



COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING PLAN 2026-2029

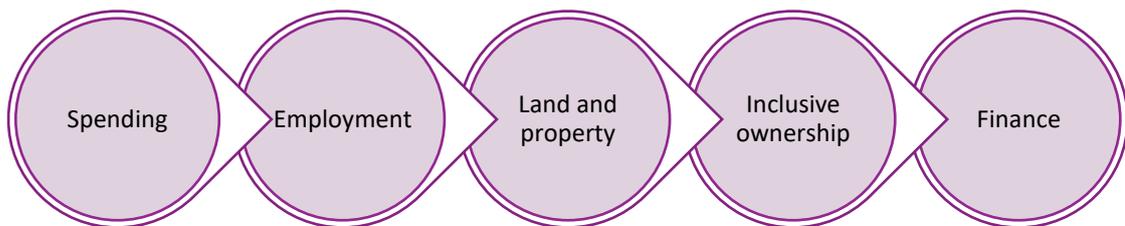
The City of Edinburgh Council

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Executive Summary

Community Wealth Building (CWB) is an alternative approach to economic development that aims to make sure that local assets and resources are used in a way that actively empowers and benefits the local community. It does so by providing a practical framework for action based on five key pillars:



Anchor institutions have an important role to play in supporting the development of CWB in their local areas. These are organisations that are tied to a particular place and have a significant influence on their local economy. The City of Edinburgh Council is one of many anchor institutions based in Edinburgh.

Community Wealth Building presents an important opportunity for the Council. It can support the organisation to harness its economic levers as an employer, buyer of goods and services, land and property owner, investor and service provider, to make sure that Edinburgh's local economy supports the wellbeing of communities. In doing so, it can support achievement of the Council's strategic priorities of ending poverty, creating good places to live and work, and delivering a climate ready Edinburgh.

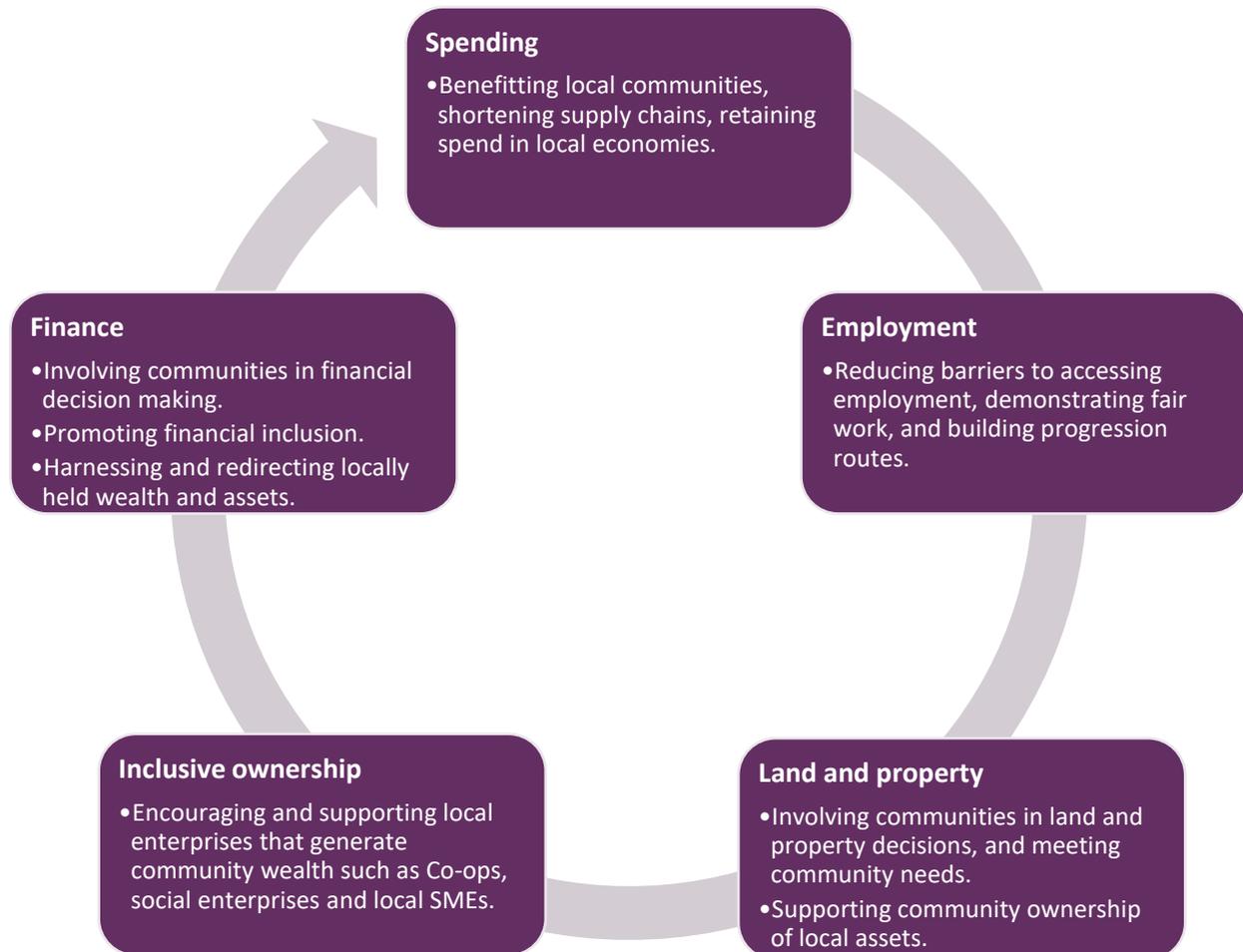
The Council has already made good progress in adopting Community Wealth Building and activity has taken place across all of the five pillars. This plan sets out the next steps that the Council will take to build on this work. Actions are structured around the following three priorities:

