

The Loop Newsletter

21 June 2024



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For Action

Important messages that require action



NRS People Survey

Colleagues have the opportunity to take part in our NRS People Survey by accessing the following [link](#). The survey gives staff the opportunity to voice their opinions on how their own wellbeing is during working hours and also come forward with any valuable ideas they may have moving forward. As always, your feedback is incredibly valuable and will help us determine how The NRS People Programme supports all staff across the Service and helps make NRS a great place to work. Can all staff please complete the survey at their earliest convenience and no later than Sunday 7 July 2024.



Managers' Briefings

The following Managers' Briefs have been issued in the last fortnight. A full list of past briefings is available on the intranet using the button on the left.

- Purchase of temporary labour to support council services

[Click here to
read more](#)

For Information

Service News and Corporate Updates that might affect you



Refuse Collection Vehicles

As part of the ongoing commitment to modernising the fleet, the Council are investing in 22 new Refuse Collection Vehicles that will replace older vehicles and deliver multiple benefits such as reducing vehicle emissions, reducing operating costs and improving the efficiency and working environment in which our refuse collection staff work. These vehicles will be used to support the ongoing waste collection improvements being delivered across the city and ensure that our drivers and collectors are working with the most up to date equipment.



Charing Cross Closure

Essential works start at the M8 Charing Cross junction on Monday 8 July for five months. These works will help protect the M8 Charing Cross Underpass and upgrade the local junction for all users. The Junction 18 northbound slip and some linking roads will be closed. Diversions will be in place, but traffic delays are expected so please plan ahead.

More information can be found on our [website](#).

Test Purchasing

Do you know a Young Person who would like to assist Glasgow City Council Trading Standards team whilst adding a bit extra to their CV?

We need young people - between the ages of 13 -16 years old to volunteer their time to help us to carry out test purchases of age restricted goods.

This may include Tobacco Products, Nicotine Vapour Products, Solvents, Spray Paints, Fireworks and Knives.

Volunteers must have the permission of their parent or guardian to participate.

It can be a fun and rewarding experience and can be very beneficial, as it is a great way to add that extra flourish to a C.V.

We can provide References and a Certificate of Achievement signed by the Group Manager of Trading Standards, which may help with any future job or educational opportunities.

Refreshments will be provided throughout the course of any working period. And help will not go unrewarded, volunteers will collect gift vouchers in recognition of the amount of time and effort spent assisting the Tobacco Control Team, whether it be a few sessions or a few months.

We constantly need enthusiastic volunteers and look to recruit them on a continual basis throughout the year.

If you know a young person who is interested in becoming a volunteer or would like to know more about volunteering, then please contact the Tobacco Control Team using our [online form](#).



City Development Plan 2 Evidence Report Approved

On Thursday 6 June the City Development Plan 2 Evidence Report was approved at The City Administration Committee. The Evidence Report establishes a baseline of information required to assist the Planning Authority (Glasgow City Council) in producing City Development Plan 2. The Evidence Report supports the Council by clearly informing what to plan for before the Proposed Plan considers where development should or shouldn't take place. The work undertaken to produce the Evidence Report has been a broad exercise and encompasses a wide range of topic based papers, audits, place based reports, spatial data and public engagement. The Development Plan team would like to thank everyone in the Council family who have lent their professional guidance to the Evidence Report and the report can be found [here](#). In order to fulfil statutory requirements, the Evidence Report will be sent to Scottish Ministers for the Gatecheck process following full Council on the 27 June 2024.



Next Steps For City Centre Busking And Street Performing

A report on one of the biggest ever public consultation responses to busking and street performing in Glasgow city centre in Glasgow, and what action will follow was presented to committee.

While busking and street performing are seen by many as time honoured traditions that bring additional life and atmosphere to city centre streets for visitors, these activities can on occasion be intrusive or a nuisance to residents and those who work in the area.

The city has a voluntary code of conduct for busking and street performing in its city centre that provides key guidelines for performers, but the council is limited in how it can respond because the law does not easily allow local authorities to take punitive action against those breaching the code.



In Glasgow, the council regularly receives complaints from the public about what they see as "nuisance" street performing, with an assumption that this is a matter that should be addressed at a local authority level.

Given this position, both Glasgow City Council and the City of Edinburgh Council separately undertook public consultations in 2023 to gather views in city centre busking with one of the largest consultation responses (over 2,700) ever received to such an exercise in Glasgow. The councils have shared findings.

