

Latest News

Culture and Communities Committee
10.00am, Thursday 10 August 2023



Physical Activity and Sport Strategy for Edinburgh (Wards Affected: All)

A partnership group comprised of officers from the Council, Edinburgh Leisure, **sportscotland**, University of Edinburgh, Scottish Student Sport, NHS Lothian and Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership are taking forward the development of a new Physical Activity and Sport Strategy for Edinburgh. Monthly meetings have taken place over the last 12 months to draft a new strategic approach with support from the Scottish Government's Active Scotland Division and Public Health Scotland.

The consultation phase of the strategy is currently in development and a pre-consultation workshop with elected members is scheduled to take place in August. It is anticipated that a draft strategy will be presented to this committee in early 2024, following completion of the consultation phase.

Motion by Councillor Biagi – Eurovision 2023 Bid (Wards Affected: All)

On [15 December 2022](#), the Council approved an adjusted motion by Councillor Biagi which recognised that, despite being a major international city of culture, the city has a fundamental weakness in not having an indoor arena of sufficient size to accommodate major events. A report was requested for Culture and Communities Committee in August 2023 which would assess the prospects of delivering an indoor arena in the city. This would include experiences of other cities, set out the options for stakeholder engagement and identify the possible funding models which could be used to secure delivery.

A report has not been provided at this stage as there are currently two different arena operators looking at potential sites in the city and undertaking project feasibility work. Officers will support both parties equally and will seek to involve the Scottish Government and its relevant agencies in discussions. It is hoped that detail of these live proposals can be incorporated into a report for Committee in October 2023.

Warm and Welcoming Spaces Update **(Wards Affected: All)**

The Council's warm and welcoming initiative was developed last year to support people through the winter months in response to the cost-of-living crisis. The partnership approach sought to build on existing provisions with the creation and mapping of accessible spaces and also saw the development of a varied programme of free events and activities which took place across the city. Libraries, community centres, third sector, voluntary organisations, community groups and places of worship offered up a wide range of opportunities for local people to visit, connect with others and participate, with easily accessible advice and information available to provide additional support where needed.

An interactive digital map was developed, listing over 100 organisations and attracting more than 10,800 views throughout the winter months. A warm and welcoming summit event was held at the City Chambers in April with over 45 participants from third sector, community and voluntary organisations attending to consider progress, lessons learned and future opportunities.

Participants provided very positive feedback on the success of the initiative and were keen to continue to build on good practice over the next year. It was agreed that the branding for the initiative should be reconsidered in order to support year round relevancy, that a longer lead-in time to the work would enable an improved response and questions of funding and transport were also discussed. Partners will take forward agreed actions and aim to continue to build on the overall success of the initiative.

Pitch Strategy Development **(Wards Affected: All)**

Edinburgh Leisure have appointed consultants (EKOS) to support Edinburgh Leisure in developing a pitch strategy for the city. The reason for this work is to create a strategic framework for the management, development and sustainability of sports pitches and supporting infrastructure for Edinburgh.

The consultants are working closely with Edinburgh Leisure and Council officers to prepare a draft plan with recommendations for the future development of sports pitches managed on behalf of the Council by Edinburgh Leisure. The plan, when finalised, is expected to support future investment whilst determining opportunities for service improvement and efficiencies.

The consultants are currently engaging with clubs, governing bodies and key stakeholders as well as gathering data on the pitch estate and usage in preparation for the development of the plan.

It is anticipated that the draft plan will be presented to Culture and Communities Committee early next year for scrutiny and approval.

City of Kyiv – World Cities Culture Forum Membership – Friendship City (Wards Affected: All)

Edinburgh's twinning with Kyiv began in 1989. Since then, Edinburgh has championed Kyiv's role as one of the world's greatest capitals of culture.

Since the beginning of Russia's illegal war against Ukraine, over 10,000 Ukrainians seeking refuge in Scotland have arrived through Edinburgh's Welcome Hub and countless journeys have been made to the edge of the warzone to deliver donations - from essential supplies, to sandbags to protect Kyiv's beautiful historical statues.

In March of this year, Kyiv's Mayor Klitschko wrote to the World Cities Culture Forum describing both the challenges his city's cultural institutions and identity face, and how the retention, protection and hopefully renewal of Kyiv's culture could be directly supported and acknowledged through Forum membership.

Kyiv's membership will open relationships across the world through shared cultural commitment. More than ever, Kyiv wants to learn from and be supported by an international community through cultural connection. The Forum is a generous and supportive peer network, which will be invaluable to Kyiv. Forum members around the globe will also learn from their colleagues in Kyiv, whose resilience and creativity are inspiring.

In response to Mayor Klitschko's request, three-year Forum membership is being supported by a city partnership between New York (through Bloomberg Philanthropies), London (through the Mayor's Office) and City of Edinburgh as Kyiv's sister city.

The partnership initiative was released on 6 July 2023.

Response to motion by Councillor Faccenda – Toilet Provision (Wards Affected: All)

On 22 June 2023, the Council approved an adjusted motion by Councillor Faccenda on Toilet Provision. The motion requested: details of the necessary work and cost required to reopen Taylor Garden and Nicolson Square toilets; a summary of the existing city-wide provision of public toilets with specific reference to wheelchair accessible toilets in each ward and a note on how long toilets have been closed or out of order; and updates on future plans for building and providing publicly accessible toilets in each ward.

The toilets on Taylor Garden will shortly reopen. However, initial discussions with Police Scotland have indicated that they would not support the reopening of the toilets in Nicolson Square. Officers will continue to follow this up with them and will report back to Committee, as requested by the approved motion.

The Council website provides details of the public toilets which are [open](#) across the city. This includes details of the facilities which have accessible toilets. Officers are currently preparing information of the accessible toilets which have wheelchair access, together with a breakdown of the toilets by ward. At present the only two facilities which are closed for repair are Taylor Gardens and Nicolson Square.

In April 2021, Transport and Environment Committee [approved](#) an approach for the future provision of public conveniences in Edinburgh. The approach agreed prioritises provision in premier parks, at locations which are promoted as places for higher numbers of visitors, each of Edinburgh's official town centres, and travel centres where people arrive after journeys.

The Parks and Greenspace Investment report for Committee today confirms that £0.6m has been allocated for the provision of public conveniences in premier parks in 2023/24 and that installation of permanent facilities is being progressed at Inverleith Park, Leith Links and in the Meadows.

A further update will be presented to Committee on the Nicolson Square toilets and on the accessibility of public conveniences for wheelchair users, broken down by ward in October 2023.

Response to motion by Councillor Flannery – Bridgend Farm Reserve Funding (Wards Affected: 15 – Southside/Newington)

On 4 May 2023, the Council approved a motion by Councillor Flannery on Bridgend Farm reserve funding. The motion confirmed that Bridgend Farmhouse had been unsuccessful in securing funding from the Scottish Government's Investing in Communities Fund and that the project had been placed on the 'reserve list' for funding. The motion asked for a briefing note to be circulated to Committee members on the details of any other Edinburgh organisations on the 'reserve list' for funding and also for the Convener and officers to meet with Bridgend Farmhouse to explore what the Council can do to support them timeously.

A request has been submitted to the Scottish Government Investing in Communities team for the information which would enable a briefing note to be prepared and this will be provided to Committee on receipt.

Bridgend Farmhouse have recently secured £10,000 of grant funding from the Council through the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places programme. This funding is available in financial year 2023/24 to support the local community with access to bikes and to offer support to boost confidence and increase awareness of the local network of cycle paths in the immediate area in and around Bridgend Farmhouse.

Officers are also supporting Bridgend Farmhouse to with a significant bid for funding from the [Paths for All](#) open fund. From this fund, grants of between £5,000 and £100,000 are available to organisations (with match funding in place, which Bridgend Farmhouse have secured) to encourage people to change their everyday travel behaviours.

