

# 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

Options for change – Managing Events and Activities

## 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.

Alongside the development of the strategy, the service also consulted on a proposal to adopting a more strategic and planned approach to the programming of events and activities by creating transaction only days in 10 libraries - Blackhall, Fountainbridge, Leith, McDonald Road, Morningside, Newington, Oxfords, Piershill, Portobello and Stockbridge.

At present, all libraries run events and activities across different and varying days of the week without any coordination across the city. As running events and activities requires additional library staff this has an impact on resource management.

The service aims to develop a more strategic and planned approach to the programming of events and activities across the city. It is proposed that 10 libraries identify two days each week when they would continue to deliver the full range of transactional library services but would not plan any library specific events or activities to take place on those days. They would run events and activities on the remaining four days of the week (when open) as usual alongside other library services thus establishing two days per week where staff will support transactional activity.

Based on an indicative assessment of the potential changes to the programming of events and activities, it is anticipated that this change could realise a total financial saving of approximately £0.09m per transaction only day.

### **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 sought views on current and future service use, what works and what could be improved, including views of what priorities 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 was undertaken using a range of participation methods to reach as many people as possible and involved 4,327 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)
- Discussion groups (32 groups and 155 participants)
- Entry / exit surveys (182 participants)
- 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)

Proposed changes to how the library service manages events and activities were consulted on via the main online and paper questionnaires, the easy read questionnaire and discussion groups.

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.

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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.

**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

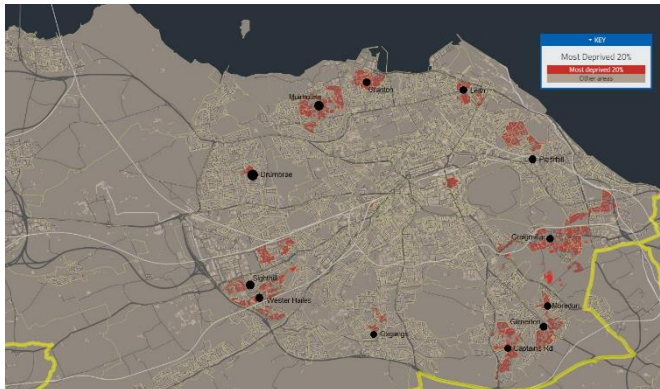
**6. Who was present at the IIA? Identify facilitator, lead officer, report writer and any employee representative present and main stakeholder (e.g. Council, NHS)**

<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
Nikhath 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%.</p> <p>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 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</p>

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		<p>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. 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> <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>

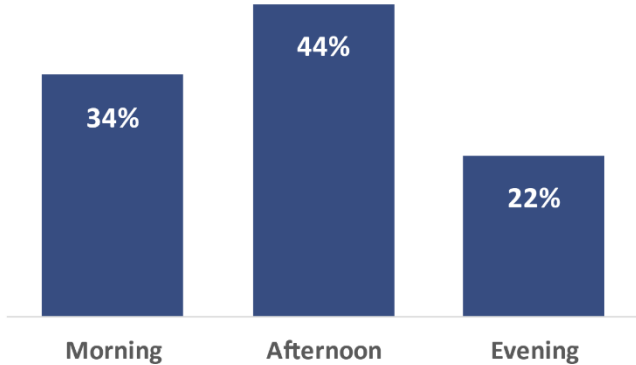
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Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, low wealth, material deprivation, area deprivation	<a href="#">SIMD Scotland 2020</a>	<div><div><div>Library locations within the SIMD Context</div><table><tr><th>SIMD Q1</th><th>SIMD Q2</th><th>SIMD 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></div><div><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></div></div>	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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Data on equality outcomes	<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> <p>Wester Hailes – 82%</p> <p>Castlebrae – 76%</p> <p>Craigroyston – 67%</p> <p>Gracemount – 53%</p> <p>St Augustines RC – 50%</p> <p>Top 5 High Schools by % of pupils in SIMD Quintile 5 (20% Least Deprived)</p>																																			

