

# Public Document Pack



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

<b>Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 7 March 2023
<b>Time</b>	10.00 am to 11.00am (World Café) 11.00am to 12.00pm (Business Meeting)
<b>Venue</b>	Faith Mission Centre (Room 2), 548 Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh, EH17 7JD

This meeting of the Partnership Board will be split into two sessions. The first hour (10am to 11am) will be for a world café style input where Board members will divide into groups to have a discussion with invited guests for 10-15 minutes on questions relating to the cost-of-living crisis. Each group will be supported by a member of the Community Planning Team.

The second part of the meeting (11am to 12.00pm) will be for Board members only to discuss the business matters on the agenda.

## Edinburgh Partnership Board

### Feedback from Cost-of-Living Crisis Discussion

Pages

#### 1. Welcome and Meeting Protocols

1.1 Welcome and Meeting Protocols

#### 2. Declaration of Interests

2.1 Declarations of Interest

#### 3. Minutes

3.1 Minutes of the Edinburgh Partnership of 6 December 2022 3 - 8

#### 4. Business

4.1 Ending Poverty-Related Hunger in Edinburgh 9 - 52

4.2 Edinburgh Association of Community Councils - Financial Support Request 53 - 54

4.3 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update 55 - 64

## **5. Future Meetings**

### **5.1 Proposed Dates for Next Meetings**

- Tuesday 6 June 2023
- Tuesday 5 September 2023
- Tuesday 12 December 2023
- Tuesday 5 March 2024
- Tuesday 11 June 2024



## THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Tuesday 6 December 2022 – 2:00pm - Meeting held in person at the City Chambers  
and via Microsoft Teams

### MINUTE

#### Board members present

Cllr Cammy Day (Chair)	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Kevin Lang	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Adam McVey	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Alex Staniforth	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Iain Whyte	City of Edinburgh Council
Angus McCann	Edinburgh Integration Joint Board
Dona Milne	NHS Lothian
Dave McCallum	Skills Development Scotland
Alison Cumming	Scottish Government
Audrey Cumberland	Edinburgh College
Lorne Iain Campbell	Ministry of Defence
Jean Gray	Viewpoint Housing Association
Lynn McMath	The University of Edinburgh
Bridie Ashrowan	EVOG
Sean Scott	Police Scotland
Andrew Kerr	City of Edinburgh Council
Steve Kerr	Edinburgh Association of Community Councils
Calum Campbell	NHS Lothian

#### In attendance

Michele Mulvaney	City of Edinburgh Council
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#### Apologies

Mark McMullen	Scottish Enterprise
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## 1. Minute

### Decision

To agree the minute of the Edinburgh Partnership Board 6 September 2022 as a correct record.

## **2. End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Report 2022**

The second annual update on progress made by city-wide partners in response to the Edinburgh Poverty Commission's calls to action was presented. The report covered the period from October 2021 to the end of September 2022 and included the response which was ongoing to the Covid-19 pandemic and the response to the emerging cost of living crisis, both of which had been significant in informing actions.

In line with recommendations made by the Commission, the report also incorporated and met a statutory duty for the Council and NHS Lothian to co-produce an annual Local Child Poverty Action Report.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the second annual progress report against the End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan, including proposed actions for priority delivery during the next 12 months.
- 2) To agree that during 2023/24, in advance of reporting against interim targets set for end 2024, Edinburgh Poverty Commission members were invited to reconvene to provide the Partnership with advice on progress to date and recommended next steps.
- 3) To agree to review the work undertaken by the Poverty and Equality Commission in comparison to the work undertaken by the Poverty Commission.
- 4) To agree to submit a response to the Scottish Government to detail the concerns around those remaining in poverty and those groups entering poverty, and in doing so provide robust data, with further data input from EVOC to highlight gaps.

## **3. Update on LOIP Priority 1 - Advice Service Review**

Through the UK Shared Prosperity Funding, there were proposed plans for some additional capacity for third sector crisis grant programmes, and income maximisation advice capacity in Edinburgh. To help with welfare rights and debt advice service capacity, Capital City Partnerships was leading on the development of a new employability programme for welfare rights advisors, in partnership with the main providers; and a staff wellbeing programme was being formed for this workforce. A co-ordinated promotion of citizen and staff awareness of help available to households who were worrying about money or struggling to get by, during autumn and winter 2023.

### **Decision**

- 1) To agree to consider how the Edinburgh Partnership could help raise the profile of the Review locally in Edinburgh and nationally.

- 2) To agree to suggest any expertise, support or opportunities that could help with the implementation.
- 3) To agree that work would be undertaken to accelerate funding pooling of to respond to Partners' concerns around the pace of delivery.
- 4) To agree that more Registered Social Landlords should be involved in the review.

#### **4. Cost of Living Crisis**

Information on the action by members of the Edinburgh Partnership Board to address the current cost of living crisis was provided alongside further opportunities for joint activity to augment work being taken forward under the auspices of the LOIP. This activity formed the basis of previous reports to the Board in June and September 2022.

##### **Decision**

- 1) To agree to discuss and identify further opportunities for joint working.
- 2) To note the content of the report.

#### **5. Edinburgh Partnership Board – Operational Proposals**

A subgroup of the Edinburgh Partnership Board had met twice to discuss proposals for how the Board may operate in future, following on from a discussion at the Board meeting in September 2022. Proposals were presented which built on the model adopted in 2019 following the Edinburgh Partnership review, for the approval of the Board.

##### **Decision**

- 1) To approve the proposals for the future operational model set out in paragraph 3.4 of the report.
- 2) To agree future proposals were taken forward with the involvement of the Community Planning Support Team.
- 3) To agree that the Community Planning Support Team explored the potential for an Edinburgh Partnership Awards Programme.
- 4) To agree to consider how the Edinburgh Partnership and The Edinburgh Children's Partnership could collaborate meaningfully, and explore opportunities for further scrutiny.
- 5) To agree that Michele Mulvaney would circulate a briefing concerning the Partnership Performance Framework to Partners.

## **6. Edinburgh Partnership Survey Methodology**

Options for the methodology of the partnership survey were presented. Which included survey methods which could be repeated at any interval and would be robust to changes in the number of interviews performed.

It was advised that changes to the number of interviews would change reliability and limit reporting options, therefore fewer surveys with more participants each survey interval was recommended in preference to increased survey intervals with fewer participants each wave.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the preferred methodology for the Edinburgh Partnership survey will be based on a face-to-face, in-street approach.
- 2) To note the risks identified within the report if overall funding for the survey were reduced.
- 3) To agree that any future waves of the survey seek to match closely against the survey method, sampling method, and the number of interviews achieved in the first survey, in order to maximise comparability and therefore a change of frequency in survey waves would be explored as a way to reduce costs if needed.
- 4) To note that proposals would be discussed at the Survey Workshop on Friday 9 December 2022 to ensure a focus on the LOIP and additionality in the execution of the survey.

## **7. Edinburgh Community Safety Strategy 2020-23: Year 3 Annual Summary Update Report**

The Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership (ECSP) ratified Edinburgh's three-year Community Safety (CS) Strategy in March 2020. Updates on the progress of each separate priority theme had been scheduled quarterly and presented to the ECSP over the lifetime of the strategy. This third yearly report provided a collective overview to inform the Edinburgh Partnership of the work that each of the three thematic delivery groups had carried out to date under each theme. The joint Community Safety Strategy which was in place would conclude in the spring of 2023 therefore the legal requirement to develop a new joint strategy between the Council and Police Scotland would be progressed over the coming months and delivered to the ECSP for ratification by the summer of 2023.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the contents of the third and final annual update report detailing the work undertaken in conjunction with Edinburgh's Community Safety Strategy 2020–2023.

- 2) To agree that the Council and Police Scotland would take forward development of a new joint Community Safety Strategy, with an expected launch in the summer of 2023.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 7 March 2023 at 10am.

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## THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

### Ending Poverty-Related Hunger in Edinburgh

#### 1. Executive Summary

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- 1.1 In June 2022, the Edinburgh Partnership considered and approved a draft strategy to end poverty related hunger in Edinburgh for public consultation.
- 1.2 The twelve-week consultation during the summer of 2022. There were 57 responses via the consultation hub, and broad agreement (“somewhat or strongly”) with the vision (80%) and principles (84%) and the actions (82%).
- 1.3 Alongside the consultation, the Council commissioned research from Diffley Partnership, seeking lived experience of emergency and community food provision in Edinburgh, building on existing knowledge and providing valuable insights.
- 1.4 The strategy has been revised to take account of the range of feedback received, for consideration and approval by the Edinburgh Partnership Board.
- 1.5 The main revisions are to make it clearer that this strategy is part of a comprehensive programme to tackle the drivers of poverty in Edinburgh, through the End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan; and to recognise and address the role that stigma has in tackling poverty.
- 1.6 An Edinburgh Food Poverty Network is being established to promote collaboration and partnership working across the sector. A steering group has been formed to establish the Network and to lead work to deliver the actions set out above. It is proposed that the steering group report progress.
- 1.7 It is proposed that the Food Poverty Network will report into the Edinburgh Partnership’s Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) Delivery Group, which will monitor progress and provide a mechanism for wider partnership support to assist in the delivery of the strategy.

#### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 It is recommended that the Edinburgh Partnership:
  - i. Approves the final draft strategy (Appendix 1)
  - ii. Notes that a steering group has been set up to establish the Edinburgh Food Network and to deliver the actions specified in the draft strategy.
  - iii. Notes the role, remit and governance of the Network and agrees to the proposals for governance of the group (Appendix 4)
  - iv. Agrees to receive an update on progress in December 2023.

### 3. Main Report

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- 3.1 In 2021 the Edinburgh Partnership approved a proposed approach to the development of a new partnership strategy to end poverty related hunger in Edinburgh. The process for developing the strategy was set out in a paper to the Board in June 2022 ([Ending Poverty Related Hunger](#) – see pages 13-32).
- 3.2 Throughout the development of this strategy, the Council has continued to provide support to people experiencing poverty, including, during 2022-23:
- 3.2.1 **Additional support for people in food crisis or poverty related hunger:** to date £209,000 has been made to provide direct food support for people in food crisis with a further payment of 92k due to be paid in March 2023. This includes support for food banks, food pantries and community food groups.
- 3.2.2 **Additional grant funds to support families experiencing difficulty with energy costs:** a total of £100,000 of funding was provided to Home Energy Scotland (HES) to fund payment of energy crisis grants of up to £1,000 to low-income households in Edinburgh. A further £100,000 has been made available to support this activity and is being distributed through food bank providers.
- 3.3 The draft strategy to end poverty related hunger was developed to address the identified gaps and challenges, and set out a vision, principles and actions across five areas:



- 3.4 Public consultation was held for 12 weeks on the Council's Consultation Hub between July to September 2022 and sought views on the challenges described which the strategy seeks to address, the draft vision and principles to underpin the strategy, and the five areas of actions proposed.
- 3.5 Alongside the consultation, the Council commissioned research seeking lived experience of emergency and community food provision in Edinburgh. Between 1 and 25 November 2022, the independent research agency Diffley Partnership interviewed 20 people living across Edinburgh, asking them about their feedback, suggestions, and aspirations. Supported by service provider staff in four organisations, they reached research participants with a range of backgrounds and experiences including:

3.5.1 people experiencing or who have experienced poverty,



- 3.5.2 specific groups who may have barriers or be reluctant to seek help – older people, BAME groups, people with disabilities,
- 3.5.3 families at risk of child poverty, including families with three or more children, families where there is a lone parent and families where there is someone with a disability.
- 3.6 The strategy and action plan were revised in response to the feedback from both of these sources. Key points are summarised below.

### **Key findings from the research**

- 3.7 During the interviews, people were asked about their reasons for seeking support, their experiences of food provision, and ideas and suggestions for future provision. See appendix 3 for the full research report.
- 3.8 People were very positive about any community and emergency food provision they had accessed and raised a range of issues for the strategy to address. This included:
  - 3.8.1 Awareness of support available was generally low
  - 3.8.2 The need for careful messaging about the shape of future provision, with concern being raised about ending the need for reliance foodbanks, both the feasibility of this, and worry about what sources of support there might be in future, if foodbanks aren't continued.
  - 3.8.3 One person described themselves as managing money quite well, although worrying about bills, so hadn't needed to ask for advice or help. This might be an example of a lost opportunity for income maximisation through benefits checks/income maximisation, and the need for awareness raising and easy access to advice.
  - 3.8.4 The value of knowledge, confidence and experience in choosing what to buy and being able to use it to provide nutritious meals, and the disadvantages faced by people who have not acquired them
- 3.9 Many of these themes were also described in responses to the consultation, along with suggestions for how the strategy might be strengthened to address them.

### **Key findings from the public consultation**

- 3.10 There were 57 responses via the consultation hub – 21 from organisations and 36 from individuals. There was a separate submission from a discussion group of people supported by People First. Appendix 2 provides a summary of the consultation responses.
- 3.11 There was broad agreement (“somewhat or strongly”) with the vision (80%) and principles (84%) and the actions (82%).



- 3.12 A key theme of the feedback was the need to root the strategy more clearly in addressing the causes of poverty. As one respondent said “the goal is not to feed people – it is to end poverty related hunger and to recognise that emergency food is only a temporary solution”.
- 3.13 Another strongly made point was that a crucial element was missing from the strategy - tackling the stigma of both being in poverty and accessing supports for people facing poverty related hunger, considered by some to be the biggest barrier in addressing poverty. If someone trying to access a service has a negative first experience with a staff member or service, it can immediately put them off seeking support for a long time, and subsequently, prolong their time in poverty. There was a call for design and implementation of services and the administration of supports to involve people with lived experience to ensure that people feel able and willing to use them.
- 3.14 Consultation feedback also described challenges spanning advice services, benefits, crisis payments and employment; as well as current systems failing to enable early intervention through strict eligibility criteria; and the need for change across all of these.
- 3.15 There was a call for the recognition of the skill and knowledge among community and voluntary organisations, and support for the introduction of a Edinburgh Food Poverty Network with the proviso that it would need to be properly resourced.
- 3.16 There was a range of topics raised which need to be considered in the strategy and actions. These related to the need for:
- 3.16.1 stable, multi-year funding, along with recognition that community and voluntary sector organisations recognition are in the midst of a “permacrisis” of extreme demand through the pandemic and in the face of the cost of living crisis – some may have to cease operating;
  - 3.16.2 support and communication to be accessible to all, taking into account languages, culture, literacy levels, disabilities and mental health issues including anxiety;
  - 3.16.3 Support for people to gain knowledge, skills and confidence with food
  - 3.16.4 Staff and volunteers to be trained, both in how to interact with people in a way that is dignified and respectful, and in food and nutrition

### **Revisions to the draft strategy**

- 3.17 Feedback from the consultation and research has been very valuable in confirming that the initial draft strategy was generally sound in its vision, principles and broad action areas. The main changes have been to:
- 3.17.1 Emphasise that the primary aim is to address poverty and this this is one strand of a comprehensive series of actions across the drivers of poverty, as set out in the Ending Poverty in Edinburgh Action Plan. The



implementation plan for ending poverty-related hunger will align directly with other key workstreams across the Local Outcome Improvement Plan priority areas.

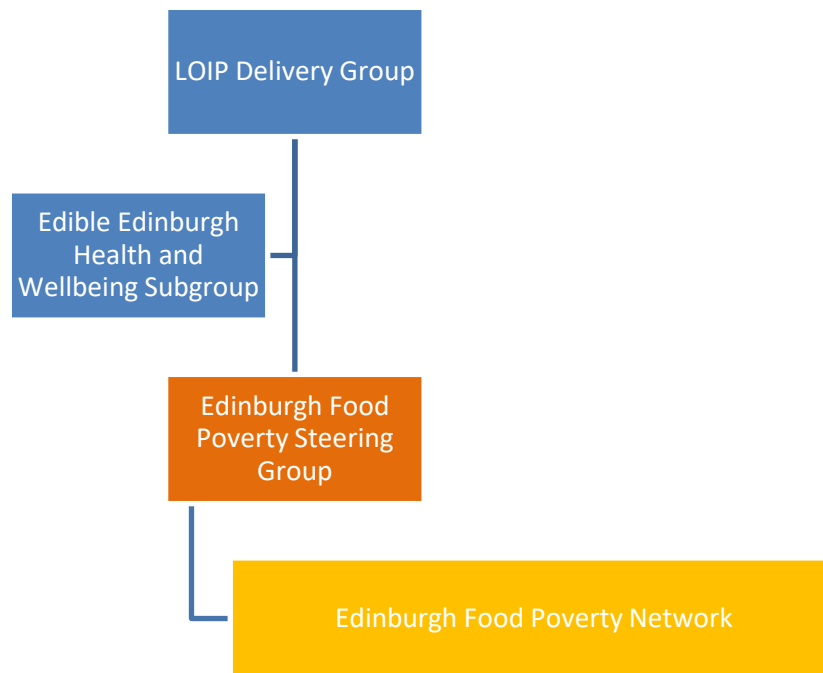
3.17.2 The vision statement has been amended to include making supports stigma-free central, and to embed prevention and early intervention.

3.17.3 The draft implementation plan has also been revised to take account of consultation feedback and the research findings in relation to avoiding stigma, accessibility, identifying and addressing gaps in provision; processes, principles and quality standards; and education in building knowledge and confidence.