An invitation has been extended to Bridgend Farmhouse to meet with Committee and present on their work. A date for this is in the process of being arranged.

Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) 2021/22 – Culture and Leisure Services

(Wards Affected: All)

1. This is an extract of the Culture and Leisure Services section of the Local Government Benchmarking Framework report considered at Policy and Sustainability Committee in [May 2023](#). Below is the summary analysis followed by charts showing performance and relative position for all the indicators under this theme.
2. There are four indicators available for 2021/22 in the LGBF that relate to the efficiency and effectiveness of Culture and Leisure Services. Four indicators are from the Scottish Household Survey data which is not available at a local authority level for 2021/22.

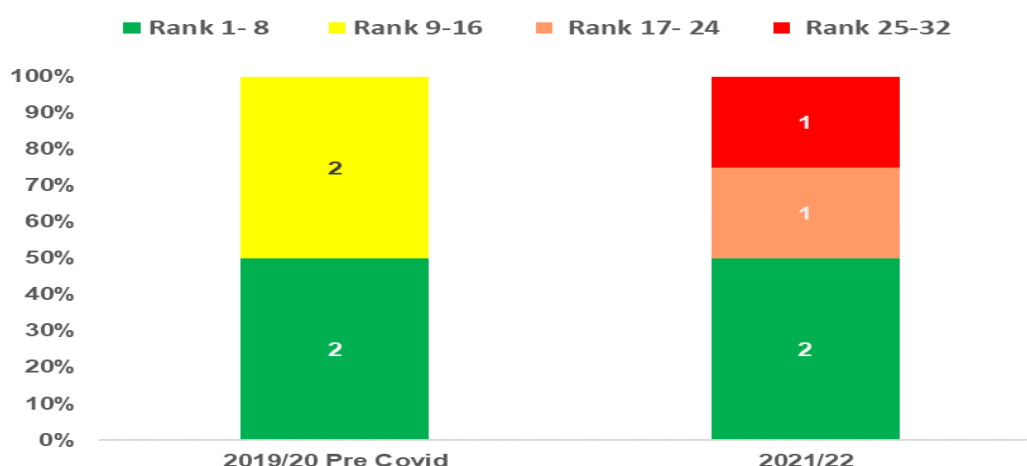
Culture and Leisure Services - national context

3. Councils are continuing to have to make savings and are facing increasingly difficult choices with their spending priorities. While expenditure within social care and education continues to be sustained and enhanced, there have been relative reductions continuing in non-statutory services including culture and leisure.
4. Culture and Leisure services were exceptionally impacted by Covid-19 with the closure of buildings as part of Covid-19 lockdowns, the number of visits to culture and leisure services drop significantly in 2020/21. While services have reopened during 2021/22, this has been gradual and so the data (and therefore performance) has not returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Culture and Leisure Services – 2021/22 Edinburgh

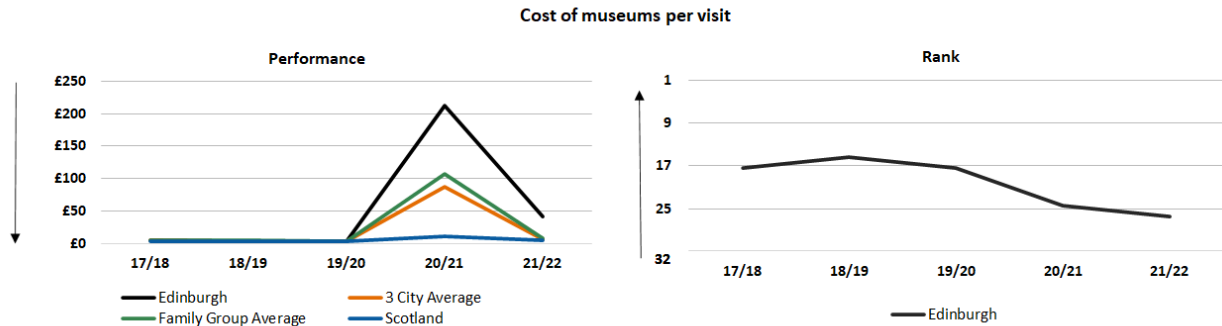
5. Similar to the national picture, Edinburgh’s culture and leisure services gradually reopened or returned to full services during 2021/22 as Covid restrictions were reduced.
6. Culture and Leisure indicators show two indicators in the top quartile and two indicators in the bottom two quartiles both pre-Covid and in 2021/22 (as services resume) as shown in the chart below.

Chart 7: Culture and Leisure Services Ranking – LGBF 2021/22 compared with 2019/20

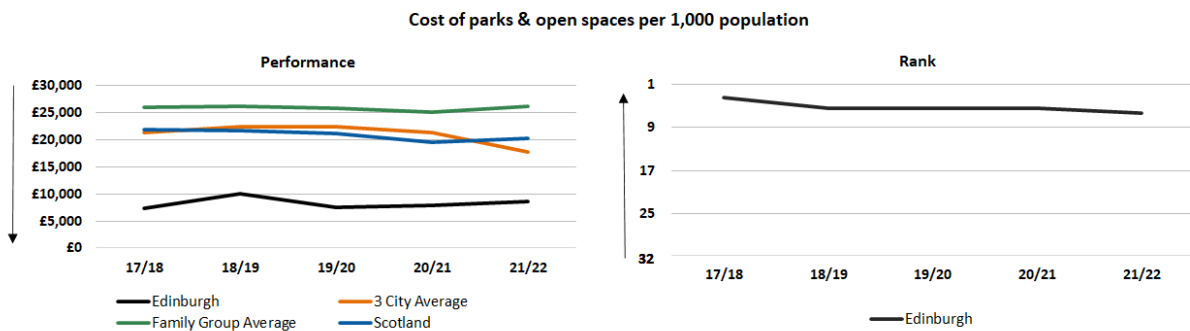


7. The full set of charts for all Culture and Leisure indicators can be found in Appendix 1. However, three out of the four indicators (libraries, leisure services and museums/galleries) showed significantly skewed data in 2020/21 with buildings closed so visitor numbers low but costs remaining level. In 2021/22, all three indicators start to recover as buildings reopened

and services resumed but all have visitor numbers lower than pre-Covid so costs remain artificially high. The cost per museum and galleries indicator is shown below as an example of the skewed data last year and the partial return towards pre-Covid levels. Museum and Galleries visits increased by 50,886 to 63,813 in 2021/22 which reflects the reopening of buildings as visits beginning to rise again. However, this is still significantly down on 2019/20 visits of 820,083.



8. The fourth indicator, cost of parks and open spaces remained steady throughout covid lockdowns as people were able to continue to access parks and open spaces. Edinburgh consistently sits within the top 8 Local Authorities and has a lower cost per visit than the national average, 3 city average and family group. Costs did increase in 2021/22 as a result of one-off reinstatement works.



Lauriston Castle – Forget Me Not Garden (Wards Affected: 1 - Almond)

The Edinburgh Forget-Me-Not-Garden Trust was formed in 2015 with the aim of turning the former gatehouse and garden at the entrance of Lauriston Castle and Grounds into a community hub where people with dementia and their carers could enjoy a tranquil garden all the year round. The Trust signed a 25-year lease with the Council in 2019, and following a dedicated fundraising campaign, the completed garden opened to great acclaim in the Spring of 2023. The Trust and its long-standing partner Alzheimer’s Scotland, then began working with the Council to progress plans for the renovation of the gatehouse building. This requires a change of lease arrangements so that Alzheimer’s Scotland, which is fundraising for the capital works, becomes leaseholder and works in partnership with the Trust to ensure effective joint operational management of the site. This proposal was approved by Finance and Resource Committee at its meeting in June. It is anticipated the new lease will be signed during World Alzheimer’s Month in September and construction works will start by the end of the year.

