

Economy Committee

10.00am Tuesday 28 June 2016

Tackling Poverty and Inequality and Advancing Equality and Rights – Update - referral from the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee

Item number	8.1
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive summary

The Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee, on 10 May 2016, considered the attached update report by the Chief Executive on the joint work being undertaken by the Edinburgh Partnership and the Council to tackle poverty and inequality and to advance equality and rights.

The report has been referred to the Economy Committee with a request that future work in this area is focused on stimulating growth in areas of deprivation.

Links

Coalition pledges	See attached report
Council outcomes	See attached report
Single Outcome Agreement	See attached report

Terms of Referral

Tackling Poverty and Inequality and Advancing Equality and Rights - Update

Terms of referral

- 1.1 On 10 May 2016, the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee considered an update report by the Chief Executive on the joint work being undertaken by the Edinburgh Partnership and the Council to tackle poverty and inequality and to advance equality and rights.
- 1.2 Poverty rates and trends in Edinburgh remained close to the Scottish average but were notably higher for families with children. There were significant variations between communities in Edinburgh. Child poverty rates ranged from as low as 11% in some wards to well over 30% of all children in parts of Forth and Sighthill/Gorgie and ranked among the top ten highest concentrations of child poverty in Scotland. Such variation in income was mirrored in significant inequality of experience across a range of other outcome areas including health, education, experience of crime and others.
- 1.3 At the Edinburgh Partnership Board meeting in March 2016, in response to this assessment, proposed new partnership and working group arrangements were agreed as set out in paragraphs 3.25 to 3.29 of the Chief Executive's report.
- 1.4 The primary purpose of the new consolidated partnership would be to shape the vision for tackling poverty and inequality and advancing equality and rights across the City and across the Edinburgh Partnership through the delivery of the Community Plan and related strategies and plans.
- 1.5 These new arrangements would be sustained until March 2018 and would be reviewed, along with other partnership arrangements, as a result of the development of the new Community Plan (or Local Outcome Improvement Plan).
- 1.6 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee agreed:
 - 1.6.1 To record support for the proposed new partnership working arrangements set out in paragraphs 3.25 to 3.29 of the report by the Chief Executive.
 - 1.6.2 To refer the report to the Economy Committee with a specific request that future work in this area is focused on stimulating growth in areas of deprivation.

For Decision/Action

- 2.1 The Economy Committee is asked to note the report and to consider the specific request from the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee relating to stimulating growth in areas of deprivation.

Background reading / external references

See attached report.

Kirsty-Louise Campbell

Interim Head of Strategy and Insight

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Links

Coalition pledges	See attached report
Council outcomes	See attached report
Single Outcome Agreement	See attached report
Appendices	Report by the Chief Executive

Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee

Tuesday 10 May 2016 at 10.00am

Tackling Poverty and Inequality and Advancing Equality and Rights - Update

Item number	7.3
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive summary

This report provides an update on the Edinburgh Partnership's and Council's work to tackle poverty and inequality, and advance equality and rights. It also seeks approval for a number of recommendations to strengthen the Council's own approach in this area.

Links

Coalition pledges	P33, P36
Council outcomes	CO 10, 14, 23, 26
Single Outcome Agreement	All

Tackling Poverty and Inequality and Advancing Equality and Rights - Update

Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that committee note and support all proposals identified from paragraphs 3.25 to 3.29.

