

Edinburgh Accessibility Commission – Work Plan

What is Edinburgh’s Accessibility Commission?

Edinburgh’s Accessibility Commission (the Commission) has been set up for an initial two-year period.

It will give independent advice to the City of Edinburgh Council (the Council).

Advice will focus on the actions needed to make sure the **city’s public streets and spaces are as accessible as possible to disabled people.**

Actions will support the Council in meeting its commitment to the Equal Pavement’s Pledge.

[Read about the Equal Pavements Pledge.](#)

What will the Commission focus on?

The Commission will mainly look at the Council’s practices and processes across three key themes:

- Design
- Communication
- Engagement

The Commission’s Work Plan

The Work Plan below sets out the priorities, and actions needed to deliver them.

This Work Plan also shows who will be involved in delivering the actions. The role of the Commission is also set out.

How will we know if improvements have been made?

The delivery of the Commission’s Work Plan will be monitored to understand its impact on ensuring Edinburgh’s public streets and spaces are accessible as possible.

The Work Plan priorities

Priority 1 – Design

Guidance on the design of the city's public streets and spaces should reflect best practice on accessibility.

Outcome: Edinburgh's public streets and spaces will be designed to be as accessible as possible.

Action(s) to deliver the outcome: Review, engage on and update Edinburgh's Street Design Guidance (ESDG) and the Edinburgh Design Guidance (EDG) at appropriate review points. Sensitive historic areas may require specific approaches.

Who will be involved in delivering the action(s)?

Council teams including:

- Transport, Strategy and Partnerships
- Planning
- Network Management and Enforcement
- Roads and Infrastructure
- Parks, Openspace Development & Visitor Services
- Waste and Cleansing

What is the Commission's role?

Areas to focus on will relate to current challenges.

Priority 2 - Design

Maintenance of the city's public streets and spaces should retain and, where possible, improve accessibility.

Outcome: Edinburgh's public streets and spaces will be maintained to support ease and safety of movement taking account of various disabled people's needs.

Action(s) to deliver the outcome: Ensure maintenance approaches reflect best practice as far as possible. Delivery of this action is highly dependent on the Council's maintenance and street renewal budget allocations.

Who will be involved in delivering the action(s)?

Council teams including:

- Roads and Infrastructure
- Parks, Openspace Development & Visitor Services
- Waste and Cleansing
- Accessibility group representatives

What is the Commission's role?

Areas to focus on will relate to current challenge

Priority 3 - Design

Changes to Edinburgh's public streets and spaces will be monitored using available data.

Outcome: The impacts of changes to our public streets and spaces will be understood and supported by available data where possible.

Action(s) to deliver the outcome:

Improve the Council's data collection and analysis systems (for example, expanding the network of traffic sensors), to support enhanced monitoring and evidence-led decision-making.

Who will be involved in delivering the action(s)?

Council teams including:

- Transport, Strategy and Partnerships
- Network Management and Enforcement
- Roads and Infrastructure
- Planning
- Parks, Openspace Development & Visitor Services

What is the Commission's role?

Areas to focus on will relate to current challenge

Priority 4 - Design

Changes to Edinburgh's public streets and spaces will be effectively managed and enforced.

Outcome: Measures put in place to make public streets and spaces as accessible as possible will be protected.

Action(s) to deliver the outcome:

Enforcement approaches will continue to be responsive to tackling breaches, working in partnership with Police Scotland as required. Roadworks will be coordinated to avoid negative impacts on accessibility as far as possible.

Who will be involved in delivering the action(s)?

Council teams including:

- Transport, Strategy and Partnerships
- Network Management and Enforcement
- Roads and Infrastructure
- Parks, Openspace Development & Visitor Services
- Continued partnership working with Police Scotland

What is the Commission's role?

Areas to focus on will relate to current challenges.

Priority 5 - Communication

Council communications in relation to the city's public streets and spaces will be easy to understand and presented in a range of accessible formats.

Outcome: Disabled people will have equitable access to communications relating to the city's public streets and spaces, maximising opportunities to gain awareness and understanding of changes. Disabled people will be able to share their views on proposals impacting the city's public streets and spaces.

Action(s) to deliver the outcome:

In communicating about the city's public streets and spaces, we will make sure the Council selects the appropriate accessible formats and channels to communicate with disabled people (for example, Easy Read, BSL) informed by Integrated Impact Assessments. Staff training needs/external support will be considered where funding allows.

Who will be involved in delivering the action(s)?

Council teams including:

- Communications
- Policy and Insight
- Transport, Strategy and Partnerships
- Network Management and Enforcement
- Roads and Infrastructure
- Planning
- Parks, Openspace Development & Visitor Services
- Waste and Cleansing

What is the Commission's role?

Areas to focus on will relate to current challenges.

Priority 6 - Communication

Clear points of contact will be provided to support understanding of changes to public streets and spaces.

Outcome: Disabled people will be able to access, discuss and query relevant Council officers to support understanding of any changes made to public streets and spaces.

Action(s) to deliver the outcome: Provide points of contact as part of consultations, roadworks and other changes to the road network.

Who will be involved in delivering the action(s)?

Council teams including:

- Transport, Strategy and Partnerships
- Network Management and Enforcement
- Roads and Infrastructure
- Planning
- Parks, Openspace Development & Visitor Services
- Waste and Cleansing

What is the Commission's role?

Areas to focus on will relate to current challenges.

Priority 7 - Engagement

Undertake meaningful engagement for projects impacting the design of public streets and spaces.

Outcome: Disabled people will have the opportunity to engage at key points during projects to help shape the design of public streets and spaces at key points in the project's development. Early engagement that is accessible and equitable will support better decisions.

Action(s) to deliver the outcome:

Make sure Integrated Impact Assessments inform the approach to engagement for projects impacting public streets and spaces. Make sure the Council's engagement methods are accessible, varied and flexible to suit differing needs.

Who will be involved in delivering the action(s)?

Council teams including:

- Policy and Insight
- Communications
- Transport, Strategy and Partnerships
- Network Management and Enforcement
- Roads and Infrastructure
- Planning
- Parks, Openspace Development & Visitor Services
- Waste and Cleansing

What is the Commission's role?

Areas to focus on will relate to current challenges.

Priority 8 - Engagement

Share feedback explaining how views have been taken into account for projects relating to the design of public streets and spaces.

Outcome: Disabled people will understand how their views have shaped proposals for public streets and spaces.

Action(s) to deliver the outcome: Review Council practices for feeding back following consultations in accessible formats to make sure it is as consistent and accessible as possible.

Who will be involved in delivering the action(s)?

Council teams including:

- Policy and Insight
- Communications
- Transport, Strategy and Partnerships
- Network Management and Enforcement
- Roads and Infrastructure
- Planning
- Parks, Openspace Development & Visitor Services
- Waste and Cleansing

What is the Commission's role?

To be decided by the Commission.