

Section 4 Integrated Impact Assessment

Summary Report Template

Each of the numbered sections below must be completed

Interim report	x	Final report	
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(Tick as appropriate)

1. Title of plan, policy or strategy being assessed

Edinburgh Libraries – Future Libraries Strategy Development 2024 - 2029

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

On 7 December 2023, the Council's Culture and Communities Committee agreed to develop the Future Libraries Strategy for 2024 to 2029. The new strategy will provide a framework for service delivery and development over the next five years and will aim to recognise and successfully respond to the changing needs of the city’s population and the ways that people choose to access library services. A service review will be undertaken alongside the development of the new strategy to identify proposals for change to improve provision, performance and to deliver efficiencies to mitigate against current budget pressures and explore opportunities for future investment in the service.

A public engagement process was undertaken between January and April 2024 to get as wide a range of views with as many service users and potential service users as possible.

A consultation process will be undertaken between September and December 2024 with residents, service users, elected members, stakeholders and library colleagues to gather views and feedback on the draft Future Libraries strategy and any other proposals for change. This IIA deals solely with the draft strategy, another linked IIA will look at the specific proposals for change, as these may more directly affect individuals and groups.

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

A variety of approaches were used to ensure engagement with individuals and key groups from all backgrounds. This included service users, non-service users, general service stakeholders, and key service stakeholders, such as high schools.

The Future Libraries engagement phase sought views on:

- a) How, when and why people use / engage with the library service
- b) What aspects of the service work well / could be improved
- c) What might the service offer look like over the next five years

The primary engagement method has been by online questionnaire through the Council's Consultation Hub. A bespoke questionnaire was also created to engage with service users using HMP (Saughton) Library. This used the same approach as the citizen questionnaire. Discussion groups have also been held as well as a creative poster design activity for children. Total numbers of participants include:

Activity	Number of Participants
Citizen Online Questionnaire	5,315
Citizen Paper Copy Questionnaire	585
General Stakeholders Questionnaire	73
Colleague Questionnaire (to inform operational aspects)	180
High School Stakeholder Questionnaire	118
High school and public library focus groups with young people	1,200
Primary school interactive discussion activity with children P4 – P7	4,941
Primary school-based activity undertaken in public libraries	362
Primary school poster competition (Your Future Library)	1,282
HMP (Saughton) Library	30
Total	14,086

Each questionnaire and in person activity gathered both quantitative and qualitative data to ensure that the draft Future Libraries Strategy will be developed using an evidence-based approach.

A secondary source of feedback data has been used from the Edinburgh Libraries No Going Back project which engaged 2,010 young people aged 11-18 years in 2022-2023.

We are now carrying out a comprehensive consultation process with residents, service users, elected members, stakeholders and library colleagues to gather views and feedback on service provision to help shape a new Libraries Strategy and inform future proposals for change.

An IIA Reference Group was established for the engagement stage and assisted in identifying appropriate methodologies and supports required to ensure that all citizens could participate effectively and meaningfully throughout this process. This group included

members from Community Empowerment, EaRN, the Poverty Alliance and representatives from all the colleague support networks.

This group was invaluable throughout the engagement phase and have been brought together to share findings from the process and assist with the design of the consultation phase. During the engagement phase, the questionnaire returns were analysed and where it was identified that there were participation issues for certain areas or groups of citizens with protected characteristics then mitigations were undertaken to ensure that we received as representative a response as possible.

A new stakeholder mapping process has also been undertaken and has been shared with the IIA Reference Group so that they can see whether we need to broaden the stakeholders identified. The Consultation Manager and Equalities Lead will undertake periodic checks, in particular at the midpoint of the consultation process, to identify any gaps and changes to approach to encourage the widest participation. The Reference Group has met, the feedback from the engagement process shared with them and a discussion taken place on the next steps in consultation. As with the engagement process, this group will meet throughout the consultation.

Consultation (Sept 2024 to Dec 2024) The consultation will gather views on a draft Future Libraries Strategy 2024 – 2029 and on any proposals or options for change informed by the feedback from the engagement stage. A detailed public consultation plan which sets out the principles and methodology of the process will be made available.

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

Yes – the document has been completed.

