

# Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday 5 December 2024

## Edinburgh as a Feminist City Working Group Update – referral from the Planning Committee

Executive/routine

Routine

Wards

### 1. For Decision/Action

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- 1.1 The Planning Committee has referred a report on the Edinburgh as a Feminist City Short Life Working Group, which was set up as a result of a decision of Planning Committee on 15 November 2023, for information.

**Dr Deborah Smart**

Executive Director of Corporate Services

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# Referral Report

## Edinburgh as a Feminist City Working Group Update – referral from the Planning Committee

### 2. Terms of Referral

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2.1 On 13 November 2024, the Planning Committee was presented with an update on the Edinburgh as a Feminist City Short Life Working Group, which was set up as a result of a decision of Planning Committee on 15 November 2023. Details were provided of the work undertaken and outputs from the Working Group, and it was recommended that the Working Group should continue, as per the remit set by Planning Committee on 15 November 2023.

2.2 The Planning Committee agreed:

#### **Motion**

- 1) To note the summary of work undertaken, and outputs from, the Working Group against the aims set out in the Terms of Reference.
- 2) To approve the actions listed to allow the Working Group to progress work to meet the aims set out in the Terms of Reference.
- 3) To agree that the Working Group should continue, as per the remit set by Planning Committee on 15 November 2023.
- 4) To appoint Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron as chair of the Working Group.
- 5) To refer the report by the Interim Executive Director of Place to Transport and Environment Committee and Culture and Communities Committee for information.

- moved by Councillor Dalgleish, seconded by Councillor Cameron.

#### **Amendment 1**

- 1) To note the summary of work undertaken, and outputs from, the Working Group against the aims set out in the Terms of Reference.
- 2) To approve the actions listed to allow the Working Group to progress work to meet the aims set out in the Terms of Reference.
- 3) To agree that the Working Group should continue, as per the remit set by Planning Committee on 15 November 2023.
- 4) To refer the report by the Interim Executive Director of Place to Transport and Environment Committee and Culture and Communities Committee for information.

- moved by Councillor Mumford, seconded by Councillor Parker

### **Voting**

For the Motion - 6 votes

For the Amendment - 5 votes

(For the Motion – Councillors Cameron, Dalgleish, Jones, Mowat, Osler and Thornley.

For the Amendment – Councillors Gardiner, Mattos-Coelho, McNeese-Mechan, Mumford and Parker.)

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Dalgleish.

## **3. Background Reading/ External References**

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3.1 [Planning Committee – 13 November 2024 – Webcast](#)

## **4. Appendices**

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Appendix 1 – Report by the Interim Executive Director of Place

# Planning Committee

2.00pm, Wednesday, 13 November 2024

## Edinburgh as a Feminist City – Working Group Update

Executive/routine  
Wards

Executive  
All

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 Planning Committee is asked to:
  - 1.1.1 Note the summary of work undertaken, and outputs from, the Working Group against the aims set out in the Terms of Reference (Appendix 2);
  - 1.1.2 Approve the actions listed to allow the Working Group to progress work to meet the aims set out in the Terms of Reference (Appendix 2);
  - 1.1.3 Agree that the Working Group should continue, as per the [remit](#) set by Planning Committee on 15 November 2023; and
  - 1.1.4 Refer this report to Transport and Environment Committee and Culture and Communities Committee for information.

**Gareth Barwell**

Interim Executive Director of Place

Contact: Jay Skinner, Senior Planning Officer

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## Edinburgh as a Feminist City – Working Group Update

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report presents an update from the Edinburgh as a Feminist City Short Life Working Group which was set up as a result of a decision of Planning Committee on 15 November 2023.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 An amended Motion by Councillor Kayleigh 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 and people of marginalised genders in public spaces, could support the production of a report to be presented to Planning Committee summarising key outcomes to meet the motion aims.
- 3.3 On 15 November 2023, Planning Committee agreed to:
- 3.3.1 Appoint the membership of the Edinburgh as a Feminist City Working Group, as detailed in Appendix 2;
  - 3.3.2 Approve the Terms of Reference of the Working Group, as detailed in Appendix 2;
  - 3.3.3 Instruct the Working Group to consider options to implement new work strands and continue existing work strands to ensure Edinburgh can deliver gender equality through its design and culture, fostering the creation of safer and inclusive spaces for women and people of marginalised gender; and
  - 3.3.4 Request that a report on findings of the work is brought to Planning Committee by the end of 2024 to update on associated outputs from the Working Group.

