FUTURE LIBRARIES STRATEGY FOR EDINBURGH 2025-2030

June 2025

EDINBVRGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Contents

"We trust this library will grow in usefulness year after year and prove one of the most potent agencies, for the good of the people of Edinburgh, for all time to come." Andrew Carnegie via telegram for the opening of Central Library on 9 June 1890

Foreword

Welcome to Edinburgh's Future Libraries Strategy which has been shaped through feedback and conversations with local citizens and which sets out a framework for action for our library services over the next five years. So many of you took time to tell us what you value most about the service and how you would like to see it develop and I would like to thank you for the valuable insight that you have given which has helped us to create a more relevant and meaningful vision for the future.

The time is right to evolve and develop a strategy that is ambitious, to support the service to modernise, become more sustainable, and to ensure that individuals and communities are provided with the resources and opportunities that they need to learn and to thrive. We are all living in challenging times with the impact of increased cost of living together with the climate emergency, and libraries are there to help us manage those challenges with access to well-resourced, safe, free, accessible services and spaces.

Our libraries are much more than a place where people go to read, they are unique, welcoming, neutral spaces delivering a wide range of essential services that are needed more than ever before. We will continue to prioritise access for those who have the most to gain from using our services through provision of inclusive spaces, programmes of activities and targeted initiatives, and outreach provision, all provided by our experienced and committed workforce across both school and public libraries.

Maintaining key aspects of the service that you told us you value the most is vital and that includes our stock collections, computers, information provision, and safe community spaces. We want to strengthen and build on those services, whilst looking to the future to allow us to adapt to changing demands and create new opportunities to encourage greater numbers of people to benefit from our service provision and to attract new audiences.

The five priorities and associated goals outlined in this strategy promote ambition and set the direction of travel for the service. The aspirations include the creation of new and improved partnerships, a focus on improving services for children and young people, a commitment to grow the digital service, ambitions to improve our cultural and wellbeing offer and a promise to keep on listening to the voices and views of those who use our libraries now or who may use them in the future.

Our libraries are valued for the benefits they bring to communities and will continue to develop and thrive over the next five years, assisting and encouraging people to access learning opportunities, participate, enjoy the arts, or connect with others. Above all, they will never lose sight of the original aims – to promote the love of reading and support improved literacy to help people realise their full potential in life.

The ambitions set out in the following strategy demonstrate a commitment to take action to make sure that the service remains sustainable, successful, and responsive in a changing world and ultimately, be the best it can be for the people of Edinburgh.

Councillor Val Walker, Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee

Introduction

This strategy has been created following a period of engagement and consultation that took place during throughout 2024 when over 18,000 citizens and stakeholders told us:

- What they liked about the library service
- When they prefer to use the service
- What other services they might access alongside library services
- Why they might not choose to use the service
- What ways the service could change to better meet their needs in the future

The responses, together with an analysis of existing service use data, have informed the creation of this strategy and have also helped to identify options for change to support improved provision and a more sustainable service.

People have told us how much they value library services, access to collections and resources both in print and digital, engagement with events and activities, and the relationships they have with members of staff in our public and school library settings. They have emphasised the importance of welcoming, safe and inclusive library spaces that are well resourced and provide quality trusted services.

It was also evident that for many, future changes to the service and new opportunities for development were seen as positive as long as any changes did not impact negatively on the core reading and digital services and the continued provision of safe and inclusive physical library spaces in local communities.

It is well known that pressures on public funding are placing significant challenges on how services are delivered, and the library service is not immune to this. However, this strategy seeks to prioritise resources to best meet the needs of our communities, to maintain existing services that are cherished by so many whilst also creating new approaches that will encourage more people to enjoy the wide-ranging activity and services on offer.