### **Development of a Network**

- 3.18 In recognition of the need and strong support for a Food Network, Edinburgh Community Food will take the lead role for the Food Poverty Network (EFPN), in close collaboration with EVOC. A steering group has been established to set up the Network and to deliver the actions outlined in the draft strategy.
- 3.19 The role, remit and governance arrangements have been drafted for the Network (see appendix 4).
- 3.20 The governance framework will support alignment with the range of actions underway to address poverty in the city, via the End Poverty in Edinburgh Action Plan through its direct links with Edible Edinburgh and its Sustainable Food City Action Plan, and the Edinburgh Partnership's LOIP Delivery Group, with its oversight of the three workstreams: enough money to live on; access to work, learning and training opportunities, and a good place to live.
- 3.21 It is proposed that the Food Poverty Network will report into the Edinburgh Partnership's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) Delivery Group, which will monitor progress and provide a mechanism for wider partnership support to assist in the delivery of the strategy.
- 3.22 The Food Poverty Network will provide regular updates to Edible Edinburgh's Health and Wellbeing subgroup for information.





### Next steps

- 3.23 Following approval of the draft Strategy, it will be published on the Edinburgh Partnership's website.
- 3.24 The Steering Group will continue its work to implement the Network and lead the delivery of the strategies actions.
- 3.25 Progress will be reported to the LOIP Delivery Group in six months time and a report brought to the Edinburgh Partnership in December 2023.

## 4. Contact

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# Ending Poverty Related Hunger in Edinburgh

An Edinburgh Partnership Strategy

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## 1. Introduction

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In September 2020 the Edinburgh Poverty Commission published their final report – [A Just Capital](#). Their findings challenged the city to end poverty in Edinburgh by 2030, and to make sure that Edinburgh can be a city in which:

- *“No one has to go without the basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean and stay warm and dry”.*

To meet this goal, the Commission made seven calls to action for the city to deliver. Among these, the report called on City of Edinburgh Council, EVOC and local organisations to improve the co-ordination of support services for citizens experiencing food insecurity or at risk of poverty related hunger. In doing so, commissioners reported that:

- *“Emergency food support should not become locked in as a fourth emergency service but serve as a gateway to other support that will ease isolation and build human connection and kindness where it has been lacking.”*

In response to this call to action, Edinburgh Partnership committed to the development of a new strategy setting out the partnership responses needed to end poverty related hunger in Edinburgh.

### **Developing the strategy**

A draft strategy was developed by a core working group led by officers from the City of Edinburgh Council and EVOC. The group led a process of research and engagement including workshops with stakeholders, service providers and the End Poverty Edinburgh citizen’s group, data gathering and analysis.

The draft strategy describes a vision, principles, and outline actions needed to meet the challenge set by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission. It was published on the Council’s Consultation Hub for 12 weeks and promoted across partnership networks to encourage people from all parts of Edinburgh to give their views and opinions.

Alongside this consultation, additional research was commissioned to further understand and gather insights from the experiences of users of food support services.

Feedback from the consultation and the research has been used to further develop this strategy and the actions needed to end poverty related hunger.

## 2. Scope and Strategic Context

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This strategy is part of the city’s response to the Edinburgh Poverty Commission’s call to end poverty in Edinburgh. It recognises that ending poverty related hunger needs action to tackle the root causes of poverty, across all seven areas identified by



the Commission. While emergency food provision has an important role, the key is to support people out of poverty. And access to nutritious, affordable food has an important role in reducing inequalities in health and wellbeing.

### Edinburgh Poverty Commission Calls to Action



The strategy is developed as part of the overall programme of actions underway to address poverty in Edinburgh. These include:

The **Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan**, and its three priority programmes to ensure people have enough money to live on, people have access to work, learning and training opportunities, and people have a good place to live. Associated key Edinburgh Partnership programmes aligned to this work include the development of Community Wealth Building approaches and [Thriving Local Places](#), a re-shaping of the relationship between Edinburgh Partnership partners and city residents.

The **City of Edinburgh Council Business Plan**, which incorporates ending poverty by 2030 as one of three priorities for Council and includes a range of actions across place-making, housing, homelessness, education, income security, transport, and family support within its [End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan](#).

[Growing Locally](#), Edinburgh's first food growing strategy and its goals to tackle food insecurity and promote community wellbeing through food programmes across the city. The Edible Edinburgh Partnership is a key stakeholder in this work and its vision for good food to be accessible for all, is an important input into this strategy's development.

[The Good Food Nation \(Scotland\) Act 2022](#), spans social and economic wellbeing, health, environment, and economic development and includes the aim that everyone in Scotland has ready access to the healthy, nutritious food they need. The principles and action areas in Scottish Government's ambition to [end the need for foodbanks](#) and [Best Start, Bright Futures](#), its 2022-2026 Tackling Child Poverty

Delivery Plan, and its [vision for a wellbeing economy](#) are also shared in the development of the current strategy.

Within the context of these wider actions to end poverty, this strategy aims to improve co-ordination, access, and impact of support for people experiencing food crisis, including:

- **Cash first supports:** this refers to cash grants for people experiencing food crisis through statutory and third sector programmes; and to income maximisation and money advice services which aim to help prevent future need.
- **Free or low-cost food provision:** Food banks, food pantries, free meal projects (including delivery, takeaway, and van outreach services), healthy meal kits, and school breakfast clubs. In most cases these projects also promote access to cash first, advice and other supports alongside direct food provision.
- **Community food initiatives:** Including projects which provide support for wellbeing, skills, and capacity building alongside free or low-cost food provision. Projects include community meals, community cafes and food markets, cook clubs, cooking and nutrition courses, and skills development support.

Edinburgh has a responsive, creative third sector which includes community food organisations. This existing expert knowledge and experience provides strong foundations for the strategy.

### 3. Poverty related hunger in Edinburgh – the challenges

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The findings from engagement activities and consultation have identified a number of key challenges for people in Edinburgh, and the food crisis networks established to provide support. A summary of these findings shows challenges relating to:

- **High and rising need and demand:** the rising living costs and falling real incomes among poorer families across the UK is likely to lead to a significant increase in severe poverty and hardship throughout 2023-24.
- In September 2022 a UK-wide survey showed<sup>1</sup>:
  - A quarter (26%) of households with children reported food insecurity in the previous month, compared with a tenth (11%) in August 2021
  - Food insecurity has increased faster for households with children than those without children where the increase was from 7.8% in January 2022 to 16% in September
  - Households who are food insecure are more likely to be affected by rising energy cost: 60% were using appliances less for cooking compared with 28% of households with no food insecurity
- **Capacity and resources to respond to need:** Even before recent increases in need, service providers were experiencing difficulties in securing the capacity needed to meet demand. The challenge of sourcing sustainable funding is common across providers. Third sector providers note the significant time and resources needed to pull together funding from multiple sources, as well as challenges in securing core funding or funding for more than one financial year. Such circumstances, providers note, provide a barrier to innovation, long-term planning, staff recruitment and retention, and collaboration across the food support community.
- These challenges have been exacerbated in recent months by the increasing cost of supplies, difficulties accessing donations, and other supply chain challenges arising from the war in Ukraine, and ongoing impacts of Brexit. These pressures are impacting on community organisations' resources, staff retention and their ability to operate.
- **Stigma:** the stigma of being in poverty and of accessing supports is considered by some organisations to be the biggest barrier in addressing poverty, with people feeling too embarrassed or ashamed to seek help, or feeling judged or blamed for their circumstances, or experiencing 'gate-keeping' of support through excessive questions about whether they 'need' support.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://foodfoundation.org.uk/initiatives/food-insecurity-tracking#tabs/Round-11->

- **The need for a more strategic approach to commissioning and funding:** Edinburgh Partnership members, the Council and Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership in particular, invest significant resources into a range of food support organisations and activities. The collective scale, range, and impact of this investment, however, is not well understood, nor is it guided by shared a policy objective or strategic framework. There is, however, a recognised need for stable core funding for these services
- **A need for improved partnership working and collaboration across the sector:** Providers and stakeholders across the sector demonstrate a strong willingness and ability to collaborate effectively when need arises. There is a clear culture of partnership and innovation across organisations in Edinburgh working to address poverty related hunger.
- At the same time, however, while individual groups of organisations work well together, there is no single network or forum helping providers in all parts of the city to share knowledge, skills, and capacity, or to collaborate on opportunities for fund raising or project development. The lack of such a network also makes it more difficult to co-ordinate city wide responses, particularly in the face of current and future crises.
- Examples of food support networks in other local authorities have been identified as useful routes to help:
  - Understand and assess the effectiveness of support to address poverty related hunger
  - Develop and promote common principles across food support systems and improve alignment between different types of support (e.g., cash first, money advice and food bank services)
  - Share capacity and resources, including warehousing, skills, staff, and technical resources, and
  - Collaborate effectively to source external funding.
- **Gaps in access, variability of standards:** Work carried out to date highlights concerns over gaps and inconsistencies in the availability of support across the city. These include areas of the city which are under provided relative to need, lack of access to out of hours or weekend support, and inconsistent standards relating to issues such as food quality, nutrition, and hygiene, guidance on 'cash first' support, and the embedding of appropriate income maximisation advice, family and household support to prevent future need.
- There is also variability among volunteers in their approach to people seeking support and their level of knowledge and awareness of nutrition as well as the causes of poverty. If someone trying to access a service has a negative first experience with a staff member or service, it can immediately put them off

seeking support for a long time, and subsequently, prolong their time in poverty.