## 4. Main report

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- 4.1 The Feminist City Working group met on 26 January 2024 and 11 October 2024. The attendees comprised Elected Members and Senior Officers from Planning, Placemaking and Mobility and Equally Safe Edinburgh.
- 4.2 At the inaugural meeting in January 2024, attendees discussed a range of topics including the role of third sector organisations and other partners in working towards the delivery of safe spaces for women. Consideration was given to key learnings from Vienna in respect of the approaches taken through placemaking interventions to facilitate the needs of women and people of marginalised genders. It was agreed that officers would conduct a Policy and Guidance Gap Analysis of National and Local Planning Policy and Guidance.
- 4.3 At the meeting held in October 2024 attendees engaged in a workshop to review and discuss the findings of the Policy and Guidance Gap Analysis document produced, as well as reaching agreement on a series of actions to inform outputs of the Working Group moving forward.
- 4.4 In support of the discussions held with Members as part of the Working Group, officers engaged in several tasks and activities to both review existing work strands and investigate emerging work strands associated to the motion aims. The following content summarises the tasks and activities undertaken, and future opportunities considered as a result of those discussions.

### **Review of Planning Policy and Guidance**

- 4.5 Following the meeting of the Working Group in January, a Policy and Guidance Gap Analysis was produced (a copy of which is appended to this report in Appendix 3). The production of this document covered both National and Local Planning Policy Guidance and focused on the review of the role of the subject planning policies and guidance in promoting women's safety and marginalised genders and design interventions through a feminist city lens. A summary of all content included within the review is provided below:

#### *4.5.1 Adopted National Planning Policy*

- National Planning Framework 4 (2023);

#### *4.5.2 Adopted Local Planning Policy/Guidance*

- Adopted Edinburgh Local Development Plan 2016;
- Edinburgh Design Guidance (2020);
- City of Edinburgh Council Factsheets (P1 - Street as a Place, P2 - Promoting Pedestrian Movement and Activity, F1 – Street Furniture, F2 – Seating and F6 – Street Lighting); and

#### *4.5.3 Emerging Local Planning Policy.*

- Modified City Plan 2030 (subject to Planning Committee and Council approval Q4 2024).

- 4.6 Through the preparation work on the next Local Development Plan (LDP), City Plan 2040, there will be an opportunity to further consider key messaging and outcomes from Working Group, as part of the evidence base to inform the Evidence Report stage and subsequent stages of City Plan 2040. Further details regarding the preparation of City Plan 2040 can be found in the recently approved [‘Development Plan Scheme September 2024’](#) report.
- 4.7 Officers will continue to monitor the Scottish Government Work Programme, specifically for the publication of guidance to elaborate NPF4 Policy 14 – Design, quality and place and considerations linked to the prioritisation of women’s safety when assessing development proposals.

### **Cross-Service Engagement & Collaboration**

- 4.8 Senior officers from the Council continue to meet regularly with representatives and the Equally Safe Edinburgh Committee Lead Officer to discuss and review both existing and planned strands of work specific to ensuring the safety of women in public spaces, in the context of supporting the requirements of the Working Group.
- 4.9 Discussions were held with the Women’s Safety in Public Places Community Improvement Partnership (WSPP CIP) to understand and acknowledge the remit of both groups, and shared goals/objectives. This meeting provided an opportunity to review and discuss the motion aims, and the capabilities of each group in meeting them.
- 4.10 Representatives from the Planning Service met with a Glasgow City Council Planner responsible for overseeing action to address the motion on ‘A Feminist Approach to Town Planning’ in January 2024, to understand associated workstreams undertaken at the Local Planning Authority.
- 4.11 As work progresses on existing and planned work streams, engagement across the Council will both continue and be encouraged, given the wide ranging nature of the subject area, and need for a multi-faceted approach to implement future change.
- 4.12 Planning Officers have engaged directly with the Equally Safe Edinburgh Committee Lead Officer as part of the production of the draft Edinburgh Design Guidance (EDG). The draft EDG will help inform and guide development proposals through the Development Management process, by providing guidance on a range of development considerations through a feminist city lens.
- 4.13 The draft EDG has also been informed by the preparation of a draft factsheet on women’s safety (P09 – Women’s Safety Factsheet (2024)), led by the Placemaking and Mobility team in liaison with internal and external stakeholders. The factsheet has been developed to enable Edinburgh’s streets and public spaces to be designed in a way that creates safe, functional and attractive spaces for women and girls, with the overall aim of promoting streets and public spaces that are welcoming, inclusive and accessible for all. The factsheet is due for publication later this year and will be available to view on the Council website.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 It is proposed that the Working Group continues to meet at regular intervals going forward and progresses work on associated outcomes.
- 5.2 It is proposed that the next meeting of the Working Group will take place on Friday 31 January 2025 and thereafter occur once every quarter.
- 5.3 It is proposed that the Working Group should appoint a chair at the next scheduled meeting.
- 5.4 Updates on progress will be provided where necessary via the Business Bulletin at Planning Committee.

## **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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- 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. Full details of any impacts will become clear as work progresses.
- 9.2 The WSPP CIP have been keep updated on the work undertaken in support of the Working Group as directed by the remit. 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.

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

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10.1 Edinburgh as a Feminist City – Appointment of Working Group – [November 2023](#)

10.2 Development Plan Scheme – [September 2024](#)

## **11. Appendices**

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Appendix 1 - Edinburgh as a Feminist City Motion approved by the Council on 4 May 2023.