5. Date of IIA

Started on 20th June 2024, discussed with IIA Reference Group on 12th September 2024, updated on 18th September 2024

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

Name	Job Title	Date of IIA Training	Email
Scott Donkin (Lead officer and report writer)	Libraries Development Manager	November 2023	scott.donkin@edinburgh.gov.uk
Cleo Jones	Libraries Development Manager	November 2023	cleo.jones@edinburgh.gov.uk

Hana MacKechnie	Libraries Development Manager	November 2023	hana.mackechnie@edinburgh.gov.uk
Grainne Crawford	Libraries Development Manager	December 2023	grainne.crawford@edinburgh.gov.uk
Andrew McTaggart	Libraries Development Manager		andrew.mctaggart@edinburgh.gov.uk
Mairi Soutar	Future Libraries Support Officer		mairi.soutar@edinburgh.gov.uk

7. Evidence available at the time of the IIA

Evidence	Available?	Comments: what does the evidence tell you?
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<p>Data on populations in need</p>	<p>Scotland's Census 2022</p> <p>Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2020</p> <p>Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2018</p> <p>Edinburgh by Numbers 2023</p>	<p>Census data release (21/05/2024): Edinburgh had a population of 514,543. Female – 265,589 (51.6%) Male – 248,954 (48.4%)</p> <p>Age Groupings based on Census Figures: 0 to 4 – 22,028 (4%) 5 to 11 – 33,661 (7%) 12 to 17 – 27,953 (5%) 18 to 64 – 348,940 (68%) 65+ - 81,966 (16%)</p> <p>Total: 514,543</p> <p>Edinburgh is an affluent city with high average incomes and employment rates and low unemployment. Information detailed within Edinburgh by Numbers shows that compared to other major UK cities, Edinburgh also performs well when measuring personal wellbeing. The city, however, has a high number of residents that fall into the high poverty risk groups. The 2020 report by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission estimates that 77,600 people live in relative poverty, 15% of the total population. The poverty rates vary across areas from 5% to 27%. It is also estimated that 22% of all children in Edinburgh live in poverty while some areas record child poverty rates as high as 35%. People from minority ethnic groups are also more likely to be in poverty compared to those within the White – British group, as stated in the Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2018 report. Asian and Asian – British groups along with other minority ethnic groups have between 35% and 38% living in poverty (across Scotland) compared to 18% of the White – British group. Poverty rates are also higher for families in which someone is disabled. Households without a disabled child or adult living in poverty sit at 19% and 17% respectively compared to 25% and 24% for those households with a disabled child/adult.</p>
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	<p>Edinburgh People's Survey 2018</p>	<p>Data on people having a say on local issues and services</p> <p>Edinburgh People's Survey results from 2018 indicated that 36% of those interviewed feel that they have a say on local issues and services.</p> <p>Over 65s were the age group most likely to agree that they have a say on local issues (44%) and retired respondents were also of this persuasion. (45%).</p> <p>24% of students and the youngest respondents (25% of those agreed 16-24) were likely to agree they had a say on local issues and services, though this age group were also more likely than other groups to say they were not sure (36% of students and 35% of 16–24-year-olds were unsure) rather than saying that they didn't.</p> <p>Unemployed respondents were less likely to agree than others (26%), but this group were also more likely to actively disagree that they had a say, with 56% answering 'no' to this question.</p> <p>Ethnic minority/non-UK citizens were less likely to reply 'yes' to this question (31% compared to 36% for other respondents) and more likely to be unsure (33% as opposed to 19%).</p> <p>Those with a health problem or disability were more likely than others to respond negatively to this question (47% as opposed to 43%), as were those with children (48% as opposed to 43%)</p>
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<p>Data on service uptake/access</p>	<p>Future Libraries – Citizens Questionnaire - Demographics</p>	<p>Throughout the engagement phase the demographic composition of participants was continuously monitored, including age distribution, employment status/economic activity, sex, transgender identity, sexual orientation, ethnic group distribution, and health conditions with the aim of ensuring diversity within the Edinburgh population was represented as effectively as possible and findings have provided us with the opportunity to identify areas for improvement through the consultation phase.</p> <p>Whilst results show that age groups were reasonably well distributed across the three engagement methods available to participants (Citizens Questionnaire, Secondary School groups, and Primary School groups), there was a significantly low proportion of people aged 18 to 24 who participated, with only 2% of respondents in this age range taking part (citywide population: 12%). For people aged 65 years and over participation was significantly higher, with 30% of respondents placing in this age group (citywide population: 16%).</p> <p>Disparities were also reflected in employment status, with full-time students representing 2% of respondents (citywide population: 18%), whilst those identifying as retired accounting for 32% of participants (citywide population: 18%). Those in full-time employment represented 34% of respondents (citywide: 38%), followed by part-time employees representing 19% of participants (citywide: 10%). Long-term sick or disabled respondents accounted for 2% (citywide: 4%), self-employed participants were represented by 2% (citywide: 8%), respondents who were unemployed or looking for work accounted for 1% (citywide: 2%), stay at home parents and those on maternity leave consisted of 1% of respondents (citywide: 3%), and full-time carers were represented by 1% of participants.</p> <p>The sex distribution of participants was significantly higher for females (71%) compared to males (23%), with 6% preferring not to say or not answering this question. People who identify as trans or having a trans history accounted for 2.1% of respondents (citywide: 0.8%).</p> <p>Sexual orientation largely aligned with citywide demographics with 9% of respondents stating gay, lesbian, bisexual or other persuasion (citywide: 8%). Broken down, sexual orientations were represented as follows: Heterosexual/straight 74% (citywide: 84%), gay or lesbian 3% (citywide: 3%), bisexual 5% (citywide: 4%), and other sexual orientation 1% (citywide: 1%). There</p>