Edinburgh Slavery and Colonialism Legacy Review Implementation Group (Wards Affected: All)

Following the endorsement of Irene Mosota as proposed Chair of the independent Edinburgh Slavery and Colonialism Legacy Review (ESCLR) Implementation Group at the Policy and Sustainability Committee in [March](#), a campaign was launched to attract and recruit diverse members of the new Group, and to encourage wide public participation with a dedicated Supporters' Network. It is anticipated that the first meeting of the Group will take place in September, and its agreed terms of reference and membership will be published on the Council's dedicated ESCLR pages shortly afterwards.

Since March, the Chair has spoken at a number of high-profile events including the RSA's annual Angus Grossart Lecture at City Chambers, and a Scottish Parliament roundtable on teaching of Empire and Slavery in Schools. She has met with various supportive stakeholder groups in both the public and private sector to discuss avenues for collaboration, particularly to raise awareness, support and/ or resource for this work including with Creative Edinburgh, Digby Brown Solicitors, Edinburgh Art Festival and Gillespie's School.

Options are being explored to mark the first UNESCO designated International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition (August 23), an event that the council agreed to observe every year as one of the Recommendations of the Edinburgh Slavery and Colonialism Legacy Review report which it endorsed last year. It is expected that awareness and activity for this anniversary will grow in future years.

Children's Culture Rights (Wards Affected: All)

In late June, the Council hosted a networking meeting for community engagement officers and representatives of arts and culture organisations dedicated to the subject of Children's Cultural Rights. With the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) legislation being embedded in Scotland in mind, the session focused on sharing information regarding the new Skills and Knowledge Framework for Scotland currently developed by the Scottish Government funded JRS Knowhow working with Children's Parliament, Together, JustRight Scotland and the Observatory on Human Rights of Children as well as practical approaches already implemented by the Council colleagues in Early Years settings.

Presentations and reflections from Mary Campbell (Together Scotland), Vicky Wan (Children's Parliament), Fiona Ferguson and Anna Broomfield (Imagine), James Preston (Lyra) and Bex Ewart and Paula Dennis (The City of Edinburgh Council) informed a follow-up conversation regarding further steps to be taken when considering access to information regarding training opportunities; collaboration with a variety of partners with different approaches to working with children; increased concerted efforts by organisations that do not specifically focus on working with children to incorporate the new law and create opportunities for children for more meaningful experiences and engagements; continued resources for arts and culture activities for children of all abilities and with different access requirements; as well as bespoke approaches when creating experiences for children and families in intercultural settings.

Examples of excellent cultural opportunities and support offered to children across Edinburgh

shared at the meeting evidence great foundations for future cross-sectoral collaborations for the benefit of children and families in our city. The presentation shared by Together Scotland and Children's Parliament can be viewed at this [link](#).

Active Schools Update (Wards Affected: All)

Two examples of recent activities of the Active Schools Edinburgh team are:

- Assisting two P6 pupils with additional support needs to develop their cycle skills. This included a pupil who only learned to cycle in June 2022 and was anxious about cycling up and downhill. Through 121 sessions with the Active Schools Co-ordinator, he grew in confidence tackling hills and learning to use gears. His parents noted how much his cycling has improved on family cycles. The second pupil with visual impairment was supported to use her adapted trike in preparation for the P7 transition cycle. Sessions focused on improving her fitness and, although she suffered a health setback, she loved her cycling sessions. As the P7 transition route isn't easily accessible, contact was made with the Armed Forces to arrange a new route through their land;
- Funding was secured from the Mental Health and Well Being fund to run a project at St Augustine's HS, working closely with the schools Support for Learning staff and community Sports coaches to identify 39 pupils for enhanced transition sessions. The pupils were invited to attend St Augustine's High School for three weeks to participate in fun team building sports sessions delivered in the PE facilities. The impact of the sessions were: an increase in pupil's self-confidence; teamwork; confidence getting around the PE facilities; and self-belief. The sessions were active fun, and the focus was team building games, ball skills fun games, encouraging the pupils to support each other.

Gorgie Farm Update (Wards Affected: 7 – Sighthill/Gorgie)

At its meeting of [31 January 2023](#), Education, Children and Families Committee agreed that the Council would contribute £150,000 to support the transition and development of a community led solution for Gorgie Farm.

A Steering Group has been formed by Edinburgh Volunteer Organisations Council (EVOC) to deliver this project and assess the future of the site. The Group brings together a range of business, third sector, zoological and community expertise.

EVOC have taken on a lease at Gorgie Farm and have an office base there and substantial safety works have been undertaken on the site. At the point of closure, most of the animals were returned to their original owner, although a small number have been fostered by former staff members. Edinburgh Zoo are providing advice on the appropriateness of such arrangements and on the on-going care of the animals.

While wider plans for the site are being developed, a project manager has been appointed to oversee the development of an options analysis and aspirations assessment of the future potential for Gorgie Farm. Regular activities are taking place at the site, with a group of volunteer gardeners are working on gardening initiatives and re-wilding of the site and open day events for the local

community taking place. Community engagement work is also underway to contribute to the options analysis.

Discussions are on-going with EVOC on the proposals to spend the £150,000 allocated by the Council to support the transition and development of a community led solution for Gorgie Farm. A report in response to Councillor Heap's motion from the Council meeting on [16 March 2023](#) will follow once the information requested becomes available.

Re-launch and New Look – Edinburgh Libraries Digital (Wards Affected: All)

The Digital Team have relaunched Edinburgh Collected (www.edinburghcollected.org), which invites people to share their own pictures and memories of Edinburgh. Since the website was first launched in 2015, contributors have added over 8,000 picture memories of Edinburgh. The many varied personal memories and photos combine to give a truly unique collective view of Edinburgh's past.

The website rebuild has responded to user testing feedback and add extra or enhanced functionality and has enabled collection of thousands more pictures and memories, helping to preserve the city's rich history.



Culture and Communities Committee



Convener

Councillor Val Walker

Members

Councillor Walker (*Convener*)

Councillor Cameron

Councillor Glasgow

Councillor Heap

Councillor McFarlane

Councillor McNeese-Mechan

Councillor Mitchell

Councillor Munro

Councillor Osler

Councillor Staniforth

Councillor Thornley

Contact

Joan Parr

Service Director Culture and Wellbeing

Telephone – 0131 469 3765

Lorna French

Service Director Education and Chief Education Officer

Telephone 0131 469 3138

Gareth Barwell

Service Director Operational Services

Telephone 0131 529 5844

Daniel Baigrie

Committee Services

Telephone 0131 529 4264

Upcoming Exhibitions and Events

Symposium Exploring Current Perception of Migration (Wards Affected: All)

In association with the current exhibition at the Museum of Edinburgh, Museums and Galleries Edinburgh are hosting a symposium on Thursday 31 August exploring perceptions of migration. The Local Foreigners exhibition challenges negative stereotypes of immigration and features photos and stories of people who have moved to Edinburgh from other countries.

Speakers at the symposium include Maryna Sulym, founder of the Local Foreigners Project, Dr Sarah Kyambi, Director of Migration Policy Scotland, and Emily Miller from the Migration Museum. The event will be chaired by journalist and art critic Susan Mansfield.

The Local Foreigners exhibition runs at the Museum of Edinburgh until 10 September. The symposium can be booked online at www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk.



Usher Hall (Wards Affected: All)

Details of the upcoming events at the Usher Hall can be found here - <https://www.usherhall.co.uk/whats-on>.