Aims

The five aims are:

1. Advance Reading, Literacy, Learning and Cultural Experiences
2. Enable and Develop Digitally Connected Communities
3. Encourage Healthy, Thriving and Inclusive Communities
4. Support Play, Learning and Development of Children and Young People
5. Continue to Listen, Learn and Develop the Service

Your Library Service
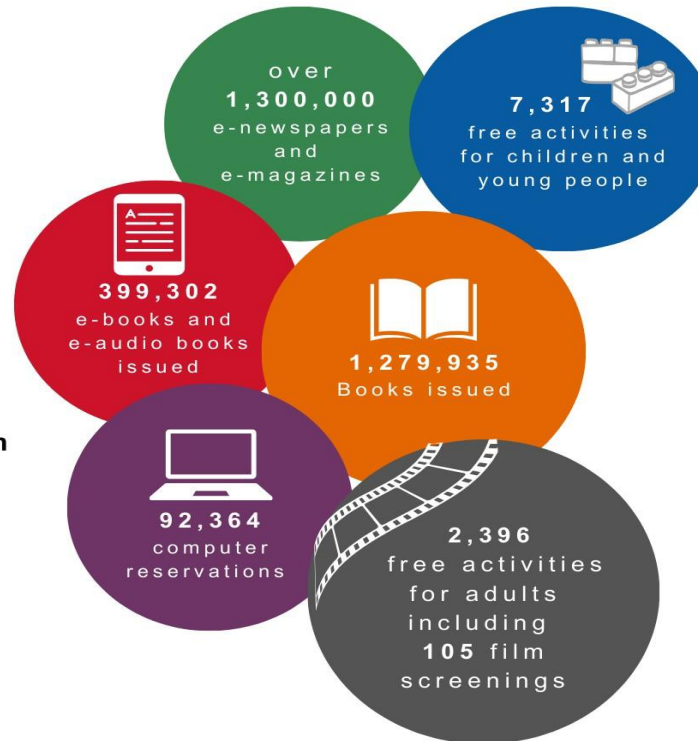
Edinburgh library service

1,656,389 **Library visits**

99,800 **People living in Edinburgh used their library card** at least once in the last year - that's 1 person in every 5

28 **Public libraries** - one public library for every 18,900 residents

23 **School libraries, a mobile library and HMP Edinburgh (Saughton) library service**

- **2,000,000** music streaming products
- **1,000,000** library books in stock
- **27,000** e-books, newspapers, and audio