Appendix 2 – Edinburgh as a Feminist City: Working Group Membership and Terms of Reference.

Appendix 3 – Policy and Guidance Gap Analysis – October 2024.

## **Appendix 1 Approved Motion - 4 May 2023**

- 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.

## Appendix 3 Policy and Guidance Gap Analysis – October 2024

Colour Coding Legend	
Blue	Design Policy/Guidance
Green	Housing Policy/Guidance
Pink	Transport-Connectivity Policy/Guidance
Orange	Open Space Recreation Policy/Guidance
Yellow	Safety through Design Policy/Guidance

### [National Planning Framework 4 2023-](#)

Policy	Policy Intent/Actions	Policy Strengths	Policy Commentary
Policy 13 – Sustainable Transport	<p>To encourage, promote and facilitate developments that prioritise walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport for everyday travel and reduce the need to travel unsustainably.</p> <p>Provision of a high number of, better, safer and <b>more inclusive active</b> and sustainable travel opportunities is a policy outcome.</p> <p><i>b) Development proposals will be supported where it can be demonstrated that the transport</i></p>	<p>Policy 13 criterion b) with reference to sustainable transport modes requires provision of - direct, easy, segregated and <b>safe links</b> to local facilities via walking, wheeling and cycling networks before occupation.</p> <p>Similarly, criterion b) also requires a supply of <b>safe</b>, secure and convenient cycle parking to meet the needs of users and which is more conveniently located than car parking for applicable developments.</p>	<p>The policy reiterates the need for the consideration of safety when assessing the requirement for provision of sustainable transport modes.</p>

Policy	Policy Intent/Actions	Policy Strengths	Policy Commentary
	<p><i>requirements generated have been considered in line with the sustainable travel and investment hierarchies and where appropriate they</i></p> <p><i>i) Provide direct, easy, segregated and safe links to local facilities via walking, wheeling and cycling networks before operation</i></p> <p><i>v) Supply safe, secure and convenient cycle parking to meet the needs of users and which is more conveniently located than cycle parking</i></p>		
Policy 14 – Design, quality and place	To encourage, promote and facilitate well designed development that makes successful places by taking a design-led approach and applying the Place Principle.	<p>Policy 14 criterion b) for support of proposals that are consistent with the six qualities of successful places – <b>Healthy</b> – “<i>supports the prioritisation of women’s safety...</i>”</p> <p>Annex D – Six Qualities of Successful Places</p> <p>Designing for:</p> <p>1. Healthy: Supporting the prioritisation of women’s safety and improving physical and mental health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>lifelong wellbeing</b> through ensuring spaces, routes and buildings feel safe and welcoming e.g. through passive surveillance and use of physical safety measures.</li> </ul>	<p>No detailed guidance from the Scottish Government expanding on specific measures for development proposals to support prioritisation of women’s and people of marginalised genders safety at present.</p> <p>Within inclusion there is a need to address the need for provision of both mixed-sex and single sex facilities to ensure compliance with the Equality Act- particularly on age, sex, religion/belief, gender reassignment and pregnancy/maternity.</p>

Policy	Policy Intent/Actions	Policy Strengths	Policy Commentary
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>accessibility and inclusion</b> for everyone regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, ability and culture</li> </ul>	
Policy 15 – Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods	To encourage, promote and facilitate the application of the Place Principle and create connected and compact neighbourhoods where people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home, preferably by walking, wheeling or cycling or using sustainable transport options.	<p>Policy 15 requires development proposal to contribute to local living, including 20 minute neighbourhoods including local access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sustainable modes of transport including local public transport and safe, high quality walking, wheeling and cycling networks;</li> <li>• playgrounds and informal play opportunities, parks, green streets and spaces, community gardens, opportunities for food growth and allotments, sport and recreation facilities</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods: planning guidance (2024)</a> outlines the importance of perception of safety being related to a wide variety of factors including building and landscape design, the effects of vehicle traffic, lighting, visibility and the presence of other people, anti-social behaviour, and derelict or vacant areas. The quality of the immediate environment can play an important role in ensuring that places feel safe.</p> <p>Considerations for improving safety include-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>passive surveillance/opportunities for areas to be overlooked. Ground floor uses of buildings for homes and commercial properties contribute to feeling welcome and safe</i></li> </ul>	No direct reference to consideration of women’s and people of marginalised genders safety/accessibility to amenities within the policy or supporting text.

Policy	Policy Intent/Actions	Policy Strengths	Policy Commentary
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>reactivation of derelict spaces and care, repair, and regular maintenance</i></li>   <li>• <i>the design and specification of boundaries and landscaping to support feelings of safety through strong connections between buildings and public spaces</i></li>   <li>• <i>re-purposing of existing underused buildings, buildings at risk, spaces or landmarks can help preserve the local identity and character of a place and improve feelings of safety and ease for communities</i></li>   <li>• <i>designing and planning for extreme weather and climate-related concerns to help with the fostering of trust and feeling safe within a community</i></li> </ul>	
Policy 16 – Quality Homes	To encourage, promote and facilitate the delivery of more high quality, affordable and sustainable homes, in the right locations, providing choice across tenures that meet the diverse	Policy encourages provision of affordable homes with a drive for increase affordability and housing adaptable to changing and diverse needs – ensuring that affordability is not a barrier to accessing good quality housing provision.	No direct reference to consideration of barriers to accessing good quality, affordable housing for women and people of marginalised genders within the policy or supporting text.