- Grow awareness and understanding of Community Wealth Building.
- Deliver innovative change in Council policies and practices.
- Build a city-wide movement.

The progress and impact of the plan will be monitored and reported on every two years to Policy and Sustainability Committee to make sure that the Council's approach continuously develops over time.

What is Community Wealth Building?

Community Wealth Building (CWB) is an alternative approach to economic development that aims to make sure that local assets and resources are used in a way that actively empowers and benefits the local community. It does so by supporting the creation and retention of wealth in local economies, and by giving local people more control over that wealth. The approach is built upon five key areas of action:



Adopting a Community Wealth Building approach to economic development can deliver benefits to local areas such as:

- reducing poverty and socio-economic inequality
- increasing access to fair employment opportunities for residents
- boosting the profitability and resilience of local enterprises
- creating more inclusive, cohesive and empowered communities who are actively involved in decision-making about their local places.

Community Wealth Building approaches are being developed at a local level by communities and public, private and third sector organisations across Scotland. The Scottish Government is putting in place the Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill to encourage the growth of this work nationally and to support progress towards an inclusive economy.

How can the Council support Community Wealth Building?

Anchor institutions have an important role to play in developing Community Wealth Building in their local areas. These are organisations that are rooted in a particular place and have a significant impact on their local economy. This may be as a result of them employing a large number of people, spending a lot on goods and services, and/or owning land and property in the area.

The Council is one of many anchor institutions based in Edinburgh and has an important role to play in shaping the city's economy. The Council can support the growth of a Community Wealth Building approach to economic development in its role as an:



This Community Wealth Building plan sets out how the Council will maximise the impact of these economic levers to make sure that local assets and resources empower and benefit local residents, organisations and communities.

Why is Community Wealth Building important?



Edinburgh is a successful city with a growing economy; however significant inequalities still exist. Over 80,000 people in Edinburgh are facing relative poverty, and approximately 61% of those experiencing poverty are in a household where at least one adult is working. This shows that our current economy does not work for everyone, and too many people are struggling to get by.

The Edinburgh Poverty Commission, an independent group of people who have been working together to define the actions needed to end poverty in Edinburgh, set the city a target of ending poverty by 2030. The Council is supportive of this ambition and one of its strategic priorities is to take action to end and prevent poverty in Edinburgh.

The economy has an important role to play in reducing poverty levels. The Edinburgh Poverty Commission outlined in its [2020 report](#) the need for fair work opportunities that provide a secure pathway out of poverty. It recently reconfirmed this in its 2025 update.

Community Wealth Building provides an opportunity for the Council to support efforts to end poverty and responds to the Edinburgh Poverty Commission's 'calls to action'. By adopting Community Wealth Building, the Council can make sure that it uses all of its levers to support a shift towards a more inclusive local economy that supports the wellbeing of communities and residents. This also supports the ambitions of the [Edinburgh Economy Strategy](#), which outlined a vision for an Edinburgh in which everyone has the opportunity to thrive in fair, dignified and secure employment.

Beyond supporting the Council's ambitions to end poverty, Community Wealth Building can also support the Council to achieve its other [strategic objectives](#) such as creating good places to live and work, supporting community cohesion, and enabling a just transition to a climate ready Edinburgh. It does so by supporting local ownership of assets, growing local decision-making, boosting the resilience of local businesses and organisations, and creating new opportunities for collaborative action.

By harnessing Community Wealth Building, the Council can connect and maximise the impact of its corporate strategies, policies, and programmes so that they make a positive difference to the city and the lives of residents.

