

'**EDINBURGH ADAPTS**' CONSULTATION

How Edinburgh prepares for and responds to climate change

- [Website – Scotland](#)
- [Website – Edinburgh](#)
- [Draft Vision for Edinburgh](#)

To: james.garry@edinburgh.gov.uk, fiona.macleod@edinburgh.gov.uk

29 November 2015

SPOKES RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT VISION FOR EDINBURGH

Dear James/Fiona

I am responding on behalf of Spokes, the Lothian Cycle Campaign, to your consultation on the above. Rather than using the response form we have found it easier to paste in the relevant section below and include our suggested amendments in red. I trust this is an ok way of responding.

Also, I am cc'ing Graham Russell who in future will be the Spokes rep at Edinburgh Adapts meetings and workshops.

We propose that the wording of Theme 2, *Infrastructure and the Built Environment*, be modified as suggested in red below. The reasoning is...

- to tie the vision in better to existing council policies and targets
- to make clear that deliveries are a significant issue, not just personal travel
- to make the role of cycling in adaptation and recovery more explicit
- to make clear that budgetary issues are crucial
- to add the fact that active travel can be vital in assisting immediate actions towards recovery from extreme weather events, when energy and road infrastructure may be badly damaged. Note - this has already been shown to be the case in some other cities (e.g. we think, the New York flooding and some Asian cities - if you wish to follow this up we can send you a useful contact).

Yours Sincerely

Dave du Feu
for Spokes

Theme 2: Infrastructure and the built environment

By 2025...

Thanks to integrated planning, active travel and public transport use continues to grow across the city, reducing pressures on transport infrastructure and improving health. **The council continues its policy of investing 10% of the transport budget in cycling, and its targets set in 2010 to raise cycling from 2% to 10% of all trips and reduce cars from 43% to 31% of all trips have all been well surpassed.** New developments have an eye on the future, bringing together cutting edge ‘smart building’ technologies while incorporating beneficial natural processes through green/blue architecture. With fewer workers commuting **by car, and increasing use of cargobikes for local deliveries**, streets are quieter, cleaner, and more multi-functional spaces.

Maintenance of Edinburgh’s iconic historic buildings is being gradually and subtly adjusted to take account of the changing climate, safeguarding the city’s heritage without altering its globally celebrated character. These improvements are exemplars of best practice and draw the attention of other historic European urban centres, themselves facing similar pressures from the changing climate.

Disruption to the public and to critical infrastructure is kept to a minimum despite an increase the number of flooding events and storms. By investing in sustainable drainage systems, keeping existing channels clear and redirecting water flows to areas of natural permeability, water is able to flow through the city in a controlled manner, reducing the potential for damage and keeping insurance costs low.

By 2050...

Edinburgh’s seven hills are green nodes in the city skyline, connected by roof-top meadows and tree-lined streets. The towering grandeur of the Old Town and the elegant rise of the New Town are joined by a thread of innovative climate smart developments, while established communities are connected to the centre by active travel greenways.

Community gardens, growing spaces, and permeable pathways and cycle lanes have replaced hard surfaces to improve water permeability across the city. **Thanks to the integrated network of cycleways segregated from traffic, cycling is now the most important way of travelling across the city for work, education and leisure, and the main means of local distribution of small goods, with consequent benefits for health and quality of life.** With fewer cars, whole streets have been reclaimed for pedestrians, providing new civic areas and encouraging children to play outside, engaging with nature and improving their health.

Sea levels continue to rise, bringing storms and high waves, but land use planning and improvements to coastal defences are protecting shore communities and important industrial areas. The city is flexible and resilient: Flexible from using natural process and state of the art technology to move with the grain of the weather. Resilient through using diverse energy sources – including community and small scale utilities projects – ensuring it is insulated from shocks in other areas. **Resilient too through the universal availability, use and habituation of bicycle transport and walking, not depending on external power sources and assisting rapid recovery after extreme weather events.**
