

Putting people at the heart of the transformation

Radical change is being proposed in the heart of Edinburgh through the Edinburgh City Centre Transformation project.

A strategy has been published which addresses the challenges facing the city as it prepares for the future.



Why do we need a strategy?

Edinburgh is one of the fastest growing cities in the UK and, by 2040, will have a population of nearly 600,000. That growth needs to be carefully managed to make sure we protect and enhance our quality of life, reduce congestion, cut traffic-related pollution and improve the way we move around. Radical re-think is also essential to meet our climate commitments.

The strategy is how the City of Edinburgh Council and its partners can achieve these changes.

What's in the strategy?

The strategy shows how transformational change can be achieved by improving public spaces and prioritising movement on foot, by bike and public transport to make the centre safer, healthier and more accessible for everyone.

These proposals interlink with the Council's broader plans to develop sustainability and connectivity across the city, which includes plans for Low Emission Zones (LEZ) and the City Mobility Plan.

Indeed, the project team will continue to work strategically with the City Mobility Plan, the Low Emission Zone and the City Plan 2030.

How will the strategy be delivered?

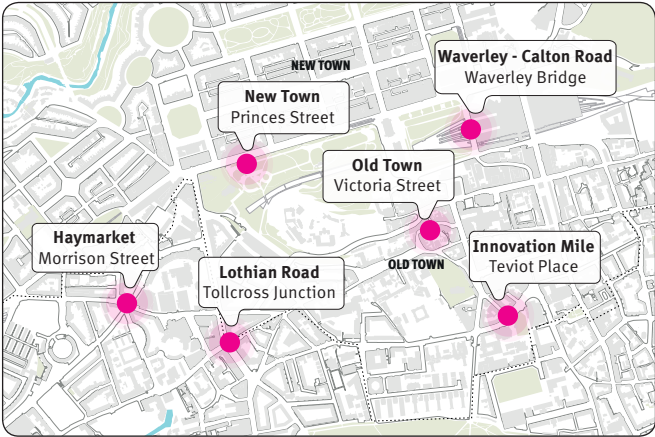
Proposals detail the key infrastructure, policy and management interventions to transform the city centre in a phased approach over the next ten years and include:

- A **pedestrian priority zone** and a network of car free streets creating a walkable and cycleable core at the heart of the city's World Heritage Site.
- A connected network across the city centre of **new segregated and safe cycle routes**, including a **new walking and cycling bridge** connecting the Old Town and the New Town.
- A **free city centre hopper bus** to support people moving around the city without a car.
- **Improvements to streets and public spaces** which complement the City's unique heritage.
- **Lifts or other forms of vertical connections** at key points to help people, especially those with mobility restrictions, explore the different street levels. The lifts will also take bicycles.
- Reducing the presence of cars to free up space for other users, including a significant **reduction of on-street parking** with priority given to residents and blue badge parking.

Where will this happen?

Six areas in the city have been identified as critical to achieving the desired transformation. These are:

- Haymarket/West End
- Lothian Road
- Princes Street and the New Town
- Old Town
- Waverley/Calton
- Innovation Mile

