

Edinburgh Accessibility Commission – Minutes

Wednesday 24 June 2026, 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM – Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees

1. Accessibility Commission members

Zara Todd (Chair); Councillor Stephen Jenkinson (Vice-Chair)(City of Edinburgh Council (CEC)); Olivia Sklenar (Lothian Buses); Nicoletta Primo (Sight Scotland); Kirstie Henderson (RNIB); Ken Talbot (Spokes); Elizabeth Campbell (HCL Transport); Robin Wickes (Edinburgh Access Panel); Euan Hamilton (Equality and Rights Network); Kevin Wood (Edinburgh Black Cabs); John Lauder (Network Rail); Maureen Morrison (Spinal Injuries Scotland);

2. Guest attendees

3. Secretariat

Rurighd McMeddes (CEC); Michael Mackenzie (CEC); Kimberly O’Keeffe (CEC); Paul Baxter (CEC); Pamela Curran (CEC).

4. Apologies

Councillor Iain Whyte (CEC); Councillor Kevin Lang (CEC); Councillor Kayleigh Kinross-O'Neill (CEC); Councillor Neil Gardiner (CEC); Councillor Neil Cuthbert (CEC); Michael Tornow (Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland); Matthew Freckelton (Uber); Omar Haq (Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living); Chiquita Elvin (Walk Wheel Cycle Trust); Antonia Lee-Bapty (Euans Guide); Colette Walker (Sight Scotland);

Summary of meeting and actions arising

1. Welcome and introductions

Zara Todd welcomed everyone to the meeting and each member introduced themselves.

Members shared any individual access needs relevant to the meeting.

2. Workplan Priorities Discussion

The Commission broke into two breakout rooms to discuss the key actions to make meaningful change the following priority:

Priority 3 (Design): Changes to Edinburgh's public streets and spaces will be monitored using available data.

- Group 1 stated:
 - There are questions surrounding what data may be missing from the spaces being monitored, such as those not able to attend consultations
- Group 2:
 - How data is collected, noting the impact of a project and data collected at a later date.
 - The differences in monitoring for large and smaller project as well as council funded and privately funded projects.

Priority 4 (Design): Changes to Edinburgh's public streets and spaces will be effectively managed and enforced.

- Group 1 stated:
 - Regarding enforcement, acknowledging the challenges of funding and resource distribution, and the lack of power for the average resident.

- If things were used as they were designed, there would not be a need for enforcement, such as bike lanes, increasing the need for enforcement.
- Group 2:
 - Road works and road works provided by non-council parties are monitored but there are questions if the monitoring is working.
 - The “Report It” method seems to be disheartening as reports feel like they ‘fall into the void’.

Priority 7 (Engagement): Undertake meaningful engagement for projects impacting the design of public streets and spaces.

- Group 1 stated:
 - That feedback can be improved and the existence of consultation fatigue. Engagement after decisions have been made to acknowledge that parties are being listened to.
- Group 2:
 - Consultation and engagement policy should be flagging projects co-located in the area and providing separate consultations.
 - Also holding multi-stakeholder events can provide more opportunities for engagement.

3. Any other business

- No other business.

5. Meeting Close

The next meeting will be held on 9 September 2026.

Zara Todd thanked everyone for their time. As there was no other business the meeting was closed.