

Integrated Impact Assessment – Interim Summary Report

Interim IIA

1. Title of proposal

Draft Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan 2024 – 2030 for consultation

2. What will change as a result of this proposal?

- 1.1 This is a partnership plan which aims to adapt Edinburgh to the impacts of climate change. It seeks to ensure a climate justice approach to adaptation, through working inclusively and collaboratively with communities, partners and other sectors to ensure that all our citizens benefit. The focus must be on our most disadvantaged and vulnerable citizens and communities. As well as protecting and enhancing nature, a resilient natural environment is a critical part of the solution to the climate and nature emergencies. Green blue infrastructure and nature-based solutions play a crucial role in helping the city adapt as well as supporting the aim of Edinburgh becoming a nature positive city by 2030.
- 1.2 Many of the actions in the plan are already either underway or built into plans within each organisation. What this plan does, is bring them together and look across the city to question if these actions taken together are enough to ensure Edinburgh adapts to climate change. The plan also means that climate adaptation measures will be integrated into new and existing strategies, plans and developments, resulting in reduced risk of future climate change impacting our communities, culture and nature within our city and region.

3. Briefly describe public involvement in this proposal to date and planned

The actions in the plan have been developed by the Edinburgh Adapts partnership which is a thematic sub group of the Net Zero Edinburgh Leadership Board.

The plan will go out to consultation for a 12 week period beginning in January 2024. In addition to responding through the online Consultation Hub, citizens will also be able to attend engagement sessions which will focus on the priorities and actions needed to adapt the city. The final plan will reflect the outcome of this consultation and engagement period.

We want to use the consultation and engagement period to deepen our understanding of community adaptation priorities and how we can further empower communities to take local action to adapt.

4. Is the proposal considered strategic under the Fairer Scotland Duty?

Yes

5. Date of IIA

Two initial workshops were carried out on 31 October and 14 November 2023. Further workshops will be held following the consultation and engagement period.

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

Name	Job Title	Date of IIA training
Fiona Macleod	Senior Climate Change and Sustainability Officer (lead officer)	31 October and 14 November
Ruth Baxendale	Senior Policy and Insight Officer (facilitator)	IIA Trainer 31 October and 14 November
Julie Waldron	Climate Change programme manager	31 October and 14 November
Jacqueline Allan	Communications Manager	31 October and 14 November
Alex Laidler	Planning Officer	14 November
Lindsay Robertson	Senior Planning Officer	14 November
Stephen Knox	Services Manager – Structures and Flood Prevention	14 November
Andrew Caldwell	Business Growth and Talent Development Lead	31 October
Lisa Mallon	Enabling & Partnerships Operations Manager, Housing Strategy and Development	31 October
Linda Anglin	Parks and Greenspace Senior Project Manager	31 October

7. Evidence available at the time of the IIA

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
Data on populations in need	Scottish Index for Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) Edinburgh By Numbers 2022 The National Records of Scotland mid-year estimates 2019, 2020 and 2021 End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Progress Report 2023	<p>Edinburgh has one of the fastest growing populations of any city in the UK. By 2043 the proportion of dependents (0-15 and 65+) will represent almost half of the population in Edinburgh (to 47.6%).</p> <p>By 2032, the average household size in Edinburgh is projected to fall leading to an increase in the number of households.</p> <p>The SIMD details the lowest 20%, 10% and 5% of areas in Edinburgh at the datazone level. The index uses a range of data including education, health, housing, crime, income and geographical access. The most deprived communities are in the peripheral areas of the city (e.g. Granton, Pilton, Niddrie, Saughton and Wester Hailes) furthest from the City Centre.</p> <p>An estimated 17% of people in Edinburgh were living in poverty in the period to spring 2022, accounting for over 80,000 individuals. These included over 17,000 or 20% of all children. In line with national patterns these data indicate relatively little change in Edinburgh’s headline poverty rates in recent years, despite the impact of the pandemic and the early months of the cost of living crisis in 2022.</p> <p>Edinburgh’s unemployment rate, at 2.9%, is now under half what it was in 2014 (7.0%). By 2020 it had dropped to a low of 2.8%, followed by an increase in 2021 to 4.4% after which it fell back to 2.9% in 2022. The median hourly pay has risen to £16.28 which is the highest of the major UK cities excluding London.</p>
Data on service uptake/access		The actions in the Plan will impact on multiple service areas and data on service uptake / access will be considered at service level when implementing relevant Plan actions.