over **1,300,000** e-newspapers and e-magazines

7,317 free activities for children and young people

399,302 e-books and e-audio books issued

1,279,935 Books issued

92,364 computer reservations

2,396 free activities for adults including **105** film screenings

Data used from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Library Locations Map
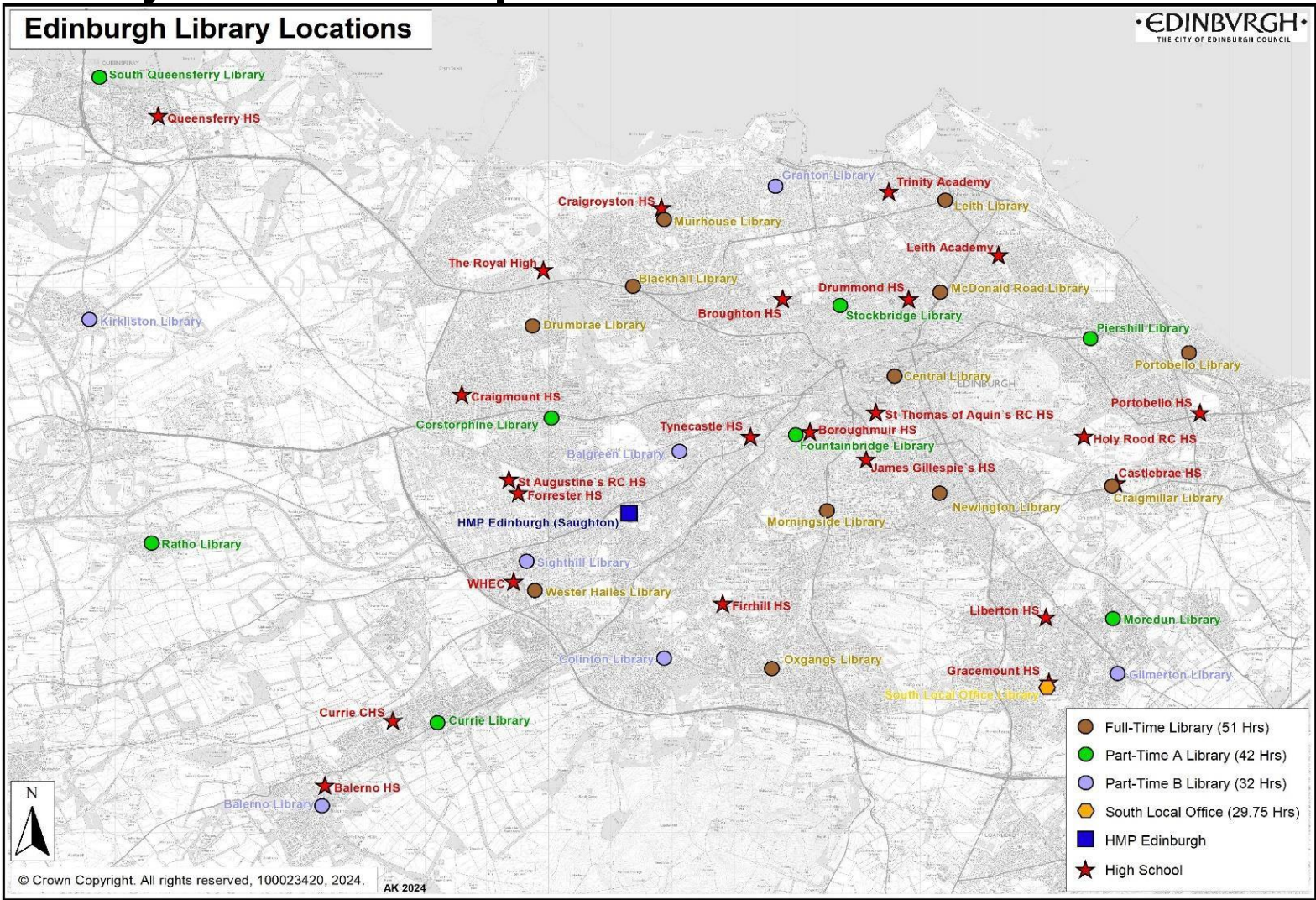
Current Service Offer

The current service offer is diverse and includes a wide range of additional activities and initiatives that may be specific to individual communities across the library network. The library service offer includes:

- Lending books and other items for adults, children, and young people
- Specialist book collections to support different communities and languages in a range of different formats
- E-books and e-audio service
- Inter-library loans service (if we do not have an item that you wish to borrow, we will try and get it from another library within the UK)
- Specialist services in Central Library including Art and Design, Edinburgh and Scottish, Music, and Reference Libraries
- Free access to computers, Wi-Fi, and digital skills support
- 24-hour access to a wide range of online resources including Pressreader (magazines and newspapers), local history, genealogy, and homework support
- Information resources, enquiry service and signposting to other council and partner services

- Activities for children and families including Bookbugs, storytimes, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activities and Family Fun Days
- Diverse programme of adult activities including reading, cultural, health and wellbeing events e.g. book groups, workshops, performances, film showings and social groups
- High school libraries supporting young people to achieve positive outcomes linked to curriculum-based activity
- Social, cultural and writing activities in school and public libraries aimed at children and young people including workshops, gaming and reading challenges
- Mobile library service to visit care homes, retirement flats, schools, sheltered housing complexes and more remote communities
- Home delivery service to deliver books to housebound readers
- Library Link bus service to transport people to the library who would otherwise have difficulty getting there due to age, disability or ill health
- Macmillan Cancer Support Service and health information points
- Hearing aid battery renewal, bus pass application and renewal service and free sanitary products
- Musical instrument loan at six libraries across the city

