



## **AGENDA ITEM**

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**Traffic Management  
Arrangements for Marches,  
Processions and Parades  
and Development of Safety  
Advisory Group Model for  
Public Events**

**Falkirk Council**

**Title: Traffic Management Arrangements for Marches, Processions and Parades and Development of Safety Advisory Group Model for Public Events**

**Meeting: Executive**

**Date: 21 February 2017**

**Submitted By: Director of Development Services**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the review into the charging of fees associated with Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders for marches, processions and parades and other community based events. It also considers an approach to ensuring safety at public events.

**2. Recommendations**

**The Executive is requested to agree;**

- (1) to endorse the further development of the Safety Advisory Group approach to managing safety at public events as promoted by CoSLA**
- (2) to note that, following the outcome of consideration of recommendation 3.90 and 3.91 contained in the Report by Dr Michael Rosie on marches, parades and static demonstrations in Scotland published 2016, a fee structure for applications for Temporary Traffic Regulations Orders in relation to marches, processions and parades can be finalised.**
- (3) to request further reports on this matter.**

**3. Background**

- 3.1 At the meeting of the Executive on 17 May 2016, it was agreed to suspend the relevant fee for Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) applications where such applications relate to traffic regulation in respect of marches, processions and parades and other community based activities, which suspension was to be in place until the review has been completed and considered by the Executive or a period of 6 months, whichever was the shorter;

- 3.2 Further, at the meeting of the Executive on 29 November 2016, it was agreed that the suspension of the relevant application fee would continue until the review could be revisited having regard to any actions taken by Police Scotland in relation to recommendation 3.90 and 3.91 contained in the 2016 independent report by Dr. Michael Rosie on marches, parades and static demonstrations in Scotland.

#### **4. Considerations**

- 4.1 Following discussions with Police Scotland (PS) it has emerged that the issue that PS has with the arrangements that had previously been in place is that it had recently concluded that police officers have no power to stop traffic from using the public highway on a pre planned basis for events such as organised parades and processions. However, provided that access to the public road network affected by these events was restricted or prohibited by means of the local authority promoting a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO), then PS would be in a position to regulate traffic in accordance with the terms of the TTRO. This would only be the case where these duties formed part of their community policing and engagement role and so, for some events, the event organisers would require to make the relevant arrangements for proper traffic management.
- 4.2 These arrangements were put in place in respect of the various events that took place over the summer months last year; some 22 in total, and for the fewer number of events thereafter, particularly Remembrance Day events in November. During that time, Council officers were able to make relevant adjustments to our own practices and review the effectiveness of the revised way of operating. This all seems to have worked in a satisfactory fashion and can be readily adopted as best practice for the future and easily integrated into the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) arrangements referred to in paragraph 4.3 below.
- 4.3 The work described in this report concluded the review instructed in May 2016. However, Dr. Rosie's report referred to contained a number of recommendations two of which said that PS should further explore (a) their powers in relation to pre-planned marches and (b) which of the relevant events are covered by the existing legislation.
- 4.4 Dr. Rosie suggested that legal advice might be required and that it could be commissioned jointly by PS, local authorities and Scottish Government as it would be useful to all. PS has confirmed that it will take responsibility for instructing the legal advice and that this is in the process of being obtained. Given that this work is not concluded, it is considered that the fixing of a new fee structure for the relevant TTRO applications should remain on hold.
- 4.5 We have engaged with COSLA and they have advised that the favoured way to proceed nationally in relation to the general management of processions and other similar events is via the SAG process. This is a multi-agency approach towards ensuring that the organisers of events plan and then execute their events in a manner that is consistent and safe for members of the public. In relation to small community based events a full SAG process will not be required but the thinking behind COSLA's encouragement to adopt the SAG model throughout Scotland is the promotion of best practice. This has been welcomed by PS to facilitate a standardised approach to event planning.

## **5. Consultation**

- 5.1 A mixed response was received in relation to the charges that authorities make for promoting TTROs. Some Councils reported that they make no charge, however the majority responded that there is a sliding scale of charges depending upon whether the event is for a charity/community led event or not. Some of the arrangements are on an ad-hoc basis, following no set/agreed charging guidance, with some authorities discussing each application as it is received.

## **6. Implications**

### **Financial and Resources**

- 6.1 No fee is currently charged for such TTRO applications. However, it has been confirmed that inclusion on the Council's website alone meets any statutory advertising requirements for these applications and is a swift, practical and effective means of publication. This method has been used since May 2016 and will continue. Given a significant proportion of the expense associated with the fee previously levied (£725 per TTRO application) related to advertising costs, this would allow the fees to be reduced generally for all such applications when a fee structure is agreed. It is important to note that this means of advertisement is not available in respect of all applications for a TTRO, only for those relating to parades etc and so a fee reduction for other applications is not sustainable.
- 6.2 The SAG process will be undertaken using existing staff resources.

### **Legal**

- 6.4 None.

### **Risk**

- 6.5 Development of a SAG process for the oversight of parade management generally will ensure the Council promotes best practice in this area which will assist in risk management for relevant events.

### **Equalities**

- 6.6 None.

### **Sustainability/Environmental Impact**

- 6.7 None.

## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1 The approach of PS to the issue of traffic management at processions and marches has developed since it was first considered by the Executive. There is now no barrier to a consistent approach being taken by that organisation throughout Scotland. Whilst there is no common view by local authorities on the setting of fees for applications for TTRO's associated with such events, this may now emerge given the clarified PS stance on the matter. Notwithstanding this, our review of fees has concluded that this council should endeavour to recover those costs only necessarily incurred by it in the promotion of the TTRO's which will significantly contribute to the relevant events taking place safely.
- 7.2 Once clarification is received in relation to the relevant issues raised in the Rosie report, a fee structure can be settled on. In the meantime, there is no barrier to confirm the adoption of the SAG process for regulating events to allow the Council to make its contribution to a consistent, Scotlandwide approach, as endorsed by COSLA.

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### **List of Background Papers:**

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:

- Report from CoSLA in relation to Safety at Public Events (September 2015)
- Spreadsheet detailing responses received from Scottish roads authorities.
- Independent report on marches, parades and static demonstrations in Scotland. Dr. Michael Rosie – the report is available [here](#)