Section 4 Integrated Impact Assessment

Summary Report Template

Each of the numbered sections below must be completed

Interim report	x	Final report		(Tick as appropriate)

1. Title of plan, policy or strategy being assessed

Edinburgh Libraries – Future Libraries Strategy Development 2024 – 2029

This IIA relates specifically to proposals for options for change. This is broken down into two sections.
- Library opening hours
- Change to the timings of events and activities

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 with specific proposals for change, as these may more directly affect individuals and groups. This IIA links with the IIA on Future Libraries Strategy.

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 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 customers using HMP (Saughton) Edinburgh Library. This used the same approach as the citizen questionnaire and any associated references or comments are included within the report. Discussion groups have also been held and a creative poster design activity for children. Total numbers of participants include:

Activity	Numbers Involved
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) Edinburgh 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 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 Stakeholders Steering 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 through the engagement phase and have been brought together to share the findings from the process and assist with the design of the consultation process. During the engagement phase, the questionnaire returns were analysed and where it was identified that there were issues with 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 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 and 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 process.

Consultation (Sept 2024 to Dec 2024)

The consultation will gather views on a draft Future Libraries Strategy 2024 – 2029 and 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 June 20, 2024, discussed with stakeholder group 12 September 2024, updated 18 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
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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?

| Data on populations in need | Scotland's Census 2022 | Census data release (21/05/2024): Edinburgh had a population of 514,543.

 • Female – 265,589 (51.6%)
 • Male – 248,954 (48.4%)

 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%)

 Total: 514,543 |
| | Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2020

 Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2018

 Edinburgh by Numbers 2023 | 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 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.
	Edinburgh People's Survey 2018	**Data on people having a say on local issues and services** Edinburgh People's Survey results from 2018 indicated that 36% of those interviewed feel that they have a say on local issues and services. Over 65s were the age group most likely to say 'yes' (44%) and retired respondents were also more likely to feel they have a say on local issues and services (45%). Students (24%) and the youngest respondents (25% of those agreed 16-24) were likely to say, 'yes' to this question, and 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 'no'. Unemployed respondents were also less likely to say, 'yes' than others (26%) but this group were also more likely to actively disagree that they had a say, with 56% answering 'no'. 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% v 19%). Those with a health problem or disability were more likely than others to say 'no' (47% v 43%), as were those with children (48% v 43%)

Data on service uptake/access	Future Libraries – Citizens Questionnaire - Demographics	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 the diversity within the Edinburgh population was represented as effectively as possible and has provided us with the opportunity to identify areas for improvement through the consultation phase.
		Whilst results show that the 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 (citywide population: 12%). For people aged 65 years and over this was significantly higher, with 30% of respondents in this age group (citywide population: 16%).
		This was also reflected in employment status with full-time students representing 2% of respondents (citywide population: 18%) whilst those stating retired was 32% (citywide population: 18%). Those in full-time employment represented 34% of respondents (citywide: 38%) followed by part-time employment 19% (citywide: 10%), long term sick or disabled 2% (citywide: 4%), self-employed 2% (citywide: 8%), unemployed/looking for work 1% (citywide: 2%), stay at home parent/maternity 1% (citywide: 3%), and full-time carer 1%.
		Sex distribution in of participants was significantly higher for females (71%) compared to males (23%), with 6% preferring not to say or not answering.
		People who identify as trans or having a trans history accounted for 2.1% of respondents (citywide: 0.8%).
		Sexual orientation largely aligned with citywide demographics with 9% of respondents stating gay, lesbian, bisexual or other (citywide: 8%)

		broken down as follows: Heterosexual/straight 74% (citywide: 84%), gay/lesbian 3% (citywide: 3%), bisexual 5% (citywide: 4%), and other sexual orientation 1% (citywide: 1%). There was a significant number of participants who stated prefer not to say (12%) or choosing not to answer (5%).
		Ethnic group distribution of respondents provided a reasonable reflection of citywide demographics, when considering the higher-than-average number of participants over the age of 65 and the low number of responses in citizens questionnaire for people 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 93%, there was a lower-than-average number of participants who stated Asian, Scottish Asian and British Asian as their ethnic group with 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 0.1% (Citywide: 0.3%), another ethnic group 0.5% (citywide: 1.8%) with 3.8% preferring not to say.
		When asked about health conditions a quarter of participants stated they have long term physical, mental health 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'.
		Satisfaction with the Engagement Questionnaire
		Participants were asked to provide responses to 3 questions relating to the questionnaire:

