

## Legal considerations

3.8 A number legal issues were raised by Council Officers during the pilot. Legal advice has been sought to clarify the Council's position in relation to these issues and ensure the Council would be operating legally, if Playing Out was implemented as Council Policy. Table 3-2 provides a summary of the issues and legal advice received.

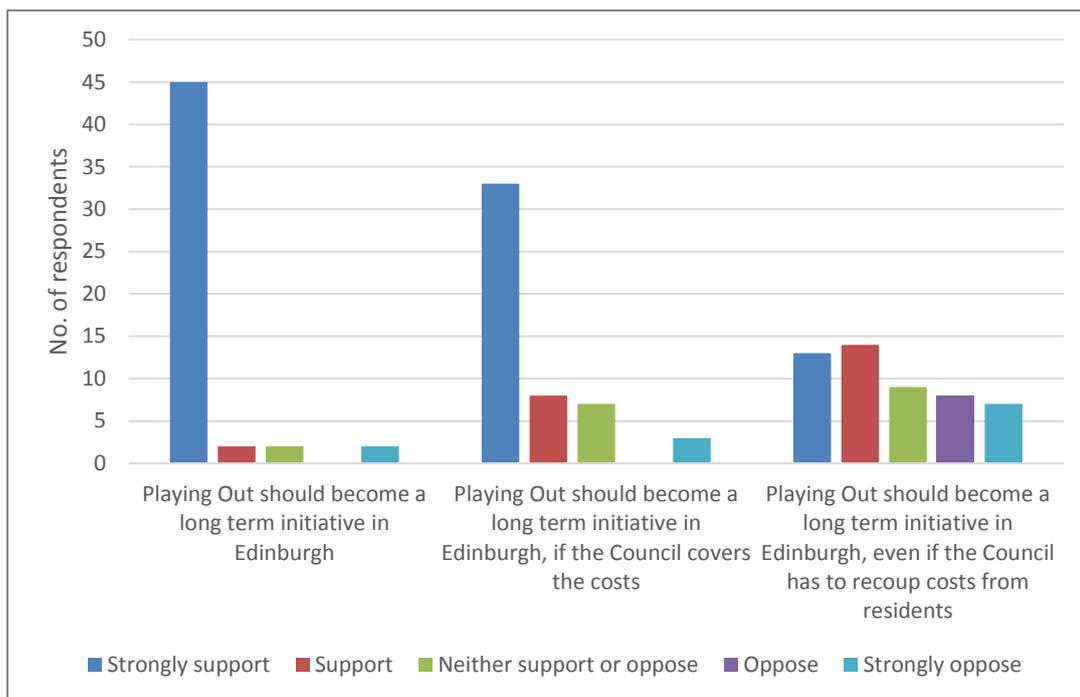
Table 3-2 Legal Considerations

| Issues   | Legal Advice  | Implications for the Council   |
|--|---|--|
| Which legislation can be used to close roads for Playing Out in Scotland               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 29 would be most appropriate.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This piece of legislation requires advertising road closures (at a cost).</li> </ul>  |
| Can a member of the public with no official accreditation set up traffic management    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A third party can erect traffic signage.</li> <li>- The Council must take steps to ensure the signage is erected and maintained at appropriate locations for the duration of the order.</li> </ul> | <p>If Playing Out is implemented, consideration should be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Specifying the location of signage.</li> <li>- Stating that signage must be maintained in that location for the duration of the order.</li> <li>- Asking for evidence (such as photographs) of the locations used.</li> <li>- Stating that spot checks of locations may be made.</li> </ul>   |
| Who would be liable in the event of an accident or injury during a Playing Out session | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Liability would vary depending on the cause of the accident or injury, there would be no change from the standard position.</li> </ul>   | <p>If Playing Out was implemented, consideration should be given to.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Including an indemnity clause, to ensure the Council are not liable for an accident or injury resulting solely from the road closure and/or session.</li> <li>- Recommending organisers take out public liability insurance to protect themselves in the event of an incident.</li> <li>- Offering manual handling to volunteers involved in handling road closure equipment.</li> <li>- Suggesting organisers complete a risk register before sessions take place.</li> </ul> |

## Going Forward

3.9 There is strong support from respondents for Playing Out sessions to be held again in the future, as shown in Figure 3-1.

Figure 3-1 Playing Out as Long-Term Initiative



- 3.10 Potential options have been explored for consideration going forward. Based on the results of the evaluation and legal advice, it is recommended that Playing Out becomes Council policy, with the Council covering full costs (processing the road closures applications, advertising costs and providing road closure equipment).
- 3.11 Rather than using a TRN for each road closure (as was the case in the pilot), it would be more cost effective to use a single Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO), allowing multiple closures under a single order. Although this approach would incur additional advertising costs in comparison to the pilot, the overall costs would be lower than if a TRN was used for each closure.
- 3.12 Table 3-3 provides a summary of the estimated costs to implement a Playing Out policy. The costs have been considered based on 54 sessions (as per the pilot), a TTRO (covering all streets) and a single annual application period. If more sessions were permitted, or more application periods became available, costs would subsequently increase.

Table 3-3 Summary of Costs

| Item  | Approximate Cost to Council |
|---|-----------------------------|
| TTRO costs - covering all streets                         | £580 (per year)             |
| Advertising covering all streets                          | £500 (per year)             |
| Officers time responding to applicants                    | £150 (per session)          |
| Delivery and collection of equipment and use of machinery | £500 (per session)          |
| Use of cones/barriers                                     | £400 (per session)          |
| <b>Total (based on 54 sessions)</b>                       | <b>£57,780</b>              |

- 3.13 As Playing Out is a community-led initiative with local implications, the Locality teams are best placed to manage and facilitate the scheme.

- 3.14 The four Localities have access to the Investment in Communities and Localities budget, for funding local community events. The budget is £250,000 for 2018/2019, with each Locality receiving £62,500. The budget is appropriate and sufficient to support the Playing Out scheme and would allow for a fixed number of street closures per year.
- 3.15 The following improvements to the process would address issues raised in the consultation, ensure the Council is operating legally and that best safety practice is followed to limit risk.
- 3.15.1 Improve the consultation process before and after the sessions are approved, and clarify communication processes between the Council and organisers.
  - 3.15.2 Improve awareness of Playing Out, including improved publicity and having a regular day/timeslot.
  - 3.15.3 Ensure that road closure equipment is delivered/collected as agreed.
  - 3.15.4 Offer manual handling training to volunteers involved in setting up and handling the road closure equipment.
  - 3.15.5 Ensure road closure signs are erected and maintained at appropriate locations for the duration of the order.
  - 3.15.6 Include an indemnity clause, to ensure the Council is not liable for anything that results solely from the road closure and/or session.
  - 3.15.7 Recommend organisers take out public liability insurance to protect themselves in the event of an injury or property damage.
  - 3.15.8 Suggest that the organisers complete a risk register before sessions take place.
- 3.16 A review should take place every three years to assess costs and alignment with wider Council policies.
- 3.17 Going forward, it is proposed that Playing Out is renamed to 'Edinburgh Play Streets', as requested the Playing Out organisation.

#### **4. Measures of success**

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- 4.1 Should Playing Out become Council Policy, success will be measured by sustained or increased levels of public satisfaction, based on results of repeat public consultation exercises carried out every three years.
- 4.2 Continual monitoring and addressing issues by adjusting guidelines.