Background

2.1 Local and national research data indicates that many citizens, communities and families in Edinburgh continue to experience poverty and inequality. Analysis undertaken by the Council's Strategy and Insight division, for instance, provides an overview of trends and patterns in poverty and low income across Scotland as well as within Edinburgh

2.2 In summary this data indicates:

The National Picture

- In 2013/14 a total of 940,000 people in Scotland, or 18% of the total population, were living in households with incomes below the UK poverty threshold (after housing costs). Analysis of long term trends show that this headline poverty rate has shown little net change over the past decade. Looking forward, analysis suggests that poverty rates are likely to rise slowly in the next five years, with labour market improvements offset by benefits cuts and welfare reforms leading to a drop in income among the poorest families.
- Poverty rates vary considerably between household types and show a strong link with equalities groups. Households at a higher risk of low income include families with children, lone parent families, households with a disabled adult, ethnic minority households, young adult households, and households in social rented accommodation.
- Risk of poverty is strongly associated with unemployment and the associated benefits systems, but the past decade has seen an increasing incidence of in work poverty across Scotland. Almost half of all people in poverty in 2013/14 were living in households with at least one adult in employment.
- Recent labour market improvements have seen a slight decrease in in-work poverty in the past year. Nevertheless, an estimated 21% of workers in Scotland worked for an hourly rate below the living wage in 2015.

- More detailed analysis of poverty trends show an increase in individuals living in 'severe' poverty and an increasing number of children living in material deprivation. In 2013/14, an estimated 14% of children were living in families who could not afford basic goods and services considered necessary to maintain an adequate standard of living.

The Edinburgh Picture

- Recent estimates show that poverty rates and trends in Edinburgh remain close to the Scottish average. In 2013/14 an estimated 80,100 Edinburgh residents, 16% of the population, were living on incomes below the poverty threshold.
- Poverty rates in the city are notably higher for families with children. An estimated 21% of Edinburgh children live in families below the poverty threshold, only slightly below the Scottish average of 22%.
- Individuals experiencing in-work poverty account for some 7% of all Edinburgh residents, again only slightly below the Scottish average of 8%, while some 19% of city residents work for hourly rates below the UK living wage in 2015.
- These city averages mask significant local variation in poverty rates between communities in Edinburgh. Child poverty rates, for example, range from as low as 11% in some wards to well over 30% of all children in parts of Forth and Sighthill/Gorgie. These areas rank among the top ten highest concentrations of child poverty in Scotland.
- Such variation in income is mirrored in significant inequality of experience across a range of other outcome areas, including health, education, experience of crime and others.

Main report

Current State Arrangements

- 3.1 At a national level, the Scottish Government emphasises the importance of promoting social justice and advancing equality. This includes (i) ongoing work to deliver the duties required as a result of the Equality Act 2010; (ii) the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 has a legal duty to publish Local Outcome Improvement Plans (formerly single outcome agreements) and Locality Plans, which are required to include specific action to address poverty and inequality; (iii) the Public Bodies Joint Working (Scotland) Act 2014 states provides a renewed focus on tackling health inequality as a national strategic priority; (iv) the recently approved Education (Scotland) Act 2016 places a duty on councils to address differentials in attainment gaps amongst pupils from different backgrounds, and (v) the recently approved National Economic Strategy, which places a focus on tackling inequalities and poverty as a priority.
- 3.2 The Edinburgh Partnership Board's response to the above matters is to retain tackling poverty and inequality at the heart of the vision of the Community Plan

2015/18, and to deliver a set of strategic priorities and commitments to tackle these problems. The Board has also appointed a Board Member for Equality & Rights to provide advice, oversight and scrutiny of Partnership activities from an equality & rights perspective.