		• 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. This was largely consistent for all demographic groups, all being within +/- 3% of the data above.
	Edinburgh Libraries Service Data 2023/24	**Number of library members who have used their library card during the past 12 months** For year, April 2023 to March 2024, the total number of active members (people who have 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 (14% increase from 2022/23). Just over 30% of children and young people living in Edinburgh having used their library card at least once in the past 12 months. Teenage active users have increase by 32% from pre covid figures. **Item Issues 2018 – 2023 (Physical)** 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 **New Library members** 2022/23 - 33,021 2023/24 – 33,327

		Activities
		Edinburgh Libraries delivered **14,565** activities and events for all ages from April 2023 to March 2024. This is a **65%** increase in the total number of activities from 2022/23. **75%** of all activities delivered were aimed at children and young people.
		Peoples Network (Public access computers) Use
		Total PN reservations: 2022/23 - 63,259 2023/24 - 92,364
		PN reservations had dropped by 73% in 2022/23 from pre-Covid period 2019/20. 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. There was also a period in 2022/23 when PN access was unavailable due to refresh/update of the libraries PC estate across the city.
		Transactions - Item issue, returns, renewals and reservations
		From June 2023 to August 2024 there were 1.9 million in-person transactions across all public libraries (item issues, returns, reservations and renewals).
		Note: excl. Ratho, Muirhouse, and Blackhall - temporarily closed.
		In person transactions average by time of day
		Whilst **92%** of all transactions were completed between 10am and 5pm, this reduces to **79%** when based on the average number of transactions per day by hour to account for differences in daily opening hours, and is broken down as follows:
		Morning – 10:00 – 13:00

		• **All 39%** o *Children 38%* o *Teen 24%* o *Adult 40%* **Afternoon – 13:00 – 17:00** • **All 44%** o *Children 49%* o *Teen 48%* o *Adult 42%* **Evening – 17:00 – 20:00** • **All 17%** o *Children 14%* o *Teen 28%* o *Adult 18%* 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% selected morning, 44% afternoon, and 22% evening and should be noted that this included both in-person and online access.

	Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, low wealth, material deprivation, area deprivation.	SIMD Scotland 2020	**Library locations within the SIMD Context**

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). 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%

The "Scottish Government 2023 High School Statistics" and "Edinburgh Poverty Commission 2020" links appear in the second column of this page.

		SIMD Q1 – 18.30%
		SIMD Q2 – 14.90%
		SIMD Q3 – 11.90%
		SIMD Q4 – 17.10%
		SIMD Q5 – 37.80%

Estimated 77,600 people were in poverty in Edinburgh in the year prior to the coronavirus outbreak, including almost one in five of all children.

Almost two thirds of people on very low incomes live in areas out with those parts of Edinburgh commonly described as 'deprived' or 'disadvantaged'.

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, double the average for all citizens.

23-25% of households with a disabled child or adult are in poverty, compared to 17% of those with no disabled resident.

Estimated that child poverty in Scotland could rise steadily throughout the 2020's 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.

Attainment data shows that Edinburgh schools do better than the Scottish average for pupils from the more affluent areas of the city, but less well than average for pupils from deprived areas.

Top 5 High Schools by % of pupils in SIMD Quintile 1 (20% Most Deprived):

- Wester Hailes – 82%
- Castlebrae – 76%
- Craigroyston – 67%
- Gracemount – 53%

		• St Augustines RC – 50% Top 5 High Schools by % of pupils in SIMD Quintile 5 (20% Least Deprived): • Boroughmuir – 84% • James Gillespies – 69% • The Royal High – 66% • Currie – 62% • Craigmount & Balerno – 53%

Data on Equality outcomes		**High Schools**

High Schools

23 High Schools each providing school-based library services

23,150 students (S1 – S6)

- Female 49.50%
- Male 50.50%

The pupil age spread between S1 & S4 averages 18.2% with S5 – 15.7% and S6 - 11.4%.