What progress has the Council made so far?

The ambitions and principles of Community Wealth Building align closely with those of the Council. As a result, strong progress has already been made across all five pillars of Community Wealth Building, and the approach is built into a number of core Council policies and programmes.

Spending

The Council has already taken steps to harness its spending power to support Edinburgh's local economy and communities. The Council's Sustainable Procurement Strategy 2025-2030 aims to advance this agenda and strongly aligns with Community Wealth Building ambitions. One of its three strategic objectives is to maximise Community Wealth Building outcomes from procurement for the benefit of local communities and the city. To achieve this, the Council will focus on:

- promoting fair work practices among suppliers including payment of the real Living Wage
- supporting the local economy by increasing opportunities for local businesses and third sector organisations to access public spending
- increasing jobs, creating training opportunities, and supporting community initiatives through community benefits.

The Council has put in place measures to increase opportunities for local businesses and third sector organisations to access public spending. There has been a strong focus on increasing engagement and communication with local enterprises including promoting contract opportunities through a supplier newsletter, running monthly procurement surgeries, producing YouTube videos and holding supplier engagement events. The Council also works with the Supplier Development Programme to provide training, support and information to organisations interested in bidding for Council contracts. This work has seen positive results, and in 2024/25:

- 93% of Council suppliers paid staff the real Living Wage
- 48.9% of the Council's core spend was with SME suppliers
- 35.9% of the Council's total core spend was local spend.

The Council has also signed up to the Buy Social Pledge. This initiative aims to enhance social value delivery through procurement by requiring signatories to commit to bringing social enterprises into their supply chains. By signing the pledge, the Council has committed to the five key actions of championing fair work for all, embracing net zero policies in procurement, supporting social enterprises, paying promptly, and measuring annual spend with social enterprises.

Case Study – The Schools’ Accredited Pathways Framework

In 2024, The City of Edinburgh Council established the Accredited Pathways and Certified Counsellors and Therapists Framework to support schools in delivering learning and wellbeing services. This five-year framework, with an estimated value of £1 million per annum, contributes to reducing the Poverty-Related Attainment Gap and promotes a Place-Based Approach, ensuring that appropriate support can be accessed within twenty minutes of a need being identified.

The procurement process was simplified to encourage participation from local micro-businesses, third sector organisations, and small providers including self-employed individuals. Tailored YouTube video guides and engagement sessions were developed to help suppliers navigate the process, receiving very positive feedback. The framework was co-produced with stakeholders and designed to allow new providers to apply during its term, ensuring continued flexibility and responsiveness.

The framework now includes over 70 approved suppliers, many of which are third sector organisations. In total, 78% are based within Edinburgh and the Lothians, all are committed to paying at least the Real Living Wage, and 28 are Living Wage Accredited.

This framework provides schools with flexibility to select the most suitable providers while supporting local economic growth, Community Wealth Building, and inclusive employment practices across Edinburgh.

Employment

The Council champions fair work through its own employment practices and as a provider of employability services. The Council is an accredited Real Living Wage employer and has strategies in place that make sure it continues to grow its position as a fair work and equal opportunities organisation. For example, the Council’s [‘Our People Strategy 2024-2027’](#) and [‘Workforce Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2024-2028’](#) put in place measures such as:

- introducing a new recruitment platform to ensure a simple, fair and inclusive experience for candidates
- developing meaningful career pathways
- running a pilot project to encourage applicants from minority ethnic backgrounds, with disabilities or long-term health conditions to apply for Council roles
- running a pilot to diversify the workforce at senior levels in the organisation.

The Council also champions fair work in the city to make sure that residents can access high quality employment opportunities. For example, the Council applies fair work criteria as part of its procurement process to seek to ensure that companies bidding for contracts routinely

pay the Real Living Wage. The Council has also put fair work at the heart of large-scale local developments, such as the Forth Green Freeport. A Fair Work Charter has been developed for the site and all businesses investing in the area must commit to embedding fair work principles into their operations.

Alongside this, the Council provides employability services to support residents to enter into, and progress, within work. These services include:

- The Edinburgh Guarantee – this is a collaboration between sectors, led by the Council, that supports people of all ages to find employment, training or further education opportunities.
- Project SEARCH –the Council, Edinburgh College, NHS Lothian and Virgin Hotels work in partnership to provide employment and learning opportunities for young people with a disability.
- The Forth Green Freeport Skills Fund – this fund provides £2.1 million to create skills development opportunities particularly targeted towards roles associated with the net zero transition.

Partnership working and cross-sector collaboration is a core part of the Council’s fair work agenda. The Council works closely with organisations such as [The Edinburgh Fair Work Action Group](#) to build awareness of fair work in the city.

