

Ref: MCF 2026

Date: 8 June 2026

Email: mcf@glasgowlife.org.uk

Subject: Merchant City Festival Friday 24 July – 26 July and 31 July – 2 August

The Merchant City Festival returns for 2026, transforming the heart of Glasgow into a vibrant hub of creativity from 24 - 26 July and 31 July- 2 August. As a flagship event of the Commonwealth Games Festival, this year is bigger than ever. We're bringing an enhanced schedule of performance to the historic Merchant City streets, The Ramshorn Graveyard and The Briggait. From circus and dance to a dedicated family programme, we're bringing arts and performance out of the theatre and onto the pavement alongside the popular markets and street food across both weekends. Candleriggs Square will become a Festival Village throughout the 10 days, including street food, a bar, live performances and a large screen showing Commonwealth Sport.

The event is organised by Glasgow Life with support from Glasgow City Council and Police Scotland. Across the duration of the festival, we anticipate over 60,000 people will attend the event. In order to deliver the event safely and ensure crowd safety, it is necessary to put road closures and parking restrictions in place. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the event and to advise you of the arrangements put in place to reduce as much as possible, the disruption to local businesses and residents.

Please see below a list of the roads that will be closed including dates and times. Businesses & Residents who park on these streets are required to move their vehicles. Any vehicles parked in these areas during these times will be removed by Glasgow City Council.

As a local business if you believe that you will be affected by these restrictions and particularly if you park your vehicle in a secure parking area and would like to discuss access or alternative parking please contact us on 0141 287 8985 or by email mcf@glasgowlife.org.uk. Copies of all Road Closure information can also be accessed at www.merchantcityfestival.com

For Glasgow. For Life.

Commonwealth House | 38 Albion Street | Glasgow | G1 1LH | General Enquiries Tel: 0141 287 4350 | Complaints Tel: 0141 287 8977
info@glasgowlife.org.uk | www.glasgowlife.org.uk

Directors: Bailie Annette Christie (Chair), Councillor Eva Bolander, Councillor Holly Bruce, Councillor Kieran Turner, Bailie Linda Pike, Anita Salwan, Glen Gribbon, Iain MacRitchie, Lynn Bradley, Shahid Hanif, Siobhan Nairn, Kay Morrison (Chief Executive).

Glasgow Life, registered as Culture and Sport Glasgow, is a Scottish Charity (No SC037844) regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

Merchant City Festival Road Closure Information – 24 July – 26 July and 31 July – 2 August 2026 PROHIBITION OF DRIVING

<p>06:00hrs - 24 July 2026 until 23:59hrs - 26 July 2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>06:00hrs - 31 July 2026 until 23:59hrs - 2 August 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Brunswick Street for its full length → Bell Street between Candleriggs and Walls Street → Candleriggs for its full length → Garth Street for its full length – local access to resident parking → Wilson Street between Glassford Street and Candleriggs → Hutcheson Street for its full length
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Merchant City Festival Road Closure Information – 24 July – 26 July and 31 July – 2 August 2026 PROHIBITION WAITING AND LOADING OR UNLOADING

<p>06:00hrs - 24 July 2026 until 23:59hrs - 26 July 2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>06:00hrs - 31 July 2026 until 23:59hrs - 2 August 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Hutcheson Street for its full length → Brunswick Street for its full length → Bell Street between Candleriggs and Walls Street → Candleriggs for its full length → Garth Street for its full length → Wilson Street between Glassford Street and Candleriggs
<p>04:00hrs - 24 July 2026 until 23:59hrs - 26 July 2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>04:00hrs – 31 July 2026 until 23:59hrs 2 August 2026</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUSPENSION OF BUS LANE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Glassford Street, northbound between Trongate and Wilson Street

Local businesses will still be able to receive deliveries each day from **6.00am until 11.00am** at which time a vehicle curfew will be implemented with no vehicle access or movement between the hours of **11.00am and 9.00pm** each day. Local businesses should also liaise with their waste and recycling contractor to arrange uplifts out with **11.00am and 9.00pm** each day. Deliveries arriving during the allocated time above should enter Merchant City via Candleriggs at Ingram Street and exit the site via Wilson Street at Glassford Street. All deliveries will be directed by the stewards.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the event runs with minimum disruption to local businesses and residents, and we hope that you will join us to enjoy this free, multi-art form festival with your neighbours, family, and friends. Further information is available at the Merchant City Festival website www.merchantcityfestival.com and our social media channels:

Facebook: @MerchantCityFestival

Instagram: @merchantcityfestival

Information Session

We will be in attendance at the Glasgow 2026 Community and Business Readiness Roadshow at The **Social Hub on Tuesday 16 June from 6.00pm to 8.00pm**. We encourage you to visit this session if you require any further information or would like to discuss any aspect of the event with us. More detail on the roadshow and the link to reserve your place are below.

Should you wish clarification on the contents of this letter then please call 0141 287 8985 and leave your name, telephone number with your enquiry and a member of the team will call you back, or alternatively email mcf@glasgowlife.org.uk.

Glasgow 2026 Community and Business Readiness Roadshow 6.00pm to 8.00pm – Tuesday 16 June – The Social Hub

Glasgow 2026 is bringing Games information directly into local communities through a series of Readiness Roadshows hosted in community venues across the city. These sessions are an opportunity for residents and businesses to learn more about the Games, understand what's happening nearby, and ask questions to help you feel prepared and ready to make the most of Glasgow 2026.

You can view the full list of Roadshow dates and reserve your place at:

<https://www.universe.com/users/glasgow-2026-commonwealth-games-GDT0SR>

Glasgow 2026 has also launched the Get Set Hub, designed to help local people plan ahead. Whether you live, work or study in the city, the Hub provides clear, practical guidance on what to expect, including travel advice, local access arrangements and venue activity. Visit:

www.glasgow2026.com/getsethub

We hope the above information is useful to you in planning your movements around the event and we thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Yours faithfully



Julie Pearson
Head of Events