## **5. Financial impact**

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- 5.1 Based on the cost of 54 sessions, a single annual application period and a TTRO covering all streets a budget of £60,000 will be maintained within the Place revenue budget for Playing Out.
- 5.2 These costs will be met by the existing Place directorate revenue budget.

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

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- 6.1 There is a risk that equipment is not set out by organisers in accordance with Council instructions. This could be mitigated by stating in guidelines that spot checks may be made, or by asking organisers to take photographs as evidence of set up.
- 6.2 There is a risk of injury to a member of the public while setting up road closure equipment. This could be mitigated by offering manual handling training to volunteers involved in manual handling.
- 6.3 There is a risk of injury or damage to property during a session. This could be mitigated by:
  - 6.3.1 Including an indemnity clause, to ensure the Council are not liable for anything that results solely from the road closure and/or session.
  - 6.3.2 Recommending organisers take out public liability insurance to protect themselves in the event of an injury or property damage.
  - 6.3.1 Offering manual handling training to volunteers involved in setting up and handling the road closure equipment.
  - 6.3.2 Suggesting that the organisers complete a risk register before sessions take place.

## **7. Equalities impact**

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- 7.1 The right of the child would be enhanced by improving children's play (UNCRC article 31), including children with disabilities.

## **8. Sustainability impact**

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- 8.1 There is no adverse economic, social, or environmental impact arising from this report.
- 8.2 The proposals in this report may reduce carbon emissions because road closures discourage local traffic. It would provide a space to allow learning and public interest in active travel modes. In turn these may increase levels of active travel in the community.

- 8.3 The need to build resilience to climate change impacts is not relevant to the proposals in this report.
- 8.4 The proposals in this report will help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh as the proposals may result in increased active travel. This could help people to become more physically active, improving physical and mental health.

## 9. Consultation and engagement

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- 9.1 Consultation via an online survey was conducted between December 2017 and January 2018. This was aimed at those who were involved in or directly affected by the Playing Out pilot.
- 9.2 If the Transport and Environment Committee approve all the recommendations in this report, an update Business Bulletin will be provided to all Locality Committees, providing information on management and funding implications of the scheme.

## 10. Background reading/external references

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- 10.1 [Playing Out report to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee April 2016](#)
- 10.2 [Edinburgh Playing Out report to the Transport and Environment Committee 07 June 2016](#)
- 10.3 [Scottish Government, Play Strategy for Scotland: Our Action Plan, 2013](#)
- 10.4 [Local Transport Strategy 2014-2019](#)
- 10.5 [Edinburgh Council Play Area Action Plan 2011-2016](#)
- 10.6 [The 1847 Town Police Clause Act](#)
- 10.7 [The 1984 Road Traffic Regulation Act](#)

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## 11. Appendices

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Appendix 1 - Edinburgh Council Playing Out Guidelines

Appendix 2 - Local Authorities with Playing Out Policies

Appendix 3 - Socio-Economic Characteristics

Appendix 4 - Public Consultation Methodology and Results



## Edinburgh Council Playing Out Guidelines

## Application for Edinburgh Playing Out Street Order

## Important – please read carefully!

1. These guidelines and application form apply to the pilot arrangement, to assist local communities, citywide who wish to hold “Playing Out” activities in residential streets.
2. The pilot arrangement will start on 1 April and finish on 31 August 2017. Communities wishing to participate in this proposal should follow the guidelines shown below under **“What to do...”** on page 3 below.
3. Please use this form if you wish to apply for a Play Street Traffic Regulation Order. This Order will permit you to close a road for the purpose of children’s play.

**Procedures****4. Suitability of Street**

Applicants should consider the following when determining the identified street and dates and times of their request.

Is the street a bus route? *If YES, this street is not suitable*

Is it a main road which experiences large volumes of traffic? (especially during mornings and early evenings) *If YES, this street is not suitable*

Scheduled Waste Services collection days including all recycling collections *This will determine the hours to be applied for*

Royal Mail Deliveries *Consider the timing of regular Royal Mail deliveries*

Neighbours/residents deliveries/requirements *Neighbour co-operation is recommended to minimise deliveries*

Advance notification of road works they may have received through the post (from Utilities or Council) *Council teams will also check for this information*

Only non-traffic sensitive streets of a residential nature will be considered as part of the scheme.

## Local Consultation

5. The applicant is required to consult with all affected residents. A letter (pages 7 & 8) posted through each front door is sufficient detailing the following:
  - - What is proposed to take place
  - - The dates and times that are proposed, up to 5 sessions
  - - Contact details for the Locality Office
  - - A return address for any comments from residents
6. You may wish to include in the letter an invitation to a meeting to discuss your plans with your community and to recruit volunteers.
7. There may be some neighbours who voice objections as they are unsure about what you plan to do and the implications for them. The best course of action is to speak to and reassure them that:
  - There will be nominated responsible adults supervising the event
  - Through traffic will not be permitted, but residents' vehicles and local deliveries, though discouraged, will be allowed into and out of the site
  - Parents are responsible for their children and any damage they may cause
  - Everyone, whether or not they have young children, is encouraged to join in
  - There will be a feedback session afterwards if requested
8. The City of Edinburgh Council cannot guarantee that an Order will be made, and any Order made under this application will be revoked if any of the following conditions are not met:
  - i) You must pay to the council the full cost of any damage to the road or street furniture or other loss or damage suffered by it and of any claims made against it as a result of the making of the Order and which arise from your negligence or (if you represent an organisation) the negligence of your organisation's members or officers.
  - ii) Any Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) or other statutory provision which is currently in force on the road(s) to be closed will remain in force during the closure unless specified to the contrary on the Legal Order.
  - iii) If appropriate you must clean the street in order to return it to its condition prior to the closure. This must be done before the road is reopened.
  - iv) A Temporary Traffic Regulation Order is made entirely for the purposes of children's play and may not involve the placement of any structure on the road during its use.
  - v) No activity requiring any form of license (under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 or Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005) may be undertaken when this Order is in force.
  - vi) Vehicular access and egress for residents/businesses must be maintained during any closure period.
  - vii) On-street parking cannot be refused or restricted other than through an existing Traffic Regulation Order.
  - viii) The road(s) may only be closed on the dates and times specified within the Order.
  - ix) Events must be supervised by an adult.
  - x) Urgent or Emergency road works might be required by utilities. This may cause events to be cancelled at the last minute or areas to be restricted.

- xi) Any barriers erected during the closures must be removed immediately if required for access for emergency services or other residents.
9. The City of Edinburgh Council reserves the right to cancel any such order if the closures are not implemented in accordance with these requirements or the activities are not managed in a safe manner.

### **Getting Permission**

1. Permission for the closure will be agreed through the Locality Teams who will have local knowledge of any other events, road works in the surrounding area which may have a direct impact on street, date and time selection.
2. Applicants will not be charged for costs the Council incurs during this Pilot period, after which, cost recovery may be sought for any additional events in subsequent years.
3. The applicant will be responsible for erecting Street Notices to inform residents, pedestrians and traffic of any approved closure. These will be provided by the Locality Teams should approval be given.
4. The Council will provide the signs required and provide the organisers with barriers for the duration of the Pilot. These must be returned in their original condition to the Council.
5. The Organiser/Responsible Person will be responsible for storing signs and barriers locally and for implementing and removing the closure.
6. Emergency and pedestrian access must be maintained at all times.