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		<p>was a significant number of participants who stated that they preferred not to say (12%) or choosing not to answer this question (5%).</p> <p>The ethnic group distribution of respondents provided a reasonable reflection of citywide demographics, taking into account the higher-than-average number of citizens questionnaire participants over the age of 65, and the low number of respondents aged under 25 (outlined above). As a result, citywide census data for all people aged 25 and over has been used to provide a more reliable comparison. Whilst those who identify as White made up the largest ethnic group with 93%, there was a lower-than-average number of participants who stated Asian, Scottish Asian and British Asian as their ethnic group, represented by 3.3% of participants (citywide: 6.8%). Those who stated African, Scottish African and British African represented 0.3% of respondents (citywide: 0.1%), Caribbean or Black accounted for 0.1% of participants (Citywide: 0.3%), other ethnic group represented 0.5% of respondents (citywide: 1.8%) with 3.8% of participants preferring not to say.</p> <p>When asked about health conditions, a quarter of participants stated they have long term physical, or mental health illnesses, or illnesses that they expect to last 12 months or more, with an average of 2 conditions per individual. Mental health is the most common condition, with 40% of those who experience long term conditions (10% of all participants) indicating they suffer from mental health conditions. This increased to 55% (15% of all participants) for those stating libraries in the 20% most deprived areas (SIMD Q1) as ‘the library they visit most’.</p> <p>Satisfaction with the Engagement Questionnaire</p> <p>Participants were asked to provide responses to 3 questions relating to the questionnaire itself:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I was given the opportunity to have my say – 90% of respondents agreed/strongly agreed. • This engagement was clear and easy to understand – 92% agreed/strongly agreed. • I was given all the information that I needed to have my say – 85% agreed/strongly agreed.
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	<p>Edinburgh Libraries Service Data 2023/24</p>	<p>This was largely consistent for all demographic groups, all being within +/- 3% of the data above.</p> <p>Number of library members who have used their library card during the past 12 months</p> <p>For the year, April 2023 to March 2024, the total number of active members (defined as people who used their library card at least once in this period to access library services) was 99,800 (almost 1 in 5 of the population). Whilst the overall active borrowers total is still 2% below pre Covid opening (2019/20), the number of active library members continues to increase with an additional 11,903 active members from 1st April 2023 compared to 1st April 2024 (representing a 14% increase from 2022/23).</p> <p>Just over 30% of children and young people living in Edinburgh have used their library card at least once in the past 12 months.</p> <p>The number of teenage active users has increased by 32% from pre covid figures.</p> <p>Item Issues 2018 – 2023 (Physical)</p> <p>2018/19 - 1,677,430 issues 2019/20 – 1,579,442 issues 2020/21 – 75,401 issues (Covid-19) 2021/22 – 676,908 issues 2022/23 – 1,234,959 issues 2023/24 - 1,279,936 issues</p> <p>New Library members</p> <p>2022/23 - 33,021 2023/24 – 33,327</p> <p>Activities</p> <p>Edinburgh Libraries delivered 14,565 activities and events for all age groups from April 2023 to March 2024. This is a 65% increase in the total number of activities from 2022/23.</p> <p>75% of all activities delivered were aimed at children and young people.</p> <p>Peoples Network (Public access computers) Use</p> <p>Total PN reservations: 2022/23 - 63,259</p>
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		<p>2023/24 - 92,364</p> <p>PN reservations had dropped by 73% in 2022/23 from the pre-Covid period 2019/20.</p> <p>Whilst there has been a 42% increase in reservations from 2022/23 to 2023/24, the total number of PN reservations is still 40% below pre-Covid levels.</p> <p>This includes a period in 2022/23 when PN access was unavailable due to a refresh and update of the libraries PC estate across the city.</p> <p>Transactions - Item issue, returns, renewals and reservations</p> <p>From June 2023 to August 2024 there were 1.9 million in-person transactions across all public libraries (item issues, returns, reservations and renewals).</p> <p>NOTE: these figures exclude Ratho, Muirhouse, and Blackhall libraries, which are temporarily closed.</p> <p>In person transactions average by time of day</p> <p>Whilst 92% of all transactions were completed between 10am and 5pm, this figure reduces to 79% when based on the average number of transactions per day by hour to account for differences in daily opening hours. Please find a a detailed breakdown below:</p> <p>Morning – 10:00 – 13:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 39% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Children 38%</i> o <i>Teen 24%</i> o <i>Adult 40%</i> <p>Afternoon – 13:00 – 17:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 44% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Children 49%</i> o <i>Teen 48%</i> o <i>Adult 42%</i> <p>Evening – 17:00 – 20:00</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All 17%<ul style="list-style-type: none">o <i>Children 14%</i>o <i>Teen 28%</i>o <i>Adult 18%</i> <p>The data above is also largely reflected in the engagement questionnaire results. When asked ‘what time periods do you most frequently access the service?’, 34% of participants selected morning, 44% indicated afternoon, and 22% advised evening. It should be noted that these figures included both in-person and online access.</p>
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Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, low wealth, material deprivation, area deprivation.