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, low wealth, material deprivation, area deprivation.	The Edinburgh Poverty Commission’s data and evidence paper Census 2011 2011 Census - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)	Evidence in Edinburgh shows that the risk of low income and deprivation is strongly associated with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Households with adults or children in with specific characteristics such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAME backgrounds • Disability • Families with 3 or more children 2. Unemployment: Some 74% of all unemployed people in Scotland are in poverty, compared to only 5% of people in households where all adults are in full time work. 3. Limited or insecure working hours: 29% of households which rely on part time employment are in poverty, as well as 26% of multiple adult households where only one adult is in full time employment. 4. Low pay: Pre Covid the majority (65%) of people in poverty in Edinburgh were in working households 5. High housing costs: High housing costs in Edinburgh are estimated to have pushed 22,600 people in the city into poverty (29% of all people in poverty, more than double the Scottish average ratio). People in poverty are highly concentrated in rented accommodation in Scotland. 6. Car ownership and access to a bike follow a clear income gradient (higher income having higher access) in urban areas. Users of public transport tend to be younger (16-29) and older age groups (60+) 7. Access to transport is lowest around the periphery of the city, for example Niddrie, Baberton, Clermiston and Granton. Many of these are areas of high deprivation as ranked by the SIMD.
Data on equality outcomes	Climate Ready Scotland: Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024	The impacts of climate change are felt most by the poorest and most marginalised groups in society.

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
	ClimateXChange scoping study	<p>Socially vulnerable groups sensitive to climate impacts.</p> <p>Very young children – babies and young children face disproportionately high health effects as a result of climate change impacts. Extreme events can be traumatic and potentially lead to developmental impacts.</p> <p>Older people – older people also tend to be more sensitive to the health effects from climate impacts.</p> <p>People in poor health or with poor mobility and access – people with existing physical or mental health problems may have a lower capacity to take action.</p> <p>Tenancy status – some of the worst adapted homes are inhabited by tenants, who are less able to make changes to their homes. They are also less likely to have adequate insurance and often have less information about risk factors like flooding.</p> <p>Social isolation – people who are socially isolated may not receive the help they need during flooding or extreme weather events as they lack the necessary support networks.</p> <p>People on low incomes – income is a strong determinant for people’s ability to respond to and recover from climate change impacts.</p> <p>Location – where people live can be a factor that increases sensitivity to climate change impacts. Those who live in flood prone areas, or remoter areas can be particularly susceptible to extreme weather events. More frequent flood events, storms and strong winds can cause damage and disruption to lifeline services.</p> <p>When people are already vulnerable, climate change can have a compounding effect, worsening overall outcomes, particularly those</p>

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
		<p>associated with health and wellbeing. Whilst everyone’s health can be affected by climate change, those who are socially disadvantaged, older, very young or experiencing chronic health problems are less able to cope. This is because these groups are disproportionately more sensitive to climate change impacts; are more exposed to the risk because of the environment they live in and/or, have less ‘adaptive capacity’ – resources to prepare, respond and recover from the impacts of climate change. Location can also be a factor in increasing vulnerability, for example, for those who live in a flood prone area or in more remote areas. Individuals in these locations can be particularly susceptible to extreme weather, which can cause disruption to lifeline transport services.</p> <p>Research in the area of health includes a ClimateXChange scoping study in 2018, on the risk from overheating in buildings that house vulnerable people in Scotland. NHS National Services Scotland (NHS NSS) has carried out a climate change impact assessment to consider key climate risks for each NHS Board.</p>
Research/literature evidence		<p>The Council has approved policies, strategies and guidance which supports the Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan.</p> <p>Key citywide documents include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2030 Climate Strategy • City Plan 2030 and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment • Vision for Water Management in the City of Edinburgh • Local Flood Risk Management Plan • City Mobility Plan • Edinburgh Design Guidance • City Housing Strategy • Corporate Property Strategy • End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan 2020-2030

