

# Integrated Impact Assessment – Summary Report

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Each of the numbered sections below must be completed  
Please state if the IIA is interim or final

## 1. Title of proposal

Edinburgh Libraries – Future Libraries Strategy Development 2024 – 2029

## 2. What will change as a result of this proposal?

During 2024, the City of Edinburgh Council's Library Service has undertaken comprehensive engagement and consultation with citizens and key stakeholders in respect of developing a new strategy – Future Libraries 2025 – 2030.

If adopted, the Future Libraries Strategy 2025 – 2030 will ensure that the service is delivering what people want from the service, core functions are likely to succeed and a renewed level of service accountability is established whereby annual reports will identify progress against the identified strategic themes and associated goals.

## 3. Briefly describe public involvement in this proposal to date and planned

### Engagement Activity

During January – April 2024, engagement activity involving citizens and key stakeholders took place. The engagement focussed on identifying the main reasons associated with service use, what works and what could be improved, including views of what the service should focus on in the coming five years (the strategy). The engagement also asked about timing of use to help understand if the current opening hours remained fit for purpose. It was clear that there was some appetite for change.

There were over 14,000 individuals involved with the engagement activity.

### Formal Consultation

The formal consultation (specific to the strategy) was undertaken using a range of participation methods to reach as many people as possible and involved 4,078 participants. The methods included:

- Online questionnaire (1,452 completed)

- Paper copy of the online questionnaire – available in libraries and available for download (88 completed)
- Easy read version of the questionnaire to support groups or individuals with specific user-friendly requirements (8 completed)
- Online questionnaire specifically aimed at young people aged 11 – 18 years (2,174 completed)
- Digital <sup>1</sup>(Microsoft Forms) questionnaire specifically aimed at children P4-P7 (356 completed)

An IIA Stakeholders Steering Group was established to support the engagement and consultation processes and assisted in identifying appropriate methodologies and supports required to ensure that all citizens could participate effectively and meaningfully. The Group also considered the Future Libraries Strategy and proposed options for change IIA's. This group included members from Community Empowerment, EaRN, the Poverty Alliance and representatives from all the colleague support networks.

#### **4. Is the proposal considered strategic under the Fairer Scotland Duty?**

Yes – the document has been completed.

#### **5. Date of IIA**

24/01/2025, updated 11/04/25, 06/05/25, 16/05/2025

#### **6. Who was present at the IIA? Identify facilitator, lead officer, report writer and any employee representative present and main stakeholder (e.g. Council, NHS)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Date of IIA training</b>
Scott Donkin (Lead officer and report writer)	Libraries Development Manager	November 2023
Cleo Jones	Libraries Development Manager	November 2023
Hana MacKechnie	Libraries Development Manager	November 2023
Grainne Crawford	Libraries Development Manager	December 2023
Andrew McTaggart	Libraries Development Manager	
Evelyn Kilmurry	Head of Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing	August 2023

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<sup>1</sup> The Young People and Children's questionnaires focussed on gathering views of specific draft strategic goals most likely to impact them.

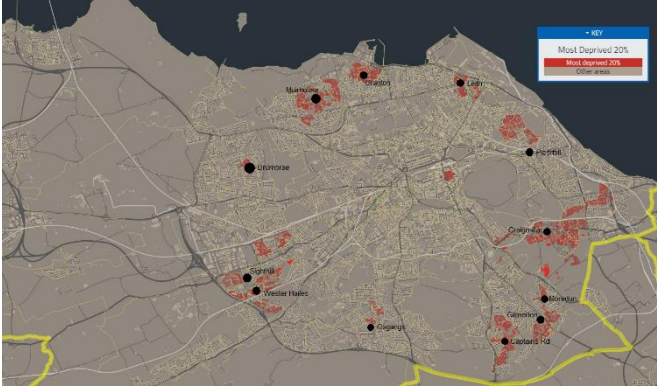
Nikhat Yusaf	Senior Development Officer Equalities, and representative of colleague network	
Fiona Aleksandrowicz	Library Development Leader and representative of colleague network	
Euan Hamilton	EARN representative	

## 7. Evidence available at the time of the IIA

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
Data on populations in need – where available use disaggregated data	<a href="#">Scotland's Census 2022</a>	<p>Edinburgh had a population of 514,543.  Female – 265,589 (51.6%)  Male – 248,954 (48.4%)</p> <p><b>Age Groupings based on Census Figures:</b>  0 to 4 – 22,028 (4%)  5 to 11 – 33,661 (7%)  12 to 17 – 27,953 (5%)  18 to 64 – 348,940 (68%)  65+ - 81,966 (16%)  <b>Total: 514,543</b></p>
	<a href="#">Edinburgh by Numbers 2023</a>	<p>In the ten years to 2021, Edinburgh's population grew by 10.2% from an estimated 477,940 to an estimated 526,470 people. In the same time period Scotland's population grew by 3.4%. Edinburgh's population shows growth in each age group. In contrast, Scotland's child population fell a little and the working age population remained stable. Both Edinburgh and Scotland saw large increases in the older population</p>
	<a href="#">Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2020</a>	<p>The 2020 report by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission estimates that 77,600 people live in relative poverty, 15% of the total population. The poverty rates vary across from 5% to 27%. It is also estimated that 22% of all children in Edinburgh live in poverty while some areas record child poverty rates as high as 35%. People from minority ethnic groups are also more likely to be in poverty compared to those within the White – British group, as stated in the Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2018 report. Asian and Asian – British groups along with other minority ethnic groups have between 35% and 38% living in poverty (across</p>