Assembly Rooms (Wards Affected: All)

Details of upcoming events at the Assembly Rooms can be found here - <https://www.assemblyroomsedinburgh.co.uk/whats-on>

Churchhill Theatre (Wards Affected: All)

Details of upcoming events at the Church Hill Theatre can be found here - <https://churchhilltheatre.co.uk/whats-on>:

Diverse Summer Festival Offer: Support Our Local Ethnically Diverse Artists! (Wards Affected: All)

Edinburgh-based ethnically diverse artists and creatives are hosting performances and events across the city as part of the summer festivals programme. Below you will find a selection of performances and visual arts exhibitions submitted for your diary considerations. Free entry or discounted group bookings are available for the selected events. Let's support our local creatives!

28 July – 17 September 2023 - [Christian Noelle Charles: WHAT A FEELING! | ACT I](#) at Edinburgh Printmakers. Entry to the exhibition is free for all. No booking required.

2-20 August 2023 - [The Collie's Shed](#) at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe

2-27 August 2023 - [Tickbox 2](#) at The Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

3-13 August 2023 - [The Rotting Hart](#) at The Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

2-8, 10-13, 15-20, 22-28 August 2023 - [God Catcher](#) at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

3-13, 15-20, 22-28 August 2023 - [Walking Home](#) at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Recent Events and Activities

Museums and Galleries Edinburgh Volunteers Celebration (Wards Affected: All)

To mark Volunteers Week in early June, Museums and Galleries Edinburgh held a Volunteers Celebration event for the first time since before lockdown. It was an opportunity for museums to thank volunteers for their valuable contribution to the service. A heartfelt welcome was provided by the Service Director Culture and Wellbeing, Joan Parr, and volunteers had the opportunity to enjoy the early summer sun in the museum courtyard and to try some Caribbean-inspired vegan refreshments.



Volunteers at the Museum of Edinburgh

Edinburgh Armed Forces Day 2023 (Wards Affected: All)

On Saturday 24 June, the City of Edinburgh Council, Legion Scotland and partners celebrated Armed Forces Day with a parade to recognise the outstanding contribution by those who serve and have served in the Armed Forces. Around 300 veterans, their families and supporters, marched along George Street to Castle Street, led by the Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. The Lord Provost then welcomed a programme of entertainment on stage at the Red Blaes in West Princes Street Gardens. Several Armed Forces and Veterans charity information stalls were on display, helping to show the public the excellent and tireless work they do in supporting the whole Armed Forces community.



Credit: Mark Owens @ Outtherephotography.

Credit: Mark Owens @ Outtherephotography.

A Flag Raising ceremony took place on Monday 19 June at the City Chambers, at which the Depute Lord Provost Lezley Marion Cameron, Council Leader Cammy Day, and representatives from the Armed Forces and Veteran Scotland were in attendance. The Flag Raising Ceremony is a national event occurring simultaneously across the country to launch Armed Forces Day and Edinburgh's involvement.



Credit: Mark Owens @ Outtherephotography.

International Visit Feedback (Wards Affected: All)

The Head of Heritage, Cultural Venues and Museums made a visit to Beijing from 30 May to 4 June with the purpose of the visit to re-establish cultural relations with arts organisations in Beijing, with a focus on the Edinburgh Festivals. An International Visit feedback form detailing the visit is attached as Appendix 2.

Culture and Wellbeing's Senior Culture and Events Officer attended the European Festivals Association, Arts Festival Summit from 23-26 April in Girona. The purpose of the summit was to explore the strengthening of relationships between City administrations and their festivals and to share best practice on funding and support models for Festivals. An International Visit feedback form detailing the visit is attached as Appendix 3.

Festivals Impact Study (Wards Affected: All)

On 28 June the 2023, the most recent Economic Impact of Festivals report was published. This provides an update to the last report which was published in 2015. The full report can be found [here](#).

Gift of Books from Taiwan (Wards Affected: All)

The Council Leader was recently in Taiwan for the Smart Cities Conference and received a set of books as a gift from the city of Tainan to Edinburgh. These books are about two Edinburgh women who travelled to Taiwan to establish the first school for women and the first specialised clinic for women and children.

Central Library hosted the photoshoot and will include the books in our collections at Edinburgh and Scottish Libraries and across our Schools Libraries.



Pilrig Tram Wheels (Wards Affected: 12 – Leith Walk)

25 May saw the installation of the two Cast-Iron cable wheels within a new area of public realm at the junction of Iona Street and Leith Walk as a lasting monument to Edinburgh's early tram heritage. The two wheels were discovered and excavated in August/September 2021 as part of the archaeology element of the Trams to Newhaven project managed by the Council's Archaeology Service. Over 2.6m in diameter and each weighing over 3 tons, the wheels date to between 1898-1900 and were used in the underground cable-winding mechanism for Edinburgh's original cable operated tram network.



The wheels formed part of the terminal of the Edinburgh Tram system located at junction of Pilrig Street with Leith Walk, the historic boundary between Leith and Edinburgh. In 1905 the Leith Corporation Tramways constructed a connecting tram system which pioneered electric trams. However, as a result and because Edinburgh still used a cable system passengers travelling between Edinburgh and Leith would have to alight a cable-operated tram and board an electrified tram at the Edinburgh-Leith border. This became known locally as the 'Pilrig Muddle' and lasted nearly 20 years until the trams were unified under electric power in the early 1920's.



The wheels' location was chosen in consultation with the local community and their placement side by side reflects their arrangement when in use up until the early 1920s and new information boards we'll be installed so that generations to come will be able to learn about Edinburgh's original tram system and the area's unique 'Pilrig Muddle'.

Walt Disney's Greyfriars Bobby Commemoration (Wards Affected: 11 – City Centre)

On 16 June, a ceremony was held at Greyfriars Kirk to commemorate and honour the life of the Skye Terrier, also named Bobby, who starred in the 1961 Walt Disney Film adaptation of the story of the loyal terrier Greyfriars Bobby famed for guarding his masters grave in Greyfriars Kirkyard in the 19th century.



After the film was released Walt Disney gifted Bobby to his friend, Chief Constable William Merrilees OBE as a thanks for his assistance in the film's production by helping to scout locations. Merrilees however, decided it would be better if Bobby lived with a family, so he relinquished him to the care of one of his senior officers – Chief Inspector John Turner. Bobby became a local celebrity until his death making regular appearances in Schools and at charity events helping to raise money for good causes. He died in 1974 and was buried in the family home of the Turners in Dolphington, Scottish Borders.

In the intervening years the location of his grave became lost. In 2020, the new landowner, was granted permission to build houses on the site. When it was brought to his attention by David Hunter, a nephew of Mr Turner, that Bobby was still buried there somewhere, the development was put on hold to allow a search for the lost grave. On the last day of the search, 7 January 2023, after 18 months of careful searching by David and his team of volunteers Bobby's remains were finally found.

Mr Hunter contacted the Council to ask if the remains could be buried within the graveyard, but this was not legally possible. However, given the story behind the remains and the close links with the city, the Council's Archaeology Service working with Bereavement Services, Greyfriars Kirk and David came up with a solution which would see the remains commemorated within the Kirk's Museum. This saw the remains formally accessioned as part of the City's Archaeology Collections within a new wooden casket designed and made by craftsmen from The Grassmarket Project. The casket is made from cherry wood from the kirkyard, and is loaned to Greyfriars Kirk.

The commemoration service was launched by the Depute Lord Provost Lezley Marion Cameron and David Hunter, with his remains progressed into the church under an honour guard of six Skye Terriers and members of George Heriot's School Combined Cadet Force before being welcomed and installed within a new display within the Kirk.



Libraries Activities and Events (Wards Affected: All)

Musical Instrument Library- Tinderbox

Since going live with musical instrument libraries, the Council has now issued over 150 instruments, with guitars and keyboards being the most popular. There have been 11 Tinderbox partner events and we are currently working on a programme of events to take place over the summer.

