



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Edinburgh Transformation and Improvement Plan Session 2

Present: Michele Mulvaney, Gillie Severin, Flora Ogilvie, Linda Irvine Fitzpatrick, Bridie Ashrowan, Paul Wilson, Paul Lawrence, Leah Black, David Happs, Daniel Greig (note).

Apologies: Dona Milne, Mike Massaro-Mallinson, James Wood, Deborah Smart

What are the key strategic issues that community planning

Viability and Funding in Housebuilding:

- The challenge lies not just in the availability of land but in ensuring projects are financially viable and adequately funded. Recent cuts by SG making this more challenging

Working Differently in Partnerships:

- Partnerships must evolve to address the unique needs of communities. This involves adopting new working methods, fostering cross-sector collaboration, and ensuring that all stakeholders are aligned in their objectives and methods.

Place-Based Approach and Community Involvement:

- Utilizing a place-based approach can significantly enhance community and voluntary sector engagement with public services. However, this requires sustained momentum and resources to prevent leaders from becoming disheartened by systemic inefficiencies. It was noted that historically some areas have benefited from additional funding and resources however have struggled to make progress around reducing inequality.

Local Place Plans and Spatial Planning:

- Empowering communities to develop Local Place Plans ensures that their needs and perspectives are integral to city planning processes. This approach not only enhances community involvement but also ensures more tailored and effective development.

Development Beyond Physical Structures:

- As new developments, like the one in the A8 corridor (West village), emerge, the focus should extend beyond physical buildings to include essential community assets, ensuring a holistic approach. It was noted that private developers are often less concerned about this.

Community Benefits and Infrastructure:

- Development projects should yield community benefits that align with local place plans. This approach ensures that infrastructure development is both relevant and beneficial to the community.

Procurement Supporting Community Infrastructure:

- Procurement policies should prioritize community infrastructure and social enterprise models, thereby fostering CWB principles.

Asset Management and Future-Proofing:

- Effective asset management requires a holistic view of community needs. Investments should be strategically made in areas crucial for community sustainability and resilience.

Strategic Focus and Depth in Approaches:

- There is a critical need to define clear objectives and ensure that approaches are comprehensive, addressing both immediate and long-term community needs. It was noted that approaches should be a “centimetre wide but a mile deep”.

Understanding and Speaking About Communities:

- It is essential to identify and address the root causes of community issues in the open. The language and manner in which communities are discussed should be respectful and inclusive, fostering community cohesion.

Community Cohesion and Belonging:

- Place-based approaches should prioritize fostering a sense of belonging and cohesion within communities, as these are integral to successful community development.

Value in Partnership and Preventive Work:

- Highlighting the benefits of multi-agency collaboration is crucial. The value added by preventive work in communities should be recognized and supported.

Supporting Community Organisations and Networks:

- Communities with diverse and robust community organisations tend to thrive more. These organisations need support in establishing strong networks with public agencies, ensuring an integrated system. This can help ensure communities are a “good place to live”

Youth Services and Equal Access:

- Addressing the 'postcode lottery' in youth services is vital. Understanding the availability and gaps in services for young people across different areas is crucial.

Understanding Services Within Community Buildings:

- It is essential to assess not just the physical infrastructure but also the services, activities, and groups that operate within these spaces to ensure they meet community needs.

What are the essential issues from the themes already identified that need to be considered?

- Enhancing governance includes improving connectivity among different groups and helping people understand their roles within the community planning process.
- Implementing a maturity model assessment can provide a framework for measuring the success of processes and management in community development.
- Continuous learning and evaluation are critical. Reflecting on the shared purpose of partnerships can guide the replication of successful models,
- Understanding the roles and responsibilities of different groups within the community planning ecosystem is essential for effective engagement and decision-making.
- Need to align with ongoing work around NN or develop route for community engagement without the formal structure
- Need to think about how communities organise themselves and create a system that can be adaptive to how they operate (both of place and of interest/shared experience)
- There is a need to consider where there are gaps or opportunities for other partnerships and where there is overlap between priorities – health and wellbeing