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		<p>Boroughmuir – 84% James Gillespies – 69% The Royal High – 66% Currie – 62% Craigmount &amp; Balerno – 53%</p> <p><b>High Schools</b> There are 23 High Schools with each providing school-based library services.</p> <p>23,150 students (S1 – S6) Female 49.50% Male 50.50% The pupil age spread between S1 &amp; S4 averages 18.2% with S5 – 15.7% and S6 -11.4% It is reported that 51.3% of the high school pupil population either have or have experienced additional support needs.</p>																																																																																																		
	<a href="#">SIMD Scotland 2020</a>	<p><b>Disability</b></p> <table><tr><th>Disability</th><th>SIMD Q1</th><th>SIMD Q2</th><th>SIMD Q3</th><th>SIMD Q4</th><th>SIMD Q5</th><th>Total</th></tr><tr><td>Blindness / Partial sight loss</td><td>1493</td><td>1737</td><td>1274</td><td>1567</td><td>3992</td><td>10063</td></tr><tr><td>Deafness / partial hearing loss</td><td>3134</td><td>3934</td><td>3143</td><td>3989</td><td>11440</td><td>14200</td></tr><tr><td>Developmental disorder</td><td>544</td><td>507</td><td>365</td><td>384</td><td>881</td><td>2681</td></tr><tr><td>Learning difficulty</td><td>2134</td><td>2111</td><td>1821</td><td>1960</td><td>4429</td><td>12455</td></tr><tr><td>Learning disability</td><td>451</td><td>484</td><td>382</td><td>284</td><td>534</td><td>2135</td></tr><tr><td>Mental Health condition</td><td>4321</td><td>4058</td><td>3415</td><td>2905</td><td>5551</td><td>20250</td></tr><tr><td>No condition</td><td>36562</td><td>44667</td><td>48700</td><td>58541</td><td>161058</td><td>349528</td></tr><tr><td>One or more conditions</td><td>18749</td><td>20673</td><td>17410</td><td>20044</td><td>50222</td><td>127098</td></tr><tr><td>Other conditions</td><td>10790</td><td>12213</td><td>10289</td><td>12258</td><td>31068</td><td>76618</td></tr></table> <p><b>Ethnicity</b> Ethnicity not known – 1% Ethnicity Minority – 21.80% White UK – 64.60% White Other – 12.50</p> <table><tr><th>Ethnicity</th><th>SIMD Q1</th><th>SIMD Q2</th><th>SIMD Q3</th><th>SIMD Q4</th><th>SIMD Q5</th><th>Total</th></tr><tr><td>African Scot/Brit</td><td>1439</td><td>851</td><td>674</td><td>477</td><td>897</td><td>4338</td></tr><tr><td>Other African</td><td>23</td><td>31</td><td>16</td><td>15</td><td>25</td><td>110</td></tr><tr><td>Bangladeshi</td><td>178</td><td>259</td><td>147</td><td>207</td><td>454</td><td>1245</td></tr></table>	Disability	SIMD Q1	SIMD Q2	SIMD Q3	SIMD Q4	SIMD Q5	Total	Blindness / Partial sight loss	1493	1737	1274	1567	3992	10063	Deafness / partial hearing loss	3134	3934	3143	3989	11440	14200	Developmental disorder	544	507	365	384	881	2681	Learning difficulty	2134	2111	1821	1960	4429	12455	Learning disability	451	484	382	284	534	2135	Mental Health condition	4321	4058	3415	2905	5551	20250	No condition	36562	44667	48700	58541	161058	349528	One or more conditions	18749	20673	17410	20044	50222	127098	Other conditions	10790	12213	10289	12258	31068	76618	Ethnicity	SIMD Q1	SIMD Q2	SIMD Q3	SIMD Q4	SIMD Q5	Total	African Scot/Brit	1439	851	674	477	897	4338	Other African	23	31	16	15	25	110	Bangladeshi	178	259	147	207	454	1245
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Research/literature evidence	Scottish Book Trust – <a href="#">Reading in Scotland – Reading Over Lockdown</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> <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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Reading habits</b></li></ul>																																																																																																																														



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	<a href="#">The Power of Scottish Public Libraries</a>	<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> <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>

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								
		<div><p>Q18 - What <u>time periods</u> do you most frequently access the service? (N=5,723)</p><table><thead><tr><th>Time Period</th><th>Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Morning</td><td>34%</td></tr><tr><td>Afternoon</td><td>44%</td></tr><tr><td>Evening</td><td>22%</td></tr></tbody></table></div> <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 (10am1pm) and 22% the evening (5pm-8pm)</p> <p>The engagement feedback indicated that traditional services such as borrowing books (92%), applying for things like bus passes (34%) and to find out things (26%) remains a key part of the service.</p> <p>When asked how important each aspect of the library service was to them 72% indicated that they appreciate the programmed activity and events.</p> <p>Citizens were asked to identify if they might access any other services if they were provided alongside the library service – 62.5% indicated Adult Education services, 33% access to health-based services, 30% housing and welfare advice services.</p> <p>The engagement also identified a demand for quiet spaces, study spaces and opportunities for vulnerable individuals to access the space free of wider distractions.</p>	Time Period	Percentage	Morning	34%	Afternoon	44%	Evening	22%
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	Edinburgh Libraries (Transactional)	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								

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	Service Use Data (August 2023 – March 2024)	<p>service use drops after 5pm with a further reduction 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%</p>