Policy	Policy Intent/Actions	Policy Strengths	Policy Commentary
	<p>housing needs of people and communities across Scotland.</p> <p>Development proposals for new homes that improve affordability and choice by being adaptable to changing and diverse needs, and which address identified gaps in provision, will be supported. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i. self-provided homes;</b></li> <li><b>ii. accessible, adaptable and wheelchair accessible homes;</b></li> <li>iii. build to rent;</li> <li><b>iv. affordable homes;</b></li> <li><b>v. a range of size of homes such as those for larger families;</b></li> <li>vi. homes for older people, including supported accommodation, care homes and sheltered housing;</li> <li>vii. homes for people undertaking further and higher education; and</li> <li>viii. homes for other specialist groups such as service personnel.</li> </ul>		<p>Potential to consider provision of additional spaces for those affected by gendered violence. There is a limited number of domestic abuse refuges in Edinburgh; these are limited to women or women with children (and if the woman has male children, they can only stay until the male child's 18th birthday). There is currently no provision that the council makes to trans/non-binary/male survivors of gendered violence at present.</p>

Policy	Policy Intent/Actions	Policy Strengths	Policy Commentary
<p>Policy 21 – Play, recreation and sport</p>	<p>To encourage, promote and facilitate spaces and opportunities for play, recreation and sport.</p> <p>Natural and built environments are improved, with <b>more equitable access</b> to opportunities for play and recreation.</p> <p>e) Development proposals that include new streets and public realm <b>should be inclusive</b> and enable children and young people to play and move around safely and independently, maximising opportunities for informal and incidental play in the neighbourhood.</p> <p>f) New, replacement or improved play provision will, as far as possible and as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. provide stimulating environments;</li> <li>ii. provide a range of play experiences including opportunities to connect with nature;</li> <li><b>iii. be inclusive;</b></li> <li>iv. be suitable for different ages of children and young people;</li> </ul>	<p>Policy encourages provision of more equitable access to opportunities for play and recreation to benefit all genders which can be used positively when considering delivery of playparks and sport facilities as stand-alone development, and in support of larger scale mixed use development including housing.</p> <p>The policy promotes provision of inclusive design and safe access where new replacement and improved play provision is concerned.</p>	<p>No direct reference to specific considerations for women and people of marginalised genders within the policy or supporting text.</p> <p>Need to consider single as well as mixed-space play areas, especially when, for example, bookable courts are concerned. Boys’ sporting activities tend to be prioritised over girls’, and again this would ensure compliance with the Equality Act.</p>

Policy	Policy Intent/Actions	Policy Strengths	Policy Commentary
	<p><b>v. be easily and safely accessible by children and young people independently, including those with a disability;</b></p> <p>vi. incorporate trees and/or other forms of greenery;</p> <p><b>vii. form an integral part of the surrounding neighbourhood;</b></p> <p><b>viii. be well overlooked for passive surveillance;</b></p> <p>ix. be linked directly to other open spaces and play areas.</p>		

[Adopted Edinburgh Local Development Plan 2016-](#)

Policy	Policy Intent/Actions	Policy Pro's	Policy Commentary
Policy Hou 2 – Housing Mix	The Council will seek the provision of a mix of house types and sizes where practical, to meet a range of housing needs, including those of families, older people and people with special needs, and having regard to the character of the surrounding area and its accessibility	Policy Hou 2 recognises the importance of providing housing to meet a number of user needs as well as the consideration of accessibility.	No direct reference to specific considerations for women and people of marginalised genders within the policy or supporting text.
Policy Des 5 – Development Design: Amenity	This policy applies to all new development for one or more new buildings. Buildings must meet the needs of users and occupiers, with consideration given to impacts on neighbouring properties to ensure no unreasonable noise impact or loss of daylight, sunlight or privacy. Buildings should be designed to be flexible in use and <b>interact closely with the street, providing continuity of urban frontage and natural surveillance.</b> Cul-de-sac and single access residential layouts and gated communities should be avoided to help the integration of new development into the wider neighbourhood. Ancillary facilities must be sensitively integrated into the design of buildings to avoid impacting upon the surrounding townscape.	Policy Des 5 requires development to ensure that: c) community security will be promoted by providing active frontages to more important thoroughfares and designing for natural surveillance over all footpaths and open spaces and d) a clear distinction is made between public and private spaces, with the latter provided in enclosed or defensible forms	No direct reference to specific considerations for women and people of marginalised genders within the policy or supporting text.  Consideration should be given to avoiding underpasses and the encouragement of open space which provides good visibility in all directions where possible.  Edinburgh Design Guidance (2020) Section 2.13 <i>Community Safety</i> provides explicit guidance on meeting the requirements of this policy.