- **Communication and awareness:** the need for improved promotion of food support available to people in Edinburgh was expressed throughout the research and engagement, as well as for communications to be accessible to all groups of people and for messaging to be stigma-free
- Local examples of promotion campaigns in areas such as west Edinburgh provide a useful model. Further work is needed to identify approaches across all parts of the city.

## 4. Vision and principles

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### Vision

In response to these challenges, partners have identified a vision to guide the work of the city.

Central to this vision is the recognition that without poverty, there would be no poverty related hunger, and so it is crucial that this strategy is supported by a wider programme of actions to end poverty across the city, as set out in the End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan.

Edinburgh Partnership members should commit to ensuring that:

- **No one in Edinburgh needs to go hungry due a lack of money**, that
  - When do people fall into food crisis, Edinburgh networks aim to give a **cash first** approach to providing support
  - Where emergency food provision is needed, people can also access wider support in ways that are **safe, dignified, respectful**, and **prevent future need**, and that
  - **Community food initiatives** are available in all parts of Edinburgh which give people access to affordable, nutritious food, build people's **wellbeing**, improve **skills and confidence**, and play a role in prevention and early intervention by helping people access the wider supports and social interaction they need to get by
  - **All supports are non-stigmatising**

## What do we mean by 'Cash First'?

Food insecurity in Edinburgh is caused by too much poverty, not too little food. The evidence shows that the key drivers of food insecurity are income crises in a household caused by problems of access to and adequacy of social security benefits, low pay and insecure work, problem debt, and the rising cost of living.

To end poverty related hunger in Edinburgh, nothing is more important than improving access to an adequate and secure income.

Within this context, a '*cash first*' approach means that people who are experiencing food insecurity have the opportunity to access:

- Available crisis fund support to help them afford the food they need (via Scottish Welfare Fund, Hardship Fund, and third sector operated crisis funds), and
- Advice and support to help them maximise their income, manage debts, access available benefit entitlements, and improve employment prospects.

In a cash first approach, local partners commit to doing all they can to offer such supports at the first point of contact for people in immediate food crisis. Where direct help to access food is required – via foodbanks, food pantries, or community meals this is provided in a way that maximises dignity and reduces future need. This means ensuring that the offer of ongoing support to maximise income and manage money problems is made alongside and embedded into every food support service.

## Principles

Delivery of this vision should be guided by four core principles, underpinned by stigma-free responses, to which all partners and stakeholders are committed.

- **Led by lived experience:** The design and review of programmes to end poverty related hunger should be done with and alongside people who have lived experience of food crisis and have relied upon emergency food support in Edinburgh.



- **Dignity by design:** Shame and stigma are key barriers that stop people from seeking help when in a food crisis. People’s experience of getting help and the way support is provided can make a significant difference to whether a person is able to avoid future crisis. Dignity by design in approaches to poverty related hunger means ensuring that people can access the support they need:
  - Based on human rights, recognising that the right to adequate and nutritious food is a fundamental human right, as well as the right to a choice of food
  - In trusted places where they feel safe and comfortable, are treated with kindness and where the needs of their pets are considered too
  - With relationships at the heart of the response and people have choice and control over the support they receive
  - In ways that make sure there are no wrong doors and no handoffs, and no complicated, intrusive forms
  - Quick when needed with access to wider support at a time that is right for them
  - Through holistic support that aims to help people build resilience and move on from poverty, as well as dealing with immediate crisis needs
  - Through responses that are flexible enough to meet the needs of local communities and respects local knowledge about what works, and
- **Shared standards of quality:** Programmes to end poverty related hunger in Edinburgh should aim to meet common, shared standards of quality in:
  - Providing access to affordable, good quality, nutritious food that meets cultural needs and food hygiene standards
  - Ensuring staff and volunteers are supported and trained to appropriate standards
  - Ensuring cash first, income maximisation and other advice supports are offered and available to people and are of a required agreed standard, and
  - Support is simple to access and swift to respond.
- **Equality of access:** People in all parts of Edinburgh, from all communities should be able to access support when they need it. Partners in Edinburgh should work towards a principle of ensuring:
  - Appropriate levels of food crisis support are accessible in all areas of the city, without artificial geographical boundaries



- Delivery of food crisis support recognises and addresses physical and digital barriers to access, as well as the need for availability in evenings and weekends
- The provision, promotion, and communication of the support available is co-ordinated across the city so that people know how and where to get support, taking account of language, cultural, literacy and disability related needs, including people with learning disabilities and people who are neuro-diverse

## 5. Proposed Actions

The engagement and analysis carried out to support the development of this strategy suggests five areas of action for Edinburgh Partnership members and stakeholders to prioritise.



Draft Actions for Implementation	
<b>Improve networking and collaboration</b>	<i>Build on existing partnership structures to establish an Edinburgh Food Poverty Network (EFPN) with a remit to:</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring together organisations working to end poverty related hunger in Edinburgh</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve understanding of shared challenges and opportunities</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to engage with citizens with lived experience and collaborate in the design of projects and programmes</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share best practice, understand, and monitor the effectiveness of interventions and supports</li> </ul>
<b>Maximise capacity and secure sustainable resources</b>	<i>Through the proposed EFPN and other networks, partners should:</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek ways to share capacity and resources more efficiently across partner and stakeholder organisations (including food, skills, technical resources, warehousing)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop improved referral pathways and communication routes across partners to maximise the impact of available capacity</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider options for commissioning processes to deliver greater security of funding for organisations</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate on development of proposals to secure external funding for projects aligned to this strategy</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with private and statutory sector to build capacity/resources; work with supermarkets to get discount cards and maximise opportunities through cafes in hospitals, colleges, and schools</li> </ul>

## Draft Actions for Implementation

<b>Set agreed standards and principles</b>	<i>Through the proposed EFPN and other networks, partners should:</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with people who have experiences of poverty and using supports, identify what stigma-free supports mean in practice, to inform implementation</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the standards for food and support which will underpin provision across the city: these will span quality, nutrition, hygiene, and dignity and ensure alignment with guidance including Food Standards Scotland</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the actions needed to communicate and embed these standards, including staff and volunteer training and support</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop agreed standards and working principles for ensuring that 'cash first' and advice supports are available and promoted throughout food crisis supports.</li> </ul>
<b>Improve accessibility of support by addressing gaps in provision</b>	<i>Through the proposed EFPN and other networks, partners should:</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve understanding of gaps in current provision, and collaborate on solutions</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop mechanisms for cash first</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek ways to ensure that citizens in all areas of the city have swift and easy access to the full range of supports needed (including cash first, crisis food support, and community-based food and wellbeing initiatives); and that referral processes and eligibility are appropriate</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve data collection and monitoring of impact to ensure that supports are accessible to all communities and groups in the city; use existing data more effectively to target support</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and adopt best practice standards for accessibility for food crisis support including language, cultural, literacy and disability related needs and for promoting wider support; ensuring alternatives to digital access</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider how schools and wider education could be most effective in building knowledge and confidence in buying, preparing, and using food</li> </ul>
<b>Improve communication and awareness</b>	<i>Through the proposed EFPN and other networks, partners should:</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a communication strategy to ensure that people (citizens and staff) know where and how to get help, embedding stigma-free messaging and addressing the needs of specific groups (language, disability and access/suitability of digital access)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the potential of using reducing food waste as a positive message and a way of reducing any stigma which may be linked to support.</li> </ul>

## Draft Actions for Implementation

- Explore options to develop an accessible information hub providing access to the full range of food support resources in all areas of the city
- Use grassroots and community groups to expand reach

# Ending Poverty Related Hunger in Edinburgh

Summary of online consultation  
responses

# Overview

- Online survey inviting organisations and citizens to give their views on the draft strategy
- Survey was open for response for 12 weeks
- Promoted through social media and partnership networks
- Online survey was carried out alongside a discussion group with people who have experience of using food support services
- 57 responses in total
- 37% on behalf of an organisation; majority from third and voluntary sector
- Responses from individuals:
  - 61% female; 28% male
  - 64% aged 45 - 64
  - 32% had caring responsibilities; 21% for under 16 year olds
  - 4 respondents used free or low cost food provision

# Executive summary

- 88% of respondents agreed the challenges identified were the right ones.
- Over 80% also agreed with the draft vision, principles and areas for action
- Insufficient budget/investment and resource are seen as biggest risks to tackling food poverty effectively
- Service provision needs to be holistic, flexible and fully accessible
- Need to acknowledge the cost of living crisis and inevitable increase in need
- Tackling stigma is crucial but missing
- Some felt that action was too reactive rather than addressing the overall cause
- Mixed opinions on cash first initiative – some respondents questioned whether cash would be used appropriately
- Need to develop and create more community networks – wealth of experience and knowledge to learn from

# Poverty related hunger in Edinburgh - the challenge



# The challenge

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Several key challenges were identified in the draft strategy:

- High and rising need and demand
- Capacity and resources to respond to need
- The need for a more strategic approach to commissioning and funding
- A need for improved partnership working and collaboration across the sector
- Gaps in access, variability of standards
- Communication and awareness

88% of respondents agreed that the challenges were the right ones to address.

