

Engagement Report

June 2026



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This report details the approach to consultation and engagement in preparing the Evidence Report for City Plan 2040.

The City of Edinburgh Council publishes its Development Plan Scheme annually as required by Section 20B of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended). The Development Plan Scheme includes a Participation Statement which outlines when and how consultation is likely to take place. The Council's latest Development Plan Scheme was produced in September 2025 and it sets out the engagement strategy for City Plan 2040. The consultation and engagement for the Evidence Report takes account of the Participation Statement.

Local development planning guidance states that, for the Evidence Report, 'whilst there is a statutory requirement to seek particular views, there is no requirement to consult to on it.' This Engagement Report provides further detail on the communication and publicity of engagement activities and the range of activities undertaken to seek those particular views as required. The engagement findings have informed the Topic Papers and the Place Profiles.

This report also includes information on how the Council has invited local communities to prepare Local Place Plans and the support provided to community bodies to prepare these plans.

Where appropriate and to avoid repetition, the Engagement Report will make reference to the Topic Papers, Place Profiles and supporting documents where the engagement findings are covered in more detail.

Engagement Strategy

The following table outlines the engagement strategy and the approach taken for publicity and communication, distribution of documents such as topic papers and background papers, consultation tools and engagement events.

Activity	Details
Publicity	City Plan 2040 Engagement webpage Planning Blog (1040 subscribers) Planning Instagram targeting stakeholder, interested groups and representative bodies including equalities groups such as disabled people, women and ethnic minorities City Plan 2040 Mailing List (2729 subscribers) Council social media including Facebook, Instagram and Nextdoor

	Targeted e-mails to interested groups and representative bodies including equalities groups such as disabled people, women, ethnic minorities Targeted e-mails to key agencies, stakeholders and community councils In-person events to promote the place-based engagement to the general public Posters in libraries, community centres, parks and playgrounds Lamp post wraps Meetings with Council services and stakeholders to promote engagement
Distribution of documents	Targeted e-mails to key agencies, stakeholders and community councils Publishing supporting documents on the City Plan 2040 webpage
Consultation Tools	Council's Consultation Hub hosting 'what makes a good place?' questionnaire for the public at large, Place and Play questionnaire for children and young people and student living questionnaire. In-person events, workshops and activities with children and young people
Events	Pop-up university campus events to target student community Drop-in engagement events in different locations around the city Online/ in-person meetings with community councils and other community bodies Targeted meetings with wide range of Council services Targeted discussions/ meetings with key agencies, government agencies, stakeholders, other local authorities and regional groups

Additional Activities	Liaison with other Council services and stakeholders to identify and collate previous engagement findings
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Summary of Stakeholder Engagement

The below table highlights the requirements in the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and the Town and Country (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 and summaries how and where these requirements have been met.

Requirements in the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 2019	How and where these requirements have been met
Children and young people, in particular school pupils, youth councillors and youth parliament representatives	The report sets out the approach to engagement with children and young people. The results primarily feed into the Place Profiles A Place and Play questionnaire, hosted on the Council's Consultation Hub, was circulated to primary schools, secondary schools and home school network There were several in-person workshops and specific events which targeted those with protected characteristics Social media was used to target groups and representatives Posters were displayed in parks and play spaces across the city
The public at large	The report sets out the approach to engagement with the public at large. The results primarily feed into the Place Profiles. City-wide 'what makes a good place?' questionnaire based on the Place Standard tool hosted on the Council's Consultation Hub. Number of drop-in events across the city to target those who are digitally excluded
Disabled persons	The report sets out the approach taken to engage with disabled persons. The findings are set out in the Place Profiles and within the relevant topic papers notably Topic 13 Specialist housing and other accommodation

	Different place questionnaire formats and accessible drop-in events to help people with different disabilities to participate. Targeted e-mails to interested groups and representative bodies including disabled people with offer of meeting to discuss particular issues Utilising findings from other engagement activities with disabled persons notably the Local Housing Strategy work
Gypsies and Travellers (persons, whatever their race or origin, who are— (a)of or from a nomadic cultural tradition including— (i)members of Gypsy, Romany and Traveller ethnic groups including Roma Gypsies, Scottish Gypsy Travellers and Irish Travellers, (ii)persons who have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, (b)members of an organised group of Travelling Showpeople or circus people (whether or not travelling together as such).	The report sets out the approach taken to engage with Gypsies and Travellers. The findings are set out in Topic 13 Specialist housing and other accommodation There have been face to face discussions with members of the gypsy/ traveller community from both the travelling and settled perspective There has been direct engagement with MECOPP and Lothian Gypsy/Roma Forum The Showmen's Guild is included as a stakeholder and has been informed of the opportunities to be involved in the draft Topic Papers
Community Councils	The report sets out the engagement with Community Councils. The results primarily feed into the Place Profiles Invitation to prepare Local Place Plans Support provided for Local Place Plans Findings from the registered Local Place Plan have informed the Place Profiles Promotion of the place-based engagement Consultation on the Place Profiles
The Key Agencies	The report sets out the approach taken with Key Agencies and other stakeholders Each Topic Paper provides a 'summary of stakeholder engagement' statement outlining how Key Agencies and stakeholders have been

	engaged, summarising their views, whether the evidence is sufficient and identifying any outstanding disputes Key Agencies and stakeholder were provided the opportunity to comment on the different Topic Paper stages: scoping, 1st draft and 2nd draft Where possible, the relevant supporting documents were provided on the Council's City Plan 2040 webpage There have been a range of communication with key agencies and stakeholders including in-person and on-line discussions, e-mail correspondence and mail-outs
Such others as prescribed	The report outlines all the engagement undertaken including with specific groups and organisations. Each topic paper provides a 'summary of stakeholder engagement' that is relevant to that particular topic. A meeting and engagement record (CD) has been kept of the consultation and engagement that has been carried out including meetings, correspondence, mail-outs and events.

Early Engagement

Participation Statement

City Plan 2030 was adopted on 7 November 2024. Following adoption, work immediately started on City Plan 2040 and as a result, there was limited scope for early engagement to raise awareness of the next local development plan prior to this. The focus was on promoting City Plan 2030 and it would have been confusing to engage on City Plan 2040.

However, there was some early engagement. The Council sought the views of the public on the content of the draft Participation Statement (2023-2024), and it had regard to any views expressed which are incorporated in the current Participation Statement.

Local Place Plans

This section outlines how the Council has invited local communities to prepare Local Place Plans, and what assistance has been provided.