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		<p>Unemployed/ looking for work - 1%, Stay at home parent/maternity - 1% , Full-time carer - 1%.</p> <p><u>Sexual Orientation by sex, trans status or trans history</u></p> <p>Females – 71%. Males – 23%, 6% preferring not to say or not answering. People who identify as trans or having 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><b><u>Consultation phase</u></b> - Main questionnaire return = 1,452  Library staff – 6%  Resident/citizen – 90%  School Staff – 2%  Stakeholder – 2%</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="608 1473 1331 1980"> <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 rowspan="2">N=</td></tr> <tr> <td>Not answered</td><td>297</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td><b>1452</b></td><td><b>1115</b></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	N=	Not answered	297		<b>1452</b>	<b>1115</b>
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		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%
		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%

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		<p>When analysis of free text was undertaken, overall, the feedback reflects a desire to balance the need for quiet spaces with the importance of maintaining a vibrant schedule of activities that cater to diverse community needs.</p> <p>Key points include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Local Needs:</b> Library activities should be tailored to the specific needs of their local communities, as these needs can vary significantly.</li> <li>2. <b>Quiet Days:</b> There is support for having designated quieter days to accommodate those who prefer a quieter environment, including neurodivergent individuals, as long as this does not limit access to activities for others.</li> <li>3. <b>Coordination and Efficiency:</b> Some citizens agree that coordinating activities across libraries could improve efficiency and resource management. Some suggested this could lead to overcrowding on activity days so this would need to be managed.</li> <li>4. <b>Impact on Families and Children:</b> Several comments highlight the importance of maintaining activities for children, especially on Fridays and weekends when they are more likely to attend and that any change should not have a negative impact on families.</li> <li>5. <b>Flexibility and Awareness:</b> There is a call for flexibility in scheduling activities and better communication to ensure the public is aware of when events are happening.</li> </ol> <p><b>Discussion Groups</b></p> <p>32 discussion groups were held in each of the identified locations proposed to support the service change and involved 155 individuals.</p>



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		<p>Groups were provided with three discussion points –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>‘The proposal would mean more efficient ways of managing limited staff resource’</i></li> <li>2. <i>‘Free days for other partners and Council services to access the library space with dedicated use - free of other activity’</i></li> <li>3. <i>‘Opportunities for quieter environments on identified days to support study and access for people with neuro diverse conditions and any other individual that may be seeking quiet spaces’</i></li> </ol> <p>and asked to discuss.</p> <p>Main outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure any changes do not necessarily reduce the number of events / activities and impact this might have on helping build community relationships</li> <li>- Events should continue to be tailored to each community’s needs</li> <li>- Further involvement of staff and communities would be welcome to ensure the days selected and activities will work well</li> <li>- Potential impact on ‘Green’ policies if people need to travel to events/activities</li> <li>- Beneficial for the community, particularly for people with disabilities and those needing social interaction</li> <li>- Potential for overcrowding if activities are squeezed into fewer days</li> <li>- Good communications and promotions will be required</li> <li>- Using library spaces to involve more organisations is a good thing</li> <li>- Quiet days should not be reserved for specific groups or individuals and should continue to be open and accessible to everyone</li> <li>- Strong consensus on the importance to have quiet spaces and to support individuals with neuro-diverse conditions – potential to create quiet zones</li> </ul>
Evidence of unmet need	<a href="#">Edinburgh Future Libraries</a>	The Future Libraries engagement process identified a need for the service to consider the changing needs of communities and individuals. It is evident from the demographics of participants that health-based issues

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>
	<a href="#">Engagement Report 2024</a>	<p>and in particular, mental health and associated conditions continues to rise. The service can position itself to become more inclusive. The event and activity free days provide the potential to establish more welcoming spaces for groups and individuals that may find the current environment challenging.</p> <p>The engagement activity also identified a desire for citizens and stakeholders to access or provide other services from the library locations. These included 62% of citizens and 67% of stakeholders indicating adult education classes, 48% of citizens and 64% of stakeholders indicating a desire for more cultural activity. The creation of days where library specific events and activities are not supported, will assist other services to access space without interrupting other activity.</p>
Good practice guidelines	Forward: Scotland's Public Library Strategy	<a href="#">Forward: Scotland's Public Library Strategy - The Scottish Library and Information Council</a> sets out the vision, mission and outcomes for public libraries across Scotland.
Carbon emissions generated/reduced data	No	N/A
Environmental data	No	N/A
Risks from cumulative impacts	Yes	Adopting a no change approach will continue to impact the library service in terms of creating a financially stable service and to help improve equality of access. The service has consulted on changes to the management of events and activities after firstly considering feedback during the stage one engagement process which identified a call for change. The service has also consulted on a change to library opening hours which if agreed, will also deliver an efficiency saving.
Other (please specify)		
Additional evidence required	No	

