

Report Title	Play Streets
Meeting	Executive
Meeting Date	June 2026
Report Author	Neil Watson
Directorate	Place
Lead Executive Member(s)	
Wards Affected	All Wards
Public. Part Exempt, or Fully Exempt	Public
Appendices (if any)	Appendix A – Play Street Procedure Appendix B – Application for Play Street

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Play streets are well established ways of allowing roads to be temporarily closed off to allow children to play on them for temporary periods of time. Pendle does not have a procedure in place for considering play streets. An application to establish one has been received and the Executive is asked to authorise processing of the road closure order that will facilitate the Play Street.

2. Recommendations

For the reasons set out in this report, the Executive is recommended to:

- 2.1 Adopts the procedure set out at Appendix A for the processing of applications for Play Streets.
- 2.2 Authorise staff to pursue a road closure order under the Town Police Clauses Act to facilitate a play street on Belgrave Road, Colne as set out in the application form at Appendix B.
- 2.3 Delegate authority for the Technical Support and Events Coordination Officer to deal with future Play Street applications.

3. Information: the Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendations

- 3.1 The concept of play streets is to allow residents or other groups to set up a location on a public highway where roads are closed and children can play for the specified duration of the closure. The events are organised and operated by residents. They are operated and run by the residents with parents still

being responsible for the safety of their children whilst playing on the closed highway.

- 3.2 Colne and District Area Committee have been supportive of the play street initiative in Colne which has, with the public, developed into this application coming forward. The constitution of the Council does not however deal with play streets and hence the decision on whether to allow them falls for the Executive to determine.
 - 3.3 The Government updated guidance on play streets on 23/08/2019. It advises that Road Traffic Regulations allow local traffic authorities to make orders to impose temporary restrictions on highways for sporting or social events. It advises that traffic authorities should take into account the scale and nature of events and should carry out appropriate consultation when processing orders. Applications under the Road Traffic Regulations would be administered by Lancashire County Council as highways authority.
 - 3.4 The Town Police Clauses Act (the TPCA”) is not referred to in Government Guidance but is a piece of legislation that can also facilitate play streets. That allows Borough Councils to facilitate play streets. The TPCA is currently used to facilitate street closures for street parties; it is proposed that same procedure and decision making is adopted for play streets in Pendle.
 - 3.5 In order to consider whether or not to seek an order under the TPCA Pendle Borough Council needs to have a procedure in place for applicants to follow and to ensure that an adequate consultation process is in place to enable proper consideration of the application.
 - 3.6 Appendix1 is the proposed process that Pendle should follow. It outlines that those applying would have consulted those residents that would be affected by the proposal. It would require consultation with the Police and Highways Authority before any application is made.
 - 3.7 The Council has received an application for a play street at Belgrave Road, Colne. It is proposed to operate each Wednesday from 5pm until 7pm. That has been consulted on with Lancashire County Council as Highways Authority and Lancashire Constabulary. Subject to a minor change in the extent shown on the submitted plan no objections have been received to the consultation.
- 4. Link to Council Plan Priorities: (Providing High Quality Services and Facilities, Proud and Connected Communities and Places, Good Growth and Housing and Healthy Communities)**
- 4.1 The main link is to the high quality of services. As the process will be a mandatory one there is limited scope to alter it.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial Implications

There are no direct costs associated with the road closure.

5.2 Legal and Governance Implications

The Council is not the operator of the play street but must ensure that proper consideration is given to how the play street is set up including ensuring that risk assessments are in place before a road closure order is applied for.

5.3 Climate and Biodiversity Implications

None.

5.4 Human Resources Implications

None

5.5 Equality and Diversity Implications

None.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 The highways authority and Lancashire Constabulary have been consulted. Subject to a minor alteration to the extent of the proposed closure no objections to the Belgrave Road play street scheme have been made.

7. Alternative Options Considered

Alternatives would be for children to play in other spaces such as in parks.

8. Statutory Officer Sign off (please put an x in the relevant box below)

Section 151 Officer	X
Monitoring Officer	X

9. Background Documents

[Revised road closure guidance to boost children's outdoor play - GOV.UK](#)
[Temporary traffic regulation orders for special events - GOV.UK](#)

Contact Officers

Neil Watson

Assistant Director: Planning, Building Control & Regulatory Services

01282 661706