The Council invited communities across the Council area to prepare Local Place Plans on 16 November 2023 in accordance with Schedule 19 of the Planning

(Scotland) Act 2019. This invitation included community councils and other community bodies. There was a Local Place Plan Blog and a series of e-mails were sent out to Community Councils, community bodies, resident groups and stakeholders to highlight the opportunity to produce Local Place Plans. Posters and postcards were distributed in libraries and community centres to promote Local Place Plans to a wider audience.

There has been on-going promotion of Local Place Plans through directly contacting Community Councils and other community bodies. Figure 1 below outlines the repeated activity to promote Local Place Plans and other City Plan 2040 engagement opportunities amongst community councils and other community bodies:

Who	How	When
Civic Forum	On-line presentation and discussion	5 September 2023
Community Councils/ Community bodies	Planning Blog and mail-out	16 November 2023
Edinburgh Association of Community Councils	On-line presentation and discussion	26 October 2023
Community Councils	On-line presentation and discussion	30 May 2024
Edinburgh Association of Community Councils	On-line presentation and discussion	20 February 2025
Community Councils	Mail out	14 July 2025
Edinburgh Association of Community Councils	Presentation and discussion	25 September 2025
Living Streets	Webinar	23 February 2026

Figure 1: Promotion of Local Place Plans

At these meetings, Planning offered to attend individual community body meetings. Several groups took up this offer and there was a number of in-person presentations to explain and promote Local Place Plans and to outline the City Plan 2040 process and future engagement. These meetings were useful in helping the community bodies but they were also a chance to listen to the community bodies and learn about the issues within their area. For example, the meeting with the Corstorphine and West Craigs Community Council highlighted the traffic issues connected to new development. Figure 2 below outlines the meetings that Planning attended.

Community Body	Date
Fairmilehead Community Council	9 January 2024
Juniper Green and Baberton Community Council	28 February 2024
Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council	8 March 2024
Ratho and District, Community Council	26 June 2024
Morningside Community Council	16 April 2024
Friends of Midmar Paddock	24 July 2024

Astley Ainslie Community Trust	18 August 2024
Tollcross Community Council	30 October 2024
Gorgie and Dalry Community Council	2 June 2025
Edible Estates	19 June 2025
Edinburgh Old Town Development Trust	25 July 2025
Currie Community Council	13 August 2025
Southside Community Council	18 August 2025
Corstorphine and West Craigs Community Council	17 September 2025
Astley Ainslie Community Trust	16 October 2025
Gilmerton and District Community Council	20 April 2026
Trinity and Newhaven Community Council	1 June 2026

Figure 2: Meetings with community bodies

Where community bodies have started Local Place Plans, Planning has attended in-person meetings. Again, these meetings were useful, for example to answer questions, help with engagement exercises, give guidance on timescales and provide experience of other Local Place Plan work. The meetings also discussed the challenges and issues within that area that needed to be addressed in the Local Place Plan, for example, the West End Community Council and the lack of community facilities within its boundary. Overall, the meetings helped give Planning a better understanding what is happening in different places across the city. Figure 3 lists the meetings that Planning attended.

Community Council	Date
Ratho and District Community Council	20 January 2025
Fairmilehead Community Council	19 May 2025
Astley Ainslie Community Trust	17 September 2025
Astley Ainslie Community Trust	29 October 2025
Queensferry and District Community Council	9 December 2025
Southside Community Council	13 January 2026
Morningside Community Council	26 January 2026
Morningside Community Council	2 February 2026
West End Community Council	20 March 2026

Figure 3: Meetings to support Local Place Plan process

To assist the production of Local Place Plans, a specific [webpage](#) was set up outlining what Local Place Plans are, how to produce them and resources available and includes a 'how-to-guide' with a template (CD). This webpage also hosts the Council's Local Place Plan [register](#) (CD).

Where requested, the Council has provided physical and digital maps, statistical data and engagement findings as well as supporting a children and young people's engagement event for Queensferry Community Council.

There are currently three registered Local Place Plans: Wester Hailes, Friends of Midmar Paddock and Astley Ainslie and these have informed the Place Profiles.

It is expected that a total of 20 Local Place Plans will be produced and registered with a deadline of the end of September 2026 so they can be taken account for the start of the Proposed Plan process.

Engagement Approach

The Evidence Report contains Topic Papers and Place Profiles with a series of supporting documents.

Topic Papers

Engagement for the Topic Papers has focussed on 'stakeholders' including Key Agencies, public bodies, infrastructure providers, representative bodies, internal Council services, further and higher education institutions, businesses, landowners and developers. There has also been engagement with particular groups prescribed in the legislation where relevant to the particular topic, for example Gypsies and Travellers with regards to Topic 13 Specialist housing and other accommodation.

The Key Agency section of this Engagement Report provides a summary of the stages of consultation with Key Agencies and other stakeholders. However, each topic paper has its own 'summary of stakeholder engagement' which outlines the main views raised for each stage of the topic paper preparation, the Council's response and implications for the Proposed Plan.

Place Profiles

The engagement for the Place Profiles has been community focussed targeting the public at large and children and young people.

This engagement has involved in-person events and on-line questionnaires hosted on the Council's Consultation Hub. The results have been broken down into the different wards and have provided the qualitative evidence for the Place Profiles.

There is a summary of the engagement findings within relevant sections of this Engagement Report. Where appropriate, the engagement findings have informed the Topic Papers but the detailed analysis is within the individual Place Profiles. Each Place Profile provides a summary of the strengths, weakness and implications for each ward.

The engagement with the public at large and children and young people has also been used to inform the Play Sufficiency Assessment. The Play Sufficiency Assessment also includes a detailed engagement summary.

Place-based and People-Centred Engagement

In line with local development planning guidance issued by the Scottish Government in May 2023, the plan aims to have a clear focus on place and will 'tell a clear and compelling story about the future of places.'

Edinburgh is not just one place; but a jigsaw of different areas that make up Edinburgh as a whole. People's experience of living in Edinburgh can vary

significantly depending on where they live with many areas experiencing long-standing inequalities. It is important to consider how the plan can best meet the aspirations and challenges of the city's different places and its people.

A proportion of the engagement for the Evidence Report has therefore focused on understanding what people think about where they live – what they like about it, what they don't like and what would make it better.

The related place-based engagement has drawn on the Place Standard tool and this approach has informed the creation of Place Profiles.

Existing Engagement

Council services and other stakeholders have been involved in wide-ranging place-based engagement and it was important to recognise, utilise and build upon those engagement findings, and as a result, an audit took place of any previous engagement by contacting other CEC services and stakeholder groups.

