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Notice of meeting and agenda

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 8th October, 2026

Dean of Guild Court Room - City Chambers

This is a public meeting and members of the public are welcome to attend or watch the webcast live on the Council's website.

The law allows the Council to consider some issues in private. Any items under "Private Business" will not be published, although the decisions will be recorded in the minute.

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1. Order of Business

1.1 Including any notices of motion and any other items of business submitted as urgent for consideration at the meeting.

1.2 Committee members to indicate any “Items for Scrutiny” at section 8 that they wish to be subject to scrutiny and discussion. Any reports listed under this section and not requested for scrutiny / discussion prior to section 8 being reached will be taken as read.

2. Declaration of Interests

2.1 Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.

3. Deputations

3.1 If any

4. Minutes

4.1	Minute of Culture and Communities Committee of 13 August 2026 – submitted for approval as a correct record	7 - 24
4.2	Minute of Culture and Communities Committee of 28 August 2026 (Special meeting) – submitted for approval as a correct record	25 - 34

5. Forward Planning

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6. Business Bulletin

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7. Items for Decision

7.1	Edinburgh Visitor Levy: Cultural Programming Fund Update – Report by the Corporate Director of Place	93 - 100
7.2	Cultural Venues Fees and Charges – Report by the Corporate Director of Place	101 - 106
7.3	Allotment Service - Response to Motion by Councillor Graham – Report by the Corporate Director of Place	107 - 116

8. Items for Scrutiny

Members wishing for any item in this section to be subject to scrutiny or discussion should indicate accordingly at item 1.2, or at any point prior to this section of the agenda being reached.

8.1	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Scrutiny Report – City of Edinburgh – 2025/26 – Report by the Chief Executive The Scrutiny report by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is not currently available but will be submitted to the meeting of the Committee.	117 - 136
8.2	Culture and Communities Committee: Revenue Budget Monitoring 2026/27 - Month Three position – Report by the Corporate Director of Place	137 - 144
8.3	Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2024-2034 and Sports Pitch Strategy 2025-2035 - Action Plan Updates – Report by the	145 - 188

Corporate Director of Place

8.4	City Chambers Quadrangle and Frontage Management – Response to motion from Councillor Cameron – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee	189 - 208

9. Motions

9.1 If any

10. Resolution to Consider in Private

10.1	Resolution to Consider in Private – Report by the Proper Officer	209 - 210

11. Private Reports

11.1	B Agenda - Update in Response to Monitoring Officer Report - Burial Authority – Report by the Corporate Director of Place	211 - 220

Ward Calling and Special Interest

Nick Smith

Proper Officer

Committee Members

Councillor Margaret Arma Graham (Convener), Councillor Fiona Bennett, Councillor Steve Burgess, Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron, Councillor Fiona Glasgow, Councillor Dan Heap, Councillor Tim Jones, Councillor Finlay McFarlane, Councillor Amy McNeese-Mechan, Councillor Jason Rust and Councillor Edward Thornley

Information about the Culture and Communities Committee

The Culture and Communities Committee consists of 11 Councillors and is appointed by the City of Edinburgh Council.

This meeting of the Culture and Communities Committee is being held in the City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh and virtually by Microsoft Teams.

Further information

If you have any questions about the agenda or meeting arrangements, please contact Andrew Rose, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council, Business Centre 2.1, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BG, Tel 0131 529 4264, email andrew.rose@edinburgh.gov.uk / joanna.pawlikowaska@edinburgh.gov.uk.

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Minutes

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday 13 August 2026

Present:

Councillors Graham (Convener), Bennett (except item 8), Burgess, Lezley Marion Cameron, Heap, Jones, McFarlane, McNeese-Mechan, Nicolson, Osler (substituting for Councillor Bennett for item 8), Rust and Thornley.

1. Deputations

a) Democracy For Scotland Legacy Committee (in respect of item 9.1 - Emergency Motion by Councillor McFarlane - Conservation of the Parliament Cairn)

The deputation urged the Committee to support the conservation of the Parliament Cairn. The deputation highlighted the Parliament Cairn as an historic event during protests and described this place as non-party political. The deputation gave several examples of usage of this place.

(see item 15 below)

2. Minutes

Decision

1) To approve the minute of the Culture and Communities Committee of 14 May 2026 as a correct record.

2) To approve the minute of the Culture and Communities Committee of 8 June 2026 as a correct record.

(References – Minutes of the Culture and Communities Committee, submitted)

3. Work Programme

The Committee's Work Programme was presented for review. The committee was also informed of a special meeting to take place later that month.

Decision

1). To approve the Culture and Communities Committee Work Programme for 2025/26.

2). To note amendments may be made to the Work Programme during the year and submitted to each committee meeting.

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3). To note that a special meeting will be scheduled before the end of August 2026 to consider Firework Control Zones recommendations.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Work Programme, 13 August 2026, submitted).

4. Rolling Actions Log

The Culture and Communities Committee Rolling Actions Log was presented.

Decision:

1) To agree to close the following actions:

- Action 1 – Terms and Conditions for Operating Events in Parks: West Princes Street Gardens and the Ross Bandstand
- Action 4 (point 1) – Playparks Investment
- Action 7 – Draft Future Libraries Strategy and Service Change Proposals
- Action 9 (point 1) – Firework Control Zones
- Action 16 – Business Bulletin
- Action 18 – Pansy Walk – Response to Motion by Councillor McKenzie
- Action 21 – Edinburgh Visitor Levy: City Operations and Infrastructure Investment
- Action 23 - Edinburgh Leisure Service Payment – 2026/27

2) To note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Rolling Actions Log 13 August 2026, submitted)

5. Business Bulletin

The Culture and Communities Business Bulletin was presented.

Motion

To note the Business Bulletin.

- moved by Councillor Graham, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

Amendment 1

In relation to Grass Cutting (Bereavement Services)

1) To note that the motion on the above by Cllr Lang, agreed by Full Council, requesting that the Business Bulletin update include “details of any additional resource which may be required for any changes to maintenance schedules”.

2) To note that the Business Bulletin states that “to do so...would require additional investment”, but no details of what that investment or resource would be.

3) To therefore request the details of additional investment required, as agreed by Full Council, come to the next meeting of this committee via the Business Bulletin.

4) To otherwise note the Business Bulletin.

- moved by Councillor Thornley, seconded by Councillor Bennett

Amendment 2

In relation to Portobello Promenade Edinburgh Visitor Levy

1) To welcome the appointment of a lead landscape architect for the Portobello Promenade Project and that this is the beginning of an ambitious project of improvement.

2) To note that one of the most urgent commitments is the provision of new permanent accessible public toilets facilities complete with showers and changing places for people with complex care needs.

3) To request a report to Committee in three cycles outlining the advantages and disadvantages of the three possible sites (already identified) and a recommendation after public consultation is made, with a view to completion by Spring 2027.

4) To otherwise note the Business Bulletin.

- moved by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Rust

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), amendments 1 and 2 were accepted as addenda to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Graham:

1) To note that the current approach left a small section indicated on the map closed, meaning a through route between King's Stables Road and West Princes Street Gardens was not available.

2) To note the local community's calls for the longer section between Johnston Terrace and King's Stables Road to be re-opened.

3) To request a proposal to re-open both sections, accompanied by indicative costs, and information on whether Transient Visitor Levy funds could be used for this purpose.

4) To welcome the appointment of a lead landscape architect for the Portobello Promenade Project and that this is the beginning of an ambitious project of improvement.

5) To note that one of the most urgent commitments is the provision of new permanent accessible public toilets facilities complete with showers and changing places for people with complex care needs.

6) To request a report to Committee in three cycles outlining the advantages and disadvantages of the three possible sites (already identified) and a recommendation after public consultation is made, with a view to completion by Spring 2027.

7) To otherwise note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Business Bulletin, 13 August 2026, submitted).

6. Police Scotland – Edinburgh City Division Scrutiny Report 2025/26 – October 2025 to March 2026

An update was provided from Police Scotland on the Edinburgh City Division for the period October 2025 to March 2026.

Decision

1) To note the update from the Divisional Commander.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

7. Petition for Consideration: Save Gate 55

The Education, Children and Families Committee had referred a Petition for Consideration: Save Gate 55 for information.

Motion

1) To note the report by the Chief Executive.

- moved by Councillor Graham, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

Amendment 1

1) To note the report by the Chief Executive.

2) To note that an options appraisal on the future of the Calderglen Early Learning and Childcare site is due to be reported to Education, Children and Families Committee.

3) To note a report to Education, Children and Families Committee on 9 June 2026 states: “Although the Calderglen Early Learning and Childcare setting is nearby Gate 55 there is no association between the two settings”.

4) To nonetheless, note the ongoing uncertainly in the community surrounding the future of Gate 55 and Sighthill Library and believes that it would be helpful for the Council to provide a written response to this aspect of the petition.

5) To therefore agree that a report will come to the Culture and Communities Commitee within 2 cycles which includes:

   a. A response to the concerns raised in the petition.

   b. Background information on the history of service provision at Gate 55/Sighthill Library, including reference to commitments that were made to maintain those services following the demolition of the original Sighthill Community Centre and Sighthill Library buildings.

   c. Information on the condition of the building, including reference to any recent plans to develop the site.

d. Options to invest in the building and expand the services provided there.

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Burgess

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 1 was adjusted and accepted as an amendment to the Motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Graham:

1) To note the report by the Chief Executive.

2) To note that an options appraisal on the future of the Calderglen Early Learning and Childcare site was due to be reported to Education, Children and Families Committee.

3) To note that a report to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 9 June 2026 states: “Although the Calderglen Early Learning and Childcare setting was nearby Gate 55 there was no association between the two settings”.

4) To nonetheless note the ongoing uncertainly in the community surrounding the future of Gate 55 and Sighthill Library and believes that it would be helpful for the Council to provide a written response to this aspect of the petition.

5) To therefore agree that a report would come to the Culture and Communities Commitee within 2 cycles which includes:

   a. A response to the concerns raised in the petition.

   b. Background information on the history of service provision at Gate 55/Sighthill Library, including reference to commitments that were made to maintain those services following the demolition of the original Sighthill Community Centre and Sighthill Library buildings.

   c. Information on the condition of the building, including reference to any recent plans to develop the site.

   d. Options to invest in the building.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

8. Petition for Consideration - Urgent Investment Required Play Facilities at Inverleith Park

Details were provided on the Petition for Consideration - Urgent Investment Required Play Facilities at Inverleith Park for consideration.

Motion

1) To consider the petition by the Chief Executive.

- moved by Councillor Graham, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

Amendment 1

1) To consider the petition by the Chief Executive.

2) To thanks the petitioners for their work championing their local greenspace and play facilities for children in their area of North Edinburgh.

3) To note the Council's ongoing programme of playpark upgrades, supported by funding from the Scottish Government, and the committee's recent agreement to a Liberal Democrat proposal to ask the Cabinet Secretary for Finance to confirm whether this funding will continue.

4) To further note the Committee has consistently supported efforts to improve accessibility of play equipment, most recently in February 2025, when it agreed that playpark improvements should also consider the availability of nearby changing places and accessible toilets.

5) To note that improvements to Inverleith Park, in line with the Park's Masterplan, are due to be made using funding from the Visitor Levy and agrees that improvement of the playpark will be included within that work.

6) To ask that relevant officers assess the repairs needed in Inverleith Park, with a view to making those repairs in short order, as the safety of children's play is of paramount importance.

7) To request that an update on the work requested at 1.5 and 1.6 be provided in the committee's next Business Bulletin.

- moved by Councillor Osler, seconded by Councillor Thornley

Amendment 2

1) To agree to receive a report on the issues raised by the petitioner and the committee including how the TVL monies earmarked for Inverleith Park could benefit the playground within two cycles.

- moved by Councillor Rust, seconded by Councillor Jones

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 1 and Amendment 2 were accepted as addenda to the Motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Graham:

1) To consider the petition by the Chief Executive.

2) To thank the petitioners for their work championing their local greenspace and play facilities for children in their area of North Edinburgh.

3) To note the Council's ongoing programme of playpark upgrades, supported by funding from the Scottish Government, and the Committee's recent agreement to a Liberal Democrat proposal to ask the Cabinet Secretary for Finance to confirm whether this funding would continue.

4) To further note the Committee had consistently supported efforts to improve accessibility of play equipment, most recently in February 2025, when it agreed that playpark improvements should also consider the availability of nearby changing places and accessible toilets.

5) To note that improvements to Inverleith Park, in line with the Park's Masterplan, were due to be made using funding from the Visitor Levy and agree that improvement of the playpark would be included within that work.

6) To ask that relevant officers assess the repairs needed in Inverleith Park, with a view to making those repairs in short order, as the safety of children's play was of paramount importance.

7) To request that an update on the work requested at 1.5 and 1.6 be provided in the Committee's next Business Bulletin.

8) To agree to receive a report on the issues raised by the petitioner and the committee including how the TVL monies earmarked for Inverleith Park could benefit the playground within two cycles.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

9. Management Rules for Streets and Civic Spaces

The Convener ruled in terms of Standing Order 4.4, that the following item, notice of which had been given on the notice of meeting but which report had been issued at a later date, be considered as a matter of urgency.

A report was provided in response to the request from the Committee that officers develop on-street management rules for areas where busking was an issue. The report expanded on the action to create on-street busking rules and proposes additional management rules to regulate and manage unauthorised political activities, begging, street trading and advertised tours.

Motion

1) To agree that wider "Management Rules for Streets and Civic Spaces" will be developed for various activities including, but not limited to, busking, street trading, providing street tours and unauthorised political activities.

2) To note that a workshop will be held with relevant officers, Elected Members to discuss issues for inclusion within these management rules.

3) To approve the development of an online application process for permission to undertake the on-street activities noted in the report.

4) To note paragraph 4.7.2 of the officer's report and requests that prevention work is done where required, not just near schools.

- moved by Councillor Graham, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

Amendment 1

Adds:

1) To approve this report on the understanding that this only begins a process and with reassurance that officers will work with stakeholders and councillors in the development of any proposed management rules for streets and civic spaces.

2) To note that while some proposed rules are straightforward and would hopefully be welcome, that we as a council must pay extreme care to equalities and human rights legislation and that officers should proceed with caution around any plans to introduce potential rules relating to political campaigning, on street begging and advertised tours and that in all cases requests that officers do deep work with stakeholders including those who may be impacted before presenting any draft rules.

- moved by Councillor McFarlane, seconded by Councillor McNeese-Mechan

Amendment 2

Adds to recommendations:

1) To agree that the list of locations at 4.3 where new busking management rules will apply should also include Waverley Bridge, Rose Street and Portobello Promenade.

- moved by Councillor Thornley, seconded by Councillor Bennett

Amendment 3

Decision/Action

1. Committee agrees actions in report with the following amendment and additions:

   A) Delete “and unauthorised political activities” from 1.1.1 and add new action

   “1.1.5 Agree that the draft management rules should not require pre-notification nor authorisation for political activities which do not already require pre-notification/authorisation."

   B) Add new actions:

   “1.1.6 Agree that the draft management rules should not cover ‘begging’ in any way”

   “1.1.7 Agree that applying for permission to busk should be free.”

   “1.1.8 Agree that the Hit the Right Note guidance be reviewed”

   “1.1.9 Agree officers should explore the use of managed busking sites ahead of any new busking-related Management Rule(s) coming into force”

   “1.1.10 Agree that the draft rules will extend to vendors of tourist bus tickets”

Background

Political activities
Committee notes:

2. That static (non-moving) protests or similar political activity do not currently require pre-notification/authorisation in Edinburgh.
3. Concerns that requirement to notify the Council in advance of political activity/gain authorisation for it, would stifle the ability to protest and conduct similar political activity, especially where the activity needs to be organised urgently.
4. And welcomes the rallies that were held in support of people impacted by recent racist attacks, and expresses concerns these might not have been able to be held so swiftly had pre-notification/authorisation been required.
5. Council-owned land is public land, and the public's right to use it for protest and other activity should be regulated only insofar as is required for public safety.

6. That the report is not clear whether it is proposing that such activities merely need to pre-notify the Council, or, additionally, whether authorisation (the report refers to **unauthorised** political activity") is required.

'Begging'
Council notes further:

7. That people seated or standing in public streets asking for money (referred to in the report as 'begging') is primarily a poverty issue, not a public order one.
8. Concerns around trafficking of vulnerable people to undertake this activity, but also that Management Rules are unlikely to tackle this problem.
9. The report does not give a justification for the Management Rules to cover this activity.

Busking
Council notes additionally:

10. That charging for busking permission may have a negative impact on artists
11. That busking permits issued by comparable authorities, including Transport for London, are free.
12. That Committee has previously expressed interested in curating designated busking sites
13. That the development of the Management Rules, which will require adherence to the 'Hit the Right Note' guidance makes it important to review the guidance

Tourist bus ticket sales
Committee notes:

14. That some parts of the city experience on-street selling of tourist bus tickets

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Burgess

Amendment 4

1) To agree that wider “Management Rules for Streets and Civic Spaces” will be developed for various activities including, but not limited to, busking, street trading, providing street tours and unauthorised political activities.

2) To note that a workshop will be held with relevant officers, Elected Members to discuss issues for inclusion within these management rules.

3) To approve the development of an online application process for permission to undertake the on-street activities noted in the report.

4) To note paragraph 4.7.2 of the officer’s report and requests that prevention work is done where required, not just near schools.

5) To approve this report on the understanding that this only begins a process and with reassurance that officers will work with stakeholders and councillors in the development of any proposed management rules for streets and civic spaces.

6) To note that while some proposed rules are straightforward and would hopefully be welcome, that we as a council must pay extreme care to equalities and human rights legislation and that officers should proceed with caution around any plans to introduce potential rules relating to political campaigning, on street begging and advertised tours and that in all cases requests that officers do deep work with stakeholders including those who may be impacted before presenting any draft rules.

7) To agree that the list of locations at 4.3 where new busking management rules will apply should also include Waverley Bridge, Rose Street and Portobello Promenade.

- moved by Councillor Rust, seconded by Councillor Jones.

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendments 1 and 2 and Amendment 3, as adjusted, were accepted as addenda to the Motion.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	9 votes
For Amendment 4	-	2 votes

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Councillors Bennett, Burgess, Graham, Heap, Jones, McFarlane, McNeese-Mechan, Nicolson and Thornley.

For Amendment 4: Councillors Rust and Jones.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Graham:

1) To agree that wider “Management Rules for Streets and Civic Spaces” would be developed for various activities including, but not limited to, busking, street trading, providing street tours.

2) To note that a workshop would be held with relevant officers, Elected Members to discuss issues for inclusion within these management rules.

3) To approve the development of an online application process for permission to undertake the on-street activities noted in the report.

4) To note paragraph 4.7.2 of the officer's report and request that prevention work would be done where required, not just near schools.

5) To approve this report on the understanding that this only begins a process and with reassurance that officers would work with stakeholders and councillors in the development of any proposed management rules for streets and civic spaces.

6) To note that while some proposed rules were straightforward and would hopefully be welcome, that we as a council must pay extreme care to equalities and human rights legislation and that officers should proceed with caution around any plans to introduce potential rules relating to political campaigning, on street begging and advertised tours and that in all cases requests that officers do deep work with stakeholders including those who might be impacted before presenting any draft rules.

7) To agree that the list of locations at 4.3 where new busking management rules would apply should also include Waverley Bridge, Rose Street and Portobello Promenade.

8) To agree that the draft management rules should not require pre-notification nor authorisation for political activities which did not already require pre-notification/authorisation.

9) To agree that the draft management rules should not cover 'begging' in any way."

(Reference – report by the Corporate Director of Place, submitted.)

10. Edinburgh Visitor Levy: New Projects

An update was provided to explore options to fund new projects not previously considered in the Edinburgh Visitor Levy such as the Culture, Heritage and Events Investment Stream and the City Operations and Infrastructure Investment Stream.

Decision

1) To note the agreed investment of the Edinburgh Visitor Levy from the Special Council Meeting on 12 February 2026.

2) To note the additional projects recommended at the above meeting.

3) To note that the same assessment process, which was followed to recommend the original investment programme in February 2026, was also used to assess the list of additional recommended projects.

4) To approve the recommendations for the additional projects within the Culture Heritage and Events (CHE) investment stream and City Operations and Infrastructure (COI) which fall under this Committee remit, outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.

5) To refer this report to Finance and Resource Committee to note the capital borrowing.

6) To refer this report to Full Council for confirmation of the adjusted spend related to projects listed at 2.2 and outlined in Appendix 3 to the report.

(Reference – report by the Corporate Director of Place, submitted.)

11. Third Party Cultural Grant Funding 2027-28

To note that, in accordance with Standing Order 4.4, the Convener did not agree to rule this item as an urgent item of business and the report by the Corporate Director of Place would be considered at the Special meeting on 28 August 2026.

12. Public Art Update

An approval was sought for a Preserving and Decommissioning Framework recommending a moratorium to be placed on requests for public art in Princes Street Gardens until a process to manage such requests had been put in place. The report also updated elected members on the status of previously approved public art works.

Motion

1) To approve the Preserving and Decommissioning Framework, which will be incorporated into the Public Art Policy.

2) To agree a temporary moratorium on any future requests for locating new public art works in Princes Street Gardens, pending the development of a statue and memorialisation plan.

3) To note progress made on previously approved public art projects.

- moved by Councillor Graham, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

Amendment 1

Adds

Decision/Action

Committee agrees report with the following new action:
1.1.4: “Agrees that the December 2026 update on street art should contain proposals on how to progress graffiti and other street art projects, with officers invited to consider the following ideas”

Adoption of Council-owned walls by art groups, community groups, community councils, schools, Edinburgh College of Art etc for art projects

1. Identification of areas which suffer from problematic graffiti that would benefit from art being painted over it, including, but not limited, the Union Canal

Background

Committee notes

1. Graffiti and street art are covered by the Public Art policy
2. No significant graffiti nor street art projects have proceeded under the new policy
3. Edinburgh has some highly successful street art projects, such as the Colinton Tunnel and Pride Bridge, but appears to lag beyond comparable cities such as Glasgow in the quantity of such projects.
4. Notes widespread resident concerns about problematic graffiti
5. Notes the graffiti and other street art can have benefits, such as
    1. Reduction of the incidence of problematic graffiti
    2. Beautifies public spaces
    3. Promotes tourism
    4. Mental health benefits
    5. Crime deterrence

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Burgess

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 1 was accepted as an addendum to the Motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Graham:

1) To approve the Preserving and Decommissioning Framework, which would be incorporated into the Public Art Policy.

2) To agree a temporary moratorium on any future requests for locating new public art works in Princes Street Gardens, pending the development of a statue and memorialisation plan.

3) To note progress made on previously approved public art projects.

4) To agree that the December 2026 update on street art should contain proposals on how to progress graffiti and other street art projects, with officers invited to consider the following ideas:

    (a). Adoption of Council-owned walls by art groups, community groups, community councils, schools, Edinburgh College of Art etc for art projects

    (b). Identification of areas which suffer from problematic graffiti that would benefit from art being painted over it, including, but not limited, the Union Canal

5) To note:

    (a). Graffiti and street art were covered by the Public Art policy

    (b). No significant graffiti nor street art projects had proceeded under the new policy

(c). Edinburgh had some highly successful street art projects, such as the Colinton Tunnel and Pride Bridge, but appeared to lag beyond comparable cities such as Glasgow in the quantity of such projects.

(d) Noted widespread resident concerns about problematic graffiti

(e). Noted the graffiti and other street art could have benefits, such as

i. Reduction of the incidence of problematic graffiti

ii. Beautifies public spaces

iii. Promotes tourism

iv. Mental health benefits

v. Crime deterrence

(Reference – report by the Corporate Director of Place, submitted.)

13. Edinburgh Museums and Galleries: Policy Renewals 2026-2029

An approval was sought for two updated museums and galleries policies – Collections Development Policy and Temporary Exhibitions Policy which, if approved, would be valid from the date of approval until 2029.

Decision

1) To approve the appended [to the report] Museums and Galleries: Collections Development Policy 2026-2029.

2) To approve the appended [to the report] Museums and Galleries: Temporary Exhibitions Policy 2026-2029.

3) To note that the next update to these policies would be submitted to the appropriate Executive Committee in 2029.

(Reference – report by the Corporate Director of Place, submitted.)

14. Novation of Edinburgh Leisure Energy Contracts

The Convener ruled in terms of Standing Order 4.4, that the following item, notice of which had been given on the notice of meeting but which report had been issued at a later date, be considered as a matter of urgency.

Details were provided of the planned novation (transfer) of Edinburgh Leisure's (EL) utilities contracts to the Council with effect from September 2026.

Decision

1) To note the planned novation (transfer) of Edinburgh Leisure's utilities contracts to the Council with effect from September 2026.

2) To approve the consequent required adjustment (reduction) to the 2026/27 service payment.

3) To note, however, that the change was anticipated to be net-neutral to both the Council and Edinburgh Leisure (EL) in direct financial terms in 2026/27 and subsequent years.

4) To note further that future years' funding agreements would reflect the transfer of these liabilities to the Council.

5) To refer this report to the Finance and Resources Committee for noting, given its overarching role in monitoring management of the Council's property portfolio.

(Reference – report by the Corporate Director of Place, submitted.)

15. Emergency Motion by Councillor McFarlane - Conservation of the Parliament Cairn

The Convener ruled in terms of Standing Order 4.4, that the following item, notice of which had been given on the notice of meeting but which report had been issued at a later date, be considered as a matter of urgency.

Emergency Motion by Councillor McFarlane - Conservation of the Parliament Cairn

Motion

1. Committee recognises fears from the vigil volunteers that without formal adoption by a statutory institution or government body the Cairn is vulnerable and may eventually be lost to vandalism and blight and therefore requests council officers bring a short report to Culture and Communities Committee in one cycle outlining:

   (a). Options for formal council stewardship of the monument to ensure its continued provenance.

   (b). Consideration of whether the monument and its care can be incorporated into the revitalised Calton Hill Management Plan."

- moved by Councillor McFarlane, seconded by Councillor Graham

Decision

To approve the Motion by Councillor McFarlane.

16. Major Event Bid

The Convener ruled in terms of Standing Order 4.4, that the following item, notice of which had been given on the notice of meeting but which report had been issued at a later date, be considered as a matter of urgency.

The Committee agreed, under Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the public from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 8 and 9 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:

8 - The amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the authority under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services.

9 - Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

Decision

As detailed in the Confidential Schedule, signed by the Convener, with reference to this minute.

(Reference –report by the Corporate Director of Place, submitted)

by virtue of paragraph(s) 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A
of the Local Government(Scotland) Act 1973.

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Minutes

Special Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Monday, 28 August 2026

Present:

Councillors Graham (Convener), Burgess, Lezley Marion Cameron, Cowdy (substituting for Councillor Rust), Glasgow, Heap, Jones, McKay (substituting for Councillor Bennett), McNeese-Mechan, McFarlane, and Thornley.

1. Deputations

a) Edinburgh Festivals (in respect of item 4.2 - Third Party Cultural Grant Funding 2027-28)

The deputation expressed the importance of festivals in Edinburgh based on an example from 2025 where attendance at 11 festivals reached 5 million people, thereby boosting the local economy. The deputation stressed that those festivals would not benefit the city without crucial grants. The deputation recognised the financial strain on the Council and the need for the Visitor Levy but highlighted that it should not impact on grant funding for the Edinburgh Festivals..

A written deputation on behalf of Edinburgh Festivals was also submitted.

b) North Edinburgh Arts (in respect of item 4.2 - Third Party Cultural Grant Funding 2027-28)

The deputation described the North Edinburgh Arts remit, its cultural and social influence, all while boosting the local economy and supporting local artists. The deputation highlighted North Edinburgh Arts commitment to support fair minimum salary. The deputation highlighted the importance of community hubs and advocated that they should be included, fairly, in funding decisions. The deputation described different projects and urged the Committee to support all ecosystems including small organisations. The deputation highlighted the importance of grant funding to be allocated to the local community.

2. Firework Control Zones

The report provided a summary of the proposals to implement Firework Control Zones (FCZs) in Edinburgh for the period 30 October to 8 November 2026 across the city. An approval was sought to implement ten local FCZs in the city with four currently in place from 2025.

Decision

1) To note this update on Firework Control Zones (FCZs) and the other actions which were being implemented to minimise the impact of fireworks on citizens in the Bonfire period 2026.

2) To agree to implement five FCZs in Corstorphine, Longstone, Gracemount, Moredun, and Sighthill/ Broomhouse for two years, with timings aligned to Police Scotland Dispersal Zones for Bonfire Night.

3) To agree to implement five FCZs in Lochend, Liberton, Stenhouse/ Gaskell, Wester Hailes and West Pilton for the period 30 October – 8 November 2026 (inclusive).

4) To note that an update would be prepared for Committee in February 2027 on the outcome of the 2026 FCZs.

(report by the Corporate Director of Place, submitted)

3. Third Party Cultural Grant Funding 2027-28

An approval was sought to extend current Third Party Cultural Grants Funding arrangements for a period of 12 months, with an uplift in funding levels.

Motion

1) Approves the extension of current Third Party Cultural Grants Funding for a further period of 12 months, to 31 March 2028.

2) Approves an uplift of 11.5% to all existing grant awards to reflect the rate of inflation since these grants were awarded.

3) Approves a second round of the ‘Innovate’ funding for 2027-28 to a maximum value of £1.22m.

4) Approves the extension of eligibility criteria for the second round of ‘Innovate’ funding to include organisations who are not currently funded by the Third Party Cultural Grants but who can demonstrate that their project has a strong alignment with the Council’s Culture Strategy.

5) To refer the report by the Corporate Director of Place to Finance and Resource Committee to note the capital borrowing.

6) Notes that the updated recommended guidelines for Third Party Cultural Grant Funding for 2028 onwards will be presented to this Committee in March 2027.

- Moved by Councillor Graham, seconded by Councillor Cameron

Amendment 1

Deletes all and replaces with:

1) Notes that had the new Strategic Partners Programme been developed according to its original timescale to commence March 2027, the democratically agreed uplift of funding to Strategic Partners (already delayed by one year due to the scheduled grant cycle) could have been passed on in a strategic and transparent way, and regrets that the codesign process only began this summer.
2) Notes that the officers' figure of 11.5% compounds inflationary effect from 2024, but real-terms erosion since the last time these sums were meaningfully agreed in practice ten years ago is far larger than 11.5%, noting delivery agreements with partners have remained largely unchanged across that ten-year period aka, organisations have continued to deliver outcomes with less and less real terms funding over this period.
3) Additionally notes that organisations could not apply for an increase in their historic grant levels at the last cycle and those that applied for a modest uplift were declined.
4) Approves the extension of current Third Party Cultural Grants Funding for a further period of 12 months, to 31 March 2028; with a 25% flat uplift for Strategic Partners recognising the longstanding relationship with the current Cultural Partners and their excellent proven track record of delivery against the Culture Strategy across the entire city; their combined economic impact and vital contribution to community cohesion and civic life, including acting as anchor organisations of Edinburgh's reputation globally as a city of culture which committee agrees is a major driver of investment and the visitor economy.
5) Agrees that officers may be required to engage soft-touch amendments to grant funding agreements for some of the larger rises in the portfolio.
6) Regarding 'Innovate 2'; to minimise bureaucracy for both council officers and external partners does not approve a second round of Innovate and instead allocates remaining funds to maximise the forthcoming Innovate 1 whilst widening the eligibility criteria to include organisations who are not currently funded by the Third Party Cultural Grants but who can demonstrate that their project has a strong alignment with the Council's Citywide Culture Strategy 2030.

7) Notes that the updated recommended guidelines for Third Party Cultural Grant Funding for 2028 onwards will be presented to this Committee in March 2027. Requests that council officers strongly consider:

- The importance of providing core-funding over project funding;
- The opportunity to minimise or align reporting mechanisms where organisations are already reporting to external bodies such as Creative Scotland or National Lottery (as already happens with Creative Carbon reporting) aka: one report to both funders.
- The alignment of grant funding cycles and whether organisations also funded by Creative Scotland multi-year would prefer total alignment of awards or stepped by a year.
- The inclusion of a transition fund for any organisation who may exit the Strategic Partnership Programme and a stepped introduction for those who may in future become a Strategic Partner for the first time.
- The importance of an enduring and long-term sustainable partnership with Edinburgh's flagship festivals (as represented by Festivals Edinburgh) which not only sustains but allows for innovation and risk and further agrees in the historic and worldwide importance of these cultural anchors who create whole eco-systems of activity year-round that benefit the population.
- Respects the history and provenance of the Edinburgh International Festival and its funding relationship with the city council.
- The importance of also supporting community arts facilities in areas of high-deprivation, ill health and growing youth populations.

8) Committee does not believe it is appropriate to consider widening the future eligibility criteria for becoming a Strategic Partner to include funding the heritage sector without a requisite increase in the overall funding available for cultural organisations.

- Moved by Councillor McFarlane, seconded by Councillor McNeese-Mechan

Amendment 2

Committee deletes the recommendations, and replaces them with;

1) Notes the enormous contribution to our city of the Council's Strategic Partners, not just through cultural output, but also in education, economic contribution, tourism and opportunities for residents.
2) Further notes that, as all levels of government face funding challenges, funding for cultural organisations is continually threatened, that decision taken by the Council (such as Visitor Levy) also come with financial costs for these organisations, and that funding security remains one of the greatest challenges facing the sector.

3) Does not believe that 11.5% is a reasonable uplift in the current funding climate, noting that partners have been required to achieve the same outcomes with less real-terms funding over the past ten years, and that that average uplift for Creative Scotland's Multi-Year Funding Programme for 2025/26 was 34%.
4) Believes that the extension of the current Funding arrangement should apply to existing partners only, that introduction more potential recipients outwith the planned cycle is not the right way to ensure fairness in allocations or due diligence, and that all partners and recipients should be determined within the same criteria and Grant Funding process.
5) Further believes that the extension of such funding to heritage organisations has not been sufficiently considered by committee and is not desirable at this stage without further information or an appropriate increase in available funding.
6) Therefore, approves the extension of current Third Party Cultural Grants Funding for a further year, noting the repeated assurances received by committee that work was ongoing to deliver this in time for the originally planned funding cycle.
7) Additionally, approves a flat uplift of 25% for Strategic Partners, for the period of this 12-month extension only, using the funds earmarked in the report for the proposed second round of 'Innovate' funding.
8) Does not approve a second round of 'Innovate' funding for 2027/28.
9) Notes that the updated recommended guidelines for Third Party Cultural Grant Funding for 2028 onwards will be presented to this Committee in March 2027 and, stressing the importance of prioritising this work, requests an update in the Business Bulletin of each meeting of the committee until that report is received, to allow appropriate ongoing scrutiny of this vital work.
10) Further requests that, in the development of this next round of funding, officers consider and present committee with options to transition from the provision of project funding to core funding.

- Moved by Councillor Thornley, seconded by Councillor McKay

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 2 was accepted as an addendum to Amendment 1.

