

Place Q1 25/26 performance report

“Place is where people, location and resources combine to create a sense of identity and purpose, and are at the heart of addressing the needs and realising the full potential of communities”

The Place service ambition is to deliver joined-up, collaborative, and participative approaches to services, land and buildings, across all sectors within a place, enabling better outcomes for everyone and increased opportunities for people and communities to shape their own lives.



Transformation

Place services continue to support the delivery of the Council’s transformation agenda, embracing new ways of working, making better use of technology, cross-service collaboration and focussing our efforts on delivering what matters most in our local communities. The **Transformation Blueprint (2023-2028)** outlines the key areas that need addressing to balance the Council’s financial position, prepare for upcoming challenges, foster continued growth, and adapt to unforeseen changes.

The Blueprint aligns with the Council’s three strategic aims, as defined in the Single Midlothian Plan:

- Individuals and communities have improved health and learning outcomes.
- No child or household live in poverty.
- Significant progress is made towards net zero carbon emissions by 2045.

The Transformation Blueprint sets out the strategic direction over a five year period, guiding the organisation through reprioritisation and redesign to meet future challenges and demands and achieve sustainable success.

Transformation Blueprint Objectives

1. Support the Council to address the 5-year funding gap of outlined in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
2. Follow the Money to ensure that the services we commission, contracts we manage and digital solutions we use deliver value for money.
3. Develop an organisational workforce that is flexible, ensuring that all staff have the necessary skills to work effectively, supported by digital technologies that are fit for a 21st century workforce.
4. Design a workplace for the future delivering services in a holistic and integrated way.
5. Drive forward multi-agency transformation to deliver systems-level change resulting in joined-up service delivery which improve outcomes.

Environmental

Midlothian Council is firmly committed to tackling climate change and working towards a net zero future in line with Scottish Government targets. This commitment covers not only the Council's own operations, but also as its role in leading, supporting, and partnering with the wider community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of a changing climate.

We are delivering on this commitment through our Climate Change Strategy, a clear plan that sets out how we will cut emissions from our activities, work collaboratively with residents, businesses, and community groups, and promote both climate mitigation and adaptation across Midlothian.

To ensure our approach remains ambitious and effective, we are currently updating our Climate Change Strategy and its supporting action plan. This refreshed framework will guide the Council and our local authority partners in their shared mission to reach net zero, building a greener, more sustainable, and more resilient Midlothian for future.



Economic Development continues to promote the Midlothian Business Green Pledge on social media and in direct conversations with clients to increase education and awareness of climate change and suggest adaptations. The number of businesses signing up to the Pledge continues to rise each quarter with a total of 192 businesses now committed, 13 of those signing up during quarter 1. The team continue to work with pledgers to identify the best platform for group sharing. Through the LinkedIn group, pledgers share their experiences and the team continue to share a mix of green information from partners on learning opportunities, support and funding.

Roads and Travel

As a key element of Midlothian's Active Travel Strategy '**On the Move Midlothian: Our Active Travel Strategy for Everyone 2024-2034**', Midlothian's Active Travel team reports its most successful year to date, marking a significant milestone in our efforts to promote, sustainable, safe, and healthy travel options for young people. This academic year, for the first time ever, **every primary school in Midlothian** participated in **Bikeability Scotland Road Cycling Training**, placing Midlothian among the top-performing local authorities in the country. Delivered in

partnership with schools and supported by national funding from Transport Scotland via Cycling Scotland, this achievement reflects a growing commitment to equip the next generation with the skills and confidence needed to travel actively and safely.

A total of 1,450 pupils from Primary 5 to 7 successfully completed training. Pupils received either Level 1 playground based instruction, which focuses on bike handling skills, or Level 2 on road training, which teaches safe cycling in real traffic environments. Since 2020, the team have seen a year-on-year increase in both the number of schools and pupils participating.

The Road Services team recently had the privilege of welcoming the Scottish Government's Transport Secretary on two separate occasions to showcase the impactful work being undertaken across the region. The visit focussed on the "Safe Route to School" initiative in the Easthouses area, particularly around Easthouses Primary School. This project involves a range of infrastructure improvements designed to ensure safer, more accessible journeys for pupils and families walking or cycling to school. The second visit took place in Roslin, where focus was on a broader set of road safety enhancements delivered by the team. The Transport Secretary observed first hand the measures introduced as part of the 20mph speed limit revisions, including the installation of vehicle-activated signage and speed monitoring stations. These interventions are aimed at reducing vehicle speeds thorough the village, enhancing safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

The team have been shortlisted as a finalist at the upcoming APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) service awards in the category 'Best Technical Team', in recognition of their outstanding work on the upgrade of the National Cycle Network Route 196 (NCN196) between Rosewell and Auchendinny. The project was aimed at enhancing active travel links and promoting sustainable transport in the region. The project involved installation of 10,000m² of Flexi-pave, an environmentally friendly material made from recycled tyre rubber and natural stone which is a durable and low-maintenance surface ideal for shared-use paths. In addition, drainage systems were upgraded to improve long term resilience and reduce maintenance needs. The team also future proofed the route by laying ducting for future lighting provision.



A satisfactory rating was received from the Scottish Road Works Commissioner in its 2024/25 Annual Performance Review, recognising efforts in the coordination of road works across the local authority area. The rating reflects the council's compliance with national standards for planning, managing, and coordinating road works in a way that minimises disruption to road users and ensures public safety. The performance report considered several key factors, including the accuracy of road work notices, the quality of reinstatement works, collaboration with utility companies, and the timeliness of project completion.

This quarter, under the combined Capital Works Programme and Residential Streets Programme, 2.8km of carriageway was resurfaced representing 0.38% of our road network resurfaced. A new contract framework was introduced for external contractor resurfacing works which has resulted in reduced output for the quarter. Footway resurfacing has also been affected in quarter 1 with 0.01% of footways resurfaced. However, resurfacing work is expected to increase from quarter 2 to bring these back on target by the end of the year

1,251.1 tonnes of material was used this quarter to fill potholes. 198.74 tonnes of material was used for temporary repairs and 1,052.35 for pothole pro permanent patching which overall is a 47% increase on pothole repairs compared to the same period last year.

The Pothole Pro project equated to 10,010m² of permanent patching, repairing 739 potholes this quarter. Whilst the number of potholes repaired this quarter is 23% less compared to quarter 1 last year, the total metres squared of permanent patching repairs has increased by 98% this quarter compared to the same period last year. This is as a result of more focus being placed on rural roads which has seen significant inlay patches covering a series of large potholes and defects, opposed to quarter 1 of last year which largely focussed on tackling smaller groupings in residential areas.