Previous place-based engagement has specifically fed into the Place Profiles to provide additional qualitative data to understand how an area is working for people living there.

Consultation and Engagement Activities

This section sets out the engagement activities which the Council has undertaken which to satisfy the legislative requirements set out in Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and the Town and Country (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023; and to meet the intentions and expectations set out in the local development planning guidance.

Children and Young People

Approach

It was important to ensure that children and young people's voices were at the heart of preparing the Evidence Report, recognising that the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child Article 12 establishes a child's fundamental right to express their views freely in all matters affecting them. The outcomes of the Plan will affect children and young people in how they live their lives now but also as they become adults.

In approaching the engagement, it was important to capture children and young people's voices from across Edinburgh recognising the disparities between areas, the different living environments within the city and the challenges facing those with protected characteristics.

It was also important to make sure the engagement reflected the interests, values and rewards of children and young people if it was going to be meaningful and successful.

Before starting any work on designing the engagement, it was helpful to pull on the experience and advice of others directly involved with children and young people to

get an understanding of what should be included and how it should be pitched. This involved discussions with the Children's Partnership Place Group which included external partners such as NHS Lothian, Edinburgh Leisure, Police Scotland, Lothian Association of Youth Clubs and other Council services including Lifelong Learning, Parks and Openspace, Children, Education and Justice Services, Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing and Strategic Asset Planning. This was also an opportunity to make further contacts, test ideas and access the findings from other engagement activities.

There was also early engagement with children and young people to explore the possibilities and to help design the engagement strategy in a collaborative way.

Workshops using the Place Standard tool in connection with other planning-related work were an opportunity to chat to young people about future planning engagement and get their views on what issues it should cover, what form it should take, how it should be communicated and what would encourage children and young people to fill it in and get involved. These were helpful discussions and were a chance to listen to young people and get a sense of the issues that were important to them.

Figure 4 shows a Place Standard exercise at Portobello High School in connection with the Seafield Place Brief.



Figure 4: Young people's Place Standard exercise

Questionnaire

From these discussions, it was clear that an on-line questionnaire distributed via the schools which could be completed on school iPads would be a good way of reaching a large proportion of children and young people. This would target children in

Primary 6 and 7 and all secondary school students. Some form of incentive to fill in the questionnaire was important such as an opportunity to win a voucher.

To make sure that the questions used the right language and tone, the Council held a focus group with young people from different primary and secondary schools to help develop the questions. This was a useful discussion and was an opportunity to check whether the questions made sense and to make sure the length was right. Again, it was a chance to listen to young people from around Edinburgh and get an idea of what they liked about where they lived and what the issues were.

An offer was made from Scottish Youth Action for a group of its members to help check over the questionnaire and these included neurodivergent young people. They tested the questionnaire provided more feedback on the topics, format of the questionnaire, the questions and the language. The questionnaire was changed to address this feedback including adding in photographs to make it more visual. This testing made sure that the questionnaire was accessible for all children and young people.

Place and Play Questionnaire

The Place and Play questionnaire for children and young people was hosted on the Council's Consultation Hub from 12 November 2025 to 6 February 2026.

It covered a range of topics about where they lived: home, moving around, shops and services, free time, outdoor spaces, climate change and nature. There was also a focus on play and hanging out as the engagement results would also feed into the Play Sufficiency Assessment.

A differentiated questionnaire was produced to support those with diverse learning needs.

The questionnaire was distributed to:

- CEC Primary Schools (P6-P7s)
- CEC High Schools
- Special Schools
- Independent Schools
- Home School network

It was promoted via Instagram which targeted groups representing young people including the Youth Parliament as seen in Figure 5 below:

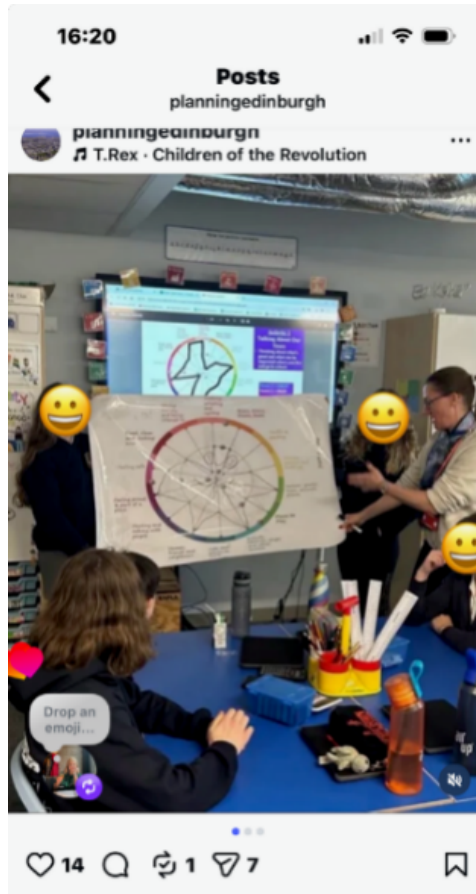


Figure 5: Instagram post promoting the engagement

Being mindful that some children and young people were not within the school system, posters were put up in 74 parks and playgrounds across the city.



Figure 6: Survey poster promotion

Results

In total, **1850** responses were received for the Place and Play engagement. Figure 7 lists the schools which the children and young people attended and shows that the responses are from a range of different places across Edinburgh.

Primary Schools	Secondary Schools
Blackhall Primary School Bonaly Primary School Broughton Primary School Carrick Knowe Primary School Colinton Primary School Craiglockhart Primary School Cramond Primary School Davidsons Mains Primary School Dalmeny Primary School Ferryhill Primary School Flora Stevenston Primary Granton Primary School Hermitage Park Primary School Leith Primary School Liberton Primary School Lorne Primary School Nether Currie Primary School Newcraighall Primary School Pentland Primary School Oxgangs Primary School St Ninian's RC Primary School St Peter's R.C. Primary School Stenhouse Primary school Stockbridge Primary School	Balerno Community High School Boroughmuir High School Broughton High School Craigmount High School Drummond Community High School Firhill High School Holy Rood RC High School James Gillespie's High School Liberton High School Portobello High School Queensferry Community High School St Augustine's RC High School St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School The Royal High School Trinity Academy Tynecastle High School

Figure 7: Schools attended by those who filled in the questionnaires

Conversations with Children and Young People

Alongside the questionnaire, it was important to talk to children and young people face to face especially those who have a different life experience. Lothian Association of Youth Clubs provided support to reach out to a wide range of children and young people groups throughout Edinburgh. This provided the opportunity to talk to harder to reach children and young people including those outside the school system and provided an alternative way to express their views.