[SIMD Scotland 2020](#)

[Scottish Government 2023 High School Statistics](#)

[Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2020](#)

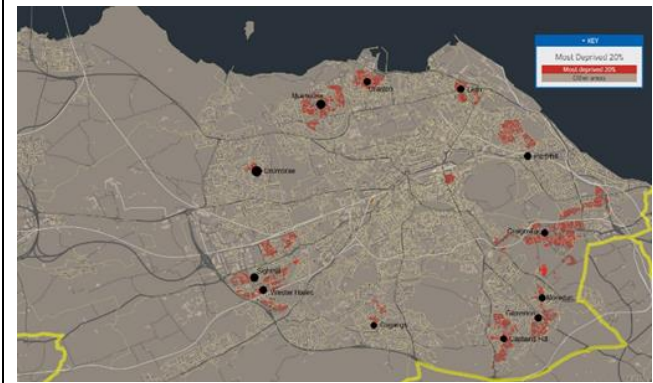
Library locations within the SIMD Context

SIMD Q1	SIMD Q2	SIMD Q3	SIMD Q4	SIMD Q5
Craigmillar	Balgreen	Balerno	Colinton	*Blackhall
Gilmerton	Drumbrae Hub	Central	McDonald Rd	Currie
Granton	Fountainbridge	Corstorphine	S Queensferry	Morningside
Leith	Moredun	Kirkliston		Newington
South Office & Library	Muirhouse	Oxgangs		**Ratho
Wester Hailes	Piershill	Sighthill		

*Blackhall currently closed – operating from part time mobile service

**Ratho currently closed – operating from part time mobile service

The map below provides an illustration of the eleven libraries directly serving communities with areas in the 20% most deprived (shaded in red), as defined by SIMD. Whilst some of these areas (such as Drumbrae, Oxgangs and Piershill) are generally considered as SIMD Q2 or above for the wider community, it is important that we identify the smaller ‘pockets’ of SIMD Q1 areas to ensure the varying needs of the entire community are met.



High School Student Population within SIMD Context

- Deprivation Indicators**
 SIMD Unknown – 0.00%
 SIMD Q1 – 18.30%
 SIMD Q2 – 14.90%
 SIMD Q3 – 11.90%

		<p>SIMD Q4 – 17.10% SIMD Q5 – 37.80%</p> <p>An estimated 77,600 people were in poverty in Edinburgh during the year prior to the coronavirus outbreak, including almost one in five of all children.</p> <p>Almost two thirds of people on very low incomes live in areas outwith those parts of Edinburgh commonly described as ‘deprived’ or ‘disadvantaged’.</p> <p>Scotland Poverty rates are higher for people from BAME backgrounds than for White British people in Scotland. 38% of Asian or Asian British people in Scotland live in poverty, which is double the average for all citizens.</p> <p>23-25% of households with a disabled child or adult live in poverty, compared to 17% of those with no disabled resident.</p> <p>It is estimated that child poverty in Scotland could rise steadily throughout the 2020s to reach a level of just under 38% by 2028/29 – representing an increase from roughly 1 in 4 children in Scotland at baseline to well over 1 in 3 children by the end of the coming decade.</p> <p>Attainment data shows that Edinburgh schools perform better than the Scottish average when considering pupils from more affluent areas of the city, but poorer than average for pupils from deprived areas.</p> <p>Top 5 High Schools by % of pupils in SIMD Quintile 1 (20% Most Deprived):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wester Hailes – 82% • Castlebrae – 76% • Craigroyston – 67% • Gracemount – 53% • St Augustines RC – 50% <p>Top 5 High Schools by % of pupils in SIMD Quintile 5 (20% Least Deprived):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boroughmuir – 84% • James Gillespies – 69%
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Royal High – 66%• Currie – 62%• Craigmount & Balerno – 53%
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Data on Equality outcomes

[Scottish Government 2023 High School Statistics](#)

[SIMD Scotland 2020](#)

High Schools

There are 23 High Schools within Edinburgh, each of which provides school-based library services.

It is reported that 51.3% of the high school pupil population either have or have experienced additional support needs.