The consultation had the following key findings:

- The vast majority of respondents feel that busking is a worthwhile activity and should continue to take place;
- Just over half of respondents feel that noise levels are an issue which could/should be addressed;
- Other issues cited included poor performance quality, repetition/limited repertoires, overlong duration at pitches, etc;
- Most respondents either 'strongly agreed' or 'tended to agree' that the existing code of conduct should be more prominently displayed in busking hotspots;
- Around one in ten respondents said that the code of conduct should be enforced; and
- Clarification was requested as to how complaints could be raised.

Given the significant public interest some immediate actions have been carried out in response to the consultation findings, and a number of options in terms of possible action are under consideration.

The immediate actions include the introduction of on street signage in Buchanan Street promoting the busking code of conduct; the development of a new webpage with information related to [busking](#) that allows people to raise complaints for attendance by council Community Enforcement Officers (CEOs); the council will continue to work with Police Scotland around complaints where a simple resolution with CEOs cannot be achieved. Busking behaviour and the incidence of complaints will be monitored to test the effectiveness of the new signage and the code of conduct.

Alongside the new signage in Buchanan Street will be an enhanced presence of Police Scotland officers and CEOs over the summer months, with the aim of compliance through engagement, but recurring complaints and the identification of buskers and performers persistently breaching the code of conduct may result in stronger measures such as fixed penalty notices, confiscation of equipment and potential referral to the Procurator Fiscal's Office.

Options of other actions being considered include exploring the use of further enforcement powers by councils as it stands, local authorities only have advisory powers, and have to refer to Police Scotland for such action. Both Glasgow City Council and the City of Edinburgh Council are exploring the practicalities of acquiring greater powers.

**NRS
People**

Supporting your health and wellbeing and wellness at work as well as learning and personal development



Meet Your Colleagues

Nicole McCabe, Environmental Health

How long have you worked for the council?

I started as student EHO in September 2021 and qualified in October 2023.

What do you do in your role?

The main objective for Environmental Health is to protect the wider Public Health. I'm based within the Business Regulation side of Environmental Health where my role mainly focuses on ensuring compliance with Food and Health and Safety Law within Glasgow businesses by carrying out proactive inspections as well as reacting to complaints. We also get involved with all the events happening across the city such as TRNSMT, seasonal festivals, the UCI Championships and COP 26. To ensure compliance with relevant legislation we provide advice and guidance however in some circumstances have to take enforcement action where there is a risk to public health.

What is your favourite part of your role?

My favourite part of the job is getting to support and see the progression made by businesses who are struggling to understand or are unaware of their responsibilities in regard to food and health and safety law.

What are the biggest challenges within your role?

Currently Environmental Health is facing a national shortage of qualified officers which is reflected in Glasgow and this means our resources are stretched across the City. However, we are working closely with the Environmental Health Degree at the University of West of Scotland to assist in training of students and The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS) to create different routes into the profession which should hopefully open up the career to others.

Climate Ready Apprentices Help Glasgow Bee Happy

NRS People would like to highlight the fantastic achievements of our Climate Ready Modern Apprentices as they strike gold in the Horticulture Craft Challenge and help Glasgow City Council prepare for the centenary of the Cenotaph.

Taking place in the Trades House of Glasgow, our apprentices were tasked with designing and building a small garden around a concept of their choosing. Focusing on biodiversity and the preservation of our environment, our colleagues designed and built the 'Bee Happy Hotel' to house solitary bees in small places, with the aim of boosting awareness on the huge role this little insect plays in sustaining a healthy eco system.

Crucial to our food production and diverse vegetation, solitary bees are different from honeybees in that they depend upon being able to form their own nests to survive and thrive. Many areas of natural habitat have been grassed or concreted over and a bee hotel mimics these conditions, providing easily accessible space for egg laying.

Overcoming the challenging size limitations placed upon the entries, the team representing 'Glasgow Parks' set out to make a flourishing garden that was practical, attractive, and beneficial. Bringing together a beautiful and colourful collection of plants, the display was attractive to the eye and easy to look after in residential gardens, balconies or in city parks. Most importantly they provided great accommodation for the bee population of Glasgow.