Amendment 3

Committee

1) Notes that officers recommend an 11.5% uplift to all existing grant awards to reflect the compounded inflationary impact from 2024 to 2028.
2) Notes that the uplift requires £848,938 of additional funding, which officers propose to meet through increased Visitor Levy income.

3) Further notes that Visitor Levy proceeds must be used for facilities or services substantially for visitors to the area and notes the report's statement at paragraph 4.10 that the majority of activity funded through the existing Third Party Cultural Grants is targeted at local community engagement and support, activities not supported by the aims and objectives of the Visitor Levy.

4) Regrets that current funding arrangements have remained largely static for over 10 years and that the proposed funding review has been delayed until March 2027.

5) Therefore requests a further Report within one cycle to ensure:

   All Visitor Levy Funds support the aims and objectives of the Visitor Levy, and officers provide the Committee with the legal basis for the proposed use of Visitor Levy income for the £848,938 uplift.

   The Review of Funding starts immediately, rather than in March 2027, with progress reported regularly to Committee.

   The Review considers the level and distribution of existing funding, including the rationale and criteria for individual allocations, when allocations were last reviewed, evidence of outcomes and value for money, the financial need of recipients, and the consequences where agreed outcomes are not delivered.

   The Review considers fairness and access, including how new and currently unfunded organisations can have a genuine opportunity to access future funding, and includes appropriate engagement with both funded and unfunded organisations.

   The Review provides Committee with a clear, transparent and evidence-based methodology for determining future grant allocations, enabling councillors to properly scrutinise the level and distribution of public funding.

6) Committee also requests a Report in two cycles detailing the financial impact of the imposition of TVL on visitor accommodation for cultural, sporting, heritage, community and charitable bodies operating across Edinburgh, the impact on their ability to continue operations within current budgetary limits – whether that funding arises from public or charitable grants, charges or other charitable fundraising – and providing possible means by which any negative consequences of the imposition of TVL might be mitigated from within the TVL scheme or its funds.

7) Committee also requests to continue the decision on the uplift pending an interim update on the review within two cycles, to include clarification of 4.10, 4.11 and 4.12.

- Moved by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Cowdy

Voting

The voting at Stage 1 was as follows:

For the Motion	-	4 votes
For Amendment 1 (as adjusted)	-	5 votes
For Amendment 3	-	2 votes

(For the Motion: Councillors Burgess, Cameron, Heap and Graham

For Amendment 1 (as adjusted): Councillors Glasgow, McFarlane, McKay, McNeese-Mechan and Thornley.

For Amendment 3: Councillors Cowdy and Jones)

In accordance with Standing Order 24.5, as no proposal achieved a majority of votes, Amendment 3, with the fewest votes, dropped out and a second vote was taken between the Motion and Amendment 1 (as adjusted).

The voting at Stage 2 was as follows:

For the Motion	-	4 votes
For Amendment 1 (as adjusted)	-	5 votes
Abstained	-	2 votes

(For the Motion: Councillors Burgess, Cameron, Heap and Graham

For Amendment 1 (as adjusted): Councillors Glasgow, McFarlane, McKay, McNeese-Mechan and Thornley

Abstained: Councillors Cowdy and Jones)

Decision

1) To note that had the new Strategic Partners Programme been developed according to its original timescale to commence March 2027, the democratically agreed uplift of funding to Strategic Partners (already delayed by one year due to the scheduled grant cycle) could have been passed on in a strategic and transparent way, and regret that the codesign process only began this summer.
2) To note that the officers' figure of 11.5% compounds inflationary effect from 2024, but real-terms erosion since the last time these sums were meaningfully agreed in practice ten years ago was far larger than 11.5%, noting delivery agreements with partners had remained largely unchanged across that ten-year period aka, organisations had continued to deliver outcomes with less and less real terms funding over this period.
3) Additionally to note that organisations could not apply for an increase in their historic grant levels at the last cycle and those that applied for a modest uplift were declined.

4) To approve the extension of current Third Party Cultural Grants Funding for a further period of 12 months, to 31 March 2028; with a 25% flat uplift for Strategic Partners recognising the longstanding relationship with the current Cultural Partners and their excellent proven track record of delivery against the Culture Strategy across the entire city; their combined economic impact and vital contribution to community cohesion and civic life, including acting as anchor organisations of Edinburgh's reputation globally as a city of culture which committee agrees was a major driver of investment and the visitor economy.

5) To agree that officers might be required to engage soft-touch amendments to grant funding agreements for some of the larger rises in the portfolio.

6) Regarding 'Innovate 2'; to minimise bureaucracy for both council officers and external partners did not approve a second round of Innovate and instead allocated remaining funds to maximise the forthcoming Innovate 1 whilst widening the eligibility criteria to include organisations who were not currently funded by the Third Party Cultural Grants but who could demonstrate that their project has a strong alignment with the Council's Citywide Culture Strategy 2030.

7) To note that the updated recommended guidelines for Third Party Cultural Grant Funding for 2028 onwards would be presented to this Committee in March 2027. To request that council officers strongly consider:

- The importance of providing core-funding over project funding;
- The opportunity to minimise or align reporting mechanisms where organisations were already reporting to external bodies such as Creative Scotland or National Lottery (as already happens with Creative Carbon reporting) aka: one report to both funders.
- The alignment of grant funding cycles and whether organisations also funded by Creative Scotland multi-year would prefer total alignment of awards or stepped by a year.
- The inclusion of a transition fund for any organisation who might exit the Strategic Partnership Programme and a stepped introduction for those who might in future become a Strategic Partner for the first time.
- The importance of an enduring and long-term sustainable partnership with Edinburgh's flagship festivals (as represented by Festivals Edinburgh) which not only sustains but allowed for innovation and risk and further agreed in the historic and worldwide importance of these cultural anchors who created whole eco-systems of activity year-round that benefit the population.
- Respect the history and provenance of the Edinburgh International Festival and its funding relationship with the city council.

- The importance of also supporting community arts facilities in areas of high-deprivation, ill health and growing youth populations.

8) To note Committee does not believe it was appropriate to consider widening the future eligibility criteria for becoming a Strategic Partner to include funding the heritage sector without a requisite increase in the overall funding available for cultural organisations.

9) To note the enormous contribution to our city of the Council's Strategic Partners, not just through cultural output, but also in education, economic contribution, tourism and opportunities for residents.

10) Further to note that, as all levels of government face funding challenges, funding for cultural organisations was continually threatened, that decision taken by the Council (such as Visitor Levy) also come with financial costs for these organisations, and that funding security remained one of the greatest challenges facing the sector.

11) To note Committee does not believe that 11.5% is a reasonable uplift in the current funding climate, noting that partners had been required to achieve the same outcomes with less real-terms funding over the past ten years, and that that average uplift for Creative Scotland's Multi-Year Funding Programme for 2025/26 was 34%.

12) To believe that the extension of the current Funding arrangement should apply to existing partners only, that introduction more potential recipients outwith the planned cycle was not the right way to ensure fairness in allocations or due diligence, and that all partners and recipients should be determined within the same criteria and Grant Funding process.

13) Further to believe that the extension of such funding to heritage organisations had not been sufficiently considered by committee and is not desirable at this stage without further information or an appropriate increase in available funding.

14) Therefore, to approve the extension of current Third Party Cultural Grants Funding for a further year, noting the repeated assurances received by committee that work was ongoing to deliver this in time for the originally planned funding cycle.

15) Additionally, to approve a flat uplift of 25% for Strategic Partners, for the period of this 12-month extension only, using the funds earmarked in the report for the proposed second round of 'Innovate' funding.

16) To not approve a second round of 'Innovate' funding for 2027/28.

17) To note that the updated recommended guidelines for Third Party Cultural Grant Funding for 2028 onwards would be presented to this Committee in March 2027 and, stressing the importance of prioritising this work, to request an update in the Business Bulletin of each meeting of the committee until that report was received, to allow appropriate ongoing scrutiny of this vital work.

18) Further to request that, in the development of this next round of funding, officers considered and presented committee with options to transition from the provision of project funding to core funding.

In accordance with Standing Order 30.1 the matter was referred to the Council for decision.

(report by the Corporate Director of Place, submitted)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Graham made a transparency statement in relation to item 4.2 as a board member of Capital Theatres, Dan's Space, Edinburgh Science Festival, Lyra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Queen's Hall.

Cllr Thornley made a transparency statement on item 4.2 as a board member of Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

Culture and Communities Committee – 2026/27 Work Programme

December 2026					
	Title	**Directorate**	**Scrutiny / Decision**	**Frequency**	**Future Reports**
	• Thriving Greenspaces Annual Update	Place	Scrutiny	Annual	May 2027
	• Grant Funding for Friends Of and Trusts	Place	Scrutiny	N/A	N/A
	• Water of Leith Conservation Trust – Progress Report	Place	Scrutiny	N/A	N/A
	• Use of Public Spaces for Events and Filming – annual update including update on charging arrangements	Place	Scrutiny	Annual	October 2027
	• Visitor Levy Participatory Budgeting Update	Place	Scrutiny	N/A	N/A
	• Parks Management Rules	Place	Decision	N/A	N/A
	• Northern Path Network – response to Motion by Councillor Osler	Place	Decision	N/A	N/A
	• Princes Street Gardens Rockfall Mitigation	Place	Scrutiny	N/A	N/A
	• Haymarket Public Toilets	Place	Scrutiny	N/A	N/A
	• Public Art	Place	Decision	N/A	N/A
	• Accessible Parks Initiative	Place	Scrutiny	N/a	N/a

	• Inverleith Park Play Facilities	Place	Scrutiny	n/a	n/a
	• Conservation of Parliament Cairn	Place	Scrutiny	n/a	n/a
	• Outcome of Innovate Funding Awards Round	Place	Decision	n/a	n/a
March 2027					
	Title	**Directorate**	**Scrutiny / Decision**	**Frequency**	**Future Reports**
	• Police Scotland Six Monthly Report	Chief Exec.	Scrutiny	Six Monthly	October 2027
	• Capital Theatres Annual Report (may go to the December meeting)	Place	Scrutiny	Annually	February 2028
	• Edinburgh Leisure Annual Report	Place	Scrutiny	Annually	February 2028
	• Edinburgh Leisure Annual Services and Funding Agreement (may go to the December meeting)	Place	Decision	Annually	February 2028
	• Redesign of Culture Grants Funds	Place	Decision	n/a	n/a
	• Summer Festivals Scorecard	Place	Scrutiny	Annually	February 2028
	• Cultural Development Update (including Grants and Filming)	Place	Scrutiny	Annually	February 2028
	• Sport Events Grants	Place	Decision	Annually	February 2028
	• Financial Monitoring	Place	Scrutiny	Standing Item	August 2027
	• Draft Heritage Strategy	Place	Decision	N/A	N/A

	• Outcome of 2026 Fireworks Control Zones	Place	Scrutiny	n/a	n/a
	• Community Safety (Response to Motion by Cllr Faccenda)	Place	Scrutiny	n/a	n/a
	•				

June 2027					
	Title	**Directorate**	**Scrutiny / Decision**	**Frequency**	**Future Reports**
	Winter Festivals Annual Report	Place	Scrutiny	Annual	May 2028
	Future Libraries Action Plan Update	Place	Scrutiny		
Meeting Date TBC					
	• Financial Monitoring				

Other items	• Annual Performance Updates (including policies updates where relevant):
	  • Libraries
	  • Sport and Wellbeing
	  • Heritage, Cultural Venues and Museums (including museums and galleries transformation)
		Place	Scrutiny	N/A	N/A

Rolling Actions Log

Culture and Communities Committee

8 October 2026

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
1	11.05.23	Response to Motion by Councillor Osler – Tree Protection in East and West Princes Street Gardens	1) A revised briefing note with full details to be circulated amongst committee and appended to the Business Bulletin for the next meeting, which should include: i) a copy of minutes and action points captured from the various site meetings held throughout October, November and December 2022, and full, specific details of which breaches were / were not addressed and why	Lead officer: Alison Coburn	June 2026		

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No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
			ii) a copy of the holding statement from Unique Assembly in November 2022 which details their promise to bring forward a complete Tree Protection Management Plan, confirmation of the date when this holding statement was published, confirmation of when the complete Tree Protection Management Plan was received by the Council, and a copy of this plan. iii) full details of planning enforcement action, including when notification of breaches of tree				

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
			protection zones were first reported and then investigated.				
			2) The Convener to write to Unique Assembly outlining the committee's position on the importance of tree protection, inviting them to address committee and discuss how the Council's requirements for tree protection can align with their corporate social responsibilities.	Convener Lead officer: Sabrina Commons/ David Waddell	Summer 2024		**CLOSED** Letter sent by the Convener, dated 20 August 2024, to Unique Assembly.

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
			3) To request a short written briefing on available land and costs for development or expansion of CEC allotment service sites to political groups in advance of the budget setting process.	Corporate Director of Place	23.02.2024		**Closed** Action 3 – it was not possible to provide this information in advance of the budget setting process for 2023/24.
2	07.12 23	Motion by Councillor Thornley – Neighbourhood Networks	To request a report, within three cycles, providing an evaluation of the current situation of our Neighbourhood Networks and Community Grants Funding, including a judgement of the success of the current model,	Corporate Director of Place Lead officer: Linda Lees	An expected completion date will be added on the appointment of a Lead Officer for		**Update – August 2025** Recruitment is being progressed to appoint a Lead Officer for Community

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
			suggestions for how community engagement could be improved, barriers to that engagement removed, processes simplified to improve accessibility and how participatory budgeting can be preserved and enhanced		Community Planning		Planning. This action will be progressed following their appointment. **<u>Update – February 2025</u>** A report on next steps for Neighbourhood Networks has not yet been considered by Policy and Sustainability Committee and is now expected later in the year. Committee will be updated once this report has been presented.

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
							Summaries of the evaluation of Neighbourhood Networks and Community Grants Funding are included on the agenda for Committee on 08.08.2024. A further report on Community Planning which links to the next steps for Neighbourhood Networks is planned for Policy and Sustainability Committee in December 2024 and an update will be provided to Culture and Communities

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
							Committee thereafter.
3	08.05.25 (Council)	Haymarket Public Toilets – Motion by Councillor Mowat Council Agenda Frontsheet (item 8.16 refers)	Officers to bring a report to the next Culture and Communities Committee on how public toilets could be provided in Haymarket to include consideration of; 1) working in partnership with providers who can provide public toilets at no cost to the Council but at a cost to individuals using the public toilets; and 2) An explanation of how it has come about that the burden on the site has not been fulfilled that can be shared with constituents."	Corporate Director of Place Lead officer: Andy Williams	17.12.2026		A report is scheduled to be submitted to the December meeting of this Committee **Update – May 2025** There is a business bulletin item included on this agenda.
4	05.06.25	Third Sector Interface Grant Funding for Edinburgh	Committee will receive a report in a year's time, evaluating the delivery of the workplan, to be	Chief Executive	14.05.26	11.02.2026	**Update – February 2026**

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
		Volunteer Organisations Council	considered alongside future TSI Grant Funding.	Lead Officer: Gillie Severin			A report is included on the agenda for Committee on 11.02.2026
5	19.06.25	Bonfires and Single Use Barbeques in the new Park Management Rules – Motion by Councillor Campbell Council Agenda Frontsheet (item 8.6 refers)	Requests that officers provide a report to Culture and Communities, alongside any final decision on the Park Management Rules, which examines the case for greater engagement on and enforcement of the park rules, especially during busy periods, providing costs as necessary for future budget proposals; this to be achieved through an enhanced team of Park Rangers and the use of multi-function wardens as is already being considered by the Directorate of Place amongst other means. This will include detailing any	Corporate Director of Place Lead officers: Andy Williams / Steven Cuthill	December 2026		**Update – August 2026** - This will be included in the Management Rules for Parks report to December committee, **Update – May 2026** A report will be submitted to this committee in August 2026 on Parks Management Rules.

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
			potential role for signage in addressing the issues detailed above in the short term.				**Update – August 2025** The report on draft Management Rules for Parks, Beaches and Greenspaces explains the current arrangements for enforcement and that officers will consider this in more detail.
			1) Briefing note to be issued providing an update on the progression of the Voluntary Moratorium [on sales of fireworks] and awarding of marques.		November 2025	November 2025	**Closed** Information was circulated to members in November 2025

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
6	21.08.25	Management Rules for Parks Beaches and Greenspaces	A report detailing the results of the consultations noted in 1.1.5 [regarding appropriate locations for exercising dogs], and any recommended zones.	Corporate Director of Place Lead officer: Steven Cuthill	December 2026		**Update – August 2026** An update is included in the business bulletin for this meeting (report to be submitted to December meeting) **Update – May 2026** A report will be submitted to this Committee in August 2026. **Update – December 2025** Officers are progressing this action and once a timeline has

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
							been established, this will be added to the outstanding action.
7	21.08.25	Public Art Update	An update is provided at an appropriate juncture, in an appropriate form, regarding committee request for officers to work on proposals to encourage street art	Corporate Director of Place Lead officer: Karl Chapman	October 2026		**Recommended for closure** **Update – August 2026** A report is included on the agenda for the August 2026 Committee **Update – May 2026** A report on the Management and Decommissioning of Public Art will be presented to

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
							Committee in October 2026 and will include reference to street art. **Update – December 2025** Officers are currently implementing the policy on street art. This action will be progressed as part of the annual review.
8	21.08.25	Busking Management - motion by Councillor Thornley	Officers to work on management rules for areas where busking is an issue, presenting draft rules for consideration within 6 months.	Corporate Director of Place Lead officer: Dave Sinclair	February 2026	11.02.2026	**Recommended for Closure** **Update – May 2026** A report is included on the agenda for the

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
							August 2026 Committee. **Update – May 2026** A report will be submitted to this committee in August 2026. **Update – February 2026** A Business Bulletin update is included on the agenda for Committee on 11.02.2026
9	25.09.25 (Full Council)	Edinburgh Heritage Strategy – Motion by Councillor Graham (See agenda frontpage –	Officers prepare a report for the Culture and Communities Committee in 3 cycles detailing how a more wide-ranging Heritage Strategy can be developed.	Corporate Director of Place	March 2027		To be reported in March 2027 **Update – May 2026**

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
		agenda item 8.5 refers)	This should include recommendations on: (a) How the Council can create and lead on developing a user-friendly framework of co-operation between the council and Edinburgh's communities, designed to capture, share, and promote our wide-ranging social, natural, and industrial heritage at local and citywide levels. (b) Protecting, promoting, and preserving our unique remarkable Industrial Heritage to include our historic brewing industry, the Union Canal as a prime example of Georgian civil engineering, and	Lead Officer: Karl Chapman			A report is on the agenda for this meeting.

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
			iconic structures like the Portobello Kilns; (c) How best to promote, preserve and enhance the natural environments within Edinburgh's parks and green spaces which is a key part of our shared heritage.				
10	02.10.25	Right to Grow - Motion by Councillor Osler - Scoping Update	1. Officers to provide a briefing note on how residents can be supported to make better use of back greens for growing, with Edible Estates and other appropriate partners to be consulted in the production of the note 2. In the same briefing note, include suggestions for how residents can be supported to make better	Corporate Director of Place Lead Officer: Linda Anglin	February 2026	May 2026	**Update September 2026** - A briefing note will be circulated prior to the 8 October committee meeting. Briefing note to be circulated by end May 2026.

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
			use of front gardens that are underused.				
10a	02.10.25	Community Centres - Strategic Aims and Future Options	1. An agreed procedure where there is currently no management committee, or upon the collapse of a management committee, be developed and brought back to a future meeting of the committee	Corporate Director of Place Lead Officer: ~~Andrew Field~~ Linda Lees	May 2026		**Recommended for Closure** **Update – August 2026** An update BB item is included on the August 2026 Agenda **Update – May 2026** Two items are included in the Business Bulletin for this meeting.

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
			2. Committee to receive regular updates through the Business Bulletin, at each committee meeting, outlining progress on engagement with management committees, lease negotiations and the development of transition plans		Each committee cycle until completed		**Update – May 2026** A business bulletin item on leases was considered at the meeting on 11 February 2026.
			3. Email to be sent within 2 weeks outlining the different models that could be pursued under Option 4 in the report		17 October 2025		**Closed** An email was circulated to members as requested.
11	02.10.25	Playparks Investment - Progress Update	1. Convenor to write to all Scottish Parliamentary Group Leaders to update them on the positive outcomes of this programme of work, the remaining capital required to fully complete	Corporate Director of Place Lead Officer: Bob McAllister	May 2026		**Recommended for Closure** **Update – May 2026**

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
			the programme of works and to request political parties consider making a pledge to continue it ahead of the Scottish Parliament Elections in May 2026. 2. Agrees that the next update on playparks investment should contain an appendix listing all of the cities play parks estate not just those included in the programme of works, their condition, age, SIMD decile etc and the date that they last received investment (over and above basic maintenance).		May 2026		A report is on the agenda for this meeting. **<u>Update – July 2026</u>** A final report to summarise all play investment delivered from SG funding will be presented in March 2027. This will include Action 2.

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
12	04.12.25	Motion by Cllr McFarlane Grant Funding for Friends of and Trusts	1. A report, within a year, on how officers have explored ways to enhance and grow our partnerships with trusts (and charities) to support the work that our Friends groups and volunteers do, and opportunities to create a grant fund ring-fenced for these organisations, and for Friends groups and volunteers.	Corporate Director of Place Lead Officer: Linda Anglin	December 2026		
			2. A report on the feasibility of redirecting royalties from the Ancestry Ltd agreement into funding for Friends of Cemeteries groups.	Head of Democracy and Governance Lead Officer Henry Sullivan	December 2026		
13	04.12.25	Community Council Elections	1. Update on the implementation of feedback [received in	Head of Democracy	December 2026		

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
		2025 - Survey Results	the survey] in 12 months	and Governance Lead Officer Marcos Martinez			
			2. Officers to provide information to the Committee on what progress has been made to support community councils to run online and/or hybrid meetings, which can be more accessible for community councillors and members of the public who wish to attend.		As appropriate		
14	11.02.26	Business Bulletin (Management Rules for Busking)	The Committee decision of August 2025 is completed by officers and presented for approval at the meeting of Culture and Communities Committee on 14.05.26, along with a plan for	Interim Head of Network Management and Enforcement Lead Officer: Dave Sinclair	14 May 2026	13 August 2026	**Recommended for Closure** A report is included on the agenda for the August 2026 Committee.

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
			implementation and enforcement.				**Update – May 2026** A report will be submitted to the meeting in August 2026.
15	11.02.26	The Future of the Community Grants Fund	To agree to receiving a further report in May 2026, presenting an Options Appraisal for a new funding model with recommendations and a timeline for committee to consider.	Head of Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning Lead Officer: Linda Lees	TBC		**Update – May 2026** This report will be submitted to the August meeting of the Committee.
16	19.03.26 (Council meeting)	Community Resilience and Response at Calder - Motion by Councillor Kumar	Requests that the Chief Superintendent attends the next Culture and Communities Committee to reassure Councillors that there are sufficient resources available, commensurate with the nature of any incident, to	Head of Democracy and Governance Lead Officer: Andrew Rose	14 May 2026		**Recommended for closure** Police attended committee on 13 August 2026

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
			deploy officers safely in order to protect the public.				
17	14.05.26	Business Bulleting - Princes Street Gardens Rockfall Mitigation	Requests a proposal to re-open both sections, accompanied by indicative costs, and information on whether Transient Visitor Levy funds could be used for this purpose.	Head of Neighbourhood Environmental Services Lead Officer: Graeme Craig	17 December 2026		A BB was presented to Committee on 14 May 2026
18	14.05.26	Visitor Levy Participatory Budgeting	That the evaluation will be provided to committee for scrutiny in the first annual update in spring 2027.	Head of Empowerment and Engagement Lead Officer: Michael Edwards	Spring 2027		
19	14.05.26	Edinburgh Visitor Levy Culture Heritage and	That the ineligibility of activities 'primarily for commercial' in this fund is explored further and	Service Director Culture,	TBC		Officers are proposing that the scheme is introduced with

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
		Events Grant Funding Criteria	reported back to councillors exploring the benefits and disbenefits of this approach noting that this fund is primarily to improve environmental sustainability and widen access to culture.	Wellbeing and Economy Lead Officer: Lauren Blair			the proposed criteria, and monitored after the first year to assess demand on the limited funds available.
20	14.05.26	Declaration of Wester Craiglockhart Hill and Greenbank Community Woodland and Little France	Officers to hold discussions with the Trust on the proposal [for a 'Greenside Local Nature Reserve'] reporting back to committee via a Business Bulletin update.	Head of Neighbourhood Environmental Services Lead Officer: Steven Cuthill	Summer 2027		
21	14.05.26	Playparks Investment Update	The Convener write to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance to ask whether the new Scottish Government intends to continue this funding in the new parliamentary term to meet that promise.	Convener	TBC		

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
22	14.05.26	Playparks Investment Update	Officers circulate a briefing note outlining how many and which of Edinburgh's playparks have not yet been renewed and, in the absence of continued Scottish Government funding, how much would be required to complete this programme of work.	Lead Officer: Steven Cuthill/Bob McAllister	November 2027		
23	14.05.26	Burial Management Plans	An update in the next business bulletin detailing how long Edinburgh's existing burial capacity is expected to last, and what plans there are for creating any more capacity, including different religious and non-religious celebrations of life.	Head of Regulatory Services Lead Officer: Andrew Mitchell	13.08.26	13.08.26	**Recommended for closure** An article is included in the business bulletin for the August 2026 committee.

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
24	14.05.26	Motion by Councillor Thornley - Park Lighting Reporting	That an update in the next business bulletin include an indication from officers of which park lighting projects they intend to take forward with this funding, in line with the agreed strategy.	Head of Neighbourhood Environmental Services Lead Officer: Steven Cuthill	13.08.26	13.08.26	**Recommended for closure** An item is included in the business bulletin for August 2026.
25	21.05.26 (Full Council)	Motion by Councillor Day - King's Theatre	1. An update to the Culture and Communities Committee on the progress to remember Councillor Val Walker and potentially naming part of the King's Theatre or other cultural building in her memory.	Service Director Culture, Wellbeing and Economy Lead Officer: David Waddell	8 October 2026		An item is included in the business bulletin for this meeting **Update – August 2026** A dedication plaque commemorating Cllr Walker has been installed in

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
							the new Creative Engagement Studio within the King's Theatre
			2. Officers to respond on what options are available to remember Councillor Val Walker's contribution to Edinburgh's cultural sector during her time as Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee.	Service Director Culture, Wellbeing & Economy Lead Officer: David Waddell	TBC		An item is included in the business bulletin for 8 October 2026 meeting
26	21.05.26 (Full Council)	Motion by Councillor Meagher - In Memory of Amrit and Saroj Lal	A progress update and a timeline for implementing the St Patrick Square proposal be presented to the next meeting of the Culture and Communities Committee.	Head of Service - Heritage, Cultural Venues, Museums & Galleries	13.08.26	13.08.26	**Recommended for Closure** This is included in the Public Art Update report on the August 2026 agenda.

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
				Lead Officer: Karl Chapman			
27	21.05.26 (Full Council)	Motion by Councillor Graham - Allotment Service	A report to be submitted to the Culture and Communities Committee in 1 cycle investigating how further support can be provided to this service. The report should include recommendations on: (a) How we can further develop the service to complement the work being carried out by our community growing team. (b) Reviewing the workload of the current allotment officer and how this can be developed.	Head of Neighbourhood Environmental Services Lead Officer: Andy Williams	13.08.26		**Update – August 2026** This report is scheduled to be submitted to the October meeting

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
			(c) How best the Allotment Service could meaningfully connect with, and be promoted alongside other community growing initiatives approved by Council, for instance: i) The Edinburgh Growing Together "Grow Your Own" Grant scheme approved by Culture and Communities Committee in August 2025; ii) Right to Grow Initiative approved by Culture and Communities Committee in October 2025; and iii) Food Overview Report approved by				

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
			the Policy and Sustainability Committee on 28 May 2024.				
28	25.06.26 (Full Council)	Carrying Knives - Motion by Councillor Nols-McVey	Requests that the Chief Superintendent is invited to the next practicable Culture and Communities Committee to present current operational practice to give assurance to the Council and public on requirements for those in custody receiving medical treatment, including any operational updates following the murder of Henry Nowak.	Head of Democracy and Governance Lead Officer: Andrew Rose	The next practicable meeting		**Recommended for closure** Police attended committee on 13 August 2026.
29	25.06.26 (Full Council)	Northern Path Network - Motion by Councillor Osler	1. To host a workshop led by relevant officers and to invite party spokespersons of the Culture and Communities Committee, outside	Lead Officer: Steven Cuthill	17 December 2026		

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
			groups with relevant knowledge (such as Living Streets, Edinburgh Access Panel, Spokes, Save the Roseburn Path, local Community Police and local Community Council's) to explore the common concerns that are arising across the off road path network and potential measures that could be implemented to address them.				
			2. That a report detailing the suggestions from the group, and recommendations on whether and how they could be implemented, will be received by the Culture & Communities				

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
			committee in three cycles.				
30	25.06.26 (Full Council)	Maintenance of Cemeteries - Motion by Councillor Lang	Seeks an update [on the review [of] how the current frequency of grass cutting and strimming as set out in the Burial Management Plan could be increased while respecting the need to protect and enhance biodiversity] to the Culture & Communities Committee via the next Business Bulletin, along with details of any additional resource which may be required for any changes to maintenance schedules.	Head of Regulatory Services	13 August 2026	13 August 2026	**Recommended for closure** A business bulletin item is included on the August 2026 Agenda
31	25.06.26 (Full Council)	Violent Street Behaviour - Motion by Councillor McInnes	Requests that senior Police Scotland representatives come to the next available Culture and Communities Committee to report on the impact of these incidents and to keep us informed of	Head of Democracy and Governance Lead Officer: Andrew Rose	13 August 2026		**Recommended for Closure** Request made to Police Scotland on 29

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
			Police actions and approaches to the prevention and policing of such incidents.				June 2026 to attend. Police Scotland attended Committee on 13 August 2026.
32	13.08.26	Portobello Promenade Visitor Levy	A report to Committee in three cycles outlining the advantages and disadvantages of the three possible sites (already identified) and a recommendation after public consultation is made, with a view to completion by Spring 2027.	Head of Neighbourhood Environmental Services Lead Officer: Linda Anglin	4 March 2027		
33	13.08.26	Grass Cutting (Bereavement Services)	Details of additional investment required [for any changes to maintenance schedules], as agreed by Full Council, come to the next meeting of this committee via the Business Bulletin.	Head of Neighbourhood Environmental Services Lead Officer: Steven Cuthill	8 October 2026		An item is included in the business bulletin for this meeting

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
34	13.08.26	Petition for Consideration Sav Gate 55 - referral from the Education Children and Families Committee	A report will come to the Culture and Communities Commitee within 2 cycles which includes: (a) A response to the concerns raised in the petition. (b) Background information on the history of service provision at Gate 55/Sighthill Library, including reference to commitments that were made to maintain those services following the demolition of the original Sighthill Community Centre and Sighthill Library buildings. (c) Information on the condition of the building, including reference to any recent plans to develop the site. (d) Options to invest in the building	Head of Wider Achievement & Life Long Learning	17 December 2026		

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
35	13.08.26	Petition for Consideration - Urgent Investment Required Play Facilities at Inverleith Park	1. A report in the next committee's Business Bulletin on:- (a) that improvements to Inverleith Park, in line with the Park's Masterplan, are due to be made using funding from the Visitor Levy and agrees that improvement of the playpark will be included within that work. (b) relevant officers assess the repairs needed in Inverleith Park, with a view to making those repairs in short order, as the safety of children's play is of paramount importance.	Head of Neighbourhood Environmental Services Lead Officer: Steven Cuthill	8 October 2026		This will come to committee in December 2026
			2. a report on the issues raised by the petitioner and the committee including how the TVL monies earmarked for Inverleith Park could		17 December 2026		

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
			benefit the playground within two cycles.				
36	13.08.26	Conservation of the Parliament Cairn - Notice of Motion by Councillor McFarlane	A short report to Culture and Communities Committee in one cycle outlining: 2.1.1 Options for formal council stewardship of the monument to ensure its continued. provenance.	Head of Service - Heritage, Cultural Venues, Museums & Galleries	8 October 2026		This will come to committee in December 2026
37	27.08.26 (Full Council)	Accessible Parks Initiative - Notice of Motion by Councillor McFarlane	A report to the Culture and Communities Committee in one cycle exploring how wheelchair access to grassed spaces can be improved within the three Premier Parks that contain Changing Places. This should include an exploration of permanent solutions such as mats/grates to allow continuous wheelchair access and temporary deployable solutions such as matts that can be accessed from within the Park when required.	Head of Neighbourhood Environmental Services Lead Officer: Steven Cuthill	8 October 2026		This will come to committee in December 2026

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
			A report by the end of the calendar year 2026 regarding what plans the Council has for new public toilet provision in these areas [Leith Links, The Meadows and Inverleith], including (a) Proposed location(s) and (b) Accessibility issues		17 December 2026		
38	27.08.26 (Full Council)	Community Safety in Edinburgh - Notice of Motion by Councillor Faccenda	A report be brought to Culture and Communities Committee, within 2 cycles, looking at how the council's policies on ASB and community safety, as well as the new Community Safety Strategy when drafted can be publicised. This report should also identify key areas of anti-social behaviour on streets, assess impact on the community and look at solutions such as increased CCTV surveillance and additional public toilets to stop people using streets	Head of Housing and Homelessness Lead Officer: Gordon Baker	17 December 2026		

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
			and private properties as toilets. The report should also bring costed proposals to increase officer capacity dedicated to Community Safety as part of our Prevention Strategy and should seek the views of NHS Lothian public health professionals and the Edinburgh Alcohol and Drugs Partnership on the impact of the Licensing Board's decision to scrap the overprovision policy. Requests that this report references the work of the Feminist City Steering group, includes discussion of the balance between surveillance and civil liberties, and includes consideration that increased police visibility can lead to further antisocial behaviour, as well as unfair targeting of certain communities.				