23,150 students (S1 – S6)
 Female 49.5%
 Male 50.5%

Young People Focus Group Participation

1,200 S1 to S6 pupils took part in the High School focus groups as part of engagement (5.2% of the total student population outlined above). The age spread of participants in year groups were as follows:

- S1 to S2 accounted for 44.6%
- S3 to S4 accounted for 31.6%
- S5 to S6 accounted for 23.8%

Ethnicity

Ethnicity Not Known – 1%
 Ethnicity Minority – 21.80%
 White UK – 64.60%
 White Other – 12.50%

Ethnicity	SIMD Q1	SIMD Q2	SIMD Q3	SIMD Q4	SIMD Q5	Total
African Scot/Brit	1439	851	674	477	897	4338
Other African	23	31	16	15	25	110
Bangladeshi	178	259	147	207	454	1245
Chinese / Scot / Brit	748	1132	1423	1162	3542	8007
Indian / Scot / Brit	543	970	1074	1352	2439	6378
Other Asian	619	730	820	737	1639	4545
Pakistani	670	1037	749	1081	2205	5742
Black / Scot / Brit	92	83	68	56	99	398
Caribbean	95	68	76	70	188	497
Other Caribbean or Black	20	18	29	16	38	121
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	426	531	572	624	1874	4027

Arab / Scot / Brit	449	455	481	278	799	2462
Other ethnic group	159	178	154	157	439	1087
Gypsy/Traveller	56	77	79	69	105	386
Irish	456	884	1257	1559	4337	8493
Other British	2583	4373	6859	8579	32767	55161
Other White	1499	2685	4182	4198	11386	23950
Polish	2659	2891	2458	2301	2401	12710
Scottish	42597	47093	44133	52523	142106	328452
Total (Ethnic Minority)	12714	17253	21118	22938	65634	139657
Overall Total	55311	64346	65251	75461	207740	468109

Disability

Disability	SIMD Q1	SIMD Q2	SIMD Q3	SIMD Q4	SIMD Q5	Total
Blindness / Partial sight loss	1493	1737	1274	1567	3992	10063
Deafness / partial hearing loss	3134	3934	3143	3989	11440	14200
Developmental disorder	544	507	365	384	881	2681
Learning difficulty	2134	2111	1821	1960	4429	12455
Learning disability	451	484	382	284	534	2135
Mental Health condition	4321	4058	3415	2905	5551	20250
No condition	36562	44667	48700	58541	161058	349528
One or more conditions	18749	20673	17410	20044	50222	127098
Other conditions	10790	12213	10289	12258	31068	76618
Physical Disability	4709	4910	3405	3505	7873	24402
Total (with condition / disability)	46352	50627	41504	46896	115990	301369
Overall Total	82887	95294	90204	105437	277048	468109

[SIMD Scotland 2020](#)

<p>Research/literature evidence</p>	<p>Scottish Book Trust – Reading in Scotland – Reading Over Lockdown</p>	<p>National Study This national sample group provided feedback on life in lockdown and whether reading played a part in supporting health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 98% agreed that reading supports their wellbeing • 97% agreed that reading helps them to relax • 92% agreed that reading has been important to them in times of stress or anxiety throughout their lives <p>Connection and isolation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64% agreed that reading made them feel less isolated • 46% reported speaking about reading with someone new • 63% agreed that reading had helped them bond with others • 50% agreed that sharing their reading with family and friends made them feel less stressed <p>Access to books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% used the library to get print books for themselves • 94% of those with children used the library to get print books for them <p>Reading habits</p> <p>The majority of panellists reported reading more over lockdown, with some noting they had more energy for reading due to working from home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65% were reading more than they used to • 60% enjoyed reading things they would not normally have read • 25% discovered they really enjoyed a new genre • 49% discovered a new favourite book, author or series
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence suggests that there is a positive relationship between reading frequency, reading enjoyment and attainment (Clark 2011; Clark and Douglas 2011) • Reading enjoyment has been reported as more important for children’s educational success than their family’s socio-economic status (OECD, 2002) <p>Benefits of reading for pleasure</p> <p>A growing number of studies show that promoting reading can have a major impact on children and adults and their future. Upon reviewing the research literature, Clark and Rumbold (2006) identify several main areas of the benefits in reading for pleasure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading attainment and writing ability; • Text comprehension and grammar; • Breadth of vocabulary; • Positive reading attitudes; • Greater self-confidence as a reader; • Pleasure in reading in later life; • General knowledge; • A better understanding of other cultures; • Community participation; • A greater insight into human nature and decision-making
Public/patient/client experience information		See section “Data on Service Uptake/ Access” above.