The Apprentices pitched their design to judges and used it to highlight the decreasing bee population and what we can do to help turn this around. Competing against several other education and training organisations, their pitch stood out most to the judges and Glasgow Parks were awarded the Gold Award, A fantastic achievement and a great reflection of the thought and effort that went into this winning design. Congratulations to our modern apprentices!

Find out more about the Council's on going efforts to [help nature recovery](#) and our [Pollinator Plan](#).

To celebrate 100 years of the Glasgow Cenotaph on 31 May the team were asked to design and plant several containerised displays around the memorial in George Square.

For this event the apprentices took great consideration in arranging an attractive and appropriate display for the citizens and visitors of Glasgow. A colourful collection of plants was handpicked by the team to symbolise a powerful message: Rosemary for remembrance as well as purple Alliums for respect, honour and patience and Marguerites for innocence, purity, and love.

This wonderful choice of planting has received praise and positive remarks from the Lord Provost and the people of Glasgow. Our apprentices were on site throughout the installation and were fantastic representatives for the Council, drawing many positive comments from the public. After the event, the team were presented to the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Councillor Jacqueline McLaren, during which a buffet was given to all the dignitaries. The Lord Provost sends out her thanks and appreciation for all the hard work and effort made by the apprentices.

Both events were great opportunities for the team to gain practical experience in design and delivery while seeing the scope of what a horticulture career can offer.

Interested in Horticulture or just want some space to relax? Why not visit the [Glasgow Botanic Gardens](#) or the [Queen's Park Glass House](#), see what's on and get involved!

Vacancies within NRS

The following job vacancies within NRS have been added to myjobscotland. If you are interested use the button to the left to go through to the job adverts.

- GLA12083 - Assistant Group Manager (Energy Management)
- GLA12069 - Principal Planner
- GLA12092 - Senior Technical Support Officer
- GLA12070 - Technical Officer (Environmental Health)
- GLA12090 - Sales Advisor
- GLA12088 - Safety Inspector (Roads)
- GLA12109 - Senior Technical Support Officer
- GLA12108 - Property Liaison Officer
- GLA12107 - Bereavement and Environmental Services Technician



myjobscotland

Click here to
read more

- GLA12105 - LES Driver 2 (Deep Clean) (Monday - Friday)
- GLA12106 - LES Operative 2 (Deep Clean) (Monday - Friday)

General Interest

What other teams do and events and activities that you can join

Glasgow Life Announces Summer of Events and Summer of Fun Programmes

Glasgow Life has revealed its Summer of Events and Summer of Fun programmes for 2024.

The programmes offer free and low cost events and activities throughout the summer and feature everything from arts and music to adventure playground sessions and tennis camps.

Glasgow Life has confirmed the dates for its 2024 Summer of Events which will see the Glasgow Mela, Merchant City Festival and World Pipe Band Championships wow crowds from June through to August.

The run of highly popular, family friendly events starts with the Mela on Sunday 23 June in Kelvingrove Park. The Mela is Glasgow's multicultural festival of music, dance and arts and is free for everyone to enjoy. The event features incredible local, national, and international acts, including Apache Indian, Abira Shah, Gtown Desi, Bombay Talkie, and Bhangra Beatles.



Glasgow's Summer of Events will continue with the Merchant City Festival, which will take place from Friday 19 July to Sunday 21 July. The Merchant City Festival will bring outdoor arts, circus, dance, live music and more to the streets and venues of the Merchant City. The much loved Merchant City Festival markets and food stalls will also return.

Glasgow Life's Summer of Events will reach a spectacular finale when Glasgow Green hosts the World Pipe Band Championships on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 August. The city will also host Scotland's biggest week of bagpipes, with the Piping Live! festival which will take place across Glasgow from Saturday 10 to Sunday 18 August.

An annual event which is always a favourite with audiences from near and far, the World Pipe Band Championships will then bring together the finest pipers and drummers to compete in the ultimate 'battle of the bands'.

To keep up to date with Glasgow Life's Summer of Events and learn more about the city's year round events programme, sign up to the [Glasgow Life newsletter](#).

On top of this spectacular series of events, Glasgow Life's Summer of Fun features a host of things for families and young people to do at museums, libraries, sport facilities and community centres across the city during the school holidays.

Visit the [Summer of Fun webpage](#) on the Glasgow Life website for more information on the activities taking place across Glasgow.

Contact Us

**If you have any information you would like
to share through this fortnightly email,
please click here to contact the NRS
Promotions and Engagement Team**