Case Study – The Edinburgh Fair Work Action Group



In 2020, the Council supported the establishment of the Edinburgh Fair Work Action Group. This is a collaboration of employers based in Edinburgh, who are working together as ambassadors for the fair work and Real Living Wage movements.

The group came together in response to a call from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission that asked employers and institutions to work together to increase the number of Real Living Wage accredited businesses in the city.

Since then, the action group have produced an action plan, set Living Wage targets for the city, achieved Living Wage City status for Edinburgh, and worked to raise the profile of fair work. The group has done this by influencing local and national policy developments, running events, sharing learning, and meeting with local employers.

This has been very successful, and since the group started work the number of Real Living Wage accredited employers in the city has increased by over 350 organisations. This means that over 200,000 workers are now employed by Living Wage accredited organisations in the city, this equates to over 50% of jobs in Edinburgh.

Land and Property

The Council has put in place policies and programmes to support Edinburgh's residents and communities to benefit from land and property in the city, particularly Council owned buildings. The '[Place-based Property Improvement Programme](#)' aims to improve access to services for residents and enhance the facilities available. It does so by shifting towards a community hub-based approach to delivery that adopts the following principles:

- welcoming to all
- maximising availability and usage
- offering Council and partner services, community spaces and facilities in one place
- creating a sense of community ownership
- designing with the community not for the community.

The programme puts community engagement at the heart of decision-making processes about the Council's buildings. The Council's '[Corporate Property Strategy](#)' similarly focuses on involving communities and partners in decision-making. The strategy aims to make sure that the Council's estate enables residents to access essential services in their local community, supports delivery of net zero and enables flexible ways of working including supporting partnerships between the public and voluntary/community sectors.

The Council supports community ownership and management of land and property in the city through its '[Community Asset Transfer policy](#)'. Since 2017, the Council has completed fifteen asset transfers. This makes it one of the most active organisations in the city in undertaking Community Asset Transfer.

Case Study – The Granton Waterfront Regeneration



Granton Waterfront is a 140-hectare brownfield ex-industrial coastal neighbourhood located in an economically disadvantaged area of north Edinburgh. Over the next 10-15 years, the Granton Waterfront regeneration programme will create a new residential-led mixed-use community, home to around 8,000 people on Edinburgh's waterfront. It will deliver around 3,500 net zero carbon ready homes (of which at least 35% will be affordable), a primary school, a health centre, commercial and cultural space and a coastal park. This development will be supported by new cycling and walking routes and enhanced public transport connections.

The revitalisation of Granton Waterfront's historic buildings and industrial built heritage, coupled with the delivery of new leisure and recreation opportunities, will significantly increase visitors to the area, creating new local employment opportunities. Partner organisations to the Council will deliver substantial new cultural and educational assets in the Granton Waterfront over the regeneration timeframe. The overall development will make a significant contribution to Edinburgh's target to become a net zero carbon city, through a mix of energy efficient buildings, clean heat solutions, sustainable travel options and a nature-based approach to climate mitigation and adaptation.

In 2021, the Council initiated an early action programme to kick start the regeneration, creating a sense of place through the delivery of new homes, commercial, leisure and cultural facilities. Progress to date has included the completion of 75 net zero carbon ready affordable homes alongside commercial space at Granton Station View, 444 net zero carbon ready homes for sale and rent are now complete at Western Villages, and a further 143 affordable net zero carbon ready homes are at an advanced stage of construction at Silverlea. In addition, the area has also benefitted from the refurbishment of Granton Station into a creative hub, creation of Station Square to provide a new civic space, the opening of The Pitt in a repurposed industrial building, the restoration of the Granton Gasholder into a new city park, and the upgrading of a core path to form the Speirs Bruce Way.

The Council aims to capitalise on this strategic opportunity to demonstrate how Community Wealth Building can be achieved in practice through place-based development. Community Wealth Building principles have been built into the programme throughout to make sure that the community is involved in decision-making, can manage land and property, and can benefit from fair work, community benefits and contracting opportunities.

The programme is still in its early stages; however key aspects of Community Wealth Building have already been progressed. For instance, contractors working on site have been paired up with the local college and employability partners to support local recruitment, a bespoke community benefits framework has been designed, and four prominent buildings on the site are being managed by local and third sector organisations.

To build on this work, a Community Wealth Building Framework has been designed for Granton Waterfront to highlight future opportunities to embed the approach into the programme. The learning from this work will also be applied to future place-based

programmes to make sure that the Council harnesses its role as a place maker to create a stronger, fairer and greener local economy that delivers benefits to the citizens of Edinburgh.

Inclusive Ownership

The Council supports the development and growth of enterprises that generate community wealth such as employee-owned firms, social enterprises, and small local businesses through its business support services.