As part of the street lighting capital programme, 330 street lighting columns are planned to be replaced this year starting on the 30th of June. In addition, a further 900 LED upgrades to existing columns are planned to be replaced of which 298 have been complete.

Waste and Recycling

In-cab technology

The introduction of the Whitespace in-cab technology system has been a huge success, delivering tangible improvements across waste services. This innovative system has enhanced the efficiency of resource deployment, leading to measurable gains in key performance areas.

Notably, there has been a marked reduction in customer complaints, as well as a significant decrease in overtime costs associated with missed collections.

Building on this success, the team is now preparing for the next stage of the project, the rollout of the in-cab technology to our trade waste customer operations. This phase is scheduled to go live in quarter 2 and is expected to bring the same benefits to the commercial waste service as have already been realised in residential collections.

The Whitespace system has equipped every roadside collection vehicle in waste service with cutting-edge tools that are transforming frontline operations. By streamlining processes, enhancing real-time communications, and providing better operational oversight, the technology is delivering both efficiency savings and an improved customer experience.

Alongside these achievements, the team has also continued to refine how we engage with residents regarding enquiries and complaints. A new, more proactive way of working has been introduced, enabling quicker response times and more effective resolutions issues. As a result, residents are now benefiting from a more responsive, reliable and customer focused service.

Twin Stream recycling

During quarter 1, waste services developed an implementation plan for the roll out of the Twin Stream project, a major initiative aimed at improving recycling services for residents. This project, which is supported by a £2.2 million grant from Zero Waste Scotland, will introduce an additional green recycling bin for every household.

Twin stream recycling is a collection method where recyclable materials are separated into two categories at the point of collections, one stream for paper and card and the other for plastics and cans. This approach reduces contamination, improves the quality of recyclables, and increases the proportion of materials that can be successfully processed and reused. By making it easier for residents to sort their recycling at source, the Council anticipates substantial cost savings in the disposal of dry mixed recycling, alongside higher overall recycling rates. These improvements will be further supported by a focused, ongoing education and engagement programme designed to help residents adapt to the changes and maximise participation.

A key part of the Twin stream project is the £750,000 redevelopment of the transfer shed at Stobhill Depot. This upgrade will ensure the facility can effectively process and manage two separate streams of recyclables. In quarter 1, the final design for the redevelopment was



agreed, and all contract documents required for the tender process were completed and finalised, paving the way for the next stage of delivery.

Our Greenspaces

Grass cutting

Due to the additional grass cutting resource approved by Council, the Greenspace team made a positive start to the growing season this quarter resulting in an increased to the overall standard of grounds maintenance across the area. It has been agreed that this has will now become an annual practice which will ensure that the Greenspace team make a strong start to the grass cutting season each year, significantly enhancing the overall appearance of Midlothian.

Weed control

In addition, the Greenspace Team were able to carry out weed control in quarter 1 due to a decision made at February Council to expand the timeframe during which the Greenspace team can apply glyphosate to control weeds across Midlothian.

This has resulted in an improved appearance to the streets and roads in towns, villages and housing estates across Midlothian, which supports the works of the new Neighbourhood Environment Team who are further enhancing the local environment for our residents.



Vogrie Country Park renewal

The first step in the Vogrie Country Park Renewal Strategy was reached in quarter 1 with the official opening of *The Bubbling Toad*, a vibrant, family focused attraction located on the first floor of Vogrie House. Operated by a private company, *The Bubbling Toad* offers an immersive, magical themed experience, complete with a range of engaging, paid activities designed for children and young people. This has breathed fresh energy into Vogrie House, marking the first phase of an ambitious, long term plan to generate sustainable revenue for the park by making full use of the historic building and underused space.

In addition to this, the service has now appointed a dedicated Park Manager based at Vogrie House. This role ensures a stronger on the ground presence to oversee daily operations, enhance visitor experience, and drive forward the delivery of the wider master plan for the park.

Looking ahead, work is already underway on the next major project, a £500,000 investment in the Adventure play area. Once complete, by the end of quarter 4, this upgraded facility will provide a modern, inclusive, and exciting space for families to enjoy, further enhancing the park's reputation as a premier destination for leisure and recreation.



Recently, Vogrie House was rented as a major location for the drama Dept Q, released on Netflix. Location managers and trades people spent months turning the house into the set for the five-day shoot. This brought about additional income for the Council as well as showcasing the historic building. More options are being explored to continue to market Vogrie as a filming location.

Park and greenspace improvements

The team continue to deliver park and green area improvements, with a further 50 projects planned for this year across Midlothian. 15 improvements across our play areas, parks and green spaces were completed this quarter including landscaping schemes, installation of benches and street litter bins as well as deep cleaning projects to enhance to the local environment.

Working with the community

The Greenspace Team have continued to work with our brilliant volunteers across Midlothian, supporting volunteer groups who help manage our countryside sites. The work we carry out jointly has a huge impact on the quality of the local environment. Our volunteer groups provide added value to the work that we do with litter picking, gardening and fund raising to brighten our local areas. This quarter, 1,350 volunteer hours (225 days) were spent in countryside sites. This is a reduction in volunteer hours compared to the same period last year of 1,890 due to vacancies within the ranger service.

However, numbers remain high and are expected to increase throughout the year after the ranger vacancy post was filled during quarter 1. In addition, our Ranger service delivered 50 events/activities and school sessions across quarter 1.



Protective Services

Business Regulations: Food and Safety

This quarter our Business Regulations Food and Safety team continue to prioritise proactive interventions at food businesses registered with Midlothian Council with the highest risk for food safety and standards. These include retailers and caterers with significant or sustained non-compliances in food law. 58% of planned priority inspections were completed during quarter 1, which is an increase from 33% inspections carried out during the same period last year.

The team carried out 116 food hygiene/food standards interventions across Midlothian this quarter which is a 176% increase compared to the number of interventions during quarter 1 of last year.

In addition, 96% of food related service requests received from Midlothian residents and businesses were responded to within the targeted response time of 10 working days.

This quarter, the submission of a report to the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service due to an extensive rat infestation within the premises resulted in the Food Business Operator of Memories of India, Gorebridge pleading guilty to 4 charges under the Food Hygiene (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Enforcement action was taken against a home catering business who was preparing high-risk ready to eat foods without controls to prevent contamination of the foods and distributing the foods outwith temperature control. Remedial Action notices were issued to stop the handling of raw foods and the distribution of high-risk foods without temperature control.