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

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

	SIMD Q1	SIMD Q2	SIMD Q3	SIMD Q4	SIMD Q5	Total
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

SIMD Scotland 2020

		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**

Research/literature evidence	Scottish Book Trust – [Reading in Scotland – Reading Over Lockdown](#)	**National Study** National sample group provided feedback of life in lockdown and if reading played a part in supporting health and wellbeing. **Wellbeing** • 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 **Connection and isolation** • 64% agreed that reading made them feel less isolated. • 46% reported speaking about reading with someone new and 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 **Access to books** • 75% used the library to get print books for themselves • 94% of those with children used the library to get print books for them **Reading habits** The majority of panellists reported reading more over the lockdown, with some noting they had more energy for reading due to working from home. • 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.

	[The Power of Scottish Public Libraries](#)	• 49% discovered a new favourite book, author or series Many panellists hoped to continue dedicating more time to reading, reading more as a family and exploring a wider range of genres and formats. • 72% agreed that they would like to continue with some aspects of their lockdown reading habits There are 1.9 times more public library visits than there are to the top 10 free visitor attractions in Scotland each year. **Social Wellbeing** For many people, interacting with staff, taking part in activities, and feeling part of a community in a welcoming and non-judgemental space, are all key social wellbeing benefits of public libraries. • Over 23m visits in one year to nearly 550 library service points and mobile libraries • 27,000 Bookbug sessions **Economic Wellbeing** The economic value and impact of libraries may be hard to quantify, but everyday thousands of people benefit from their free internet access and opportunities to learn, read and develop new skills. All of these create better life opportunities for individuals and improve local communities. • Potential monthly saving per user £93.88 • Over 1.7m computer hours used and access to free Wi-Fi _____
	[Department for Education - Research evidence on](#)	Research reports a link between library use and reading for pleasure; young people that use their public library are nearly twice as likely to be

	reading for pleasure.	reading outside of class every day (Clark and Hawkins, 2011). There is a growing body of evidence which illustrates the importance of reading for pleasure for both educational purposes as well as personal development (cited in Clark and Rumbold, 2006). • 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) **Benefits of reading for pleasure** 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 to reading for pleasure: • 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; and • A greater insight into human nature and decision-making

Public/patient/client experience information	Future Libraries Engagement – Citizens Questionnaire	**Satisfaction with the Engagement Questionnaire** Participants were asked to provide responses to 3 questions relating to the questionnaire: • 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. This was largely consistent for all demographic groups, all being within +/- 3% of the data above.

Evidence of inclusive engagement of people who use the service and involvement findings	No Going Back [Edinburgh](#) Libraries Youth Engagement survey	2,097 young people (11 – 18 years) provided views of the current library service with suggestions for positive change. Action plan agreed to manage an improvement programme. Individual school and community libraries provided with comments for each location: • 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 (few times each year) • 26% never visit a community library
Evidence of unmet need		It is known that Library Link service (specially provided transport for those who are unable to physically access the service themselves) currently operates a waiting list. 5.4% of participants of the citizen questionnaire indicated that they are not library users. Of this 19% said that they bought their own books, 14% said they use libraries elsewhere, 14% fell out of the habit and 12% said that they intended to use libraries in the future. Throughout the consultation we will continue to engage with non-library users to further explore and address the reasons given above.

Good practice guidelines	[Forward: Scotland's Public Library Strategy (scottishlibraries.org)](#)	National public library strategy – sets out the vision, mission and outcomes for public libraries across Scotland.
		National school library strategy- sets out the vision, mission and outcomes for school libraries across Scotland.
	[vibrant-libraries-thriving-schools.pdf (scottishlibraries.org)](#)	Consultation activity to support this project will be undertaken in line with the Council policy.
		Other
		Every effort will be made to ensure the project is undertaken in line with the [Gunning Principles](#).
	[CEC Consultation and Engagement Policy](#)	The overall process will be managed with adequate time for participation, quality assurance, equalities monitoring and sample sizes in line with industry standards.
		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.
		Following Consultation, the decision to proceed with any recommendations for change rest with the City of Edinburgh Council's Culture and Communities Committee. The report and associated recommendations will take into account the consultation responses.
Environmental data	No	
Risk from cumulative impacts	No	To be fully considered prior to consultation stage
Other (please specify)	No	
Additional evidence required	No	