There were several in-person discussions and activities with children and young people and these included the following:

- **Edinburgh Young Carers:** Organisation dedicated working with and supporting young carers

- **Stepping Stones:** Group to improve mental health and resilience
- **Passion4Fusion:** Support organisation for ethnic minority communities
- **Livity Youth Scotland:** Youth club supporting young people especially from black and global majority backgrounds
- **Score Scotland:** Charity supporting and empowering those who face discrimination
- **Mindroom:** Organisation improving the quality of life for neurodivergent people
- **Queensferry High School students:** In connection with the Queensferry Local Place Plan



Figure 8: Ice-breaker activity with young people from Passion4Fusion



Figure 9: Feedback on open space in Queensferry

In total, these involved 124 children and young people of different genders, ages and backgrounds including refugees who had recently arrived in Scotland. Feedback

showed that children and young people enjoyed these in-person activities and they were a chance for them to talk about themselves and where they lived; and be heard. They provided invaluable insights into their experience of living in Edinburgh.

Children and Young People Engagement Findings

Children and young people can have very different living experiences depending on their home, where they live in Edinburgh or their particular circumstances. However, the engagement findings show that having the right home, being able to 'live well locally' and being able to get around easily were universally important and key themes from across Edinburgh emerged.

The following is a summary of the main issues raised by children and young people:

- Overall, they are happy with where they live but the most common issue with their home is that it could be bigger, would like their own bedroom or would prefer to live in a house rather than a flat (usually because of problem neighbours in the stair)
- Protecting and improving local green space and places to play/hang out is really important but the spaces could be cleaner and safer
- Would like more trees and planting
- Parks need better and more equipment especially for older children and teenagers and also facilities such as toilets and cafes so they can stay out longer
- Local shops and services are important and generally there are enough where they live; they often socialise in food and drink places/ shopping centres so it is important to have access to these
- Active travel is important but often they do not feel safe moving around in their area
- Need for safer, more accessible and connected cycling/scooting routes
- Positive about public transport especially buses which they use the most and there was general support for new tram lines
- There is usually a good range of sports activities within the area
- Community space is important and they need to provide a wider range of classes/activities that are not just sport related.

The detailed engagement findings are in the Place Profiles (and Play Sufficiency Assessment) and have been used to identify the strengths, challenges and implications for each ward. The thematic findings are also highlighted in the relevant topic papers.

Public at Large

Approach

Given the scale of Edinburgh and the range of different communities within the city, engaging with the 'public at large' would be challenging. It was decided that a place-based questionnaire which could be promoted on a city-wide basis would be the most effective means of reaching the most people.

The 'what makes a good place?' was based on the Place Standard Tool as this is widely recognised as a simple and effective tool for considering what works well within a place. The questions used the wording from the Place Standard guidance to frame the questions.

The questionnaire was based on the following questions: what do you like, what don't you like and what would make it better. It covered key elements that make a good place to live: home, homes for other people, shops and services, healthcare facilities, moving around, economy, community, green and natural spaces, growing spaces, climate change, sports and play.

For the questionnaire, people were asked for their postcode so the answers could be attributed to specific wards to gain the qualitative feedback for the Place Profiles and get an understanding of how well these places were working for the people living there. The thematic approach also meant that the feedback could be used to inform the different topic papers.

Place Questionnaire

The 'what makes a good place?' questionnaire was hosted on the Council's Consultation Hub from 10 October 2025 to 6 February 2026.

An easy read version was also provided to download so that people with learning difficulties could be supported to participate.

The questionnaire was widely promoted through a range of methods to ensure it reached across the whole city:

- Social media through Instagram, Facebook, Nextdoor including targeting representative groups
- Planning Blog
- Mail-outs to the City Plan 2040 mailing list, community councils, community groups and residents groups
- E-mails to third sector organisations and voluntary organisations including representative groups of those with protected characteristics
- CEC internal Newsbeat
- Posters in libraries and community centres
- Lamppost wraps



Figure 9: Lamppost wrap on Lasswade Road



Figure 10: Instagram post

Public at Large Results

A total of **799** responses were received, with the breakdown of information on who responded in Figure 11 as follows:

Category	Option	Number of Responses
Sex	Female	467
	Male	306
	Prefer not to say	23
	Not answered	3
Age	Under 16 years	9
	16-24 years	13
	25-34 years	77
	35-44 years	170
	45-54 years	161
	55-64 years	142
	65-74 years	140
	75 and over	64
	Prefer not to say	18
	Not answered	4
Ethnic Group	White	717
	Asian, Scottish Asian or British Asian	18
	African, Scottish African or British African	1
	Other Ethnic groups	4
	Prefer not to say	34
	Not answered	18
Disability	Yes	177
	No	570
	Prefer not to say	34
	Not answered	18
Condition/ illness	Vision	11
	Hearing	32
	Mobility	53
	Dexterity	10
	Learning or understanding or concentrating	17
	Memory	15
	Mental Health	54
	Stamina or breathing or fatigue	44
	Socially or behaviourally	37
	Other	30
	Prefer not to say	28

Figure 11: Breakdown of who responded to the questionnaire

Drop-In Events

To support and promote the ‘what makes a good place?’ engagement and reach those not on-line, there were a series of in person drop-in events across the city as follows:

Location	Date
Waverley Court	3 November 2025
Gyle Shopping Centre	8 November 2025
Kirkliston Parish Church Hall	11 November 2025
Sighthill Library	12 November 2025
Oxgangs Library	17 November 2025
Drumbrae Library	18 November 2025
Magdalene Community Centre	19 November 2025
North Edinburgh Arts Centre	21 November 2025
Cameron Toll Shopping Centre	17 January 2026
Gilmerton Community Centre	22 January 2026

Figure12: List of drop-in events



Figure 13: Planning officer at drop-in event at the Gyle

Around 150 people attended the drop-in events and predominantly these were older people. The drop-in events were an opportunity to promote the Place engagement, provide paper copies of the questionnaire (including versions for those with visual impairments) which could be posted back using a freepost envelope and answer any questions.

The drop-in events were good opportunities for people to chat directly to planning officers about where they lived and overall, they sparked some good conversations

about Edinburgh and its challenges. For example, at Cameron Toll, several members of Living Rent attended to discuss the cost of housing and the impact of purpose built student accommodation and short-term lets on housing.