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
			Further requests that the proposed report brings together available ward-level evidence on anti-social behaviour, including recurring locations, reported incidents and enforcement activity, and considers the frequency and cost of graffiti, stickers, vandalism and other material on public infrastructure, together with the risks to Council staff responding to such incidents.				
39	27.08.26 (Full Council)	St Mark's Park Bridge Closure - Notice of Motion by Councillor Caldwell	A Business Bulletin update in two cycles to the Culture and Communities Committee outlining the next steps and financial costs to reopen or rebuild the bridge.	TBC	17 December 2026		

Business Bulletin

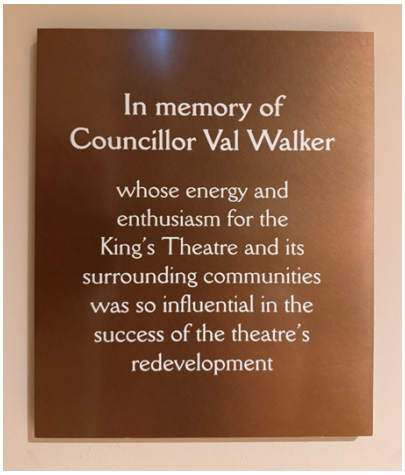
Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday 8 October 2026

Item	Contact and Wards affected
Edinburgh Poverty Commission Interim Review 2025: Response To Their Calls To Action **Actions for Parks and Openspace** In October 2025, the Edinburgh Poverty Commission published the results of its 2025 update of its calls to action. The calls to action spanned seven areas: • Delivering the right support in the places people live and work • To deliver fair work that provides dignity and security • To deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in • For income security that provides a real lifeline • To provide opportunities that drive justice and boost prospects • To ensure people in poverty have connections in a city they belong to • To help people in poverty enjoy equality in their health and wellbeing At its meeting on 9 December, Policy and Sustainability Committee agreed that all executive committees of the Council should consider actions needed within their	**Contact:** Linda Anglin **Wards affected:** All

Item	Contact and Wards affected
remits to respond to the Commission's findings, with reports presented within the first half of 2026. Three of the calls to action relate to Parks and Openspaces, and actions are underway for all of them. Details are provided below: **Actions to deliver decent homes that people can afford to live in** Action 3.6 - Adapt homes and local places to reduce the risks of climate change for people in poverty, so that these risks do not place additional costs on people without the resources to respond. Actions: • The Canopy Communities programme, a three-year tree planting programme which started in 2025, identified areas for intervention using the Tree Equity tool, so all our project areas are in areas of deprivation. Status: UNDERWAY. • The Thriving Greenspaces Strategy Implementation Plan action 2.2.1 commits to developing a methodology, which will include areas of deprivation index, for prioritising where we focus investments and developing an Environmental Justice Work Programme. This will include factors such as where trees are needed most for heat and flood mitigation. Status: PENDING. **Actions to ensure people in poverty have connections in a city they belong to** Action 6.1 - Ensure that the planning, design, and maintenance of housing, public spaces, and services addresses the need for quality spaces, leisure and public services in the places where people live. • Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust, one of Parks and Openspace delivery partners, is delivering a major project to improve West Pilton Park. Funded by an external grant, the ~£4m investment will raise the quality of this park significantly with new café, playground, public toilets, sustainable urban drainage	

Item	Contact and Wards affected
and community growing space. It will be the first time such a large investment in a smaller park is located in an area of high deprivation; understanding the impact this will make will be invaluable for informing future investment. Status: UNDERWAY • The Thriving Greenspaces Strategy Implementation Plan action 2.2.1 commits to developing a methodology, which will include areas of deprivation index, for prioritising where we focus investments and developing an Environmental Justice Work Programme. This will include parks, playgrounds, tree planting and other nature interventions. Status: PENDING **Actions to help people in poverty enjoy equality in their health and wellbeing** Action 7.2 - Ensure people in poverty in Edinburgh have access to affordable, healthy food, green spaces, and safe community facilities in the places they live and work. • The work carried out to develop the Edinburgh Nature Network actions included analysis using areas of deprivation index to identify areas of highest need for health and wellbeing benefits. Status: COMPLETE • Work has begun to deliver the Edinburgh Nature Network actions, with a focus on Leith, our pilot area, which was chosen due to having the highest population density in the city, with the highest need for ecosystem services and within an area of high deprivation. Our Linking Leith's Parks programme has now delivered improvements in three small parks to benefit people and nature. Status: UNDERWAY • Our Nature Estate programme, which is changing our mowing regimes to improve our grassland for nature, is all focussed on Housing Land, which are primarily located in areas of deprivation. Status: UNDERWAY • Allotments and community food growing initiatives are driven by availability of land and community interest. The Council's Housing Service has an	

Item	Contact and Wards affected
extensive programme for community food growing on the Housing Estate. Status: UNDERWAY. • Proposals are being developed to fund nature improvements in the Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships five local priority areas, to link with the development of Locality Plans, with the view of justifying a business case for capital funding to deliver projects on the ground. This will build on the pilots we are undertaking in Leith and Portobello where we are working with local communities to create local Nature Networks that align with their priorities. Status: PENDING	
Remembering Councillor Val Walker At its meeting on 21 May 2026, the City of Edinburgh Council agreed a motion, requesting an update to the Culture and Communities Committee on the progress to remember Councillor Val Walker and naming part of the King's Theatre in her memory. Following the refurbishment of the King's Theatre and its reopening earlier this summer, a plaque commemorating Councillor Walker has been installed in the new Creative Engagement Studio. Officers are also investigating other opportunities for commemoration across the cultural estate, especially in Cllr Walker's ward and will report back to a future meeting of this Committee.  	**Contact:** David Waddell Evelyn Kilmurry **Wards:** All

Item	Contact and Wards affected
EDINBURGH'S THRIVING GREENSPACES UPDATE **Greenside (Calton Hill) Local Nature Reserve** At Culture and Communities Committee on 14 May 2026, the Calton Hill Conservation Trust submitted a deputation recommending the creation of Greenside (Calton Hill) as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). An Addendum was approved at the same Committee requesting officers to hold discussions with the Trust on the proposal reporting back to committee via a Business Bulletin update. Officers met with the Chair of the Calton Hill Conservation Trust and the following was discussed and noted: • Calton Hill has multiple designations for the purpose of protecting nature. The entire site, including Regent Gardens, is designated as a Local Biodiversity Site (LBS) in addition to a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), both for geology and ecological value, a designation which offers the highest level of statutory protection. • Given the current designations, officers don't recommend pursuing an additional LNR designation at this time as it would not provide significant advantages in terms of ecological protection. • In addition, the area of the site in question may not qualify for LNR consideration because access and safety are key assessment considerations for LNR designation; the whole woodland side is mostly inaccessible. • Initial concepts for possible viewing platforms have been prepared to create visualisations of platform designs which could be installed within the woodland with the aim of improving accessibility; this would affect criteria against which an LNR designation would be measured. • The Calton Hill Conservation Trust remains interested in the progression towards an additional LNR designation. It was agreed that it would be	**Contact:** Linda Anglin **Wards affected:** 11 - City Centre, 17-Portobello/Craigmillar, 05 – Inverleith. 13 Leith, 15 - Southside/Newington

Item	Contact and Wards affected
sensible to put the LNR proposal on hold for now and resume discussions as part of the development of the Edinburgh Visitor Levy funded masterplan, updated Management Plan and development of proposals to build viewing platforms which may all affect LNR criteria like accessibility and education. **Portobello Promenade Visitor Levy Project** The Portobello Promenade project is now in the early design phase, and over autumn and winter feasibility studies will be undertaken and work to develop concept masterplan proposals. Stakeholders and the public will be able to input their ideas and aspirations, and workshops have started with Council officers and external stakeholders to capture constraints, dependencies and opportunities. Development of new accessible public toilets has been brought forward to meet increased demand. Planned to open for Spring 2027, delivery will focus on Straiton Place Park alongside some wider improvements to the park itself although these may need take place after the toilets. Supplier engagement is currently underway. Designs for the promenade will be presented during the public consultation phase and reported to Committee in 2027, as requested by Portobello Promenade Edinburgh Visitor Levy Addendum agreed at Culture and Community Committee on 13 August 2026. A series of engagement initiatives is underway. Workshops with senior students at Portobello High School and with local primary and secondary schools, including Towerbank Primary School, began in late August and are continuing through the autumn. The first public community engagement event took place on Friday 11 September at Straiton Place Park. Meetings with take place with key local stakeholders and ward members throughout the project.	

Item	Contact and Wards affected
 *Walk and Talk with Senior Pupils from Portobello High School - Aug 2026* More information can be found on the Council's Portobello Promenade project webpage at www.thrivinggreenspaces.scot/porty. **Inverleith Park Visitor Levy Project** At Culture and Community Committee on 13 August 2026, a petition for Urgent Investment Required Play Facilities Inverleith Park was considered and an Addendum agreed thanking petitioners for their work championing their local greenspaces and play facilities and requesting an update confirming that improvements to the playpark would be included in the masterplan and visitor levy funding proposals, and that the current playpark will be assessed for repairs with a view of making any repairs in short order. A further Amendment agreed by Committee requested a report in two cycles to include how TVL monies earmarked for Inverleith park could benefit the playground. An update as requested by the Addendum is included in this business bulletin. Work to update the Masterplan for the whole park will shortly commence, drawing together the depot proposals, the playground and wider park priorities into a single coherent plan, and develop a high-level cost plan to inform how the £4m Visitor Levy funding is to be allocated across the park's priorities. Further detail will be provided in the report responding to Councillor Rust's Amendment. Scottish Water is scheduled to undertake Combined	

Item	Contact and Wards affected
Sewer Overflow improvement works at the park from February 2027, expected to last six to nine months. The playground and pétanque piste will be heavily impacted by these works. Officers have negotiated the relocation of the pétanque piste to the former Ferranti Bowling Green, and the playground will remain safely accessible throughout. To minimise disruption, playground improvements will follow completion of these works, expected to begin in the second quarter of 2028 subject to approvals and statutory requirements. Meanwhile, work is being carried out to review the existing playground equipment to identify urgent repairs and/or replacements required. More information can be found on the Council's Inverleith project webpage at https://www.thrivinggreenspaces.scot/project/inverleith-park-masterplan. **Leith Links Masterplan Visitor Levy Project** The Council allocated a £4m capital contribution from the Edinburgh Visitor Levy in February 2026 to Leith Links as part of its first round of Visitor Levy investment. The project will deliver the Activity Hub and take forward any further key masterplan interventions that can be delivered within the available budget.  *Leith Links Activity Hub Masterplan (2025)* The full park Masterplan is being refreshed and a high-level cost plan will be developed to assess what elements can be taken forward into construction. Public consultation of the refreshed Masterplan is planned for winter 2026-27. This will include a series of in-person drop-in events and targeted stakeholder workshops. This work will lay the foundations for the project to progress	

Item	Contact and Wards affected
into the detailed design phase in April 2027 with construction expected to take place in 2028/2029. More information can be found on the Council's Leith Links project webpage at Leith Links – Thriving Greenspaces. **Restoring and Developing Inch House** Inch Community Association have recently received a valuable grant from the Architectural Heritage Fund aimed at securing the long-term future for Inch House. The grant will focus on exploring conservation-led options for restoring and developing Inch House. The ultimate goal is to see it grow into a strong, vigorous and sustainable community hub for the many people and communities that stand to benefit from it. Officers have continued to work with the Inch Community Association to explore funding options for the Inch House, with a view of exploring options for funding for the rest of Inch Park. For more information, follow them on Facebook at Inch House Community Centre, or visit their website at https://www.inchhouse.co.uk/ where people can sign up for their newsletter.	
City Art Centre Upcoming Exhibition **Kenneth Dingwall: Being** This winter the City Art Centre presents 'Kenneth Dingwall: Being', a two-floor survey exhibition of the artist's work. This major retrospective marks a significant moment for the contemporary Edinburgh-based artist, offering a comprehensive overview of his 60-year career. Bringing together over 70 artworks, the exhibition features abstract drawings, paintings, prints and constructions. Throughout his career, Kenneth Dingwall (b.1938) has explored the language of form, colour and surface, free from direct representation. A range of subtle and sensory influences enter his work in much the same way that imperceptible signs inform our daily life. The colour	**Contact:** Maeve Toal **Wards affected:** All

Item	Contact and Wards affected
of the sky may alter our mood, the slightest fleeting shift in a facial expression can reveal an unspoken feeling. While Dingwall's practice may begin from a position of pure abstraction, his working process responds to the influence of life experience and emotion. Drawn from the City of Edinburgh's Fine Art collection and from public and private collections across the UK, including works from the artist's studio - some of which have never been exhibited before - this exhibition provides a timely reassessment of Dingwall's dedication and contribution to abstract art. The exhibition runs from 21 November 2026 to 7 March 2027 and is accompanied by an exciting events programme and publication. The admission charge is £10 and provides joint entry with the exhibition 'Ade Adesina: Bard'. For further information please visit Kenneth Dingwall: Being | Culture Edinburgh.  *Image credit: Kenneth Dingwall, 'Just Doing Away', 2026. © the artist. Photo: Antonia Reeve*	
Edinburgh Libraries Partner with Edinburgh University - Wintering Well Edinburgh Libraries have partnered with Edinburgh University on the Wintering Well programme. University researchers have been working to support library services across Scotland to introduce Wintering Well Boxes for loan to their local communities. The boxes are aimed at helping people to counteract the negative effects of Seasonal Affective Disorder and encourage healthy light-focused habits during the winter months. Both Muirhouse and Craigmillar Libraries now hold ten	**Contact:** Evelyn Kilmurry **Wards affected:** 4 – Forth, 17- Portobello/ Craigmillar

Item	Contact and Wards affected
Wintering Well Boxes that can be borrowed for free by library members and include a SAD lamp, instructions on use, an information booklet on Edinburgh Libraries and all they have to offer and information on how to help those who suffer from SAD.	
Central Library Digital Maps Visitors to Edinburgh Central Library can now examine some of the city's most significant historic maps in unusually close detail, following the arrival of an interactive digital cabinet in the library's front entrance hall as part of the British Library on Tour programme. The cabinet is the first of its kind to be installed under the scheme, which brings items from the British Library's collection to several different venues across the UK. The cabinet allows visitors to zoom into the collection's maps at a close level of detail to, for example, trace the intricacies of Gordon of Rothiemay's seventeenth-century view of the city, or follow the expansion of the New Town across successive surveys, all from a single interactive screen.  	**Contact:** Evelyn Kilmurry **Wards affected:** All
Edinburgh Libraries assists with Tourism Boardgame. The Edinburgh Visitor Economy Partnership has worked in partnership with the University of Edinburgh on a pilot project throughout August 2026, which aims to better understand how residents and communities feel about tourism and its impacts on the city. The project supports Edinburgh's Tourism Strategy, which aims to ensure that tourism contributes positively to the quality of life of people who live and work in the city. The Risk Robin Boardgame brings small groups of	**Contact:** Evelyn Kilmurry **Wards affected:** 1- Almond, 5- Inverleith, 10 – Morningside, 11- City Centre, 12- Leith Walk

Item	Contact and Wards affected
people together to discuss different perspectives in a structured and inclusive way. The aim of the game was to encourage conversation, listening and shared understanding while gathering insights about residents' experiences of tourism in Edinburgh. Five libraries took part - Morningside, Central, McDonald Road, Stockbridge and South Queensferry. Participants reported positive feedback and an enjoyable experience, whilst the Partnership gathered valuable information about our local resident's views of tourism.	
Libraries Update Other libraries updates can be found at appendix 1 to this business bulletin	
Cemetery Grass cutting frequency and associated resource implications At a meeting of the Council in June 2026, a motion was agreed which requested officers review how the current frequency of grass cutting and strimming (as set out in the Burial Management Plan) could be increased while respecting the need to protect and enhance biodiversity, along with identifying any additional resource which may be required. The motion further requested that this information is provided to the committee via a business bulletin item, which also includes and overview of the opening and closing times of cemeteries. The current grass cutting regime operates on a 6 - 12-week cycle. Individual burial management plans reflect the current staffing, available machinery, and statutory responsibilities. It takes account of the Council's wider commitment to biodiversity and climate action. A move to a shorter cutting cycle of either 4 - 6 weeks or 6 - 8 weeks across the estate would require additional dedicated staffing and other resources, with an agreed funding source. The costs of the equipment (which includes two additional mowers, three strimmers, uniform, personal protective equipment and one lawnmower and roller) are the same for each option and would be a one-off cost of £90,900. The ongoing revenue costs associated with each option are detailed below (any investment in this area would need to be considered as part of the budget setting process for	**Contact:** Andrew Mitchell **Wards affected:** All

Item	Contact and Wards affected
2027/28): **Option one: 6 - 8-week cycle** 3 Seasonal Gravediggers (Grade 4) at a cost of £41,491 per year Hire of an additional vehicle at £14,400 per year **Total: £55,891** **Option two: 4 - 6-week cycle** 6 Seasonal Gravediggers (Grade 4) at a cost of £83,181 per year Hire of an additional vehicle at £14,400 per year **Total: £97,581** **Option three: 6 – 8-week cycle with additional maintenance enhancements** 3 full-time Gravediggers (Grade 4) at a cost of £108,000 Hire of an additional vehicle at £14,400 per year **Total: £122,400** Consideration would need to be given to the Council's commitments to enhancing biodiversity and tackling climate change. A longer grass cutting cycle can provide biodiversity benefits, reduce fuel use and emissions and support the Council's commitment to climate action. Increasing cutting frequency would inevitably increase vehicle use and machinery use, fuel or battery consumption, and emissions. Whilst there are some variations in opening times, most cemeteries are open 24 hours a day. The exceptions are: • Mortonhall and Craigmillar Castle Park, which are locked at 6pm and opened at 6am • Old and New Calton Cemeteries are closed at 5.50pm opened at 8am and are on combination padlocks so that Tour Guides can access the sites when they need to	

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APPENDIX 1

LIBRARIES UPDATE

Item	Contact and Wards affected
Edinburgh Libraries Welcomed MP/MSP visits Fountainbridge Library had the privilege of hosting Dr Scott Arthur MP for a Bookbug session in August, where Dr Arthur read to the library's little ones and Morningside and Newington Libraries hosted Daniel Johnson MSP along with our Convenor to visit two of the city's busiest libraries.	**Contact:** Evelyn Kilmurry **Wards affected:** 10 – Morningside, 15- Southside/ Newington
Stockbridge Visual Impaired Book Festival Visit Stockbridge Library welcome those with visual impairment to their monthly Audiobook group. This regular support group has been specifically created for people with visual impairment to allow everyone to share their love of books. In August, the Library organised a special visit to the Edinburgh Book Festival and six of the group members enjoyed the trip and being part of the international literary event.	**Contact:** Evelyn Kilmurry **Wards affected:** 5 – Inverleith
Summer Reading Challenge Launch- Central Library Central Children's Library held a launch party for the Summer Reading Challenge. This included a bespoke Storytelling session which took on the theme of Read to the Beat, with musical themed stories and songs, and even a rap. Party games were played, including a very boisterous game of Musical Bumps. Children were invited to create one of three musical instruments as a craft activity. Finally, there was a small tea party, so children could replenish their energy after all that moving around! There was great feedback from attendees, and it really helped create momentum for the SRC programme, with lots of sign ups on the day. 	**Contact:** Evelyn Kilmurry **Wards affected:** 11 – City Centre, 16 – Liberton/ Gilmerton

Item	Contact and Wards affected
Summer Reading Challenge- Moredun Library Moredun Library were successful in their bid to raise £2,000 funding through the Summer Reading Challenge outreach project, supported by the Julia Rausing Trust. This allowed the library to deliver a full programme of family workshops and activities throughout the summer, while also providing snacks and fresh fruit to support local families and create a welcoming, inclusive space.	
Drumbrae Library Family Fun Day and Build-a-Bear giveaway Drumbrae Library held another very successful Family Fun Day for the community. Featuring face painting, balloon modelling, circus skills and live music, as well as visits from a wide range of partner organisations including Police Scotland and Skills Development Scotland, the day saw close to 500 people come through the doors of the library to enjoy the space and learn all the things that the service has to offer. Drumbrae Library also hosted the Scottish Book Trust (SBT) and their new partners Build-A-Bear Workshop at one of their very popular Bookbug sessions. SBT and Build-A-Bear brought along 100 brand new teddy bears to be given out to the children who attended the event, and a great time was had by all.	**Contact:** Evelyn Kilmurry **Wards affected:** 3 – Drumbrae/ Gyle

Culture and Communities Committee

10:00am, Thursday, 8 October 2026

Edinburgh Visitor Levy: Cultural Programming Fund Update

Decision/scrutiny	**Scrutiny**
Wards:	**All**

1. Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that Committee:

1.1.1 Notes the Cultural Programming overview for the delivery activity of the CEC Programming Fund created under the Culture Heritage and Events Funding Stream of the Edinburgh Visitor Levy; and

1.2.1 Notes that annual updates will be brought to this committee every 12 months.

Gareth Barwell

Corporate Director of Place

Contacts: Karl Chapman, Head of Service - Heritage, Cultural Venues, Museums and Galleries Lauren Blair, Project Manager – Visitor Levy

E-mail: karl.chapman@edinburgh.gov.uk / lauren.blair@edinburgh.gov.uk

Report

Edinburgh Visitor Levy: Cultural Programming Fund Update

2. Executive Summary

2.1 This report provides an update on the Cultural Programming Fund, which was agreed at the Special Meeting, Visitor Levy, City of Edinburgh Council on the 12 February 2026 under the Edinburgh Visitor Levy Culture Heritage and Events Investment Stream.

2.2 The purpose of the Cultural Programming Fund is to ensure an ambitious approach is taken to deliver high profile, publicly visible creative programmes across Edinburgh – within our own cultural venue estate, and through working in partnership with key partner organisations.

2.3 This fund specifically aims to support innovative and engaging content and restore lost cultural capital such as bandstand programming, major exhibitions and diverse live music.

2.4 The proposed delivery is designed to ensure that funding is allocated transparently, assessed consistently, and delivers measurable outcomes aligned with the Citywide Culture Strategy, the Edinburgh Tourism Strategy 2030 and the aims and objectives of the Edinburgh Visitor Levy.

3. Background

3.1 In January 2025, the City of Edinburgh Council approved A Visitor Levy for Edinburgh- Final Scheme as referred from the Policy and Sustainability Committee.

3.2 On the 12 February 2026, the City of Edinburgh Council approved the funding recommendations for the Visitor Levy for Edinburgh Investment streams.

3.3 The Culture Heritage and Events (CHE) approved investment stream included the CEC Programming Fund (‘the Cultural Programming Fund’).

4. Main report

4.1 The Cultural Programming Fund is designed to meet the Visitor Levy Scheme objective ‘to support, sustain and develop Edinburgh’s culture, heritage and events provision to ensure it remains world leading and competitively attractive to residents as well as visitors’.

4.2 The fund sits within the ‘Edinburgh Open 365’ theme of the Culture Heritage and Events Investment Stream of the Edinburgh Visitor Levy Scheme. The purpose of this theme is to ensure Edinburgh’s cultural organisations have the investment and support to innovate and generate new world class content that covers the geography of the city all year round. Creative content is a critical element of what drives Edinburgh’s global reputation, our vibrancy as a cultural capital and helps attract and retain creative talent.

4.3 The agreed allocation for the Cultural Programming Fund is:

2026/27: £500,000

2027/28: £515,000 and

2028/29: £550,000.

4.4 While the Fund will mainly deliver programming spend over three years, allocation will also cover programme management administration.

Purpose and Scope

4.5 The Programme operates under three themes, which will meet each criteria:

4.5.1 Have clear strategic fit – clear alignment with the Edinburgh Visitor Levy scheme's aims and objectives, and with the Citywide Culture Strategy

4.5.2 Legislative fit - compliance with the spend criteria outlined in the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024

4.5.3 Deliverability – realistic budget, timeline and organisational capacity to deliver as proposed

4.5.4 Value for money – cost relative to reach, quality and any additional income or in-kind contribution.

4.5.5 Public accessibility – charging scales and the extent to which the activity is free or low-cost and open to the public.

4.5.6 Fair Work – delivery partners will be expected to demonstrate a commitment to Fair Work principles where applicable, including fair pay, workforce development and inclusive employment practices.

4.5.7 Risk – financial, reputational, health and safety, and licensing risk, and whether it is proportionate and manageable within the award.

4.6 **Theme 1: Ross Bandstand Programme Activation** - a programme of events between April and September with a core focus on ‘plug and play’ community

events that are free to the public, mid-scale contemporary music, theatre and cinema, restoring the spirit of public bandstand in an iconic location. For this, event production infrastructure along with basic staffing and marketing will be provided through the CultureEdinburgh Website and other channels.

4.7 The Programme will be free to the public, in line with the theme's core purpose; any proposed exception must be justified in the assessment record. This will contribute to a varied, city-wide season programme rather than duplicating existing free provision elsewhere in the city.

4.8 **Theme 2: Exhibition and Event Funding**: Exhibitions and Events: one-off major exhibitions and cultural programmes to be brought to Edinburgh to enhance the year round cultural offer and encourage diversity and innovation. Delivered within, or in genuine partnership with, the Council's core cultural venues (for example Usher Hall, City Art Centre, Museums estate) or other partners (city based galleries, National Galleries of Scotland, National Museum of Scotland).

4.9 This theme extends the ambition, quality or scale associated with August programming into other months of the year and demonstrates experimentation, diversity or innovation – new artists, new forms, new audiences, or content that would not otherwise be shown in Edinburgh.

4.10 Events will be one-off or time-limited in nature, rather than recurring core programming that should be funded through mainstream venue budgets.

4.11 **Theme 3: Tartan Parade Development:** This parade will bring together tartans, pipe bands, dancers, musicians, organisations, and individuals from Edinburgh, as well as across Scotland, to celebrate the country’s rich heritage, tartans, culture and inclusivity.

4.12 The funding will directly grow and enhance the production of the annual Tartan Parade or its satellite activity, rather than funding unrelated activity by parade partners and funding will require evidence of a credible plan to increase participation (marchers, community groups, pipers, bands) and estimated attendance year on year.

4.13 Funding will include things like basic safety, route and licensing planning appropriate to a city-centre street event.

Monitoring and Reporting

4.14 Funded projects, exhibitions or programmes must define and report against clear outputs and outcomes. Performance and expenditure will be monitored through ongoing fund tracking, deliver timelines and agreed KPIs.

4.15 Officers will update Committee with an annual report covering delivery, financial performance and outcomes.

4.16 Any delivery partners will be expected to demonstrate a commitment to Fair Work principles where applicable, including fair pay, workforce development and inclusive employment practices.

4.17 Monitoring will ensure that outputs and outcomes can be tracked and reported as part of wider Visitor Levy programme evaluation.

5 Next Steps

5.1 Following final approval of the Visitor Levy budget in February 2026, spend on the recommended projects were able to start on 1 April 2026.

5.2 Committee note the implementation update of this the CEC Programming Fund of the Visitor Levy agreed spend.

5.3 Update reports will be made annually to the Culture and Communities Committee.

6 Financial impact

6.1 The funds will be allocated from the Culture Heritage and Events Investment Stream of the Edinburgh Visitor Levy.

6.2 Based on the latest income forecasts, estimated funds available for Culture Heritage and Events in the first three years would be:

2026/27: £5.74m

2027/28: £9.90m

2028/29: £10.91m

Allocated Fund Finance

6.3 From the funding outlined in 6.2, allocated funds for the CEC Programming Fund will be:

2026/27: £500,000

2027/28: £515,000

2028/29: £550,000.

Financial Risks

6.4 Changes in visitor behaviours (such as a decline in the number of visitors staying in Edinburgh and the number of nights they stay) may impact levy revenue.

6.5 To mitigate the risk, a number of financial mitigations have been agreed as part of Council agreeing the investment themes:

6.5.1 5% of the levy collected in the first three years will be set aside in a ring-fenced reserve so that income volatility between years can be managed;

6.5.2 An income review will be undertaken in December 2026 to assess the revenue generated against projected revenue. Should the actual income be lower than projected, a review will be undertaken of the remaining planned expenditure of the financial year to determine whether there is the requirement to pause projects or reduce the financial allocation;

6.5.3 Each investment stream has prioritised and programmed spend across 2026/27 on a quarterly basis in preparation for the review in December 2026; and

6.5.4 This fund will follow the agreed City of Edinburgh Council Grant Process and Grant Standing order which includes guidelines covered under Scottish Public Finance Manual and the Statutory Guidance for the UK Subsidy Control Regime.

7 Key Policies

Equality and Poverty

7.1 An IIA which covered the whole Culture Heritage and Events investment stream, have indicated this investment stream can have positive impacts on equality, fair work, the environment and sustainability.

Climate and Nature Emergencies

7.2 As a public body, the Council has statutory duties relating to climate emissions and biodiversity. The Council:

7.2.1 "must, in exercising its functions, act in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of emissions reduction targets" (Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019), and

7.2.2 "in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions" (Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004)

7.3 The City of Edinburgh Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and committed to work towards a target of net zero emissions by 2030 for both city and corporate emissions, and embedded this as a core priority of the Council Business Plan 2023-27. The Council also declared a Nature Emergency in 2023.

Environmental Impacts

7.4 A full scheme IIA has been carried out to assess any environmental impacts that the recommended schemes may have.

Housing Emergency

7.5 The Council declared a housing emergency in November 2023. The Housing Emergency Action Plan (HEAP) was considered by the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee on 25 February 2025.

7.6 The recommended grant criteria within this report have no direct impact on the housing emergency.

8 Risk, compliance, governance and community impact

8.1 Extensive stakeholder engagement, consultation and surveys have been carried out in relation to the Edinburgh Visitor Levy including:

8.1.1 Consultation on the Edinburgh Transient Visitor Levy (October - December 2018);

8.1.2 Stakeholder engagement with industry networks, individual representatives from various organisations and local political party groups starting from August 2023 to March 2024.;

8.1.3 Survey for visitors and residents (November 2023 - January 2024); and

8.1.4 Formal public consultation was carried out from 23 September 2024 - 15 December 2024. The results can be found here.

8.2 Each of the recommended projects can be linked to wider Council strategies and plans such as the Edinburgh 2030 Tourism Strategy, Citywide Culture Strategy 2023-30 and Edinburgh Events Strategy.

8.3 All recommended projects have been assessed against the Council's Business Plan and the Citywide Culture Strategy, ensuring that those that have been recommended are in line with Council priorities.

8.4 Financial risks have been highlighted at 6.4.

9 Background reading/external references

9.1 Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024

9.2 A Visitor Levy for Edinburgh- Final Scheme

9.3 Special Meeting- Visitor Levy, City of Edinburgh Council, 12 February 2026

9.4 Citywide Culture Strategy 23/30.

9.5 Edinburgh Tourism Strategy 2030

9.6 Edinburgh Council Standard Conditions of Grants.

10 Appendices

10.1 None

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Culture and Communities Committee

10:00am, Thursday 8 October, 2026

Cultural Venues Fees and Charges

Decision/scrutiny	**Decision**
Wards	**All**

1. Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that Committee:

1.1.1 Agrees to a 3% increase in Cultural Venues Fees and Charges for 2027/28;

1.1.2 Agrees that future years' increases are set at the CPI rate in June of each subsequent year as a method of financial planning; and

1.1.3 Refers this report to the meeting of Finance and Resources Committee on 17 November 2026 for consideration as part of the Council's wider 2027/28 budget setting process.

Gareth Barwell

Corporate Director of Place

Contact: Karl Chapman, Head of Heritage, Cultural Venues, Museums and Galleries

E-mail: karl.chapman@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 07795 121243

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Report

Cultural Venues Fees and Charges

2. Executive Summary

2.1 Decisions made on fees and charges late in the financial year are creating budget pressures within services in the subsequent year, as it is often too late to apply them due to contracting and supply chain lead times.

2.2 This report recommends how this can be addressed by agreeing the increase for the next financial year now rather than in February, and on an ongoing basis by utilising Consumer Price Index as at June of the preceding year as the annual increase.

3. Background

3.1 Income generation is a key part of the Council's financial planning, and Cultural Venues (Usher Hall, Assembly Rooms, Church Hill Theatre, and Ross Bandstand) budgets are underpinned by income from venue rentals, ticketing commission, bars and catering.

3.2 The total income target across the venues in 2025/6 was just over £4.7 million, excluding gross ticket sales, 92% of total budgeted cost turnover for the year. The Usher Hall performed ahead of target, allowing the wider service to present a balanced budget for the year.

3.3 At its March 2026 meeting, the Finance and Resources Committee approved a 10% increase to the Council's Cultural Venues fees and charges as part of the 2026/27 budget process, equating to an additional income target of £180,000.

4. Main report

4.1 Venues negotiate and contract with long lead times, with some contracts extending over multiple years. This allows third-party organisations such as festivals, promoters, schools, choirs, and universities to contract supply chains, artists and set ticket prices.

4.2 The venues had been applying, where possible, a 5% increase on 2025/6 fees and charges as a prudent measure to capture above-inflationary increases. The majority

of hirers and users do, for the most part, expect inflationary increases and the impacts of this on the culture and other sectors has been well versed, with the impact usually being passed on to customers through higher ticket prices. Some arts organisations and charities, however, who are not receiving real-time inflationary funding increases are finding this a challenge.

4.3 While there was a small degree of pushback, the majority of hirers were accepting the 5% increase, albeit with negative feedback from two larger clients.

4.4 As the majority of hires were already under contract, it has not been possible to implement the increase against these.

4.5 The issue for the venues is less to do with the increases, and rather with the time that they are applied. While never palatable to customers, increases can be mitigated with notice. The long lead time on negotiating contracts presents the service with a sizeable in-year budget pressure if additional charges are applied late in the financial year.

4.6 In the past, but not since 2018/19, the Council has approved venues increases over a fixed 2-year period, and officers have considered if this would be an appropriate cycle to reintroduce as it can cover longer lead times for hirers to work with. On reflection, the preference is to have a fixed budget setting decision at a given point in each year.

4.7 It is recommended that, for 2027/28, this is agreed as 3%, and for future years the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the preceding June is used as the factor for increases in the following financial year.

4.8 This approach will ensure that fees and charges can be applied at a time that ensures greater collection capacity, contributing to the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and avoid creating in-year budget pressures.

5. Next Steps

5.1 The outcome of this consideration will be reported back to the Finance and Resources Committee in November for incorporation, as appropriate, in the wider budget process.

6. Financial impact

6.1 The current baseline assumptions within the Council's medium term financial plan are for annual increases of 5% in most discretionary fees and charges.

6.2 Whilst the setting of the 2027/28 increase at 3%, and subsequent years' at the level of inflation at June of the preceding year, may result in a shortfall relative to these baseline assumptions, the certainty of future fees and charges is expected to maintain current overall bookings and ensure the service remains competitive with other venue providers and limits the level of increase for concessionary users.

7. Key Policies

Equality and Poverty

7.1 A key aim of the Council's Culture Strategy is to increase access to culture for all residents of Edinburgh. It is acknowledged that increased venue hire costs are likely to translate into higher ticket prices for audiences, which is likely to impact those with less disposable income harder. Many programmers have discounted tickets for people in receipt of benefits or otherwise experiencing financial hardship and the Council continues to work with partners to develop alternative ways to mitigate these impacts.

Climate and Nature Emergencies

7.2 As a public body, the Council has statutory duties relating to climate emissions and biodiversity. The Council:

7.2.1 "must, in exercising its functions, act in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of emissions reduction targets" (Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019), and

7.2.2 "in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions" (Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004)

7.3 The City of Edinburgh Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and committed to work towards a target of net zero emissions by 2030 for both city and corporate emissions, and embedded this as a core priority of the Council Business Plan 2023-27. The Council also declared a Nature Emergency in 2023.