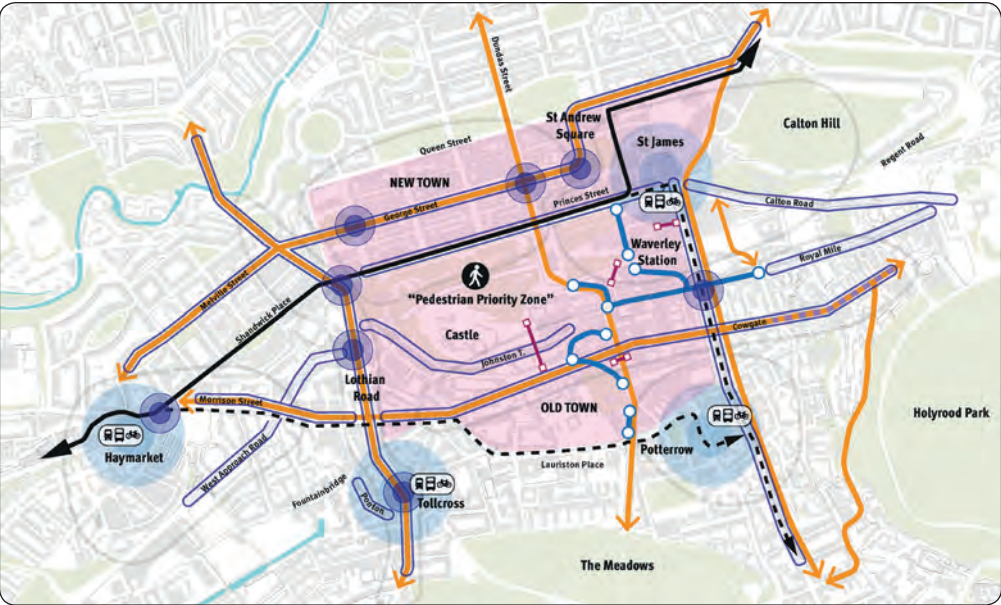


Key Principles

“ Provision of **new segregated & safe cycles routes** to provide a connected network ”

“ A **pedestrian priority area** which creates the conditions for comfortable cycling ”

“ A **new pedestrian & cycling bridge** from Jeffrey Street to Calton Road ”



Traffic Free	Cycle Route	Vertical Link	Existing Tram	Potential Tram Extension
Allocation of Streetspace	Catalyst Area	Pedestrian Priority Zone	Junction Improvement	Public Transport Interchange

What else is happening?

As part of the Edinburgh City Centre Transformation report, proposals will also be considered to enhance walking and cycling facilities between the Meadows and George Street (see last page). This will include the closure of Bank Street, between Market Street and the High Street, to general motorised traffic. Pedestrians will also be given priority on Forrest Road and Candlemaker Row. These are subject to a six-week consultation which began on 27 May.

City of Edinburgh Council support

Council transport and environment convener, Cllr Lesley Macinnes, said:

“This is an exciting and ambitious strategy, one which will deliver transformative benefits across the city and for a whole range of people travelling to and within Edinburgh. We want everyone to share in Edinburgh’s success and reimagining our city centre and its purpose will help make this happen.

“Here we have a blueprint to move the city forward. The proposals are designed to prompt debate – they aren’t finalised designs or ideas. They are examples of what we could do to deliver the city centre that residents are telling us they want.

“By creating public spaces that are more welcoming and enjoyable, making walking and cycling in the city centre easier and safer, and improving access to public transport networks, we will be equipping the city for the future. Key to achieving this is to create a consistent and coordinated approach to city centre planning and management. This means continuing to link the Transformation Strategy with policies and projects including Low Emission Zone, City Mobility Plan, City Plan 2030.”

Consultation timeline:



Key dates in summer 2019:

20 May – 28 June

Public consultation on proposed strategy when a questionnaire will be available at

www.edinburghcitycentre.info

The City of Edinburgh Council Vision for the city’s transformation:

“Our shared vision is an exceptional capital city centre that is for all, a space for people to live, work, visit and play. A place that is for the future, enriched by the legacy of the past. To achieve this vision, we will work collaboratively to create a city centre that is the heart of Edinburgh’s communities, its cultural and civic life, and the focal point for its economy.

Meadows to George Street Streets for People



Vision and Strategy

The Meadows to George Street project aims to transform the quality of walking, cycling, accessibility for all, and public spaces on some of Edinburgh's busiest and most iconic streets. It has been developed in co-ordination with Edinburgh City Centre Transformation and the George Street First New Town Project. It is part of the Active Travel Action Plan.

Linking The Meadows via Forrest Road, George IV Bridge, The Mound and Hanover Street to George Street it will provide safe and direct cycle access to the city centre.

Concept Design

Public engagement, surveys and modelling have been undertaken to inform the concept design, which includes:

- New segregated cycleways and cycle parking.
- Footways widened and de-cluttered.
- New/improved pedestrian crossings.
- New continuous footways.
- New or enhanced public spaces and seating.
- Pedestrian priority on Candlemaker Row and Forrest Road, see our website for details.
- No general traffic on Bank Street, see our website for details.



Share your views via our website and various engagement events from 27 May to 7 July



www.MeadowstoGeorgeStreet.info