Following on from the successful Music Instrument Library launch, the Music Library at Central has launched a regular programme of Saturday lunchtime performances branded Music on the Mezzanine. In partnership with Edinburgh University Music Department, the programme includes performers practicing for the performance element of their degree. Audience members range from around 35 to 75.

The Central Reference Library will also transform into a live music venue throughout the Fringe Festival for the Tinderbox Orchestra collaborative performances featuring a 20-piece orchestra with rappers, singers, drums and backline. Performances will take place on August 3-5, 10-12, 17-19 between 8 and 9pm.



Craigmillar Library welcomes Musician in Residence

In partnership with Tinderbox, Craigmillar Library are proud to offer the services of Jenny Laahs, Musician in Residence, for drop-in tuition as part of their Musical Instrument Library. Jenny Laahs is a multi-instrumentalist and teaching artist with vast experience in community music-making, and

will offer local people the opportunity for one on one support to learn a new instrument. Music tuition has been the most common request from library customers since opening the Musical Instrument Library so it's hoped that the offer will be well received. With a wide array of instruments available to borrow completely free with a library card, and with Jenny on board, the Library really has become a one-stop shop for the aspiring musician.



Arts Award – Bronze

Craigmillar Library have been working with Ruthanne Baxter (Civic Engagement for the Heritage Collections from the University of Edinburgh) and Laura Beattie (Community Outreach Museums) enabling local teenagers to take part in the Arts Award. The Bronze Award has just been completed and the graduates have received their awards, which is equivalent to a NAT 4 and can be converted into UCAS points. This project has been funded by the University, and Laura has led the award each week. Edinburgh Libraries are now looking at expanding this opportunity to become available at other libraries, with the aim of also training staff on award assessment. This initiative has been an excellent way to engage teens in an interesting and fun activity which supports them to overcome barriers to higher education. 15 teenagers took part at Craigmillar with 13 completing the course to receive an award.

McDonald Road Book Sale

McDonald Road Library's Big Book Sale returned in April, alongside a fantastic variety of family activities on the first day of the Easter school holidays. The day was a big success with lots of very positive feedback from members of the public. Our footfall increased dramatically, with over 1085 attending. The library entertained visitors with face painting, crafts and a Bookbug event.

Earth Day

Craigmillar Library, hosted an Eco Fair celebrating organisations that support sustainability and conservation in the area. The Green Team organised a bug hunt for the children in the garden and made some wonderful clay bugs, while Shoreline Edinburgh had oyster shells for the children to paint. The team also held a much-loved hedgehog craft in support of the Forth Hedgehog Hospital where the children made their own hedgehog puppets. The event was attended by over 100 people and was a great success.

Warm and Welcoming

As part of the Warm and Welcoming library events programme, Stockbridge library held a musical afternoon with Sitarist Alec Cooper. Alec is a sitar player and teacher, originally from Argentina but currently based in Edinburgh.

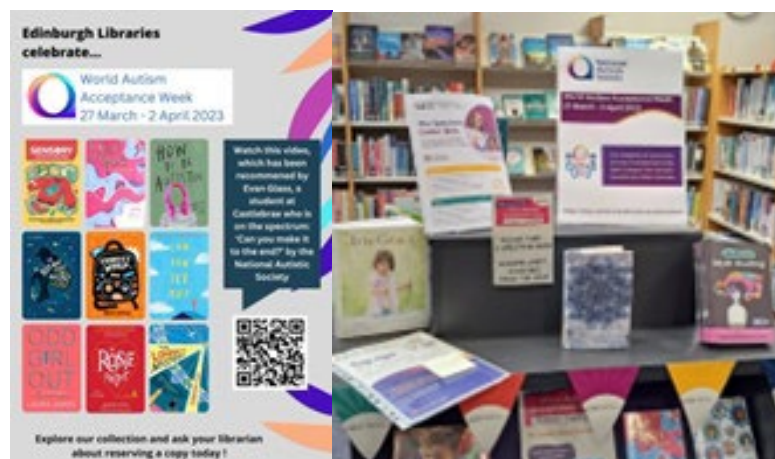
Addition of Sensory Support Items in Edinburgh Libraries

Feedback from across our Libraries has shown the benefits of sensory specific events to those who have participated. This has included Bookbug and Storytime events held at Corstorphine, Moredun and McDonald Road Libraries. In order to make our storytimes more inclusive, Libraries have now made available collections of sensory support items across all branches. All Edinburgh Libraries now have a selection of ear defenders, sensory toy packs, sensory tubes and rainbow pop up fidgets should a child or teenager like them whilst attending the library. Rainbow pop up fidgets are also available in all School Libraries for teenagers.

Autism Acceptance Week

Across Libraries, a number of developments have been put in place to better assist access to the service for neurodiverse groups including:

- Specific books displays
- Drop in events held by Scottish Autism
- Partnership working with relevant community groups
- Direct engagement with those in neurodiverse groups to ensure libraries messaging was helpful
- Visits to schools
- Ensuring our events are as inclusive as possible. E.g. Sensory Bookbug sessions
- Developing a “How To Guide” for library staff to support them in making their events open to all



Importance of Student Placements

Work experience placements alongside study can be a key to opening up career opportunities. In the Art and Design and Music Libraries at Central Library, they have supported two student

placements over the winter term. Officers have found that the students give back more than they take, bringing enthusiasm, new ideas and a different perspective on our service.

Mental health Week Celebrations

Blackhall Library celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week with a workshop exploring ways to support mental health through art, which was facilitated by professional Occupational Therapist Fiona Wilson. After introductions, a short guided mindfulness exercise was followed by painting. Gentle relaxing music was played and scented items were bought in to create a calm and welcoming space. The workshop ended with a brief discussion about how the session made people feel and what was gained and each participant took away a 'mindfulness' pack.



Stockbridge Library hosted a display of books on mental wellbeing for both adults and children which focused on ways to stress and anxiety. The display promoted an increase of book issues on the subject. Staff created beautiful bookmarks for adults and children with tips for mental wellbeing, and over 50 bookmarks were collected by customers. Anti-stress colouring sheets were also made available to customers focusing on how drawing and colouring can help reduce stress. At their monthly Mindful walking group we discussed benefits of mindful walking and how walking and being in nature can improve our mental health.



Edinburgh Libraries – Outreach

Ratho Library Van

The mobile library for Ratho attended the Ratho Gala Day in June in Ratho Park. There were various promotions to attract and inform the community of our services. Information was provided to visitors on the planned new library services and a promotion on an upcoming competition to pick an inspirational quote for the new library building. Two gazebos in front of the mobile provided space for free badge making, a bubble maker, free Hey Girls products, magazines and fliers. Onboard the Library van was busy with many enquiries, book loans, returns, bus pass applications and new library memberships. All in all, a very busy and successful day – with excellent community engagement and around 140 people involved in Library services and activities.



Edinburgh Libraries have also taken Libraries on the road to Picnic in the park – Oxfangs, Broomhouse Fun Day, Muirhouse Gala Day, Grange Fair in Newington, Canal Festival in Fountainbridge and Saughton Park Teddy Bear's Picnic.

Bookbug Week

Libraries all over Edinburgh took part in Scottish Book Trust's annual Bookbug Week (13-19 May) where we celebrated all things dance for Bookbug's big shoogles, and hosted baby discos, dancing, stories and songs and some libraries even had a visit from the main bug themselves!



Clean Air Day

As part of the Councils "net zero by 2023" Libraries took part in Clean Air Day.

Piershill Library ran a display linking to collections with the Clean Air Day literature from 13 June for two weeks. 30 packs were given to children on how to build a windmill. **Gilmerton Library** ran a similar display with a craft event. **Stockbridge Library** organised a screening of "Scotland- our climate journey" in the run-up to Clean Air Day. An informative panel discussion took place after the screening.

