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# TOGETHER FOR EDINBURGH

Working in partnership for a better Edinburgh

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THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

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LAING O'ROURKE

16 August 2017

As part of a plan to help facilitate the £1 billion Edinburgh St James scheme and the wider regeneration of the east end of the city, a section of Leith Street, between the junction of Princes Street (Waterloo Place) and the turning into Calton Road, will close from 2 September, for up to ten months.

The programme of work being undertaken during this time is considered vital for the regeneration of the east end of Edinburgh and is anticipated to dramatically improve the Leith Street corridor ahead next summer's festival season. Activity being carried out by Laing O'Rourke, the main contractor for Edinburgh St James, who will also be managing the Leith Street programme, includes:

- The re-profiling and improvement of road levels and surfaces
- Installation of brighter, improved street lighting
- Footpath widening and surface upgrades, providing a better environment for pedestrians
- Improved pedestrian crossings, cycle lanes and bus stops for greater access and safety
- The removal of the Leith Street central reservation
- The removal of the pedestrian overbridge between Q-Park and the former St James Shopping centre
- New deep drainage installation – picking up surface and wastewater requirements from the new Edinburgh St James

Commenting on the works programme, Martin Perry, Director of Development, Edinburgh St James, said:

"We fully understand the disruption that is caused by a road closure of this nature, and we would like to thank all those who may be impacted for their patience over this period. Nevertheless, it is clear that this closure provides the most

efficient solution, and that in containing these works to a 10-month period, we are preventing prolonged and severely restricted access along Leith Street, whilst significantly reducing disruption in the street in the future. This approach will allow us to reconfigure and renew the whole Leith Street corridor, futureproofing the street by creating a high quality and much-improved environment, which will better serve Edinburgh's pedestrians, public transport and cyclists for years to come."

Alongside physical improvements to the Leith Street corridor, the works programme also supports Edinburgh St James' ongoing contribution to the local jobs market. In total, over 5,000 jobs will be created during the development's construction phase, which includes the Leith Street works programme.

Approved by the City of Edinburgh Council's Transport and Environment Committee in March of this year, the Leith Street works programme is also supported by the Council's City Wide Traffic Management Group, which includes representatives from the Council, local transport providers and emergency services.

To keep traffic flowing, a clearly marked diversion route with additional capacity, tested using the Council's virtual traffic modelling system, will be implemented in the few days prior and in place throughout the closure period. Leith Street will remain open to pedestrians, cyclists and emergency services throughout the closure, whilst access to Greenside Row for all and entry to Calton Road from Leith Street for local businesses and parking will also be maintained.

**ENDS**

## NOTES TO EDITORS

Together For Edinburgh is a city-wide partnership working towards the regeneration of the East End of Edinburgh. Led by Edinburgh St James and Laing O'Rourke, the partnership is supported by the City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish Futures Trust and the Scottish Government.

Designed by Allan Murray Architects, the 1.7 million sq ft Edinburgh St James scheme will see the 1970s shopping centre currently on site replaced with 850,000 sq ft of retail space, a luxury hotel, up to 150 new homes, 30 restaurants and a multi-screen cinema.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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