After being notified by Glasgow City Council Environmental Health, of a business in Midlothian advertising services on social media of bloodletting, IV drips and vitamin injections, health and safety prohibition notices were served to stop these practices. The business had set up in a wooden summer house in the back garden of a residential property with no facilities for hand washing or cleaning and disinfection to ensure infection control and no assessment or the risks involved.

A Food Alert for Action was received from Food Standards Scotland asking the Food Service to contact premises in Midlothian who may sell Jolly Rancher confectionary products. Specific products were identified as containing Mineral Oil Aromatic Hydrocarbons as an ingredient



which is not authorised for use in food in the UK. If consumed in high quantities or over a prolonged period of time it is a genotoxic carcinogen. Over the course of a week 95 premises were visited. The affected products found, were removed from sale in 9 different premises.

Business Regulations: Trading Standards

Our Trading Standards team received 46 consumer complaints this quarter which is the same number recorded during quarter 1 of last year. All consumer complaints were responded to within 5 working days and 90% fully completed. Completion is not fully within service control and it is dependent on traders and complainants responding to investigations, although the team continue to contact consumers and traders as early as possible to maximise target completion days.

Trading Standards prosecution cases continued this quarter with a successful court case outcome of a guilty plea for counterfeit cigarettes and tobacco, offences under the Trade Marks Act 1994. Trading Standards reported this case last year after Police provided the evidence including 8,400 cigarettes and 17 packets of tobacco seized. Three other cases are ongoing and scheduled for trial next quarter.

Earlier this year, the Scottish Government undertook a significant overhaul of the national register for tobacco and vape retailers. As part of this revamp, Trading Standards seized the opportunity to conduct a review of the database. During this process, approximately 100 outdated or inaccurate registrations were identified and subsequently removed. Following this clean-up, around 160 active registrations remain on the national register. However, further analysis has revealed that roughly 30 of these pertain to business premises that have since ceased selling tobacco or vaping products. The updated register now more accurately reflects the current landscape of retailers, making it a more trustworthy and useful tool for regulation and enforcement. It helps the team target enforcement efforts on active businesses only ensuring that only legitimate, current retailers are registered helps prevent the sale of tobacco and vape products by unregulated or rogue sellers.

51 Trading Standards primary inspections took place this quarter of a targeted 186 planned for the year. In addition, all planned inspections scheduled to take place during quarter 1 were completed in line with our Trading Standards Service plan.

21 intelligence logs were recorded on the national Trading Standards Intelligence database (IDB) by our Trading Standards team this quarter and in comparison to other Scottish Councils, Midlothian continue to sit in the top quartile for logs created.

Public Health and Environmental Protection

Our Public Health Environmental Protection (PHEP) team received 395 public health service requests this quarter from Midlothian residents and businesses, a 10% increase compared to the same period last year. 97% of public health complaints received a first response within timescale. A further 106 service requests were received from internal sources, a reduction of 9% compared to the same period last year.

The team have successfully recruited an Environmental Warden (principal role Pest Control) following retirement of the previous post holder. Recruitment is being supported with training and study for the RSPH Level 2 Pest Management Award for qualification in Autumn 2025. Meanwhile we continue to support our other Environmental Warden (principal role Dog Control) who is due to sit the exams for this qualification in July 2025. In addition, the team continue to support our Regulatory Services Modern Apprentice, as part of the national pilot scheme, who has now successfully completed some of the modules and making good progress to early completion in 2026. This new pilot apprenticeship scheme is aimed at partially addressing the national shortage of regulatory services officers and is hoped to assist future staffing requirements by providing a new route into the field of Environmental Health.

In quarter 1 Public Health Environmental Protection referred a case to the First Tier Tribunal for Scotland (Housing and Property Chamber) under S22(1A) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006. This case relates to failure of a landlord registration applicant to provide prescribed information demonstrating that a private rented property meets the repairing standard.

The Drinking Water Quality Regulator has released annual scorecards confirming achievement of 100% compliance with the sampling of Midlothian regulated private water supplies for 2024. Private water supplies sampling continues this quarter with 11 samples undertaken and 3 water supplies inspected.

Other key activities this quarter include:

- 5 abandoned vehicle notices served, and 1 vehicle was removed for destruction.
- 9 Short term let licences were issued under the new scheme this quarter
- 36 planning applications received for consultation with PHEP
- 2 Environmental Protection Abatement 1990 notices served

Health, Safety and Resilience

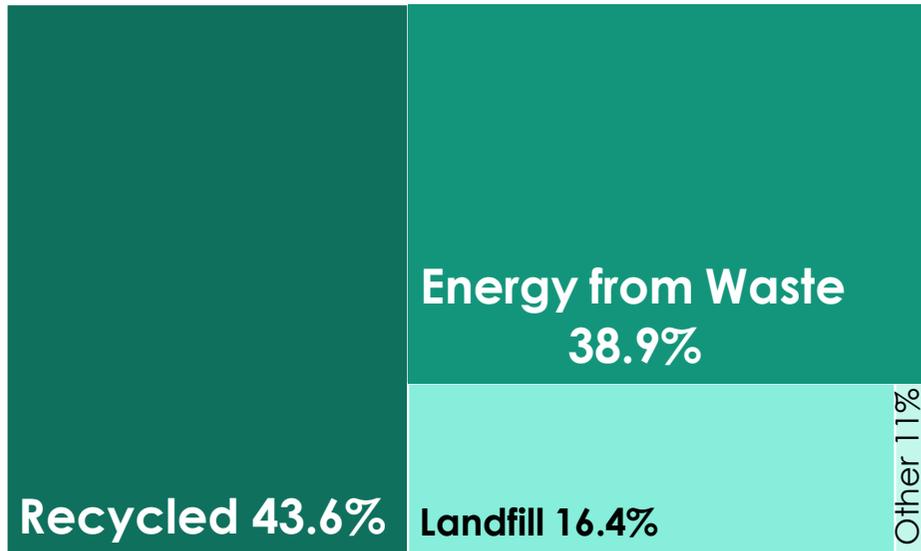
This quarter our Health, Safety and Resilience team processed 167 liquor licenses, 99% of which were determined. 99 Civic government licences were processed this quarter. Quarter 1 saw the completion of Gala planning and early meetings regarding summer events. 13 events were called to Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meetings, including Gala/Processions, three sporting events and, for the first time in 4 years, a Circus. Further contact meetings took place with Bonnyrigg Rose FC regarding the upcoming season. Following debrief of their spring event, planning has already commenced regarding a returning open air festival at Vogrie in September 2025. Effective operation of the Safety Advisory Group helps ensure that all events held within Midlothian's District were safe and without incident.

