

# TRANSIENT VISITOR LEVY

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**Transform Scotland response to  
15/10/18 City of Edinburgh Council  
public consultation**

**3 December 2018**

In response to the City of Edinburgh Council's consultation on the introduction of a Transient Visitor Levy (TVL), we would like to make the following brief comments.

We fully support the introduction of a 'Tourist Tax' for the city. We believe that it should be applied as broadly as possible across the tourism and leisure sector in such a way as effectively to maximise revenues for the City Council.

In our view, the revenues from such a scheme should be spent primarily on managing the impact of tourism and the sheer volume of people who now come to visit the city.

We recognise that there are valid arguments for re-investing directly in the tourism and leisure sector, but consider that a significant proportion of the monies raised should be devoted to promoting sustainable transport to and from the city and within it.

The former would entail spending on encouraging people to travel to the city by train or bus, rather than by plane or by car, by publicising the alternatives available and providing information on the actual environmental costs involved in terms of the comparable emissions arising from different types forms of transport.

The latter would involve investment in improved infrastructure in the geographical areas most affected by large tourist numbers, in particular though reducing city-centre road traffic, improving pavements and crossing times for pedestrians, and enhancing the provision of information and way-finding for public and active transport users.

Finally, with regard to the future management of the scheme, we consider that a TVL forum should be established with the active involvement of all the city's public transport providers and sustainable transport bodies, including Transform Scotland.

In summary, we hope that a Transient Visitor Levy will be established in Edinburgh to address the consequences of every increasing numbers of tourists and to improve sustainable ease for movement within the city for both residents and visitors.

## Scotland's alliance for sustainable transport

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We campaign for walking, cycling and public transport to be the easiest and most affordable options for everyone. Our diverse membership brings together public, private and third sector organisations from across Scotland. We are a registered Scottish charity (SC041516).