Policy	Policy Intent/Actions	Policy Pro's	Policy Commentary
<p>Policy Des 3 – Development Design – Incorporating and Enhancing Existing and Potential Features</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for development where it is demonstrated that existing characteristics and features worthy of retention on the site and in the surrounding area, have been identified, incorporated and enhanced through its design.</p> <p>Its aim is to ensure that development proposals are informed by a detailed analysis and understanding of the site. The incorporation of existing features including built structures, archaeology, trees and woodland, landscape character, views and biodiversity can enhance a development's sense of place and contribution to the wider habitat and green network.</p>	<p>Policy allows for consideration of site attributes in a general approach to good design. Safety being a component of good design.</p>	<p>No direct reference to specific considerations for women and people of marginalised genders within the policy or supporting text.</p>
<p>Policy Des 7 – Layout Design</p>	<p>This policy is relevant for all new development involving one or more new buildings. The layout of development should enhance community safety and urban vitality and provide direct and convenient connections on foot and by cycle. Where new road space is required as an integral and necessary part of new development, layouts should not encourage greater car use or cause or add to congestion in the surrounding area.</p>	<p>Policy Des 7 requires development to utilise a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d) car and cycle parking areas and pedestrian and cycle paths are overlooked by surrounding properties</li> <li>e) safe and convenient access and movement in and around the development will be promoted, having regard especially to the needs of people with limited mobility or special needs</li> </ul>	<p>No direct reference to specific considerations for women and people of marginalised genders within the policy or supporting text.</p>

Policy	Policy Intent/Actions	Policy Pro's	Policy Commentary
Policy Des 8 – Public Realm and Landscape Design	This policy applies to all development proposing new public space as part of the overall scheme. High quality, well designed public spaces are crucial elements of the urban environment and in making successful places. The Council encourages the preparation of public realm strategies to coordinate design and provide information on future maintenance in other major development schemes.	No clear policy overlap.	Scope to investigate reference to inclusion of maintenance for landscape features to encourage better upkeep linked to improving safety for women and people of marginalised genders within the policy or supporting text.
<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note inclusion of requirement for active frontages within 'Development Principles' for Proposal</li> </ul>			

[Modified City Plan 2030](#) – (Notification received from Scottish Ministers on 10 September 2024 that its local development plan City Plan 2030 can proceed to be adopted with only minor amendments - City Plan 2030 as modified due before Planning Committee and Council in late autumn)

Policy	Policy Intent/Actions	Policy Pro's	Policy Commentary
Env 3 Development Design – Incorporating and Enhancing Existing and Potential Features	Planning permission will be granted for development where it is demonstrated that the proposals have been informed by a detailed analysis and understanding of the site. Proposals should explain how those characteristics and features of the site that are deemed worthy of retention would be incorporated and/or enhanced.	Policy allows for consideration of site attributes in a general approach to good design. Safety being a component of good design.	Scope for a specific reference to the consideration of women's and people of marginalised gender safety when reviewing opportunities to enhance existing site features, or introduction of new features.
Env 25 – Layout Design	Proposals will be supported by this policy (so far as applicable to the scale and nature of development proposed) where: d. car and cycle parking areas and pedestrian and cycle paths are <b>overlooked by surrounding properties</b> , e. <b>safe</b> and convenient access and movement in and around the development will be promoted, having regard especially to the needs of people with limited mobility or special needs, The layout of development should enhance community safety and urban vitality and provide direct and convenient connections on foot/wheel and by cycle. Where new road space is required as an integral and necessary part of new development, layouts should prioritise walking/wheeling and cycling , and not encourage greater car use or cause or add to congestion in the surrounding area.	Policy makes allowances for the provision of natural surveillance as part of development proposals and the provision of safe access within new development.	No detailed guidance from the Scottish Government expanding on specific measures for development proposals to support prioritisation of women's and people of marginalised genders safety.  The EDG update will expand the Council's planning guidance on community safety, making specific reference to the safety of women and marginalised groups, and addressing issues such as active frontages, movement routes, maintenance and lighting.