7.4 There are no direct implications on the climate and nature emergencies resulting from this report.

Environmental Impacts

7.5 There are no direct environmental impacts resulting from this report.

Housing Emergency

7.6 The Council declared a housing emergency in November 2023. The Housing Emergency Action Plan (HEAP) was considered by the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee on 25 February 2025.

7.7 The recommendations within this report have no direct impact on the housing emergency.

8. Risk, compliance, governance and community impact

8.1 Fees and charges will be made public on the Council's website.

9. Background reading/external references

9.1 N/a.

10. Appendices

None.

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Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 8 October 2026

Allotment Service - Response to Motion by Councillor Graham

Decision
Wards: All

1. Recommendations

1.1 Culture and Communities Committee is asked to:

1.1.1 Note the work being undertaken by officers across the Council to develop the Council's Good Food Nation Plan, and to review and renew the Council's Food Growing and Allotment Strategies, with the aim of delivering an integrated approach to food growing in Edinburgh;

1.1.2 Agree that as part of the strategic review, the Council will set out its longer-term ambitions which will need to be supported by appropriate levels of resourcing;

1.1.3 Note the key findings from the interim review carried out into the allotment service; and

1.1.4 Consider the need for additional resources, as part of the 2027/28 budget setting process, to improve the allotment service in the short term and help to mitigate risks to service continuity, improve service delivery and deliver general maintenance and asset improvements.

Gareth Barwell

Corporate Director of Place

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EDINBVRGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Report

Allotments Service - Response to Motion by Councillor Graham

2. Executive Summary

2.1 This report responds to the motion Allotment Service raised by Councillor Graham and approved at Council on 21 May 2026 with amendment by Councillor Heap.

2.2 It reports on key findings from an initial review carried out of the allotment service, details other work that is being undertaken which will inform future allotment services and proposals for short-term measures, subject to funding, to improve the allotment service.

3. Background

3.1 The Council has long-standing statutory responsibilities in relation to allotment provision. Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places duties on local authorities to take reasonable steps to provide allotments, maintain and manage waiting lists, and publish food growing strategies and annual allotment plans.

3.2 The Council's Food Growing Strategy (2021-2026) and Allotment Strategy (2017 – 2027) set out a variety of actions to boost local growing in Edinburgh. Enabling community growing and providing allotments are both statutory duties for the Council.

3.3 A report to Policy and Strategy Committee on 28 May 2024 - Food Overview: Council Programmes, Initiatives and Regulatory Functions - Response to Motion by Councillor Faccenda - provided an assessment of all food-related initiatives across the Council to inform the Council's Good Food Nation statutory plan. The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 requires the Council to publish a Local Good Food Nation Plan, setting out food-related outcomes, indicators, and policies, with biennial progress reports.

3.4 At Culture and Communities Committee on 2 October 2025, the Right to Grow – Motion by Councillor Osler – Scoping Update outlined the progress made in scoping a Right to Grow (RTG) approach for the Council including delivery of the Grow Your Own (GYO) Fund, engagement with community growing groups, cross-sectoral

partnership development, and learning from other local authorities across the UK. It summarised the key findings and highlighted current barriers to community food growing. It proposed a high-level framework for how RTG could be taken forward and made recommendations for how to proceed. This included a range of options which could be delivered with current staff resource through to fully implemented schemes that would require budget for additional resource.

3.5 On 26 February 2026 Council approved budget for a new RTG officer and funding to support local third sector organisations to support community growing along with funding to run another GYO grant programme. The recruitment of the RTG Officer is close to conclusion.

3.6 On 21 May, Council approved a motion by Councillor Graham requesting that officers explore what further support can be provided to the Allotment service, in the context of other projects such as Right to Grow, the Grow Your Own Grant scheme and Good Food Nation work.

3.7 The motion:

3.7.1 Acknowledges that the City of Edinburgh Council has 32 allotment sites within its boundaries. The last one to be installed was in New Craighall 5 years ago. This represents a total of 1636 individual plots of differing sizes over these sites.

3.7.2 Notes that at present we have one allotment officer to carry out the work of maintaining these sites. This workload has administrative tasks that include yearly invoicing, maintaining the waiting list, which at present stand at 5,896 residents, with approximately 20 – 30 new applications to be processed each week.

3.7.3 Further notes that regular site visits take place to complete a range of tasks including inspecting plots, general health and safety and interacting with plot holders.

3.7.4 And notes that there continues to be a huge and currently unmet demand for Council allotment spaces.

3.8 The motion requests officers prepare a report to be submitted to the Culture and Communities Committee in one cycle, investigating how further support can be provided to the service. The report should include recommendations on:

3.8.1 How we can further develop the service to complement the work being carried out by our community growing team.

3.8.2 Reviewing the workload of the current allotment officer and how this can be developed.

3.8.3 How best the Allotment Service could meaningfully connect with, and be promoted alongside other community growing initiatives approved by Council, for instance:

3.8.3.1 The Edinburgh Growing Together “Grow Your Own” Grant scheme approved by Culture and Communities Committee in August 2025

3.8.3.2 Right to Grow Initiative approved by Culture and Communities Committee in October 2025; and

3.8.3.3 Food Overview Report approved by the Policy and Sustainability Committee on 28 May 2024.

3.9 An amendment by Councillor Heap adds the question of how the provision of allotments can help the Council meet its duties under the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022.

3.10 In addition to the allotment sites managed directly by the Council, there are 5 devolved management sites (circa. 130 plots), the largest of which is at Wester Hailes; further plots at Telferton and 3 small housing-operated sites offering very small plots to 30 tenants.

3.11 The Federation of Edinburgh and District Allotments and Gardens Associations (FEDAGA) is the representative body for affiliated Allotment Garden associations in and around Edinburgh. They currently represent all Edinburgh Council sites, as well as many independently run sites. FEDAGA promote the mutual interests of these sites, and work with the Council, especially the Allotments Officer, to address specific issues. They have been closely involved with many aspects of food growing initiatives run by the Council, including the Right to Grow approach.

4. Main Report

4.1 Officers have undertaken an interim review of the allotment service to help inform the contents of this report. Key findings include the following:

4.1.1 The Council aims for allotments to be a self-contained account with the income matching expenditure and capital investment. At the last financial year, income was £140,000 and this covered staff costs, utilities, waste disposal and minor repairs. Any large capital investment is funded from the park’s general capital fund and therefore needs to be prioritised against other capital demands.

4.1.2 The staff costs include one allotment officer with responsibility for managing the allotment service, including processing applications, managing the waiting list, letting plots, rent collection, site inspections, coordinating maintenance, and progressing new site development.

4.1.3 The appointment of the RTG Officer, as referenced in paragraph 3.5, will provide support and help alleviate some of the existing pressures. Once fully established, the post will become part of the allotment service given the close links between allotment provision and other growing initiatives.

4.1.4 Benchmarking research has shown that most comparable local authorities maintain a small, dedicated team. Glasgow City Council manages allotments

as part of a wider parks team; Fife Council has a team of three; and Aberdeen City Council has a single officer but only 450 plots.

4.1.5 Since 1990, the number of allotment plots has grown from around 1,000 allotment plots over 21 sites to 1,636 allotment plots over 32 sites.

4.1.6 This has meant that workloads have increased significantly during that period, with maintenance and standards issues building up, and a service relying on manual processes and spreadsheets.

4.1.7 The popularity of allotments has increased since the pandemic. The average wait time for an allotment allocation is around 5.25 years. However, for popular sites, such as Inverleith, Warriston, and Midmar, the wait time can exceed 10 years. The longest live application dates from 2011, which is a wait time of around 15 years. The last time those on the waiting list were contacted was around 5 years ago. This is due to the administrative burden of contacting every person on the waiting list and manually updating records. It is anticipated that some form of self-service portal would allow individuals to update their details and reduce the administrative costs and time taken to update the waiting list. The number of plots that become available each year varies by site and by year, although it is estimated that around 100 plots become available for allocation each year.

4.1.8 Allotment infrastructure is ageing and expensive with some assets dating to the wartime period. The existing budget for 32 sites is insufficient for major works. This places pressure on the park's general capital account, for example recent repairs cost £30,000 to replace the perimeter fence at Warriston Allotments and £11,000 to repair a small section of stone wall at Redhall Allotments.

4.1.9 The allotment waiting list is just under 6,000 applicants however, due to the length of time people have been on the waiting list, a significant proportion of applicants may no longer require a plot.

4.1.10 New allotment sites are inherently difficult and expensive to create and benefit a relatively small number of plot holders at a time. Addressing the waiting list therefore requires a broader range of growing opportunities alongside traditional allotment provision. The Council is moving in this direction through the RTG and GYO programmes, and community garden development - all of which represent a meaningful response to obligations under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

4.2 In 2027, officers will begin the process to review and renew the Council's Food Growing Strategy (2021-2026) and Allotment Strategy (2017-2027), as required by Scottish Government legislation. This will include a full review of the Allotment Service including the long-term level of staffing required to support delivery of both strategies. This review will include, but is not limited to, the following:

4.2.1 Consideration of options for increasing allotment sites that can be included in the Council's City Plan 2040.

4.2.2 Consideration of how to expand Community Growing sites across the city and encourage more people to get growing in their own gardens and shared spaces. While this will not automatically reduce the allotment waiting list, as there is no guarantee residents will relinquish their place, they do meaningfully expand the city's overall growing offer and respond to the Council's statutory obligations.

4.2.3 Exploration of how the allotment service and existing community growing initiatives such as the GYO and RTG programmes can be consolidated into a single, unified food growing framework for Edinburgh.

4.2.4 Determination of the requirement for additional capacity and how responsibilities might be structured and shared with partners. This would allow the service to move away from reactive firefighting and create space for on-site improvements, community engagement, and longer-term development work aligned with the objectives of RTG.

4.2.5 Consideration whether a further iteration of the GYO grant scheme could include an allotment focussed strand, for example supporting emerging allotment associations or plot infrastructure, or supporting group use of allotments.

4.3 Officers are actively participating in the Council's Good Food Nation working group. This work is being led by the Policy and Insight Team, and a draft local Good Food Nation Plan called Good Food Edinburgh is expected to be ready for consultation by mid-2027, with a finalised plan ready by April 2028. Allotment and community food growing objectives - including waiting list commitments, new site development, and links to food access and poverty - will be reflected in the Plan.

4.4 Council officers continue to engage across departments to ensure that food growing is embedded throughout plans and strategies - for example within the City Plan 2040.

4.5 The work to develop the Council's Good Food Edinburgh Plan and to review the Food Growing Strategy and Allotment Strategy will, as part of the process, consider in more detail the questions raised by Councillor Graham's Allotment motion. However, it will not provide an immediate solution to the issues highlighted under 4.1, which would require additional investment.

4.6 As noted in section 4.2, the review of the strategy will allow the Council to consider the appropriate levels of resources to deliver on its strategic aims however, this would not allow for any improvements in the short term. If a fixed two-year revenue budget of £125,000 could be secured as part of the 2027/28 budget setting process, this would enable work to be undertaken to carry out digital inventory mapping of the existing estate, identify potential opportunities for expansion and new sites, assess digital options for service improvement (and managing the waiting list),

address urgent repairs, and allow for fixed term administrative resource to support the service whilst the review of the strategy is undertaken and longer term resourcing considered.

4.7 The parks core capital budget is planned to reduce by 33% to £200,000 per annum from 2027/28 onwards and this is highlighted in the upcoming Thriving Greenspaces Report to December Committee. An additional £200,000 of capital budget in 2027/28, allocated exclusively for allotments, would enable a further three composting toilets to be established within the allotment estate, one each at Saughton, Warriston, and Dumbryden Allotments, thus improving accessibility. Any remaining budget would be set aside to support any required capital works in allotment sites and avoid the need to prioritise allotment works against other core budget demands.

5. Next Steps

5.1 Officers will continue to work in collaboration with other departments and external stakeholders including FEDAGA to develop the Council's Good Food Edinburgh Plan, and to review and renew the Council's Food Growing and Allotment Strategies, ensuring they deliver an integrated approach to food growing in Edinburgh.

5.2 As noted in section 4.2, officers will undertake a full review of the Allotment Service, including the Allotment Officer post, following on from the development of the refreshed strategies.

5.3 If additional funding can be secured, as part of the budget setting process for 2027/28, officers will implement improvements to overall delivery, allotment repairs and maintenance, as detailed in section 4.6 and 4.7.

5.4 Officers will continue to provide updates on the RTG programme by Business Bulletins with plans and strategies being reported to Committee for approval. Where plans and strategies need to go to Policy and Strategy Committee, they will be referred to Culture and Communities also.

6. Financial impact

6.1 If additional budget could be secured, proposed initial improvements to the allotment service would deliver minor improvement/repair works, improve accessibility at 3 sites alongside other capital works, and provide some temporary administrative resource whilst longer term improvements, including RTG and allotments, are proposed within the Good Food Plan.

7. Key Policies

Equality and Poverty

7.1 Greenspace access and allotments are of greatest benefit to residents without access to high-quality greenspaces and private outdoor growing space — particularly those in tenement flats and lower-income areas.

7.2 60% of plot holders already live within two miles of their site.

7.3 No material service changes are being proposed at this time that would impact equality and poverty.

7.4 An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) will be completed as part of the work to develop the plans and strategies noted in 4.3.

Climate and Nature Emergencies

7.5 As a public body, the Council has statutory duties relating to climate emissions and biodiversity. The Council:

7.5.1 "must, in exercising its functions, act in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of emissions reduction targets" (Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019), and

7.5.2 "in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions" (Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004)

7.6 The City of Edinburgh Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and committed to work towards a target of net zero emissions by 2030 for both city and corporate emissions and embedded this as a core priority of the Council Business Plan 2023-27. The Council also declared a Nature Emergency in 2023.

7.7 Allotment provision and community food growing could contribute positively to the Council's climate and nature ambitions. Growing sites can support biodiversity and pollinator habitats, reduce food miles, and encourage sustainable land use. The repurposing of underutilised land – such as bowling greens and school grounds -- for food growing supports both emissions reduction and nature recovery goals, is consistent with the Council's net zero 2030 target and Nature Emergency declaration.

7.8 No material service changes are being proposed at this time that would impact climate and nature.

7.9 An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) will be completed as part of the work to develop the plans and strategies noted in 4.3.

Environmental Impacts

7.10 Allotment and community food growing reduces reliance on commercially produced and transported food, supports soil health and biodiversity, and increases urban green infrastructure.

7.11 No material service changes are being proposed at this time that would have environmental impacts.

7.12 An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) will be completed as part of the work to develop the plans and strategies noted in 4.3.

Housing Emergency

7.13 This report has no direct bearing on the Council's Housing Emergency Action Plan. However, the link between access to growing space and wellbeing is noted, particularly for residents in flatted accommodation who may benefit most from allotment and community garden provision.

8. Risk, compliance, governance and community impact

8.1 A range of community engagement and co-production methods were used when developing the scoping report for Right to Grow, of which this report builds from.

8.2 The Council has statutory duties under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to take reasonable steps to meet allotment demand and maintain an accurate waiting list. The concentration of all Allotment Service functions in a single officer post represents a risk to service continuity and statutory compliance. This risk is flagged for divisional monitoring and will be a key focus of the workload review. The ageing infrastructure and underfunded maintenance budget represent a further operational and health and safety risk, which officers recommend is assessed as part of a long-term funding review.

8.3 Community engagement with the FEDAGA and other site associations is ongoing. Further engagement with residents on the waiting list and community growing partners will inform any service improvements undertaken, subject to funding. An Integrated Impact Assessment will be completed for any substantive service changes.

8.4 This report responds to an agreed motion and does not alter existing Council policy. It proposes a direction of travel subject to further work to develop the Council's Good Food Edinburgh plan and the renewal of the Food Growing and Allotment strategies, limiting financial and reputational risk at this stage. All risks will be assessed and managed in line with the Council's Risk Appetite and Tolerance statement.

9. Background reading/external references

9.1 Allotment Service and Food Growing - Motion by Councillor Graham (2026)

9.2 Allotment Service and Food Growing – Amendment to Councillor Graham's Motion by Councillor Heap

9.3 Council Minutes 21 May 2026 (item 27) with decision for Allotment Service and Food Growing – Motion by Councillor Graham (2026)

9.4 Right to Grow - Motion by Councillor Osler - Scoping Update (2025)

9.5 The First National Good Food Nation Plan (2025)

9.6 Right to Grow report, Culture and Communities Committee, August 2024

9.7 Food Overview: Council Programmes, Initiatives and Regulatory Functions, Policy and Sustainability Committee, May 2024

9.8 Growing Locally: Edinburgh's Food Growing Strategy 2021-2026

9.9 Cultivating Communities – A Growing Success: The 3rd Allotments Strategy for the City of Edinburgh 2017 – 2027

10. Appendices

None

Culture and Communities Committee

10am, Thursday, 8 October 2026

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Scrutiny Report – City of Edinburgh – 2025/26

Decision/scrutiny	**Scrutiny**
Wards	**All**

1. Recommendations

1.1 To note the update from the Area Commander.

Paul Lawrence

Chief Executive

Contact: Andrew Rose, Democratic Services Manager

Democracy and Governance, Chief Executive Directorate

E-mail: andrew.rose@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 07395 357493

EDINBVRGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Report

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Service Review and Scrutiny Report – City of Edinburgh – 2025/26

2. Executive Summary

2.1 This report provides the annual scrutiny review from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for the Edinburgh City Area for 2025/26.

3. Background

3.1 On 9 February 2023, the Council agreed that the Police and Fire and Rescue Services' city-wide plans, policies and performance reports would be transferred from the Policy and Sustainability Committee to the Culture and Communities Committee for consideration with effect from 17 April 2023.

3.2 This provides a forum for Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to discuss major cross-cutting issues with the Council as well as fulfilling their duty to engage with the local authority.

3.3 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is required by the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 to involve the local authority in the setting of its priorities and objectives for the area.

4. Main report

4.1 The scrutiny report (attached at Appendix 1) covers the period April 2025 to March 2026 and is part of a regular update from the Area Commander to the Council.

4.2 The report contains an overview and summary by the Area Commander on the following topics: Trends, Accidental Dwelling Fires, Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties, Non-Fire Casualties, Deliberate Fires, Non-Domestic Fires, Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals, Roat Traffic Collisions, Home Fire Safety Visits, Fire Safety Enforcement AND Community Safety and Engagement.

5. Next Steps

5.1 Under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, the Council can monitor and provide feedback to the Area Commander.

6. Financial impact

6.1 There is no financial impact

7. Key Policies

Equality and Poverty

7.1 There are no equality and poverty impacts.

Climate and Nature Emergencies

7.2 There are no climate and nature emergencies impacts.

Environmental Impacts

7.3 There are no environmental impacts.

Housing Emergency

7.4 There is no housing emergency impact.

8. Risk, compliance, governance and community impact

8.1 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has discussed the content of the report with the Council and the information can develop as feedback is received.

9. Background reading/external references

9.1 Culture and Communities Committee 3 October 2024 - Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Local Plan Performance Report City of Edinburgh April 2023 to March 2024

9.2 The City of Edinburgh Council 9 February 2023 – Decision Making Framework 2023

10. Appendices

10.1 Appendix 1 – Annual Report by the Area Commander

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City of Edinburgh

Multiple Committees have been selected

2025-26

Scrutiny Report

SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

Working together for a safer Scotland

City of Edinburgh

Multiple selections

Multiple selections

City of Edinburgh

Multiple Committees have been selected

2025-26

Scrutiny Report

Contents

1	Summary
2	Trends
3	Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs)
4	Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties
5	Non-Fire Casualties
6	Deliberate Fires
7	Non-Domestic Fires
8	Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)
9	Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)
10	Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs)
11	Fire Safety Enforcement
12	Community Safety & Engagement
13	Glossary of Terms

About the statistics within this report

The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review. Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be a difference in the period totals quoted in our reports after local publication which result from revisions or additions to the data in our systems. The Scottish Government publishes official statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

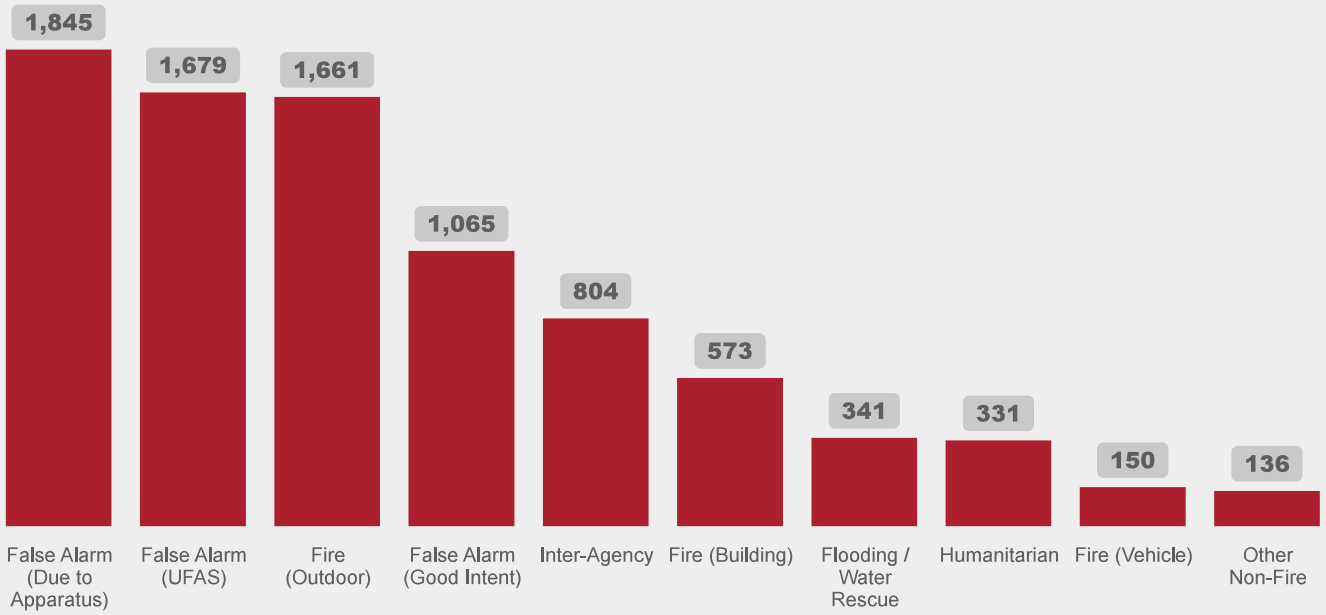
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1. Summary

2025-26

8,967 Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes)	**2,384** Fires	**1,868** Non-Fire Incidents	**4,708** False Alarms	**1,679** UFAS
402 People Rescued by Firefighters	**70** People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires)	**1** Fire Fatalities	**125** People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire)	**37** Non-Fire Fatalities
1,236 Home Fire Safety Visits	**1043** Fire Safety Audits			

Top 10 Incident Types



SFRS in Edinburgh attended **8,967 incidents** during the reporting period, averaging 24.5 call-outs per day—an increase of 1.5 per day compared with last year.

Over half (**4,807**) were false alarms. Of the **2,384 fires** attended, 1,661 were outdoor fires, 573 involved buildings and 150 involved vehicles.

Around **402 people were rescued**, with 70 requiring first aid or hospital treatment following fires and 125 following other incidents. Sadly, there was **one fire fatality** in Edinburgh, alongside 37 fatalities from other incident types.

Prevention work continues to focus on vulnerable people through the **Home Fire Safety programme**, while Fire Safety Enforcement Teams target high-risk premises including hospitals, care homes, hotels, sleeping accommodation, entertainment venues and Festival venues.

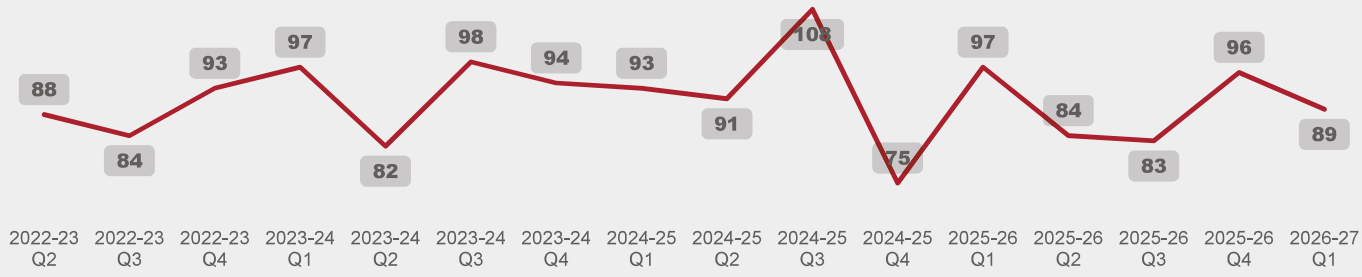
SFRS also continues to support the safe management of major events across the city. Operational crews regularly review local risks and intelligence to ensure planning, training and preparedness remain effective and support positive outcomes for Edinburgh communities.

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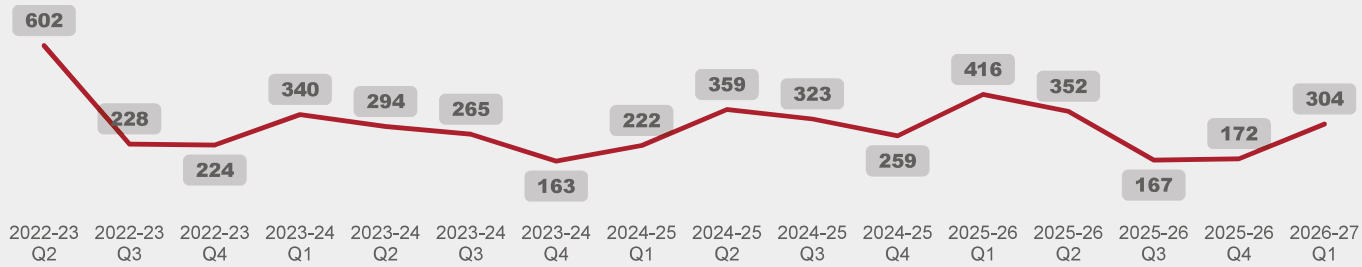
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

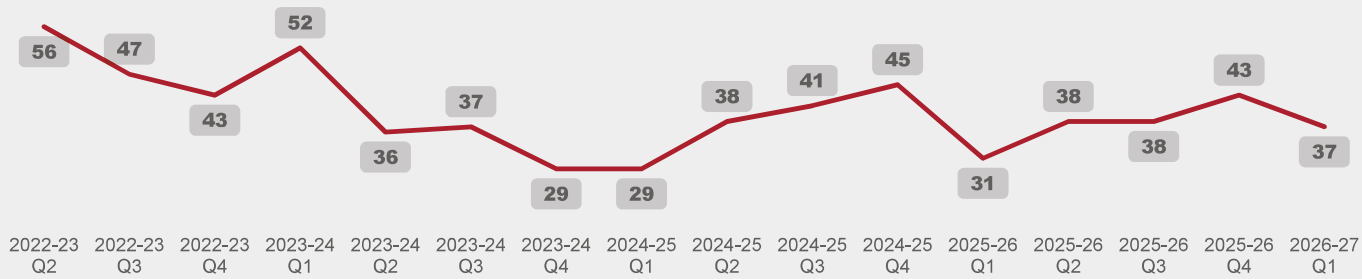
Accidental Dwelling Fires



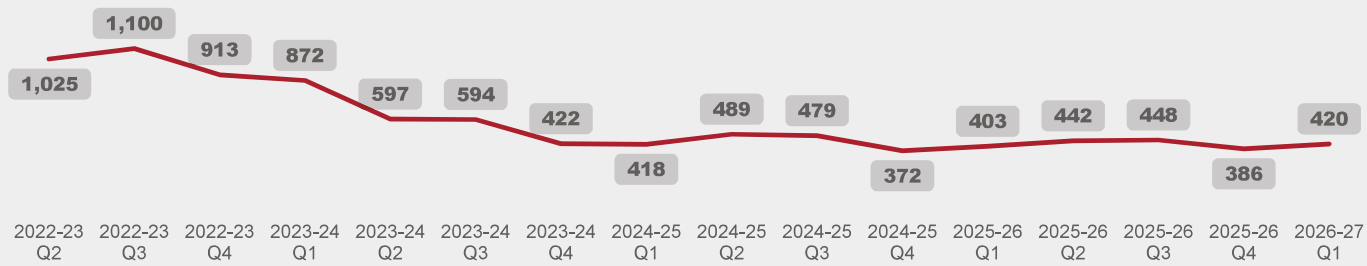
Deliberate Fires



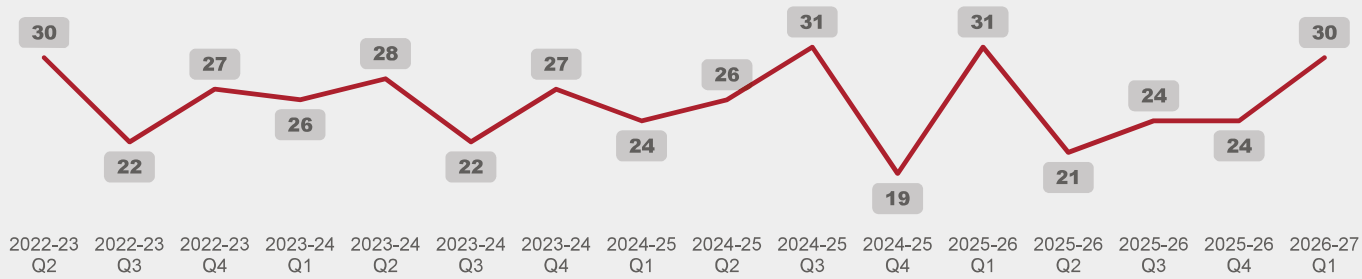
Non-Domestic Fires



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



Road Traffic Collisions

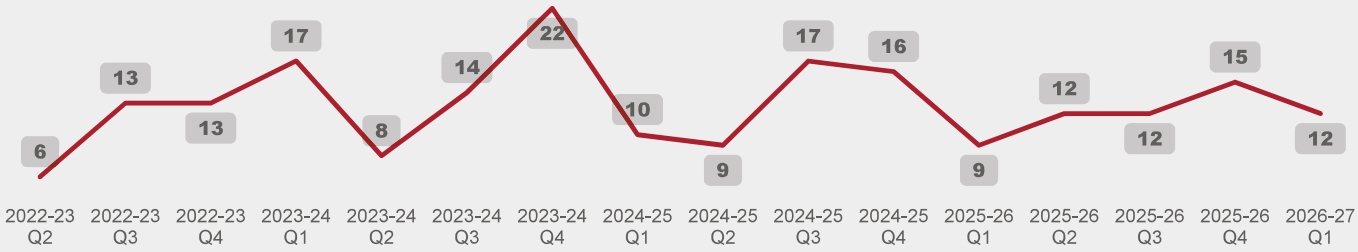


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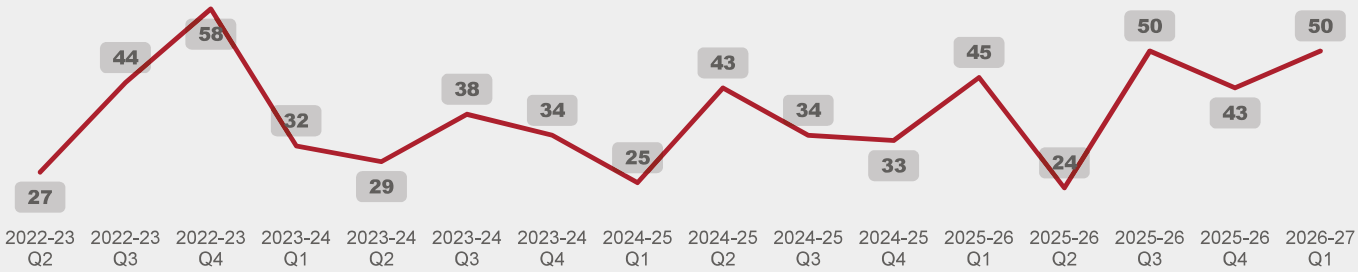
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

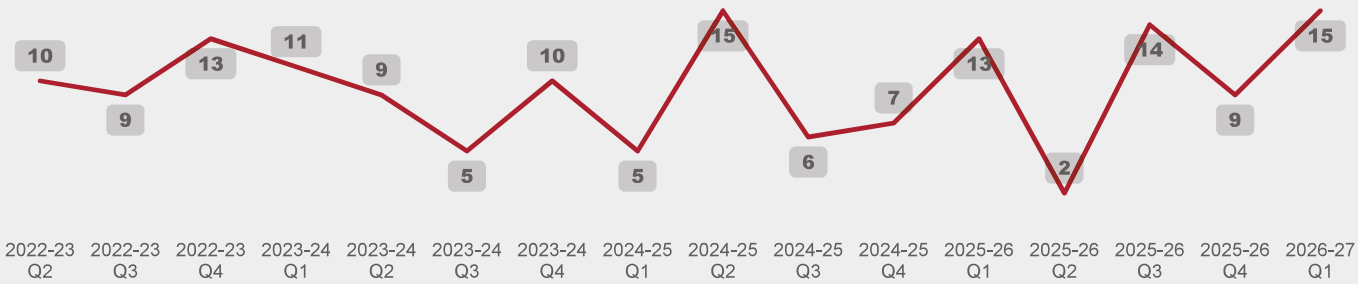
Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties



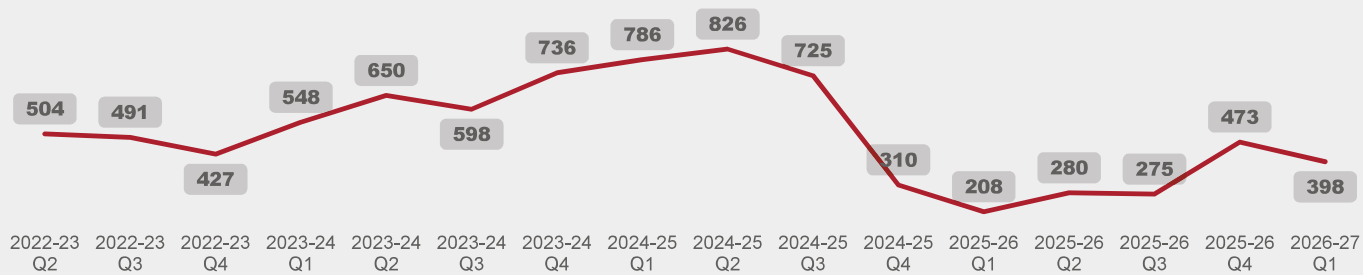
Non-Fire Casualties



Road Traffic Collision Casualties



Home Fire Safety Visits



Fire Safety Audits



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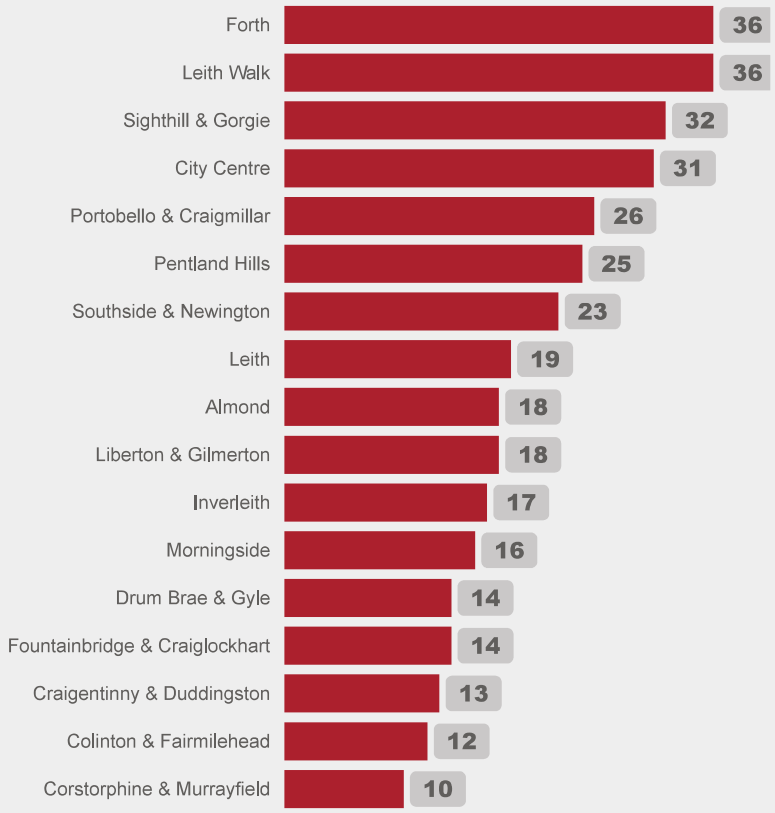
3. Accidental Dwelling Fires

2025-26

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward

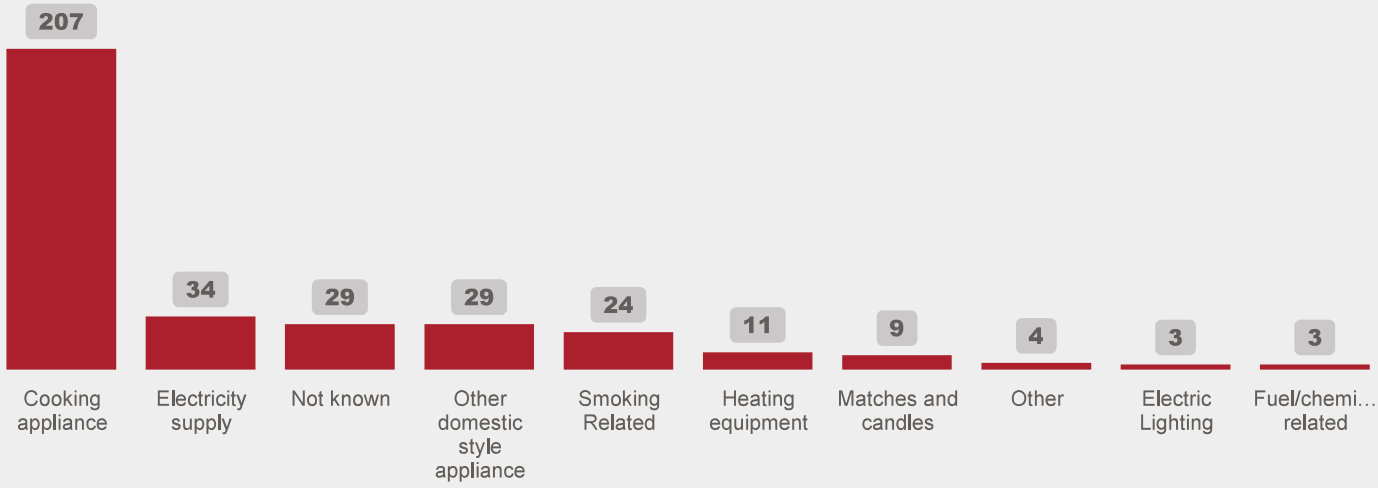


Extent of Damage	Incidents
Limited to item 1st ignited	158
Not applicable	137
Limited to room of origin	46
Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	13
Limited to 2 floors (not whole building)	2
External roof only	1
Roof space and other floors(s)	1
Roof space only	1
Whole building	1

360

Accidental Dwelling Fires in this period

Source of Ignition (Top 10)



SFRS continues to reduce ADFs through targeted community safety activity, including the **Home Fire Safety Visit Programme**, engagement with community groups and schools, and the national **Make the Call** campaign. The introduction of the new tolerable standard for smoke detection also supports earlier detection and warning within homes.