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		<p>Scotland) compared to 18% of the White – British group.</p> <p>Poverty rates are also higher for families in which someone is disabled. Households without a disabled child or adult living in poverty sit at 19% and 17% respectively compared to 25% and 24% for those households with a disabled child/adult.</p>
Data on service uptake/access		<p><b>Library Service Use</b></p> <p><b>Number of library members who have used their library card</b> during April 2023 to March 2024, (people who have used their library card at least once in this period to access library services) was 99,800 (almost 1 in 5 of the population).</p> <p>Number of active library members continues to increase with an additional 11,903 active members from 1st April 2023 compared to 1st April 2024 (14% increase from 2022/23). Just over 30% of children and young people living in Edinburgh having used their library card at least once in the past 12 months.</p> <p>Teenage active users have increase by 32% from pre covid figures.</p> <p><b>Item Issues</b> 2023/24 = 1,279,936 issues  <b>New Library members</b> 2023/24 = 33,327  <b>Activities and events</b> delivered = 14,565  <b>Peoples Network</b> (Public access computers) Use 2023/24 (total reservations to use a PC) = 92,364  <b>Transactions - Item issue, returns, renewals and reservations</b> June 2023 to August 2024 = 1.9 million in-person transactions</p> <p><b>In person transactions average by time of day</b></p> <p>When we consider when people are visiting libraries to access services, 92% of all transactions were completed between 10am and 5pm, this reduces to 79% when based on the average number of transactions per day by hour to account for differences in daily opening hours, and is broken down as follows:</p> <p>Morning – 10:00 – 13:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>All 39%</b></li> <li>• Children 38%</li> <li>• Teen 24%</li> <li>• Adult 40%</li> </ul>

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		<p>Afternoon – 13:00 – 17:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>All 44%</b></li><li>• Children 49%</li><li>• Teen 48%</li><li>• Adult 42%</li></ul> <p>Evening – 17:00 – 20:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>All 17%</b></li><li>• Children 14%</li><li>• Teen 28%</li><li>• Adult 18%</li></ul>																																			
Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, low wealth, material deprivation, area deprivation	<a href="#">SIMD Scotland 2020</a>	<p><b>Library locations within the SIMD Context</b></p> <table><tr><th>SIMD Q1</th><th>SIMD Q2</th><th>SIMD Q3</th><th>SIMD Q4</th><th>SIMD Q5</th></tr><tr><td>Craigmillar</td><td>Balgreen</td><td>Balerno</td><td>Colinton</td><td>Blackhall</td></tr><tr><td>Gilmerton</td><td>Drumbrae Hub</td><td>Central</td><td>McDonald Rd</td><td>Currie</td></tr><tr><td>Granton</td><td>Fountainbridge</td><td>Corstorphine</td><td>S Queensferry</td><td>Morningside</td></tr><tr><td>Leith</td><td>Moredun</td><td>Kirkliston</td><td></td><td>Newington</td></tr><tr><td>South Office &amp; Library</td><td>Muirhouse</td><td>Oxgangs</td><td></td><td>**Ratho</td></tr><tr><td>Wester Hailes</td><td>Piershill</td><td>Sighthill</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Muirhouse currently closed – operating from Edinburgh College Granton Campus</p> <p>**Ratho currently closed – operating from part time mobile service.</p> <p>The map below provides an illustration of the eleven libraries directly serving communities with areas in the 20% most deprived (shaded in red). Whilst some of these areas, such as Drumbrae, Oxgangs and Piershill are generally considered as SIMD Q2 or above for the wider community, it is important that we identify the smaller ‘pockets’ of SIMD Q1 areas to ensure the varying needs of the entire community are met.</p>	SIMD Q1	SIMD Q2	SIMD Q3	SIMD Q4	SIMD Q5	Craigmillar	Balgreen	Balerno	Colinton	Blackhall	Gilmerton	Drumbrae Hub	Central	McDonald Rd	Currie	Granton	Fountainbridge	Corstorphine	S Queensferry	Morningside	Leith	Moredun	Kirkliston		Newington	South Office & Library	Muirhouse	Oxgangs		**Ratho	Wester Hailes	Piershill	Sighthill		
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	<a href="#">Scottish Government 2023 High School Statistics</a>	<p>Attainment data shows that Edinburgh schools do better than the Scottish average for pupils from the more affluent areas of the city, but less well than average for pupils from deprived areas.</p> <p>Top 5 High Schools by % of pupils in SIMD Quintile 1 (20% Most Deprived)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wester Hailes – 82%</li> <li>Castlebrae – 76%</li> <li>Craigroyston – 67%</li> <li>Gracemount – 53%</li> <li>St Augustines RC – 50%</li> </ul> <p>Top 5 High Schools by % of pupils in SIMD Quintile 5 (20% Least Deprived)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boroughmuir – 84%</li> <li>James Gillespies – 69%</li> <li>The Royal High – 66%</li> <li>Currie – 62%</li> <li>Craigmount &amp; Balerno – 53%</li> </ul> <p><b>High Schools</b></p> <p>23 High Schools each providing school-based library services</p> <p>23,150 students (S1 – S6)</p> <p>Female 49.50%</p> <p>Male 50.50%</p> <p>The pupil age spread between S1 &amp; S4 averages 18.2% with S5 – 15.7% and S6 -11.4%</p> <p>It is reported that 51.3% of the high school pupil population either have or have experienced additional support needs.</p>