## Other challenges to address

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- Approach should provide stable and multi-year funding to existing services, their partnerships and enable improved standards.
- Scope for innovation and agile response is needed. New initiatives are positive but, if there is insufficient resource, they are immediately under threat.
- Offering emergency food provision, vouchers and grants are emergency responses. It does not tackle the overall cause of food poverty.
- Service provision needs to be holistic, flexible and fully accessible.
- Not all citizens know how to access charities or face difficulty doing so.
- Stigma – for some, the biggest barrier to tackling poverty; treating people with dignity and respect.
- Recognising the link between food and social inclusion, wellbeing, family bonding etc.

## Other poverty related challenges

- Cost of living crisis – rising energy bills, high rents / lack of affordable housing, low incomes create difficult choices to prioritise issues over food
- Acknowledging the impact of covid recovery and cost of living crisis on many SMEs and charities' resources, staff retainment and ability to operate
- Strategic leads across the City need to recognise the link between childhood adversity and poverty
- Lack of affordable childcare, breakfast and after-school club places
- Inflexible administrative procedures and criteria.
- Addressing accessibility – low digital and literacy skills, English as a second language / language barriers
- Recognise working poor – can often be impacted by economic change but ineligible for support, creating a poverty trap

Seven experienced members of staff have left to work for local and national government, due to better salary and benefit packages... The costs of heating and lighting our premises have been quoted by energy providers as increasing by 300%

The main reason for [not asking for help] is not that I don't need help, but that I can't face being "judged" or "pitied" for the situation that I find myself in. Pride may be a silly reason for not asking for help - but when it's all you have left, it's important!

Feedback from Gypsy/Traveller people informed us that many of them struggle to access food aid services for different reasons... not living near local food aid services and not having a private vehicle to get there or struggling to get there due to caring duties and/or mental/physical disabilities. Even if individuals own a private vehicle, they may struggle to drive to the location due to the increase in fuel costs.

More clients are being referred for support as they cannot afford rent, energy charges and food.

Some women would actively attempt to hide the fact that their households were living on a low income by maintaining more expensive clothing for when children were in public, not taking free period products within school settings, shopping increasingly in charity shops, and avoiding accessing settings such as foodbanks to avoid being seen by others.

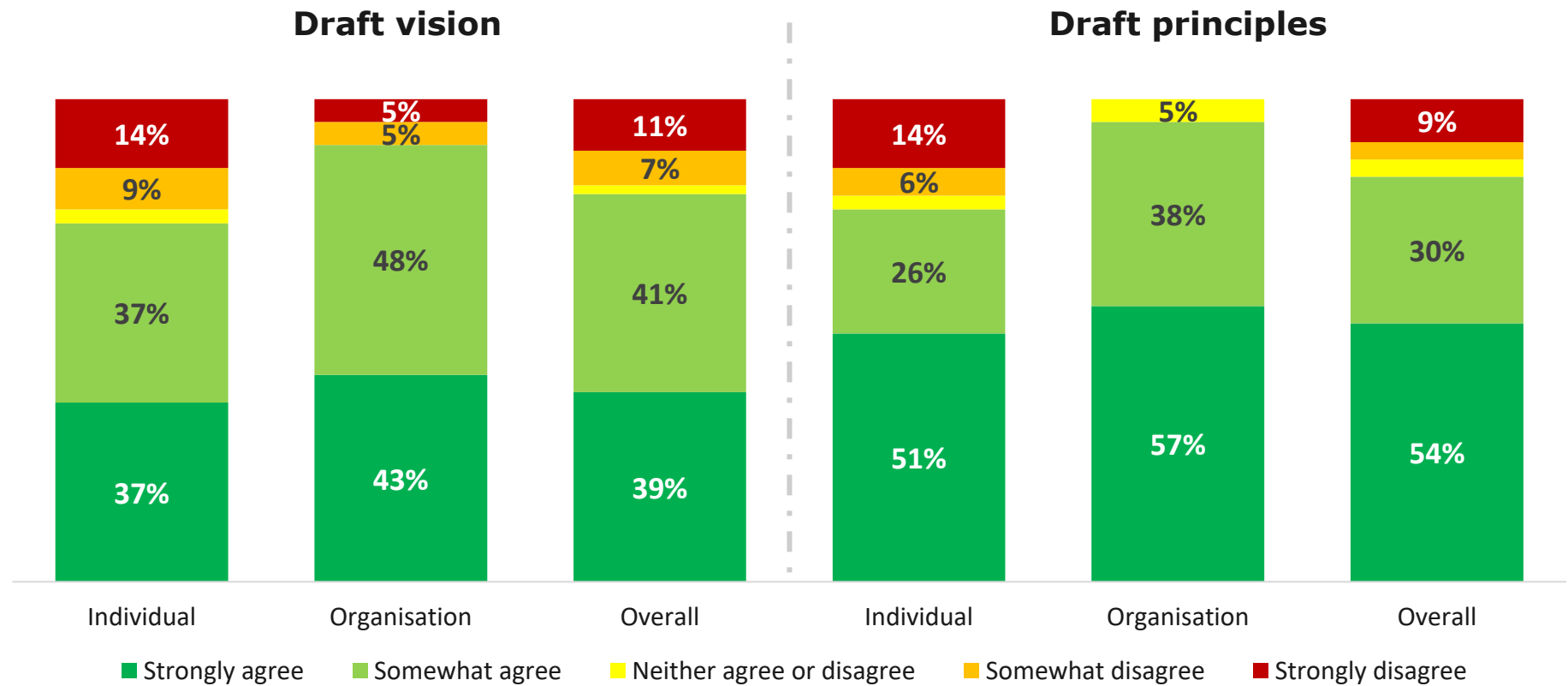
Teachers are paying for/ have snacks to give to the pupils who are hungry

I went through CAP (Christians Against Poverty) where we were given practical help and support to ensure we didn't go into food poverty, were able to pay off our debts and I attended the Money Course that I still use today to ensure I can stay debt free!!

Many of the young people we work with have said they feel worried and anxious about the financial crisis and they need more support to get food. We often put in referrals to food banks, get vouchers for food and discuss the concerns the young people have about this.

# Draft vision and principles

# Agreement with draft vision and principles



## Cash First

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- Some respondents questioned whether 'cash first' was suitable (e.g. for those with addiction, mental health or learning disabilities). Vouchers have a greater chance of being used for the benefit of family.
- Could potentially leave system open to misuse or result in people not accessing wider support they require.
- Charities will struggle to provide the resources for distribution of cash. May create risks in terms of security.
- Others were glad to see 'cash first' being prioritised, as it offers the flexibility to not only pay for food but other households essentials.
- Seen as less stigmatising and gives households autonomy to manage their budgets.

# Principles

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- Inclusive: equality of access and equitable support
- Services are agile and quick at delivering support / resources needed; no complicated forms or referral procedures
- Manage expectations on what data/ personal information people are willing to share and on the level of support that can realistically be given
- Recognise people have different needs to be met (e.g. dietary, cultural, medical)
- Recognise that people may need or want to engage in their own time. "We must be compassionate and empathetic to people's circumstances... too quick to dismiss people for missing appt or not having correct docs."