### **What to do if you are interested in participating in Playing Out Streets**

7. At least 6 weeks in advance of your first session, deliver a consultation letter to your neighbours (page 7 & 8 of this form).
8. Six weeks before your first Playing Out date, complete the application form and send to the Locality team (page 5 & 6 of this form).
9. Decide who the "Responsible Person" will be in your street.
10. Choose the street you wish to designate.
11. Choose which days (you can choose up to 5 during the pilot) and the times (2-3 hours per session is recommended) you want to run your Playing Out sessions.
12. Print and Sign your name on the form and send it to your Locality Office.

### **What happens next?**

13. Your Locality Office will assess your application and if no problems are identified such as impending road works, it will arrange for a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) to be raised to allow the closure of the street for the dates required.
14. In the event a local resident raises a material objection against a Playing Out session, eg moving house, the Responsible Person must inform the Locality Office.

15. One of the Transport Officers will contact you to discuss any problems with your application, or to let you know your application has been successful. Confirmation will follow by post.
16. Barriers and signs will be delivered to the Responsible Person who will store them securely until required.
17. One week before the first date, a street notice, delivered to the Responsible Person, should be erected to advise the public of the intended TTRO.
18. Neighbours must be kept informed about the times and dates of the Playing Out sessions. A letter is sufficient. (see page 7 & 8 of this form).
19. The Responsible Person will place out and remove the signs and barriers at every access to the street at the times requested. They will then be stored securely once the street is open again to vehicles.
20. The Responsible Person will keep a log of issues, successes or failures for the duration of the Pilot and will notify the Locality Office of the outcome.
21. If requested or desired, hold a debriefing meeting after your first and/or subsequent Playing Out sessions in case there are lessons to be learned, or better practice employed.

To find out which Locality Office to contact for your street, please visit the following link:

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20004/council\\_and\\_democracy/375/neighbourhood\\_areas\\_and\\_partnerships\\_wards\\_and\\_community\\_councils](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20004/council_and_democracy/375/neighbourhood_areas_and_partnerships_wards_and_community_councils)

Please see below the email addresses for the Locality Offices

City Centre & Leith: [Environment-CCL@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Environment-CCL@edinburgh.gov.uk)

North: [Roads.NorthVIP@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Roads.NorthVIP@edinburgh.gov.uk)

South: [Roads.SouthVIP@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Roads.SouthVIP@edinburgh.gov.uk)

South-West: [roads.southwestvip@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:roads.southwestvip@edinburgh.gov.uk)

West: [Roads.WestVIP@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Roads.WestVIP@edinburgh.gov.uk)

East: [sfc.eastenvironment@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:sfc.eastenvironment@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## 1. Applicant(s)' details

Name of applicant / Responsible Person

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

If more than one applicant please provide names of additional applicants on supplementary page

## 2. Road closure details

Name of road(s) to be closed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Length of road(s) to be closed (if appropriate): Please use house numbers or junctions to define the length of road to be closed.

From \_\_\_\_\_

To \_\_\_\_\_

Date of first event: \_\_\_\_\_

Start and End time of event: \_\_\_\_\_

Will this event be reoccurring? (Please tick) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please detail the dates (remember you can have up to 5 Playing Out sessions during this pilot)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Barriers / signs

The City of Edinburgh Council will provide you with appropriate signs free of charge for the event (Pilot scheme only). It is the applicant's responsibility to store these signs (off the public road). It is also the applicant's responsibility to erect all signs and positions barriers at each point of closure. Each closure must be supervised and maintained at all times by a responsible and clearly identifiable adult.

What arrangements have you made for the erection and supervision of signs?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. Notification to affected properties

It is a requirement that all affected properties must be consulted by form of the attached template letter. This means any property, residential or commercial, which is located on or accessed only by the road(s) you wish to close – e.g. High Street numbers 1-99 and numbers 2-98

Please confirm the date your consultation letter was sent \_\_\_\_\_

Can you confirm that you have the support of at least 70% of properties in the affected street. (Please Tick) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Has there been any objection to your proposal? (Please Tick) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If so please provide details.

#### 5. Checks have been made regarding the following

Please mark your answers to the items on the following list to confirm you have considered the following and not found any problems:

1. Is the street a bus route? (Please Tick) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
2. Is it a main road which experiences large volumes of traffic? (especially during mornings and early evenings) (Please Tick) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
3. Scheduled Waste Services collection days including all recycling collections:  
M, T, W, T, F (*please circle the day which applies to your street*)
4. Neighbours/residents deliveries/requirements, eg supermarket shopping  
(Please Tick) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
5. Advance notification of road works have been received through the post (from  
Utilities or Council) (Please Tick) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return you completed form to the Transport Officer, at your Locality Office (for address see below):**

**If your application is successful you will be sent the Road Closure Notices approximately 1 week before the date of your first proposed closure.**

If you have any queries please write to or e-mail the appropriate Locality Office address.

I confirm that all the information that I provide below is true and complete and that I am at least 18 years of age. I have read the conditions above and agree to accept and adhere to them if my application is successful.

Signed → .....

Date → .....

To: Resident

From: .....

Address: .....

My tel. no: .....

My e-mail: ..... Date: .....

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Playing Out - Get to Know Your Neighbours and Let the Children Play**

A small group of us have got together to take advantage of City of Edinburgh Council's free Playing Out initiative. The pilot is taking place citywide between 1 April and 31 August this year.

You may have read in the press that children do not play outside as much as they did, even twenty years ago and this is having a negative effect on their health.

Many children lead very structured lives today and Playing Out allows them time off to play with local children right outside their houses without the risk of traffic accidents. It is less likely too that we know our neighbours and a temporary street closure allows everyone to get together more easily.

We'd very much like to close < *street name* > between < *location* > and < *location* > on the following dates/days < / / > < > and will make an application to the City of Edinburgh Council for a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order to do so.

The road will be fully closed to through traffic but residents' vehicles and local deliveries, though discouraged, will be allowed into and out of the street and the locations of the closure will be stewarded at each barrier. Residents will be allowed full access but are requested to drive at walking speed when within the closure area.

Events will be under adult supervision and access will be maintained for emergency services at all times in all parts of the street.

Parents are responsible for their children and also any damage they may cause, although we don't expect this to be a problem. Everyone, whether or not they have young children, is encouraged to join in.

With your help we can make the street car free for a short time giving us lots of space and providing a safe environment for everyone. It is not necessary to move parked vehicles from the street but if you don't have a driveway, or you wish to use your car, is it possible to park it in another street for the duration of the event.

If you need to move your vehicle during a Playing Out session, please alert a steward who will clear the street of pedestrians and guide you out.

We really hope you like the idea but please do talk to us, or fill in the box below, if you have any questions or concerns. Please also let us know if you would be able to volunteer on the day – we need stewards.

The Playing Out sessions promise to be a lot of fun and we very much hope you can come along.

Permission for Playing Out is being organised by City of Edinburgh Council through the Locality Team.

With thanks

.....

(If you want to make written comments, please post them through my letterbox or contact the City of Edinburgh Council Locality Team)

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <i>Your comments</i>            |
| Name<br>Address<br>Tel<br>Email |
|                                 |

These guidance notes are to be issued with the letter.

**Guidance Notes for drivers using a street while a play street session is occurring**

1. Drivers must wait until children and adults have been cleared from the street by stewards.
2. A steward will inform a driver when they can move off.
3. A steward will escort vehicles in and out - walking in front of the vehicles. They must drive at a walking pace a maximum of 5mph.
4. Vehicles/Drivers must drive with due care and attention at all times, with special consideration that there are children playing in the street.
5. Visitors/delivery drivers have the same obligations. It is your duty as a resident within the street to inform anyone leaving your property of their obligations so that they don't just drive off without first informing a steward and allowing children to be cleared from street etc.
6. Through drivers are not permitted access to the street while a Temporary Playing Out Event is happening.