Figure 14: Drop-in event at Kirkliston

Public At Large Engagement Findings

Similar to the findings from the children and young people engagement, key themes were similar across the city although differences between the urban and rural areas of the city were evident. The following is a summary of the main issues raised:

- People are generally happy with their homes but if they could change anything, it would be a bigger space, a house rather than a flat, own garden and somewhere less cold/damp
- Homes generally meet the needs of people but identified the need for more affordable, social and accessible homes and less hotel/ student accommodation/ short term lets
- Mixed response to the availability of shops and services depending on where people live but most welcome a variety in walking distance or better public transport connections to other areas. More independent shops/ small businesses was highlighted
- When asked what there 'was too much of', the responses focussed on: coffee shops/cafes, beauty shops, betting shops, vape shops, barbers/hairdressers, charity shops, large supermarkets, car garages, tourist shops and takeaways/ fast food
- Mixed response to access to healthcare facilities and varied according to area but access to GPs was highlighted as an issue

- Getting around by active travel was generally positive but more dedicated, connected, safer and accessible walking and particularly cycle routes was highlighted
- Access to public transport was mixed and dependant on location within the city. Better connectivity around the city was a theme rather than routes all going into the city centre
- Traffic and traffic congestion was generally seen as a problem
- Access to work, volunteering and training had a mixed response with small business units and local business space being important
- Enough local spaces and opportunities to meet had a mixed response with community centres/ spaces seen as important and generally more would be welcome especially places that are free
- Sheltered/all-weather outdoor spaces to meet people and more benches were often mentioned
- Need more public toilets
- Access to green space was generally positive
- Places to play were generally seen as positive but more needed and options for different ages especially teenagers and a wider variety of sports facilities
- More growing spaces including allotments needed across the city – inconsistent provision
- Protection of green space and trees was important
- Climate change concerns were mixed but focussed on flooding, renewable energy, biodiversity and air quality.

The detailed engagement findings are in the Place Profiles and have been used to summarise the strengths, weaknesses and implications for each ward. The thematic findings are also highlighted in the relevant topic papers.

Students

Students are a significant part of Edinburgh's 'public at large' population. Topic 14 Student accommodation identifies that there are 69,255 students across the four universities in Edinburgh, comprising approximately 13% of Edinburgh's population. Students are a key part of the city, contributing to the local economy, supporting services and transport so it was important to understand what is important to them in terms of living in Edinburgh.

There was specific engagement targeted at students to feed into the Local Housing Strategy, Student Accommodation guidance and Topic 14 Student accommodation of the Evidence Report.

Engagement

The focus of the engagement was a Student Living questionnaire hosted on the Council's Consultation Hub from 21 March 2025 to 23 May 2025 to seek the views of students on their experience of accommodation and living in Edinburgh.

Whilst the majority of the questions were about accommodation, it also explored what was important to students when thinking about living in Edinburgh such as public transport routes, safety, nightlife, shops and services, places to eat and drink, green space, places to play sport.

To develop the questionnaire and to explore how it could be communicated out, there was collaboration with the student representatives from Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh Napier University, Heriot-Watt University, the University of Edinburgh and SLURP: Students for Action on Homelessness.

The engagement was promoted through university communication channels, student newsletters and social media. Figure 14 is an example of how the engagement was communicated out.



Figure 15: Communication of the engagement by Heriot Watt Student Union

There were in-person pop-up events to further promote the engagement and encourage students to fill it in as follows:

- Heriot-Watt University on 26 March 2025
- University of Edinburgh Library on 25 April 2025

- EUSA Potterrow on 28 April 2025



Figure 16: Pop-up at Edinburgh University Library

Results

A total of 222 responses were received. These results have fed into the Place Profiles and Topic 14 Student Accommodation. Appendix 1 provides the report of the Student Living engagement.

The summary of the main issues raised by students is as follows:

- Locational preference for accommodation close to place of study with good transport links, access to shops and services, safe neighbourhood and access to greenspaces
- Support for mixed housing and reducing segregation caused by student-only accommodation and shared space to enable natural interaction between students and the wider community.

Disabled People

Approach

The 'what makes a good place?' engagement was the primary means to capture the views of disabled people. It was designed to ensure it was accessible - taking into account a wide range of illnesses and conditions - in the following ways:

- Use of plain English for the questionnaire so the questions were easy to understand
- Easy to understand explanations before each question for context and understanding
- Use of emojis making the questionnaire simpler to help break language barriers and provide more visual answer options
- Word version of the questions on the Consultation Hub so people could look through the questions beforehand
- Easy read version of the questionnaire on the Consultation Hub
- Drop-in events with a range of paper questionnaire formats to help those with a visual impairment
- Drop-in events that were in different locations across the city that were accessible.

The engagement included play questions related to the accessibility and provision of play facilities for children and young people with disabilities.

To promote the place engagement, Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council (EVOC) contacted its membership which includes a wide range of voluntary, community groups and organisations in Edinburgh including those supporting people with disabilities. An offer was made to meet with Planning officers to discuss the issues and challenges facing disabled people.

Planning's Instagram promoted the engagement with a range of disability groups and organisations within Edinburgh.

From those who completed the questionnaire, 22.15% (177 responses) said they had a physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more.

Children and Young People

For children and young people, there was engagement with special schools. Six students completed the differentiated questionnaire. There were in-person conversations with neurodivergent children and young people and those with mental health issues.

Students

The Student Living consultation was an opportunity to seek the views of students with disabilities and whether their needs were being met.

Topic 13 Specialist housing and other accommodation

This topic paper explores the housing needs of older and disabled people and pulls in engagement and research from the Local Housing Strategy (LHS) and from other stakeholders involved in the provision of housing for disabled people. The paper outlines the concerns and issues relating to housing for people with disabilities and older people.

Disabled People Engagement Findings

The following provides a summary of the main issues raised by disabled people through the different engagement and research:

- Need and demand for more affordable accessible and wheelchair homes including larger homes
- Lack of suitable housing for people with learning disabilities
- Importance of staying in local area and maintaining connections with community life
- Importance of access to amenities, leisure facilities and green space – linking to living well locally
- Need for a range of medical services within an area
- Importance of well-lit (especially in winter), safe and well-maintained public realm to allow safe and easier moving around
- Sheltered outdoor meeting spaces and more seated rest points along walking routes
- More accessible play equipment for children with disabilities and the importance of toilets/ changing places
- More car free spaces
- Pedestrian only paths to improve safety by reducing conflict with cyclists
- Good access to frequent public transport including more stops and more connections around the city than just the city centre
- Access to learning based activities within an area
- Students highlighted lift and building access problems, reliance on well-maintained facilities, sensory overwhelm in shared flats and lack of adaptable space and personal control.