Business Gateway Edinburgh provides access to specialist consultants to provide support covering topics including human resources, finance, business development and marketing. It also offers free local workshops and seminars on a broad range of subjects such as how to write funding applications, using website platforms, unlocking global markets, and using Artificial Intelligence. In 2023/24, Business Gateway supported over 4,500 local business including providing 323 funded specialist support interventions to existing businesses with growth ambitions and supporting 392 businesses to start trading in that year.

In 2023, a new outreach service was established as part of Business Gateway. The service sought to address gaps in access to business support services by identifying, and engaging with, underrepresented areas and demographics in the city. This service has resulted in many positive outcomes, particularly among underrepresented groups, such as:

- expanded awareness of Business Gateway services
- increased awareness of self-employment opportunities
- strengthened community engagement and enhanced collaborative relationships with external stakeholders and partner organisations
- increased local knowledge about how to pursue entrepreneurial goals.

The outreach service has supported 314 clients citywide in pursuing self-employment aspirations and has facilitated the creation of 123 new businesses. As of August 2025, the service has supported over 1,000 people of which 78% were from Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation areas 1 and 2, had a disability, or were from an ethnic minority background.

The Council also works in partnership with organisations such as the Third Sector Interface to support capacity building among local enterprises and third sector organisations.

Case Study – Third Sector Interface Support for Social Enterprises



Edinburgh is home to 776 social enterprises, which makes up 13% of all social enterprises in Scotland. The city's Third Sector Interface (TSI), which is funded by both the Scottish Government and The City of Edinburgh Council, is comprised of Edinburgh Social Enterprise Network (ESEN), Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council (EVOC) and Volunteer Edinburgh. The TSI's purpose is to:

1. support Edinburgh's vibrant voluntary and community sector
2. develop volunteering allowing people to participate
3. enable social enterprise to flourish.

Although ESEN has the specialist support for social enterprises, all members of the TSI work to build capacity and skills, improve governance, help organisations to grow, and build sustainability through guidance and support, of social enterprises, community and voluntary organisations, and volunteer involving organisations.

The TSI collaborates with the Council, University of Edinburgh, NHS Lothian and Capital City Partnership through a citywide anchor institution network. The network has hosted three successful Community Wealth Building events on procurement, land and property, and fair work. The venues and catering for these events have been provided by local social enterprises.

The TSI is a key partner within Community Wealth Building approaches. The Council aims to continue to grow partnership work with the TSI to support collaborative action to advance the Community Wealth Building agenda.

Finance

The Council involves residents in decision-making around its investment priorities by running consultation and engagement as part of the budget setting process. In 2024, around 3,260 residents participated in the budget consultation for the financial year 2025/26. This

work supported the Council to set a budget that reflected local priorities such as funding for schools, improving road conditions, and health and social care services. On top of this, the Council has supported Participatory Budgeting projects such as Leith Chooses and the Edinburgh Community Climate Fund. These projects put financial decision making directly in the hands of local people.

The Council also aims to ensure that wealth and investment circulating in the city directly benefit local people. Tourism is a key part of the Edinburgh’s economy and brings significant investment to the city. The Council is putting in place the Edinburgh Visitor Levy to make sure that the impacts of the city’s visitor economy are managed effectively and that residents feel positive impacts from the industry. It is expected that the levy will raise around £45-50 million a year by 2028/29. This income will be reinvested into initiatives that directly benefit residents and enhance the experience of visitors. For example, around £5 million will be spent each year on housing and tourism mitigation.

Alongside this, the Council also works with partners to promote financial inclusion. For example, as one of Capital Credit Union’s employer partners, the Council enables its employees to pay into a credit union savings account directly from their salary. This boosts the financial resilience of employees, whilst increasing investment in the credit union thereby increasing their ability to offer affordable banking services.

Case Study – The Regenerative Futures Fund



The Regenerative Futures Fund is a long-term funding programme for Edinburgh that aims to enable the deep work needed to address the root causes of poverty and racism in an environmentally sustainable way. The programme will provide up to £100,000 annually for 10 years for between 10-15 collectives and organisations working on these causes. The approach of the fund incorporates the foundational principles of Community Wealth Building – collaboration, system change, equity, and power-sharing.

The Regenerative Futures Fund brings together funding from a variety of sources through a 'funder collaboration' model. Funders from across the public sector, private sector, philanthropic foundations and individual philanthropists have come together to co-design the fund and work towards a shared goal of building a more equitable, just and sustainable city. To date, the fund has secured over £7 million towards this goal. The City of Edinburgh Council has supported the development of the fund and has committed to invest £100,000 annually over the 10-year programme.