SFRS responded to **360 ADFs**, a slight decrease of seven incidents compared with the previous reporting period. This contributes towards the SFRS target of a **5% annual reduction** over a three-year rolling period. Of the **360 accidental dwelling fires** attended, **207 involved cooking appliances**, 34 were associated with electrical supplies, 24 were smoking-related, and 9 were linked to the careless use of matches or candles. In 29 incidents, no positive ignition source was identified. SFRS will continue to promote fire safety messaging to all households, including the importance of having **working smoke detection**. For households identified as having vulnerable residents, SFRS will continue to work with partners to provide targeted home fire safety advice and early detection equipment where required.

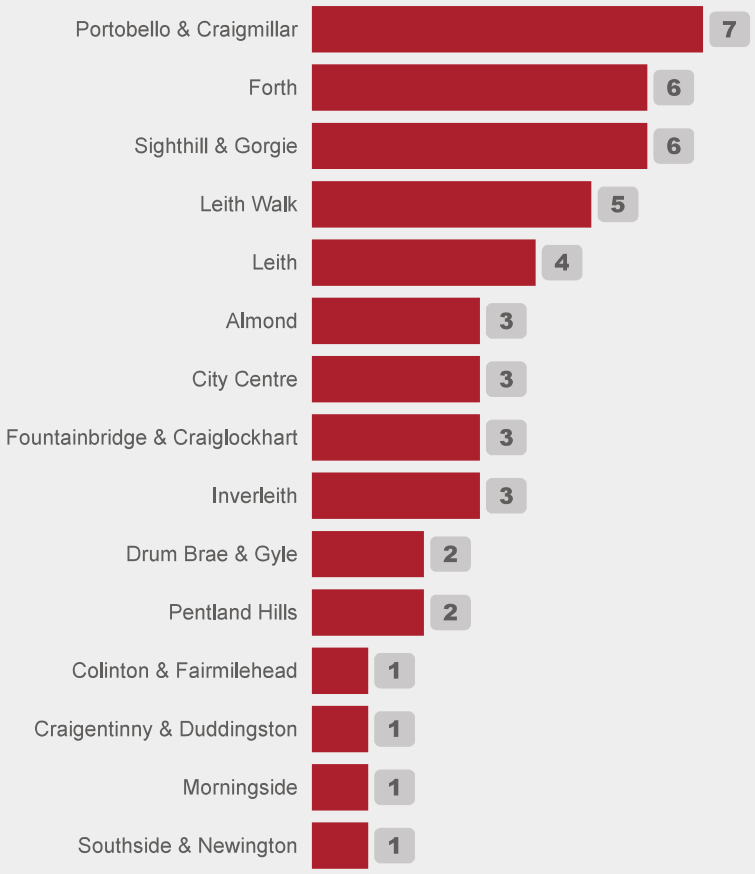
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4. Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties 2025-26

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes; asphyxiation	21
Breathing difficulties (Other than 'Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes, asphyxiation')	10
Burns - slight	6
Burns - severe	5
Combination of burns and overcome by gas/smoke	2
Other	2
Collapse	1
Fracture	1

47 Non-Fatal Casualties

1 Fatal Casualties

43 People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

24 First Aid Given at Scene

16 Hospital Slight Injuries

7 Hospital Serious Injuries

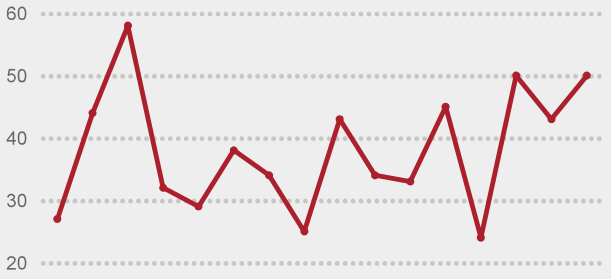
Of the **360 ADFs** attended, firefighters successfully rescued **43 people**. Sadly, **one person lost their life** in a fire during the reporting period, with vulnerabilities and other contributory factors identified.During the reporting period, SFRS recorded **48 fire casualties in dwelling fires**, a decrease of **28 casualties (35%)** compared with the same period last year. The majority of casualties occur in the home, with **cooking and smoking materials** remaining the main contributory factors. Following the fatality, case conferences and learning reviews were undertaken to identify learning and prevent similar incidents. SFRS continues to deliver Home Fire Safety Visits and work with partners across the four localities to identify and support vulnerable residents through referrals from **Social Work, NHS and third-sector partners**. Crews and Fire Safety Enforcement specialists are also working to ensure appropriate fire safety measures in **High Rise Domestic Buildings**, while working with the Council and Cladding Remediation Team to identify and mitigate cladding risks.

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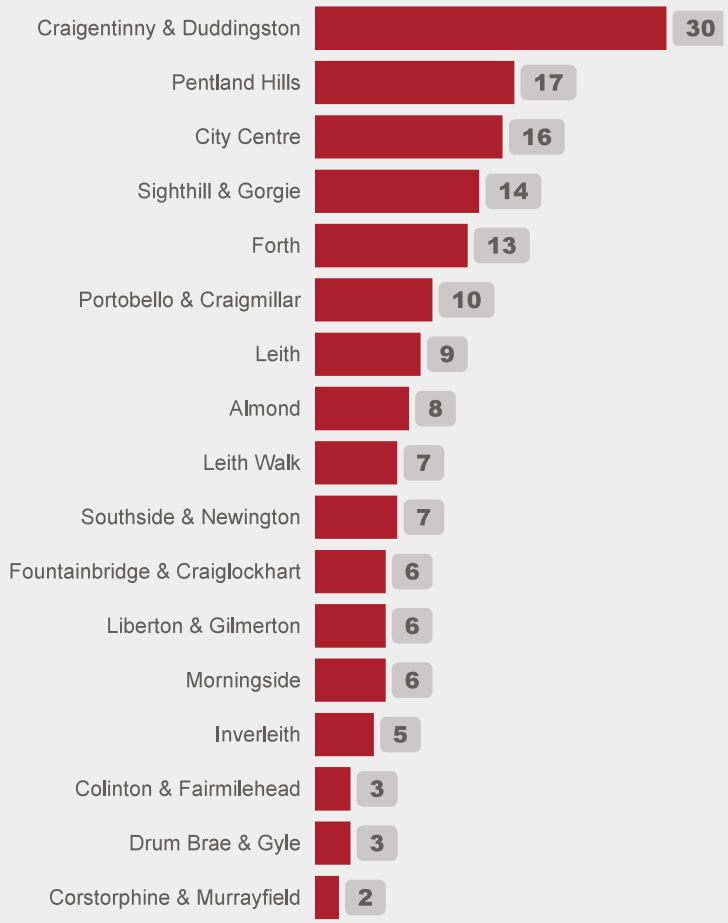
5. Non-Fire Casualties

2025-26

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Not known	36
Fracture	18
Collapse	13
Chest pain / Heart condition / Cardiac arrest	12
Back / Neck injury (spinal)	11
Cuts/Lacerations	11
Other physical injury	10
Bruising	9
Other	8
Chest / Abdominal injury	7
Head injury	6
Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes; asphyxiation	6
Unconscious, fitting or unresponsive (no other evident significant injury)	6
Other medical condition	4
Breathing difficulties (Other than 'Overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes, asphyxiation')	1
Burns - severe	1
Drowning	1
Hypothermia	1
Impalement	1

125
Non-Fatal Casualties

37
Fatal Casualties

350
People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

18
First Aid Given at Scene

74
Hospital Slight Injuries

33
Hospital Serious Injuries

While many of the hazards and risks associated with non-fire emergencies are outside SFRS control, responding to **Special Services**—including road traffic collisions, hazardous materials incidents, and rescues from confined spaces, height and water—remains a key part of SFRS operations.

During the reporting period, firefighters **rescued around 350 people** from non-fire incidents and dealt with **125 casualties**. Of these, **18 were treated at the scene** and **107 were taken to hospital** by the Scottish Ambulance Service.

SFRS will continue to respond to community needs and work with partners to reduce both fatal and non-fatal casualties from non-fire incidents.

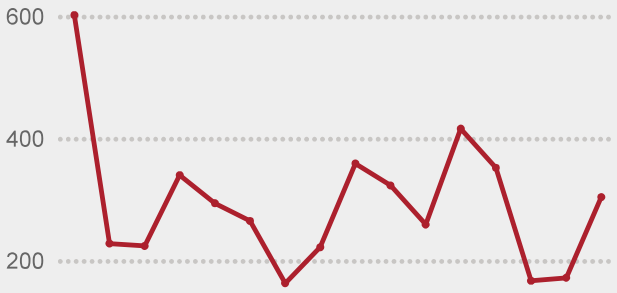
SFRS continues to work with partners and stakeholders to improve outcomes and reduce casualties, supporting the Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan and four Locality Improvement Plans.

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6. Deliberate Fires

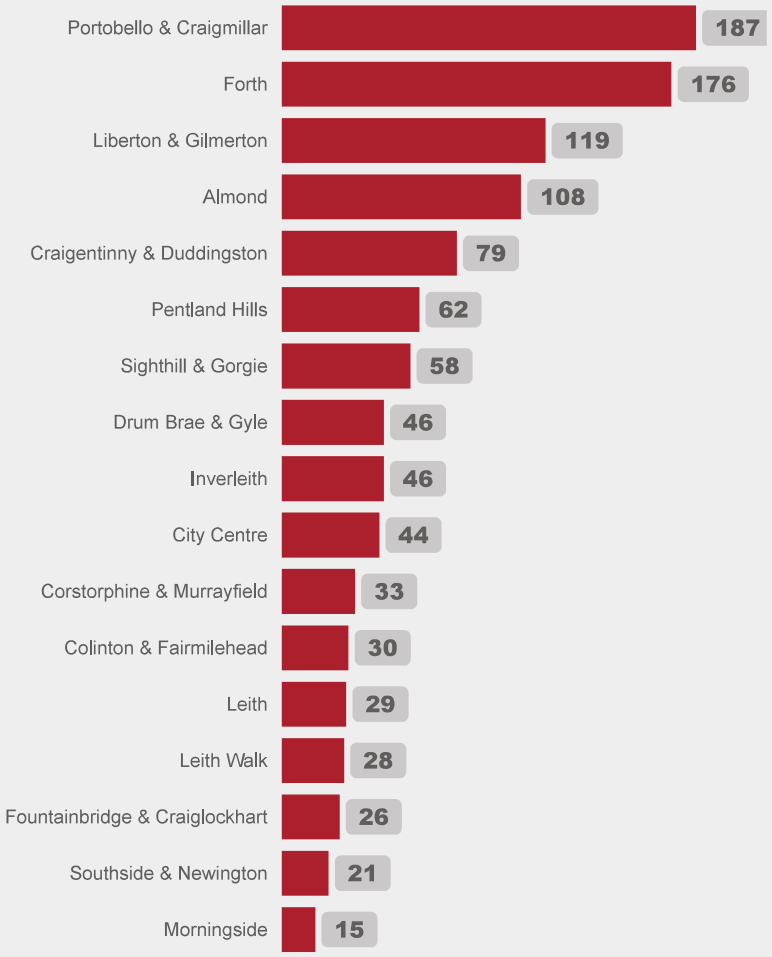
2025-26

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



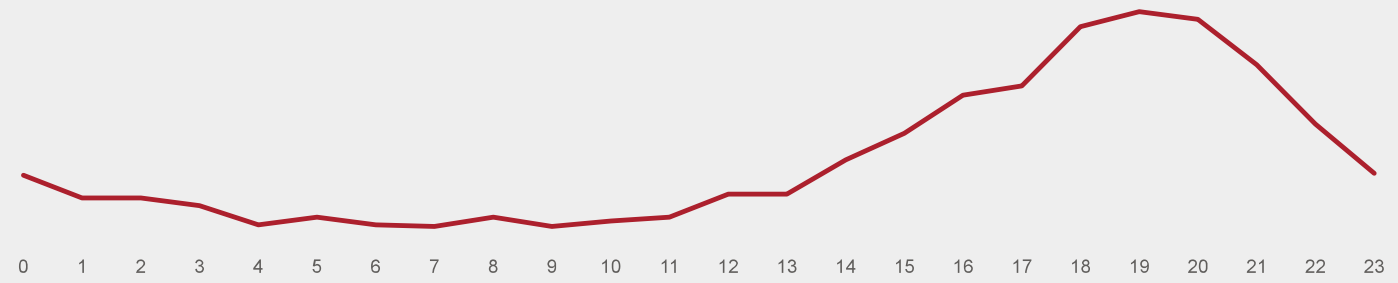
Property Type	Incident
Grassland, woodland and crops	405
Refuse	343
Other outdoors (including land)	168
Road Vehicle	72
Dwelling	39
Non Residential	31
Outdoor structures	30
Outdoor equipment and machinery	11
Other Residential	8

Incidents by Ward



1,107 **Deliberate Fires in this period**

Hour of Day



During the reporting period, there were **1,107 deliberate fires**, a slight decrease compared with the previous year. Of these, **343 involved refuse** and **573 occurred in grassland or scrubland**. The remaining 191 involved dwellings, other buildings, machinery, outdoor structures and vehicles. Dry weather can significantly increase the risk and spread of grassland and refuse fires, particularly when combined with anti-social behaviour. The **July 2026 extreme wildfire warning and fire in Holyrood Park** demonstrated how quickly fires can spread and how challenging they can be to control. Seasonal trends are also influenced by darker nights, school holidays, prolonged dry weather and the period leading up to 5 November.

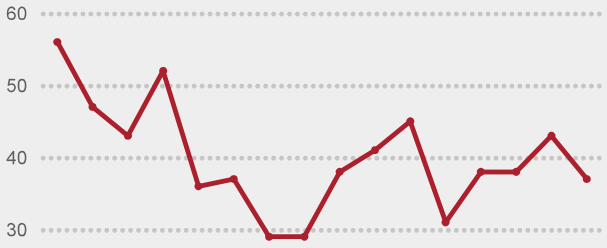
SFRS continues to work with partners on preventative measures, including **Operation Moonbeam**, Fireskills, community youth engagement and targeted actions based on emerging trends. A joint working group with **Historic Environment Scotland** has also been established to manage and mitigate wildfire risks in and around Holyrood Park.

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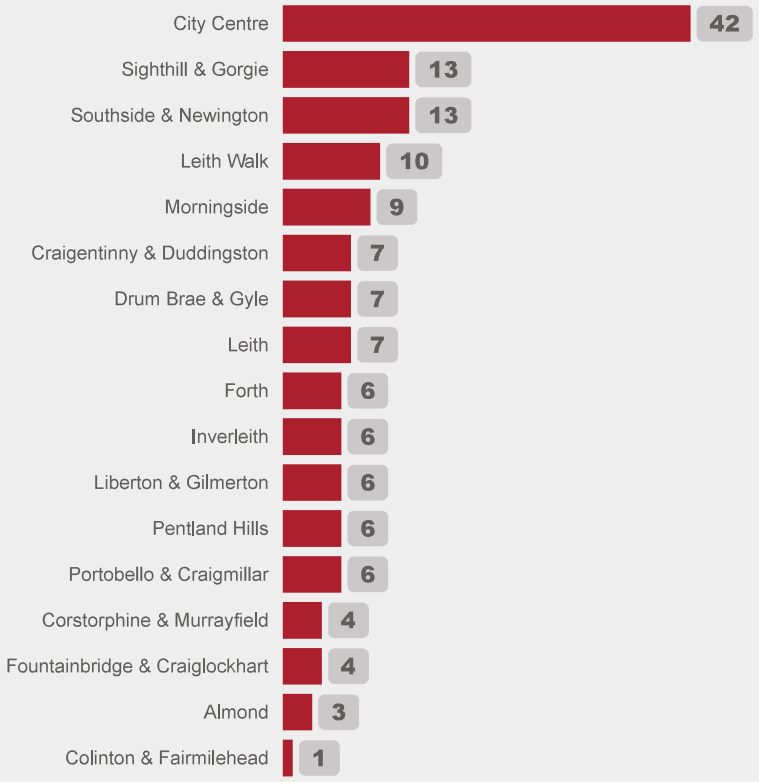
7. Non-Domestic Fires

2025-26

Trend by Quarter (4 years)

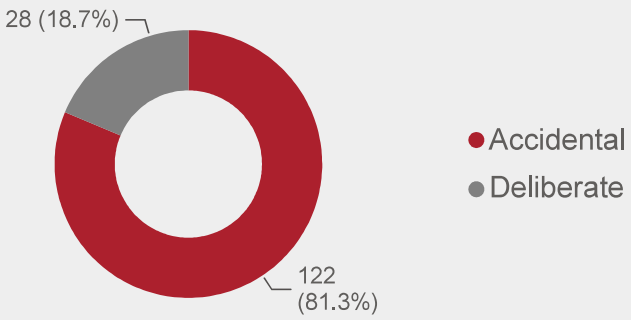


Incidents by Ward



Top 15 Property Types

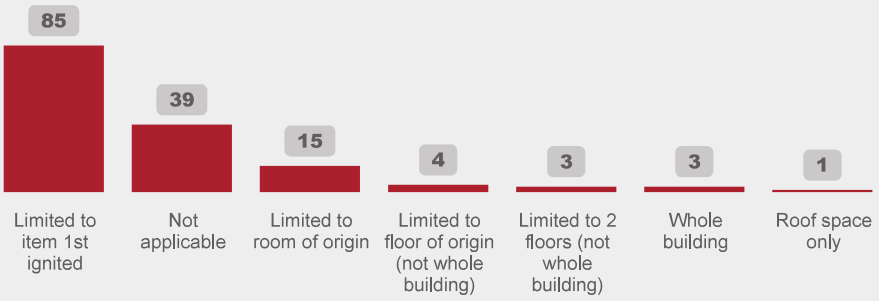
Property Type	Incidents
Food and Drink	34
Student Hall of Residence	22
Retail	15
Hospitals and medical care	13
Hotel/motel	10
Hostel (e.g. for homeless people)	8
Offices and call centres	6
Public admin, security and safety	6
Warehouses and bulk storage	6
Education	5
Other buildings/use not known	4
Car Parks	3
Entertainment and culture	3
Public Utilities	2
Sheltered Housing - not self contained	2
Sports pavilion/shower block/changing facility	2



150

Non-Domestic Fires in this period

Extent of Damage



Fires in **commercial properties** have the potential to cause multiple casualties or fatalities and can significantly impact businesses, employment, critical services and heritage. Evidence also suggests that businesses affected by serious fires can face a high risk of failure.

During the reporting period, there were **150 non-domestic fires**. Just over half were minor and limited to the item first ignited, while fire spread was limited in **85 incidents**, supported by fire safety measures and SFRS intervention.

City wide operational intelligence supports crews awareness of the risks in the built environment.

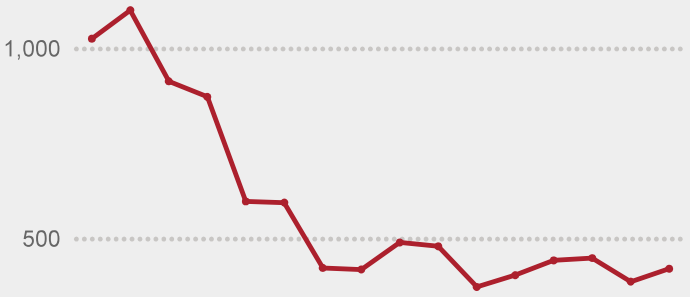
Fire safety legislation and regulation ensure that most commercial premises have appropriate precautions, including early detection and warning systems to support the safe evacuation of occupants.

SFRS continues its **annual risk-based fire safety enforcement programme**, running from April to March and targeting relevant premises covered by **Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005**.

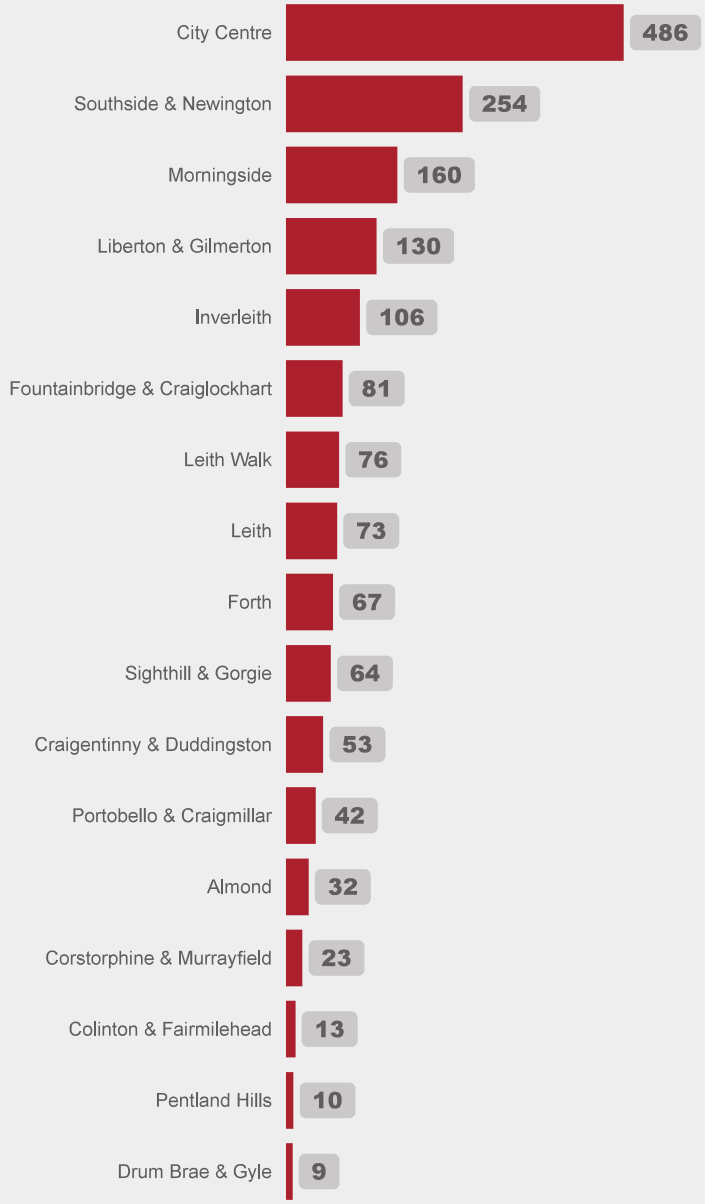
8. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

2025-26

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Student Hall of Residence	555
Hospitals and medical care	310
Hotel/motel	264
Residential Home	118
Hostel (e.g. for homeless people)	74
Sheltered Housing - not self contained	63
Food and Drink	44
Other holiday residence (cottage, flat, chalet)	38
Offices and call centres	35
Entertainment and culture	34
Retail	27
Education	25
Boarding House/B&B for homeless/asylum seekers	21
Boarding House/B&B other	21
Car Parks	12

1,679

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals in this period

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are activations of automatic fire alarm systems where no fire is present, often caused by human activity or faulty equipment. Since July 2023, SFRS has changed its response to automatic fire alarms in commercial and workplace premises, requiring dutyholders to investigate alarms and confirm a fire or signs of fire before calling 999. Sleeping premises, including hospitals, care homes, hotels and domestic dwellings, continue to receive an emergency response.

During the reporting period, SFRS attended **1,679 UFAS incidents**, a decrease of **705 incidents** compared with the previous year. This reduction is likely linked to the revised response approach, with dutyholders investigating alarms and Operations Control staff challenging calls where appropriate.

The main cause of UFAS incidents was **cooking fumes**, with other causes including accidental activation, dust, insects, steam, aerosols, smoking and external sources of smoke or contamination.

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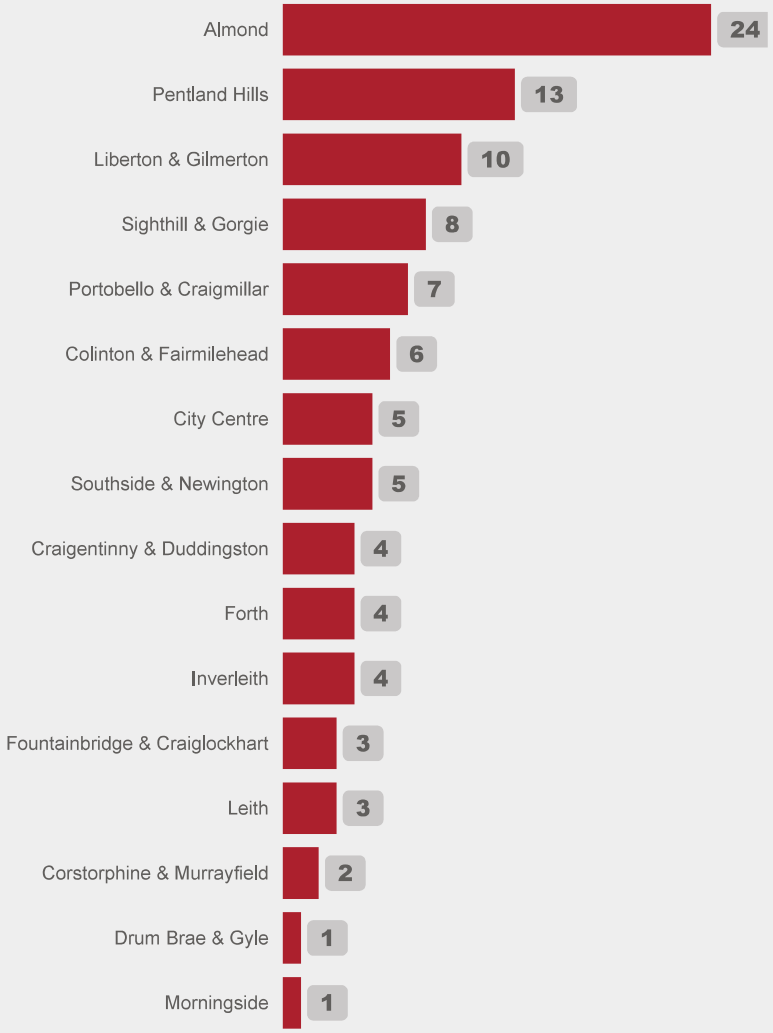
9. Road Traffic Collisions

2025-26

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



100 **Road Traffic Collisions in this period**

Property Type	Incidents
Car	83
Multiple Vehicles	5
Bus/coach	2
Lorry/HGV	2
Motorcycle	2
Van	2
House - single occupancy	1
Other	1
Purpose Built Flat/Maisonette - multiple occupancy	1

Incident Type	Incidents
Vehicle (Non-fire)	99
Other Non-Fire	1

37 **Non-Fatal Casualties**

1 **Fatal Casualties**

10 **People Rescued by Firefighters**

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

6 **First Aid Given at Scene**

25 **Hospital Slight Injuries**

6 **Hospital Serious Injuries**

Road safety risks are largely outside SFRS control, but attending **Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)** forms part of its Special Services response. SFRS also supports prevention through education and partnership work, particularly targeting young and inexperienced drivers.

During the reporting period, SFRS attended **100 RTCs**. Firefighters rescued or extricated **10 people**, while **32 were treated at the scene or taken to hospital**. Sadly, there was **one fatality**. Edinburgh continues to perform below the Scottish trend for RTC casualties per 10,000 population.

SFRS only attends RTCs where requested, generally when there is a fire, risk of fire, or people are trapped, so these figures do not represent all road traffic accidents in Edinburgh.

SFRS continues to support the multi-agency approach to reducing RTC casualties through the **Risk Factory Young Driver Programme**, road safety messaging and education delivered through Community Action Teams and station-based staff across the city's schools.

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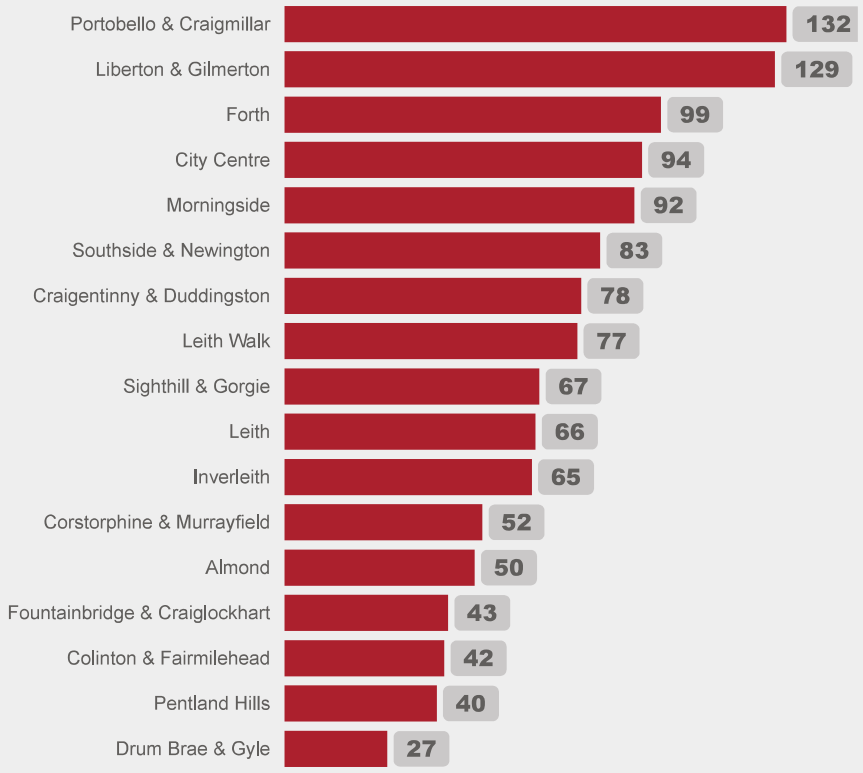
10. Home Fire Safety Visits

2025-26

1,236

Home Fire Safety Visits

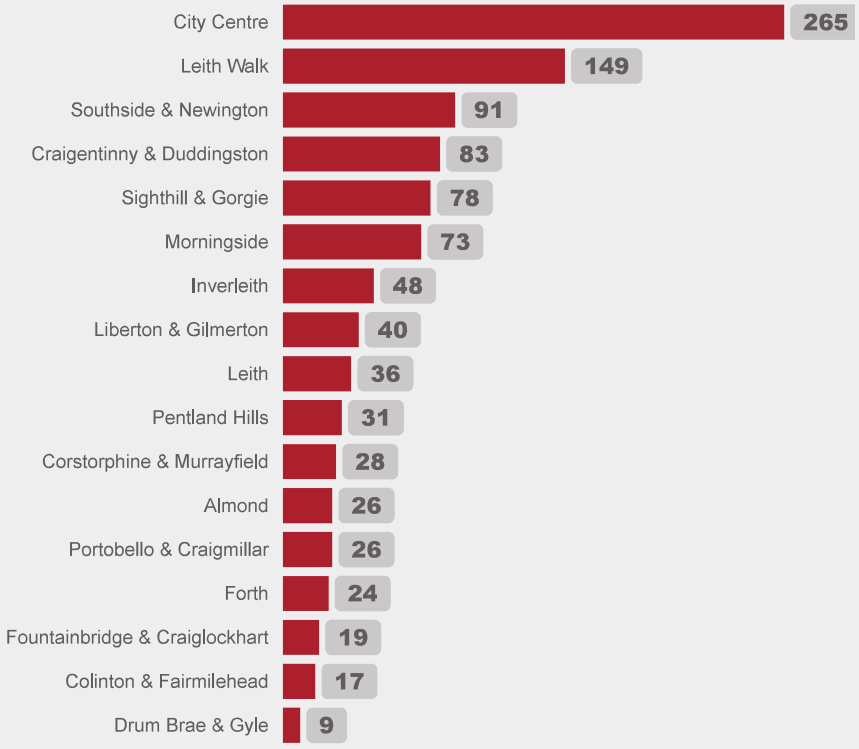
HFSVs by Ward



11. Fire Safety Enforcement

Job Type	Count
Specific Visit	1074
Audit	1043
Consultation	636
Fire Engineering Consultation	47
ORV	35
Short Post Fire Audit	22

Audits by Ward



See Below

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Home Fire Safety Visits

During the reporting period, 1,236 visits were completed across Edinburgh, with targeted smoke detection provided where appropriate.