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

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights	Affected populations
Positive **Proposal to change opening hours** The consultation sets out four new options for public library opening hours. These are all evidence- based on feedback gathered through the Engagement Phase of Future Libraries where over 14,000 people gave their views on service provision and future development. The options are also based on analysis of current service use data. • All options provide an overall net increase in opening hours • Greater consistency and equity in opening hours in libraries across the city • An increase in morning access in each option for libraries currently closed on Monday and Wednesday mornings • Increased evening availability for libraries currently closed on a Tuesday evening in some of the proposed options • Increased Thursday opening for libraries closed on a Thursday in one of the proposed options • Increased Saturday opening for libraries closed at 2pm The changes above will provide the following positive impacts: Increased morning availability: • Increased access for older people, who have indicated a preference for morning access • More equitable access across the city • Increased morning availability for families with young children • Increased access for school and nursery visits • More flexibility when delivering library events and activities • Increased citywide availability for partner organisations who want to use library spaces during	All citizens Differences in time of use from engagement responses highlight the following groups: • Older people • Young people • People in full-time employment • Parents/Carers • Students • People with disabilities/long term conditions/illnesses All stakeholders and partners. The whole population of Edinburgh – currently 1 in 5 citizens are active members of the library service. Evidence from the Edinburgh Survey 2018 highlights in particular - Older and retired people - 45% of respondents used the library regularly and 90% of them were satisfied with the service. Ethnic minorities and non-UK citizens, 42% indicated

the day to provide services such as employability programmes and health and wellbeing advice and support

- More flexibility for daytime access for carers supporting those who want to access services in libraries, for example bus passes, hearing aid batteries

For example, people who access services at Granton Library currently have only three mornings per week, whereas people who use Portobello Library have access to services six mornings per week.

Increased citywide evening availability:

- Increased citywide evening access for young people, who through the engagement indicated that they were more likely to access libraries in the evening
- Increased citywide evening access for people who work, who through the engagement indicated that they were more likely to access libraries in the evening.

For example, people who access Moredun Library currently have two evenings per week, whereas people who access Morningside Library currently have three evenings per week.

Similarly, there are currently seven libraries that close at 2pm on a Saturday, with some of the consultation options proposing opening these to 4pm or 5pm. This would provide more equitable access across the city. Feedback from the engagement and usage data suggests that Saturdays are libraries busiest day on average.

Proposal for change to timings of library events/activities

At present, all libraries run events and activities across different and varying days of the week without any coordination across the city. As running events and activities requires additional library staff this has an impact on resource management.

It is proposed to manage this differently where the service would adopt a more strategic and planned approach to the programming of events and activities across the city. It is proposed that 10 libraries identify two days each week when

that they used their library regularly and 81% said that they were satisfied.

Those with disabilities or chronic health issues in the family, 42% indicated that they used the library regularly and 88% were satisfied.

45% of respondents had young children.

More women than men use the service.

All the groups above have a higher chance of living in poverty. SEGs A and B also had above average use of libraries

Least likely to use libraries are those in employment and from socio economic groups C2 and D.

they would continue to deliver the full range of library services but would not plan any events or activities to take place on those days. They would run events and activities on the remaining four days of the week (when open) as usual alongside other library services.

The changes above will provide the following positive impacts:

- Identified free days for other partners and Council services to access the library space with dedicated use - free of other activity
- Opportunities for quieter environments on identified days to support study and access for people with neuro diverse conditions
- More distributed spread of library events/activities across a locality minimising some events taking place at the same time.

Negative	
Proposal to change opening hours	All citizens
Whilst every effort will be made to ensure options for change outlined above, which have been identified through the engagement process, minimise any potential for negative impacts, it is recognised that change can affect different people and groups in different ways.	Differences in time of use in the evenings from engagement responses highlight the following groups:
The changes above could potentially result in the following negative impacts:	- Young people - People in full-time employment - Full-time Students
All branches will close one hour earlier in the evening, 7pm rather than 8 pm on the days they open in evenings. Groups that this could impact negatively are young people, people who work during the day, some established library groups, customers accessing computers in the evening, people using the library in the evening for a warm space and any partner organisations who require access to community spaces outwith working hours.	All stakeholders and partners.
To fully understand the impact of this change we will implement exit polls in libraries in the mornings and evenings to build a clearer picture of why people are using the libraries	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.