**Local Authorities with Playing Out Policies**

- 11.1 The majority of Local Authorities use the ‘Temporary Play Street Order’ (TPSO) for street play closures. This allows residents to make a one-off (usually annual or biannual) application to close their street for children to play out on a regular basis, usually up to once a week.
- 11.2 The Playing Out application and consultation process varies between Local Authorities. Table 11-1 provides a summary of the processes used by several Local Authorities.

*Table 11-1 Summary of Other Local Authority Application and Consultation Processes*

| <b>Local Authority</b>   | <b>Maximum frequency per year</b> | <b>Maximum duration per year</b> | <b>Consultation Process</b>   | <b>Comments</b>  |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Bristol County Council   | 1 per week                        | 3 hours                          | Organisers consult with all interested parties via standard letter.   | The Council emails the organisers letters to display on lamp posts.  |
| Adur & Worthing Councils | 1 per week                        | 3 hours                          | Organisers consult with all interested parties via standard letter.   | Consultation letter specifies no outside publicity to people who do not live on the street, to reduce chances of it becoming a public event. |
| Hackney County Council   | 1 per week                        | 3 hours                          | Organisers consult with all interested parties via standard letter. They must also provide evidence of support using petition template. | 4 application deadlines per year.  |

- 11.3 Of the 50 local authorities who have policies, none charge residents for the costs they incur for advertising (where applicable) or processing the road closures. Approximately 15 provide road closure equipment. Those which do not either direct applicants towards hire companies, or make use of kit boxes (provided by Bristol Playing Out at a cost of £100 per kit).

11.4 Table 11-2 provides a summary of examples of how several local authorities have funded their Playing Out policies.

*Table 11-2 Funding Sources*

| <b>Local Authority</b>   | <b>Funding Source</b>   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Bristol County Council   | Grants from the public health department.   |
| Adur & Worthing Councils | The Community development function of the Council and support from their parking services contractor.   |
| Hackney County Council   | Council have funded Hackney Play Association to provide help to, and promote of Playing Out activities. |

### **Socio-Economic Characteristics**

- 11.5 Each approved street has been cross reference against the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), Scottish Government's official tool for identifying concentrations of deprivation in Scotland.
- 11.6 It was found that the majority of approved streets are located in areas of lower deprivation. Three of the approved streets were found to be in areas of higher deprivation.
- 11.7 The approved streets were also cross referenced against the Councils Play Area Action Plan 2011-2016 (CPAAP), which provides locations of all publicly accessible play areas in Edinburgh. It suggests that houses and flats should have access to either a play space of 'good' play value within 800 metres walking distance, of 'very good' play value within 1,200 metres walking distance, or of 'excellent' play value within 2,000 metres direct distance.
- 11.8 The majority of approved streets were found to have at least one 'good' value play area within 800m walking distance. The two exceptions are both located within 2000m of an 'excellent' play value park, and also within 800m of Blackford Hill (not listed in the CPAAP) where children can play.

**Public Consultation Methodology and Results**

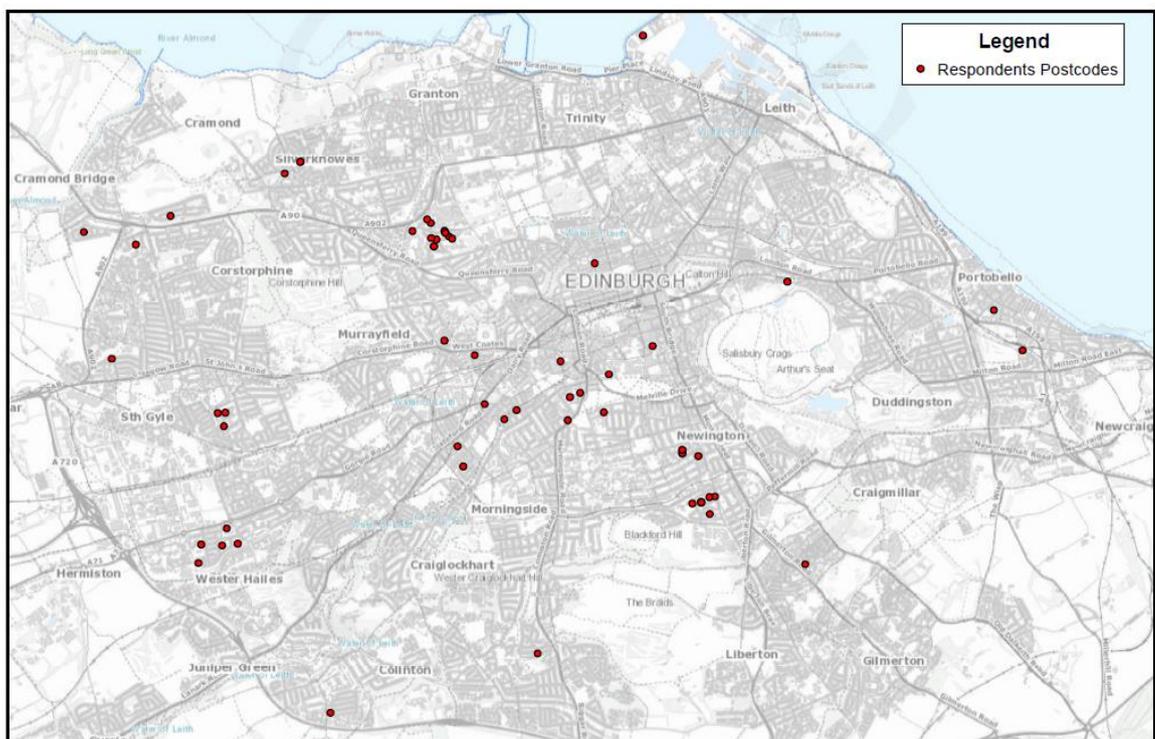
**Introduction**

- 11.9 An online survey was produced using the Councils in-house Consultation Hub. The survey went live on 11 December 2017 and was open for one month. A prize of up to £10 cycling vouchers was offered as an incentive to all who completed the survey.
- 11.10 The consultation survey was targeted at anyone who was directly involved in, or directly affected by the pilot (including applicants/organisers, families who took part, local residents, Community Council members, Residents Association members etc).
- 11.11 The survey consisted of 25 questions in total. The survey made use of skip logic steps, meaning that depending on how respondents answered each question, they may have skipped some questions.
- 11.12 Feedback via email/letter was also received from individuals including residents, applicants/organisers and Housing Association members. These comments have been incorporated into the evaluation where appropriate.

**Survey Results**

- 11.13 In total 68 responses were received. The home post code location of those who provided their post codes is shown in Figure 11-1.

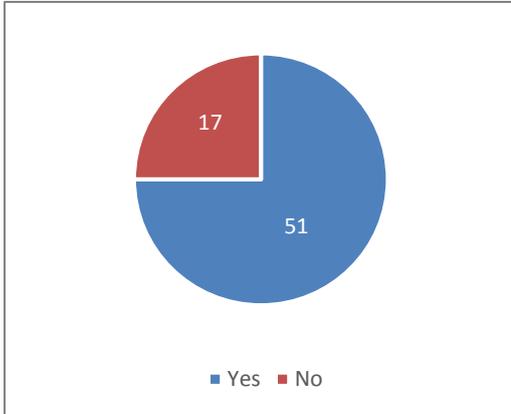
*Figure 11-1 Respondents Post Codes*



11.14 The respondents to the survey reside in areas throughout Edinburgh, clustered around the streets where the Playing Out sessions were held.