The Impact

"Public libraries deliver a wide range of benefits which place them at the centre of the collective endeavour to improve literacy, close the attainment gap, promote health, champion wellbeing, pioneer sustainability, tackle social isolation, reduce inequality, and close the digital divide" (Forward: Scotland's Public Library Strategy 2021-2025)

Libraries change lives. The positive role that libraries play in communities and in helping people to help themselves and improve their opportunities is widely recognised. Edinburgh's public libraries are well placed at the heart of our local communities to support everyone to access the spaces and the services regardless of age, socio, or economic background, with many citizens growing and benefitting from the service.

[1]It is also recognised that libraries help to tackle poverty by improving employability, social skills and reducing stress and anxiety. Empowering people with supported and free access to information resources, opportunities to broaden horizons, and raise literacy levels, strengthens communities, and builds capacity. For many library visitors, simply accessing safe spaces contributes to wellbeing and provides a sense of purpose to engage with activities that stimulate, encourage interaction with others, or spark creativity.

Our libraries also have a unique and powerful role in promoting reading for pleasure. Our books, advice, spaces, groups and activities are vital to encouraging reading for enjoyment which in turn develops imagination but also helps improve literacy, social skills, and other associated health and wellbeing outcomes.

Activities such as [2]Bookbug stimulate and support parents and carers to sing, play, and communicate with their children which helps build future development and interaction with others. School libraries continue the love of reading journey and assist pupils across all aspects of learning in line with the curriculum, playing a significant role in the empowerment of young people and helping advance lifelong learning.

---

[1] How reading for pleasure can tackle poverty - Scottish Book Trust

[2] Bookbug - Report 1 2 3 (scottishbooktrust.com)

Libraries also have a key role to play in supporting sustainability and in the journey towards achieving a net zero climate ready city by 2030. Reusing and recycling books, providing access to digital resources and information, raising awareness of climate change through activities and promotions and encouraging debate and action are some of the ways that libraries will help to bring about a better climate future. In addition, the positive socio-economic impact of the service has been widely researched, demonstrating that the role of libraries, the scope of service provision, and the support provided creates a positive return on investment.

In the UK, estimates suggest that every £1 invested in libraries returns between £5 and £7 – a staggering return of between £5bn and £6bn a year for the UK economy.

There are aspects of delivery that are immeasurable in terms of the impact on individuals. These include the continued provision of free-to-access services at a time when many individuals and families are faced with difficult spending decisions. Initiatives such as the "Warm Welcome" provision during recent winters showed a rise in footfall with more people choosing to stay in the library longer, suggesting that the service provides a positive impact for those most in need.

Strategic Alignment

Our Library Service and Future Libraries Strategy do not sit in isolation but link with other city and national plans to ensure that our priorities and services contribute to wider ambitions. These include:

Future Libraries Strategic Aims

1 Reading literacy and learning culture

2 Digitally connected

3 Healthy, thriving and inclusive

4 Children and young people play, learn and develop

5 Listen, learn and develop the service

The City of Edinburgh Council Culture Strategy 2023 - 2030

Living Well Locally Strategy: 20 Minute Neighbourhoods

Forward: Scotland's Public Library Strategy

Vibrant Libraries - Thriving Schools Strategy

The City of Edinburgh Council Business Plan 2023 - 2027

How The Library Strategy Aligns

The City of Edinburgh Council Culture Strategy:

- All Edinburgh residents can easily access cultural experiences that they find meaningful in their local area, and everyone has the opportunity to contribute to shaping local cultural provision
- Edinburgh is a welcoming and supportive city in which a broad spectrum of creative and cultural practitioners choose to develop their careers
- Edinburgh is a world leading cultural capital, an environmentally responsible host city where ideas are exchanged freely, and the diversity of its residents is celebrated.