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Data on equality outcomes	<a href="#">SIMD Scotland 2020</a>	<p><b>Ethnicity</b></p> <p>Ethnicity not known – 1%</p> <p>Ethnicity Minority – 21.80%</p> <p>White UK – 64.60%</p> <p>White Other – 12.50%</p>																																																																																																																																																										
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Research/lite rature evidence	Scottish Book Trust – <a href="#">Reading</a>	<p><b>National Study</b></p> <p>National sample group provided feedback of life in lockdown and if reading played a part in supporting health and wellbeing.</p>																																																																																																																																																										

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	<a href="#">in Scotland – Reading Over Lockdown</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Wellbeing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 98% agreed that reading supports their wellbeing.</li> <li>• 97% agreed that reading helps them to relax.</li> <li>• 92% agreed that reading has been important to them in times of stress or anxiety throughout their lives</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Connection and isolation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 64% agreed that reading made them feel less isolated.</li> <li>• 46% reported speaking about reading with someone new and 63% agreed that reading had helped them bond with others.</li> <li>• 50% agreed that sharing their reading with family and friends made them feel less stressed</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Access to books</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 75% used the library to get print books for themselves</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>94% of those with child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ren used the library to get print books for them</li> </ul> <li>- <b>Reading habits</b></li> <p>The majority of panellists reported reading more over the lockdown, with some noting they had more energy for reading due to working from home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 65% were reading more than they used to.</li> <li>• 60% enjoyed reading things they would not normally have read.</li> <li>• 25% discovered they really enjoyed a new genre.</li> <li>• 49% discovered a new favourite book, author or series</li> </ul> <p>Many panellists hoped to continue dedicating more time to reading, reading more as a family and exploring a wider range of genres and formats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 72% agreed that they would like to continue with some aspects of their lockdown reading habits</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>There are 1.9 times more public library visits than there are to the top 10 free visitor attractions in Scotland each year</p> <p><b>Social Wellbeing</b></p> <p>For many people, interacting with staff, taking part in activities, and feeling part of a community in a welcoming and non-judgemental space, are all key social wellbeing benefits of public libraries</p>



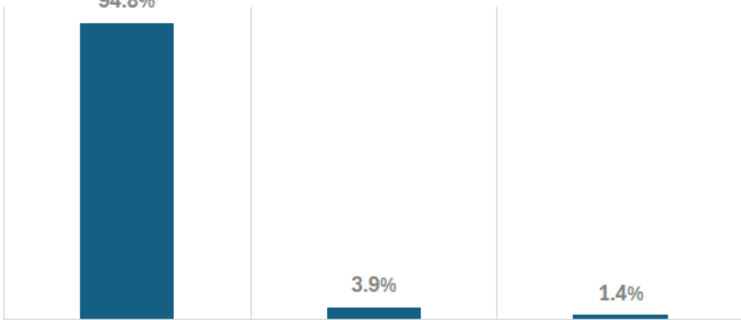
Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
	<a href="#">The Power of Scottish Public Libraries</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 23m visits in one year to nearly 550 library service points and mobile libraries</li> <li>27,000 Bookbug sessions</li> </ul> <p><b>Economic Wellbeing</b></p> <p>The economic value and impact of libraries may be hard to quantify, but every day thousands of people benefit from their free internet access and opportunities to learn, read and develop new skills. All of these create better life opportunities for individuals and improve local communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential monthly saving per user £93.88</li> <li>Over 1.7m computer hours used and access to free Wi-Fi</li> </ul>
Public/patient /client experience information	<a href="#">Edinburgh Future Libraries Engagement 2024 - Report</a>	<p>Over 14,000 individuals involved – 5,723 completed main data source questionnaire</p> <p>Main data questionnaires –</p> <p>Visiting a library - Of the 5,723 citizen questionnaire respondents, 44% indicated a preference for afternoons (1pm-5pm), followed by 34% indicating the morning (10am-1pm) and 22% the evening (5pm-8pm)</p> <p>1,259 (22%) respondents indicated that there may be other days/times more convenient to them. Similarly, 14% of non-service users indicated that opening times were not suitable to them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Users' express disappointment with some libraries being closed on Monday mornings and Wednesday mornings. (Citizens questionnaire)</li> <li>- Some users mention the inconvenience of inconsistent opening hours across different libraries (Citizens questionnaire)</li> <li>- Some users express the desire for earlier opening times, such as 9am, to allow for visits before work or school (Citizens questionnaire)</li> </ul> <p>12   Page</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standardising opening hours across libraries could help avoid confusion among customers (Library staff questionnaire)</li> </ul>
	Edinburgh Libraries (Transactional) Service	An in-depth analysis of service use shows on average, a consistently higher number of loan transactions and PC bookings in the mornings and afternoons compared to evenings. Further analysis shows that service use drops after 5pm with a further reduction

