

Integrated Impact Assessment – Summary Report

Each of the numbered sections below must be completed
Please state if the IIA is interim or final

Interim report		Final report	X
----------------	--	--------------	---

1. Title of proposal

City of Edinburgh Council Street Trading and Market Operators Policy

2. What will change as a result of this proposal?

Street Trading and Market Operator are optional licensing activities under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. In 1983 the City of Edinburgh Council, by way of resolution, exercised its powers to adopt these activities and developed a Street Trading policy.

A number of city centre locations have been redeveloped to improve the quality of the public space. This has led to competing demands for the use of public space, and there has been an increase in the volume of licence applications for street trading.

Public realm space continues to attract significant demand from street traders, market operators, parades and processions and event organisers. Areas particularly affected by this increased demand and lack of available space include Castle Street, High Street, Hunter Square and Grassmarket.

The Council's Regulatory Committee agreed the current Street Trading policy on 1 February 2016 following a period of public consultation. The Committee agreed to review the policy at its meeting on 1 May 2023. Following initial consultation and the work of Member Officer working group convened as part of the review, Committee resolved on 31 January 2025 that a further stakeholder consultation was required, with a focus on street trading in three areas: Playfair Steps, Hunter Square and High Street, as well as on the requirement for traders to wear photographic ID badges in addition to displaying their licence document.

The proposed policy incorporates amendments recommended following this public consultation, including:

- Confirming Playfair Steps is unlikely to be considered suitable for the granting of street trading and market operators licences, removing the reference to existing trading stances in the area;
- Removing the reference to weekly draws for stalls at Hunter Square and

High Street, noting these areas are unlikely to be considered suitable for street trading or market activity and clarifying temporary applications in connection with events will be considered on a case by case basis; and

- Amendment of standard conditions 10 and 11 to remove the requirement for the licence holder to wear an ID badge at all times when trading.

If the proposed policy is not approved, the existing Street Trading policy will remain in effect.

3. Briefly describe public involvement in this proposal to date and planned

The Council has engaged in public consultation throughout the process of reviewing its Street Trading policy. On 31 January 2025, the Regulatory Committee instructed officers to carry out a consultation exercise on the issues summarised in section two above.

A public consultation was carried out from 10 March to 2 June 2025, in order to gain a broader understanding of community and business views, particularly in relation to trading at Playfair Steps, High Street and Hunter Square. 120 responses were received via the Council's Consultation Hub. Additionally, several written responses were received directly by the Licensing Service.

The Regulatory Committee held evidence sessions with street traders and market operators and separately with representatives of premises in the affected areas on 9 June 2025, and with members of community organisations on 11 June 2025.

The consultation was advertised on the Council's website and X (formerly Twitter) accounts. Furthermore, key stakeholders including street trader and market operator licence holders, businesses which may be affected by street trading activity in the three areas of focus, community councils and organisations were contacted directly to inform them of the policy review and related consultation. Advised of the consultation were Police Scotland who are a statutory consultee under the 1982 Act, as well as the Council's Public Safety, Network Management and Enforcement, and Environmental Protection teams.

Following consideration of consultation responses, a draft statement of licensing policy was developed.

4. Is the proposal considered strategic under the Fairer Scotland Duty?

No.

5. Date of IIA

27 August 2025

6. Who was present at the IIA? Identify facilitator, lead officer, report writer and any employee representative present and main stakeholder (e.g. Council, NHS)

Name	Job Title	Date of IIA training
Anna Darocha Lead Officer Report Writer Facilitator Note Taker	Regulatory Officer – Licensing	8 January 2025
Christopher McKee	Regulatory Team Leader (Licensing)	6 December 2023
Isla Burton	Trading Standards Officer	24 October 2023
Gerry Mays	Principal Solicitor – Licensing	8 January 2025
John McCluskey	Senior Solicitor – Licensing	8 January 2025

7. Evidence available at the time of the IIA

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
Data on populations in need – where available use disaggregated data	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation Responses 	<p>Street trader and market operator licence applicants are required to provide limited information on their background, namely date and place of birth.</p> <p>The consultation responses gave data on gender, age and national identity of respondents.</p>
Data on service uptake/access	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation Responses • Information gathered by the Council's Licensing Service and Enforcement Team 	<p>As part of the policy review the Council considered data on existing street trader and market operator licences and pending licence applications, and information gathered by the Council's enforcement team on unlicensed operators.</p> <p>Information on the service uptake/access to service provided by traders or market operators, could be considered commercially sensitive and therefore the Council has not been able to access this information.</p> <p>However, the consultation process has resulted in information being received from the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers Operators of licensed markets Street traders Residents and businesses/ other premises affected by street trading in the areas of focus Community Councils Other community organisations considered to be stakeholders in the consultation: Cockburn Association, Edinburgh Old Town Association