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

<b>Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights and Children's Rights</b>	<b>Affected populations</b>
<p><b>Positive</b></p> <p>One library is located within SIMD Q1, two are located within SIMD Q2, one is located within SIMD Q3, two are located within SIMD Q4 and four are within SIMD Q4/5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Events will continue to be tailored to meet differing community needs</li> <li>- Libraries will aim to deliver varied and creative programmes of activities, cultural experiences, and events for all ages which will bring services to life, entice more people to visit, provide more opportunities for learning and development and reduce social isolation</li> <li>- The planning and promotion of events and activities will be improved to give people a better understanding of when to visit for busy interactive experiences or for quieter times</li> <li>- Further involvement of staff and communities to ensure the days selected and activities will work well for local communities</li> <li>- Provides some benefits to the community, particularly for people with disabilities and those needing social interaction</li> <li>- Making it easier for partners and other council services to identify specific days when they can use the space to deliver activity</li> <li>- Strong consensus on the importance to have quieter spaces and to support individuals who are neuro-diverse – potential to create quiet zones</li> <li>- All libraries would continue to be resourced by a local team on both transactional and activity days</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>People who are neurodiverse</p> <p>The whole population of Edinburgh – currently 1 in 5 citizens are active members of the library service.</p>
<p><b>Negative</b></p> <p>Whilst the overall data from the Future Libraries consultation data indicates very little negative impact,</p>	<p>All citizens- as above</p>

<b>Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights and Children's Rights</b>	<b>Affected populations</b>
<p>nine of the 32 discussion groups did highlight potential negative impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potential impact on helping build community relationships as a result of reduced number of events and activities</li> <li>- Potential impact on 'Green' policies if people need to travel to events/activities</li> <li>- Potential for overcrowding if activities are squeezed into fewer days</li> <li>- Poor communications and promotions will potentially impact negatively in respect of confusion around timings of events and activities</li> <li>- Perception that quieter days may be perceived as being reserved for specific groups or individuals only</li> <li>- Potential for conflicting messages around how event free days will be managed e.g. other services using the space / quiet space</li> </ul>	

<b>Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts</b>	<b>Affected populations</b>
<p><b>Positive</b></p> <p>The draft Strategy includes a series of values, one of which is "Environmentally Sustainable". One of the commitments is:</p> <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>• Increased opportunities for people to access a range of other services at a local level, potentially reducing the need to travel to other locations</li> </ul>	All citizens- as above
<p><b>Negative</b></p> <p>Potential negative impact on 'Green' policies if people need to travel to other neighbouring libraries for events/activities</p>	All citizens- as above

Economic	Affected populations
<p><b>Positive</b></p> <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 strategic and coordinated management of a varied and creative programme of activities, cultural experiences, and events for all ages bring services to life, entice more people to visit, provide more opportunities for learning and development, and reduce social isolation. These contribute positively to improved life chances for people, increased confidence and skill development which in turn can lead to employment and further education opportunities.</p> <p>Potentially providing quieter spaces in identified libraries at identified times to support free access to quieter spaces and supporting resources e.g. spaces for study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased opportunities for people to access a range of other services at a local level, potentially reducing the need to travel resulting in positive economic impact to the individuals</li> <li>- Strategic approach to delivery potentially improves access to free resources and activities</li> <li>- Potential for increased access to support-based services including welfare advice, housing advice, citizens advice and employability assisting to maximise income / reduce debt</li> </ul>	<p>All citizens- as above</p>
<p><b>Negative</b></p> <p>Changes could potentially reduce the number of events / activities or the development of additional library staff delivered activities and the positive impact this might have on people's improved life chances, increased confidence and skill development which could have led to employment and further education opportunities.</p>	<p>All citizens- as above</p>

<b>Economic</b>	<b>Affected populations</b>
Potential for individuals to travel further to engage with events perhaps not taking place in a locally preferred location adding travel costs	

- 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 proposed changes to the management of events and activities in libraries, a Communications Plan will be developed to support the agreed changes to approach, the launch of a new strategy (if agreed) 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 are well informed of the 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 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
Engagement with library colleagues in the ten identified locations to determine the days selected for transactional only activity will work well for local communities	Hana MacKechnie-Libraries Development Manager	In line with strategy action plan approval – Autumn 2025	Spring 2026
A strategic approach will be taken to ensure libraries specific events and activities will be planned to consider other events and activities taking place locally, ensuring a positive spread across any given week	Hana MacKechnie-Libraries Development Manager	In line with strategy action plan approval – Autumn 2025	Spring 2026
Libraries supporting quieter days will continue to deliver events and activities experienced elsewhere however, these will be timetabled differently to reduce the need to travel elsewhere	Hana MacKechnie-Libraries Development Manager	In line with strategy action plan approval – Autumn 2025	Spring 2026

- 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** 11/04/25

## **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**

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