Forward: Scotland's Public Library Strategy

- People
- Place
- Partnership

Vibrant Libraries - Thriving Schools Strategy

- Curriculum, Learner Journey and Developing the Young Workforce
- Information, Digital Literacy and Digital Creativity
- Literacy, Numeracy and Family Learning
- Health and Wellbeing
- Leadership, Standards and Working Models

The City of Edinburgh Council Living Well Locally Strategy: 20 Minute Neighbourhoods

- Working with local communities
- Supporting people to access the services they need locally
- Providing multiple services and facilities from a single location
- Delivering mixed-use regeneration and development
- Making our town and centres greener, more inclusive, and people-focussed
- Supporting local economies and businesses
- Improving sustainable and active travel access to services and facilities

The City of Edinburgh Council Business Plan 2023 - 2027

- Create good places to live and work
- End poverty in Edinburgh
- Become a net zero city by 2030

Vision, Purpose and Mission Statement

Our Vision

To be the welcoming heart of our communities where all residents will feel inspired, connected and supported to reach their full potential through the provision of a vibrant, thriving library service.

Our Purpose

To inspire individuals and communities to develop and continue a love of reading, increase their confidence and improve their quality of life through lifelong learning, access to resources, information and cultural experiences.

Our Mission Statement

Our libraries will provide free and equitable access to services which meet the changing needs of Edinburgh's diverse communities. The service will preserve and promote universal access to a broad range of knowledge, experiences, information and ideas in a safe, impartial, welcoming, supportive and trusted environment, free from censorship and bias.

Our Values

Informed	Financially Sustainable	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	Environmentally Sustainable	Intellectual Freedom
We will use performance information and service data to inform service development and delivery to respond to changing needs and improve provision.	We will ensure that the service is financially sustainable and delivered within agreed core budgets.	We will provide safe spaces and services which are accessible to all.	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.	We will support the free exchange of information and ideas in a democratic society, protecting intellectual freedom and respecting individual's rights to privacy and choice.

Informed	Financially Sustainable	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	Environmentally Sustainable	Intellectual Freedom
We will provide ways for people to voice their views through providing a range of opportunities to seek feedback from service users, non-service users and stakeholders that will continue to inform and influence delivery.	We will explore other funding sources and income generation opportunities to enhance service delivery and growth across key areas.	We will promote equality, diversity, and inclusion awareness amongst library staff.	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.	We will promote awareness of intellectual freedom and impartiality amongst library staff.
		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.	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.	We will ensure ready, equal, and equitable access to library materials and information.

Foundations For Success

People	Place	Resource
The library service relies on our committed and experienced workforce who are essential to delivering a successful and quality service. They provide the in-person support that many of our customers rely upon to enable them to make the most of our services.	There are no identical school or public library spaces, with differences in size, age, and design. However, all our buildings should be warm, welcoming and maintained to a high standard, whilst providing a good geographical spread across the city.	To ensure a continued quality service offer of access to diverse and relevant reading collections, digital resources and varied programmes of activities and initiatives on which any successful library services relies, there is a need for a level of appropriate investment.
We will equip them with the skills they need to develop a vibrant, relevant, and inclusive library service as set out in this Strategy which meets the needs of the city.	We will develop future spaces which are attractive, fit for purpose and accessible, meeting net zero targets and which are best able to meet the needs of individual local communities.	We will evolve and grow the service to best meet the current and future demands of an ever-changing population.
We will provide learning opportunities for our teams to allow them to develop the knowledge and experience they need to best support the delivery of quality services. Our staff will live and promote the agreed behaviours of respect, integrity, and flexibility.	Libraries will work collaboratively with other services and with partners to identify and implement more joined-up approaches to service delivery, exploring opportunities to transform existing assets into thriving community hubs with any future changes fully involving local people and organisations in the process.	We will invest in a wide variety of quality and relevant resources, both digital and printed, hardware and software, furnishings, event and activity-based materials, and specialist services.

Aim 1: Advance Reading, Literacy, Learning and Cultural Experiences

Reading and literacy are the lifeblood of every library service, with Edinburgh providing access to a rich resource of both physical and virtual materials to support people to foster a lifelong love of books and reading, to help them learn, and to live healthier, happier lives.