Other key successes this quarter include:

- Appointment of a new Fire Safety Adviser.
- Revised Risk Management Policy and Strategy.
- Continued work in developing the digitalisation of all licence applications with the first set of online applications to be launched in July 2025,
- Commenced the process of consultation for taxi tariffs and taxi and private hire licensing conditions.

Neighbourhood Services – performance

% OF ALL DISPOSED WASTE*



*Data shows figures for Q3 24/25. Annual and Q1 data not available until Q2.

Number of volunteer hours in countryside sites (cumulative)



15 play area, parks and greenspace improvements completed this quarter (8 during Q1 24/25)

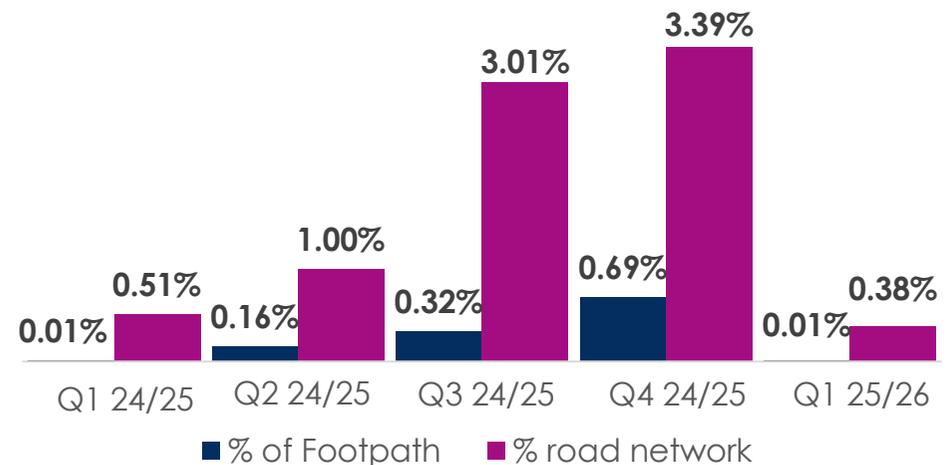
1,251.1 tonnes of material used to fill temporary and permanent potholes this this. (851.5 in Q1 24/25)

10,010 m² of permanent patching achieved this quarter (5,056m² in Q1 24/25)

739 potholes were permanently repaired this quarter. (960 in Q1 24/25).

97.87% street lights repairs completed in 7 days. (99.17% in Q1 24/25)

% of Roads and footpath resurfaced (cumulative)



Protective Services – performance

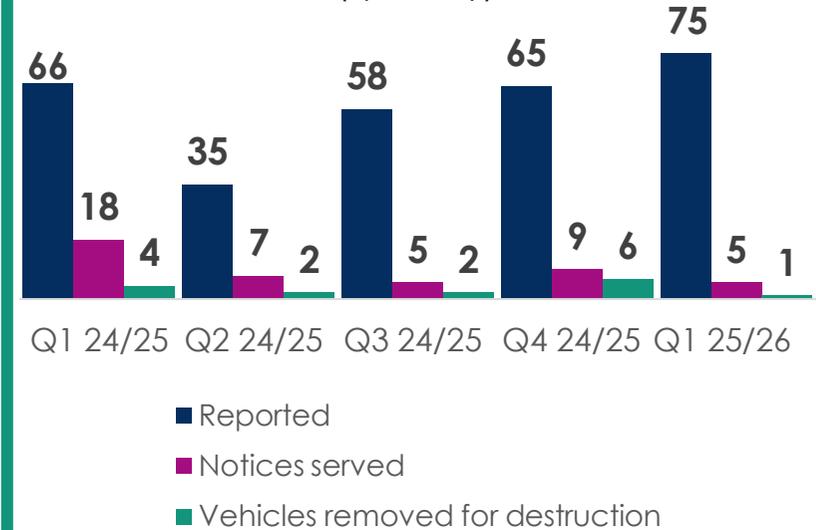
Food Standards

96% of food related service requests from mid residents and Businesses responded to with target of 10 working days. (92% Q1 24/25)

116 food law interventions carried out (Hygiene/Food Standards). (42 in Q1 24/25)

53 food law service requests received this year (59 in Q1 24/25)

Number of abandoned vehicles (quarterly)



Public Health

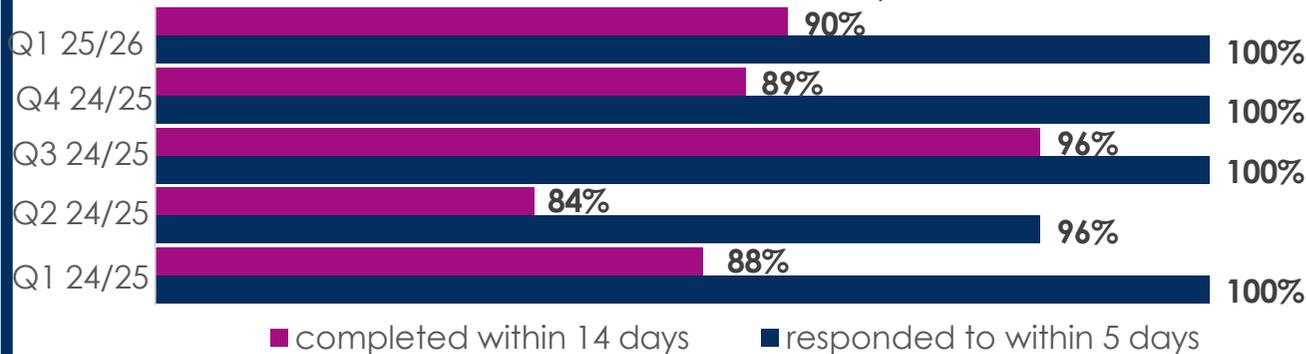
395 Public Health service requests received from residents and businesses this year. (360 in Q1 24/25).

97% of public health complaints receiving first response within timescale this year. (96% in Q1 24/25)

Trading Standards

46 consumer complaints received this quarter (46 in Q1 24/25)

% of Consumer complaints



167 liquor licence applications

received this quarter with **99%** determined (180 in Q1 24/25)

99 Civic Government license applications received this quarter (102 in Q1 24/25)

Housing



Meeting housing need

The Council's Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2025/26 to 2029/30 was submitted to the Scottish Government last year. The SHIP identifies the Council's priorities for investment in new affordable housing in Midlothian over a 5 year period. The delivery of more affordable housing remains a high priority for Midlothian, as reflected by our ongoing and ambitious housing development programme.