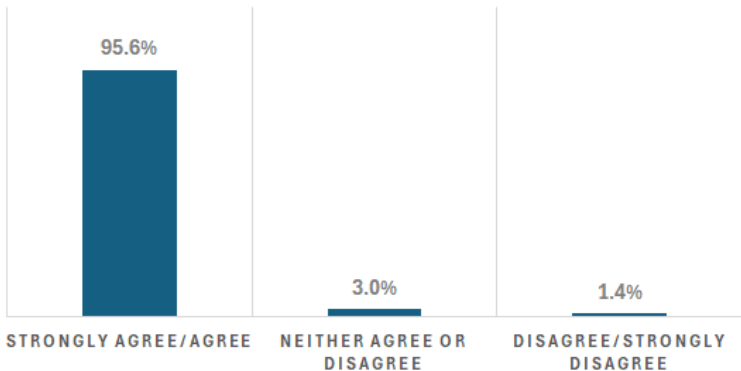
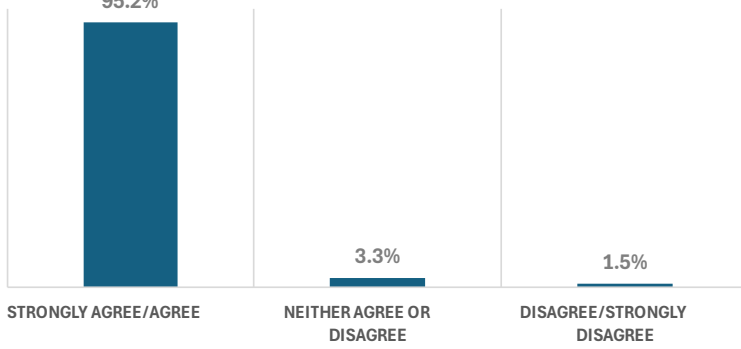
Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
	Use Data (August 2023 – March 2024)	<p>after 6pm and then a further reduction again between 7-8pm (when the library closes at 8pm).</p> <p>In 2023/24 there were a total of <b>92,214</b> PC reservations across the city. Similar to other transactional data, there was a significant decrease in service use in the evenings, especially after 7pm, with only <b>11%</b> of PC bookings between 5pm and 8pm</p> <p>In person transactions decreased consistently after 5pm, with a more significant decrease after 7pm Mornings and afternoons were consistently higher with a spread of <b>36%</b> morning (10am to 1pm), <b>48%</b> afternoon (1pm to 5pm) and <b>18%</b> evening (5pm to 8pm).</p> <p>Days without evening opening Tue*, Thu, Fri and Sat, consistently experience a small decrease in transactions after 4pm and at lunch times (1pm to 2pm).</p>
Evidence of inclusive engagement of people who use the service and involvement findings	<a href="#">Future Libraries Consultation Report 2025</a>	<p><b>Inclusive engagement:</b></p> <p>Throughout the engagement and consultation processes the demographic composition of participants was continuously monitored, including age distribution, employment status/economic activity, sex, transgender identity, sexual orientation, ethnic group distribution, and health conditions with the aim of ensuring the diversity within the Edinburgh population was represented as effectively as possible. The information provided has allowed the service to consider demographics when analysing the feedback from individuals.</p> <p><b><u>Engagement phase</u></b> = 5,315 participants completed questionnaire</p> <p><b><u>Age groups:</u></b>  18 to 24 - 2%  65 years plus - 30%</p> <p><b><u>Employment status:</u></b>  Full-time employment - 34%, Part-time employment 19%, Full-time students - 2%, Retired - 32%  Long term sick or disabled - 2%, Self-employed - 2%  Unemployed/ looking for work - 1%, Stay at home parent/maternity - 1% , Full-time carer - 1%.</p>