Our libraries are also perfectly placed to offer access to a wide range of cultural and creative opportunities at the heart of local communities and will continue to develop programmes of events and activities that are high quality, inclusive and diverse.

To successfully reach new audiences, remain relevant and ensure that our offer is reflective of the city's changing population, our library collections and our events programmes need to continue to change and evolve to meet identified needs.

Goals

We will:

- provide diverse, accessible, and inclusive collections, resources, and information to encourage reading for pleasure, literacy, and lifelong learning
- deliver varied and creative programmes of activities, cultural experiences, and events for all ages which will bring our libraries to life, entice more people to visit, provide more opportunities for learning and development and reduce social isolation
- improve the planning and promotion of our events and activities to give people a better understanding of when to visit for busy interactive experiences or for quieter times
- collaborate more effectively with partners, the voluntary and third sector to provide services, reach new audiences and share resources
- work collaboratively with others to promote more sustainable practices by increasing access to lendable items, such as lend and mend equipment, tools, and other resources
- provide continued support for reader development by organising and supporting literacy-based activities and events, including author visits, workshops, and book groups to inspire and engage audiences
- help close the poverty-related attainment gap by providing spaces and resources to support job seekers to study, learn, research and develop new skills
- improve and increase availability of resources to encourage sustainable living and individual climate action

Engagement Feedback:

92% of participants said they used the service to borrow books. A well stocked library with a wide range of books is important to them

72% of respondents highlighted the importance of libraries as places to study

2,852

48% of participants expressed a desire for more cultural activities

4,262

92% of respondents told us that access to information was important/very important to them

"I love the opportunities the library provides…over the years with my son I have accessed borrowing books, taking part in the summer reading challenges and attending craft events."

Local resident- Consultation feedback

Aim 2: Enable and Develop Digitally Connected Communities

Libraries bridge the digital divide by ensuring equitable access to online resources and Wi-Fi, fostering a sense of inclusion and helping empower individuals with the knowledge and skills they need to safely navigate the virtual world.

Through innovation and collaboration, the service will strive to promote digital participation, working to eliminate barriers to digital inclusion ensuring no-one is left behind.

Goals

We will:

- improve access to library services for customers through the re-introduction of self-service kiosks and remote access to library web- and app-based resources
- support people to develop their digital skills and confidence through the provision of new initiatives and quality online resources
- support improved access to the internet and online information through the introduction of digital tablets in selected libraries

- explore opportunities to provide access to digital learning and new technologies such as maker spaces and virtual reality to combat digital exclusion and encourage participation

- empower our staff to become confident digital ambassadors through the provision of learning and development programmes

- expand STEM-based learning opportunities for adults, children, and young people in more locations.

Engagement Feedback:

1,944
- 34% of respondents said they use the library to access and borrow digital resouces, with 15.4% stating they use the WiFi and computers

3,874
- 67% of participants indicated they regularly use the 'Your Library' website, with 1 in 3 accessing it at least once a week

79%
- of participants said e-books are important/very important
- many said they'd like their library to offer digital literacy programmes

2,479
- 42% of respondents told us they would access 'maker spaces' (e.g. 3D printing and lend and mend) if offered

"It's such a digital age now, anybody lacking the skills will be left so far behind, so I think this is great."

Local resident- Consultation feedback

Aim 3: Encourage Healthy, Thriving and Inclusive Communities

Libraries offer safe, welcoming and trusted environments where local people can come together. Delivered from the heart of our communities, the services are perfectly placed to reach those who could most benefit from the opportunities on offer.

We want our future libraries to be attractive, inclusive and thriving spaces which are reflective of local need and where everyone feels welcomed and supported to access high quality services, information and advice, cultural activities and informal learning opportunities - supporting people to live well locally.