Policy	Policy Intent/Actions	Policy Pro's	Policy Commentary
Env 27 - Public Realm, New Planting and Landscape Design	This policy applies to all development with new public and semi-private external space. High-quality, well-designed public spaces are crucial elements of the urban environment and in making successful places. The Council encourages the preparation of public realm strategies to coordinate design and provide information on future maintenance in other major development schemes.	Policy Env 27 states proposals will be supported where:  b) the different elements of paving, landscaping, street furniture and other features are coordinated to avoid a sense of clutter, and in larger schemes design and provision will be coordinated over different phases of a development,  d) a satisfactory scheme of maintenance will be put in place to ensure long term viability	Scope to expand on policy criterion d) to include benefits of regular landscaping maintenance to support women's and people of marginalised genders safety.  Importance of maintenance is addressed in and emphasised in updated EDG.
Env 32 Useable Communal Open Space and Private Gardens in Housing Development	Housing development will be supported by this policy where it provides good quality, useable open space and/or private gardens as applicable to meet the needs of future residents in line with the requirements...  3.169 To be considered good quality, all communal open spaces should provide useable amenity space that is accessible to everyone.	Provision of good quality open space should include safety as a requirement of design. Per para 3.169, the requirement for communal open spaces to be accessible to everyone is a positive step in promoting spaces for use by marginalised genders.	Scope to expand on policy para 3.169 to include benefits of regular landscaping maintenance to support women's and people of marginalised genders safety for communal spaces.
Inf 1 – Access to Community Facilities	Housing development will be supported which addresses local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods. Applicants should demonstrate this through the submission of a suitable assessment. Where this is not demonstrated, proposals will only be considered where these services can be delivered relative to the scale of	Encourages the development of housing in close proximity to key community facilities – ensuring a greater degree of accessibility for future occupiers.  Although the policy does not refer directly to women and people of marginalised genders, it is key to “enabling gender equality in accessibility” - as are other policies seeking to widen access to public	No direct reference to consideration of women's and people of marginalised genders safety/accessibility to amenities within the policy or supporting text.  Within inclusion requirement to also address the need for provision of both mixed-sex and single sex facilities to ensure we comply with



Policy	Policy Intent/Actions	Policy Pro's	Policy Commentary
	<p>development and managed as an integral component of a mixed-use development.</p> <p>Wherever possible, delivery of new community facilities should be as part of multi-service hubs that brings community services together, increasing opportunities for linked trips where the long-term sustainability of the facilities is prioritised. Proposals for new schools provide the opportunity to consider the integration of community service provision.</p>	<p>transport. This also equates to Vienna's goal to be a "city of short distances".</p>	<p>the Equality Act- particularly on age, sex, religion/belief, gender reassignment and pregnancy/maternity.</p>
<p>Inf 7 – Private Car Parking</p>	<p>Development will be supported where private car use is not needed. This policy encourages private car parking free or low car parking developments. Within the Council's Low Emission Zone private car parking (other than accessible spaces) will not be permitted. The appropriate level of provision will be determined by the following factors:</p> <p><i>f. for major new developments, and where identified in a Place Policy or Development Principles, shared mobility services should be provided and be conveniently located close together and near to public transport stops, potentially in a 'mobility hub' with additional services, located with good natural surveillance,</i></p>	<p>Note design requirement for shared mobility hubs to be located within sites with a good level of natural surveillance to ensure safety of users.</p>	<p>Safety being a consideration as part of the design stage of mobility hubs is a positive and should be welcomed.</p>

Policy	Policy Intent/Actions	Policy Pro's	Policy Commentary
Inf 8 – Design of Car Parking	<p>Where parking provision within a development site is required or considered to be acceptable, it will be supported where it meets the following criteria:</p> <p><i>c. the layout strategy for car parking should always prioritise safe and direct walking and wheeling access and routes, conveniently locate disabled parking, and integrate with drop-off points or mobility hubs</i></p>	<p>Note design requirement for parking space layout to prioritise safe and direct walking and wheeling routes to ensure users safety is considered as part of the design process to avoid retrofit issues.</p>	<p>Safety being a consideration as part of the design stage of car parking provision is a positive and should be welcomed.</p>
Hou 3 – Mixed Communities	<p>Proposals for housing will be permitted if it is demonstrated that:</p> <p>a. development provides an appropriate range of housing of different types and sizes,</p> <p>c. the range of housing provided is well integrated through the entire development scheme</p> <p>3.191 A mix of housing types and sizes provides potential for multi-generational communities. The mix should respond to the differing needs of residents, including families, older people and disabled people. Citywide objectives, including the Council's housing strategy, should inform the provision of housing to meet identified needs, in particular, accessible, adaptable and wheelchair housing. The mix of size of dwellings should provide for the needs of</p>	<p>Note policy intent requirement for a housing mix to cater to differing needs of residents and for the inclusive design of both affordable and open market housing.</p>	<p>No direct reference to specific considerations for women and people of marginalised genders within the policy or supporting text.</p>

	<p>larger families. This includes larger units of three or more bedrooms, with access to private garden ground from ground or first floor level.</p> <p>3.192 An inclusive approach to design of market and affordable housing should be taken to ensure homes are accessible to as wide a range of people as possible and provide adaptability for occupants to meet changing needs. Guidance is provided in the Edinburgh Design Guidance. This supports the Scottish Government’s Housing for Varying Needs Standards which set out good practice on the design of housing to achieve flexibility and suitability for people of all abilities and is the standard which applies to all Registered Social Landlord (RSL) development. To support diverse and well-integrated neighbourhoods, affordable homes should reflect the range of dwelling types and sizes provided across the development as a whole and be tenure blind.</p>		
<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place Policies require inclusion of requirement for Natural Surveillance as part of design approach</li> </ul>			