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		<p><u>Sexual Orientation:</u>  Females - 71%. Males - 23%, 6% preferring not to say or not answering. People who identify as trans or having a trans history accounted for 2.1%  Prefer not to say - 12% or choosing not to answer 5%.</p> <p><u>Ethnic group distribution:</u>  White - 93%  Asian, Scottish Asian and British Asian as their ethnic group - 3.3%  Those who stated African, Scottish African and British African - 0.3%  Caribbean or Black 0.1%  Another ethnic group 0.5%  Prefer not to say 3.8%.</p> <p><u>Health conditions:</u>  Long term physical, mental health or illnesses expected to last 12 months or more – 25%  Mental health - 40% of those who experience long term conditions (10% of all participants)</p> <p><u>Consultation phase</u> - Main questionnaire return = 1,452  Library staff – 6%  Resident/citizen – 90%  School Staff – 2%  Stakeholder – 2%</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>Number</th><th>%</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FT Education (at School)</td><td>33</td><td>3.0%</td></tr> <tr> <td>FT Education or Training</td><td>21</td><td>1.9%</td></tr> <tr> <td>FT Employment</td><td>356</td><td>31.9%</td></tr> <tr> <td>PT Employment</td><td>181</td><td>16.2%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Long-term sick or disabled</td><td>24</td><td>2.2%</td></tr> <tr> <td>FT Carer</td><td>11</td><td>1.0%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Retired</td><td>424</td><td>38.0%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other</td><td>65</td><td>5.8%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Prefer not to say</td><td>40</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Not answered</td><td>297</td><td>N=</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td><b>1452</b></td><td><b>1115</b></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age Group</th><th>Number</th><th>%</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>11 and under</td><td>3</td><td>0.3%</td></tr> <tr> <td>12 to 17</td><td>33</td><td>2.9%</td></tr> <tr> <td>18 to 24</td><td>20</td><td>1.8%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Number	%	FT Education (at School)	33	3.0%	FT Education or Training	21	1.9%	FT Employment	356	31.9%	PT Employment	181	16.2%	Long-term sick or disabled	24	2.2%	FT Carer	11	1.0%	Retired	424	38.0%	Other	65	5.8%	Prefer not to say	40		Not answered	297	N=		<b>1452</b>	<b>1115</b>	Age Group	Number	%	11 and under	3	0.3%	12 to 17	33	2.9%	18 to 24	20	1.8%
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		25 to 34	117	10.3%	
		35 to 44	185	16.3%	
		45 to 54	186	16.4%	
		55 to 64	204	18.0%	
		65 and over	384	33.9%	
		Prefer not to Say/Not Answered	320	N=	
			1452	1132	
		Sex			
			Number	%	
		Male	284	26%	
		Female	818	74%	
		Prefer not to say	57	N=	
		Not answered	293		
			1452	1102	
				Number	%
		A - White		1049	94.2 %
		1. Scottish		624	56.1 %
		2. Other British		259	23.3 %
		3. Irish		42	3.8%
		4. Polish		10	0.9%
5. Gypsy/Traveller		1	0.1%		
6. Roma		2	0.2%		
7. Showman/Show woman		1	0.1%		
8. Other White ethnic group		110	9.9%		
B - Mixed or multiple ethnic groups		25	2.2%		
9. Any mixed or multiple ethnic groups		25	2.2%		
C - Asian, Scottish Asian or British Asian		30	2.7%		
10. Pakistani, Scottish Pakistani or British Pakistani		4	0.4%		
11. Indian, Scottish Indian or British Indian		16	1.4%		
12. Bangladeshi, Scottish Bangladeshi or British Bangladeshi		2	0.2%		

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal		
		13. Chinese, Scottish Chinese or British Chinese	6	0.5%
		14. Other	2	0.2%
		<b>D. African, Scottish African or British African</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
		15. African, Scottish African or British African	1	0.1%
		<b>E. Caribbean or Black</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
		15. Caribbean or Black	0	0.0%
		<b>F. Other ethnic Group</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
		17. Arab, Scottish Arab or British Arab	2	0.2%
		18. Other	6	0.5%
		<b>G.</b>	<b>339</b>	
		19. Prefer not to say/Not Answered	339	
			N=	
		Total	1452	1113
		<b>Do you consider yourself to be trans or have a trans history</b>		
			<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
		Yes	23	2%
		No	1000	98%
		Prefer not to say	66	N=
		Not answered	363	
			<b>1452</b>	<b>1023</b>
		<b>Sexual Orientation</b>		
			<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
		Straight/Heterosexual	788	87%
		Gay	45	5%
		Bisexual	52	6%
		Other	21	2%
		Prefer not to say	185	N=
		Not answered	361	
			<b>1452</b>	<b>906</b>