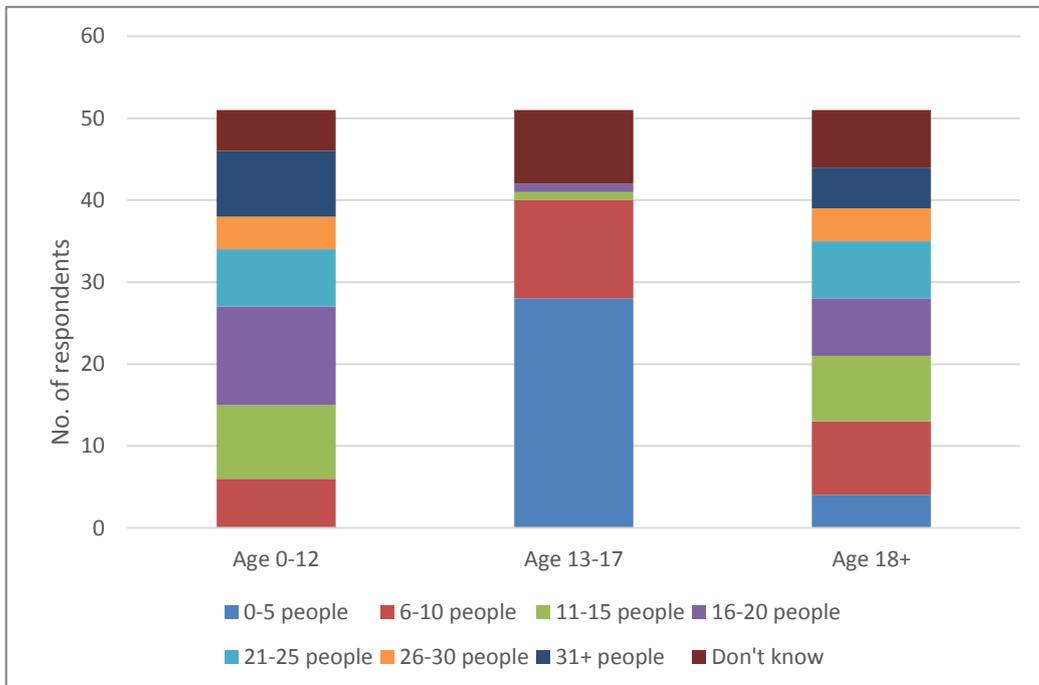
11.15 The majority of respondents (75%) were directly involved in or affected in any way by Playing Out, as shown in Figure 11-2.

Figure 11-2 Directly Involved in, or Affected in Any Way



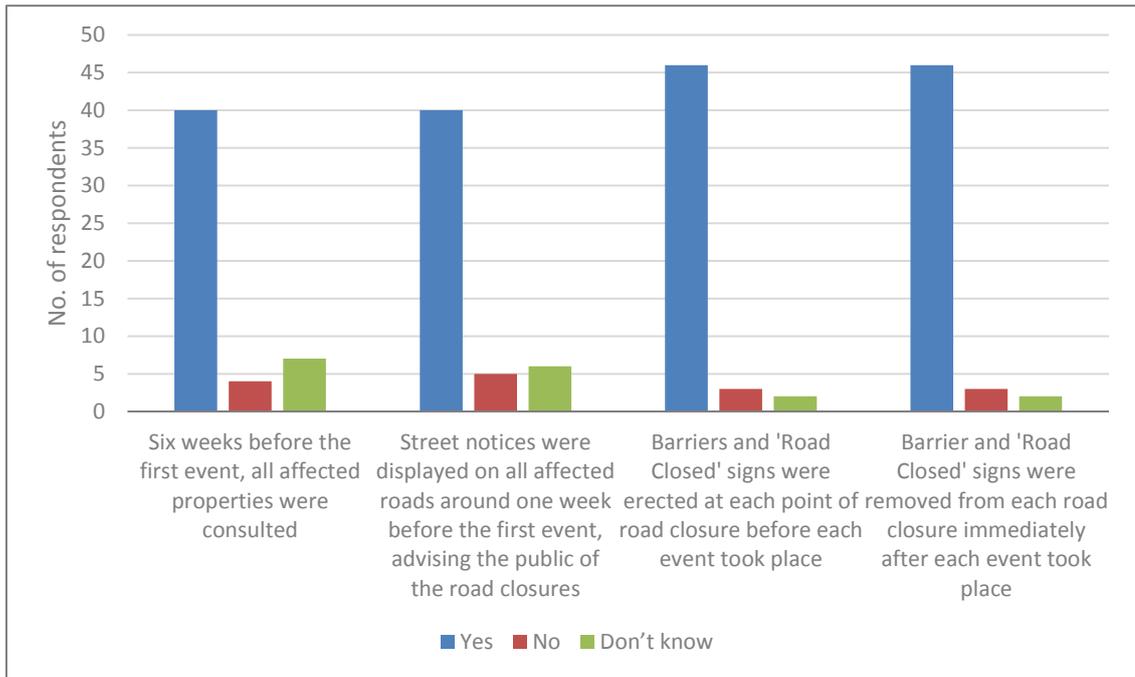
11.16 When asked to estimate the number of attendees aged 0-12 at an average session, the most commonly selected response (24% of respondents) was 16-20 attendees. When asked to estimate the number of attendees aged 13-17 at an average session, the most commonly selected response (55% of respondents) was 0-5 attendees. When asked to estimate the number of attendees aged 18+ at an average session, the most commonly selected response (18% of respondents) was 6-10 attendees. A summary of these responses is provided in Figure 11-3.

Figure 11-3 Estimated No. Attendees in Each Age Group



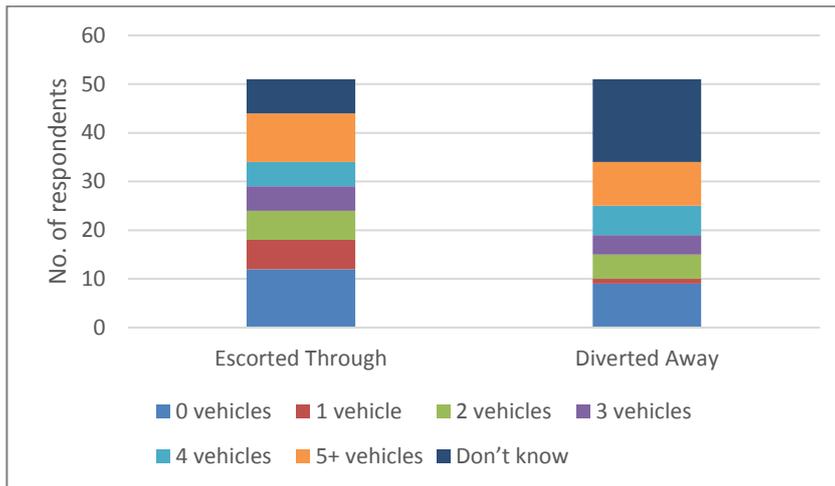
11.17 The majority of respondents (78%) agreed that six weeks before the first event, all affected properties were consulted. The majority of respondents (78%) agreed that street notices were displayed on all affected roads around one week before the first event. The majority of respondents (90%) agreed that barriers and 'Road Closed' signs were erected at each point of closure before the first event took place. The majority of respondents (90%) agreed that barriers and 'Road Closed' signs were removed from each road closure immediately after each event took place. A summary of these responses is provided in Figure 11-4.