Transition Support for Nursery to P1

All Edinburgh Libraries are taking part in the Great Edinburgh Big Bear Hunt to support nursery to P1 transition. Every Library will host at least one activity over the summer providing specially designed Bear Stickers to all those involved.

Empathy Day 8 June

Our Community and School Libraries took part in Empathy Day making excellent use of [Empathy Lab](#) an online resource platform. Our book resources on Escape, Connect, Relate collections and the recently added Empathy book collection are currently touring our libraries. Across the city children, teenagers and adults all celebrated Empathy Day either by delving into our Empathy book collections, making Empathy Superhero spectacles, giving or taking a note of kindness on Empathy Trees or mapping their feelings on Emotions maps.

Make Music Day

Edinburgh Libraries took part in the world-wide annual celebration of music-making on Make Music Day on 21 June with six community libraries and Central Library holding events.

Central Library chose the Lending Library and the foyer for performances, to maximise participation from the passing public. Central Library hosted over 4½ fulfilled, musical afternoon hours. Performers included 9-year old, self-taught pianist Derrick Vellera, Sangstream Choir, University of the 3rd Age Ukulele Band, Drookit, the Edinburgh Police Choir, Nicholas Chim a 14-year-old Guitarist, Alex and Jane folk duo and the Edinburgh Guitar and Mandolin Orchestra.

Stockbridge Library celebrated with a performance from three accordionists from the Scots Music Group and a performance from "The Professors of Logic" band.

Portobello Library invited two performers to the library, AmaVoxAz – playing ambient music on guitar and keyboard, and Brian Mason - singing traditional songs in Gaelic and English accompanied by a keyboard.

Gilmerton Library had all local entertainment, four pupils from Liberton High School entertaining with songs, Lindsay McCullough, staff member played the Ukulele for our Library Linkers and local service users played guitar for evening slots with 60s/70s music and finishing off with a gentle/haunting sounds on the guitar.

Corstorphine Library hosted a musical Bookbug followed by The Corstorphine Singers Choir and they held a Electronic Music workshop for teenagers.

Leith Library hosted Performers, participants, and audience members of all ages. There was a Singalong with The Forget Me Notes Project and a fantastic showcase from Girls Rock School Edinburgh with Elsie MacDonald and SUFFRAJITSU



LGBF 2021/22 - Culture and Leisure Services

Charts showing performance and relative position for all the indicators under this theme.

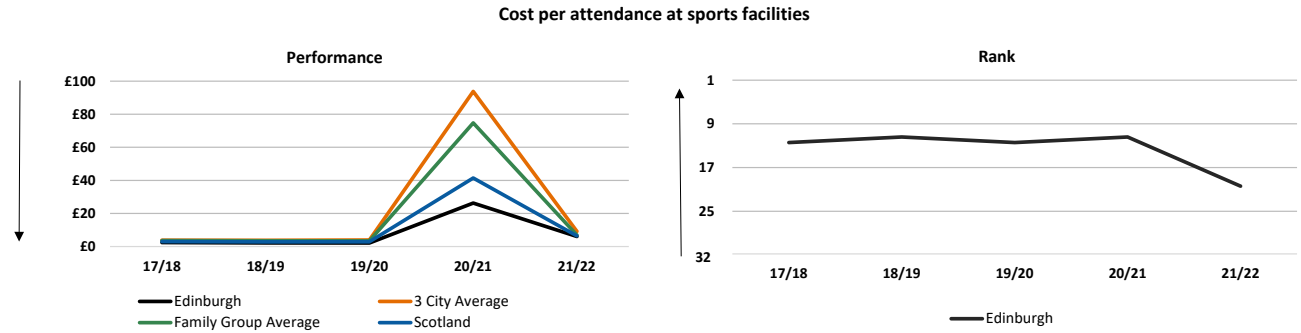
C&L1 Cost per attendance at sports facilities

Performance	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Edinburgh	£2	£2	£2	£26	£6
3 City Average	£4	£4	£4	£94	£9
Family Group Average	£4	£3	£3	£75	£7
Scotland	£3	£3	£3	£41	£6

Rank	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Edinburgh	12	11	12	11	20
3 City Min/Max	16	16	17	9	11
3 city max	32	32	31	32	31

Family Group = Other Services

Ranking Order (1 is Highest/ Lowest) = lowest



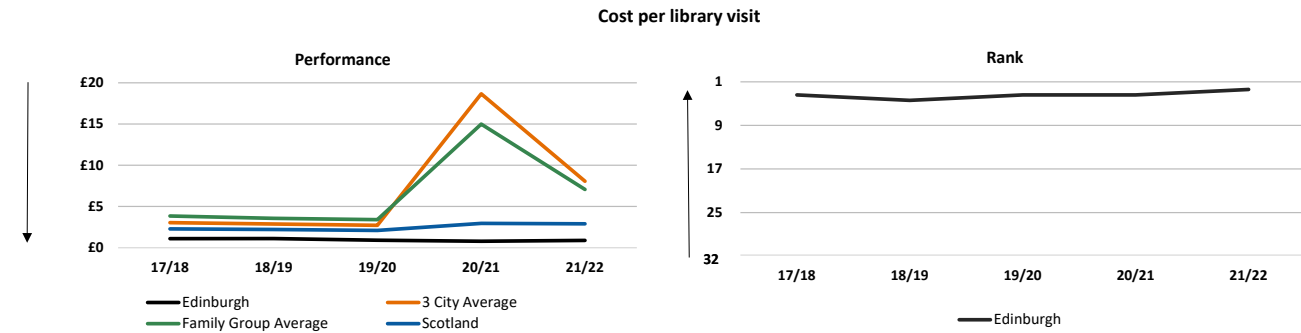
C&L2 Cost per library visit

Performance	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Edinburgh	£1	£1	£1	£1	£1
3 City Average	£3	£3	£3	£19	£8
Family Group Average	£4	£4	£3	£15	£7
Scotland	£2	£2	£2	£3	£3

Rank	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Edinburgh	3	4	3	3	2
3 City Min/Max	11	17	16	24	9
3 city max	20	21	24	30	31

Family Group = Other Services

Ranking Order (1 is Highest/ Lowest) = lowest



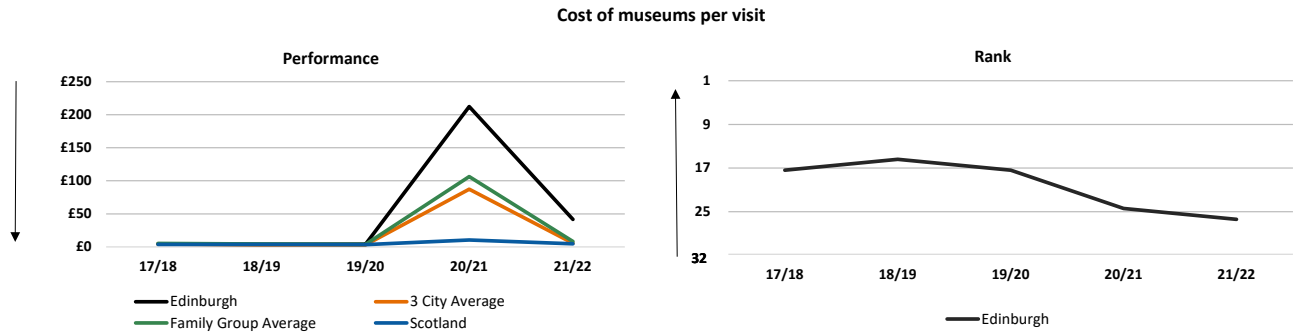
C&L3 Cost of museums per visit

Performance	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Edinburgh	£4	£4	£4	£212	£42
3 City Average	£4	£3	£3	£87	£6
Family Group Average	£5	£4	£4	£106	£8
Scotland	£4	£4	£3	£10	£5