**FAIR - provides good advice on debt management and income maximisation / access to support**

**Fresh Start's community hub was born from ideas from the local community. This then makes a difference as people feel listened too and see that their voices have been heard. We need to make sure that this happens in a timely manner - making people wait too long is not good.**

**NESSie our new consortium approach to a no wrong door was also born out of asking people what they needed - the challenges that come with this is we do not know what we will achieve when you are starting with where people are at - this makes funding these sorts of things difficult.**

**The Advice Shop provide an excellent all round service however this has been depleted over a number of years**

**Accessing crisis grants through the Scottish Welfare Fund and Hardship Fund requires individuals to have the capacity to navigate the system and application process. The majority of our service users would need support in contacting the fund provider and filling any forms.**

**For distribution of fresh produce, time is critical and food items in pantries that have been donated by community gardens sometimes need to be used on the day of delivery... Quality is critical to ensure that people accessing services don't feel like second tier citizens.**

**All of our work is led and designed by those with lived experience who access our services.**

**Our foodbank vouchers don't expire... At our foodbank centres, everything is optional... the support services are available to everyone who wants to access them, there is never any pressure to engage... Our Money Advice Service allows people to access the service in a way that suits them (at a foodbank centre, over the phone, via email, in person in a public space).**

**The interactions with the first point of contact is crucially important and can make or break an individual's pursuit of support and help. If someone trying to access a service has a negative first experience with a staff member or service, it can immediately put them off seeking support for a long time, and subsequently, prolong their time in poverty.**

# Proposed actions

## Areas for action

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- 82% of respondents agreed with the five proposed areas for action
- Facilitation between third sector organisations to agree on the overlaps, share good practice, avoid working with the same households
- Provide public-facing staff training on communication, empathy, compassion, recognising need / poverty awareness
- Provide education on food prep and usage, allergen awareness, malnutrition to develop knowledge, skills & confidence
- All children have access to free school meals
- Work with all sectors – libraries often forgotten about; offer discount cards for local supermarkets

# Challenges to overcome

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- Access to appropriate funding and resources
- Simplifying processes to create responsive, agile services
- Bureaucracy, red tape, reluctance to change
- Effective collaboration and partnership working
- Effective action and communication – people actually knowing about and accessing services they need
- Sustainable change and action
- Data sharing
- Transparency and accountability
- The scale of the problem

# Opportunities

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- Support community-led projects and use their experience and knowledge to co-design/consult and utilise participatory action research.
- Building on existing and creating more community networks – including community food organisations, schools, libraries, churches and community centres.
- Elected members should reach out to all their constituents and share information on what help is available both locally and centrally.
- The Council, as a data rich organisation, could direct organisations to areas/citizens in greatest need.
- Learn from other countries and cities

## Other ideas

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- Hospital kitchens are available to the general public and at good prices, so are community centres. Could this be extended to school and college kitchens?
- Consider "one point of contact" which could then signpost to appropriate orgs.
- Expand the services of the Advice Shop to ensure that all citizens requiring one can have a welfare benefits check timeously.
- Develop initiatives with main supermarkets – offer vouchers, discount cards etc
- Offer help with delivery, longer opening hours of foodbanks
- Create a centralised database of soup kitchens and meal distribution centres

# Ending Poverty Related Hunger in Edinburgh

## Proposal for an Edinburgh Food Poverty Network

### Introduction

1. In response to a call to action by the Edinburgh Poverty Commission, the Edinburgh Partnership committed to the development of a new strategy, setting out the partnership responses needed to end poverty related hunger in Edinburgh.
2. Ending poverty related hunger is one of a series of actions identified by the Commission, all of which are necessary to address poverty in the city.
3. Among the actions directly relevant to ending poverty related hunger are the review of advice services, which is also a key action under priority 1 of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) - enough money to live on; and making the process of seeking help more dignified.
4. A draft strategy to end poverty related hunger has been developed by a core working group led by officers from the City of Edinburgh Council and EVOC, supported by key community stakeholders, feedback from public consultation and the findings of commissioned research on the experiences of people who use food support services.
5. The final draft of the strategy will be considered by the Edinburgh Partnership at its March 2023 meeting.
6. Its vision is that **no one in Edinburgh needs to go hungry due a lack of money**, and that
  - When do people fall into food crisis, Edinburgh networks aim to give a **cash first** approach to providing support
  - Where emergency food provision is needed, people can access wider support in ways that are **safe, dignified, respectful**, and **prevent future need**, and that
  - **Community food initiatives** are available in all parts of Edinburgh which give people access to affordable, nutritious food, build people's **wellbeing**, improve **skills and confidence**, and play a role in prevention and early intervention by helping people access the wider supports they need to get by
7. The strategy, forming part of the city's overall approach to ending poverty, has five key action areas:



8. Key to the delivery of the strategy is the creation of an Edinburgh Food Poverty Network (EFPN).

### Remit

9. The purpose of the EFPN is to bring together organisations working to end poverty related hunger in Edinburgh to:
  - a. Improve understanding of shared challenges and opportunities
  - b. Continue to engage with citizens with lived experience and collaborate in the design of projects and programmes, such as themed seasonal food networking events
  - c. Share better practice, understand and monitor the effectiveness of interventions and supports
  - d. Provide a forum through which city-wide responses to short term emergency crises (such as Covid/Ukraine crisis) can be co-ordinated
10. The EFPN, supported by a steering group, will undertake the actions set out in the Ending Poverty Related Hunger Strategy (see appendix) to:
  - a. Maximise capacity and secure sustainable resources
  - b. Set agreed standards and principles to support quality assurance across the network
  - c. Improve accessibility of support by addressing gaps in provision
  - d. Improve communication and awareness

### Structure and roles

11. The proposal is that Edinburgh Community Food will take the lead role for the Food Poverty Network (EFPN), in close collaboration with EVOC, and provide leadership for the network.
12. A steering group will be formed to support the EFPN:
  - a. Chaired by ECF, with EVOC as vice-chair
  - b. Representatives from: the City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Lothian Public Health, Capital City Partnership, the Edinburgh Partnership, Edinburgh Community Health Forum and key representatives from the community and voluntary



sector including Edinburgh Food Project and Fresh Start, with others to be identified.

13. The role of the steering group will be to:

- a. Develop a programme of work to deliver the actions specified in the strategy (see appendix) and monitor implementation
- b. Ensuring the alignment of key objectives, strategies and resources
- c. Report progress, challenges and requests for support to the Edinburgh Partnership's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) Delivery Group. This will ensure consistency with the priorities and actions set out in the LOIP.

14. Key initial tasks for the steering group will be to:

- a. Agree the role and remit of members; the process for nominating and appointing members; and the frequency of meetings
- b. Develop a programme plan to deliver the actions in the strategy
- c. Determine resource requirements to support the delivery of the strategy actions and then the ongoing running of the network
- d. Identify and secure funding for the establishment and ongoing running of the network.

## Governance

15. The governance framework will support alignment with the range of actions underway to address poverty in the city, via the End Poverty in Edinburgh Action Plan.

16. The Food Poverty Network will report into the Edinburgh Partnership's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) Delivery Group, which will monitor progress and provide a mechanism for wider partnership support to assist in the delivery of the strategy.

17. The Food Poverty Network will provide regular updates to Edible Edinburgh's Health and Wellbeing subgroup for information.

## Appendix

Draft Actions for Implementation	
<b>Improve networking and collaboration</b>	<i>Build on existing partnership structures to establish an Edinburgh Food Poverty Network (EFPN) with a remit to:</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring together organisations working to end poverty related hunger in Edinburgh</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to engage with citizens with lived experience and collaborate in the design of projects and programmes</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share best practice, understand, and monitor the effectiveness of interventions and supports</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a forum through which city-wide responses to short term emergency crises (such as Covid/Ukraine crisis) can be co-ordinated</li> </ul>
<b>Maximise capacity and secure sustainable resources</b>	<i>Through the proposed EFPN and other networks, partners should:</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek ways to share capacity and resources more efficiently across partner and stakeholder organisations (including food, skills, technical resources, warehousing)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop improved referral pathways and communication routes across partners to maximise the impact of available capacity</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider options for commissioning processes to deliver greater security of funding for organisations</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate on development of proposals to secure external funding for projects aligned to this strategy</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with people who have experiences of poverty and using supports, identify what stigma-free supports mean in practice, to inform implementation</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the standards for food and support which will underpin provision across the city: these will span quality, nutrition, hygiene and dignity and ensure alignment with guidance including Food Standards Scotland</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop agreed standards and working principles for ensuring that 'cash first' and advice supports are available and promoted throughout food crisis supports.</li> </ul>

## Draft Actions for Implementation

<b>Improve accessibility of support by addressing gaps in provision</b>	<i>Through the proposed EFPN and other networks, partners should:</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve understanding of gaps in current provision, and collaborate on solutions</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop mechanisms for cash first</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek ways to ensure that citizens in all areas of the city have swift and easy access to the full range of supports needed (including cash first, crisis food support, and community-based food and wellbeing initiatives); and that referral processes and eligibility are appropriate</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve data collection and monitoring of impact to ensure that supports are accessible to all communities and groups in the city; use existing data more effectively to target support</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the potential of using reducing food waste as a positive message and a way of reducing any stigma which may be linked to support.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore options to develop an accessible information hub providing access to the full range of food support resources in all areas of the city</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use grassroots and community groups to expand reach</li> </ul>

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## **Edinburgh Association of Community Councils - Financial Support Request.**

1. The Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (“EACC”) sits as an engagement hub and communication bridge, connecting Community Councils with one another and, by extension, with the City of Edinburgh Council (“CEC”), members of the Edinburgh Partnership, other public bodies and city residents. (See Appendix 1.)
  