Figure 11-4 Following the Guidelines Observations



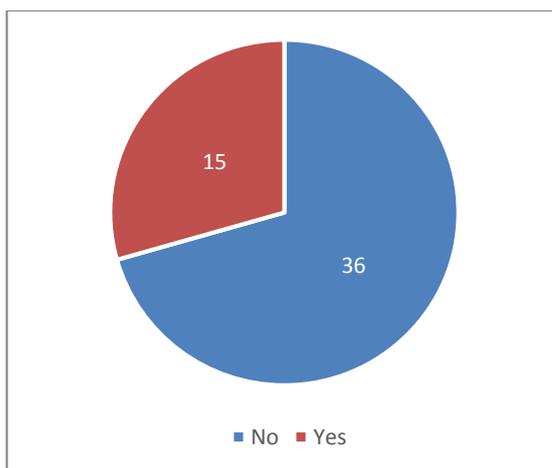
11.18 When asked how many vehicles were escorted through a closed street, the most commonly selected answer (24% of respondents) was 0 vehicles. Overall 63% of respondents thought that at least 1 vehicles was escorted through. When asked how many vehicles were diverted away from a closed street, the most commonly selected answers (aside from 'don't know') was 0 vehicles (18% of respondents) and 5+ vehicles (18% of respondents). Overall, almost half (49% of respondents) thought that at least 1 vehicle was diverted away. As shown in Figure 11-5.

Figure 11-5 Vehicles Escorted Through/Diverted Away



11.19 When respondents were asked if they were aware of any issues with drivers following stewards' instructions, the majority (71%) answered 'no', as shown in Figure 11-6.

Figure 11-6 Issues with Drivers Following Stewards Instructions

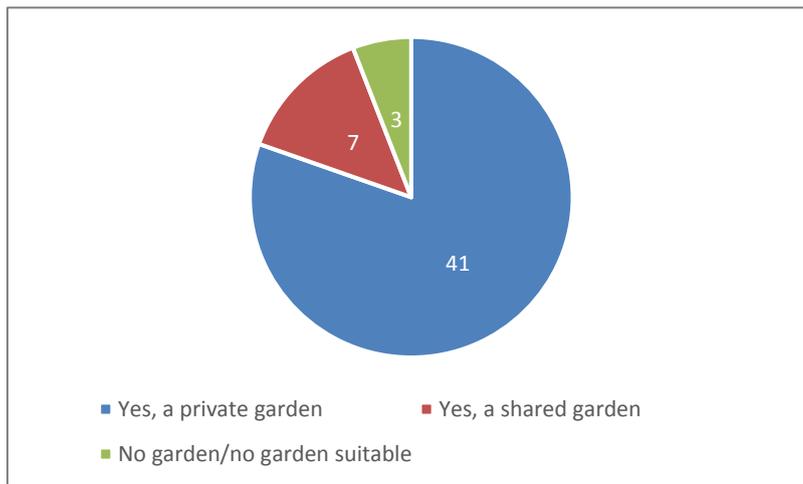


11.20 Respondents were asked to provide detail if they answered 'yes' to the above question. The answers provided are summarised below:

- 11.20.1 Drivers complaining or being rude (6 respondents)
- 11.20.2 Vehicles driving onto the pavement, into barrier or moving barrier (4 respondents)
- 11.20.3 Speeding on the closed street during a session (3 respondents)
- 11.20.4 Refusal to be escorted (2 respondents)

11.21 When the respondents were asked if they have a garden suitable for children to play in, the majority of respondents (96%) answered either 'yes, a private garden' (82%), or 'yes, a shared garden' (14%). The results are shown in Figure 11-7.

Figure 11-7 Garden Availability



11.22 Over 50 activities/games were observed as having taken place at Playing Out sessions. Table 11-1 summarises the most popular activities/games mentioned.

Table 11-1 Most Popular Activities/Games

| Activity                               | No. of Respondents |
|--|--------------------|
| Cycling / ride on toys                 | 43                 |
| Chalking                               | 38                 |
| Scooting                               | 36                 |
| Football / ball games                  | 26                 |
| Getting to know one another / chatting | 17                 |
| Rollerskates / blades                  | 15                 |
| Races / chasing games                  | 12                 |
| Skipping                               | 11                 |
| Hopscotch                              | 10                 |
| Tig                                    | 6                  |
| Skateboarding                          | 6                  |
| Bubbles                                | 5                  |
| Independent Play                       | 5                  |
| Water fights                           | 4                  |
| Refreshments                           | 4                  |
| Go carting                             | 4                  |

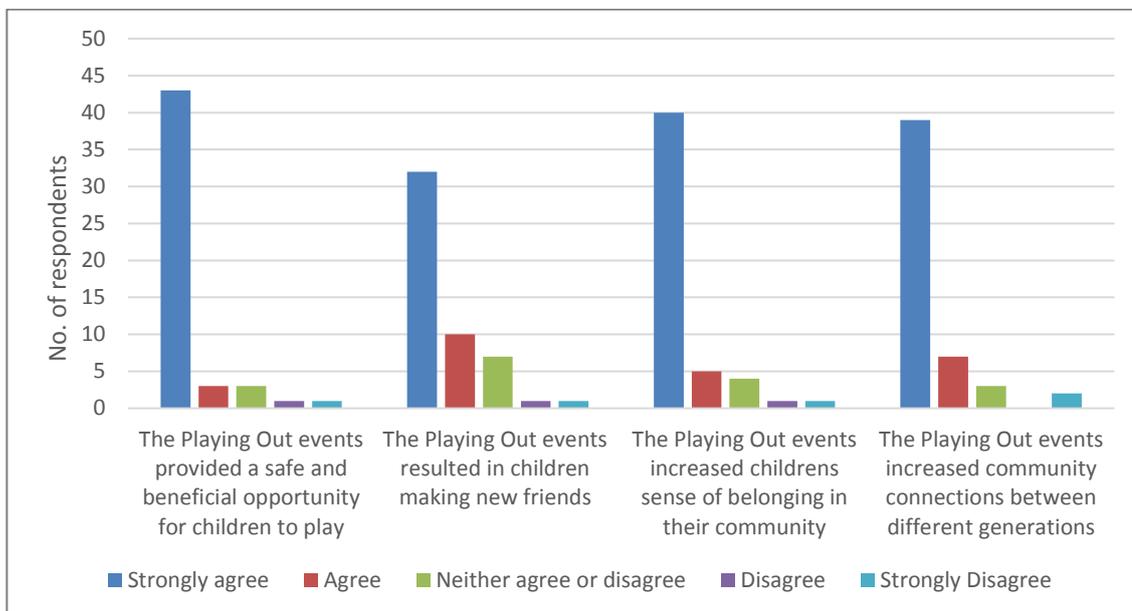
11.23 When asked if the Playing Out events provided a safe and beneficial opportunity for children to play, the majority of respondents (90%) answered either 'strongly agree' (84%) or 'agree' (6%). The results are shown in Figure 11-8.

11.24 When asked if the Playing Out events resulted in children making new friends, the majority of respondents (83%) answered either 'strongly agree' (63%) or 'agree' (20%). The results are shown in Figure 11-8.

11.25 When asked if the Playing Out events increased children’s sense of belonging in the community, the majority of respondents (88%) answered either ‘strongly agree’ (78%) or ‘agree’ (10%). The results are shown in Figure 11-8.