Goals

We will:

- work closely with partners to deliver initiatives and improve access to information and resources which will make a positive difference to the mental and physical health, and wellbeing of individuals and communities

- provide attractive, inclusive, safe and accessible spaces for people to come together, socialise, learn and explore creative and cultural ideas, establishing the library as the "community's living room"

- explore opportunities to position libraries as efficient and sustainable thriving hubs with co-located services that provide access to a wide range of opportunities for all ages

- ensure our services are available to all, including those who are unable to visit a library or who require additional support to access services through the provision of mobile, targeted and outreach opportunities

- increase access to free resources and services and continue to collaborate with local organisations and partners to provide person-centred, preventative approaches to help eliminate poverty e.g. a Warm Welcome.

Engagement Feedback:

1,924 33% of respondents told us they would access health-based services if provided alongside library services.

1,611 28% of participants told us they use the library to socialise.
This percentage increased to 39% for respondents aged 12 to 24.

5,068 86% of respondents indicated they would access an average of three other services if provided alongside the library service.

5,094 92% of participants agree or strongly agree that libraries contribute to the health and wellbeing of their communities.

"Love the idea of a "Community Living Room" that people can share, it will provide an inclusive, safe, warm and nurturing space for all."

Local resident- Consultation feedback

Aim 4: Support Play, Learning and Development of Children and Young People

Libraries empower children and young people's development. They play a vital role in fostering children's confidence and early communication skills, aiding parents and carers in supporting their learning journey.

As young people engage with public and school libraries, they acquire knowledge, confidence, and new skills, preparing them for the transition to further education or employment and improving their outcomes in life.

Goals

We will:

- offer every young person an equal chance to access a dynamic school library service that meets their needs and helps them fulfil their potential, fosters a love for reading, improves literacy skills, and provides a safe and nurturing environment to learn and grow
- improve the library's print and digital collection of books and resources to cater to different reading and learning interests
- expand recreational activities and clubs for children and young people that will stimulate their imagination, encourage reading, develop new interests and friendships
- build on national promotions such as the Summer Reading Challenge, Every Child A Library Member and Read, Write, Count to provide more opportunities to encourage reading for pleasure with all its benefits for all children, young people and their families
- work with children and their families to promote access to the library space as a hub for child development and to connect with key partners to provide support and advice
- engage with schools and partners to strengthen links with public libraries, colleges, universities and other organisations and service providers to improve the provision of information and awareness of additional support available for children and young people

Engagement Feedback:

1,042 90% of school-aged participants (in grades S1 to S6) stated a dedicated school library space was important/very important to them.

1,139 98% of respondents indicated that the school library being a safe and nurturing space was important/very important, with a focus on study (96%) and reading for pleasure (91%).

2,380 84% of respondents indicated that children's activities and services were important/very important.

33% of children and young people who took part in the questionnaire expressed a desire for more welcoming and improved physical spaces within libraries.

"I think it's important to have a place a person can feel safe and fun at the same time because it makes their life just a little bit better knowing that there is at least one place they can feel welcomed."

Local young person- Consultation feedback

Aim 5: Continue to Listen, Learn and Develop the Service

The strategy provides the service with a vision and assists in prioritising development and delivery. This must continue to evolve alongside any new changes or potential challenges that may emerge during the life of the strategy.

Continued engagement and dialogue with service users, non-service users, and stakeholders will help ensure the service remains relevant and responsive to change and ensure key measures are reported to establish greater levels of accountability.

Goals

We will:

- expand engagement opportunities to gather diverse perspectives from service users, non-users and stakeholders using a range of methods to continuously inform service delivery
- develop an effective monitoring and evaluation framework to measure the impact of the strategy goals and the associated benefits to our communities and individuals
- develop innovative marketing approaches to increase participation across all age groups and highlight the broader benefits of service delivery beyond the traditional book offer
- empower library staff to engage with local communities to shape services through ongoing dialogue and explore the potential for volunteering opportunities to enhance community involvement in service design and delivery
- collaborate with high school partners to establish consistent delivery standards, developing performance measures to align with wider service accountability and reporting
- build upon the "No Going Back" youth engagement activity to amplify youth voices and promote relevant services and activities, encouraging more young people to participate in shaping library services tailored to their interests

Engagement Feedback:

14,086 individuals, groups and organisations took part in the Future Libraries engagement activity

48% of 'non-user' participants stated they were unaware of at least four or more services offered, whereas for library users this was 2%.