2. EACC participation spans a core commonality of interest across some 40 currently-active Community Councils in Edinburgh. There is fundamental recognition of the need for strong engagement between Community Councils, CEC and the Edinburgh Partnership. EACC has a place on the Edinburgh Partnership Board. The EACC Chair is the only statutory community representative of Edinburgh residents within the Edinburgh Partnership (as *Representative of Community of Place*).
  
3. EACC aims to meet some eight-plus times per year, gathering Community Councils’ opinions on issues of the day and inviting presentations from elected Councillors, CEC Officers and representatives of public and private sector bodies. The central objective is to keep an active Community Council finger on the pulse of the city.
  
4. In the past, the Edinburgh Partnership has provided grant funding to the EACC. This arrangement lapsed some years ago. EACC is without an income stream. EACC lacks the financial assistance needed to provide for the expected service to its Community Council participants and to those with whom it seeks to work in the city community at large. (Individuals elected and working to support their Community Councils and the EACC engage, of course, on a voluntary basis, without remuneration.)
  
5. EACC has expanded and strengthened its management structure. In order to function at a basic level, to meet in the first instance its current undertakings to city residents, Community Councils, CEC and the Edinburgh Partnership, EACC requires funding to cover:

<u>Recurring Expenses:</u> IT costs, including website, domain name, security and subscriptions such as <i>Teams</i> ; Secretarial costs, including stationery, copying, document distribution and storage.	£450
<u>Provision for Live Meeting Schedule:</u> City-centre venue and equipment hire.	£700
<u>Development Costs:</u> Provision for professional support on website platform transfer and site redevelopment as the current operating system expires later in 2023.	£700
<u>Total:</u>	£1850

6. *EACC requests that grant funding be reinstated by the Edinburgh Partnership Board and that an award of £1850 be approved in respect of financial year April 2023 – March 2024.*

Submitted by:

Ken Robertson, Secretary, EACC, on behalf of:

Steve Kerr, Chair;

Keith Giblett, Vice-Chair;

Judy Wightman, Treasurer.

**11 January 2023**

**Appendix 1** - Extract from EACC Constitution (February 2022)

The Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC) serves to -

- To ascertain the views of Edinburgh Community Councils on all issues which concern them, to provide a forum for discussion of these views, and to communicate them to national and local government, other public bodies, stakeholders, and the public.
- To represent the views of Edinburgh Community Councils through its membership of the Edinburgh Partnership, and to participate in other policy forums.
- To increase the collective influence of Community Councils and to strengthen their identity throughout Edinburgh.
- To facilitate the flow of information between Community Councils and with the City of Edinburgh Council.
- To be as inclusive and participative as possible in its meetings, ordinarily with open attendance to the public. EACC will endeavour to increase and widen Edinburgh residents' understanding of the issues facing the city and its future.



## THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

### UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update

#### 1. Executive Summary

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- 1.1 This report provides an update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) in Edinburgh following the confirmation of funding from UK Government.

#### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 The Board is recommended to:

- i. Note that UK Government have now approved Edinburgh's UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan and confirmed the previously announced Edinburgh allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Funding for 2022/23;
- ii. Note the progress made confirming funding to successful projects so that they can progress with project delivery;
- iii. Note the ongoing sign off process for the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan and the intention to align funding with the projects agreed in the Delivery Plan.

#### 3. Main Report

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- 3.1 On [13 April 2022](#), the UK Government published a prospectus for the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund. As part of the Levelling Up programme, and as a successor to European Union Structural Funds, the fund proposed that local interventions should be focussed across three investment themes - Community and Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills.
- 3.2 A national adult numeracy programme "Multiply" is also being funded through UK SPF and the Edinburgh Multiply programme is being delivered by the Council through the Education and Children's Service.
- 3.3 UK Government confirmed Edinburgh's UK SPF allocation for 2022/23 on 6 December 2022, which was accepted, by the Council, on 7 December 2022.
- 3.4 UK Government have also approved Edinburgh's UK SPF Investment Plan and confirmed they are happy with the intended activities, outcomes and outputs of the programme planned for delivery up to 31 March 2025.
- 3.5 Approved projects have now had confirmation of their funding allocation for 2022/23 and 2023-25, subject to UK Government funding confirmation in due course.

- 3.6 A list of grant funded projects and their intended outcomes and outputs is provided in Appendix 1 and 2.
- 3.7 31 projects are now progressing with project delivery and one project (ACE IT) has chosen to withdraw their project from the programme due to a restructure of their organisation. Officers have considered other projects offering digital skills and are confident that the intended activities of ACE IT (digital skills delivery for over 50's) can be supported by these other programmes, with additional support from the Programme Management Office. It is therefore being recommended that the unused funding from the Ace IT project (£139,800) is reinvested into the funding available for Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF) activities for Edinburgh.
- 3.8 The RPF Delivery Plan is currently being considered by the Local Authorities within the Region and the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee. Once that plan is signed off, work will be carried out to ensure that the SPF funding is aligned with the RPF Delivery Plan.
- 3.9 Due to the delayed confirmation of funding nationally, the reporting schedule from UK Government has been amended and the first report on activities will now be submitted to UK Government at the end of March 2023, with details on further requirements to be confirmed shortly.
- 3.10 UK Government have also confirmed that, due to the delays in confirmation of funding, there will be a one-off possibility to carry forward unspent 2022/23 funding into next financial year, on the condition that a clear and detailed plan is provided for how the underspend will be used in 2023/24. It is anticipated that the funding will be added to providers' allocations in 2023/24.
- 3.11 A UK SPF Grants Manager has been recruited for the Programme Management Office in Edinburgh. The Manager is employed by Capital City Partnership and will work alongside the contract managers supporting other Council funded projects, to monitor and oversee the daily running of the programme.
- 3.12 In addition, the Council's Sustainability Team have been consulted about the carbon impact assessment of SPF activities and have agreed to support funded projects to carry out carbon impact assessments (CIA), where required, to ensure there is consistency with future reporting. Due to the delays in funding, it is anticipated that all capital funded projects will start in 2023/24 at the earliest, which will allow time for CIAs to be completed.

#### 4. Contact

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**Appendix 1: Projects to be funded through the City of Edinburgh SPF Investment Plan. Some projects plan to deliver under more than one theme but are listed in the theme where the main outcomes are expected.**

<b>SPF Theme – Communities and Place</b>		
<b>Organisation Name</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>CHAI Community Help &amp; Advice Initiative</b>	Enabling Financial Resilience for Edinburgh Citizens	Increase current welfare rights and debt advice services within locality community mental health and locality recovery hubs. Expand Growing Families pilot which supports health visitors when asking financial inclusion question.
<b>Corstorphine Craigsbank Parish Church</b>	East Craigs Easy Cafe	Upgrading existing community hall by extending the kitchen to broaden its use. A not-for-profit community café will be run providing volunteers work experience, enhancing social capital in an area with pockets of social deprivation whilst combatting social isolation.
<b>City of Edinburgh Council - Community Centres</b>	Support to Community Centre Management Committees in Edinburgh	Provide support, development and access to resources to Community Centre Management Committees across the city to enable them to develop sustainable plans for the future and strengthen capacity to deliver services in their local communities.
<b>Cyrenians</b>	Cyrenians Levelling Up Initiatives	Set of levelling up initiatives that take a public health approach to reducing homelessness and increasing wellbeing and prosperity across Edinburgh.
<b>Edible Estates CIC</b>	Edinburgh Growing Together	Edinburgh Growing Together would support community gardens in Edinburgh's council estates with project anagement/development and community engagement support alongside improvements to infrastructure including new connections to the water mains, new tool storage units, renovation of paths and growing beds.