<p>Evidence of inclusive engagement of people who use the service and involvement findings</p>	<p>No Going Back Edinburgh Libraries Youth Engagement Survey</p>	<p>2,097 young people (11 – 18 years) provided views on the current library service, along with suggestions for positive change.</p> <p>An action plan was agreed to manage an improvement programme.</p> <p>Individual school and community libraries provided with comments for each location.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44% of respondents visit a school library regularly, once or more each week • 38% visit a school library sometimes, once or more each month • 12% hardly ever visit a school library, a few times each year • 12% never visit a school library • 15% visit a community library once or more each week • 38% visit a community library sometimes, once or more each month • 2% visit a community library only during school holidays • 3% only visit a community library for study • 25% hardly ever visit a community library, a few times each year • 26% never visit a community library
<p>Evidence of unmet need</p>		<p>It is known that the Library Link service (specially provided transport for those who are unable to physically access the service themselves) currently operates a waiting list.</p> <p>5.4% of citizen engagement questionnaire participants indicated that they are not library users. Of this percentage, 19% said that they bought their own books, 14% commented that they use libraries elsewhere, 14% advised they fell out of the habit and 12% indicated that they intended to use libraries in the future.</p> <p>Throughout the consultation we will continue to engage with non-library users to further explore and address the reasons given above.</p>

Good practice guidelines	<p>Forward: Scotland's Public Library Strategy (scottishlibraries.org)</p> <p>vibrant-libraries-thriving-schools.pdf (scottishlibraries.org)</p> <p>CEC Consultation and Engagement Policy</p>	<p>The national public library strategy sets out the vision, mission and outcomes for public libraries across Scotland.</p> <p>The national school library strategy sets out the vision, mission and outcomes for school libraries across Scotland.</p> <p>A consultation activity to support this project will be undertaken in line with the Council policy.</p> <p>Every effort will be made to ensure the project is undertaken in line with the Gunning Principles.</p> <p>The overall process will be managed with adequate time for participation, quality assurance, equalities monitoring and sample sizes in line with industry standards.</p> <p>Engagement outcomes have been used to inform the draft Future Libraries 2024 – 2029 Strategy and any supporting change options to create a financially stable service offer.</p> <p>Following consultation, the decision to proceed with any recommendations for change or not will be taken by the City of Edinburgh Council's Culture and Communities Committee. The report and associated recommendations will take into account the consultation responses.</p>
Environmental data	No	
Risk from cumulative impacts	No	To be fully considered prior to consultation stage.
Other (please specify)	No	
Additional evidence required	No	

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>The consultation will present a draft strategy for citizens, stakeholders and colleagues comment. Each priority comes with a set of goals, which are outlined in the draft strategy. Each action will be evidence-based and link to wider strategic ambitions. We understand from our own service data and from engagement activity where improvements across services are required and have set those out as proposals for action in the draft strategy. The aims and goals set out in the strategy are based on feedback from the engagement process and are evidence-based so should therefore have a positive impact.</p> <p>Theme 1: Advance Reading, Literacy, Learning and Cultural Experiences</p> <p>The first priority includes a large number of actions emphasising the importance of reading and literacy to the service, including collection development, partnership working, cultural programme development and ambition to provide services that help to close the poverty gap, while being sustainably provided.</p> <p>Theme 2: Enable and develop digitally connected communities</p> <p>The second priority is to introduce an additional self-service offer and support for people to develop digital skills. Improved access to the internet, digital learning opportunities and continued learning for our library colleagues to allow provision of support to those who would most benefit from the available technology.</p> <p>Theme 3: Encourage healthy, thriving and inclusive communities</p> <p>The third priority includes working more closely with partners to deliver initiatives and improve access to information and resources, to provide attractive accessible spaces for people to come together, and to explore opportunities to create thriving community hubs.</p>	<p>The whole population of Edinburgh – currently 1 in 5 citizens are active members of the library service.</p> <p>Evidence from the Edinburgh Survey 2018 highlights in particular:</p> <p><u>Older and Retired People</u> 45% of respondents used the library regularly and 90% of participants were satisfied with the service.</p> <p><u>Ethnic Minorities and Non-UK Citizens</u> 42% of respondents indicated that they used their library regularly and 81% of participants said that they were satisfied.</p> <p><u>Those with Disabilities or Chronic Health Issues in the Family</u> 42% of participants indicated that they used the library regularly and 88% of respondents were satisfied.</p> <p>45% of respondents had young children.</p> <p>More women than men use the service.</p> <p>All the groups above have a higher chance of living in</p>