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, low wealth, material deprivation, area deprivation	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation Responses 	<p>Information received during the consultation process from street Traders and market operators stated that by introducing a licensing policy which places any further restrictions on areas considered suitable for street trading would result in a loss of income. This would create a socio-economic disadvantage for this group and their dependents. The suppliers of products sold by traders as well as businesses, and tourist attractions operating in those areas may also be affected.</p> <p>On the other hand, some representatives of retail and hospitality premises operating in areas affected by street trading shared concerns that street trading activity may have negative effect on the income of this group, through provision of similar products as those offered by premises-based operators and impeding the visibility/ access to premises. This group may therefore perceive a benefit in further restrictions placed on street trading. If proposed policy changes are not approved, the group may perceive that the negative impact of street trading will continue.</p>
Data on equality outcomes	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation Responses 	<p>Information was received from statutory consultees, trade members, businesses, community organisations and residents.</p> <p>If not properly managed, the presence of street trading activity</p>

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
		may have a negative impact on persons with accessibility needs by impeding pedestrian access.
Research/literature evidence	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation Responses 	Information was received from statutory consultees, trade members, businesses, community organisations and residents.
Public/patient/client experience information	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation Responses 	Information was received from statutory consultees, trade members, businesses, community organisations and residents.
Evidence of inclusive engagement of people who use the service and involvement findings	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation Responses 	<p>Information was received from statutory consultees, trade members, businesses, community organisations and residents.</p> <p>A round of public consultation was held, totalling 12 weeks, in order to provide a detailed and robust evidence base from which to inform any decision making.</p> <p>All current street trader and market operator licence holders were notified of the consultation. This notification was extended to traders licensed to operate at Playfair Steps at the time trading was suspended from the location in 2018.</p> <p>To encourage participation, the public consultation was open to all interested parties to contribute.</p>
Evidence of unmet need		<p>The consultation process did not produce evidence of significant unmet demand for street trading or market activity.</p> <p>However, some responses highlighted that certain types of trading would be in demand if</p>

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
		<p>allowed to operate in certain areas of City centre.</p> <p>Responses from trade highlighted the demand by traders for street trading stances significantly outstrips the supply of available stances.</p>
Good practice guidelines	The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982	<p>The policy framework and conditions continue to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A safe, clean and well-maintained environment • A more attractive environment for those living in, working in and visiting the city • An improved, more diverse, retail offer • An environment that promotes and protects the economic wellbeing of the city.
Carbon emissions generated/reduced data	No	
Environmental data	No	
Risk from cumulative impacts	Yes	Police Scotland - consultation response noted presence of street trading in one of the areas of the City centre (Hunter Square) may be a contributing factor to reduction in Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) in the area.
Other (please specify)	N/A	
Additional evidence required	No	

8. In summary, what impacts were identified and which groups will they affect?

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights and Children's Rights	Affected populations
<p>Positive</p> <p>Destination markets and street trading can be a draw for tourists and can bring a wide variety of stalls, commodities and cultures.</p> <p>Licensed street trading activities can also assist in the prevention of illegal street trading, by displacing undesirable criminal activity and hawking.</p> <p>The Street Trader and Market Operator licensing schemes and associated policy provide a transparent decision-making process and improve the feeling of control over what happens in local communities.</p> <p>They also help to improve public safety and promote good practice amongst licensed operators through standard licence conditions framework.</p> <p>Some residents may experience more pleasant accommodation if street trading is regulated.</p> <p>Introducing a policy which places restrictions on activities such as street trading in certain areas may lead to an increased sense of safety and wellbeing in persons with accessibility needs.</p> <p>If the Street Trading conditions continue to require traders to wear photographic ID badges this may boost the feeling of safety in neighbours and customers. Any negative impact of removing this requirement may be mitigated as traders will continue to be required to display a licence including the operator's photograph on any vehicle or stance traded from.</p>	<p>All groups</p>
<p>Negative</p> <p>Requirement to engage in the licensing process may be seen as a barrier to some people or groups.</p> <p>The street trader and market operator licensing scheme and policy could lead to a financial impact on operators,</p>	<p>All groups</p>

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights and Children's Rights	Affected populations
<p>their employees and suppliers of products sold by street traders or market operators.</p> <p>Approving a policy which places additional restrictions on street trading may further reduce opportunities for individuals to take up this activity or grow their existing business.</p> <p>It was noted in some consultation responses that street trading may have a positive effect on displacing criminal activity and antisocial behaviour, therefore restricting street trading in certain areas could prevent the affected areas from benefiting from a reduction in ASB.</p> <p>Approving the removal of conditions requiring street traders to wear photographic ID badges may be detrimental to the feeling of safety in some groups (neighbours, customers).</p>	

Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts	Affected populations
<p>Positive</p> <p>The street trading policy may have a positive impact on noise pollution and other disturbances as a result of the street trader and market operator licence conditions framework.</p> <p>The street trading policy may have a positive impact on residential amenity as it will continue to require licensed traders to have adequate facilities for the storage and disposal of refuse, and to ensure the area surrounding the trading stall or market is clean of any litter generated by the activity.</p>	All groups
<p>Negative</p> <p>A policy which restricts street trading and market activity in certain areas may result in an increase in unregulated activity in the area which has potential to generate noise pollution and issues with disposal of refuse.</p>	

Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts	Affected populations
A street trading policy which restricts trading in City centre may be seen to drive tourists and residents to travel outwith city centre by road transport, therefore increasing carbon emissions.	