- 3.3 Public sector organisations in Edinburgh, as a result of the Equality Act 2010, have to develop and publish a set of equality outcomes to meet the public sector equality duty, namely to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and prejudice, (ii) advance equality of opportunity and (iii) foster good relations. Such outcomes must be informed by engagement with people and groups who share protected characteristics, as defined by the Act. Many public sector organisations in Edinburgh have set up internal officer groups to ensure such legal duties are met. These outcomes must be reviewed, refreshed and published by April 2017.
- 3.4 The Edinburgh Partnership, under the guidance of the Council's Chief Social Work Officer, established a Prevention Plan Steering Group (which acts as an Advisory group to the Board), which published a Prevention Plan in June 2015. Many of the commitments in the Plan related to tackling poverty and inequality.
- 3.5 The Capital City Partnership and Economic Development Strategic Partnership continue work to tackle poverty, inequality and discrimination through employability programmes, specifically in work poverty. This work will be the subject of a separate report to the Economy Committee.
- 3.6 The Poverty and Inequality Partnership developed and published a 'Framework to Tackle Poverty and Inequality', aligned to the Community Plan 2015/18, and it includes a number of actions and performance measures relating to tackling poverty and inequality. The Partnership also established a working group to progress work on tackling the stigma arising from poverty and inequality.
- 3.7 The Council and its partners set up a Welfare Reform Strategic Group to manage the impacts of welfare reform across Edinburgh, and to oversee the administration of funds to mitigate against negative impacts on citizens and families. These matters are regularly reported to the Council's Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee.
- 3.8 The Health Inequality Standing Group continues to award grant funding to local initiatives to address health inequality, and to progress specific action and projects to tackle health inequality and improve public health. Work to address food poverty, specifically through the Food Banks Working Group, is also of note.
- 3.9 Neighbourhood Partnerships have established a number of working groups and initiatives to engage local partners and communities in work to tackle poverty and inequality and advance equality and rights, specifically, to foster good community relations.

- 3.10 Partners who make up the membership of the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership are progressing work on sustainable food initiatives, through the Edible Edinburgh Partnership, and on tackling fuel poverty, through energy switching and energy efficiency work.
- 3.11 The Council and registered social landlords in the City have recently signed a new house building programme agreement, to build 16,000 affordable and low cots homes in the City over the next 10 years. In addition, The Council's five year Housing Revenue Account Budget 2016/17-2020/21, approved by Council in January 2016, focuses on investing rent money in homes and services that will reduce tenants' cost of living. Initiatives include building more affordable homes in the city, investing in energy efficiency improvements to make homes cheaper to heat, low or no cost broadband, tenant discount cards and providing land for allotments and gardens for tenants to grow their own food.
- 3.12 The Council continues to try to embed the living wage within grants and contracts.
- 3.13 On 9 February 2016, the Council's Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee agreed awards from its Social Justice Fund to various community and third sector initiatives.
- 3.14 The Council, along with community planning partners, is progressing work on tackling child poverty, specifically, by addressing any negative impacts arising from school policies or practices. This work is reported into the Children's Partnership.
- 3.15 The COMPACT Partnership has agreed a new COMPACT strategy, which includes action to tackle poverty and inequality. Specifically, the partnership has expressed an interest in work to tackle the stigma resulting from poverty and inequality.
- 3.16 The Equality and Rights Network (EaRN) is a recently established member led network, funded by community planning partners. It aims to enable individuals, groups, organisations, and communities of interest, to work in partnership with public services, in order to advance equality, promote human rights, and tackle inequality and poverty in Edinburgh. The network is recruiting a number of Equalities Ambassadors to act as a 'crucial link to people with lived experience of discrimination and inequality' and to enable 'essential voices to be heard'.
- 3.17 The Economic Strategic Development Partnership has set up a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Consortium to support the Edinburgh Partnership vision to reduce poverty and inequality. The Consortium provides a "responsible business" network and aims to maximise the potential for SMEs responsible business actions to grow its impact in the city.
- 3.18 The One City Trust, an independent grant awarding charity, offers grants and a rapid action fund to support local organisations. The Trust is championed by the Lord Provost who has been directly involved in fundraising.