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		<p><b>Physical / Mental Health Condition – 12 months or more</b></p> <table><tr><td></td><td><b>Number</b></td><td><b>%</b></td></tr><tr><td>Yes</td><td>292</td><td>28%</td></tr><tr><td>No</td><td>756</td><td>72%</td></tr><tr><td>Prefer not to say</td><td>94</td><td rowspan="2">N=</td></tr><tr><td>Not Answered</td><td>310</td></tr><tr><td></td><td><b>1452</b></td><td><b>1048</b></td></tr></table> <p><b>Involvement findings:</b></p> <p>Future Libraries Consultation included proposed strategic themes and associated strategic goals.</p> <p><b>Support for the Future Libraries Strategy</b> The main data source indicated that the strategic vision, purpose and mission statement all received positive responses with an average of 95% of respondents involved with the main questionnaire strongly agreeing or agreeing with the statements and an average of 1% either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.</p> <div><p><b>THE FUTURE LIBRARIES PROPOSED VISION:</b></p><table><tr><td><b>STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE</b></td><td><b>NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE</b></td><td><b>DISAGREE/STRONGLY DISAGREE</b></td></tr><tr><td>94.8%</td><td>3.9%</td><td>1.4%</td></tr></table></div>		<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	Yes	292	28%	No	756	72%	Prefer not to say	94	N=	Not Answered	310		<b>1452</b>	<b>1048</b>	<b>STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE</b>	<b>NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE</b>	<b>DISAGREE/STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	94.8%	3.9%	1.4%
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		<div><p>THE FUTURE LIBRARIES PROPOSED PURPOSE:</p><table><thead><tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE</td><td>95.6%</td></tr><tr><td>NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE</td><td>3.0%</td></tr><tr><td>DISAGREE/STRONGLY DISAGREE</td><td>1.4%</td></tr></tbody></table></div> <div><p>THE FUTURE LIBRARIES PROPOSED MISSION STATEMENT:</p><table><thead><tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE</td><td>95.2%</td></tr><tr><td>NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE</td><td>3.3%</td></tr><tr><td>DISAGREE/STRONGLY DISAGREE</td><td>1.5%</td></tr></tbody></table></div> <p>The responses were found to be consistent across citizens, library staff and stakeholders. This was the same across all age groups with the only difference noted being for the mission statement which for the 18-24 age group, dropped to 89.5% who agreed /strongly agreed compared to an average of 96% who agreed/strongly agreed for the other age groups.</p> <p>Free text identified some concerns in respect of potentially conflicting statements whereby the Mission Statement refers to 'equitable access to all' however, the Purpose Statement listed specific demographics. This has since been reviewed and specific demographic groups/beneficiaries replaced with more generic terminology.</p> <p><b>Inclusion of Strategic Aims</b></p> <p>Over 90% of respondents strongly agree or agree with aims one (97%), three (93%), four (95%) and five (91%) with between 0.5% - 1.9% disagreeing. Aim two</p>	Response	Percentage	STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	95.6%	NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE	3.0%	DISAGREE/STRONGLY DISAGREE	1.4%	Response	Percentage	STRONGLY AGREE/AGREE	95.2%	NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE	3.3%	DISAGREE/STRONGLY DISAGREE	1.5%
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		<div><p>TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE THAT THE FOLLOWING AIMS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL STRATEGY? (AGREE/STRONGLY AGREE)</p><table><thead><tr><th>Aim</th><th>Agreement Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>AIM 1: ADVANCE READING, LITERACY, LEARNING AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCES</td><td>97.1%</td></tr><tr><td>AIM 2: ENABLE AND DEVELOP DIGITALLY CONNECTED COMMUNITIES</td><td>85.2%</td></tr><tr><td>AIM 3: ENCOURAGE HEALTHY, THRIVING AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES</td><td>92.6%</td></tr><tr><td>AIM 4: SUPPORT PLAY, LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE</td><td>94.7%</td></tr><tr><td>AIM 5: CONTINUE TO LISTEN, LEARN AND DEVELOP THE SERVICE</td><td>91.3%</td></tr></tbody></table></div> <p>dropped slightly to 85% of strongly agreeing / agreeing with 3.8% disagreeing.</p> <p><b>Inclusion of Strategic Goals</b></p> <p>There were 31 proposed strategic goals and when the response rates across these are combined, an overall average of 87% of respondents strongly agree / agree to their inclusion going forward.</p> <p><b>Young People</b></p> <p>Children and young people were provided bespoke questionnaires, each focussing on the key aspects of the proposed strategic aims and goals most likely to align with their use of the service and based on previous engagement activity. The language used in the main strategy document and specifically that of dedicated aims and goals was refined to make it younger person and child friendly.</p> <p>Overall, young people (11-18yrs) provided a positive response to the proposed strategic aims and goals with 80% (percentage average) of young people saying the goals are very important / important.</p>	Aim	Agreement Percentage	AIM 1: ADVANCE READING, LITERACY, LEARNING AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCES	97.1%	AIM 2: ENABLE AND DEVELOP DIGITALLY CONNECTED COMMUNITIES	85.2%	AIM 3: ENCOURAGE HEALTHY, THRIVING AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES	92.6%	AIM 4: SUPPORT PLAY, LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	94.7%	AIM 5: CONTINUE TO LISTEN, LEARN AND DEVELOP THE SERVICE	91.3%
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Evidence	Available – detail source	<b>Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal</b>
		Children had an equally positive response to the proposed strategic aims and goals with 75% agreeing to their inclusion in the strategy.
Evidence of unmet need	Future Libraries Consultation 2024	<p>The consultation did not identify any specific unmet needs of any particular protected characteristic or group however, there were a number of suggestions promoted around how going forward, the service may enhance or develop aspects of delivery.</p> <p>This includes building on existing work but also seeking to identify where new opportunities may be identified.</p> <p>One key aspect is that of the building interiors and making them more welcoming. This was especially the case for young people who seek more dedicated space. In contrast, some adult respondents are seeking more quiet spaces, study space etc.</p> <p>The strategy action planning stage will consider the suggestions.</p> <p>In addition, the service identified that there is currently unmet need across the provision of library opening hours. This has been addressed with the proposals to change library opening hours to better match needs of the majority of library users.</p>
Good practice guidelines	<p>Forward: Scotland's Public Library Strategy</p> <p>Council's Living Well Locally Strategy</p> <p>CEC Consultation</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Forward: Scotland's Public Library Strategy - The Scottish Library and Information Council</u></a> sets out the vision, mission and outcomes for public libraries across Scotland.</p> <p>The Council's Living Well Locally Strategy supports the delivery of locally accessible services.</p> <p>Should the strategy be approved, it and the associated action plan (to be developed) will be</p>