Economic	Affected populations
<p>Positive</p> <p>The operation of a street trading/ market operator licensing scheme and policy may give visitors confidence that these activities are regulated to an appropriate standard and lead to increased visitors to areas where street trading or markets take place. This may positively impact not only traders and their suppliers, but also other businesses operating in the area (including retail, hospitality businesses, hotels and short-term let accommodation, tourist attractions, taxi and private hire operators).</p> <p>A policy which allows street trading to be present in certain areas may have a positive impact on consumers who may benefit from increased offering and competition potentially leading to lower prices of products or services.</p> <p>Restricting street trading in certain areas where there is significant business activity may be seen as beneficial to premises by improving their visibility and in some cases reducing competition.</p> <p>Areas where street trading has been restricted may become available for alternative use, e.g. as event spaces which could drive visitors to the area.</p> <p>A street trading policy which places restrictions on trading in the city centre may result to street trading and market activity being driven to other areas of the city with a potential for those areas to benefit from an increase in the number of visitors.</p>	All groups
<p>Negative</p> <p>Adopting a policy which places further restrictions on trading locations available to street traders and market</p>	

Economic	Affected populations
<p>operators could reduce the traders' and their suppliers' ability to generate income from the activity.</p> <p>It may also be seen as having a negative effect on the businesses in the areas by reducing the variety of products and services offered, therefore reducing the number of visitors in the affected areas. Businesses affected may include but not be limited to retail premises, hospitality venues, hotels and short-term let properties, taxi and private hire car operators and tourist attractions.</p> <p>A policy which restricts street trading in certain areas may negatively affect consumers through a reduction in offering and competition potentially leading to an increase in prices of certain products or services.</p>	

9. Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors and if so how will equality, human rights including children's rights, environmental and sustainability issues be addressed?

No

10. Consider how you will communicate information about this policy/ service change to children and young people and those affected by sensory impairment, speech impairment, low level literacy or numeracy, learning difficulties or English as a second language? Please provide a summary of the communications plan.

The Licensing Service currently deals with customers from a range of backgrounds. This includes those affected by sensory impairment, speech impairment, low level literacy or numeracy, learning difficulties or English as a second language.

When the Regulatory Committee agrees the Street Trading and Market Operators Policy, the licensing service will communicate this in a number of ways. Firstly, all existing licence holders and applicants will be notified of the newly approved policy. All respondents to the consultation who indicated that they would be happy to be contacted again in relation to street trading, will be written to in order to inform them of the decision along with information on the agreed Street Trading and Market Operators licensing policy, conditions framework and any other appropriate information. Furthermore, the Committee's decision will be communicated using the

Council's and Licensing Service's social media accounts in addition to updates being placed on the Council's website. The decision will also be communicated to Community Councils and organisations.

Where customers require further support to access information in respect of street trader and/or market operator licensing, the licensing service will make the necessary reasonable adjustments to cater for this. For example, translators can be provided for those customers whose primary language is not English and who have difficulty understanding this information.

- 11. Is the plan, programme, strategy or policy likely to result in significant environmental effects, either positive or negative? If yes, it is likely that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be required and the impacts identified in the IIA should be included in this. See section 2.10 in the Guidance for further information.**

No

12. Additional Information and Evidence Required

If further evidence is required, please note how it will be gathered. If appropriate, mark this report as interim and submit updated final report once further evidence has been gathered.

At this stage, it has not been established that any additional information of evidence is required. Should the Regulatory Committee request further information, this will be provided.

- 13. Specific to this IIA only, what recommended actions have been, or will be, undertaken and by when? (these should be drawn from 7 – 11 above) Please complete:**

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and job title)	Deadline for progressing	Review date
Include a copy of this IIA in the Regulatory Committee Report due to be considered on 29 September 2025	Anna Darocha, Regulatory Officer	22 September 2025	29 September 2025

- 14. Are there any negative impacts in section 8 for which there are no identified mitigating actions?**

No

15. How will you monitor how this proposal affects different groups, including people with protected characteristics?

It is proposed that the street trading policy is reviewed as and when required. A review of the IIA and how the policy is affecting different groups, including those with protected characteristics, will form part of that work.

16. Sign off by Service Director

Name Peter Watton

Date 12 September 2025

17. Publication

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to:

integratedimpactassessments@edinburgh.gov.uk to be published on the Council website www.edinburgh.gov.uk/impactassessments

Edinburgh Integration Joint Board/Health and Social Care

sarah.bryson@edinburgh.gov.uk to be published at www.edinburghhsc.scot/the-ijb/integrated-impact-assessments/