Assessment of Current State Arrangements

- 3.19 The activities identified above reflect a widespread commitment across the Council and Edinburgh Partnership 'family' to tackle poverty and inequality and advance equality and rights.
- 3.20 However, a recent assessment by various chairs and lead officers involved in such activities has indicated that such an approach leads to the following risks:
- (i) a lack of coordination of action across a wide range of partnership groupings, with a consequent need for 'intra partnership' reporting and information sharing;
 - (ii) a lack of co-ordination of action relating to poverty & inequality and action related to equality and rights. Whilst there is a clear distinction between these two work streams in respect of legislative duties, in practice there is a strong correlation for those citizens and communities affected by both work streams.
 - (iii) a duplication of effort and action, specifically relating to strategy and plan development, approval and delivery;
 - (iv) the need to maintain a significant officer resource to sustain and develop partnership activity, set against a context of reducing staff numbers; and
 - (v) as a result of the above, concerns that the impact of actions and resources is diminished.
- 3.21 Community planning partners are also re-designing their services, and aligning them to a locality operating model. Chairs and lead officers have indicated their desire to see tackling poverty and inequality and advancing equality and rights as central to this model, with Locality Leadership Teams and Locality Improvement Plans placing a priority on such matters.
- 3.22 By placing these matters at the heart of Locality Improvement Plans, tackling poverty and inequality and advancing equality and rights become central to the Council's new strategic planning framework, identified in the Council's Business Plan 2016/20:



- 3.23 The Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership, and its first Strategic Plan, present new opportunities to embed tackling poverty and inequality, specifically, tackling health inequalities and improving public health.
- 3.24 The majority of chairs and lead officers therefore proposed a future state model for partnership activity in the City, to simplify and strengthen current arrangements, and address the risks and opportunities identified above.

Future State Arrangements

- 3.25 At The Edinburgh Partnership Board meeting in March 2016, in response to this assessment, new partnership and working group arrangements were agreed based on the following principles:
- (i) That the Poverty and Inequality Partnership, Health Inequality Standing Group and Prevention Plan Steering Group are merged into one consolidated strategic partnership, this partnership retaining advisory group status within the Edinburgh Partnership and reporting into the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee.
 - (ii) That other related working groups like the Welfare Reform Working Group, Food Banks Action Group, Food and Fuel Poverty Working Groups, and Child Poverty Action Group are encouraged to maintain existing reporting lines, but ensure information is shared with the new consolidated partnership.
 - (iii) That the EaRN will provide the citizen and community information sharing and gathering, engagement and co-production mechanism, working closely with Neighbourhood Partnerships, for this single partnership.

- (iv) That the current Edinburgh Partnership Board Member for Equality & Rights, whose appointment ends in May 2017, monitors the impact of the development of the new single partnership and the newly formed EaRN and reports to the Board in March 2017, with proposals for appointing his successor from the new arrangements.
- 3.26 The primary purpose of the new consolidated partnership will be to shape the vision for tackling poverty and inequality, and advancing equality and rights, in across the City. It will drive action to tackle poverty and inequality, and advance equality and rights, across the Edinburgh Partnership, through the delivery of the Community Plan and related strategies and plans. It will be the responsibility of individual group members, including the Council, to ensure that work undertaken contributes towards the agreed vision. In addition, the partnership will be responsible for:
- (i) Suggesting priorities against which grants and contracts programmes will be aligned, for example, grants previously managed by Health Inequality Standing Group, and leading on the review (during 2016/17) of the Council's Social Justice Fund and reporting back to this committee with proposals (this review was agreed by the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee on 9 February 2016).
 - (ii) Leading on work to improve understanding of poverty through analysing community intelligence and information, and business intelligence and research and linking this to other strategic assessments like the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The group will retain an overview of performance and financial arrangements pertaining to inequalities work. Ensuring community engagement will be a priority.
 - (iii) Supporting and influencing the development of Locality Improvement Plans, and ensuring productive links to locality and neighbourhood partnership working as well as other relevant Council plans and strategies.
 - (iv) Ensure a link with the One City Trust related activities.
- 3.27 The following themes will be central to the group's considerations and will form a revised agenda for action at a local level:
- (i) benefits and income security (including welfare reform);
 - (ii) employment security;
 - (iii) food security;
 - (iv) housing security;
 - (v) child poverty;
 - (vi) health inequality;
 - (vii) addressing stigma, discrimination and prejudice;
 - (viii) fostering good community relations.
- 3.28 The chairs of the new partnership will be drawn from the Council, NHS Lothian and the Third Sector, and will be rotated on an annual basis. It is proposed that the Partnership will meet every two months during 2016/17. There will be three seats made available for Equality Ambassadors from the EaRN. All members

from the public and third sectors will be of sufficient seniority to ensure actions are taken forward. Secretariat and policy support will be provided primarily by the Strategy and Insight Division in the Council, with support from community planning partners.