For those who responded to the Place engagement, this has informed the Place Profiles alongside the Play Sufficiency Assessment which will assess the play opportunities for children with disabilities. Other findings are incorporated within the relevant topic papers.

Gypsies and Travellers

Approach

Within the city, the Council has one permanent site at North Cairntow. There are no transient sites but there are on-going instances of unauthorised encampments used by locally based communities or those temporarily based or moving through Edinburgh. It was important to understand these different communities and their particular needs in a planning context.

The Council has a Traveller Site Manager and Roadside Encampment Liaison Officer who worked closely with a Police Constable from the Prevention, Intervention and Partnerships Divisional Coordination Unit in Police Scotland.

Planning was able to draw on their experiences and knowledge of the different Gypsy and Traveller communities. Their advice was that face-to-face chats were best way to engage with the Gypsy and Traveller communities; and they were able to facilitate and support this approach.

Engagement Activity

Planning officers talked to 3 people from different families who had pitched at Huly Hill near Newbridge as an unauthorised encampment. This took place on 23 June 2025. Whilst they were settled, they also travelled in the summer for work and explained the need for transit sites with appropriate separate facilities particularly for women and girls. It was helpful to understand the cultural requirements in terms of modesty/hygiene, the difficulties of having no facilities such as toilets and waste collection and how this caused tension with local residents.

Planning also visited The Light and Life event at Hunter's Hall in Craigmillar on 30 June 2025. It was an opportunity to talk to the pastor and several people from Scotland and also the rest of the UK. Light and Life is a Christian Pentecostal Movement whose members are mainly drawn from the UK's Romani and gypsy/traveller people. It was an opportunity to discuss the difficulty of finding appropriate settled sites and achieving planning consent. Again, it was useful to hear first-hand of the importance of living as family groups and the challenges of finding sites.

There was an on-line meeting on 27 August 2025 with Virginia Francis, Community Health Team Leader within MECOPP (Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project) who is also a member of the Gypsy and Traveller community who provided an insight into the settled gypsy community and its needs. She could draw on her own experience of family having to move away because of a lack of pitches within a permanent site and the difficulty of then not being within a family group. She also discussed how being in 'bricks and mortar' housing was difficult because of the isolation compared to living in a site.

Planning attended the Lothian Gypsy/Roma Forum on 16 June 2025 to better understand the challenges facing that community and was an opportunity to make further contacts.

Gypsy and Travellers Engagement Findings

The needs of Gypsy and Travellers are explored in more detail in Topic 13 Specialist housing and other accommodation. However, the summary of the main issues raised by Gypsies and Travellers are as follows:

- If there is no room to grow in the permanent site, it means that as families grow, they have to leave and live away from their community which is culturally difficult
- Need for other permanent sites in Edinburgh to support different communities – preference to be in certain family groups rather than sharing sites

- Lack of transient sites with private/ separate facilities particularly for women and girls including toilets, showers and access to hot running water and waste collection
- Importance of being near local services and not in a poor location – sites need a good level of amenity

Community Councils

Further to the section of Local Place Plans, this outlines how the Council has been proactive in engaging and seeking the views of Community Councils and this has included the following:

- Providing updates on the City Plan 2040 process including circulation of the new Development Plan Schemes
- Promotion of Local Place Plans
- Promotion of Place engagement
- Input into the Place engagement
- Engagement on the Place Profiles.

The City of Edinburgh Council has 47 Community Council areas. While preparing the Evidence Report, revised Community Council boundaries came into effect on 28 March 2025 with elections on 27 March 2025 which resulted in some community councils not being elected, new community councils being created and a large number of new community councillors within the city. This has necessitated the need to re-engage and update the 'new' community councils on City Plan 2040 including the opportunity to produce Local Place Plans.

Local Place Plans

The invitation to prepare Local Place Plans and how the Council has promoted the opportunity and supported community councils is outlined in the Local Place Plan section of the Engagement Report. This work has helped to build good working relationships with a number of community council across the city and to raise awareness of City Plan 2040.

Place Engagement/ Place Profiles

Community Councils were informed of the 'what makes a good place?' engagement through the Planning Blog, City Plan 2040 mailing list and targeted e-mails. Community Councils were encouraged to fill the questionnaire in as an organisation as well as circulate amongst its local community.

Draft versions of the Place Profiles were sent to all the Community Councils and local Councillors on 18 March 2026 so their local knowledge could be fed in the process to make sure the Place Profiles were accurate and capturing the story of that place. A number of community councils provided feedback which was incorporated into the Place Profiles.

The Council will continue to actively engage with Community Councils in the 'Call for Ideas' and Proposed Plan process.

Key Agencies and Stakeholders

Section 16(B)(2) states that in preparing the Evidence Report, the planning authority is to seek the views of and have regard to any views expressed by the Key Agencies, specified in Regulation 25.

For Edinburgh, the Planning regulations define the Key Agencies as:

- Nature Scot
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
- Scottish Water
- Scottish Enterprise
- South-East Scotland Transport Partnership
- National Health Service Lothian.

There are also other organisations that support the planning system and are part of the Key Agencies Group:

- Transport Scotland
- Scottish Forestry
- Marine Directorate
- Architecture and Design Scotland
- British Geological Survey
- SportScotland
- Visit Scotland

Homes for Scotland is not a Key Agency but in the Topic Papers, it is recognised as such given it represents the home building industry in Scotland.