The programme aims to use this collective funding pot to drive system change in the way that the community and third sector are funded. Traditionally, funding for this sector is short-term and tied to highly specific outcomes. This approach does not allow for the long-term, systemic work that is needed to alleviate challenges such as poverty and inequality. The Regenerative Futures Fund promotes a new model that gives organisations the resilience and security they need to plan for the long-term and develop responses and services in line with the needs of their community.

Alongside, empowering the third sector, the fund is also putting power in the hands of those with experience of inequality and poverty. A decision-making panel made up of people from Edinburgh with experience of these challenges are responsible for making decisions about who receives funding. The panel follows a model of deliberative democratic civic participation by taking part in facilitated discussions supported by a set of advisors. By distributing power in this way, the Regenerative Futures Fund gives people the ability to invest in the actions that will make the most difference to their lives and their communities.

The ambition of the Regenerative Futures Fund is to deliver long-term improvement to the lives of individuals, communities and funding systems through collaborative learning and growing a collective voice advocating for change.

The Community Wealth Building Plan 2026-2029

This plan sets out the Council’s Community Wealth Building objectives and actions for the period 2026 to 2029. These actions will build on the existing Community Wealth Building work at the Council and represent the next steps that the organisation will take to continue to embed the approach into organisational policies and practices. This will make sure that the Council maximises its economic levers to empower and benefit local communities.

These actions will operate at a city-wide level, however, to be effective Community Wealth Building must take place at multiple geographical scales. The Council will also progress Community Wealth Building at a more local level through embedding it in work such as Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships.

The actions in this plan will provide the foundation for the future partnership work required by the Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill.

Community Wealth Building Priorities and Objectives

Priority 1	Grow awareness and understanding of Community Wealth Building.
Objective 1	Build a Community Wealth Building culture at The City of Edinburgh Council.
Objective 2	Increase awareness and understanding of Community Wealth Building among Edinburgh residents and organisations.
Priority 2	Deliver innovative change in Council policies and practices.
Objective 3	Maximise the local impact of Council spend and increase procurement opportunities for local businesses and third sector organisations.
Objective 4	Increase awareness, understanding and implementation of Fair Work in the city.
Objective 5	Support access to land and buildings for communities, third sector organisations and local enterprises.
Objective 6	Support capacity in local community and third sector organisations.
Objective 7	Increase access to affordable credit and banking services.
Objective 8	Trial innovative approaches to investment and funding that increase community wealth, ownership and cohesion.
Priority 3	Build a city-wide movement.
Objective 9	Build partnerships with key sectors in the city.
Objective 10	Develop cross-sectoral collaboration to drive a Community Wealth Building movement in Edinburgh.

Priority 1: Grow awareness and understanding of Community Wealth Building.

The Council aims to build understanding of Community Wealth Building and grow awareness of the innovative work already being progressed by local organisations across a range of sectors. This will empower Council employees, and other Edinburgh based organisations, to build the principles of CWB into their own work. To achieve this the Council will:

Objective 1 – Build a Community Wealth Building culture at The City of Edinburgh Council.		
Action	Lead service area	Timescale
Deliver Community Wealth Building training and workshops to Council staff.	Strategy	2026-2029
Establish an internal communications plan and resources for Community Wealth Building, including guides and toolkits.	Strategy	2026-2027
Run an annual ‘Buy for Social Good’ week in the Council to raise awareness of the city’s social enterprise sector.	Strategy	2026-2029
Objective 2 – Increase awareness and understanding of Community Wealth Building among Edinburgh residents and organisations.		
Action	Lead service area	Timescale
Develop a communications strategy for Community Wealth Building.	Strategy	2026-2027
Develop and publish case studies and practical guides on Community Wealth Building projects.	Strategy	2026-2029
Establish a Community Wealth Building network and host regular events.	Strategy	2026-2029

Priority 2: Deliver innovative change in Council policies and practices.

The Council aims to show leadership within the Community Wealth Building movement by putting in place innovative projects and adapting its policies, processes and practices so that they progress all five pillars of CWB. The Council has already made good progress and seeks to grow this work further. To achieve this the Council will:

Objective 3 – Maximise the local impact of Council spend and increase procurement opportunities for local businesses and third sector organisations.		
Action	Lead service area	Timescale
Continue to maximise Community Wealth Building outcomes from procurement through the Council's Sustainable Procurement Strategy 2025-2030.	Procurement	2026-2029
Conduct research into opportunities to further embed Community Wealth Building in regulated procurement exercises.	Strategy and Procurement	2027-2028
Review the procurement webpages to ensure current guidance and resources to support local businesses and third sector organisations to access public contracts reflects CWB objectives.	Procurement	2027-2028
Encourage the development of registered supported businesses in Edinburgh.	Strategy and Procurement	2026-2029
Trial a new Fair Work First question within the procurement process aligned with the Edinburgh Fair Work Charter.	Procurement	2026-2029
Objective 4 – Increase awareness, understanding and implementation of Fair Work in the city.		
Action	Lead service area	Timescale
Continue to progress the principle of fair employment – internally, through the Council's HR policies and externally through provision of employability services.	HR Business Growth and Inclusion	2026-2029
Develop and publish the Edinburgh Fair Work Charter.	Business Growth and Inclusion Strategy	2026
Embed the Fair Work Charter into Council services, particularly those that engage with employers.	Business Growth and Inclusion Strategy	2026-2029
Work with the Edinburgh Fair Work Action Group to promote the Edinburgh Fair Work Charter in the city.	Business Growth and Inclusion Strategy	2026-2029
Scope opportunities to apply a Cash First approach to support residents to overcome financial barriers to staying in work.	Change and Delivery	2027-2028

Objective 5 – Support access to land and buildings for communities, third sector organisations and local enterprises.		
Action	Lead service area	Timescale
Continue to centralise engagement with communities and local organisations in land and property decision-making processes through property strategies and programmes.	Strategic Asset Planning	2026-2029
Develop a clearer process for facilitating third sector organisations who want to share space in the Council’s estate, and assessing the resources required to support this.	Strategic Asset Planning Change and Delivery	2026-2029
Explore potential ways for new co-operative housing ventures to be supported through the Housing Emergency Action Plan.	Housing and Homelessness	2026-2029
Support Community Wealth Building objectives through City Plan 2040, including exploring opportunities associated with community ownership, affordable workspace and meanwhile use.	Planning	2026-2028
Objective 6 – Support capacity in local community and third sector organisations.		
Action	Lead service area	Timescale
Continue to support capacity in the local community and third sector organisations through collaborating with the Third Sector Interface.	Strategy	2026-2029
Implement the findings of the Edinburgh Partnership’s Third Sector Review.	Strategy	2026-2027
Review the Council’s approach to volunteering leave and look to increase employee uptake of the scheme.	Strategy and Human Resources	2027
Scope and progress opportunities to co-locate Council services within community and third sector owned buildings as part of Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships.	Strategic Asset Planning Change and Delivery	2026-2029
Run events to raise awareness of Community Asset Transfer opportunities and share best practice.	Community Empowerment and Engagement	2026-2027

	Strategy	
Objective 7 – Increase access to affordable credit and banking services.		
Action	Lead service area	Timescale
Continue to work as an employer partner of Capital Credit Union.	Human Resources	2026-2029
Increase awareness, and uptake of, the Council’s employee payroll saving scheme with Capital Credit Union.	Strategy Communications Human Resources	2026-2029
Map out access to physical banking services as part of Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships and work with partners to scope potential solutions to overcome any unmet needs.	Change and Delivery	2026-2028
Objective 8 – Trial innovative approaches to investment and funding that increase community wealth, ownership and cohesion.		
Action	Lead service area	Timescale
Continue to support and learn from the Regenerative Futures Fund.	Strategy	2026-2029
Explore opportunities to use innovative funding models to invest in the city’s priorities such as climate and nature and increasing housing supply.	Climate and Nature	2026
Learn from Participatory Budgeting delivered on a larger scale through the Visitor Levy and adopt lessons from this into the Council’s strategic approach to Participatory Budgeting.	Strategy	2026-2029

Priority 3: Build a city-wide movement.

To maximise the potential of Community Wealth Building, it must be implemented at scale with organisations from a broad range of sectors and industries taking collaborative action. The Council aims to support and enable this to take place by bringing together key partners and stakeholders across the city. To achieve this, the Council will:

Objective 9 – Build partnerships with key sectors in the city.		
Action	Lead service area	Timescale

Host a roundtable with financial institutions in the city including pension funds, credit unions, high street banks and philanthropic organisations to explore opportunities to support collaboration and locally impactful investment.	Strategy	2026-2027
Conduct research into opportunities to embed Community Wealth Building into the city's key sectors.	Strategy	2027-2028
Objective 10 – Develop cross-sectoral collaboration to drive a Community Wealth Building movement in Edinburgh.		
Action	Lead service area	Timescale
Convene a meeting with private and third sector representative bodies in the city to create a shared language and ambition around Community Wealth Building.	Strategy	2026-2029
Engage with The Edinburgh Partnership to build Community Wealth Building into the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP).	Strategy	2026-2029
Develop the Community Wealth Building Partnership and city-wide action plan that will be needed to take forward the requirements of the Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill.	Strategy	2026-2029

How will the Council measure progress and impact?