Rank	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Edinburgh	17	15	17	24	26
3 City Min/Max	14	10	12	15	7
3 city max	18	17	16	22	19

Family Group = Other Services

Ranking Order (1 is Highest/ Lowest) = lowest



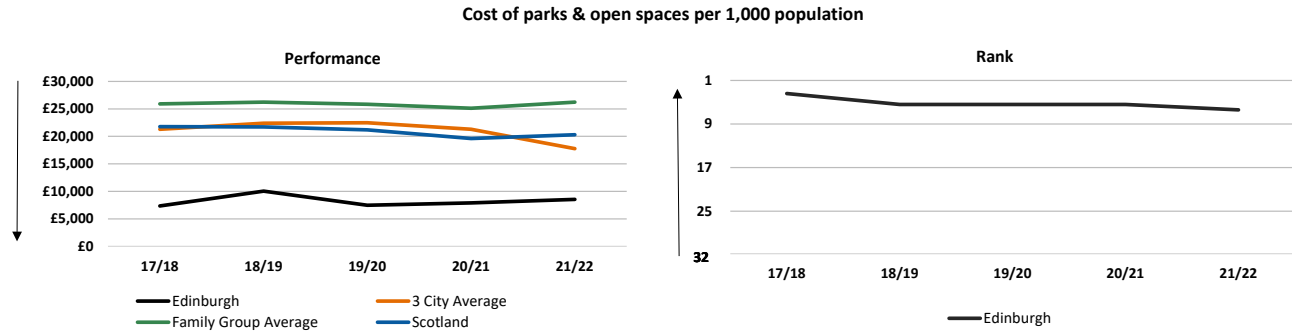
C&L4 Cost of parks & open spaces per 1,000 population

Performance	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Edinburgh	£7,346	£10,041	£7,472	£7,901	£8,542
3 City Average	£21,296	£22,411	£22,483	£21,279	£17,769
Family Group Average	£25,900	£26,223	£25,842	£25,123	£26,232
Scotland	£21,776	£21,711	£21,201	£19,614	£20,298

Rank	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
Edinburgh	3	5	5	5	6
3 City Min/Max	7	6	7	7	7
3 city max	30	28	31	29	19

Family Group = Other Services

Ranking Order (1 is Highest/ Lowest) = lowest

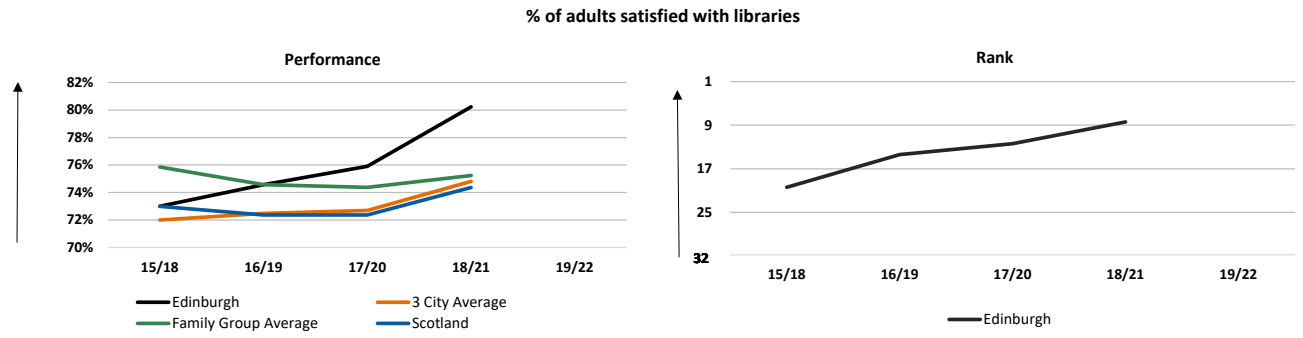


C&L5a % of adults satisfied with libraries

Performance	15/18	16/19	17/20	18/21	19/22
Edinburgh	73%	75%	76%	80%	
3 City Average	72%	72%	73%	75%	
Family Group Average	76%	75%	74%	75%	
Scotland	73%	72%	72%	74%	

Rank	15/18	16/19	17/20	18/21	19/22
Edinburgh	20	14	12	8	
3 City Min/Max	19	18	17	11	
3 city max	24	20	20	20	

Family Group = Other Services
 Ranking Order (1 is Highest/ Lowest) = Highest

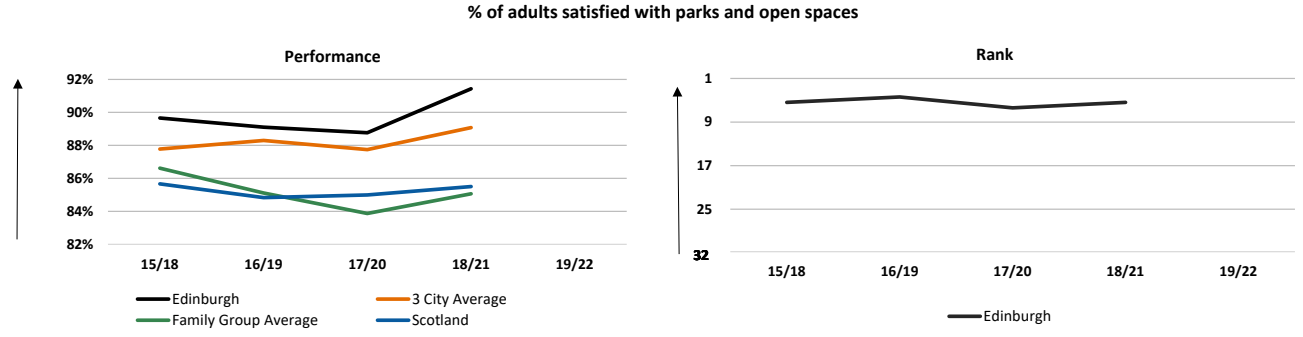


C&L5b % of adults satisfied with parks and open spaces

Performance	15/18	16/19	17/20	18/21	19/22
Edinburgh	90%	89%	89%	91%	
3 City Average	88%	88%	88%	89%	
Family Group Average	87%	85%	84%	85%	
Scotland	86%	85%	85%	86%	

Rank	15/18	16/19	17/20	18/21	19/22
Edinburgh	5	4	6	5	
3 City Min/Max	6	5	4	8	
3 city max	19	10	14	12	

Family Group = Other Services
 Ranking Order (1 is Highest/ Lowest) = Highest



C&L5c % of adults satisfied with museums and galleries

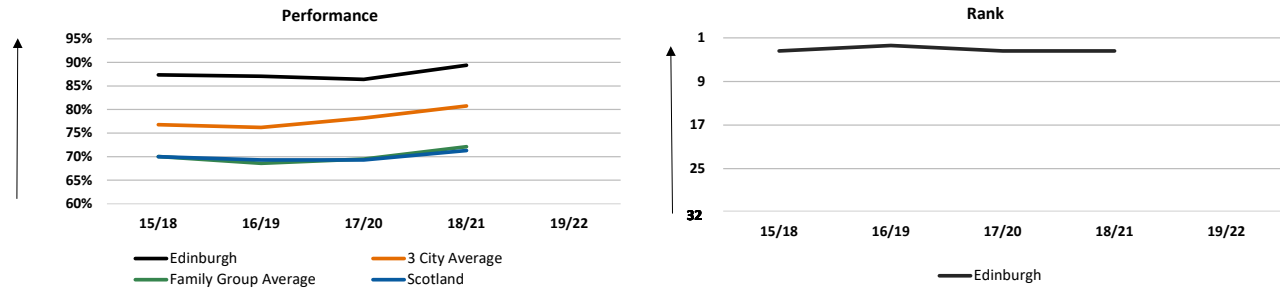
Performance	15/18	16/19	17/20	18/21	19/22
Edinburgh	87%	87%	86%	89%	
3 City Average	77%	76%	78%	81%	
Family Group Average	70%	69%	69%	72%	
Scotland	70%	69%	69%	71%	

