

# Planning Committee

2.00pm, Wednesday, 15 November 2023

## Edinburgh as a Feminist City – Appointment of Working Group

Executive/routine  
Wards

All

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 Planning Committee is asked to:
  - 1.1.1 Appoint the membership of the Edinburgh as a Feminist City Short Life Cross Party Working Group as detailed in Appendix 2;
  - 1.1.2 Approve the remit of the Working Group as detailed in Appendix 2.
  - 1.1.3 Instruct the Working Group to prepare the workplan referred to in the Edinburgh as a Feminist City Motion in Appendix 1; and
  - 1.1.4 To request that the Working Group updates Committee, in due course, on the outcome of this work.

#### Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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## Edinburgh as a Feminist City – Appointment of Working Group

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report presents a proposal for an Edinburgh as a Feminist City - Short Life Cross Party Working Group to be established to ensure that Edinburgh can deliver gender equality through its design and culture fostering the creation of safe and inclusive spaces for women and people of marginalised genders.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 An adjusted motion by Councillor O'Neill (Appendix 1) was agreed by the Council on 4 May 2023, which outlined the need to create safer, more inclusive spaces for women and people of marginalised genders. Gender equity was identified as being central to land use planning, and the management and design of public spaces as a means of improving Edinburgh to be considered a 'Feminist City'.
- 3.2 The amended motion requested that a Short Life Cross Party Working Group be established to consider how both ongoing and planned strands of work within the Council and relevant to the promotion of safety of women in public spaces, could support the production of a report to be presented to Planning Committee summarising key outcomes to meet the motion aims.

### 4. Main report

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- 4.1 Committee is asked to approve the establishment of an "Edinburgh as a Feminist City Working Group", comprising Elected Members and Officers, in line with the requirements of Framework of the Appointments to Working Groups Report approved at Council 16 March 2023.
- 4.2 The Working Group will liaise with representatives of the Women's Safety in Public Places Community Improvement Partnership (WSPP CIP) to share regular updates on progress.

- 4.3 The proposed membership of the Working Group should be nominees from the five main party groups. In addition, officers who represent relevant service areas will be included within the membership as required by the chair of the Working Group. Appendix 2 contains the proposed membership.
- 4.4 Membership, as proposed, ensures elected members' leadership and representation, together with officer input from service areas that link to Planning, Placemaking and Mobility and Public Protection, especially the Equally Safe Edinburgh Committee which is working to promote the safety and equality of women and girls across Edinburgh.
- 4.5 The Working Group will provide a forum to discuss existing and emerging work streams within the Council which relate to delivering gender equality through design of development and culture, fostering the creation of safer and more inclusive spaces for women and people of marginalised genders.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 If Committee approve the recommendations in this report:
- 5.1.1 The Working Group will be established;
  - 5.1.2 The Council will explore and implement steps to deliver gender equality through design and through developing a culture that promotes safe and inclusive spaces for women and people of marginalised genders in Edinburgh;
  - 5.1.3 The Working Group will consider and implement a plan to evaluate the impact of any changes and measures implemented as a result of this work; and
  - 5.1.4 The Working Group will report to Planning Committee by end 2024. Where work relates to the remit of other committees, separate reports will be prepared.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 There are expected to be some financial impacts arising from potential policy changes recommended by the working group.
- 6.2 Impacts may include reappportioning existing budget within the Planning service to resource additional work. Full details of any impacts will become clear as work progresses.

## **7. Equality and Poverty Impact**

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- 7.1 There is expected to be a positive impact on all protected characteristics, particularly those relating to sex and gender as a result of the work undertaken by

the Working Group and associated outcomes. Full details of any impacts will become clear as work progresses.

## **8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications**

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### **Environmental Impacts**

- 8.1 There is no direct impact on the environment resultant from the formation of the Working Group and any potential impact from resultant policy implementation will be assessed.

## **9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact**

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- 9.1 There are expected to be some governance impacts associated with Planning Committee as governing body for the working group. There may also be policy impacts associated with the report to be produced by the Working Group. Full details of any impacts will become clear as work progresses.
- 9.2 The WSPP CIP have been consulted on the proposal to establish this Working Group. The WSPP CIP is chaired by the Equally Safe Edinburgh Committee and reports to the Edinburgh Community Safety and Justice Partnership and is fully supportive of any work to make Edinburgh safer for women and people of marginalised genders.
- 9.3 A comprehensive consultation and engagement process will inform the production of any policy and guidance resultant from the report summarising the outcomes of the working group.