Fire Safety Enforcement

Edinburgh's risk-based enforcement programme prioritises relevant premises under Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005.

In 2025–2026, the annual target was 1,098 fire safety audits. The team completed 1,221, achieving 111% of target. Activity included - 216 audits of high-risk premises, 545 planned HMO audits, 105 post-fire audits, 1,088 specific visits, including High-Risk Domestic Building inspections and operational engagement, 641 consultations, 35 operational reassurance visits.

Edinburgh Festival and Fringe

Between 1 and 25 August, approximately 380 venues and 2,000 performance spaces were inspected.

Community Safety Engagement

Station Commanders participate in Edinburgh Partnership and Community Improvement Partnership meetings, supporting coordinated engagement and local risk identification.

Partnerships with Adult and Child Protection Committees contribute to wider safeguarding, while targeted HFSVs support households at greatest risk.

Youth Engagement

Seven Fireskills courses were delivered during the year, including an all-female course at Sighthill in March 2025 to encourage greater engagement with young women.

Bonfire Safety

SFRS continued targeted activity to reduce fire-related ASB, hoax calls and injury risks associated with bonfires and combustible materials. Activities included school presentations, the Bonfire Community Improvement Partnership, Operation Moonbeam and Operation Crackle, alongside Council-led waste amnesties and uplifts.

Following public disorder linked to bonfires in 2023–2024, all 91 Edinburgh primary schools were targeted for bonfire safety presentations during September and October 2025.

Water Safety

The Edinburgh Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS) Group coordinates prevention, response and review activity to reduce water-related incidents. This includes public education, multi-agency training and exercises, the Waterside Responder Scheme, and Drowning and Incident Reviews following significant incidents.

SFRS continues to work with Pentland Hills Regional Park, partner organisations and the City of Edinburgh Council on public awareness and targeted water safety activity.

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13. Glossary of Terms

Term - What it means

ADF
Accidental Dwelling Fire.

HFSV
Home Fire Safety Visit.

PDIR
Post Domestic Incident Response, a term used to indicate actions taken following attendance at a fire or other incident in the home. PDIRs include amongst things the offer of a free follow up home fire safety visit.

RTC
Road Traffic Collision.

Special Service
Calls to incidents which are not fires or false alarms such as RTCs, rescues, flooding, incidents involving hazardous materials or the provision of assistance to other agencies.

UFAS
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. When an automatic fire detection and alarm system is activated as a result of anything other than an actual fire the activation is classed as a false alarm. If an attendance is made to such an event by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, then the event is recorded as an UFAS incident.

UFAS Policy Change
In response to COVID, on the 6th May 2020, the SFRS decided to send 1 pump to UFAS premises that did not have their own Predetermined attendance (PDA).

As of 1st July 2023, the COVID interim 1 pump response was ended and a new UFAS policy was implemented.

The new policy is to call challenge all UFAS incidents with the intention of non-attendance. Hospitals, care homes, and sleeping risk premises are all exempt and receive either 2 pumps or their premise specific PDA.

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FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

BUSINESS
INTELLIGENCE

Design, figures and charts by the Business Intelligence team.

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 8 October 2026

Culture and Communities Committee: Revenue Budget Monitoring 2026/27 – Month Three position

Decision/scrutiny	**Routine**
Wards	**All**

1. Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that the Culture and Communities Committee notes:

1.1.1 The 2025/26 outturn for Culture and Wellbeing, Parks and Greenspace and Bereavement Services;

1.1.2 That, as of 2026/27 month three, an overall overspend of £8.615m is being forecast across the overall General Fund revenue budget;

1.1.3 The services under the remit of this Committee are forecasting a net overspend of £0.425m as at month three;

1.1.4 The ongoing risks to the achievement of a balanced revenue budget for services under the remit of this Committee;

1.1.5 The need for all existing pressures, savings delivery shortfalls, and risks to be fully and proactively managed within Directorates; and

1.1.6 Updates will continue to be provided to members of the Committee during the remainder of the year.

1.2 Committee is recommended to note that measures will continue to be progressed to offset budget pressures to achieve outturn within the approved revenue budget for 2026/27.

Gareth Barwell

Corporate Director of Place

Contact: Brendan O'Hara, Senior Strategic Finance Partner

E-mail: Brendan.o'hara@edinburgh.gov.uk

Report

Culture and Communities Committee: Revenue Budget Monitoring 2026/27 – Month Three position

2. Executive Summary

2.1 This report summarises the out-turn for financial year 2025/26, whilst focussing on the 2026/27 month-three revenue monitoring position including early projections for Culture and Wellbeing, Parks and Greenspace and Bereavement Services.

2.2 The 2025/26 audited accounts were considered by the Finance and Resources Committee on 24 September. The 2025/26 outturn position for the services within the remit of this Committee is summarised in Appendix 1.

2.3 The 2026/27 projected Council-wide General Fund revenue budget position, based on month three, was reported to the Finance and Resources Committee on 24 September. At this stage, an overall overspend of £8.615m is projected. This reinforces the need to develop robust implementation plans to deliver savings and proactively and sustainably manage pressures within Directorates and the Health and Social Care Partnership.

2.4 Failure to break even in 2026/27 may increase the savings requirement in 2027/28 due to a need to reinstate the General Fund unallocated reserve.

2.5 This report forecasts:

2.5.1 an overspend of £0.170m for Culture and Wellbeing services,

2.5.2 an overspend of £0.203m for Parks and Greenspaces,

2.5.3 an overspend of £0.052m for Bereavement Services,

based on expenditure and income to the end of June 2026.

3. Background

3.1 The Council's Financial Regulations require submission of quarterly monitoring reports on service financial performance to service committees and to Finance and Resources Committee. Where financial reporting indicates that an overspend or shortfall on budgeted income is forecast, the relevant service manager should take immediate and appropriate action to prevent a budget overspend.

3.2 This report provides an update on financial performance for services which are within the remit of the Culture and Communities Committee - Culture and Wellbeing Services, Parks and Greenspaces and Bereavement Services.

4. Main report

Culture and Wellbeing Services

4.1 The Culture and Wellbeing services revenue budget for 2026/27 is £30.098m. Services provided include Cultural Partnerships and Strategy, Community Empowerment, Cultural Venues, Heritage, Museums and Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing.

4.2 An analysis of the budget and forecast is shown in Appendix 1.

4.3 Based on financial performance to the end of June 2026, an overspend of £0.170m is forecast for Culture and Wellbeing services.

4.4 An overspend of £0.170m is forecast for Heritage, Cultural Venues and Museums services. This includes additional premises costs of £0.020m, a net pressure of £0.125m for retail services, and a net pressure of £0.135m on the Scott and Nelson monuments. This is partially offset with a positive variance of £0.110m on venues hire income.

4.5 Cultural Partnerships and Strategy, Community Empowerment, and Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing are forecast to be on budget.

Parks and Greenspaces

4.6 The Parks and Greenspaces revenue budget is £7.706m. The service is forecasting expenditure to be £0.203m more than budget for 2026/27, reflecting additional transport charges and the cost of temporary toilet facilities.

Bereavement Services

4.7 The Bereavement Services revenue budget is (£1.295m). The service is forecasting to have a net overspend of £0.052m arising from income being lower than budgeted levels due to changes in demand and service utilisation, and increased costs of provision.

Edinburgh Leisure

4.8 At the meeting of City of Edinburgh Council on 18 December 2025, Council approved the provision of up to £1.868m of additional in-year support to Edinburgh Leisure pending implementation of recurring measures to address, in full, the savings target underpinning Edinburgh Leisure's sustainability review. This additional funding was provided in 2025/26.

4.9 The 2026/27 approved budget and month three forecast is based on this additional funding not being required this year.

4.10 All current and emerging risks will be subject to ongoing tracking and development of mitigation measures where required, for the remainder of 2026/27.

5. Next Steps

5.1 Given the range of pressures outlined in this report and the Council-wide position, the Place Directorate Senior Management Team will continue to develop mitigating measures to reduce the overspend.

6. Financial impact

6.1 This report forecasts financial outturn for services within the remit of Culture and Communities Committee to be:

6.1.1 an overspend of £0.170m for Culture and Wellbeing services,

6.1.2 an overspend of £0.203m for Parks and Greenspaces and

6.1.3 an overspend of £0.052m for Bereavement Services for 2025/26.

6.2 The Corporate Director of Place and the Place Senior Management Team are committed to developing mitigating measures in consultation with elected members where appropriate, with a view to achieving a balanced and sustainable budget.

7. Key Policies

Equality and Poverty

7.1 There are no direct equality, human rights (including children's rights) and socio-economic disadvantage implications arising as a consequence of this report.

Climate and Nature Emergencies

7.2 There are no direct Climate and Nature Emergency implications arising as a consequence of this report.

Environmental Impacts

7.3 There are no direct environmental impacts, as a consequence of this report.

Housing Emergency

7.4 There are no direct housing implications arising as a consequence of this report.

8. Risk, compliance, governance and community impact

8.1 The report provides forecasts of:

8.1.1 an overspend of £0.170m for Culture and Wellbeing services,

8.1.2 an overspend of £0.203m for Parks and Greenspaces and

8.1.3 an overspend of £0.052m for Bereavement Services,

based on financial performance and conditions existing at the end of June 2026.

8.2 There remains a risk that changing circumstances and events will result in budget pressures emerging in the remaining months of 2026/27.

8.3 All current and emerging risks will be subject to ongoing tracking, development of mitigation measures and review for the remainder of 2026/27.

8.4 Financial performance will be tracked by Place Directorate Senior Management Team and service management teams each month to identify and mitigate emerging financial risks.

8.5 There are no health and safety, governance, compliance or regulatory implications arising from this report.

9. Background reading/external references

9.1 Revenue Monitoring 2026/27 - month three report

10. Appendices

10.1 Appendix 1 – Culture and Communities Committee 2025/26 Outturn

10.2 Appendix 2 – Culture and Communities Committee Revenue Budget Monitoring 2026/27 - Month Three position

Appendix 1

Culture and Communities Committee

2025/26 Outturn

Revenue Outturn by Division

Service	2025/26 Revised Budget	2025/26 Outturn	2025/26 Variance to budget	Adverse / Favourable
	£m	£m	£m	
Culture and Wellbeing				
Cultural Partnerships and Strategy	6.484	6.580	0.096	Adv
Community Empowerment	1.340	1.213	-0.127	Fav
Heritage, Cultural Venues and Museums	3.235	3.173	-0.062	Fav
Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing	19.384	19.349	-0.035	Fav
Directorate and service-wide costs	0.102	0.016	-0.087	Fav
Total – Culture and Wellbeing	**30.546**	**30.330**	**-0.216**	**Fav**
Parks and Greenspaces	7.158	7.567	0.408	Adv
Bereavement Services (within wider Place/Regulatory Services budget). *Excludes charges for property, ICT, and loan charges*	-1.360	-1.139	0.221	Adv
Total	**36.344**	**36.758**	**0.414**	**Adv**

Appendix 2

Culture and Communities Committee

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2026/27

Month Three forecast

Forecast Revenue Outturn by Division

Service	2026/27 Revised Budget	2026/27 Forecast Outturn	2026/27 Forecast Variance to budget	Adverse / Favourable
	£m	£m	£m	
Culture and Wellbeing				
Cultural Partnerships and Strategy	6.938	6.938	0.000	
Community Empowerment	1.364	1.364	0.000	
Heritage, Cultural Venues and Museums	3.362	3.532	0.170	Adv
Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing	18.328	18.328	0.000	
Directorate and service-wide costs	0.106	0.106	0.000	
Total – Culture and Wellbeing	**30.098**	**30.268**	**0.170**	**Adv**
Parks and Greenspaces	**7.706**	**7.908**	**0.203**	**Adv**
Bereavement Services (within wider Place/Regulatory Services budget). *Excludes charges for property, ICT, and loan charges*	**-1.295**	**-1.243**	**0.052**	**Adv**
Total	**36.508**	**36.934**	**0.425**	**Adv**

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Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 8 October 2026

Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2024-2034 and Sports Pitch Strategy 2025-2035 – Action Plan Updates

Decision/Scrutny	**Scrutiny**
Wards	**All**

1. Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that the Culture and Communities Committee:

1.1.1 Notes the progress updates on the implementation of the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2024-2034 and Sports Pitch Strategy 2025-2035.

Gareth Barwell

Corporate Director of Place

Contact: Evelyn Kilmurry, Head of Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing

E-mail: evelyn.kilmurry@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 7894

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Report

Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2024-2034 and Sports Pitch Strategy – Action Plan Updates

2. Executive Summary

2.1 This report provides a progress update on the implementation of the two-year action plans for the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy and Sports Pitch Strategy in year one of delivery. The detailed action plans (Appendices 1 and 2) provide an overview of the individual actions taken to progress the five priorities in the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy and eight objectives in the Sports Pitch Strategy.

2.2 In addition to updates on action taken and milestones expected to be delivered in 2025/26, an end of year status for each of the milestones is provided to support the tracking of progress and end of year achievements identified.

3. Background

3.1 On 21 August 2025, Culture and Communities Committee agreed the following motion when approving the draft Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2024-2034 Action Plan;

3.1.1 To approve the draft Action Plan for the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy for Edinburgh 2024-2034 (Appendix 1) of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Place and agree to receive regular progress updates on the actions;

3.1.2 To note the key performance indicators as detailed in paragraph 4.7 of the report to measure the success of the Strategy; and

3.1.3 To agree that these regular updates should be provided to Committee annually.

3.2 On 2 October 2025, Culture and Communities Committee agreed the following motion when approving the draft Sports Pitch Strategy 2025 – 2035 Action Plan;

3.2.1 To approve the draft Action Plan for the Sports Pitch Strategy for Edinburgh 2025-2035 (Appendix 1 of the report) and agree to receive regular progress updates on the actions; and

3.2.2 To agree that the updates outlined at 1.1.1 of the report should be received annually.

4. Main report

4.1 This is the first progress update provided since the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy and the Sports Pitch Strategy were approved by Committee in 2025. Appendix 1 gives an update on actions undertaken in the period August 2025 to October 2026 as set out in the approved Physical Activity and Sport Strategy Action Plan. Appendix 2 gives an update on actions undertaken in the period October 2025 to October 2026 as set out in the approved Sports Pitch Strategy Action Plan.

4.2 Detailed updates are provided for each priority (Physical Activity and Sport Strategy) and strategic objective (Sports Pitch Strategy) which include:

4.2.1 Updates on the individual actions being progressed; and

4.2.2 End of year status for the delivery actions and milestones that were expected to be delivered.

Delivery action and milestone overview

4.3 To track the progress with the delivery actions/ milestones, an end of year status has been assigned for each of the 84 delivery actions/ milestones in the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy Action Plan and for each of the 45 delivery actions/ milestones in the Sports Pitch Strategy Action Plan. The statuses of the delivery actions/ milestones are summarised below:

Status	Definition	Delivery Action/ Milestone Count
Pending	Work has not yet started.	14
In progress- on track	Delivery action/ milestone has started and is expected to be completed in full to the original timeline and within budget.	56
In progress- off track	Delivery action/ milestone has started but not been completed in time or on budget. This may be due to delays out with the Council's control or timescales may have been extended following Committee approval.	11
Completed	Delivery action/ milestone has been completed.	48

Closed	Either it has been decided not to progress with this delivery action/ milestone or the work has started and then ceased part way through. Closure requires a reason.	0

4.4 Where the status of the delivery action/ milestone has been noted as “In progress-off track”, a revised completion date has been provided.

Performance overview

4.5 In addition to the success measures included in the Action Plans which measure the short-term progress to deliver the agreed strategic priorities, a series of long-term outcome measures (key performance indicators) were agreed by Committee on 21 August 2025 as noted in paragraph 3.1.2 above to measure progress. This information was to be provided by the Scottish Household Survey.

4.6 When the long-term key performance indicators were agreed, the identified physical activity datasets were published in the Scottish Household Survey on an annual basis, however following a questionnaire review, those specific questions were changed from annual inclusion to biennial inclusion. As the 2025 dataset has not yet been published, it is not possible to provide a progress update against the long-term outcome measures. It is anticipated that the 2025 dataset will be made available by the end of this year so can be included in the annual progress update report to be provided in 2027.

Key achievements summary

4.7 The following key achievements delivered in the first year of the Strategy have included:

4.7.1 Delivery of a range of new and refurbished accessible places and spaces to support increased participation in physical activity and sport:

4.7.1.1 New 11-hole disc-golf course in Hailes Quarry Park- the first of its kind in the city;

4.7.1.2 New community gym, dance studio and synthetic (3G) pitch in Liberton Community Campus;

4.7.1.3 Refurbishment of the Saughton Sports Complex athletics track;

4.7.1.4 Refurbishment of the community leisure facilities at Wester Hailes High School; and

4.7.1.5 New synthetic pitch at Forrester/ St Augustine’s High Schools.

4.7.2 Implementation of a new Sports Pitch and Facilities Framework to support improved management and support for Clubs requesting change or investment in the Council’s facility estate;

4.7.3 Committee approval of ten Pitch Hub sites across the city with plans for investment progressing at several venues;

4.7.4 Delivery of a new annual falls prevention programme, Balanced Life, by Edinburgh Leisure supporting over 2,300 older people to attend a programme of evidence-based balance interventions. Outcomes show strong evidence of improved physical function, confidence and wellbeing among participants;

4.7.5 Launched the Summer of Sport programme with the Council, Edinburgh Leisure, Edinburgh University and voluntary and third sector clubs and organisations delivering a series of targeted sport and physical activity opportunities for children and young people aged 3 to 26 years at higher risk of poverty. The wide range of summer activities and events have included access to free and subsidised sporting activities, extended Open All Hours and Discover camp provision and confirmed funding for 35 local organisations to provide additional opportunities within their communities;

4.7.6 Increased participation and achievement rates in Duke of Edinburgh Awards for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds; and

4.7.7 “Wilding Wee Spaces” resource toolkit created for schools and communities to maximise opportunities for outdoor activity.

5. Next Steps

5.1 Work to progress delivery of the identified milestones in the two Strategy Action Plans will continue to be taken forward by the Physical Activity and Sport Partnership Group and the Sports Pitch Strategy Working Group. Progress will be monitored and a further update will be provided to Committee in twelve months.

6. Financial impact

6.1 The implementation of the new Physical Activity and Sport Strategy and Sports Pitch Strategy mainly relies on collaboration and partnership approaches across Council service areas and with key stakeholders including Edinburgh Leisure to develop, progress and deliver each priority area with a view to maximise existing resources to achieve our ambitions utilising a systems-based approach.

6.2 Some projects have benefitted from external funding including the pitch refurbishment project at Forrester’s and St Augustine’s High Schools (Scottish Football Association funding) and the Summer of Sport programme (Scottish Government funding).

6.3 In delivering the actions, any identified costs and associated risks will be defined and where appropriate, reported to Committee.

7. Key Policies

Equality and Poverty

7.1 The Physical Activity and Sport Strategy and Sports Pitch Strategy have a strong focus on equality, diversity and inclusion. As reported within the detail of each Strategy, people from equality groups or those with protected characteristics are likely to have lower activity levels than the city average. Those with the most to gain from physical activity are also the least likely to participate in new physical activity and sport programmes and initiatives and the Strategies seek to provide targeted support to encourage the inactive to become active. Evidence also shows that good physical, mental and social health improves confidence and employability opportunities.

Climate and Nature Emergencies

7.2 The importance of active travel and use of free to access spaces such as parks and green spaces that are close to home are examples of addressing and increasing physical activity across Edinburgh whilst also contributing to the city's carbon neutral targets and cognisance of the global climate agenda.

7.3 Emphasis has been given within the strategies on the promotion of these opportunities given the ample resource across the city and the low cost for people and groups to make use of these facilities to engage and participate in physical activity and sport.

Environmental Impacts

7.4 An increase in people participating in sport and physical activity from all communities, backgrounds and age groups will have a positive impact on the environment through getting people more active along with promoting use of the wide range of outdoor spaces that the city has to offer.

Housing Emergency

7.5 No impact.

8. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

8.1 Both Action Plans have been developed considering feedback received internally from within the Council from a wide range of service areas and externally through engagement with key stakeholders and partners.

8.2 Any emerging risks will be subject to ongoing tracking, mitigation and management through the appropriate risk register.

9. Background reading/external references

9.1 Physical Activity and Sport Strategy for Edinburgh 2024 to 2034

9.2 Sports Pitch Strategy 2025 to 2035

10. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Physical Activity and Sport Strategy for Edinburgh Action Plan

Appendix 2 – Sports Pitch Strategy Action Plan

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Appendix 1

Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2024-2034
2 Year Action Plan: April 2025-2027

High Level Action and Milestone Status

To assess delivery in the first year of the Plan in 2025/26, we have assigned each objective and milestone a status based on the follow criteria:

Status	Definition
Pending	Work not yet started.
In progress- on track	Delivery action/ milestone has started and is expected to be completed in full to the original timeline and within budget.
In progress- off track	Delivery action/ milestone has started but not been completed in time or on budget. This may be due to delays out with the Council's control or timescales may have been extended following Committee approval.
Completed	Delivery action/ milestone has been completed/ achieved.
Closed	Either it has been decided not to progress with this delivery action/ milestone or the work has started and then ceased part way through. Closure requires a reason.

Priority 1	Active Partnerships
Why this priority matters	Edinburgh is committed to promoting physical activity and sport for all. To achieve this, we are adopting a joined-up or "whole systems" approach, bringing together partners from all sectors, including the Council, NHS, health and social care organisations, education, national bodies, voluntary organisations, the third sector, and community groups. By working together, we will create a long-term plan that will improve the quality of life of our citizens through physical activity and sport. This approach will enable us to optimise our resources and maximise the positive impact on our community. By understanding our roles and responsibilities in promoting and supporting physical activity, we can achieve better outcomes for ourselves and those we work with.

Success for this priority will mean	• Physical activity and its promotion will appear in more organisations' aims, policies, and strategies. • Partners will work closely to develop effective approaches that will increase the number of people participating in physical activity and sport. • Stronger leadership for physical activity and sport in Edinburgh.
To address this priority, we will	• Build on established collaborative working through the development of existing partnerships and the creation of new strategic groups where required to and ensure efforts are coordinated and effective. • Increase access to and maximise the use of physical activity related data and intelligence across organisations to inform planning and decision making. • Share information about opportunities across organisations to maximise the numbers of people benefitting from access to physical activity and sport. • Support partners to share best practice of their successful approaches to encourage employees to become more active.

High Level Action	Lead	Delivery Actions/ Milestones	Due Date	Success Measures/ Performance Indicators	Updates	Status
1.1 Establish a Physical Activity and Sport Strategy Implementation Group to oversee the delivery of the Strategy	City of Edinburgh Council (Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing)	• Agree membership of the Group • Set Terms of Reference • Establish appropriate subgroups as required • Coordinate and deliver actions in line with the Physical Activity & Sport Strategy	October 25 Ongoing	• Group established • Regular meetings held • Subgroups established as required	Partnership Group has been established, Terms of Reference agreed and meeting quarterly. Subgroups have been established and meet regularly to progress actions.	Completed Completed Completed In progress- on track

1.2 Establish a Strategic Estates Working Group with the Council and Edinburgh Leisure to ensure an integrated approach to estates management.	City of Edinburgh Council/ Edinburgh Leisure (Edinburgh Leisure/ Strategic Asset Planning)	• Establish Working Group and agree Terms of Reference • Undertake a review of assets- use and condition	April 25 Dec 25	• Group established • Regular meetings held • Improved use and maintenance of assets	Strategic Estates Working Group established, Terms of Reference agreed and meeting quarterly. Review of assets has been undertaken.	Completed Completed
1.3 Organise regular networking events for partners, service areas and groups to share good practice, improve partnership working and inform improvement	City of Edinburgh Council (Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing)	• Create a contact list • Deliver an annual event/ workshop • Share information/ intelligence/ good practice on an ongoing basis • Identify and develop opportunities for partnership work	December 25 April 26/ Revised date May 2027 Ongoing Ongoing	• Contact list created • Annual networking/ action event held on an annual basis • Partnership opportunities identified/ actions progressed	Contact list created. Annual network event planned for 2026/ early 2027. Information/ intelligence shared with partners on an ongoing basis.	Completed In progress – off track In progress- on track In progress- on track
1.4 Establish links to Edinburgh Partnership governance structure	City of Edinburgh Council (Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing)	• Identify appropriate reporting group and links to Edinburgh Partnership • Provide progress updates • Explore opportunity to identify a champion for physical activity and sport	February 26 Ongoing December 26	• Appropriate Edinburgh Partnership Subgroup identified • Progress updates provided • Physical activity and sport champion identified	Agreed that the Physical Activity and Sport Partnership Group will report to the Edinburgh Partnership Place Partnership Group.	Completed In progress- on track Pending

Priority 2	Active People
Why this priority matters	Improving population levels of activity and supporting healthcare services with prevention, and early intervention approaches will reduce health inequalities, the pressure on welfare services and improve the health and wellbeing of the city. It is important to support those who are less active to feel empowered, informed, and able to participate in physical activities and sport. This will benefit individuals, communities, and the entire city. By listening to what people want and having a strong and sustainable sports and recreation structure, along with a firm commitment to promote active living, we can make sure that everyone has the chance to join in, reduce health inequalities, and increase diversity and inclusivity.
Success for this priority will mean	Increased participation: • In physical activity and sport through equitable and inclusive access to appropriate places, spaces, and services. • By those from under-represented groups and those who live in the most deprived areas of the city or who experience the highest levels of poverty or live with a long-term physical or mental health illness. • Through improved collaboration with third sector and community organisations who have expertise in the development and delivery of programmes with their specific communities. • By supporting healthcare professionals to deliver clear messaging around the benefits of being active as well signposting opportunities and support to be more active.
To address this priority we will	• Identify and reduce local barriers to participation through engagement with equalities groups and those who may not traditionally participate in physical activity and sport to improve access to opportunities. • Promote collaboration between Council, health partners and voluntary and community organisations including sports clubs to support the development and co-production of prevention and early intervention approaches and physical activity programmes for those who would benefit the most. • Help people who have the most to gain from physical activity by supporting the provision of localised solutions which reduce costs and are delivered in partnership with trusted people and organisations.

High Level Action	Lead	Delivery Actions/ Milestones	Due Date	Success Measures/ Performance Indicators	Updates	Status
2.1 Launch and deliver new 2-tiered falls prevention programme (Balanced Life) to reduce falls and frailty in the city.	Edinburgh Leisure	• Grow falls prevention classes from 33 to 73 classes per week	March 26	• Reduced numbers of falls/ fall-related injuries	**Programme expansion:** 65 Balanced Life classes (falls prevention) delivered each week with plans to increase to 79 by March 2027.	Completed
		• Support 2,632 older adults to improve their balance, strength & confidence	March 26		**Participant reach:** 2,820 referrals, with 2,373 people starting classes and 74% completion rate. Pre and post programme assessments show improvements in participants' balance, strength and confidence.	Completed
		• Launch new high intensity classes (Balance Plus) 3 x week for 12 weeks	July 25		**Balance Plus delivery:** Balance Plus programme launched July 2025, delivering 21 classes per week across 12 courses.	Completed
		• Develop test of change models to support people in care homes, Day Centres, and housebound individuals.	October 25		**Test of change:** Pilot delivered in two Edinburgh care homes engaging 19 residents (average age 89). All participants who completed the programme improved in at least one physical function measure, with positive outcomes reported in balance, mobility, confidence, wellbeing and daily living activities. Plans	Completed

					are being developed to undertake a further phase of testing to refine the model, assess sustainability and explore wider roll-out across additional care homes.	
2.2 Increase participation in sport and physical activity for people with additional support needs and/or a disability	Lothian Disability Sport/ City of Edinburgh Council (Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning)	• Establish partnership group • Map current provision • Engage with people with additional support needs and/ or a disability to establish any barriers to access and needs • Collaborate to increase provision where there are identified gaps • Collaborate on coach development & education to train and upskill coaching workforce	December 25 March 26 December 26 August 27 August 27	• Number of additional support needs opportunities provided • Number of pupils with additional support needs and/or a disability participating in extra-curricular sporting activity	Subgroup established and meetings have taken place. Current provision has been captured and mapped. Gaps in available provision identified (e.g. activity for 16+ years old). Internal Council appointment completed for Active Schools Coordinator – Special Schools- dedicated officer supporting access for pupils to access sport and physical activity. Increased number of places available for young people with ASN needs to attend summer sport holiday camps through Summer of Sport programme. 132 young people accessed swimming, cycling and sport over the summer 2026 (an increase of 16 (116) from summer 2025).	Completed Completed In progress- on track In progress- on track Pending

2.3 Collaborate to enhance, promote and embed volunteering opportunities in sport & physical activity as pivotal drivers of community wellbeing, engagement and participation.	City of Edinburgh Council (Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning)	• Share and promote opportunities across networks • Connect with the wider city volunteer network • Celebrate and recognise volunteers during National Volunteers Week and through ongoing initiatives	Ongoing	• Record of promotions/ collaboration	Volunteering Subgroup established. Ongoing drive to recruit volunteers to deliver Active Schools – school sport programmes. Additional campaigns supported e.g. Tour de France volunteer drive. Subgroup focus areas agreed to increase the diversity of volunteers and the training offer for volunteers. National Volunteer Week took place in June. Successful events held by partners and presence at Volunteer Edinburgh event in September 2026.	In progress- on track In progress- on track Completed
2.4 Align the Council's Sports Grants to the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy priorities	City of Edinburgh Council (Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing)	• Revise the Sports Grants criteria • Publicise the new criteria to potential grant applicants • Promote the positive outcomes achieved through highlighting examples of successful funded projects	Ongoing	• Successful projects delivering against the strategic priorities	Sports Grants Fund criteria revised to align with the new Strategy and Grant awards 2026/27 approved by Committee. New criteria publicised across the network. Sports Events Grants criteria were also revised and Grant awards 2026/27 approved by Committee. Plans to promote positive achievements from 26/27 for next funding phase.	Completed Completed In progress- on track

2.5 Engage with equalities groups to overcome identified barriers and grow participation	City of Edinburgh Council	• Identify key equalities groups • Undertake engagement activity to determine barriers to participation	Ongoing	• Record of engagement activity	Equalities Subgroup established. Primary objective agreed to identify barriers to participation using evidence and lived experience. Priority areas for engagement - Women and Girls and Poverty and Inequality through Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships (NPPs). Consultation and engagement activity is planned for Autumn 2026, with findings and recommendations to be reported back to the PASS Partnership in early 2027. Summer of Sport programme supported additional engagement with communities experiencing barriers to participation. Opportunities were promoted through Edinburgh Leisure referral and community networks, including targeted outreach to 90 Community Access Programme partners supporting low-income families. Targeted promotion included free and subsidised activities, subsidised coaching, extended Open All Hours and increased Discover sport camp provision.	Completed In progress- on track

2.6 Supporting healthcare professionals to deliver clear messaging around the benefits of being active as well as signposting opportunities and support to be more active	NHS Lothian	• Explore opportunities to embed the 'NHS Physical Activity Pathway (NPAP)' within healthcare settings, and the 'Care About Physical Activity (CAPA) programme into care settings. • Promote the development of partnerships between healthcare professionals and physical activity providers to embed appropriate physical activity opportunities and programmes for different patient populations	Ongoing Ongoing	• More health and healthcare practitioners are aware of and are using NPAP and CAPA pathways • Increase in health and healthcare practitioners promoting physical activity through evidence-based approaches	Meetings between Public Health Scotland and NHS Lothian have taken place to provide support and guidance to progress this action. Work to assess current awareness among health professionals of the National Physical Activity Pathway and to explore opportunities to raise awareness and embed the pathway will be focused on the Neighbourhood Prevention partnership areas and tied into the NPP action planning process.	In progress- on track In progress- on track
2.7 Adopt a collaborative approach in one area of the city to deliver diversionary work through sport	City of Edinburgh Council Wider Achievement and Lifelong	• Establish partnership group • Map current provision • Identify an area of high need/ group of young people	December 25 March 26 December 26	• Numbers of diversionary activities provided	Diversionary Subgroup established. Subgroup gathered data and information to identify area of focus. Current provision mapping undertaken.	Completed Completed Completed

	Learning Edinburgh Leisure	• Engage with those young people in area of need • Collaborate to increase provision where there are identified gaps • Explore interest in establishing a Kit For All (**sport**scotland) project in local library	December 26 August 27 August 27	• Group established • Mapping and engagement undertaken • Project established	Craigmillar identified as an area of strength that will be profiled. Craigroyston learning community identified as area with gaps in provision, with new Friday Night Lights project to be established by end of 2026.	In progress- on track Pending Pending

Priority 3	**Active Places and Spaces**
Why this priority matters	The provision of safe and welcoming recreational spaces and facilities is essential to improving people's opportunities to be more active and promote health and wellbeing. Edinburgh benefits from a considerable number of these spaces alongside a range of available open green space as well as access to the coast and other waterways such as the canal. Local streets, parks and public spaces throughout a neighbourhood can also support every day and informal outdoor activity and play for all ages. The new strategy provides a chance to maximise the physical activity opportunities that these active places and spaces provide by working across service areas and sectors, including the private sector, and collaboratively with a wide range of partners.
Success for this priority will mean	• Active places and spaces are safe, appropriately designed, created, and maintained to enable people from all backgrounds to be physically active in their community. • Increased numbers of people are more physically active more often in free to access spaces.
To address this priority we will	• Adopt a joined-up and strategic approach to the city's recreational spaces and sports facilities estate.