<b>Empty Kitchens Full Hearts</b>	Empty Kitchen Full Hearts Kitchen Assistant Programme, Volunteer Programme and Garden Regeneration	EKFH will build upon its core service delivery - turning surplus food into meals that are delivered to those in need across Edinburgh - with volunteering and job opportunities through Kitchen Assistant and Volunteer Programmes and create a green space within the local community through the regeneration of a garden area.
<b>Turn2Us/ Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council</b>	Anti Poverty Grants Programme	Supporting 100 individuals in poverty identified through Turn2us Edinburgh Trust grants referral partners to sustainably support people with the cost of living.
<b>City of Edinburgh Council Forever Edinburgh</b>	Forever Edinburgh Engaging the local community in Edinburgh's Culture and Tourism Offer.	Engage residents in Edinburgh's cultural offer by launching 'Resident First', inviting residents to enjoy new exhibitions / visitor products first.
<b>Fresh Start</b>	Fresh Connections A Fresh Start Programme to Support People Thrive Not Survive.	To help people thrive, not survive. By tackling poverty at a community level, preventing recurring or first-time homelessness, and increasing life chances through community learning activities.
<b>The Poverty Alliance</b>	End Poverty Edinburgh	End Poverty Edinburgh is an independent group of citizens formed during the latter stages of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission as a recommendation of their 2020 report, 'A Just Capital', to work closely with Edinburgh Council and include voices of experience in efforts to end poverty in the city
<b>Southside Community Centre Association</b>	Southside Soil, Seed and Soul	To clear and replant an overgrown garden at the front of Southside Community Centre (SSCC) while creating practical volunteering opportunities and skill development for local community groups. To scope out plan for disabled access to front instead of back door.

<b>City of Edinburgh Council</b>	South Queensferry Accessible Public Conveniences	The construction of accessible new public conveniences at Hawes Pier, South Queensferry
<b>Space The Broomhouse Centre and Lifecare</b>	Employment Vibes	Vintage Vibes, innovative social support for lonely/isolated over 60s through long-lasting weekly 1:1 volunteer friendships.
<b>Spartans Community Football Academy SCFA</b>	Here For Good	The redevelopment of our Community Youth Work Space will enable wider access to opportunity for local people and reinforce our aim of supporting a thriving neighbourhood that is healthy and safe.
<b>Volunteer Centre Edinburgh</b>	Local Volunteering Gateways	Working with local partners in each of the four localities we will develop a holistic programme of gateway opportunities, formal volunteer opportunity development and capacity building for Volunteer Involving Organisations to directly tackle exclusion and inequality of opportunity in communities.

## SPF Theme – Supporting Local Business

Name	Description
<b>Business Gateway</b>	Additional services to the baseline Business Gateway offering which will increase the numbers of high value start-up businesses, increase start-up numbers from previously underrepresented demographics and support first time exporters to enter new markets.
<b>Codebase Green Tech and Medtech</b>	GreenTech Accelerator programme that teaches entrepreneurial skills to build new startups. Development of an investment fund that educates and then funds Medtech startups.
<b>Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce - 20</b>	Net Zero Edinburgh, which will: - support SME's make a just transition to net zero - deliver a five step programme, supported by events, toolkits and knowledge sharing - align with the Just Economic Transition programme - support innovative decarbonisation projects
<b>Everyone's Edinburgh - Business For Good</b>	Delivering a single, clear strategy and message from a newly formed Partner Alliance to drive business engagement with the principles and practice of 'business for good'. This will create a



critical mass of businesses actively using our advice, education, training and network to positively shift the business ecosystem.

**Forever Edinburgh Destination Marketing** To extend The Story Never Ends visitor campaign in Y1 and develop a new city marketing campaign for 2023-25.

## SPF Theme - People and Skills

Organisation Name	Project Name	Description
<b>APEX Scotland</b>	Steps to Skills Academy	Delivery of sector-based skills academy, targeting sectors that are experiencing recruitment challenges, with a focus on those aged 16 and over with a history of offending and/or at risk of offending. 1-2-1 support, life, and career skills, accredited and non- accredited training, sector-based placements and employer engagement
<b>Capital City Partnership</b>	MacMillan Skills Hub	The MacMillan Skills Hub will offer a local corridor of support in an area of high deprivation, with the focus on access to training, careers advice and job matching to opportunities created through the significant regeneration plans at the Waterfront development.
<b>The Challenges Group</b>	Making Work Work	Making Work Work – for Women Returners (MWW) Programmes to connect women to learn, collaborate, create, catalyse change and make work work. Physical and virtual spaces which facilitate hybrid and virtual working and promote the social economy.
<b>Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre Volunteering</b>	ERCC Volunteering & Training Programme	Volunteering opportunities for women, who will develop transferable trauma informed skills and knowledge supporting those affected by sexual violence. Volunteers will undergo a bespoke rape crisis training program and supervised long term placement at ERCC.
<b>Edinburgh Women's Aid</b>	Works 4 Woman	Works4Women is an employability programme that supports women who have experienced domestic abuse. It is run by Edinburgh Women’s Aid in partnership with Shakti Women’s Aid (which serves women in the BME community). We propose



		continuing and expanding the capacity of our comprehensive services through an additional part-time staff member.
<b>Enable Scotland</b>	All in Edinburgh	The Edinburgh Supported Employment Consortium (ESEC) will deliver a supported employment model increasing jobs and supporting retention of jobs for those clients furthest removed from the labour market.
<b>Networking Key Services (NKS) Limited</b>	Communities Empowered	NKS will empower South Asians through build capacity and resilience and, use asset-based approach where people realise their skills to improve their life chances. By establishing a baseline of needs and skills through a survey, enhancing existing and learning new skills will be supported along with training volunteer equality champions.
<b>People know How</b>	Reconnect Edinburgh	Partner with organisations/local communities to run weekly digital & wellbeing support sessions for 40 plus weeks each year. Coordinate with EVOC to deliver digital training sessions to third sector staff member/volunteers to become Tech Buddies
<b>The Bike Station</b>	Shifting Gears	Funding for our flagship community programme Shifting Gears, an evidence-based approach to support marginalised communities and those from low-socio economic backgrounds to recover from the pandemic, mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and climate emergency, enhance life and employment skills, and provide much needed work experience and employment opportunities.
<b>Young Persons Consortium</b>	The Young Person's Consortium Edinburgh: Opportunities for All	The Young Person's Consortium will deliver employability and enterprise support to unleash the economic potential of 15-30-year-olds furthest from the labour market. We will offer impactful interventions/activities, tailored to the needs of individuals and employers/businesses. Provision will reduce economic inactivity and boost job prospects/Covid recovery, reflecting UK and national/local priorities



## Appendix 2: Programme Outcomes and Outputs

Communities and Place Outputs	
Number of commercial buildings developed or improved (numerical value)	92
Number of organisations receiving non-financial support (numerical value)	15
Number of facilities supported/created (numerical value)	50
Number of local events or activities supported (numerical value)	1,095
Amount of green or blue space created or improved (m2)	4,000
Number of events/participatory programmes (numerical value)	120
Number of volunteering opportunities supported (numerical value)	575
Number of projects (numerical value)	200
Number of people reached (numerical value)	115,000
Number of people attending training sessions (numerical value)	130
Number of feasibility studies supported (numerical value)	1
Number of households receiving support	3000

Communities and Place Outcomes	
Greenhouse gas reductions (decrease in Tonnes of Co2e)	435
Improved perception of facilities/amenities (% increase)	200
Increased users of facilities/amenities (% increase)	100
Improved perception of facility/infrastructure project (% increase)	80
Improved engagement numbers (% increase)	50
Increased number of web searches for a place (% increase)	2
Volunteering numbers as a result of support (numerical value)	950
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies (% increase)	50
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity (numerical value)	15

Supporting Local Business Outputs	
Number of businesses receiving financial support other than grants (numerical value)	50
Number of businesses receiving non-financial support (numerical value)	392
Number of businesses receiving grants (numerical value)	60
Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready (numerical value)	300

Supporting Local Business Outcomes	
Number of new businesses created (numerical value)	335
Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm (numerical value)	50
Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity (numerical value)	250
Number of businesses with improved productivity (numerical value)	50
Number of businesses increasing their export capability (numerical value)	60



## People and Skills Outputs

Number of economically inactive people engaging with keyworker support services (numerical value)	485
Number of economically inactive people supported to engage with the benefits system (numerical value)	320
Number of socially excluded people accessing support (numerical value)	300
Number of people supported to access basic skills (numerical value)	50
Number of people receiving support to gain employment (numerical value)	200
Number of people supported to engage in life skills (numerical value)	2,275
Number of people supported onto a course through providing financial support (numerical value)	45
Number of people supported to participate in education (numerical value)	5
Number of volunteering opportunities supported (numerical value)	810
Number of people retraining (numerical value)	75
Number of people in employment engaging with the skills system (numerical value)	20
Number of people supported to gain a qualification or complete a course (numerical value)	1,529

## People and Skills Outcomes

Number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services (numerical value)	120
Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support (numerical value)	80
Number of people in education/training (numerical value)	65
Number of people experiencing reduced structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	110
Number of people gaining qualifications, licences and skills (numerical value)	5
Number of people engaged in life skills support following interventions (numerical value)	1,100
Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support (numerical value)	1,479



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