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2022-2028 • Edinburgh Blue Green Network • Edinburgh’s Thriving Greenspaces and Nature Network • Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2022-2027 <p>Key regional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forth Estuary Local Risk Management Plan 2022-2028 • Edinburgh and East of Scotland City Region Deal Prosperity Framework <p>Key National:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Ready Scotland: 2nd Scottish Adaptation Plan • Committee on Climate Change Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk • National Planning Framework 4 • Tackling the Nature Emergency – Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045
Public/patient/client experience information	Edinburgh Climate Risk and Adaptation Assessment	Edinburgh’s local population has experienced both flooding and heatwaves which were identified as the two highest risks in the Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan Climate Risk and Adaptation Assessment.
Evidence of inclusive engagement of people who use the service and involvement findings		A 12 week public consultation will be held on the draft plan. As well as being held online on the Council’s Consultation Hub, to ensure inclusive engagement, a number of engagement sessions and meetings are planned to fully engage with all sectors and communities on the priorities and actions needed to be taken to adapt the city. The plan may change as a result of this consultation.
Evidence of unmet need	Yes	Sewer and surface water flooding and lack of shade during heatwaves are unmet needs in Edinburgh.
Good practice guidelines	https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/sustainable/rainwaterguidance	<p>Good practice guidance includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision for Water Management in the City of Edinburgh • Sustainable Rainwater Management Guidance and Associated Factsheets.

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh Design Guidance has good practice guidance on sustainable design and planting trees for shade. • A factsheet is also available for Street trees.
Carbon emissions generated/reduced data		N/A
Environmental data	Edinburgh Blue Green Network Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2022-2027	Significant environmental data is contained within Edinburgh’s Green Blue Network project and Biodiversity Action Plan.
Risk from cumulative impacts	Yes 2030 Climate Strategy City Plan 2030 National Planning Framework 4 , Scottish Planning Policy, relevant circulars Vision for Water Management in the City of Edinburgh Local Flood Risk Management Plan End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan 2020-2030	There is a need to ensure that the Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan does not increase inequality in the city. The Plan has been prepared to align with a number of national and citywide strategies which have or will be subject to Integrated Impact Assessments. These have been taken into account in the preparation of this Plan. The National Planning Framework 4, Scottish Planning Policy and relevant circulars set out national planning guidance and key outcomes which development plans should enable on the ground. Spatial principles in the Framework include ensuring a just transition. Policies include tackling the climate and nature crises, climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and natural places, soils, forestry, woodlands and other environmental assets. Blue Green infrastructure in Edinburgh is a National project in NPF4
Other (please specify)		
Additional evidence required	International Panel on Climate Change	The evidence tells us it will affect everybody with vulnerability groups impacted most.

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

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights	Affected populations
<p>Positive</p> <p>Older people will be adversely affected by the impacts of flooding, overheating and travel disruption. Those suffering ill health, in hospital or a care home may be adversely affected by increasing temperatures and disrupted service provision caused by flooding. The CRE Plan will have a positive impact on these population groups through actions on managing water and reducing flood risk, tackling heat in buildings, providing cooling and shade through nature-based solutions and working in partnership with the NHS to adapt health facilities in the city.</p> <p>Vulnerable and disadvantaged citizens of all ages and those people living in more isolated communities or isolated through circumstance and those living in poverty will be adversely affected by increasing heat, flooding and damage to buildings including homes, nurseries and schools. Actions in the Plan including on installing sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to reduce flooding, tree canopy cover to provide shade and reduce the heat island effect, and increasing health benefits through increasing greenspace and improving air and water quality will all have a positive impact on this group.</p> <p>The Plan is intended to have a positive impact on all affected populations through working to ensure a just transition to adapting the city, involving the participation and inclusion of all residents and communities. Actions in the Plan aim to build community resilience, including through working the Edinburgh Partnership, localities and community groups on community and resident awareness raising and resilience building.</p> <p>The Plan aims to promote healthier lifestyles by protecting, increasing and enhancing green and blue space in the city and other public spaces, making these spaces nicer and safer places to be in, as well as increasing the leisure opportunities they provide. The Plan also helps to promote active travel through development of the city’s Green and Blue Network.</p>	<p>All</p>