11.26 When asked if the Playing Out events increased community connections between different generations, the majority of respondents (90%) answered either ‘strongly agree’ (76%) or ‘agree’ (14%). The results are shown in Figure 11-8.

Figure 11-8 Benefits of Playing Out



11.27 A variety of successes of the Playing Out sessions were mentioned, these have been grouped into themes and a summary is displayed in Table 11-2.

Table 11-2 Perceived Successes

| Successes  | No. of Respondents |
|--|--------------------|
| New/improved friendships                           | 24                 |
| Sense of community spirit                          | 19                 |
| Good idea/Playing Out was enjoyable                | 19                 |
| Interactions between age groups/generations        | 13                 |
| Safe traffic free space                            | 13                 |
| Learning/practicing new skills                     | 5                  |
| General socialising                                | 5                  |
| Sessions went smoothly/well run                    | 5                  |
| People involved from other streets                 | 3                  |
| Independent play                                   | 3                  |
| Improved subsequent interactions between residents | 3                  |
| Reclaiming the street                              | 2                  |
| increased physical activity                        | 2                  |

11.28 A variety of issues relating to the Playing Out pilot were mentioned. These have been grouped into themes and a summary is displayed below.

11.28.1 More sessions should be held (12 respondents).

11.28.2 Consultation and application process too time consuming /complicated (8 respondents).

11.28.3 Poor Communication from or within the Council (7 respondents).

11.28.4 Barriers delivery/collection issues (6 respondents).

11.28.5 More signs should go up/increase awareness to public (5 respondents).

11.28.6 Less bureaucracy (2 respondents).

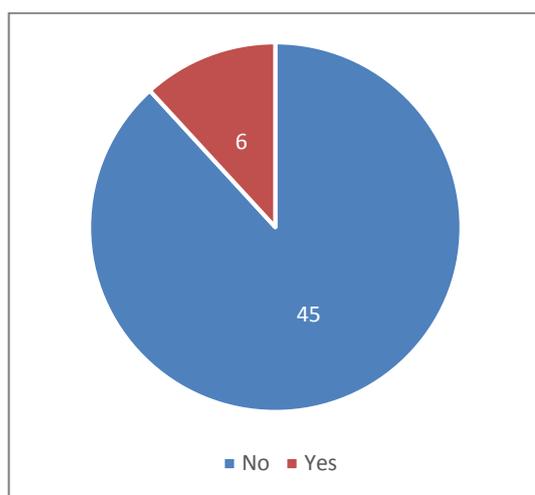
11.28.7 Sessions should only be held in areas where people have no private gardens (2 respondents).

11.28.8 Regular time slots to reduce confusion (2 respondents).

11.28.9 Encourage elder generation to participate (2 respondents).

11.29 When asked if they were inconvenienced by the Playing Out events, the majority of respondents (90%) answered 'no', as shown in Figure 11-9.

*Figure 11-9 Inconvenienced by Playing Out*

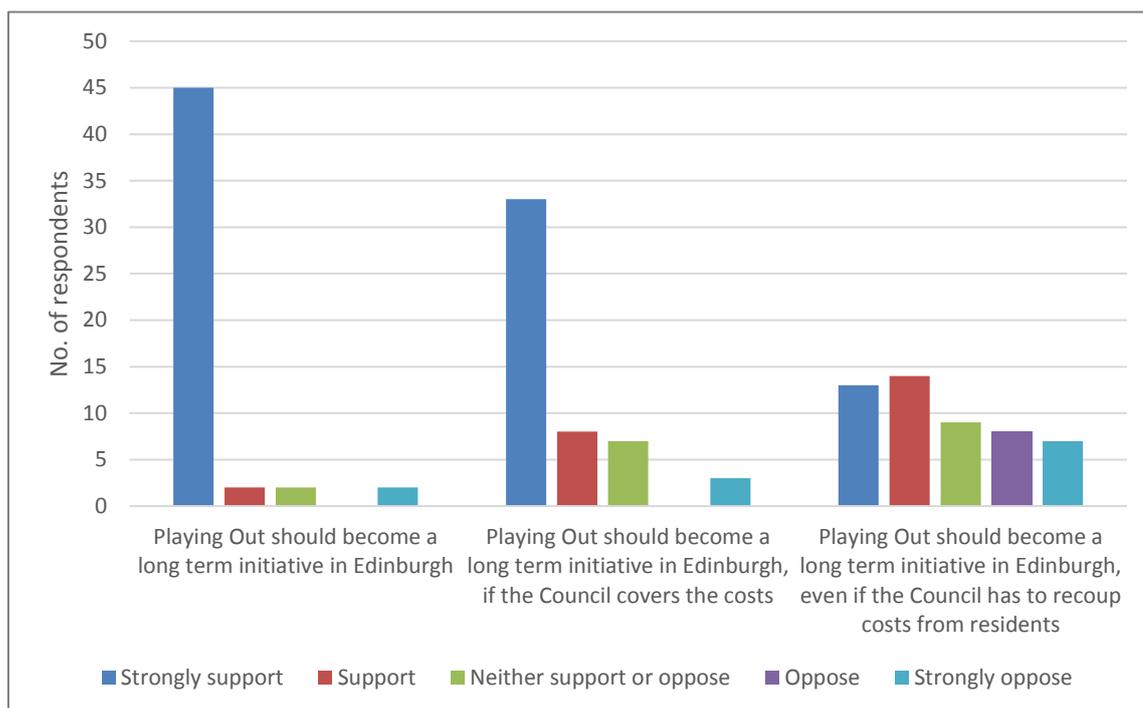


11.30 When asked if Playing Out should become a long-term initiative in Edinburgh, the majority of respondents (92%) either 'strongly supported' (88%) or 'supported' (4%) this statement. The results are shown in Figure 11-10.

11.31 When asked if Playing Out should become a long-term initiative in Edinburgh, if the Council covers the costs, the majority of respondents (80%) either 'strongly support' (65%) or 'support' (16%) this statement. The results are shown in Figure 11-10.

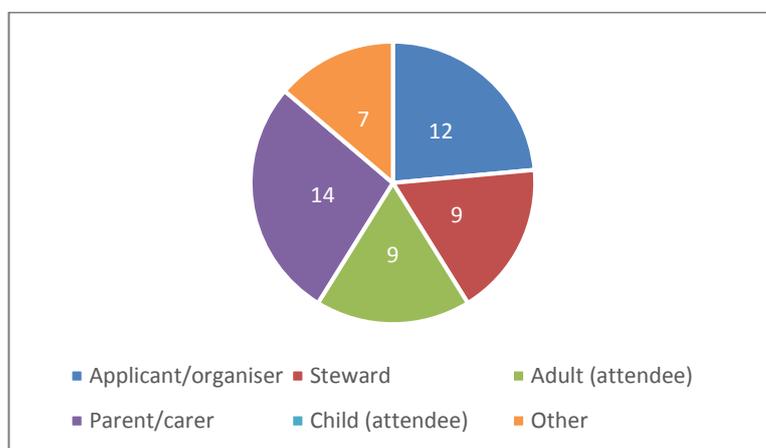
11.32 When asked if Playing Out should become a long-term initiative in Edinburgh, even if the Council has to recoup costs from residents, the majority of respondents (53%) either 'strongly support' (25%) or 'support' (27%) the statement. The results are shown in Figure 11-10.

Figure 11-10 Playing Out as Long-Term Initiative



11.33 The most common main role of respondents was ‘parent/carer’ (28%), followed by ‘applicant/organiser’ (24%). Several of the respondents undertook a variety of roles and selected ‘other’ to explain this. The results are shown in Figure 11-11.