[City Mobility Plan 2021-](#)

Policy	Policy Intent/Actions	Policy Pro's	Policy Commentary
<p>Equal Access to the City (Supporting Contextual Text Only)</p>	<p>It is recognised that different genders have differential access to transport systems. Twice as many women as men make multi stop and multi-purpose journeys. Women and people from identifiable minorities fear being assaulted or harassed on the public transport network and are more likely to choose to travel by car or taxi/private hire car because it is personally safer.</p> <p>Enabling gender equality in accessibility benefits all travellers. Prioritising certain transport modes is an important factor for increased equality. The proximity of high-quality public transport and possibilities to move around safely on foot, wheel and cycle can offset inequalities.</p> <p>pg.18</p>	<p>Acknowledgement that enabling gender equality in accessibility to different transport modes is key in achieving greater equality.</p>	<p>Note the ongoing work by the Women's Safety on Public Transport group (subgroup of the WSPP CIP) on related issues, and scope for further discussion around this point.</p>
<p>MOVEMENT 3 - City Interchanges</p>	<p>Develop public transport interchanges at key locations in the city to enable better connections between services and modes. Support the integration of taxi ranks with interchanges.</p>	<p>Whilst the policy doesn't explicitly reference women and girls safety the policy intent supports ease of interchange relevant to reducing time spent waiting for connections and dedicated interchange infrastructure including good lighting, activity etc</p>	
<p>MOVEMENT 7 – Bus and Tram Shelters</p>	<p>Continue to provide modern bus and tram shelters that include real-time service information and balance the need for accessibility, safety and</p>	<p>Policy provision to encourage safety as a consideration to support users of public transport is positive.</p>	

Policy	Policy Intent/Actions	Policy Pro's	Policy Commentary
	refuge whilst also minimising street clutter.		
MOVEMENT 14 – Walking and Wheeling	Enhance and where necessary expand the walking/wheeling network to serve and connect key destinations across the city	Policy scope to support and promote non-car based transport modes a positive factor.	
MOVEMENT 15 - Cycling	Expand and enhance the citywide network of cycle routes to connect key destinations across the city, including increased segregated cycle infrastructure on main roads.	Policy scope to support and promote greater active travel provision and infrastructure a positive factor.	
MOVEMENT 24 - Safe and Accessible Paths and Streets	Design and maintain paths and streets to maximise safety and accessibility for all needs and abilities.	Policy scope to support and promote greater safety for active travel links and infrastructure a positive factor.	
PLACE 1 - Edinburgh City Centre Transformation	Create a city centre focused on people with significantly reduced traffic through pedestrian priority zones, carfree streets, safe segregated cycle routes and rerouted and rationalised bus services.	Policy scope to support and promote greater safety for active travel links and infrastructure a positive factor.	
PLACE 2 - 20-Minute Neighbourhoods	Support the 20-minute neighbourhood concept to underpin local communities and reduce the need for longer distance journeys	Policy scope to support and promote greater active travel provision and infrastructure a positive factor.	
PLACE 3 - Dense Mixed-Use Development	Ensure the creation of dense mixed-use developments which support public transport and reduce the need for longer distance journeys.	Policy scope to support and promote greater active travel provision and infrastructure a positive factor.	
PLACE 5 Streets for People	Streets for People Create more liveable places by reducing the level of on street parking in areas well served by public transport whilst enabling	Policy scope to support and promote greater active travel provision and infrastructure a positive factor.	

Policy	Policy Intent/Actions	Policy Pro's	Policy Commentary
	parking for local residents and people with mobility difficulties.		
PLACE 7 - Street Design	Ensure streets are designed and maintained in accordance with the Edinburgh Design Guidance and the Transport Asset Management Plan.	Policy scope to support and promote greater active travel provision and infrastructure a positive factor.	
Notes:			

## Guidance-

[Edinburgh Design Guidance 2020](#) – (Draft EDG due for consultation - December 2024 to January 2024 - subject to Planning Committee approval in Nov)

Guidance	Guidance Intent/Actions	Guidance Pro's	Guidance Commentary
Section 2.11 Housing mix and size, and supporting facilities	Ensure there is a mix of dwelling types and sizes to meet a range of housing needs including those of families, older people and people with special needs.	Guidance promotes delivery of housing mix to meet a range of users needs which can include consideration of accessibility.	<p>No direct reference to consideration of women's and people of marginalised genders within the supporting text.</p> <p>Revised EDG includes updates to current Section 2.11, and in consultation with colleagues from Housing and Building Standards, work is ongoing to include provision of some Housing for Varying Needs.</p>
Section 2.13 Community safety	<p>-Create active frontages directly onto important streets and publicly accessible routes and spaces.</p> <p>-Provide main door access to ground floor properties from street side.</p> <p>-Ensure all external spaces including pedestrian and cycle paths are overlooked.</p> <p>-Use lighting to help community safety  <i>"The design of development has a key role to play in community safety. If buildings overlook and provide direct access to streets people feel safer. Active frontages, where the ground floor is designed to allow visual contact and pedestrian movement between inside and out, ensure that this is achieved.</i>  <i>Lighting can make a very positive contribution to the security of the</i></p>	Guidance promotes a number of design interventions to promote safety for the purpose of development design.	<p>No direct reference to consideration of women's and people of marginalised genders within the supporting text.</p> <p>The forthcoming update to the Edinburgh Design Guidance will expand the Council's planning guidance on community safety, making specific reference to the safety of women and marginalised groups, and addressing issues such as active frontages, movement routes, maintenance and lighting.</p>