In addition, the City of Edinburgh Council has involved a range of additional stakeholders including public bodies, development interests, further and higher education institutions, business and tourism groups, transport organisations, infrastructure providers and landowners in the Evidence Report process including in the preparation of supporting documents such as the economic needs study as listed below:

- British Army
- City Region Deal
- Cohousing Scotland
- Edinburgh Airport
- Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust
- Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce

- Edinburgh College
- Edinburgh Geological Society
- Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership
- Edinburgh Hotel Association
- Edinburgh Tourism Action Group
- Edinburgh Trams
- Edinburgh World Heritage Trust
- Essential Edinburgh
- Forestry and Land Scotland
- Forth Ports
- Health and Safety Executive
- Heriot Watt University
- Homes for Scotland
- Lothian Buses
- Mining Remediation Authority (The Coal Authority)
- Napier University
- Network Rail
- Office of Nuclear Regulation
- Play Scotland
- Queen Margaret University
- ScotRail
- Scottish Canals
- Scottish Federation of Housing Associations
- Scottish Property Federation: Purpose Built Student Accommodation Group
- Scottish Retail Consortium
- Scottish Rural College
- Scottish Showmen's Guild
- Scottish Strategic Archaeology Committee
- Scottish Wildlife Trust
- Scotland Gas Networks
- Scottish Power Energy Networks
- University of Edinburgh
- Walk Wheel Cycle Trust
- Woodland Trust

The Key Agencies and other stakeholders as outlined above have also been involved in the topic paper preparation where their input and response were formally requested by e-mail for each stage:

- Scoping: May 2025
- 1st Draft of Topic Paper: November 2025
- 2nd Draft of Topic Paper: February/March 2026

For the scoping stage, the Key Agencies and stakeholders were contacted by e-mail asking for evidence to feed into the Evidence Report and to give their views on the proposed coverage of topics that make up the Evidence Report. A record of these e-mails are included in the meeting and engagement record. A range of evidence was put forward by key agencies and stakeholders including data, mapping, national and regional policies and strategies which has been included in the relevant Topic Paper and referred to in the core documents.

For the drafts of the Topic Papers, the Key Agencies and stakeholders were contacted by e-mail regarding the 1st draft of the Topic Papers and the 2nd draft of the Topic Papers; and were given the opportunity to comment on any number of Topic Papers. For the second draft of topic papers, Key Agencies were advised when suggested changes had been made. Follow-on e-mails and reminders were sent as required, along with a request to confirm whether the key agencies considered the evidence sufficient or whether they wished to raise any disputes.

Information is provided at the end of each topic paper which summaries the stakeholder engagement, how the views expressed have been taken into account and whether there are outstanding issues or areas of dispute, with key agency comments provided in table form.

In addition to the formal engagement process, there were targeted discussions with stakeholders as requested or as required. These vary according to the Topic Paper. Discussions held are noted in the meeting and engagement record.

Council Stakeholders

The Evidence Report has been developed in collaboration with and supported by the following Council services:

- City Strategies
- Climate and Nature
- Children, Education and Justice Services
- Corporate Property
- Community Empowerment
- Cultural Partnerships and Strategy
- Development and Regeneration
- Estates
- Heritage, Cultural Venues and Museums
- Housing and Homelessness
- Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing
- Neighbourhood Environmental Services
- Parks and Openspace
- Regulatory Services
- Schools and Lifelong Learning
- Strategic Asset Planning

- Transport Network Management and Enforcement
- Transport Networks
- Transport Strategy and Partnerships

There have been a range of working groups, meetings and discussions which are documented in the meeting and engagement record. The collaborative working relationships established during the Evidence Report process will be maintained throughout the Proposed Plan stage.

The process of preparing the Evidence Report has also been overseen through the City Plan Project Board comprising of senior manager representing key Council services including Strategic Asset Planning, Finance and Procurement, Housing and Homelessness, Transport Strategy & Partnership and Strategy. This has further ensured a Council wide approach and alignment with Council business objectives, strategies and processes.

Within Planning, there is a Policy Working Group which has membership from across the different teams within the service including development management, enforcement, service improvement, service delivery, design, heritage and natural environment specialists and development planning. This is an active group which provides feedback on planning policy and guidance, assesses planning appeal decisions and acts as a forum for planning issues.

Elected Members

There are 63 councillors serving on the City of Edinburgh Council. They represent 17 wards across the city. Planning Committee consist of 11 councillors and each political party has a planning lead.

There are regular Leadership Forums with these planning leads to provide City Plan 2040 updates and engage the councillors on key issues.

In terms of direct engagement with the Evidence Report process, the finalised version of the topic papers were shared with the Planning leads in March 2026.

Draft versions of the Place Profiles were sent to all the Councillors in March 2026 for feedback and insight and these were amended to take comments into account.

Councillors have been provided with information on Local Place Plans, Place engagement and the associated drop-in events to promote and circulate to their constituents.

Further details can be found in the meeting and engagement record.

Neighbouring Authorities and Regional Groups

There has been on-going engagement with neighbouring local authorities. There is an established Lothian and Borders Planning Officers Group which comprises: City of Edinburgh Council, East Lothian Council, Midlothian Council, Scottish Borders

Council and West Lothian Council along with a further City planning authorities group comprising Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen.

These have provided an opportunity to share information on approaches such as to housing, transport, landscape and green belt, and identify areas of collaboration.

There has been collaboration with East Lothian and Midlothian Council on the review of the green belt in terms of methodology to make sure there was consistency of approach. There has also been direct discussions West Lothian Council who share the countryside and landscape boundary and involvement in its green belt review.

Planning has attended the Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee on 14 January 2026 and the Pentland Hills Regional Park Landowners and Farmers meeting on 2 March 2026. Both these events were an opportunity to understand the challenges facing rural business. Planning has also been involved in discussions and collaboration on progressing the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Appendix 1: Summary of Student Living Consultation

Student Representatives

A meeting was held with student sabbatical officer representatives from University of Edinburgh, Napier University and Heriot-Watt University on 8 October. A Council representative from Planning also joined this discussion in relation to City Plan 2030 and 2040.

An introductory presentation was provided before opening up for discussion. Key discussion points are summarised below and a further meeting is to follow to continue the conversation.

Purpose-Built Student Accommodation

- What about students that live in PRS and their voices? Most of our students don't live in PBSA and many students don't want to live in PBSAs. Consideration of housing for students should be broader than that.
- Pricing differential highlighted between university owned and privately owned PBSA
- Affordability – How are we defining it?
- Are students being considered in all areas of the LHS not just in the student section?
- Reflections on public perceptions of PBSA, which are often felt to be negative. It's difficult for students who need the accommodation. How do we tackle the negative view that students aren't members of the community? Students are valid members of the community and aren't tourists. How do we increase community building of students within the accommodation blocks themselves? Student reps can work with the Residents Assistants. It is more difficult to do this in the privately owned PBSA.

Private Rented Sector

- The high cost of the PRS means e.g. that 9% of Heriot-Watt students after paying their monthly rent have £50/ month left of available money. These students can't afford to engage with activities and can't contribute to the local economy.
- Many students leave quickly after finishing University as they can't afford to stay so they are lost to the City.
- The issues students face are the same as other people in the PRS. Students are often impacted by limited finances.
- Some concerns raised about some landlords who take advantage of students and students are often not respected as much as working people. Viewed as "silly kids". Is there an opportunity here to support students to become more informed and more empowered to navigate the system?