Rank	15/18	16/19	17/20	18/21	19/22
Edinburgh	3	2	3	3	
3 City Min/Max	4	4	2	2	
3 city max	15	15	12	10	

Family Group = Other Services

Ranking Order (1 is Highest/ Lowest) = Highest

% of adults satisfied with museums and galleries



C&L5d % of adults satisfied with leisure facilities

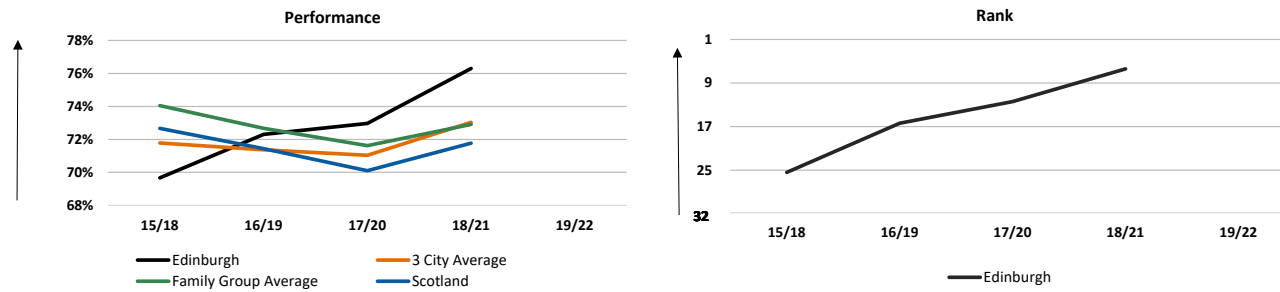
Performance	15/18	16/19	17/20	18/21	19/22
Edinburgh	70%	72%	73%	76%	
3 City Average	72%	71%	71%	73%	
Family Group Average	74%	73%	72%	73%	
Scotland	73%	71%	70%	72%	

Rank	15/18	16/19	17/20	18/21	19/22
Edinburgh	25	16	12	6	
3 City Min/Max	15	15	16	10	
3 city max	26	21	18	21	

Family Group = Other Services

Ranking Order (1 is Highest/ Lowest) = Highest

% of adults satisfied with leisure facilities



International Visit - Feedback Form

Event Title	Cultural Delegation Visit
Event Location	Beijing, China
Event Organiser	Chinese Arts and Entertainment Group (CAEG)
Date (s)	30 May – 4 June 2023
Report by	Head of Heritage, Cultural Venues, Museums and Galleries

Purpose of Attending	Re-establish cultural relations with arts organisations in Beijing, with a focus on the Edinburgh Festivals
Key Areas which were particularly useful	<p>The scope and variety of meetings and visits was useful and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film industry city and investors • National Center for Performing Arts welcome reception • Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries • Tsinghua University (Academy of Arts and Design) • Beijing Dahua City Performing Art Center • Forbidden City and The Palace Museum • Working meeting with National Center for Performing Arts (NCPA) • Northern Kunqu Opera Theatre and Kunqu performance • Reception for delegation by Northern Kunqu Opera Theatre • Working dinner with Mo Yan who was awarded the Noble Prize in Literature in 2012, along with film director and film director Jia Zhangke. • Farewell Reception by CAEG (China Arts and Entertainment Group) CAEG <p>The main interest from organisations was to perform at, and engage with, Edinburgh’s Festivals which have such a high international profile, as well as discussing opportunities for Scottish artists, companies and performers to visit Beijing’s cultural institutions. Companies such as Northern Kunqu Opera Theatre will be present in the 2023 Fringe through Asian Fringe Awards.</p> <p>Links have been established with the National Centre for Performing Arts through its international relations team and network of agents that represent artists and companies working at this scale. For instance, China NCPA Orchestra is the resident orchestra of the National Centre for the Performing Arts and is presented by Askonas Holt and we are now in dialogue with them about an Edinburgh/Usher Hall visit as part of a wider international tour.</p> <p>Executive staff from The Palace Museum at the Forbidden City are coming to Scotland in July 2023 and I am co-</p>

	<p>ordinating with the British Council on a visit to the National Museum of Scotland and trying to finalise a visit to Edinburgh Castle via Historic Environment Scotland.</p> <p>conversation with Tsinghua University (Academy of Arts and Design) is on-going on their ability to fuse creativity with science, technology, health and society (which was so inspiring) to work with Edinburgh on digital mapping and lighting some of our historic museums for bespoke events in the festival.</p> <p>Lunar New Year presents another opportunity outside the crowded Festival period and ways to work across other months. For instance, the Usher Hall hosts the official Chinese New Year celebrations and 25% of Scotland's Chinese population live in Edinburgh so potential here to be more creative. For instance, working with Tsinghua University (Academy of Arts and Design) could see a collaboration on a site-specific piece created along the lines of the EIF opening in 2015</p>
Benefits of attending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-establishing cultural links post Covid • Increasing knowledge of art and culture outside traditional western parameters • Increasing international work in the city and festivals • Increasing opportunities for Edinburgh artists to engage with Beijing companies
Follow up actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palace Museum visit to Edinburgh (July 2023 tbc) • Tsinghua University (Academy of Arts and Design) opportunities to collaborate on site specific events at Makar's Court/Writer's Museum and Chinese New Year at Usher Hall • Orchestra touring opportunities

International Visit - Feedback Form

Event Title	European Festivals Association, Arts Festival Summit
Event Location	Girona, Spain
Event Organiser	European Festivals Association
Date (s)	23 – 26 April 2023
Report by	David Waddell

Purpose of Attending	The purpose of the summit was to explore the strengthening of relationships between City administrations and their festivals and to share best practice on funding and support models for Festivals.
Key Areas which were particularly useful	<p>Edinburgh is a founder signatory of the Festival Cities Seal, a public commitment from cities to support festivals. The Council is in partnership with Festivals Edinburgh. This meeting at the Arts Festivals Summit was to welcome new partner cities, explore how we can take the Seal forward and how best to integrate the seal into our own cities. Festivals Edinburgh are developing key priorities for each city and how the seal can support our festivals, including those who are not members of Festivals Edinburgh.</p> <p>Current signatories are:</p> <p>Founding cities of the EFFE Seal for Festival Cities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belgrade (Serbia) • Bergen (Norway) • Edinburgh (UK) • Ghent (Belgium) • Krakow (Poland) • Leeuwarden (Netherlands) • Ljubljana (Slovenia) <p>New signatories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aveiro (Portugal), • Birgu (Malta), • Cividale del Friuli (Italy), • Girona (Spain), • Marneuli (Georgia), • Peralada (Spain), • Sagarejo (Georgia), • Tartu (Estonia), • Varna (Bulgaria), • Veliko Tarnovo (Bulgaria), • Yerevan (Armenia).

Benefits of attending	Participated in a workshop looking at how cities and festivals work together to address local cultural, environmental, social and economic challenges; how they share their views on these issues; and the role of arts festivals in responding to the ongoing changes in our society. Renewed links were made with Fair Saturday with whom Edinburgh will partner this year. Discussions on public spaces policy with Rotterdam and their approach to managing festivals and events; developed further links with Belfast Children's Festival, Irish Festivals Association, Krakow, Kyiv, Flanders and Munich.
Follow up actions	Key city priorities for the Festival Cities Seal will be developed with Festivals Edinburgh.