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights	Affected populations
<p>The Plan aims to increase the resilience of the transport network which will benefit those relying on public transport to get around the city. Efficient routing could lead to shorter routing times, reducing travel time taken to commute.</p> <p>Warmer temperatures will reduce the need for winter heating reducing fuel poverty.</p>	
<p>Negative The CRE Plan aims to alleviate negative impacts for older people, those suffering ill health, in hospital or a care home, young people and children as listed above.</p> <p>The effect on disabled people and those with underlying health issues will vary. Flooding and rising temperatures could have a negative impact on outdoor accessibility including through travel disruption and could increase underlying physical and mental health issues.</p> <p>Gypsy and traveller sites in the city may be more susceptible to flooding and increasing heat. Improvements have been made to the city's official gypsy/traveller camp site at North Cameron Toll. Coastal flooding and erosion could affect unofficial gypsy/traveller site(s) in the city. Action in the Plan will look at ensuring these sites are made climate resilient.</p> <p>It is important to plan and direct action to ensure minority ethnic people and non-English speakers living in accommodation in areas vulnerable to flooding are protected. There is also a cumulative impact for those already suffering trauma including refugees and asylum seekers to ensure adequate help and support is provided. Effects of construction of sustainable drainage systems, green blue infrastructure and other adaptive construction activities will cause travel and other types of disruption to the city.</p> <p>Warmer summer temperatures may increase the need for summer cooling systems.</p>	All
Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts	Affected populations
<p>Positive The Plan will increase the sequestration of carbon through implementation of green blue infrastructure and</p>	ALL

Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts	Affected populations
<p>nature-based solutions. Carbon emissions will also be decreased through reducing the need for repair of damaged infrastructure caused by flooding, temperature increase and so on as actions in the Plan aim to reduce these climate impacts. The installation of above ground SuDS is less carbon intensive than other methods of reducing flood risk.</p> <p>Delivery of the strategic Green Blue network and the projects coming out of that will deliver sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) throughout the city, reducing the risk of flooding. Installation of above ground integrated greenspace SuDS will also provide a multifunctional and efficient use of space. The risk of sewer flooding will be reduced through managing surface water flows.</p> <p>Development of naturalised sea defences and sea walls will help to protect coastal communities from the risks of sea level rise, storm surges and coastal erosion.</p> <p>Increasing green and blue infrastructure and nature-based solutions will have positive impacts for biodiversity in the city and actions in the Plan aim to build natural resilience to climate change. More planting will improve air and water quality, as well as protecting and increasing soil. Air quality improvement will have a positive impact especially for those suffering from respiratory problems.</p> <p>The Plan will support the development of infrastructure for active travel and leisure activities.</p> <p>Warmer winter temperatures will reduce the need for winter heating.</p>	
<p>Negative Warmer temperatures may increase the need for cooling of buildings in the summer. Warmer summer temperatures will also increase the risk of wildfires. An action in the CRE Plan is the development of a strategy to deal with increasing fire risk and drought.</p> <p>Development of green and blue infrastructure, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and other climate resilient development will have initial negative impacts during the construction period, which could increase pollution and dust, especially in times of drought. Construction practices of water spraying could pollute</p>	ALL

Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts	Affected populations
<p>water courses. There will also be increases in noise during construction. On street and lane closures during installation of green infrastructure will lead to travel delays and disruption. If parks or green spaces need to be closed during installation of SuDS or other climate resilient infrastructure this will impact users of these areas, especially older people and parents with toddlers.</p> <p>Increasing green infrastructure including trees may increase the need for lighting to ensure resident safety at night leading to an increase in carbon emissions. This lighting will need to be installed in wildlife friendly ways.</p>	

Economic	Affected populations
<p>Positive</p> <p>Transport actions in the Plan aim to increase the resilience of transport infrastructure and travel during severe weather events, improving people's ability to travel. This will positively impact on those commuting to/from work, especially benefiting those on low pay or not in receipt of pay when unable to work.</p> <p>There will be a long term positive impact due to a reduction in insurance premiums for business by reducing flood risk. A reduced need for heating of business premises in winter will help reduce business overheads.</p> <p>An adapted, climate resilient city will help encourage business growth in the city, including small business growth, supporting local employment.</p> <p>The growth of the green business sector in the city could lead to an increase in apprenticeships in this area and upskilling of workers, improving employment opportunities for young people.</p>	ALL
<p>Negative</p> <p>There is a risk of rising costs to businesses of adapting their premises and functions. Also construction and noise associated with adapting buildings and surrounding areas could have negative impacts on businesses in the city, especially if it leads to street closures or disruption.</p>	

8. Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors and if so how will equality, human rights including children’s rights, environmental and sustainability issues be addressed?