This quarter we have received the completed handover for 4 new build homes at New Adams Row in Danderhall. A further 8 were handed over during July and August.

There were 6,163 active housing applicants placed on the Common Housing Register at the end of this quarter, a slight decrease compared to the same period last year of 6,260.

163 lets have been made this quarter, an increase of 33% from the same period last year, averaging 54 lets per month. 69.9% of lets were made to homeless list applicants and 30.1% to general needs list applicants. 11 lets were made to new builds and 3 to open market purchases during quarter 1.

Re-let times to permanent accommodation properties has averaged at 54 days to re-let this quarter. This figure has increased compared to previous quarters due to a change in policy with the Housing regulator where flip tenancies are now excluded. However our void turnaround times show that those properties rated as requiring minor work are brought back to letting standards within 20 days compared to those that require significant work and take over 31 days to bring back to standard.

Following thorough consultation and careful consideration, the Polton Centre was designated by the Council as a dedicated women-only space within its supported accommodation services. Establishing a women-only supported accommodation space offers a range of significant benefits, particularly for women who have experienced trauma, domestic abuse, homelessness, or other forms of vulnerability. This dedicated space offers women a safe, secure, and supportive environment tailored to their specific needs. It promotes recovery and confidence-building, and ensures services are delivered in a way that respects women's dignity, safety, and independence.

Our Annual Tenants' Open Day event was held this quarter at Dalkeith Arts Centre. Tenants had the opportunity to liaise with our Housing team and also external organisations including Police Scotland, Care Support Scotland, Woodburn Community Hub, Change Works, Pantry Central Dalkeith and Woodburn, VOCAL and Women's Aid. The Tenants' Open Day is a strategic initiative that supports the council's goals of delivering tenant focussed services, promoting inclusion, and strengthening community ties. *(Pictured right are housing staff Kirsty Daly, Yvonne Montgomery, Kayleigh Gautschu and Martin Taylor).*

As part of our preparatory work for our Tenants Satisfaction Survey, processes commenced this quarter to procure a supplier to carry out the next wave of the survey, which is conducted every three years. The survey plays a vital role in gathering direct feedback from tenants about their experiences and levels of satisfaction with housing services provided.



Homelessness

There continues to be a significant demand placed on homeless and temporary accommodation services as a result of a rise in the number of people presenting as homeless which is driven largely by the cost of living crisis and lack of affordable housing.

The total number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of quarter 1 was 327, a decrease of 17% compared to the same period last year of 395.

We continue to aim to reduce the length of time that an applicant is in temporary accommodation and through the initiatives implemented as part of our Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan we see households moving through the homeless system more quickly. Officers take a proactive approach when allocating properties to place applicants in their area of choice where possible, increasing the opportunity to accept the property being flipped to permanency and allows for a more sustainable community.

The number of temporary accommodation households that have been flipped to permanent accommodation this quarter was 73, reducing the need for multiple moves before being permanently housed, allowing for links established within the local community to be maintained.

Homelessness prevention assists around 20 households with advice and assistance about homelessness prevention per week. This is rental assistance advice, financial awareness advice and mediation. The number of homeless cases provided with advice and assistance this quarter was 231. We continue to promote this service to ensure early successful intervention when possible.

Latest figures available from quarter 3 show the length of time homeless applicants waited until receiving a permanent housing outcome was 65.9 weeks, although this figure has increased from the same period last year of 57.5 weeks, figures up to end of quarter 3 show an improvement with an average of 53 weeks across quarters 1 to 3 compared to 58 weeks across the same period last year. It should be noted, figures for quarter 4 are not currently available however we expect figures to remain steady. Similarly, figures for the length of time



homeless applicants spent in temporary accommodation is currently not available. The most recent available data for quarter 3 shows that an average of 47.9 weeks was spent in temporary accommodation, although this figure has increased from the same period last of 39.5 weeks, figures up to the end of quarter 3, show an improvement with an average of 41 weeks across quarters 1 to 3 compared to 48 weeks for the same period last year. It is expected that figures will continue to remain within target and current figures will be reported during quarter 2.

Tenants sustaining permanent accommodation continues to be high this quarter with 95% of homeless applicants sustaining a permanent tenancy after 1 year.

Building Maintenance

The total number of jobs completed internally by our Building Maintenance Service this quarter was 8,534, a 6% increase in jobs completed during the same period last year. Jobs include all reactive, planned works, voids and inspections.

This year the Building Maintenance Service (BMS) Capital upgrade programme is set at 2,400 upgrades across our estate, continuing from achievements last year. These upgrades include the continuation of our new windows, doors, bathrooms and kitchen programmes helping Midlothian Council maintain its Scottish Housing Quality Standards. The service also aims to complete the remaining fire door installs to all our flats to ensure that we are also compliant with the latest fire regulations.



This quarter we have increased the percentage of Council Housing stock meeting the Scottish Housing Quality Standards criteria to 90.67% from 88.35% at quarter 4. Although this is still off target there has been a significant increase from 71.1% meeting standards at quarter 1 of last year. Work continues to address the remaining properties that are failing the Electrical Installation Condition Reports (EICR's). At the end quarter 1 we have reduced that figure to 682 properties. The Service have commenced a programme of Electrical enforcement entries to reduce this figure and bring this back on target. 100% of smoke alarms comply with current legislation.

In line with our Damp and Mould policy the service continues to roll out the environmental sensors throughout our portfolio. This quarter BMS installed 308 monitors. This continued roll out will provide us with valuable information from within our homes, allowing us to achieve our targets set out in our Damp and Mould policy. The information collated by the monitors is sent through to a portal using a gateway system that also monitors our smoke alarms. The total monitors installed to date is 3,907.

Building Standards

Although performance targets in relation to building warrant applications issued are off target this quarter, the service continues to provide a high level of customer satisfaction against an increasing service demand, including a continued high percentage rate of customers queries being responded to within 15 working days, 91% for quarter 1. The National Customer Satisfaction Survey which is run by the Building Standards Division of the Scottish Government provides feedback on topics such as communications, time taken, staff, available information, responsiveness, fairness and overall satisfaction and produces an overall rating scale from 1 'not at all satisfied' to 10 'completely satisfied'. The most recent information for 24/25 shows Midlothian having a rating of 7.2.