It is important that the Council monitors the progress and impact of its Community Wealth Building Plan. This will make sure that the Council's approach can be continuously developed to maximise the local benefits of Community Wealth Building.

Gathering this data and information will also contribute towards the creation of a national evidence base for Community Wealth Building and support the development of a city-wide CWB Plan in the future, as required by the Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill.

Progress on implementation of the Community Wealth Building Plan will be reported to Policy and Sustainability Committee every two years using the bespoke Community Wealth Building Progress and Impact Framework.

The Community Wealth Building Progress and Impact Framework

To understand the impact of the Council's Community Wealth Building Plan on the city, the Council will monitor the following indicators:

Community Wealth Building Pillar	Indicators
Spending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of Council spend with SMEs, local organisations and supported businesses. • Number of Council suppliers who pay the real Living Wage. • Number of Council suppliers who are real Living Wage accredited.
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Living Wage, Hours and Pensions accredited employers in the city. • Proportion of people earning less than the Living Wage in Edinburgh (Local Government Benchmarking Framework).
Land and property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Community Asset Transfer requests received and agreed.
Inclusive ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of businesses supported by Business Gateway services. • Number of social enterprises operating in the city (Social Enterprise in Scotland Census).
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of Council's annual budget allocated using Participatory Budgeting.

To measure progress on the Council's Community Wealth Building Plan, the following milestones and outputs will be measured:

Priority 1: Grow awareness and understanding of Community Wealth Building.

Objective 1 - Build a Community Wealth Building culture at The City of Edinburgh Council	
Progress Milestones	Output Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Buy for Social Good' week completed. • Community Wealth Building internal communications plan developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of staff training and workshops delivered. • Number of internal CWB resources published. • Qualitative feedback from staff and social enterprises about 'Buy for Social Good' week.
Objective 2 - Increase awareness and understanding of Community Wealth Building among Edinburgh residents and organisations.	
Progress Milestones	Output Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWB comms strategy developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of CWB events hosted.

Priority 2: Deliver innovative change in Council policies and practices.

Objective 3 – Maximise the local impact of Council spend and increase procurement opportunities for local businesses and third sector organisations.	
Progress Milestones	Output Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research into opportunities to embed Community Wealth Building completed. • Procurement webpages reviewed. • New Fair Work First Question developed and trialed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of visits to the procurement webpage. • Number of Edinburgh businesses registering for Supplier Development Programme events.
Objective 4 - Increase awareness, understanding and implementation of Fair Work in the city.	
Progress Milestones	Output Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Edinburgh Fair Work Charter is published. • Opportunities to apply a Cash First approach to support residents overcome financial barriers to staying in work scoped. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of comms pieces and events run to promote the Edinburgh Fair Work Charter.
Objective 5 – Support access to land and buildings for communities, third sector organisations and local enterprises.	
Progress Milestones	Output Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Plan 2040 developed. • Potential ways to support new co-operative housing ventures explored. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Wealth Building principles and actions built into City Plan 2040.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process and resource required to facilitate third sector organisations who want to share space in the Council's estate is scoped and clarified. 	
Objective 6 – Support capacity in local community and third sector organisations.	
Progress Milestones	Output Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the Council's approach to volunteering leave completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of actions adopted from the Third Sector Review. Number of internal promotional pieces published about the Council's volunteering leave. Case studies of Council services co-located within community, and third sector owned buildings as part of Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships. Number of events run about Community Asset Transfers.
Objective 7 - Increase access to affordable credit and banking services.	
Progress Milestones	Output Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to physical banking services mapped through Neighbourhood Prevention Partnerships work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uptake of the Council's employee payroll savings scheme with Capital Credit Union.
Objective 8 – Trial innovative approaches to investment and funding that increase community wealth, ownership and cohesion.	
Progress Milestones	Output Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities to use innovative funding models to invest in the city's priorities scoped. The Visitor Levy Participatory Budgeting scheme is launched and completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levels of engagement with the Visitor Levy Participatory Budgeting scheme.

Priority 3: Build a city-wide movement.

Objective 9 – Build partnerships with key sectors in the city.	
Progress Milestones	Output Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roundtable with financial institutions completed. Research into opportunities to embed CWB into the city's key sectors completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions or next steps agreed from roundtable. Actions or next steps from research into CWB opportunities.

Objective 10 – Develop cross-sectoral collaboration to drive a Community Wealth Building movement in Edinburgh.

Progress Milestones	Output Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with private and third sector representative bodies completed. • Community Wealth Building Partnership established, and action plan completed. • Engagement with The Edinburgh Partnership about CWB and the LOIP completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions and next steps from meeting with private and third sector representative bodies. • Actions built into the LOIP linked to Community Wealth Building.