Implementation of the Plan projects will go through the city council’s sustainable procurement policies and guidance ensuring compliance with the most up-to-date requirements. Each action will be delivered on a case-by-case basis, and contractor/consultant involvement will vary depending on the required service.

9. Consider how you will communicate information about this policy/ service change to children and young people and those affected by sensory impairment, speech impairment, low level literacy or numeracy, learning difficulties or English as a second language? Please provide a summary of the communications plan.

A communications and engagement plan has been developed to accompany the Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan. A range of communication methods will be used to reach out to different types of people at different stages of the implementation of the Plan, ensuring a broad audience reach and opportunities for interaction. Community involvement (listening and acting on stakeholders views) will remain a key element of the development of the Plan. Formats will be designed to be understood by a range of population groups. Residents are encouraged to use our translation service if they have language/visual requirements. Further considerations to all the issues will be developed as the Plan is finalised in 2024.

This will benefit non-English speakers including migrant workers, refugees and asylum seekers. This strategy will include signposting and communications in different formats (e.g. picture representations) and languages on action being taken before, during and in the aftermath of a severe weather event or flooding, including sources of help, shelter, emergency provision etc.

11. Is the plan, programme, strategy or policy likely to result in significant environmental effects, either positive or negative? If yes, it is likely that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be required and the impacts identified in the IIA should be included in this. See section 2.10 in the Guidance for further information.

Yes, but each action and milestone in the Climate Ready Plan that results in a plan or strategy will go through its own SEA.

For instance, an [SEA was completed as of the City Mobility Plan in 2021](#) and City Plan 2030.

12. Additional Information and Evidence Required

Further evidence will be gathered from the 12 week consultation to be held following Committee approval of the draft Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan. As such, this report is interim and will be updated following completion of the consultation.

13. Specific to this IIA only, what recommended actions have been, or will be, undertaken and by when? (these should be drawn from 7 – 11 above) Please complete:

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and job title)	Deadline for progressing	Review date
Ensure the final plan takes into account the needs of all people with protected characteristics.	Julie Waldron Climate Change programme manager Fiona Macleod Senior Climate Change and Sustainability Officer	March 2024 End of consultation period	
Ensure more consideration is given to advice and support for disabled people, non-English speakers and people with low literacy/numeracy through production of guidance and materials in different formats.	Julie Waldron Climate Change programme manager Fiona Macleod Senior Climate Change and Sustainability Officer	March 2024 End of consultation period	
Look at ways to better alleviate the impacts of climate change on people experiencing homelessness and Gypsy/Travellers	Julie Waldron Climate Change programme manager Fiona Macleod Senior Climate Change and Sustainability Officer	March 2024 End of consultation period	

14. Are there any negative impacts in section 8 for which there are no identified mitigating actions?

Yes, construction impacts across the city are difficult to completely mitigate.

15. How will you monitor how this proposal affects different groups, including people with protected characteristics?

The final approved CRE Plan will be subject to an annual review and appraisal of progress on actions. Progress each year will be reported to the Council's Policy and Sustainability Committee and Net Zero Edinburgh Leadership Board. Issues affecting protected characteristics will be picked up through this process.

16. Sign off by Head of Service

Name Gillie Severin

Date 29/11/2023

17. Publication

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to:

integratedimpactassessments@edinburgh.gov.uk to be published on the Council website www.edinburgh.gov.uk/impactassessments

Edinburgh Integration Joint Board/Health and Social Care

sarah.bryson@edinburgh.gov.uk to be published at www.edinburghhsc.scot/the-ijb/integrated-impact-assessments/