The Building Standards service was awarded its full re-appointment period by the Scottish Government. This re-appointment period is from the 1st of May 2023 until the 30th of April 2029 and is subject to the following terms:

- The six year appointment period is conditional on the ability of Midlothian Council's Building Standards service to sustain and improve performance and ensure there is no reversal of performance or investment levels.
- Sufficiently resourcing the service to ensure workforce supply will meet longer term demand projections to maintain operational resilience.

The Building Standards service review was agreed and outlined in the review is the proposal to increase the workforce to manage the increase in workload, as well as successfully managing the future of the service as it navigates through the expected changes due to succession planning.

The service has appointed two building standards inspectors, new modern apprentices. The team will assist with the training and development of the new staff members and looks forward to their successful transfer to full time inspectors in two years. The service has also employed two new building standards surveyors. The team will assist with the training and development of the new staff members and looks forward to their positive contribution to the service.

Housing – performance

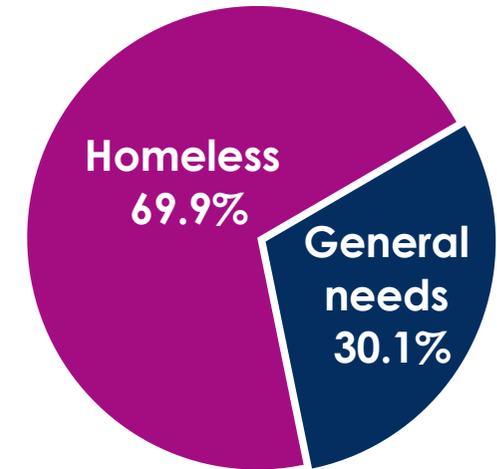
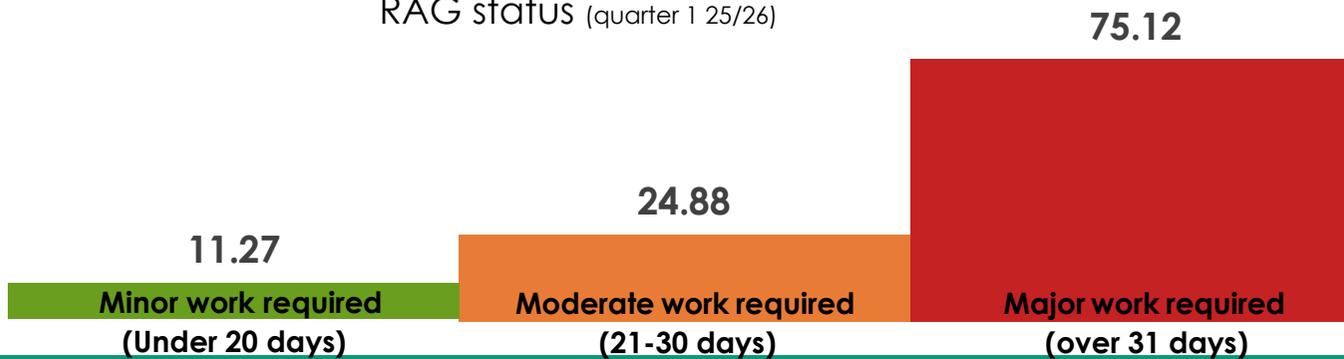
6,163 applicants on housing waiting list as of end of this quarter (General needs and Homeless) (decrease from 6,260 in Q1 24/25).

163 housing lets this quarter (123 during Q1 24/25).

14 Lets to new build and open market purchases this quarter. (31 in Q1 24/25)

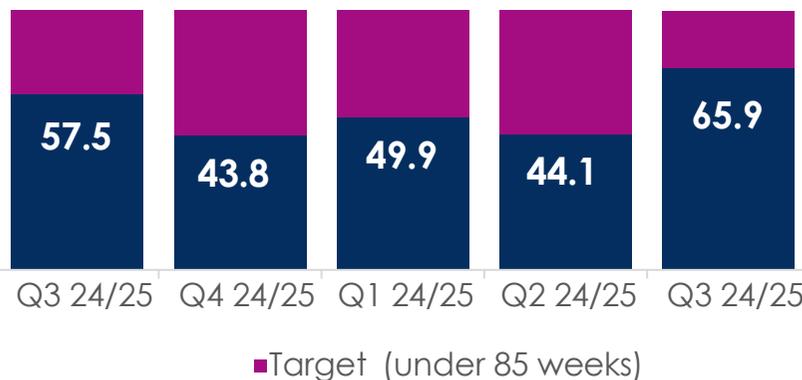
% of lets made to applicants this year

Average number of days to turnaround a void property by RAG status (quarter 1 25/26)



95% of Homeless applicants sustaining a permanent tenancy after 1 year.

Length of time (weeks) homeless applicants wait until receiving a permanent housing outcome