## **10. Background reading/external references**

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- 10.1 None

## **11. Appendices**

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- 11.1 Appendix 1 – ‘Edinburgh as a Feminist City’ Motion approved by the Council on 4 May 2023.
- 11.2 Appendix 2 - Working Group Proposed Membership and Terms of Reference for consideration once formed.

## Appendix 1

Approved motion - - 4 May 2023

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- 1) To recognise that more work was needed to create safer and inclusive spaces for women and people of marginalised genders and that it was fundamental that gender equity was central to land use planning, and the management and design of public spaces.
- 2) To also recognise the disparity in women's everyday lives which was exacerbated by lack of local and accessible job opportunities, lack of proximity to services including women's healthcare services, lack of efficient public transport, and lack of access to green space and a safe public realm.
- 3) To note the Violence Against Women and Girls Priority Papers published by Public Health Scotland which identified key areas of work including Place, Early Years, Mental Health, Inclusive Economy and Being Healthy and Active.
- 4) To commend the existing work of Equally Safe Edinburgh that promoted the delivery of an integrated, high-quality response to violence against women and girls, and children and young people affected by gender-based violence in Edinburgh.
- 5) To further commend the work of the Women's Safety in Public Places Community Improvement Partnership, which was taking a broad approach to tackling the safety of women in the public spaces of the city.
- 6) To note the other review work being done to create a more inclusive Edinburgh across the Council, including Equality Impact Assessments, the refreshment of Edinburgh Design Guidance, Active Travel Plan, the Circulation Plan, Open Space Strategy, and the formation of City Plan 2030.
- 7) To note the process to 'The Getting Home Safely' street audit work undertaken to inform the George Street and First New Town Transformation Project, and this approach was viewed as good practice for similar such projects.
- 8) To further note work being carried out through Transport and Environment Committee, looking at mobility analysis – using CCTV systems to collect a wide range of traffic and mobility data including how pavement users moved around at junctions and locations.
- 9) To believe a gender-neutral approach to city development did not work and that women and people of marginalised genders had diverse needs that were not currently reflected in practice.
- 10) To believe that we could learn from other European cities such as Vienna and Barcelona who had recently published a manual called 'Gender mainstreaming made easy', and a 'Handbook for everyday life urban planning: Urban planning with a gender perspective' respectively, resulting in the implementation of wider pavements, more benches in public spaces, improved lighting, ramps for wheelchairs and buggies and visible commemorations of women and the queer community.
- 11) To recognise that a number of strands of work were either ongoing or being developed to promote the safety of women in public spaces.

12) To agree to set up a short time cross party working group to consider how all these strands could be brought together into a single plan that a) took into account the experience from Vienna and Barcelona, b) made sure the City can provided safer spaces for women and people of marginalised genders and c) ensured gender equity was central to land use planning and the management and design of public spaces.

13) To agree the outcome of this work should subsequently be reported to the Planning Committee.

## **Appendix 2**

### Edinburgh as a Feminist City Short Life Cross Party Working Group

#### **Proposed Membership**

Five representatives, comprising one representative from each of the following Political Groups.

- Conservative Group
- Green Group
- Labour Group
- Liberal Democrat Group
- Scottish National Party Group

In addition, officers who represent relevant service areas will be included within the membership as required by the chair of the Working Group.

#### **Terms of Reference**

##### *Introduction:*

The City of Edinburgh Council will work to ensure that Edinburgh can deliver gender equality through its design and culture, fostering the creation of safer and inclusive spaces for women and people of marginalised genders.

##### *Remit:*

The working group will consider how ongoing and planned strands of work relevant to the promotion of safety of women in public spaces, can support the production of a report to be presented to Planning Committee summarising key outcomes to meet the motion aims. Where there are outcomes relevant to other Committees these will be reported to accordingly. Officers will link to Council service areas as appropriate to ensure a coordinated cross Council approach is maintained throughout. As appropriate, the Working Group will engage with other groups and strands of work (including Accessible Streets and the Women's Safety in Public Places Community Improvement Partnership) as well as other Councils.

##### *Timescale:*

The group will be established in November 2023 to progress the actions agreed by the Council over the course of 2024, with a report summarising outcomes proposed to be presented to Planning Committee in late 2024.

##### *Meeting Arrangements:*

The group will select a chair at its first meeting. The working group will meet frequently in line with key milestones in the strategy development process, until the completion of a report in late 2024 with findings for consideration by Planning Committee. The Group may establish sub-groups to progress individual elements of the overall remit, inviting additional Officers and external Stakeholders as required.