at specific times and the impact any change will have on them. **Proposal for change to timings of library events/activities** The changes above could potentially result in the following negative impacts: • Some regular activities moving from their current day/time, such as, Bookbug sessions, Library Link, Book groups. This may affect certain groups more than others, especially those who require a planned approach to their day-to-day routine, for example, parents/carers who may have a set weekly routine of activities based around childcare, respite, work and other commitments. • Reduced ability to deliver staff supported ad-hoc activities, especially after school activities for children and young people, on the days selected.	We have undertaken workshops with groups on request. We are working with our staff networks to ensure that we cover Disability, LGBTQ+, Women's and BAME groups and get feedback. 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 barriers to use or to make it more accessible.

Environment and Sustainability	Affected Populations
Positive Providing availability of library services more consistently across the city helps ensure library services support the 20-minute neighbourhood ambition providing services for local communities. Proposals to change opening hours and more strategic planning of events/activities would seek to identify where 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. The library service contributes to wider environmental sustainability as a direct consequence of lending free resources, 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.	All citizens

Negative	
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. Power is also a requirement to support continued access to ICT provisions where demand may involve additional activity and access to resources.	All citizens but those living in poverty particularly affected.

Economic	Affected populations
Positive 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 planned MacMillan Hub will also provide dedicated access to employability support and advice. All of which contribute to supporting individuals to develop and advance opportunities to upskill and enter new or improved learning and employment opportunities. **Proposal to change opening hours** • More consistent availability of free services, including events/activities, Wi-Fi, PC access, and partner led activities promoting economic wellbeing, in areas where they currently have no local library access on Monday and Wednesday mornings, Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoons.	All citizens but especially those who are unemployed and those who live in poverty. People with disabilities or chronic illness, older people
Negative Risk that opportunities for improving access to service provision and accessibility are missed or not effectively targeted potentially excluding disadvantaged or hardly reached groups from benefiting from services which could potentially improve their employability and skills. • All branches will close one hour earlier in the evening, 7pm rather than 8 pm on the days they open	Unemployed people and those living in poverty. People with disabilities or chronic illness.

| in evenings. Groups that this could impact are young people, people who work during the day, and any partner organisations who require access to community spaces outwith working hours beyond 7pm.

To fully understand the impact of this change we will implement exit polls in libraries in the mornings and evenings to build a clearer picture of why people are using the libraries at specific times. | |

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. A specific equalities lead worked with individuals and organisations to ensure that the engagement reached groups with protected characteristics and is accessible.

This will be an ongoing process throughout, and if there are barriers to access, alternative methods such as face to face meetings and focus groups will be arranged.

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 above average responses from older, LGBTQ+ and disabled people. However, the figures for certain ethnic groups were slightly lower than we would expect. 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.

The Consultation will be used to better understand impacts on individuals, groups and those with protected characteristics etc.

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 contact details)	Deadline for progressing	Review date
Review IIA's	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 the IIA Reference Group		
Reconvene IIA Reference Group and review Engagement Report and look at Consultation in terms	Cleo Jones	12/09/2024	Group met 12 September

| | | | Identified strategies for further engaging different demographics

Will continue to meet throughout the consultation, Including a midpoint review. |
|---|---|---|---|
| of the Strategy and any proposed service changes | | | |
| 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 by beginning of Oct 2024 |

Ensure the Communications Plan makes specific reference to supporting accessibility in relation to the provision of communications and materials to be used	Scott Donkin/ Hana Mackechnie	Start of consultation	

1. Ensure the above equalities issues are fully considered when undertaking consultation activity to inform any proposals for change.
2. Ensure individuals and groups (and support groups) with protected characteristics are actively involved with consultation processes to inform the Strategy.
3. Ensure young people are re-engaged with a specific focus on promoting the Future Libraries strategy development any proposed changes.
4. Implement the delivery of the strategy and any associated service redesign / changes ensuring that communities of need and those with protected characteristics are fully considered.
5. During the consultation phase, continue to gather information and evidence from further sources that may assist to inform 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 take forward the development of a new strategy. This group has representation from EaRN, The Poverty Alliance, the staff networks including Stride, Sparc, DRIVE and the senior officer equalities officer for the Communities and Families department. The 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

16. 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.