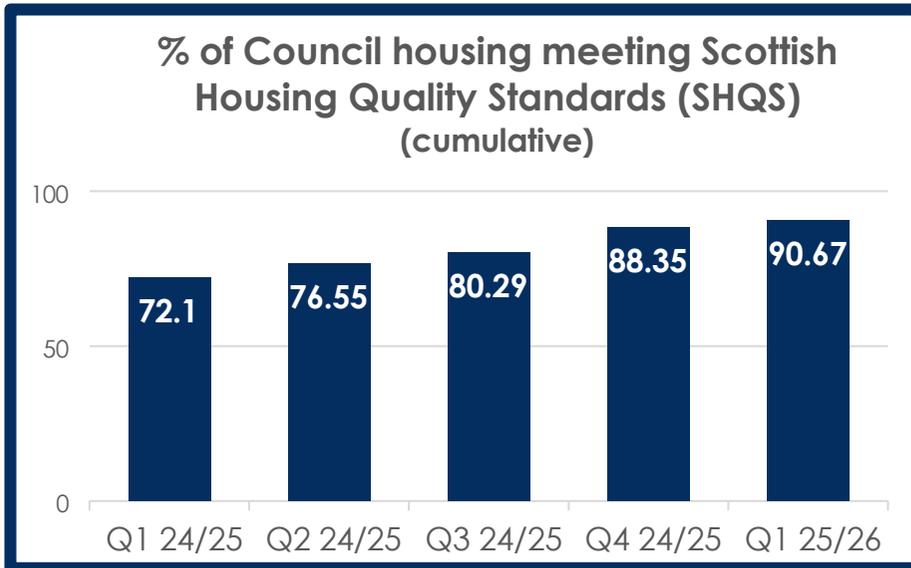


Length of time (weeks) homeless applicants spend in temporary accommodation

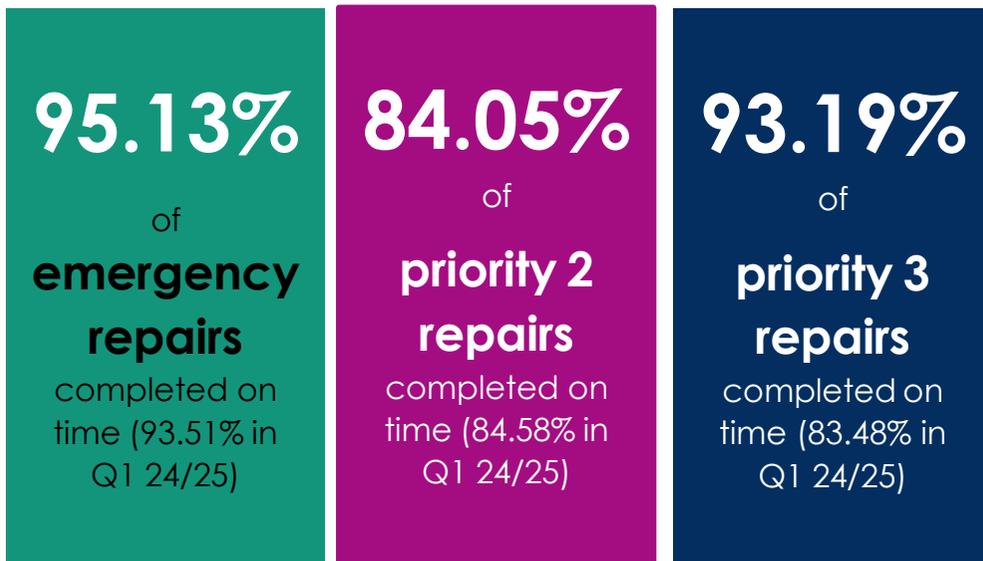


Data for previous quarters will not be available until quarter 2.

Building Services – performance

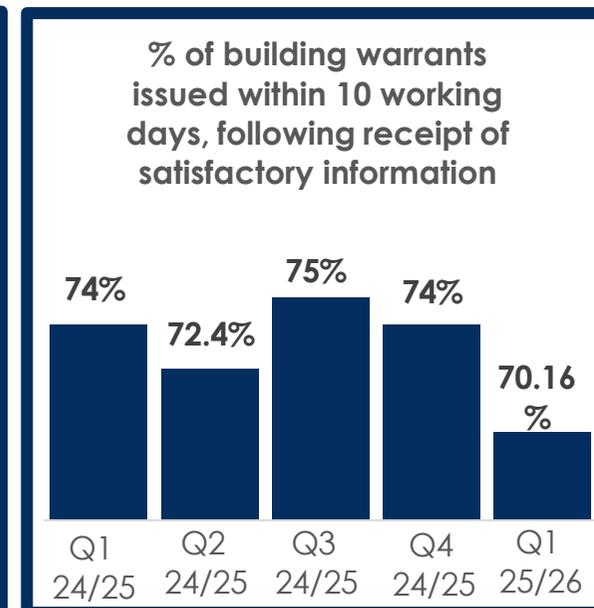
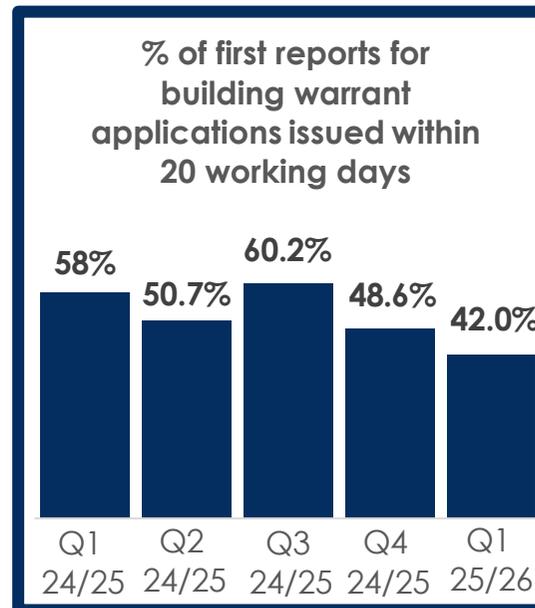


Percentage of housing repairs completed on time up to quarter 4



8,534 jobs completed this quarter by our Building Maintenance Service (8,052 in Q1 24/25)

Building Standards



Building Standards National Customer Satisfaction Survey rate for

24/25: **7.2** out of 10

Economy & Regeneration

Work continues on the delivery of the Councils **Economic Strategy for Inclusive Economic Growth 2025-2030** with supporting delivery plans from 2025-27, setting out how we achieve the objects within the strategy, being shared with Council this quarter. The new strategy aligns with the Scottish Government National Strategy for Economic Transformation and the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Prosperity Framework. Midlothian's vision is that:

“Midlothian’s wellbeing economy will support our communities, businesses and town centres to thrive, ensuring inclusivity and fair work for all. It will continue to be recognised as home to world leading clusters of science and innovation and be known as an area in which everyone can live, work and do business sustainably to generate wealth and wellbeing for its citizens”

This will be achieved in accordance with four pillars, principles that underpin the strategy's vision: **empowerment, partnership and collaboration, ambition** and **innovation** and sets out the following priorities to achieve our vision:

- Develop Midlothian's proposition within the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region.
- Enhance skills and employability opportunities in Midlothian, to meet the challenges and opportunities of inclusive Green Growth with entrepreneurship recognised as valuable career pathway.
- Maximise the potential of Midlothian's key sectors to support a Just Transition.
- Capitalise on the strengths of Midlothian's strategic partners to embed community wealth across all services to realise a wellbeing economy.
- Re-imagine our town centres, ensuring they meet Midlothian's economic, social, cultural and environmental needs.
- Deliver infrastructure enhancements that will support Midlothian's transition to a Wellbeing Economy.



Business Gateway Service

The Business Gateway Midlothian Service continues to offer consistent levels of activity across various support services, from pre-start, to start-up and existing business growth support.

45 'Planning to Start' enquiries were received in quarter 1 which is a decrease of 18% compared to the same period last year. Enquiries are received from individuals that are considering setting up a business but need support to achieve this, these clients tend to have numerous sessions with their advisor covering areas such as business planning, access to finance, regularity compliance, routes to market and can take from 3 months to a year to reach the trading stage.