- 3.29 It is proposed that these arrangements will be sustained until March 2018 and will be reviewed, along with other partnership arrangements, as a result of the development of the new Community Plan (or Local Outcome Improvement Plan).

Measures of success

- 4.1 The current Community Plan 2015/18 describes a range of outcomes, indicators and targets with regard to tackling poverty and inequality, as does the Council's Business Plan 2016/20. Outcomes and indicators relating to advancing equality and rights are already contained in the Council's Equality and Rights Framework 2012/17. Regular public reporting arrangements are already in place with regard to these measures.

Financial impact

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, the Council will be required to demonstrate how it is directing and sharing financial resources to prevent poverty and inequality and advance equality and rights.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 Progressing the recommendations will enable the Council to better meet its duties under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003, and community planning duties under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. In addition, a number of national and local policy imperatives will be better met through these new arrangements.
- 6.2 Risks, policy, compliance and governance arrangements will be monitored through the new consolidated partnership and reported into Council Executive Committees and Edinburgh Partnership Board.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 Support for these new arrangements, and the renewed focus on action at a locality level, will enable the Council to better meet its duties under the Equality Act 2010. Specifically, the public sector equality duty to (i) tackle unlawful discrimination, harassment and prejudice; (ii) advance equality of opportunity, and (iii) foster good relations.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 Support for these new arrangements, and the renewed focus on action at a local level, will enable the Council to better meet its duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2012, specifically, the public bodies duties to act in a sustainable manner.

Coproduction with citizens/communities, engagement and consultation

- 9.1 Co production with citizens and communities will be at the heart of sustaining existing work, and developing new projects in localities. In addition, there will be extensive engagement with citizens and communities in the development of Locality Improvement Plans.

Background reading / external references

None.

Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

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Links

Coalition pledges	P33 - Strengthen Neighbourhood Partnerships and further involve local people in decisions on how Council resources are used P36 - Develop improved partnership working across the capital and with the voluntary sector to build on the "Total Craigroyston" model
Council outcomes	CO10 - Improved health and reduced inequalities CO14 - Communities have the capacity to help support people CO23 - Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community CO26 – The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives.
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1 - Edinburgh's Economy Delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all SO2 - Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health SO3 - Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential SO4 - Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric
Appendices	None

Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee

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Coalition pledges

P33, P36

Council outcomes

CO 10, 14, 23, 26

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Tackling Poverty and Inequality and Advancing Equality and Rights - Update

Recommendations

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Background

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Assessment of Current State Arrangements

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 - (iii) a duplication of effort and action, specifically relating to strategy and plan development, approval and delivery;
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Future State Arrangements

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 - (iii) That the EaRN will provide the citizen and community information sharing and gathering, engagement and co-production mechanism, working closely with Neighbourhood Partnerships, for this single partnership.