<p>Theme 4: Support play, learning and development of children and young people</p> <p>The fourth priority includes commitments to increased print and digital collections catering for the different interests of children and young people, to expand the recreational activities/clubs and reading promotions on offer, to work in supporting families and engaging with schools and partners to develop a broad, holistic library offer for young people.</p> <p>Theme 5: Continue to listen, learn and develop the service</p> <p>The significant volume of people who provided feedback indicated clear interest in the service and the value of reaching out to listen to views. We want to continue to do that, not on such a large scale, but through the continued provision of service specific engagement activity to ensure libraries remain fit for purpose throughout the lifetime of the new strategy.</p>	<p>poverty. SEGs A and B also had above average use of libraries.</p> <p>Least likely to use libraries are those in employment and from socio economic groups C2 and D.</p>
<p>Negative</p> <p>Whilst every effort will be made to ensure identified options for change minimise any potential negative impacts and support positive access to the service, it is recognised that change can affect different people and groups in different ways.</p> <p>Appropriate and proportionate levels of scrutiny will be applied to ensure further consultation processes can support participation from individuals across all communities including individuals categorised by protected characteristics, as well as those who currently do not access services.</p> <p>Communication is identified as a potential barrier to participation. The Communications Plan recognises the diverse make up of Edinburgh’s population and methods to ensure every effort is made to promote and support participation during engagement, consultation, and continued service delivery after strategy adoption.</p> <p>A critical ambition of the service is to ensure that the continued engagement and dialogue with service users to understand key successes and with non-service users to identify gaps in provision is maintained throughout the delivery period of the strategy.</p>	<p>We are working with EaRN and the Poverty Alliance to ensure that we get advice and support to reach out to a wide range of people with protected characteristics and those who are living in poverty.</p> <p>We have undertaken workshops with groups on request.</p> <p>We are working with our staff networks to ensure that we reach Disability, LGBTQ+, Women’s and BAME groups and get feedback.</p> <p>We are very keen to speak to people who currently do not connect with our service to find out why this is the case and what we can do to remove any perceived or actual</p>

	barriers to use or to make it more accessible.
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Environment and Sustainability	Affected Populations
<p>Positive</p> <p>Library services are located at the heart of the 20-minute neighbourhood ambition providing services for local communities.</p> <p>The engagement and future consultation to support the development of a new Future Libraries strategy as well as potential changes to service delivery will focus on how the service can better meet the needs of the population. Therefore, the engagement seeks to identify if more joined up service delivery and co-location of appropriate services may assist to further reduce the need for communities to travel, creating more carbon neutral access to services.</p> <p>The library service contributes to wider environmental sustainability as a direct consequence of lending free resources while reducing the need for ongoing purchasing and discarding of items, therefore improving service provision and increasing numbers of people who choose to borrow books and use resources rather than buy them.</p> <p>The draft strategy includes Environmentally Sustainable as a key value for the service. This includes commitment to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support climate responsibility and sustainability, helping the city to meet net zero ambitions by 2023 through improving and increasing the availability of resources to encourage sustainable living. - raise awareness of climate change through activities and promotions to encourage the next generation to consider the environment and their role in supporting carbon neutral approaches. 	All citizens

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review services and processes to reduce carbon footprint and replace diesel mobile vehicles with electric low emission vehicles to continue to deliver outreach services. <p>Feedback from the engagement process showed that when we asked people how they travelled to the library, 67% who responded told us they walked, 13.8% use public transport and 13.6% use a car or motorbike (whilst 0.9% make use of electric vehicles/ electric cycles).</p>	
<p>Negative</p> <p>Service delivery requires continued access to adequate utilities to ensure appropriate levels of heat and light. This also supports core activity delivery e.g. warm and welcoming spaces.</p> <p>Power is also a requirement to support continued access to ICT provisions where demand may involve additional activity and access to resources.</p>	<p>All citizens, however, those living in poverty are particularly affected.</p>

Economic	Affected Populations
<p>Positive</p> <p>The current library service provides benefit to the city's economy through the provision of accessible resources for study, opportunities to engage with lifelong learning, and support for individuals to develop literacy, numeracy and employability skills. The new MacMillan Hub, co-located with Muirhouse library, provides dedicated access to employability support and advice. All of the above contributes to supporting individuals to develop and advance opportunities to upskill and enter new or improved learning and employment possibilities.</p> <p>The ambitions for future service delivery and improvements as set out in the section above on Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights will all contribute positively to improve access to service and support more people to access library services thereby having a positive effect on the economic position for individuals and the city.</p> <p>Evidence suggests that the library service can support users in accessing a wide range of benefits in addition to library services which can assist in providing financial savings for those individuals. Proposed improvements to service and the future consideration of hub approaches where additional</p>	<p>All citizens, but especially those who are unemployed and those who live in poverty.</p> <p>People with disabilities or chronic illness, as well as older people.</p>

<p>support services could be provided alongside library services as outlined in the draft strategy will also have a potential positive impact on the economic position. An example of that is the proposal to continue to support the Warm Welcome initiative which promotes partnership approaches to support people to access services such as income maximization, employability and advice services.</p>	
<p>Negative</p> <p>Service users could be impacted negatively if there is a lack of investment in technology and lack of integrated working and delivery approaches.</p> <p>There is a risk that missed or ineffectively targeted opportunities for improving access to service provision and accessibility could potentially exclude disadvantaged or hardly reached groups from benefiting from services which could potentially improve their employability and skills.</p>	<p>Unemployed people and those living in poverty, as well as people with disabilities or chronic illnesses.</p>

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

No.

10. 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.