Figure 11-11 Main Role



11.34 Applicants/organisers were asked how many sessions they applied for and how many were approved, in total 30 sessions were applied for and 29 were approved. This differs from the actual number approved by Locality Teams as not all applicants/organisers completed the online consultation.

11.35 Four respondents stated that one of more of their sessions did not go ahead, reasons provided include:

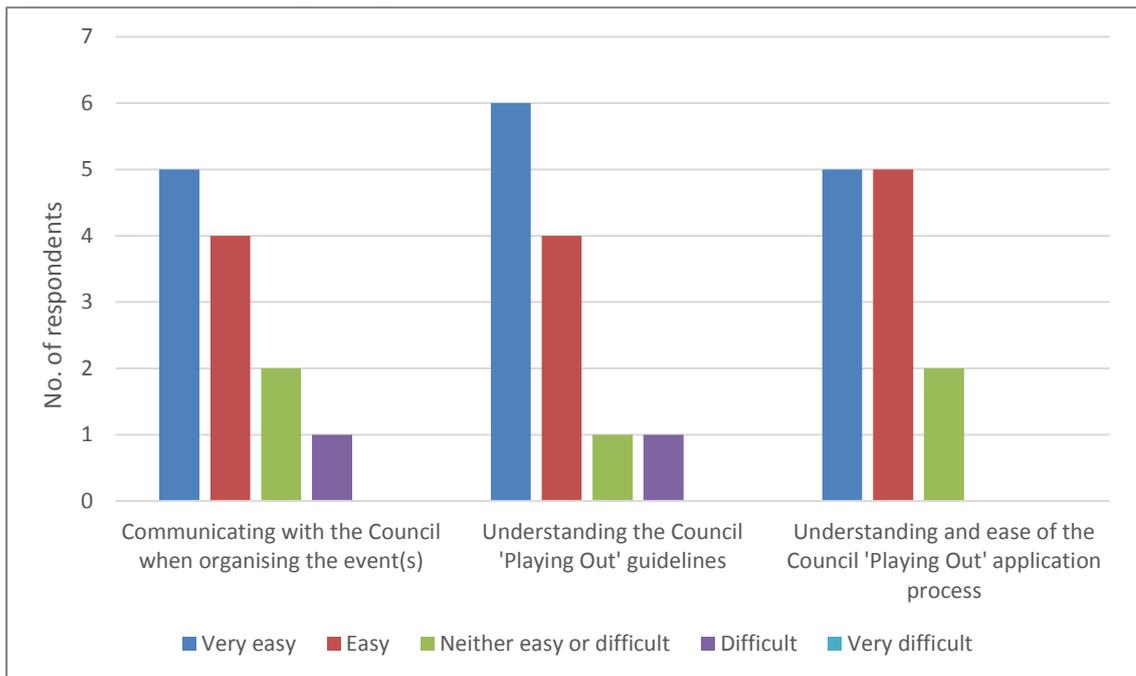
- 11.35.1 Weather;
- 11.35.2 Delay in application procession;
- 11.35.3 Barriers not delivered; and
- 11.35.4 Lack of stewards.

11.36 When applicants/organisers were asked how they found the process of communicating with the Council when organising the event, the majority (75%) answered either 'very easy' (42%) or 'easy' (33%). The results are shown in Figure 11-12.

11.37 When applicants/organisers were asked how easy they found understanding the Council Playing Out guidelines, the majority (83%) answered either 'very easy' (50%) or 'easy' (33%). The results are shown in Figure 11-12.

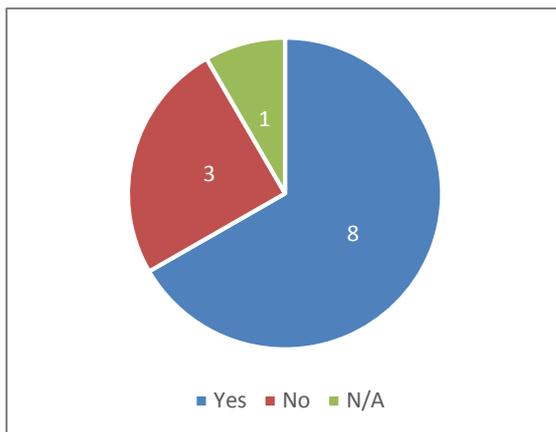
11.38 When applicants/organisers were asked how they found understanding and ease of the Council Playing Out application process, the majority (83%) answered either 'very easy' (42%) or 'easy' (42%). The results are shown in Figure 11-12.

Figure 11-12 Process of Organising



11.39 When the respondents were asked if they were able to store the barriers and signs securely before and after event(s), the majority (67%) answered 'yes', as shown in Figure 11-13.

Figure 11-13 Storing Barriers and Signs

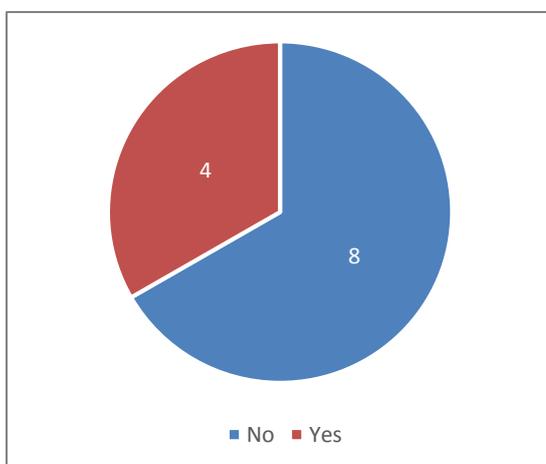


11.40 If respondents answered 'no' to the above question, they were asked to explain why, common reasons include:

- 11.40.1 Barriers and signs were not left for duration of pilot as agreed (3 respondents); and
- 11.40.2 Lack of secure storage space (2 respondents).

11.41 When applicants/organiser were asked if they experienced any issues with the Council delivering or collecting the road closure signs and barriers, the majority (67%) answered 'No', as shown in Figure 11-14.

Figure 11-14 Issus with Council Delivering and Collection Signs and Barriers



11.42 Respondents were asked to provide detail if they answered 'yes' to the above question. The only issue respondents commented upon was that the Council failed to deliver or collect road closure equipment as agreed (5 respondents).

11.43 The age of respondents if broken down as shown in Table 11-3

*Table 11-3 Age of Respondents*

| <b>Age</b>   | <b>No. of Respondents</b> | <b>Percentage of Respondents</b> |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Under 16     | 1                         | 1%                               |
| 16-24        | 0                         | 0%                               |
| 25-34        | 5                         | 7%                               |
| 35-44        | 28                        | 41%                              |
| 45-54        | 21                        | 31%                              |
| 55-64        | 7                         | 10%                              |
| 65-74        | 4                         | 6%                               |
| 75 and over  | 1                         | 1%                               |
| Not Answered | 1                         | 1%                               |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>68</b>                 | <b>100%</b>                      |

11.44 The gender identity of respondents if broken down as shown in Table 11-4.

*Table 11-4 Gender Identity of Respondents*

| <b>Gender</b>     | <b>No. of Respondents</b> | <b>Percentage of Respondents</b> |
|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Male              | 22                        | 31%                              |
| Female            | 42                        | 63%                              |
| In another way    | 0                         | 0%                               |
| Prefer not to say | 2                         | 3%                               |
| Not Answered      | 2                         | 3%                               |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>68</b>                 | <b>100%</b>                      |