<b>Evidence</b>	<b>Available – detail source</b>	<b>Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal</b>
	on and Engagem ent Policy	<p>managed in accordance with effective strategy management and delivery principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Context – align strategic outcomes with associated ambitions, policies and other known strategies.</li> <li>2. Communicate – Establish an achievable communications plan to inform of developments, progress and outcomes</li> <li>3. Partnership – Establish opportunities to deliver services alongside and with other departments and organisations to maximise benefits for service users.</li> <li>4. Resources - Prioritise available resources to ensure strategic actions are deliverable</li> <li>5. Approach - Ensure flexibility to revisit and adapt wherever necessary to ensure the strategy and deliverables remain fit for purpose and responsive to changing needs</li> </ol>
Carbon emissions generated/re duced data	No	<p>The adoption of a new strategy includes identifying ways to improve reducing carbon footprints through improved reuse and repair methods. Libraries are situated in the heart of most communities, generally within a short walk, reducing the need for private transport.</p> <p>The service recognises its position in communities and how it can play a key role in developing initiatives associated with supporting carbon neutral ambitions and by providing trusted and accurate resources and information to ensure the public can create their own awareness and take appropriate action.</p>
Environment al data	No	
Risk from cumulative impacts	No	
Other (please specify)		
Additional evidence required	No	

**8. In summary, what impacts were identified and which groups will they affect?**

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights and Children's Rights	Affected populations
<p><b>Positive</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of new purpose, vision and aims clearly sets out the library services' ambition to be inclusive to all communities</li> <li>• Support play, learning and development of children and young people is included as a specific strategic aim to ensure the service remains responsive to new and emerging needs and supports new generations to continue their lifelong journey with the service</li> <li>• The strategic aims identify opportunities to develop new and improved opportunities to access a range of services linked to health, wellbeing, and learning</li> <li>• The strategic goals are also aimed at supporting communities and individuals often described as vulnerable and contribute to tackling social isolation, social exclusion, digital exclusion</li> <li>• The strategic goals are targeted and specific to encourage uptake of services for all communities</li> <li>• Children and young people have been engaged, voiced their views and promoted their aspirations for future service delivery – continued dialogue will take place to ensure those children and young people grow with the service</li> <li>• Library staff will deliver services against agreed strategic aims and goals which in turn, establishes an improved understanding of roles and responsibilities, improved performance measures and improved reporting of outcomes creating accountability for service delivery</li> </ul> <p>The draft Strategy also includes a series of values, one of which is "Equality, Diversity and Inclusion". There are three commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will provide safe spaces and services which are accessible to all.</li> <li>• We will promote equality, diversity, and inclusion awareness amongst library staff.</li> </ul>	<p>All citizens, especially those who will most benefit from access to services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Older people</li> <li>• Young people</li> <li>• People who experience higher levels of poverty</li> <li>• Parents/Carers</li> <li>• Students</li> <li>• People with disabilities/long term conditions/illnesses</li> <li>• Families with children</li> <li>• People with protected characteristics</li> </ul> <p>The whole population of Edinburgh – currently 1 in 5 citizens are active members of the library service.</p>

<b>Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights and Children's Rights</b>	<b>Affected populations</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will develop and deliver programmes of diverse and inclusive events and activities and will take steps to ensure that our stock collections are reflective of all communities</li> </ul>	
<b>Negative</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were references in the engagement/consultation feedback which questioned how the service will manage to deliver new strategic aims and goals without impacting the 'core' library service such as reading and literacy, social interaction and staff support.</li> <li>Concerns were expressed around overstretching available resources, ensuring goals are achievable and realistic in the current financial climate.</li> <li>Concerns with people's perceptions of the role of volunteers in the service and new technology potentially leading to reduced staff numbers.</li> <li>Concerns that an increase in the number of events and children's activities could impact on those seeking quiet / study space.</li> <li>Concerns that the strategy creates an overload of staff responsibilities</li> </ul>	<p>All citizens, especially those who will most benefit from access to services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Older people</li> <li>Young people</li> <li>People who experience higher levels of poverty</li> <li>Parents/Carers</li> <li>Students</li> <li>People with disabilities/long term conditions/illnesses</li> <li>Families with children</li> <li>People with protected characteristics</li> </ul> <p>The whole population of Edinburgh – currently 1 in 5 citizens are active members of the library service.</p>
<b>Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts</b>	<b>Affected populations</b>
<b>Positive</b> <p>The draft Strategy includes a series of values, one of which is "Environmentally Sustainable". There are three commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will support climate responsibility and sustainability, helping the city to meet net zero ambitions by 2023 through improving and increasing the availability of resources to encourage sustainable living.</li> </ul>	All citizens- as above