Guidance	Guidance Intent/Actions	Guidance Pro's	Guidance Commentary
	<p><i>external environment. To ensure the overall quality of the design, lighting should be integrated into the design from the outset and considered with the Road Construction Consent application.”</i></p> <p>pg. 91</p>		
<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note draft EDG and revisions to above sections</li> </ul>			



## Factsheets

There are an several factsheets which have been produced by the Council covering a range of themes. However, relevant to this topic area are those summarised below.

Guidance	Guidance Intent/Actions	Guidance Pro's	Guidance Commentary
P1 Street as a Place	<p>Street as a Place: Desired Characteristics</p> <p>Designing for Permeability in New Residential Streets: Key Design Criteria</p>	Note reference to requirement for safe and secure characteristics for inclusion in design of place.	Shops and hospitality businesses are seen as attractive on a street as they provide opportunities for higher footfall and natural surveillance. Scope to further investigation provision of additional 'safe spaces'.
P2 Promoting Pedestrian Movement and Activity	<p>Designing Inclusive Streets</p> <p>Equality Act 2020</p> <p>The Council has a statutory duty to take into account the diverse needs of everyone, regardless of age, gender or ability. We need to make reasonable adjustments to comply with this duty.</p> <p>Key requirements Inclusive design must be embedded in the design process for all works on Edinburgh streets. An inclusive approach to design should consider the needs of vulnerable users, particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People with visual impairments;</li> <li>• People with mobility impairments including buggies;</li> <li>• Wheelchair users;</li> <li>• Elderly and young people;</li> <li>• <b>Gender equality;</b></li> </ul>	Note reference to and requirement for inclusive design approach to be utilised for all works on Edinburgh streets, specifically the consideration of gender equality.	Scope to amend current text to include guidance on avoiding use of tunnels where roadworks are underway, given tunnels may allow better pedestrian movement but women and girls avoid them as routes given they inhibit visibility.

Guidance	Guidance Intent/Actions	Guidance Pro's	Guidance Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethnic minorities; and</li> <li>• Visitors with language difficulties.</li> </ul> <p>These user groups can be accommodated by employing the following design priorities overleaf and consultation with the Edinburgh Access Panel.</p>		
F1 Street Furniture	<p>Street Furniture Layout</p> <p>Aim to give each piece of street furniture multiple functions, avoid clutter and create a furniture zone where possible. Also consider surrounding use, context, scale and materials</p> <p>Location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain a clear walking zone</li> <li>• Maintain a clear kerb zone</li> <li>• Ensure wheelchairs can pass easily</li> <li>• Don't obstruct access and pedestrian desire lines</li> <li>• Do not obstruct driver views and sightlines at junctions</li> <li>• maintain safe access to street lighting columns doors</li> <li>• <b>Avoid conflict of location in relation to existing street trees, street lighting, CCTV, bins, etc.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Note requirement for location considerations to avoid conflict with elements such as street lighting and CCTV locations to maintain a level of safety.</p>	

Guidance	Guidance Intent/Actions	Guidance Pro's	Guidance Commentary
F2 Seating	Seating  Where not to locate seating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obstructing the Clear Walking Zone;</li> <li>• Obstructing the Kerb Zone;</li> <li>• Obstructing access;</li> <li>• Areas where there is not a need for rest;</li> <li>• <b>Areas without natural surveillance.</b></li> </ul>	Note guidance on locations to avoid placement of seating including those without natural surveillance in order to maintain a level of safety.	Query regarding how we define areas where is 'not a need for a rest' in terms of those with mobility issues.  Scope for provision of seating that is both safe and provides a reasonable amount of privacy (for example to facilitate breastfeeding).
F6 Street Lighting	Street lighting can contribute to:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport.</li> <li>• Discouraging crime and vandalism;</li> <li>• Making residents and street users feel safe;</li> </ul> Pg.1  New lighting schemes should consider:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lighting levels, which should seek to achieve compliant lighting levels with good uniformity that will achieve safety for pedestrians and road users.</li> </ul> Pg. 2		Consideration of 'reasonable cause' to be more creative – national (UK) guidance on street lighting does not effectively help women to feel safer, even when street lights are 100% compliant with the guidance.
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The collection of factsheets are subject to Officer review</li> <li>• Note draft status of the 'Women's Safety Factsheet' for future inclusion</li> </ul>			

**General Notes:**