1 in 11 9% of children and young people who participated expressed a desire for more engagement regarding book recommendations and service development.

8% of respondents suggested a need for more marketing and promotion of library services.

"Our young people have a voice, and they are worth listening to. Libraries can support them to develop their voice appropriately."

Local resident- Consultation feedback

23

Glossary

Term	Meaning
A Warm Welcome	A Warm Welcome is a partnership initiative, created initially by City of Edinburgh Council as a response to the Cost-of-Living Crisis and has continued to develop since 2022. The aim of the initiative is to create and promote spaces and opportunities that are free, accessible and provide support to people in an open and welcoming way https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/warm-welcoming-spaces
Bookbug	Bookbug is Scotland's universal early years book gifting programme which supports families to read, sing, and play with their little ones from birth to give them the best start in life. Bookbug covers ages 0 - 5 https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/topics/bookbug
Digital Divide	The gap between those who have access to technology, the internet and digital literacy training and those who do not. It affects all communities and generations.
E-Audio	A digitally recorded version of a print book being read aloud by a narrator.
E-Book	Short for electronic book, an E-book is a book made in electronic form and includes text, images or sometimes both. An E-book can be downloaded permanently or temporarily to an individual personal electronic device such as a smartphone, digital tablet, laptop or computer.
Every Child A Library Member	A national initiative led by the Scottish Library and Information Council that aims to streamline the process of children becoming members of their local library and encourage babies to be signed up for library membership at several points including birth registration, start of nursery school/ start of school/transition from primary to secondary school. https://scottishlibraries.org/every-child-a-library-member
Goals (Strategy)	A high-level ambition to be delivered during the lifetime of an agreed period and is usually supported by a number of smaller, achievable supportive actions.
Macmillan Cancer Support Service	Edinburgh Libraries have Macmillan Information Points across a selection of libraries. These provide an opportunity for anyone affected by a cancer diagnosis to access information and talk to a Macmillan volunteer. Macmillan Cancer support in libraries – The City of Edinburgh Council
Mission Statement	Describes the main values and principles of the service and how it intends to uphold these.
No Going Back	No Going Back is an Edinburgh Libraries project funded supported by the Scottish Government and Scottish Libraries and Information Council (SLIC) to work with young people aged 11 to 18 years. The project aimed to help the library service, both school and community to better understand what young people felt would improve their experiences when using the service. Following a programme of face to face and online engagement the service has considered the feedback from young people and continues to work with them to help make positive changes to the service wherever possible.

Purpose (Strategy)	Describes the type of outcomes the service user can achieve by engaging with the service
Read, Write, Count	A Scottish Government initiative that gifts books and educational games to primary two and three children. Read Write Count with the First Minister also provides advice and support for learning professionals and families through training events and online resources. About Read, Write, Count - Scottish Book Trust
Socio-Economic	A combination of individuals income, education/occupation and social background. Can relate to how decisions or service developments can impact different sectors of communities positively or negatively.
STEM	This is the term used to group Science Technology Engineering and Maths together. There is a push to ensure that these skills are developed in children and families who do not have this background.
Strategy	A plan that describes how a service or organisation will achieve its ambitions and includes a set of aims with individual goals.
Summer Reading Challenge	An annual national initiative that encourages children to continue to read over the summer school holidays. It is evidenced to prevent the summer slide, which impacts children who do not practice literacy skills during the summer holidays. https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/about-the-challenge
Values (Service)	The core set of guiding principles and commitments which the service relies upon to deliver activity which are measurable and accountable.
Vision (Strategy)	Describes the desired future for the library service and what it aims to be in the mid-long term.