- (iv) That the current Edinburgh Partnership Board Member for Equality & Rights, whose appointment ends in May 2017, monitors the impact of the development of the new single partnership and the newly formed EaRN and reports to the Board in March 2017, with proposals for appointing his successor from the new arrangements.
- 3.26 The primary purpose of the new consolidated partnership will be to shape the vision for tackling poverty and inequality, and advancing equality and rights, in across the City. It will drive action to tackle poverty and inequality, and advance equality and rights, across the Edinburgh Partnership, through the delivery of the Community Plan and related strategies and plans. It will be the responsibility of individual group members, including the Council, to ensure that work undertaken contributes towards the agreed vision. In addition, the partnership will be responsible for:
- (i) Suggesting priorities against which grants and contracts programmes will be aligned, for example, grants previously managed by Health Inequality Standing Group, and leading on the review (during 2016/17) of the Council's Social Justice Fund and reporting back to this committee with proposals (this review was agreed by the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee on 9 February 2016).
 - (ii) Leading on work to improve understanding of poverty through analysing community intelligence and information, and business intelligence and research and linking this to other strategic assessments like the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The group will retain an overview of performance and financial arrangements pertaining to inequalities work. Ensuring community engagement will be a priority.
 - (iii) Supporting and influencing the development of Locality Improvement Plans, and ensuring productive links to locality and neighbourhood partnership working as well as other relevant Council plans and strategies.
 - (iv) Ensure a link with the One City Trust related activities.
- 3.27 The following themes will be central to the group's considerations and will form a revised agenda for action at a local level:
- (i) benefits and income security (including welfare reform);
 - (ii) employment security;
 - (iii) food security;
 - (iv) housing security;
 - (v) child poverty;
 - (vi) health inequality;
 - (vii) addressing stigma, discrimination and prejudice;
 - (viii) fostering good community relations.
- 3.28 The chairs of the new partnership will be drawn from the Council, NHS Lothian and the Third Sector, and will be rotated on an annual basis. It is proposed that the Partnership will meet every two months during 2016/17. There will be three seats made available for Equality Ambassadors from the EaRN. All members

from the public and third sectors will be of sufficient seniority to ensure actions are taken forward. Secretariat and policy support will be provided primarily by the Strategy and Insight Division in the Council, with support from community planning partners.

- 3.29 It is proposed that these arrangements will be sustained until March 2018 and will be reviewed, along with other partnership arrangements, as a result of the development of the new Community Plan (or Local Outcome Improvement Plan).

Measures of success

- 4.1 The current Community Plan 2015/18 describes a range of outcomes, indicators and targets with regard to tackling poverty and inequality, as does the Council's Business Plan 2016/20. Outcomes and indicators relating to advancing equality and rights are already contained in the Council's Equality and Rights Framework 2012/17. Regular public reporting arrangements are already in place with regard to these measures.

Financial impact

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, the Council will be required to demonstrate how it is directing and sharing financial resources to prevent poverty and inequality and advance equality and rights.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 Progressing the recommendations will enable the Council to better meet its duties under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003, and community planning duties under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. In addition, a number of national and local policy imperatives will be better met through these new arrangements.
- 6.2 Risks, policy, compliance and governance arrangements will be monitored through the new consolidated partnership and reported into Council Executive Committees and Edinburgh Partnership Board.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 Support for these new arrangements, and the renewed focus on action at a locality level, will enable the Council to better meet its duties under the Equality Act 2010. Specifically, the public sector equality duty to (i) tackle unlawful discrimination, harassment and prejudice; (ii) advance equality of opportunity, and (iii) foster good relations.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 Support for these new arrangements, and the renewed focus on action at a local level, will enable the Council to better meet its duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2012, specifically, the public bodies duties to act in a sustainable manner.

Coproduction with citizens/communities, engagement and consultation

- 9.1 Co production with citizens and communities will be at the heart of sustaining existing work, and developing new projects in localities. In addition, there will be extensive engagement with citizens and communities in the development of Locality Improvement Plans.

Background reading / external references

None.

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Links

Coalition pledges	P33 - Strengthen Neighbourhood Partnerships and further involve local people in decisions on how Council resources are used P36 - Develop improved partnership working across the capital and with the voluntary sector to build on the "Total Craigroyston" model
Council outcomes	CO10 - Improved health and reduced inequalities CO14 - Communities have the capacity to help support people CO23 - Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community CO26 – The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives.
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1 - Edinburgh's Economy Delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all SO2 - Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health SO3 - Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential SO4 - Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric
Appendices	None