	• Produce a Pitch Strategy for the city which reviews the pitch landscape and identifies priorities for the future management and development of spaces to improve provision and accessibility to best meet the current and future needs of individuals and groups. • Bring together partners who currently manage Edinburgh's sports facilities estate to review the current booking process and ease of access to spaces used for physical activity and sport. • Review the cost of access to facilities to maximise the use of spaces and increase activity levels for those that benefit the most.

High Level Action	Lead	Delivery Actions/ Milestones	Due Date	Success Measures/ Performance Indicators	Updates	Status
3.1 Produce a Sports Pitch Strategy to improve provision and accessibility to pitches and deliver against agreed key priorities	City of Edinburgh Council (Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing / Edinburgh Leisure	• New Sports Pitch Strategy approved and shared across networks • Develop agreed Action Plan and performance measures • Deliver agreed key priorities for 25-27	April 25 October 25 October 27	• Sports Pitch Strategy approved • Action Plan approved with identified priorities for 25-27 • Identified priorities delivered	<u>Sports Pitch Strategy approved</u> <u>Pitch Strategy Action Plan and performance measures approved.</u> Sports Pitch Strategy Working Group set up to progress strategy implementation.	Completed Completed In progress- on track
3.2 Collaborate with partners to provide new accessible places and spaces for sports participation	City of Edinburgh Council (Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing) City of Edinburgh	• Design and deliver new BMX track and sports facilities in Hunter's Hall Park engaging with key local stakeholders as part of the wider masterplan	Dec 25/ Revised date 2027 for delivery of Common Good consultation July 26	• Engagement undertaken with key groups • Designs produced • BMX track installed	Common Good consultation completed. Further design development and consultation to be completed before future report is tabled at Committee. New discgolf course installed and officially	In progress- off track Completed

	Council (Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing)	• Explore potential opportunities to locate and install new disc golf provision • Explore further potential opportunities for additional accessible spaces for sports participation	Ongoing	• Location identified • Disc golf course installed	opened by the Convener, C&C Committee in April 2026. Refurbished community leisure facilities at Wester Hailes High School opened in September 2026. New Liberton Community Campus with community gym, dance studio and synthetic (3G) pitch opened in August 2026. Athletics track at Saughton Sports Complex refurbishment completed in September 2026.	Completed Completed Completed
3.3 Development of Community Sport Hub Forums	City of Edinburgh Council (Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning)	• Deliver one Community Sport Hub Forum per year in the 7 areas • Establish current need within individual areas • Identify and deliver collaborative projects that meet identified community need	Ongoing	• Number of Forums held • Number of collaborative projects delivered	Community Sport Hub Forum meeting has taken place in each of the 7 areas over last 12 months. Further meetings scheduled to take place. Each meeting will identify current needs and work plan for collaborative projects	In progress- on track In progress- on track In progress- on track

					over the following 12 months.	
3.4 Promote benefits of adapting sports facilities and grounds to enhance nature through green infrastructure	City of Edinburgh Council (Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing)	• Gather detail of adaptations, maintenance practice etc that enhance nature • Develop plan to promote to facility providers across Edinburgh • Signpost facility providers to information on enhancing nature	July 26 December 26	• Number of facility providers engaged • Number of facility providers confirming change in practice	Investigation and research into green infrastructure and maintenance practice completed. Engagement with outdoor space managers across Edinburgh including Parks and Openspaces, Edinburgh Leisure and universities has taken place. Draft guidance document prepared.	Completed In progress- on track Pending
3.5 Maximise opportunities for learning for sustainability and rewilding local areas, involving schools and communities and providing opportunities to be active outdoors.	City of Edinburgh Council (Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning)	• Create and launch a 3-18 Learning for Sustainability Award	February 26/ Revised date April 2027 September 25	• Award open to all 3-18 learners • Toolkit available to all Council officers and partners	3-18 Learning for Sustainability Award framework has been designed. Revised timeline for a soft launch in Spring 2027. Currently completing project templates and trialling in Autumn 2026. Needed to align with the new national curriculum improvement cycle.	In progress- on track Completed

		• Create and launch a 'Wilding Wee Spaces' practitioner toolkit			"Wilding Wee Spaces" resource toolkit completed and available via Schools' SharePoint. New website created which is currently undergoing tests. Due to launch late Autumn / early Spring.	

Priority 4	**Active Places of Learning**
Why this priority matters	Achieving the confidence, motivation, and ability to participate in physical activity and sport within learning settings (schools, colleges, universities, community learning areas etc.) can help set people up for lifelong participation. Being active by participating in sport or by engaging with the outdoors is also proven to raise educational attainment and achievement. Positive impacts include increased confidence, a reduction in concerning behaviours, improved attendance, and by enhancing skills such as resilience, self-discipline, self-regulation, concentration, teamwork, and time management. Taking a rights-based approach, the right for children to play and be healthy goes hand in hand with opportunities for physical activity and is set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act.

Success for this priority will mean	• More places of learning, from nursery to tertiary, will adopt an approach where all staff, services and partner organisations take responsibility for helping people, families and individuals become physically active. • More children and young people will move more and participate in physical activity, sport, outdoor learning and adventurous activities. • Active travel will increasingly be the norm and part of the school, college, university or community learning experience.
To address this priority we will	• Improve physical activity levels in school-based programmes with available resources including the Active Schools and Sports Development teams, and local partners. • Training for school staff and partners, including physical literacy, will be explored and developed proportionately based on feedback, needs analysis and the identification of suitable resource. • Embed play and outdoor learning across the curriculum with a key focus on health and wellbeing for all. • Explore opportunities to support and maximise community access to physical activity in learning spaces such as school sports facilities and other Higher Education/ Further Education spaces. • Adopt a partnership approach with Higher Education /Further Education institutions to develop and improve activity levels across the population including young people, students, and the workforce. • Continue to promote and support access to high quality outdoor learning and adventure education, residential trips and opportunities to gain awards such as Duke of Edinburgh, particularly for identified groups who are traditionally less likely to participate. • Link mental and physical health and wellbeing in learning programmes, both formal and informal, in school and community. • Integrate the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy with existing strategies and plans that support active places of learning such as Edinburgh Learns for Life to ensure inclusive opportunities for all within learning environments.

High Level Action	Lead	Delivery Actions/ Milestones	Due Date	Success Measures/ Performance Indicators	Updates	Status
4.1 Develop the Youth Sports Leadership Pathway to support	City of Edinburgh Council	• Facilitate school-based placements designed to meet the learning needs	December 25	• Increased number and diversity of	Several courses have been completed for senior pupils and	In progress- on track

young leaders to deliver extra-curricular school sport and/or sport in community clubs and opportunities within Edinburgh Leisure and to motivate and inspire other young people to participate	(Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning)	of students and support the development of the future workforce • Delivery actions identified in the Youth Leadership Pathway section of the Active Schools action plan	Ongoing	young leaders delivering sport • Record of placements • Placement agreements for students in sport in place	volunteer placements will be arranged. Delivery of Youth Leadership Pathway section of Active Schools action plan is on track. Three Modern Apprentices have been employed through Summer of Sport programme and are completing a Sports Coaching apprenticeship and delivering sport in schools.	In progress- on track
4.2 Establish a strategic Community Access to Schools Working Group and progress agreed priority actions to support increased community access to schools for physical activity and sport	City of Edinburgh Council (Wider Achievement and Lifelong Learning)	• Establish Working Group and agree Terms of Reference • Develop an Action Plan • Deliver agreed priorities	June 25 December 25 Ongoing	• Group established • Regular meetings held and actions delivered • Increased community access to school facilities out with school core hours	Strategic CATs Group established and meetings held. TOR circulated. Action plan developed. Priorities to be progressed.	Completed Completed Pending
4.3 Embed play and outdoor learning across the curriculum with a	City of Edinburgh Council-	• Outdoor Learning & Adventure Education experiences across	February 26	• Experiences mapped to	Outdoor learning experiences across numeracy and literacy	Completed

key focus on health and wellbeing for all	(Outdoor Learning & Adventure Education)	numeracy and literacy pathways • Extend Outdoor Learning & Adventure Education experiences in other curriculum areas • Renewed Career Long Professional Learning offer • New 3-18 Learning for Sustainability award	September 26 October 25 February 26	all ages and stages • Example experiences in all curriculum areas at different ages and stages • 90%+ satisfaction ratings • Award available to all City of Edinburgh Council schools.	pathways underway and linked to new App. Currently being developed via a new loan box scheme. Trials starting Autumn 2026. CLPL has been renewed under one banner with new content, themes and structure. New 3-18 Learning for Sustainability Award presentation to Education Scotland was well received. Accredited qualification in outdoor learning developed for S4 and S5 pupils to support pathways and positive destinations. Adventure Education Award to be submitted to Qualifications Scotland for review by January 2027.	In progress- on-track. Completed Completed
4.4 Continue to promote and support access to high quality outdoor learning and adventure education, residential trips and opportunities to gain awards such as	City of Edinburgh Council- Outdoor Learning and	• Review, renew and launch updated excursions policy, resources and training.	December 25	• All excursions comply with policy guidance • 55%+ achievement	Excursion guidance has been updated. A new online excursion approval solution currently being procured to facilitate offsite programmes. Expected	In progress – on track

Duke of Edinburgh, particularly for identified groups who are traditionally less likely to participate	Adventure Education	• Continue to raise participation and achievement rates for disadvantaged Duke of Edinburgh learners. • Launch the Edinburgh Empowered Outdoor Learning project (vision, strategy and toolkits.) • Increase Outdoor Learning accredited learning awards	Annual August 25 Annual	by disadvantaged learners • All schools and other relevant City of Edinburgh Council services have access to project • Adventure Education award S4-S5 piloted 2026/27	to launch Spring 2027. Excursions Policy to be updated alongside this. IIA completed for Excursions Policy. DoE achievement rate has increased (met the 55% target) through development of Action Zone at Craigroyston HS– targeted resource to support young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, resulting in increased attendance and achievement. Learning is being applied to 10 new projects for 2026/27. Edinburgh Empowered Outdoor Learning project is live. Outdoor Learning Accredited Learning Awards have been increased.	In progress- on track Completed In progress- on track
4.5 Provide additional cycle and scooter parking across the schools estate to increase active travel choices by children,	City of Edinburgh Council (Road Safety)	• Audit cycle and scooter parking availability across school estate • Determine funding opportunities to increase	August 27 August 27	• Increase in cycle parking facilities.	Audit of cycle and scooter parking availability across school estate has been completed.	Completed In progress- on track

young people and families		cycle and scooter parking			Cycle lockable shelters have been installed at Craigmount HS and St Augustine's HS. Cycle parking and scooter racks have been installed at Boroughmuir HS and Balerno HS, and Hermitage Park, Craigentinny and St Joseph's Primary Schools.	
4.6 Support Bikeability, Scootability and Kerbcraft training and WOW Traveltracker active travel incentives to encourage walking, cycling and wheeling to school	City of Edinburgh Council (Road Safety)	• Mapping of current cycle training opportunities • Produce action plan to increase training across schools • Targeting resources to areas where bike ownership is low, and the number of non-riders is highest	August 26 Ongoing	• Increase in pupils participating in cycle training	Mapping of current cycle training opportunities being undertaken by Active Travel team. Successful application to Cycling Scotland has supported recruitment of Cycling Officer.	In progress – on track In progress- on track In progress- on track
4.7 Supporting Junior Road Safety Officers to run road safety campaigns such as Parksmart, Cycle Safety and Be Bright Be Seen	City of Edinburgh Council (Road Safety)	• Develop and deliver training for Junior Road Safety Officers.	August 26	• Increase in participation in road safety campaigns	Training has been delivered. Two events have taken place in Edinburgh (Middle Meadow Walk and Conaught Place) to promote safe walking, running and cycle. Bike lights and high-vis clothing / wrist snaps have been issued to the public at the events.	Completed

4.8 Reallocate road space around schools to be more pedestrian and cycle friendly including footway widening, crossing improvements and restricting general traffic at the start and end of the school day	City of Edinburgh Council (Road Safety)	• Determine opportunities to improve road space around schools	August 27	• Number of improvements delivered to road space around schools	School street projects have been delivered across the city where vehicle access is restricted around schools during drop-off and pick-up times 24 school streets have moved from Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders to permanent TROs.	In progress- on track

Priority 5	**Active Promotions**
Why this priority matters	Ensuring people have the right information about the importance of being active and the benefits that it brings, and developing lifelong habits of activity is essential to improving the health and wellbeing of the city. A key part of this will be to reach those groups with the most to gain from engaging in sport and physical activity, including enjoyment in being outdoors, and who may currently have disproportionately low levels of participation. Clear, understandable, and targeted messaging will be essential if we are to mitigate inequalities and promote inclusion. This must be consistent across council services and partners and based on targeted opportunities made available in local communities i.e., a genuine call to action. This work must be delivered alongside effective programme development, allowing communications and engagement to focus on local opportunities to become and stay active.

Success for this priority will mean	• A well-targeted information programme with clear and consistent messaging leading to increased awareness and understanding of the benefits of regular physical activity and increased participation, particularly amongst those groups with lower levels of participation who could benefit the most. • Clear, understandable, and targeted messaging to those with the most to gain from physical activity and sport. • Consistent messaging from council services and all sectors and partners based on targeted opportunities made available in local communities. • Active travel behaviour positively influenced with more people choosing to walk, wheel and cycle across Edinburgh.
To address this priority we will	• Raise the profile of physical activity and sport at all levels, but focusing on children and young people, older people, those from under-represented groups, and those who live in the most deprived areas of the city or who suffer from the highest levels of poverty or poor mental health. • Raise the profile of active and outdoor spaces that are free to access e.g., green and blue spaces. • Promote and support active travel opportunities to increase physical activity participation. • Actively encourage the provision of opportunities for people or communities to try physical activity and sport at community events including local and citywide festivals, galas, park and greenspace events. • Review, improve or develop new communication platforms that provide various ways to access advice on how to be physically active. • Ensure local partners can access relevant information so they can inform and support their communities to access physical activity and sport opportunities. • Raise awareness of the importance of workplace and employer involvement in engaging with their workforce to promote physical activity and sport to encourage a move away from more sedentary behaviours.

High Level Action	Lead	Delivery Actions/ Milestones	Due Date	Success Measures/ Performance Indicators	Updates	Status

5.1 Collaborate with partners to raise the profile of physical activity with a focus on those who be less likely to participate	City of Edinburgh Council (Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing)	• Create an events calendar capturing campaign days/ promotion weeks and share across networks • Agree focus on one local high-profile promotion per year e.g. Scottish Disability Sport Week; World Physical Activity Day • Maximise promotional opportunities from high profile sporting events including Tour de France; Euro's; Commonwealth Games	December 25 Ongoing	• Increased number of people participating in physical activity/ sport	Active Promotions Subgroup established. Calendar of events has been produced. Scottish Women and Girls in Sport Week (November) will be high-profile promotion focus for 2026. Range of projects in development to maximise outcomes from the Tour de France Grand Depart in 2027.	Completed In progress- on track In progress- on track
5.2 Create an online information hub to improve access to physical activity and sport opportunities	City of Edinburgh Council (Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing)	• Undertake web development work to promote the profile of parks, open spaces and beach areas • Undertake a mapping exercise/ gather information of physical activity and sport opportunities/ facilities • Explore opportunities to share additional information online through improved website / digital map	August 27	• Increased use of existing website • Increased numbers of people participating in physical activity and sport	Options for detail on Council website have been explored with further meetings scheduled.	In progress – on track Pending Pending
5.3 Promote and support active and sustainable travel opportunities to sports/	City of Edinburgh Council (Libraries/	• Develop communications plan to promote active and sustainable travel options to clubs as ways	June 26/ Revised date June 2027	• Communications plan produced	Development of Communications Plan will follow on from the delivery of an initial test	In progress- off track

physical activity clubs to increase physical activity participation and contribute to sustainability and carbon reduction targets	Sport and Wellbeing)	to access training and match venues across the city • Encourage venue providers to promote active and sustainable travel to customers using their facilities		• Record of delivery of actions	project to take place at an identified venue to promote active travel to all site users. EL have begun work to promote active travel to their venues on their website.	 In progress- on track
5.4 Raise awareness of the importance of physical activity and sport through workplaces and employers	City of Edinburgh Council	• Capture existing good practice in partner's workplace programmes which are aimed at reducing sedentary behaviour and increasing physical activity and share across networks • Explore the potential for reopening the gym facilities at Waverley Court	April 26 June 26/ Revised date June 27	• Record of good practice and shared communications • Gym facilities re-established at Waverley Court, City of Edinburgh Council	Examples of current practice amongst partner organisations have been shared. E.g. Sportscotland ran a wellbeing hour for staff to improve their health and wellbeing. Project group currently exploring the potential to reopen Waverley Court gym. Survey of Council and partner agencies based at Waverley Court has taken place and business case is in development.	In progress- on track In progress- off track

Appendix 2

Sports Pitch Strategy 2025-2035
Sports Pitch Strategy 2 Year Action Plan: October 2025-2027

High Level Action and Milestone Status

To assess delivery in the first year of the Plan in 2025/26, we have assigned each objective and milestone a status based on the follow criteria:

Status	Definition
Pending	Work not yet started.
In progress- on track	Delivery action/ milestone has started and expected to be completed in full to the original timeline and within budget.
In progress- off track	Delivery action/ milestone has started but not been completed in time or on budget. This may be due to delays outwith the Council's control or timescales may have been extended following Committee approval.
Completed	Delivery action/ milestone has been completed/ achieved.
Closed	Either it has been decided not to progress with this delivery action/ milestone or the work has started and then ceased part way through. Closure requires a reason.

Strategic Objective 1	Goal/s
Optimise the sports pitch portfolio	• Enhance Edinburgh's sports pitch access framework to prioritise community engagement, infrastructure optimisation, and environmentally sustainable practices, thereby aligning with the city's objectives of minimising carbon emissions, promoting active travel, and achieving a Living Well Locally approach. • Dependent on funding opportunities, enhance the quality and accessibility of ancillary facilities that complement the pitch estate through strategic investment.

High Level Action	Delivery Actions/ Milestones	Due Date	Success Measures/ Performance Indicators	Updates	Status

1.1 Infrastructure maximisation	• Review times currently allocated to schools for secondary school pitches between 4pm and 6pm with potential to extend operational hours to increase access/ capacity • Review times currently allocated to schools on Saturday mornings with potential to extend operational hours to increase access/ capacity • Undertake a primary school pitch lets audit to identify any unused primary school pitches	April 2026/ Revised date June 2027 April 2026/ Revised date June 2027 December 25	• Review of school access 4-6pm undertaken and recommendations for extending community access identified • Review of school access Saturday mornings undertaken and recommendations for extending community access identified • Primary school pitch audit completed and recommendations for extending community access	Summary paper on review of community access hours for schools has been completed. To be considered by Community Access to Schools Strategic Group. Primary school synthetic pitch audit complete. Currently assessing pitch use to determine any lower use facilities.	In progress- off track In progress- off track Completed
1.2 Booking process review and improvement	• Undertake a mapping exercise of clubs and pitch use across the city • Investigate opportunities to incorporate user preference settings for local venues in the booking system/ or explore manual process • Review primary school pitch lets process • Align all booking processes to ensure a consistent approach	December 2025 June 2026 October 2026 July 2027	• Mapping exercise complete • Process in place to allow increased number of teams using local pitches reducing travel • Primary school pitch lets process reviewed, any improvements identified and delivered • All booking processes aligned and more consistent	Mapping exercise of clubs and pitch use completed. Club directory has been added to Sports Pitch Data Tool. Training session for stakeholders on how to use mapping tool completed. Review of primary school pitch lets process to be completed in Oct/ Nov 26.	Completed In progress- on track In progress- on track Pending
1.3 Active travel promotion to	• Develop communications plan to promote active and	June 2026/	• Communications plan created	Partners including Sports Partnership Team, Parks and	In progress- off track

Strategic Objective 2	Goal/s
Improve the quality and maintenance of sports pitches	• Focus on upgrading the overall quality of grass and artificial pitches through cost efficient and sustainable maintenance strategies, ensuring improved quality across all playing venues.

sports/ physical activity clubs	sustainable travel options to clubs as ways to access training and match venues across the city • Encourage venue providers to promote active and sustainable travel to customers using their facilities	Revised date January 2027 Ongoing	• Record of delivery of actions	Openspace Development and Edinburgh Leisure are progressing delivery of pilot project at an identified venue to promote active travel to all site users. Development of Communications Plan will follow on from the delivery of the test project.	In progress- on track
1.4 Review sports pavilion estate	• Undertake a strategic assessment of pavilions including production of condition survey and investment profile where required • Produce a pavilion specification • Undertake an audit of existing sports pavilion leases	December 2025/ Revised date June 2027 April 2026/ Revised date June 2027 June 2027	• Audit of existing pavilion leases completed • Options identified for pavilions utilising condition survey and usage data • Investment prioritisation list of pavilions created to inform budget requests and those that are surplus to requirements • Pavilion specification created	Strategic assessment of pavilions has started. EL have completed condition surveys for their pavilion estate with Council to progress assessment of remaining pavilions. Pavilion specification to be completed. Pavilion review is being co-ordinated through Sport Estate Strategic Group.	In progress- off track Pending In progress- off track

High Level Action	Delivery Actions/ Milestones	Due Date	Success Measures/ Performance Indicators	Updates	Status
2.1 Consolidate 3G pitch maintenance contracts	• Consider all 3G pitch maintenance contracts- identify timeline for contracts renewals; share costs and explore opportunities to consolidate where possible	(aligned with contract end dates)	• Consolidated contracts where appropriate • Reduced maintenance costs/ efficiencies delivered	Work undertaken to identify timelines for both EL and Council contract renewal process. Opportunities for change to be explored.	In progress- on track
2.2 Cost-benefit analysis of maintenance for grass/ synthetic pitch surfaces	• Conduct cost-benefit analysis of maintenance costs for grass vs. synthetic pitch surfaces • Consider the information gathered to identify potential changes to pricing structure	October 2027	• Cost-benefit analysis produced • Record of any changes to pricing structure	Neighbourhood Environmental Services to lead.	Pending
2.3 Strengthen the quality of grass pitches	• Explore the introduction of a 3-tiered maintenance programme for grass pitches	October 2027	• Reduced number of pitch closures • Increased number of games per pitch • Increased customer satisfaction	Neighbourhood Environmental Services to lead.	Pending
2.4 Evaluate and review the current portfolio of grass pitches	• Review the use and quality of grass pitches / Identify those that are strategically located and well used and those that are under-used • Consider actions to address under used pitches e.g. improvement; repurposing; community asset transfer opportunities	December 2025 Ongoing	• Record of review • Record of actions taken to improve/ change under used pitches	Initial review of grass pitches undertaken. Actions to address under-use to be identified.	In progress- on track In progress- on track
2.5 Artificial pitch replacement programme	• Undertake audit of pitch expiry timelines • Determine annual investment requirements	June 2026 June 2026	• Record of audit and identified annual investment requirements	Audit of pitch expiry timelines undertaken and investment schedule produced.	Completed Completed

	• Explore funding opportunities to support a pitch replacement programme	Annually	• Record of pitch replacements/ improvements	Project to resurface synthetic pitch at Meggetland Sports Complex is progressing with completion date estimated for summer 2027. 2G full-size pitch at Forrester HS / St Augustine's RC HS campus has been replaced with a 3G surface.	In progress- on track

Strategic Objective 3	Goal/s
Increase the availability and accessibility of pitches	• To streamline and harmonise the sports pitch booking systems to improve customer service and simplify pitch access.

High Level Action	Delivery Actions/ Milestones	Due Date	Success Measures/ Performance Indicators	Updates	Status
3.1 Booking system unification	• Explore the integration of Council and EL booking operations into a singular digital interface	October 2026/ Revised date October 2027	• Options for integration/ consistency identified	New online interface for a selection of Council managed school lets has begun. Success of the new system will be assessed before determining next steps towards integration with Edinburgh Leisure booking operations.	In progress – off track

Strategic Objective 4	Goal/s
Foster partnerships and collaboration with key stakeholders	• To ensure a holistic and integrated approach to the future development of sports pitches and the successful delivery of the Sports Pitch Strategy.

High Level Action	Delivery Actions/ Milestones	Due Date	Success Measures/ Performance Indicators	Updates	Status
4.1 Synergise planning for future provision	• Establish a Sports Pitch Strategy Working Group to oversee the delivery of the Strategy • Share the Strategy with partners/ service areas and support alignment with key/ national and city strategies/ plans	April 2025 Ongoing	• Sports Pitch Strategy Working Group established • Appropriate workstream sub-groups established as required • Record of actions undertaken/ improvements delivered	Sports Pitch Strategy Working Group has been established, meetings taken place and partnership approaches to actions established. Strategy shared across service areas and with partners.	Completed Completed
4.2 Community engagement	• Identify and deliver engagement opportunities for community stakeholders to have a say in sports pitch improvement planning	Ongoing	• Record of engagement activity held	Club network event planned for end 2026/ early 2027.	In progress- on track
4.3 Consider new models of operation and ownership	• Gather evidence and capture information of different models of operation and ownership and how they've worked • Create a menu of different models/ options to include working examples • Produce an overview of the Community Asset Transfer	October 2026 December 2026 December 2025	• Menu of different options produced • Overview of CAT process produced and shared • Record of individual CAT / lease assessments	Report on Framework for Sports Clubs Involvement in Pitches/ Facilities Management approved at Feb 2026 Culture and Communities. A menu of different routes/ options included in Appendix 3 of the Report. Evidence of how different models of operation/ ownership work to be gathered and reviewed. An overview of the Community Asset Transfer	In progress- on track In progress- on track Completed

	(CAT) process to support shared understanding • Undertake assessment for each potential CAT or lease to evaluate potential delivery of improvements to pitches/ facilities and alignment with broader strategic pitch objectives	Ongoing		(CAT) process included in Appendix 3 of the Report. Sports Pitch Development Working Group convened and undertaking assessments of each potential CAT or lease.	In progress- on track

Strategic Objective 5	Goal/s
Support inclusivity and diversity in sport pitch usage	• Encourage participation through safe and welcoming spaces for all participants, including those who would not traditionally access pitch spaces

High Level Action	Delivery Actions/ Milestones	Due Date	Success Measures/ Performance Indicators	Updates	Status
5.1 New developments or improvements to existing facilities	• Gather data on accessibility of pitches/ ancillary facilities • Identify any barriers to accessibility/ inclusivity and determine improvement actions	December 2026 December 2027	• Record of data gathered • Improvement actions identified and delivered	Data on accessibility of pitches completed and available for access in the Sports Pitch Data tool. Accessibility information captured as part of pavilion review.	Completed In progress- on track
5.2 Stakeholder engagement and involvement	• Engage with equalities groups to identify barriers to pitch/ facilities access/ participation • Determine and deliver any identified improvement actions	December 2026 December 2027	• Record of engagement • Improvement actions identified and delivered	Club network event planned for end 2026/ early 2027.	In progress- on track Pending
5.3 Promotion and communication of pitches and facilities to increase physical activity participation from those who may not traditionally use pitches	• Develop communications plan to promote opportunities to make use of pitches/ facilities • Share promotional information with equalities groups/ clubs / organisations	June 2026/ Revised date January 2027 October 2026	• Communications plan created • Record of delivery of actions	Development of Communications Plan to be undertaken following the completion of the grass pitch review.	In progress- off track Pending

Strategic Objective 6	Goal/s
Develop a data-driven decision-making process	• Support informed decisions on resource allocation for the future development of sports pitches and ancillary facilities.

High Level Action	Delivery Actions/ Milestones	Due Date	Success Measures/ Performance Indicators	Updates	Status
6.1 Data-driven decisions	• Gather and analyse data on pitch usage and demand • Update the Edinburgh pitch data tool annually to ensure alignment with supply and demand forecasts • Deliver a data tool training workshop for relevant stakeholders to improve access to the resource and share understanding of use • Utilise data to prioritise investment in pitches and ancillary accommodation	Annually Annually October 2025 Ongoing	• Record of seasonal usage trends per pitch following analysis • Power BI pitch data tool updated • Record of workshop(s) held & attendees	Data on pitch usage and demand produced in Pitch Data Tool and updated annually by Integratis. Data tool training workshop on how to use mapping tool for relevant stakeholders completed. Data utilised on an ongoing basis.	In progress- on track In progress- on track Completed In progress- on track

Strategic Objective 7	Goal/s
Consider expanding and building on a 'pitch hub' approach across the city	• Develop a strategic approach to the establishment and improvement of pitch hubs across the city.

High Level Action	Delivery Actions/ Milestones	Due Date	Success Measures/ Performance Indicators	Updates	Status
7.1 Capacity expansion through the expansion of a pitch hub approach	• Agree on pitch hub definition and criteria • Identify current pitch hub sites • Explore approaches to improve existing pitch hubs • Identify high-demand areas and consider creation of potential new pitch hub sites (use of data tool)	October 2025 December 2025 Annually Annually	• Current pitch hubs identified • Record of improvements to pitch hub sites • Potential new pitch hubs sites identified	Pitch Hub paper produced – defines hubs, key features, location. Pitch Hub sites have been identified and approved at Feb 26 Culture and Communities Committee- Report on Framework for Sports Clubs Involvement in Pitches/ Facilities Management. Detail on Pitch Hub sites provided in Appendix 4 of the Report. Options explored to improve Saughton Enclosure; Meggetland Pitch Hubs.	Completed Completed In progress- on track In progress- on track

Strategic Objective 8	Goal/s
Support future growth and development	• Support future growth and development to meet the evolving needs of sports pitch users

High Level Action	Delivery Actions/ Milestones	Due Date	Success Measures/ Performance Indicators	Updates	Status
8.1 City Plan 2040	• Ensure the City Plan 2040 considers the Sports Pitch Strategy 2025-2035 • Explore whether developer delivery and / or contributions can be sought for the provision and the maintenance of new and existing sports and recreation facilities	Ongoing Ongoing	• City Plan 2040 development takes account of the Sports Pitch Strategy 2025-2035 • Record of investigations and any developer contributions secured for pitch improvements/ installation	City Plan 2040 at early stages of development with evidence reports completed. Planning officers attend Sports Pitch Strategy Working Group and will continue to capture Pitch Strategy implementation into the City Plan development process. Developer's contributions will depend on scale and location e.g. West Edinburgh project included within 2030.	In progress- on track In progress- on track
8.2 Maintenance and upgrade fund establishment	• Explore opportunities to within the capital programme for budgets to be established for the maintenance and replacement of 2G and 3G surfaces and pavilions	December 26 (to inform 27/28 budget planning)	• Business case developed • Business case considered as part of 27/28 budget setting process • Fund established for pitch and pavilion maintenance and replacement	Opportunities for investment in pitches are currently under exploration and being progressed by the Strategic Estates Working Group with EL.	In progress- on track

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday 8 October 2026

City Chambers Quadrangle and Frontage Management – Response to motion from Councillor Cameron – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee

Decision/scrutiny	**Scrutiny**
Wards	**11 – City Centre**

1. For Decision/Action

1.1 The Finance and Resources Committee has referred the City Chambers Quadrangle and Frontage Management – Response to Motion from Councillor Cameron report to the Culture and Communities Committee for consideration of non-financial matters.

Paul Lawrence
Chief Executive

Contact: Laura Merrick, Committee Officer
Democracy and Governance

E-mail: Laura.Merrick@edinburgh.gov.uk

Referral Report

City Chambers Quadrangle and Frontage Management – Response to motion from Councillor Cameron – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee

2. Terms of Referral

2.1 On 24 September 2026, the Finance and Resources Committee considered a report on the design solutions for monument and heritage protection in the City Chambers Quadrangle. The report also outlined the proposed solutions considered by officers for improving management of the quadrangle.

2.2 The Finance and Resources Committee agreed:

Motion

1) To note the two design solutions for monument and heritage protection which have been developed and the current funding position for the required works

2) Committee notes the report responding to the adjusted Motion to Council by Cllr Cameron unanimously agreed by Council on 2 February 2026 City Chambers Quadrangle and Frontage Management - response to Motion by Councillor Cameron.

3) Committee notes that during the summer festival period, part of The Royal Mile including the street frontage of the City Chamber and area around the Mercat Cross and other monuments is under the commercial management of the Edinburgh Fringe.

4) Committee requests a report to the Finance and Resources Committee within 1 cycle setting out a clear timeline, detailed recommendations and funding options for works referred to (in the officer report to Finance & Resources Committee on 24th September) which would effectively manage and address the serious and growing issues of concern regarding public, tourist, visitor and customer access; public health and safety: and proactively encourage respectful behaviours at all times including during the summer festival period; and during formal and civic events held in the Quadrangle, involving the City Chambers street frontage and around the Mercat Cross.

5) Committee agrees to refer this report, and the report requested above to the Culture and Communities Committee.

- moved by Councillor Watt, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

Amendment 1

1) Notes with disappointment that, despite cross party support and motions dating back seven years to 2019 that no solution to protect the National War Memorial stone is yet in place.

2) Notes that the proposed drawings indicating elements of protection for the War Memorial stone do not appear to include removable heritage compliant railings/barriers that would ensure the public could not inappropriately gain access onto the stone and agrees that this should be reconsidered as part of the work to develop a funding solution.

3) Agrees that a funding proposal for future works of this nature be developed for consideration by political groups as part of the capital budget process 2027/28.

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Bruce

In accordance with Standing Order 22.13, the amendment was accepted as adjusted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Watt:

1) To note the two design solutions for monument and heritage protection which have been developed and the current funding position for the required works.

2) To note the report responding to the adjusted Motion to Council by Cllr Cameron unanimously agreed by Council on 2 February 2026 City Chambers Quadrangle and Frontage Management - response to Motion by Councillor Cameron.

3) To note that during the summer festival period, part of The Royal Mile including the street frontage of the City Chamber and area around the Mercat Cross and other monuments is under the commercial management of the Edinburgh Fringe.

4) To request a report to the Finance and Resources Committee within 1 cycle setting out a clear timeline, detailed recommendations and funding options for works referred to (in the officer report to Finance & Resources Committee on 24th September) which would effectively manage and address the serious and growing issues of concern regarding public, tourist, visitor and customer access; public health and safety: and proactively encourage respectful behaviours at all times including during the summer festival period; and during formal and civic events held in the Quadrangle, involving the City Chambers street frontage and around the Mercat Cross.

5) To agree to refer this report, and the report requested above to the Culture and Communities Committee.

6) To note with disappointment that, despite cross party support and motions dating back seven years to 2019 that no solution to protect the National War Memorial stone is yet in place.