Consideration for all the above will continue to be included as part of the consultation plan. The equalities lead has and will continue to work with individuals and organisations to ensure that the consultation is accessible and will aim to reach groups with protected characteristics. This will be an ongoing process throughout the consultation, and if there are barriers to access, alternative methods such as face to face meetings and focus groups will be arranged to ensure participation is possible.

Participation from the engagement phase shows that the service was relatively successful in reaching and ensuring representation and participation from diverse groups with protected characteristics. We had an above average response rate from older people, LGBTQ+ and disabled people. However, the participation figures for certain ethnic groups were slightly lower than were expected; this is illustrated by the data on service update/access above.

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.

No.

12. Additional Information and Evidence Required

If further evidence is required, please note how it will be gathered. If appropriate, mark this report as interim and submit updated final report once further evidence has been gathered.

Information gathered from the engagement phase is continuing to be used to better understand impacts on individuals, groups and those with protected characteristics.

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 Ownership (name and contact details)	Deadline for Progression	Review Date
Review IIA	Project Management Group		Ongoing
Update stakeholder list	Project Management Group	June 2024	Completed
Review secondary stakeholder mapping based on locality/community specific modelling established prior to the engagement phase.	Scott Donkin – All Libraries Development Managers (and Development Leaders) and confirm with IIA Reference Group	October 2024	Ongoing

Reconvene IIA Reference Group, review Engagement Report, and examine consultation in terms of the Future Libraries Strategy and any proposed service changes	Cleo Jones	12/09/2024	Group met on 12th September and identified strategies for further engaging different demographic groups. The group will continue to meet throughout the consultation, including a midpoint review.
Undertake consultation programme and design methodologies which ensures representative samples can be met and are cognisant of underrepresented groups and individuals	Project Management Group	At start of consultation	Continues throughout consultation
Schedule weekly monitoring process during live consultation to ensure sufficient levels of involvement from underrepresented individuals and groups	Scott Donkin/Andrew McTaggart	30 Sep onwards	Continues throughout consultation
Following each monitoring process, prepare to adjust methodology to support improved opportunities for any under-represented groups/individuals to participate	Scott Donkin– Project Management Group	Once consultation is live	Continues throughout consultation
Reconvene the IIA Reference Group to undertake a refreshed IIA evaluation session prior to the consultation process going live	Cleo Jones	Initial Meeting 12/09/2024	Further meeting to be undertaken by beginning of Oct 2024
Ensure the Communications Plan makes specific reference to supporting accessibility in relation	Scott Donkin/ Hana Mackechnie	Start of consultation	

to the provision of communications and materials to be used			
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1. Ensure the above equalities issues are fully considered when undertaking consultation activity.
2. Ensure individuals and groups (including support groups) with protected characteristics are actively involved with the consultation process.
3. Continue to engage young people to ensure their voices are heard during the consultation.
4. During the consultation phase, continue to gather information and evidence from further sources that may assist to inform the strategy.
5. Ensure that communities of need and those with protected characteristics are fully considered during the implementation of the strategy.

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

No.

15. How will you monitor how this policy, plan or strategy affects different groups, including people with protected characteristics?

The IIA Reference Group is in place to oversee the implementation of the Future Libraries Strategy. This group has representation from EaRN, The Poverty Alliance, the staff networks including Stride, Sparc, DRIVE and the senior equalities officer for the Communities and Families department. The Future Libraries Strategy will be subject to continuous review and monitoring following approval.

16. Sign off by Head of Service/ Project Lead

Name – Evelyn Kilmurry – Head of Libraries, Sport and Wellbeing.

Date – 24 September 2024

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/

Section 5 Contacts

- **East Lothian Council**

Please send a completed copy of the IIA to equalities@eastlothian.gov.uk and it will be published on the Council website shortly afterwards. Copies of previous assessments are available via

http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/751/equality_diversity_and_citizenship/835/equality_and_diversity

- **Midlothian Council**

Please send a completed copy of the IIA to zoe.graham@midlothian.gov.uk and it will be published on the Council website shortly afterwards. Copies of previous assessments are available via http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/downloads/751/equality_and_diversity

- **NHS Lothian**

Completed IIAs should be forwarded to impactassessments@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk to be published on the NHS Lothian website and available for auditing purposes. Copies of previous impact assessments are available on the NHS Lothian website under Equality and Diversity.

- **The City of Edinburgh Council**

Completed impact assessments should be forwarded to Strategyandbusinessplanning@edinburgh.gov.uk to be published on the Council website.

- **City of Edinburgh Health and Social Care**

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to Sarah Bryson at sarah.bryson@edinburgh.gov.uk

- **Edinburgh Integration Joint Board**

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to Sarah Bryson at sarah.bryson@edinburgh.gov.uk

- **West Lothian Council**

Complete impact assessments should be forwarded to the Equalities Officer.