<b>Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts</b>	<b>Affected populations</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will raise awareness of climate change through activities and promotions to encourage our next generation to consider the environment and their role in supporting carbon neutral approaches.</li> <li>We will review our services and processes to reduce our carbon footprint and will replace our diesel mobile vehicles with electric low emission vehicles to continue to deliver outreach services.</li> </ul>	
<b>Negative</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns raised that increase in digital provision will have negative impact on the environment</li> </ul>	

<b>Economic</b>	<b>Affected populations</b>
<b>Positive</b>  <p>The library service provides benefit to the city's economy through the provision of accessible resources for study, opportunities to engage with lifelong learning, Wi-Fi, PC access and support for individuals to develop literacy, numeracy and employability skills. All of which contributes to supporting individuals to develop and advance opportunities to upskill and enter new or improved learning and employment opportunities.</p> <p>Improved literacy has been linked to health and wellbeing, lower levels of crime, improved social mobility and attainment. With a strong track record of supporting people to use digital and computing services, libraries are in a good position to further digital participation.</p>	<p>All citizens but especially those who are unemployed and those who live in poverty.</p>
<b>Negative</b>	

**9. Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors and if so how will equality, human rights including children's rights, environmental and sustainability issues be addressed?**

No

- 10. Consider how you will communicate information about this policy/ service change to children and young people and those affected by sensory impairment, speech impairment, low level literacy or numeracy, learning difficulties or English as a second language? Please provide a summary of the communications plan.**

If Committee agree the draft Future Libraries Strategy, a Communications Plan will be developed to support the launch of the Strategy and any other potential service changes. The Plan will include the use of a wide range of communication channels and targeted approaches to ensure that communities, key stakeholders and library colleagues are well informed of the Strategy and any service changes.

- 11. Is the plan, programme, strategy or policy likely to result in significant environmental effects, either positive or negative? If yes, it is likely that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be required and the impacts identified in the IIA should be included in this. See section 2.10 in the Guidance for further information.**

N/A

- 12. Additional Information and Evidence Required**

No further evidence required.

- 13. Specific to this IIA only, what recommended actions have been, or will be, undertaken and by when? (these should be drawn from 7 – 11 above) Please complete:**

<b>Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)</b>	<b>Who will take them forward (name and job title)</b>	<b>Deadline for progressing</b>	<b>Review date</b>
Development of associated Strategy action plan will be developed and managed in accordance with effective strategy management and delivery principles as noted above under section 7.	Evelyn Kilmurry Head of Service	Action Planning stage	Annual

<b>Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)</b>	<b>Who will take them forward (name and job title)</b>	<b>Deadline for progressing</b>	<b>Review date</b>
Development and delivery of a robust comprehensive Communications Plan – both internal and external key stakeholders. Work will be undertaken to ensure communications are inclusive.	Hana MacKechnie-Libraries Development Manager	In line with strategy action plan approval – Autumn 2025	Spring 2026
Work with colleagues to ensure that increase in digital provision can be developed in a way that does not negatively impact the environment.	Scott Donkin-Libraries Development Manager	Action Planning stage	Annual
Deliver the internal staff review process to restructure the service in line with the agreed strategic priorities.	Evelyn Kilmurry Head of Service	Following Committee decision	
Planning of events and activities to be fully coordinated in line with separate actions identified in IIA for that activity	Evelyn Kilmurry Head of Service	Following Committee decision	

**14. Are there any negative impacts in section 8 for which there are no identified mitigating actions?**

No

**15. How will you monitor how this proposal affects different groups, including people with protected characteristics?**

Following the change (if approved), the service will continue to monitor service use.

**16. Sign off by Head of Service**

**Name** Evelyn Kilmurry

**Date** 11/04/2025

## 17. Publication

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to:  
[integratedimpactassessments@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:integratedimpactassessments@edinburgh.gov.uk) to be published on the  
Council website [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/impactassessments](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/impactassessments)

**Edinburgh Integration Joint Board/Health and Social Care**  
[sarah.bryson@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.bryson@edinburgh.gov.uk) to be published at  
[www.edinburghhsc.scot/the-ijb/integrated-impact-assessments/](http://www.edinburghhsc.scot/the-ijb/integrated-impact-assessments/)