7) To note that the proposed drawings indicating elements of protection for the War Memorial stone do not appear to include removable heritage compliant railings/barriers that would ensure the public could not inappropriately gain access onto the stone and agrees that this should be reconsidered as part of the work to develop a funding solution.

3. Background Reading/ External References

3.1 Finance and Resources Committee – 24 September – Webcast

3.2 Minute of Finance and Resources Committee of 24 September 2026

4. Appendices

Appendix 1 – City Chambers Quadrangle and Frontage Management – Response to motion from Councillor Cameron - Report by the Corporate Director of Place

Finance and Resource Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 24 September 2026

City Chambers Quadrangle and Frontage Management – Response to motion from Councillor Cameron

Decision/scrutiny	**Scrutiny**
Wards	**City Centre**

1. Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that Finance and Resources Committee notes:

1.1.1 The two design solutions for monument and heritage protection which have been developed and the current funding position for the required works; and

1.1.2 The proposed solutions which officers are considering to improve the management of the quadrangle

Gareth Barwell

Corporate Director of Place

Contact: David Latimer, Acting Head of Facilities Management

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Report

City Chambers Quadrangle and Frontage Management – Response to motion from Councillor Cameron

2. Executive Summary

2.1 On 5 February 2026 Council approved the following adjusted motion by Councillor Cameron:

> *"To request a report to the Finance and Resources Committee within 2 cycles on how best to manage and address issues of concern regarding public, tourist, visitor, and customer access, public health and safety, and respectful behaviours during annual formal events held in the Quadrangle for example the Ukraine National Day, Remembrance Day; and what steps could be taken to better present and safeguard all monuments in the Quadrangle; the presentation and fabric of the City Chamber street frontage; the pedestrian and vehicular entrance and exit to the Quadrangle; and the size and number of tourist groups accessing the Quadrangle and to review whether the current operating procedure on vehicle access restrictions to the Quadrangle was working, and if not whether changes were required."*

2.2 This report addresses the approved adjusted motion.

3 Background

3.1 Motions relating to the preservation, presentation and management of the City Chambers Frontage, Quadrangle and War Memorial as well as public access and safety have been the subject of motions approved by Full Council on 19 September 2019, 21 November 2019, and 28 September 2023.

3.2 On 24 November 2022, after an arson attack on the wreaths after Remembrance Sunday, Council approved a motion by Councillor Whyte regarding a review of security at the War Memorial to ensure it is treated respectfully all year round.

3.3 On 25 April 2023, this Committee received a Business Bulletin update on commissioning a design solution to protect the war memorial from inappropriate use and to ensure that the Stone of Remembrance War Memorial remains a place for remembrance and respect.

3.4 This Committee also approved reports relating to Elected Member Car Parking on 6 December 2019 and City Chambers Quadrangle Operations on 30 April 2024 regarding vehicle access restrictions to the Quadrangle.

4 Main report

4.1 Following full council on 5 February 2026, two separate onsite visits to the City Chambers (CC) quadrangle with Councillors took place allowing officers to inspect, discuss and monitor the points raised.

4.2 Key factors for consideration include:

4.2.1 **Repair and Maintenance** – a programme has begun including essential repairs and re-painting of planters, railings, benches, noticeboards, etc. In addition, investigation will be carried out to the potential cleaning of the stonework at the Quadrangle entrance and main CC entrance;

4.2.2 **Monument and Heritage Protection -** Officers are in discussion with Edinburgh World Heritage (EWH) regarding improving physical protection, interpretation and lighting of the Stone of Remembrance. This will borrow elements of the architect's proposal previously reported to this Committee on 13 March 2025 aiming to reduce costs by utilising Visitor Levy funds for public art repairs, an EWH grant and fundraising. A conservation assessment will be made of the Alexander and Bucephalus statue by John Steell, as well as the Mercat Cross. Although initial research indicates that neither were designed to have barriers, suggested protective measures include options to retrofit barriers and/or provision of staffing interventions;

4.2.3 **Public Behavioural Challenges within the CC Quadrangle** - Strategies, including the use of physical signage directing users within the space will be explored, whilst respecting the important heritage value. In addition, the deployment of security staff to support the outer quadrangle perimeter at access/egress points is being considered.

4.2.4 At Culture and Communities Committee on the 13th of August 2026, members considered a report on management rules for streets and civic spaces. And approved the development of such rules It is proposed that these rules, when finalised, will apply to the quadrangle.

4.2.5 **Health and Safety** – The Council's Fire Officer has reviewed use of the quadrangle space calculating the potential of safe occupant capacity (Appendix 1); and

4.2.6 **Communication and engagement** – Officers have liaised with organised users including walking tour groups accessing the CC quadrangle area to collaborate on expected behaviours.

5 Next Steps

5.1 Implementation of a design solution for Enhanced Protection Measures for the City Chambers War Memorial is currently unbudgeted. Officers will continue to explore the potential for Common Good funding to be used to meet the cost of the design solutions.

5.2 Should the funding be identified, a consultation exercise will take place to decide on a final design. Officers will also scope out additional consents, and maintenance and management protocols. The architect acknowledges that consultation may result in the ability to blend elements of the two design options.

5.3 If Council funds are not available, a fundraising exercise will be carried out to generate third party and public donations. EWH has indicated that funding for interpretation may be available through its schemes, and that there is the potential for cost savings on the architectural proposals although further discussions will be required on this.

5.4 The Facilities Management Service will proceed with the alignment and deployment of security resources to include cover to the outer quadrangle perimeter to support public access/egress and the provision of physical signage directing users within the space.

6 Financial impact

6.1 Current Repair and Maintenance programme of works will be delivered within the existing revenue budget. Costs are awaited for potential cleaning of stonework at Quadrangle entrance and main Chambers entrance.

6.2 EWH agreed to co-fund the development of two design solutions for the Stone of Remembrance War Memorial. They contributed £4,000, with the Council contributing £3,860 to meet the overall cost of £7,860.

6.3 The design solutions have been costed at between £145,000 and £189,000 including fees and contingency but excluding VAT and interpretation. The cost of the design solutions is currently unfunded in the Council's Capital Budget. If funding is not allocated to progress with implementation of one of the proposed design solutions, officers will investigate funding through the Common Good Fund and external fundraising. Further discussions will take place with EWH on the potential cost savings indicated.

6.4 The implementation of security assignment man-guarding to extended areas including the street quadrangle perimeter will be contained within the existing Service revenue budget.

7 Key Policies

Equality and Poverty

7.1 There are no equality or poverty impacts arising directly from the presentation of the design solutions for the Stone of Remembrance War Memorial at the City Chambers.

However, the memorial was erected as, and continues to be, a focus for commemoration of the contribution and loss of servicemen and women.

Climate and Nature Emergencies

7.2 There are no climate and nature emergency implications arising directly from the presentation of the design solutions for the Stone of Remembrance War Memorial at the City Chambers.

7.3 However, in developing the design solutions, consideration was given to the materials proposed. This focused primarily on materials which are in keeping with the location of the war memorial in the World Heritage Site and the significance of the memorial for both the city and Scotland.

Environmental Impacts

7.4 It is considered there are no direct environmental impacts arising from the options contained within the report.

Housing Emergency

7.5 There are no impacts to the Housing Emergency as a result of this report

8 Risk, compliance, governance and community impact

8.1 The design solutions have been prepared in recognition of the importance of the Stone of Remembrance War Memorial and the desire to preserve and protect it.

8.2 The solutions developed take into consideration the history of the memorial itself and the significance of the Stone.

8.3 Prior to any works being progressed, a consultation would be undertaken to finalise the design, seeking input from the residents and other stakeholders.

8.4 As noted in the Next Steps and Financial Impact sections, the Council has not currently identified funding to progress the implementation of the preferred design solution. However, funding opportunities are currently being explored.

9 Background reading/external references

9.1 Full Council, 19 September 2019 - War Memorial – City Chambers.

9.2 Full Council, 21 November 2019 - War Memorial – City Chambers.

9.3 Finance and Resources Committee, 6 December 2019 - Elected Member Car Parking.

9.3 Full Council, 24 November 2022 - War Memorial - City Chambers.

9.4 Finance and Resources Committee, 25 April 2023 Business Bulletin, War Memorial – City Chambers.

9.5 Full Council, 26 September 2023 - City Chambers Quadrangle Operations.

9.6 Finance and Resources Committee, 30 April 2024 - City Chambers Quadrangle Operations.

9.7 Finance and Resources Committee, 13 March 2025 – City Chambers War Memorial: Enhanced Protection Measures.

10 Appendices

Appendix 1 - City Chambers Quadrangle Occupancy Capacity.

Appendix 2a - Stone of Remembrance, Edinburgh City Chambers, Proposal & Fee Estimate. – Revision May 2024.

Appendix 2b – Location Plan.

Appendix 1

City Chambers Quadrangle Occupancy Capacity.

Introduction.

The Fire Safety Manager from the Operational Safety Team within the Hard Facilities department has been requested to review a motion to review the use of the Quadrangle at the City Chambers in order to calculate the potential of occupant capacity for the external quadrangle at the City Chambers.

Key aspects to consider;

- Length and breadth in metres of area allowing for 1200mm aisles on the periphery during any event.
- Space for the persons standing (not social distancing) but personal space.
- Calculation of meterage and occupancy load factor for areas of public assembly in an external environment.
- Standing only or seated attendance.
- Permanent statues / features that are immovable within the space.
- Consequence of an Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA) activation within the building as persons are escaping from the city chambers building.
- Supervision of the event and alerting persons attending in the quadrangle that they need to disperse to allow occupants to escape from City Chambers building in the event of AFA activation within the building
- Designated Assembly point which is anticipated to be in Parliament Square and the need to communicate this to all attendees in quadrangle for the event; consider use of a microphone/loudhailer before the event starts.
- Amendment to fire evacuation procedures and current Fire Risk Assessment for such events re referencing and procedures.
- Security control measures.

Occupancy numbers.

Taking into consideration the above factors, the following occupancy numbers are advisable;

- 350 persons standing maximum with no seats or podiums/stage.
- 300 persons standing maximum with podiums/ stage.
- 175 persons seated maximum, taking allowance of gaps and aisles and podiums/ stage etc.

Grant Colligan, CEC Fire Safety Manager.

2 March 2026.

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Appendix 2 (a)

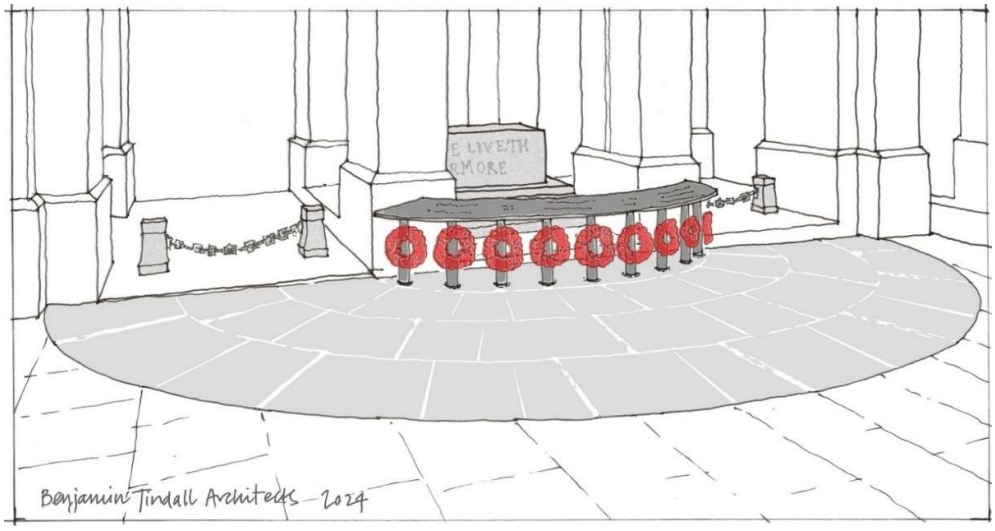
THE STONE OF REMEMBRANCE, EDINBURGH CITY CHAMBERS

PROPOSED REPAIRS & IMPROVEMENTS - SUMMARY

May 2024 Revision A



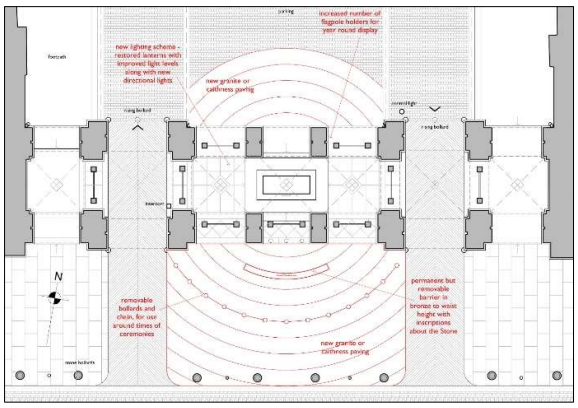
The Stone of Remembrance



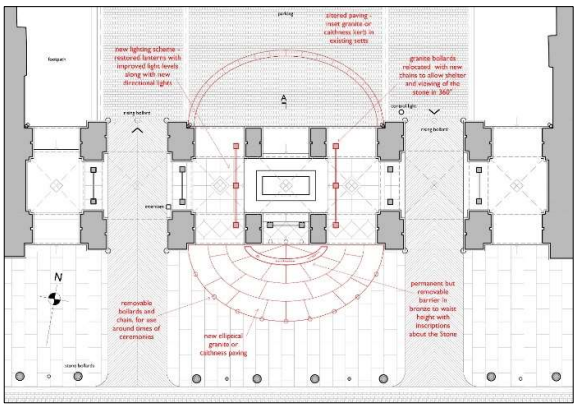
Option B, with new stone paving and detachable interpretation barrier.

The Stone of Remembrance is very important but suffers from lack of care and respect. As the centre piece of the annual Remembrance Day services and the centre of the City Chambers arcade, the Stone of Remembrance is of National importance, deserving significant levels of repair and interpretation.

Two options are proposed. Including additional protections the costs range between £145,000 to £189,000 including fees and contingencies but excluding VAT, Interpretation and broader repairs.



Option A Radial Proposals Plan

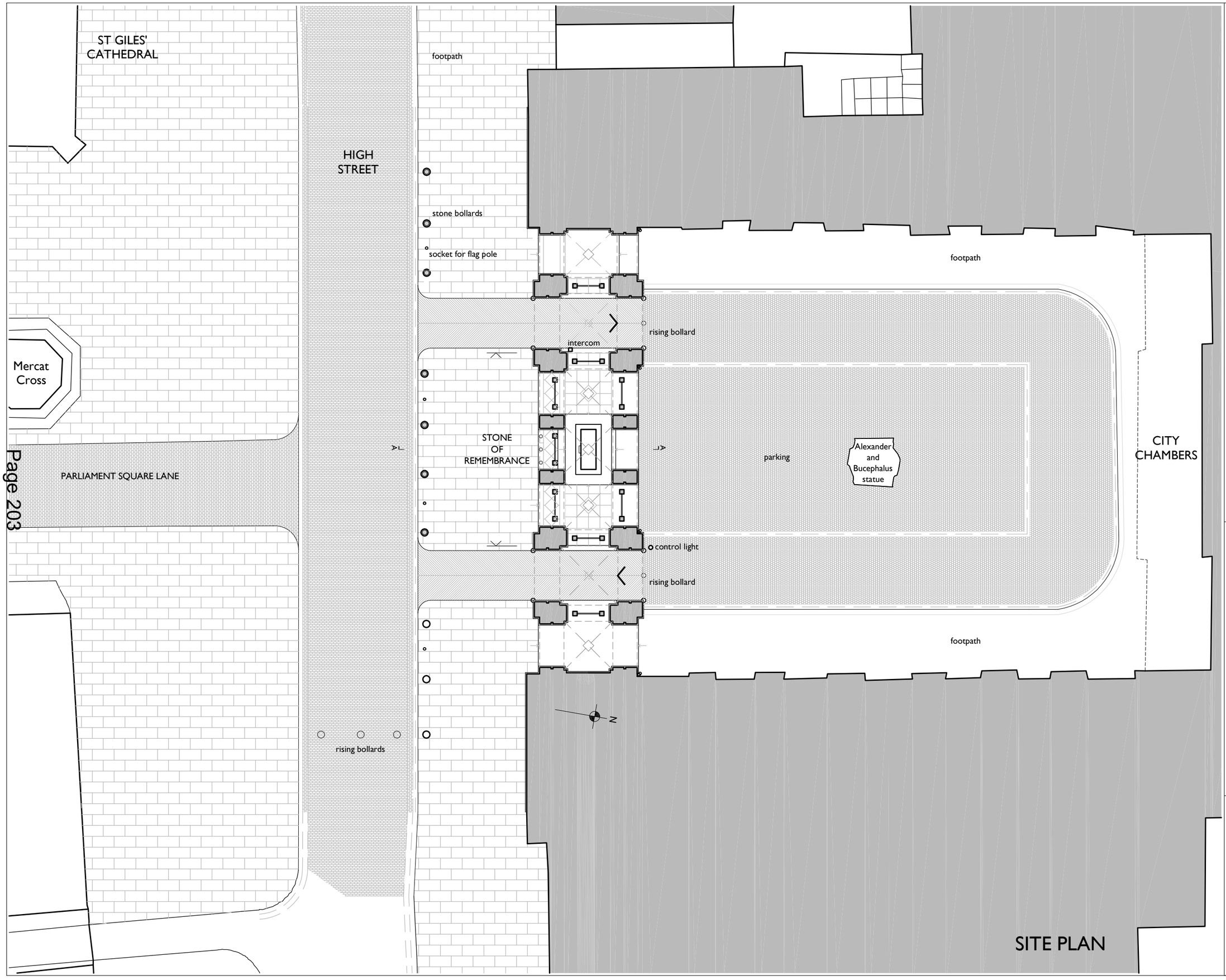


Option B Elliptical Proposals Plan

For the full report, please refer to the Stone Of Remembrance Report April 2024 Revision A

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© BENJAMIN TINDALL ARCHITECTS

Based on OS map and outline measured survey of immediate area of Stone of Remembrance

N

ft 0 5 10 15
m 0 1 2 3 4 5

Revisions:

Client: CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Job: STONE OF REMEMBRANCE
CITY CHAMBERS
EDINBURGH

Title: EXISTING
SITE PLAN

Scale: 1:200 @ A3

Date: Nov 2023

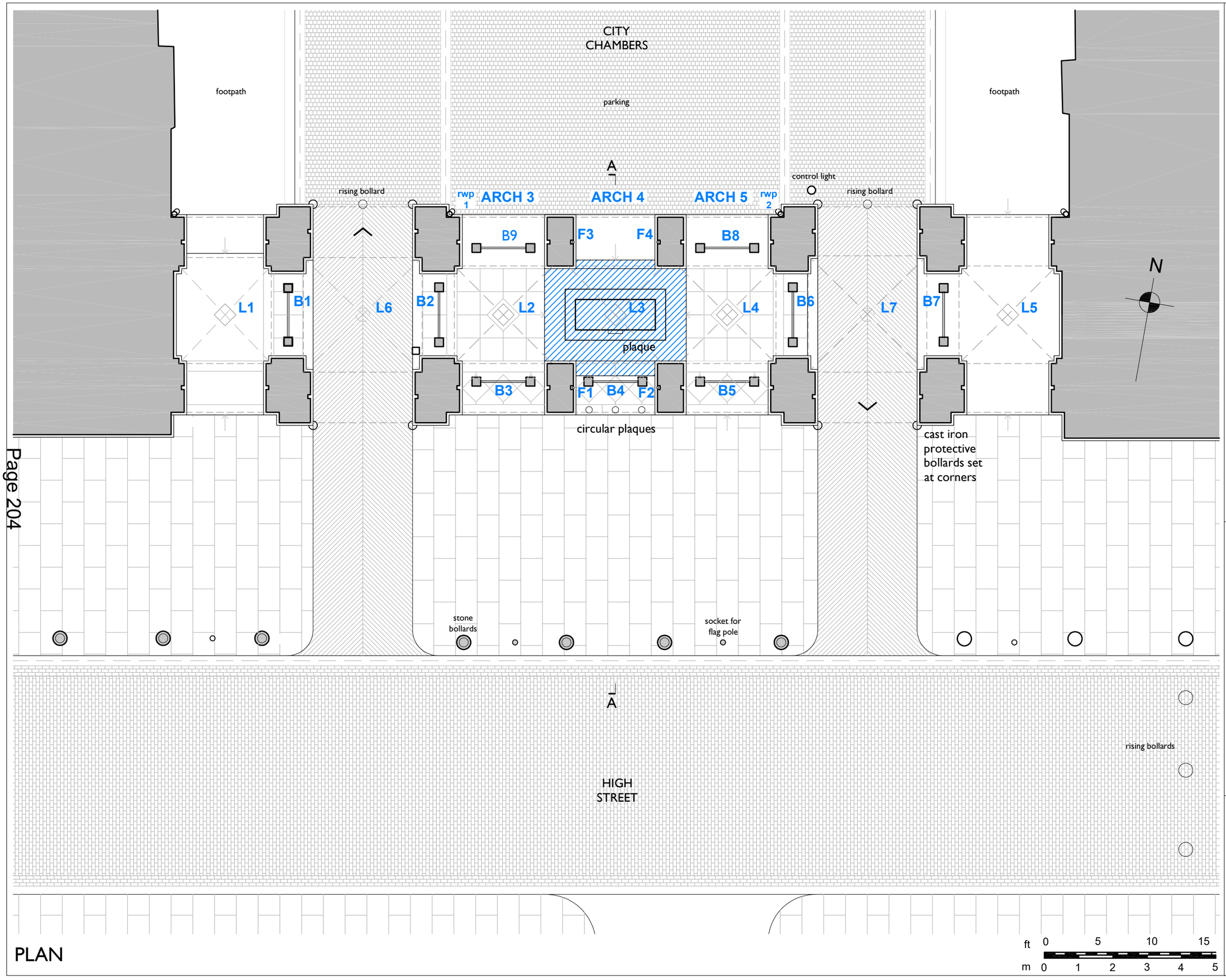
Job No: 517.1

Dwg. No: 001

Rev:

DRAFT

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PLAN

© BENJAMIN TINDALL ARCHITECTS

Based on OS map and outline measured survey of immediate area of Stone of Remembrance

To be read in Conjunction with the Condition Report

Key:

- Stone of Remembrance
- **B#** Barrier of granite bollards and chains
- **L#** Light fitting
- **ARCH #** Paving area
- **F#** Flag holder
- **rwp #** Rainwater downpipe

Revisions:

Client: CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Job: STONE OF REMEMBRANCE
CITY CHAMBERS
EDINBURGH

Title: EXISTING
PLAN

Scale: 1:100 @ A3

Date: Nov 2023

Job No: 517.1

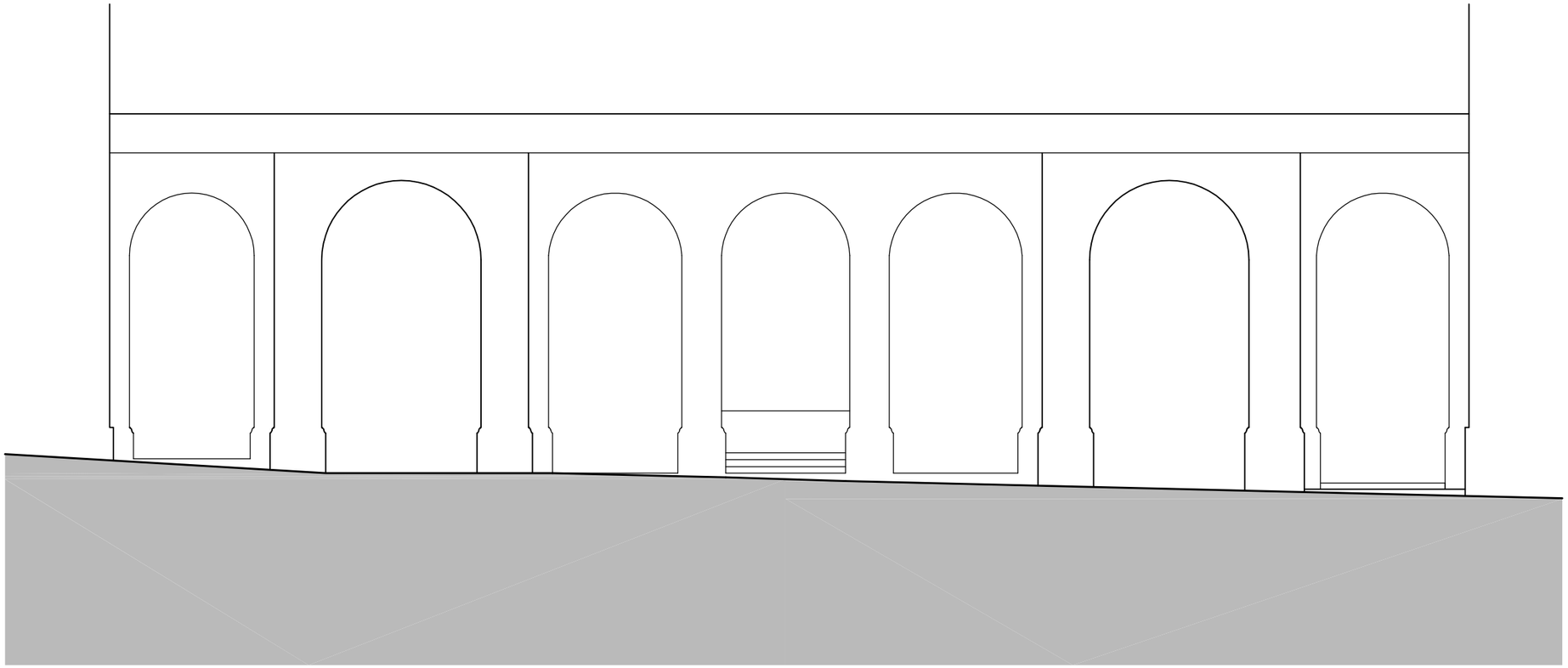
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Rev:

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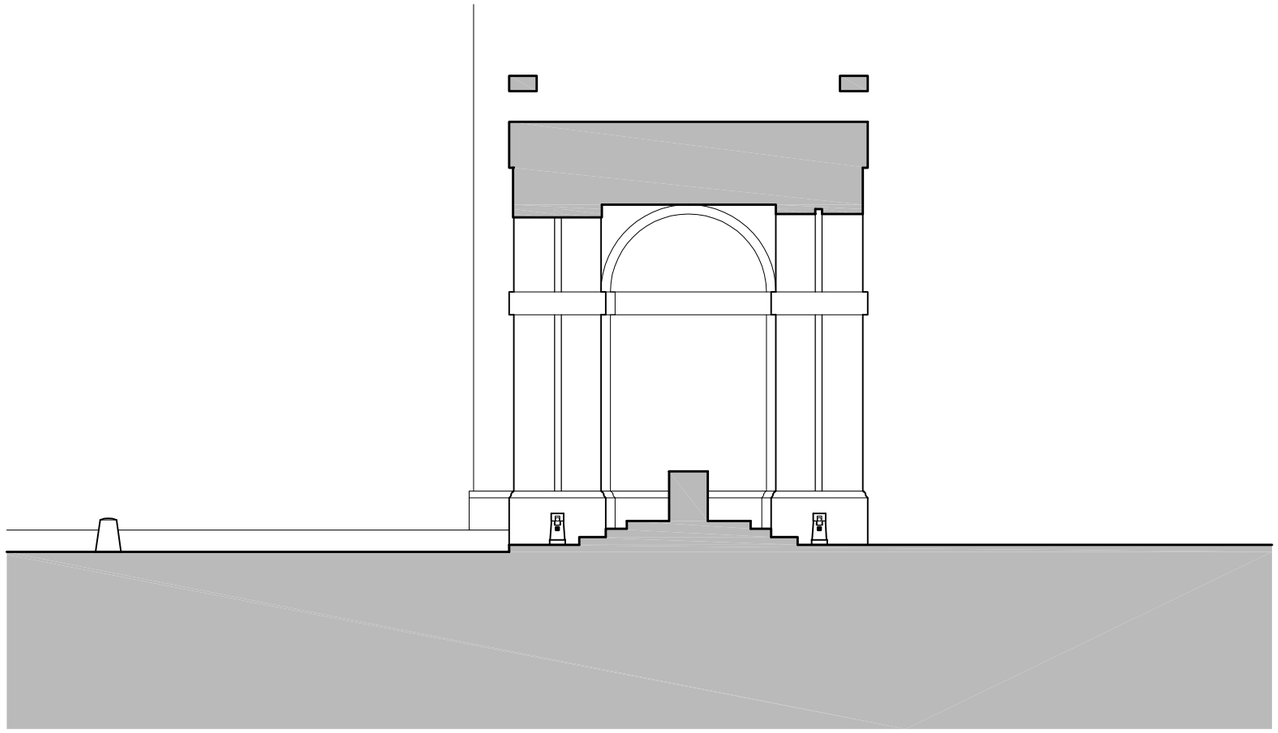
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HIGH STREET ELEVATION

Stone of Remembrance



SECTION A

Stone of Remembrance

Revisions:

Client: CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Job: STONE OF REMEMBRANCE
CITY CHAMBERS
EDINBURGH

Title: EXISTING
ELEVATION & SECTION

Scale: 1:100 @ A3

Date: Nov 2023

Job No: 517.1

Dwg. No: 003

Rev:

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Based on OS map and outline measured survey of immediate area of Stone of Remembrance

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL

HIGH STREET

footpath

stone bollards

socket for flag pole

new paving laid out in curve centered on the Stone

rising bollard

intercom

Mercat Cross

extend paving across the road to give emphasis and space for the Stone

increased number of flagpole holders for year round display

parking

Alexander and Bucephalus statue

CITY CHAMBERS

PARLIAMENT SQUARE LANE

removable bollards and chain , for use around ceremonies

altered paving to prevent parking too close to the Stone

control light

new lighting scheme - restored lanterns with improved light levels along with new directional lights

removable barrier to waist height with inscriptions about the Stone

rising bollard

footpath

rising bollards

SITE PLAN

Revisions:

Client: CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Job: STONE OF REMEMBRANCE
CITY CHAMBERS
EDINBURGH

Title: PROPOSED
SITE PLAN

Scale: 1:200 @ A3

Date: Nov 2023

Job No: 517.1

Dwg. No: Option A

Rev:

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Based on OS map and outline measured survey of immediate area of Stone of Remembrance

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL

HIGH STREET

footpath

stone bollards

socket for flag pole

footpath

new elliptical granite paving

intercom

rising bollard

granite bollards relocated to allow shelter and viewing of the stone in 360°

Mercat Cross

extend paving across the road to give emphasis and space for the Stone

parking

Alexander and Bucephalus statue

CITY CHAMBERS

PARLIAMENT SQUARE LANE

altered paving to prevent parking too close to the Stone

removable bollards and chain , for use around ceremonies

control light

new lighting scheme - restored lanterns with improved light levels along with new directional lights

removable barrier to waist height with inscriptions about the Stone

rising bollard

footpath

rising bollards

SITE PLAN

Revisions:

Client: CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Job: STONE OF REMEMBRANCE
CITY CHAMBERS
EDINBURGH

Title: PROPOSED
SITE PLAN

Scale: 1:200 @ A3

Date: Nov 2023

Job No: 517.1

Dwg. No: Option B

Rev:

DRAFT

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Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday 8 October 2026

Resolution to Consider in Private

1. Recommendations

1.1 The Committee is recommended to agree that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the undernoted items of business and,

1.2 That the reasons for the exclusion of the press and public, as detailed below, be noted.

B Agenda – Update in Response to Monitoring Officer Report – Burial Authority	
Paragraphs 6 and 14 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973	This report contains Exempt Information for the purposes of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as: (i) it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the Council); and (ii) it may contain information relating to action to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.
The report contains funding details for a competitive bid opportunity which are commercially sensitive.	

Nick Smith

Proper Officer

E-mail: nick.smith@edinburgh.gov.uk

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by virtue of paragraph(s) 6, 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A
of the Local Government(Scotland) Act 1973.

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Culture and Communities Committee

8 October 2026

List of Members Notified for Ward or Special Interest

Item Number	Title of Report	Ward and Councillors
6.1	**Business Bulletin – Edinburgh's Thriving Greenspaces Update**	**Ward 5 – Inverleith** Councillors Bandel, Mitchell, Nicolson and Osler. **Ward 11 – City Centre** Councillors Graham, McFarlane, Miller and Mowat. **Ward 17 – Portobello / Craigmillar** Councillors Jones, Martinico, Meagher and Mumford. **Ward 13 – Leith** Councillors Booth, Faccenda and Nols-McVey. **Ward 15 – Southside / Newington** Councillors Burgess, Elliott, Flannery and Pogson.
	Business Bulletin – Edinburgh Libraries Partner with Edinburgh University – Wintering Well	**Ward 4 – Forth** Councillors Day, Dijsktra-Downie, Dobbin and Kinross-O'Neill. **Ward 17 – Portobello / Craigmillar** Councillors Jones, Martinico, Meagher and Mumford.
	Business Bulletin – Edinburgh Libraries Assists with Tourism Boardgame	**Ward 1 – Almond** Councillors Lang, Work, Young and Younie. **Ward 5 – Inverleith** Councillors Bandel, Mitchell, Nicolson and Osler. **Ward 10 – Morningside** Councillor Munro, Parker, Ross and Watt. **Ward 11 – City Centre**

		Councillors Graham, McFarlane, Miller and Mowat. **Ward 12 – Leith Walk** Councillors Caldwell, Dalgliesh, McNeese-Mechan and Rae.
	Business Bulletin - **Edinburgh Libraries Welcomed MP/MSP Visits**	**Ward 10 – Morningside** Councillor Munro, Parker, Ross and Watt. **Ward 15 – Southside / Newington** Councillors Burgess, Elliott, Flannery and Pogson.
	Business Bulletin - **Stockbridge Visual Impaired Book Festival Visit**	**Ward 5 – Inverleith** Councillors Bandel, Mitchell, Nicolson and Osler.
	Business Bulletin - **Summer Reading Challenge Launch- Central Library**	**Ward 11 – City Centre** Councillors Graham, McFarlane, Miller and Mowat. **Ward 16 – Liberton / Gilmerton** Councillors Cameron, Mattos Coelho, Doggart and Macinnes.
	Business Bulletin - **Drumbrae Library Family Fun Day and Build-a-Bear giveaway**	**Ward 3 – Drumbrae / Gyle** Councillors Aldridge, Hyslop and Thornley.
7.3	**Allotment Service - Response to Motion by Councillor Graham**	**Special Interest** Councillor Graham
8.4	**City Chambers Quadrangle and Frontage Management – Response to motion from Councillor Cameron – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee**	**Ward 11 – City Centre** Councillors Graham, McFarlane, Miller and Mowat. **Special Interest** Councillor Cameron.
11.1	**B Agenda – Update in Response to Monitoring Officer Report – Burial Authority**	**Ward 1 – Almond** Councillors Lang, Work, Young and Younie.