Location and Travel

- Students are more often staying further away from their university and commuting in, sometimes considerable distances. They then spend more time (and money) commuting which has a negative effect on their education and overall student experience.
- The free bus cards are good but extensive time spent travelling means people miss out on socialising or building community at the University.
- University of Edinburgh has data on the number of students living in each postcode area and data on where they are via address, but this is inconsistent across other universities.

Information/ Support

- How can students be supported to become more informed and know their rights as tenants?
- Where do students go for information to try to find accommodation?
- How helpful are the Universities in trying to help students find accommodation?
- Do the Universities provide enough information to prospective international students before they come to the UK and how difficult it can be to find accommodation in Edinburgh?
- It's a huge challenge to find housing for students, especially international students.
- The steps you need to take to find housing aren't clear. Information on the University websites can be limited and inconsistent.

'UK based rent guarantor' requirements

- For international students trying to secure accommodation in the PRS they need a 'UK based rent guarantor' document. Landlords will request this. It's a UK resident guaranteeing the rent will be paid.
- It was noted that some letting agents won't accept the UK based guarantee that is provided by University of Edinburgh. Could the Council work more closely with letting agents to encourage them to accept the guarantee? (It was noted that the Council has limited powers to intervene here).
- Could the University of Edinburgh request some information from the letting agencies that are refusing applications?

Student transition from student to non-student and Council Tax requirements

- When students leave university, they start paying Council Tax the day after their last exam. Could this be reviewed to consider a slight grace period? At this point students don't have their degree as they haven't graduated yet. It's a stressful time with increased expenditure whilst income has likely not changed.

Alternative visions for student accommodation

- There's room for more housing co-operatives in the City. Noted that there is to be further discussion on this.

Student Representative Meeting 2

A follow-up meeting was held with student sabbatical officer representatives from the University of Edinburgh, Napier University and Heriot-Watt University on 10 March 2025, building on conversations had during phase two. Two student representatives from Slurp Edinburgh joined the meeting, following a deputation on the Local Housing Strategy to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee in February 2025. Two Council representatives from Planning also joined this discussion in relation to City Plan 2030 and 2040.

The discussion centred around the issues highlighted in Slurp's deputation, which were:

- Data: particularly the importance of qualitative, lived experience accounts from students. This feedback has been taken onboard in the development of the Student Living consultation, which has the banner "tell us your story".
- International Students: it was highlighted that international students often face a particular set of challenges and greater attention should be drawn to this in the strategy.
- Students with disabilities/ particular access requirements: as above.

The discussion also presented an important opportunity to explore engagement opportunities with students. It was established that Planning colleagues were embarking on a targeted engagement exercise with students on the Student Accommodation planning guidance and City Plan 2040. There was strong agreement from the group that these engagement activities should be combined to make it easier for students to share their views and minimise the risk of consultation fatigue.

As a result, it was agreed that a targeted student engagement consultation would be launched to help inform the Local Housing Strategy, the Student Accommodation planning guidance and City Plan 2040.

An engagement plan was subsequently developed, involving university campus pop up events and social media/ student newsletter promotion.

A questionnaire was developed in collaboration with student representatives to ensure that the issues covered, questions and wording were appropriate.

University Campus Pop-Up Engagement Events

As agreed with the student sabbatical officers, a series of pop-up events were arranged across the four main university campuses to promote the targeted student living consultation, as well as the wider LHS and planning consultations.

The first event was a Housing Fair at Heriot-Watt Campus on 26 March 2025. Around 100 students were engaged with at this event, with a dedicated stall set up and postcards distributed linking to the student living consultation via a QR code linked which worked particularly effectively. General housing matters were discussed, with the most frequently recurring issue relating to availability and affordability of private rented accommodation, including issues with affording the deposits, along with concerns/ lack of awareness about renters rights.

Further university campus pop-up events are being taken forward by Planning colleagues. 48 responses to the Student Engagement online consultation had been received as at 17 April 2025, as further detailed below.

Student Living Consultation

Recognising the overlaps across planned student engagement by Planning and Housing teams respectively, it was agreed that a targeted student engagement consultation would be launched to help inform the Local Housing Strategy, the Student Accommodation planning guidance and the Evidence Report. This consultation is attached at Appendix 4. The consultation will run until 23 May 2025.

A total of 220 responses were received. The survey asked a total of 32 questions.

These ranged from a focus on the current accommodation in which respondents live; how happy they were with their accommodation; how easy or difficult it was to find accommodation in Edinburgh; and where they currently go to find advice and information about accommodation in Edinburgh.

- Just over half of respondents currently live within the private rented sector (50.9%) and over a third (34%) live within University Halls of Residence.
- Most of the respondents reported to be indifferent or happy with their accommodation, while 15% stated they were unhappy. Students felt that accommodation was very expensive in relation to the quality of space, including those who noted being happy with their accommodation. There were several concerns in relation to damp and mould which was particularly significant, but not limited to, responses related to private rented sector. Respondents generally noted an appreciation for the location of accommodation within Edinburgh and that University Halls included bills.
- When asked what type of accommodation respondents would prefer to live in, 65% reported a preference to live in private rented accommodation. The reasons for this ranged from the experience feeling more normal, having more choice over who you live with, providing a greater level of independence and offers of more space than other types of accommodation.

- In considering access to accommodation where there are identified disability or access needs, 78% of respondents noted that this was not applicable to them. For those to whom it did apply, responses noted not having access to ground floor properties difficult, as well as overcrowding having a significant impact on those with sensory needs.
- On exploring how easy or difficult it is to find a place to live in Edinburgh, most respondents (80%) found it either difficult or very difficult to find accommodation. Being able to find affordable accommodation within a reasonable distance to the education setting was a common theme across responses.
- Much of the feedback commented on how expensive and competitive the market was in Edinburgh, many reported securing accommodations over the summer months incredibly difficult and some accepted unregistered, unsafe private lets to ensure they could access accommodation and afford this. Respondents noted struggling to find places to live without family or friend connections in Edinburgh.
- The main challenges around accessing accommodation were almost unanimously reported to be around affordability and rent increases.
- Additionally, there not being enough housing to meet demand, lack of information on how and where to access a place to live and finding a lease that would be available at the right time. On average, respondents pay £745 per calendar month for their current accommodation with 46% reported to include bills.
- When asked where respondents would go to for advice or information about accessing housing in Edinburgh the general places reflected throughout the responses were University advice hubs, student forums, letting websites, as well as student housing groups on social media.