17 'Strengthen Your Business' enquires were received this quarter, a slight increase by 2 enquires from the same period last year. These are

a mix of disengaged clients that are re-engaging or new clients and present an opportunity to engage new businesses with the service, as well as re-engaging existing clients.

As well as 'Planning to Start' and 'Strengthen Your Business' enquiries, the Business Gateway Service responds to CRM and local enquiries including pre-start and existing businesses across Midlothian. In quarter 1 the team also received an additional 58 local enquiries to the CRM. Local enquiries relate to any incoming enquiry on the CRM that is distinct from a Planning To Start or Strengthen Your Business, as an example, if a client contacts the Business Gateway inbox or leaves an enquiry on the Business Gateway National Website this is then allocated to Midlothian based on postcode.

The total number of new Business start-ups this quarter was 26, creating a total of 31 jobs and an estimated contribution of £1,016,200 to the Midlothian economy in their first year of trading. Business start-ups have decreased from the same period last year which saw 38 start ups.

The team continue to host the weekly BASE Enterprise Hub at Edinburgh College Dalkeith. This quarter has proven to be productive with 16 client meetings held. The team were approached by a new Employment Adviser at Edinburgh Charity 'Into Work' regarding supporting

neurodiverse entrepreneurs who are work ready. The team have been engaging with a new Business Development Assistant for the college to further support client sessions, for example, trying to obtain a screen for the Hub that would allow multi-client sessions on business planning and presentations at client events.

Business Gateway Expert Help Programme

This year's new programme of Expert help inputs are currently in development for an expected launch during quarter 2 with Expert help topics:

- Digital Marketing support
- Green Heating consultancy

Aligning with our localisation of procurement spend, these target local suppliers first through the Quick Quotes process.

Business Gateway Midlothian Events

Business Gateway held 3 events this quarter:

- Coffee morning at Newbattle Abbey College with speaker Sue Mitchell of Aeona about Building Organisational Resilience. The event attracted 27 attendees.
- A virtual event was held by speaker Helen Monaghan of the Financial Resilience Hub with 6 attendees.
- An in person workshop for Midlothian Freelancers was held at BASE Edinburgh College Eskbank with 9 attendees.

In conjunction with our Procurement Service, 2 virtual Meet the Buyer events were held during quarter 1 to support 4 new procurements being tendered for various trades services. Local suppliers were identified by Economic Development/Business Gateway and invited to attend the Meet the Buyer event and issued with the Invitation to Tender.

The Economic Development service continues to work collaboratively with the Procurement Service and quarterly meetings are held, with ad hoc meetings as required to progress activity. Both services attend the CWB Practitioner Network and SDP meetings.



In June the Business Gateway Service, along with wider Council representation, attended the opening of *The Bubbling Toad*, at Vogrie House. This was the culmination of two years of Business Gateway support, in the form of business planning, mentoring, access to funding and project management and will be a great asset to Vogrie. The Bubbling Toad also successfully accessed UKG Shared Prosperity Fund 2022-2025 programme funding.



Business Gateway Midlothian feedback was received this quarter from an external agency post support survey. Feedback was extremely positive:

"He's great at his job!"

"Very friendly and very informative"

"I interacted with a business advisor who listened to my ideas and help me figure out steps forward"

"Very helpful for me. Easy to speak to"

"Everything I asked was answered well and with great info. Not made to feel stupid. Very helpful and kind"

"Personal and tailored advice which was directly appropriate to my needs. Knowledge of both the gateway information and specifics of my company. Excellent"

Social Enterprise

The Business Gateway service continue to promote the Social Enterprise model to clients where their plans, objectives and values align to the model. Contributing to Community Wealth Building objectives, the team support projects from the Social Enterprise Conversation sessions as they develop. The service supported 5 Social Enterprise organisations this quarter, of these 3 were new Social Enterprises and all clients were supported to access funding.

Locate in Midlothian engagement

The Locate in Midlothian website continues to be a valuable tool in promoting our services and supporting businesses and investors that wish to locate in Midlothian. The website received 14,489 visits during quarter 1. The most popular pages during quarter 1 were commercial property listings, our Business directory, Midlothian jobs and investment opportunities. In addition, promotion and interaction through our social media channels is targeting different audiences and each is performing well in terms of audience growth and interaction with 2,610 'Business Gateway Midlothian' followers and 1,796 'Locate in Midlothian' followers across Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn with an average of 67% of those followers based locally.

Tourism, Culture and Heritage

Work continues this quarter on the Midlothian Tourism Strategy and is on track for publication in October 2025. This quarter, key progress was made in strengthening the evidence base and stakeholder engagement. The most up-to-date STEAM data, alongside historical tourism trends, was received and analysed. This has been combined with insights from the recently completed 2025 Midlothian Visitor Survey, which received 254 positive responses, offering valuable feedback on visitor behaviour, perceptions, and priorities.

Informed by this data, as well as alignment with local, regional and national frameworks, a set of draft strategic objectives has been developed for the Tourism Strategy 2025–2030. A stakeholder consultation has now launched to test and refine these objectives. This consultation targets local businesses, community groups, and key partners to ensure strong alignment between tourism development priorities and local perspectives.

All five UK Shared Prosperity funded marketing videos were finalised during quarter 1, showcasing Midlothian's cultural, outdoor, and family visitor experiences. A coordinated marketing plan has been developed and will be delivered in quarter 2, supporting wider efforts to increase destination awareness and engagement across digital and regional channels.

Midlothian continued to contribute to regional discussions through the ESES Regional Visitor Economy Partnership (RVEP), with active involvement in destination development, low-carbon tourism, and visitor management. At the national level, dialogue around the introduction of a Visitor Levy continues, and Midlothian is monitoring progress to assess future relevance and implementation options.

In quarter 1 a Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF) application for proposed infrastructure upgrades at Vogrie Country Park was submitted. This included baseline data, interdepartmental collaboration, and planning documentation. The project reflects Midlothian's ongoing commitment to sustainable tourism development and enhanced visitor experience. A funding decision is expected in quarter 2.

Land and Property

Land and Property enquiries are specific premises enquiries and sign ups to the property mailing list. This quarter, 24 Land and Property enquiries were received, 16 enquiries were from existing local businesses and 8 are currently located in Scotland but registered outside of Midlothian. 1 enquiry was received and is located in England therefore counts as an inward investment enquiry based on national criteria.

Property Assets

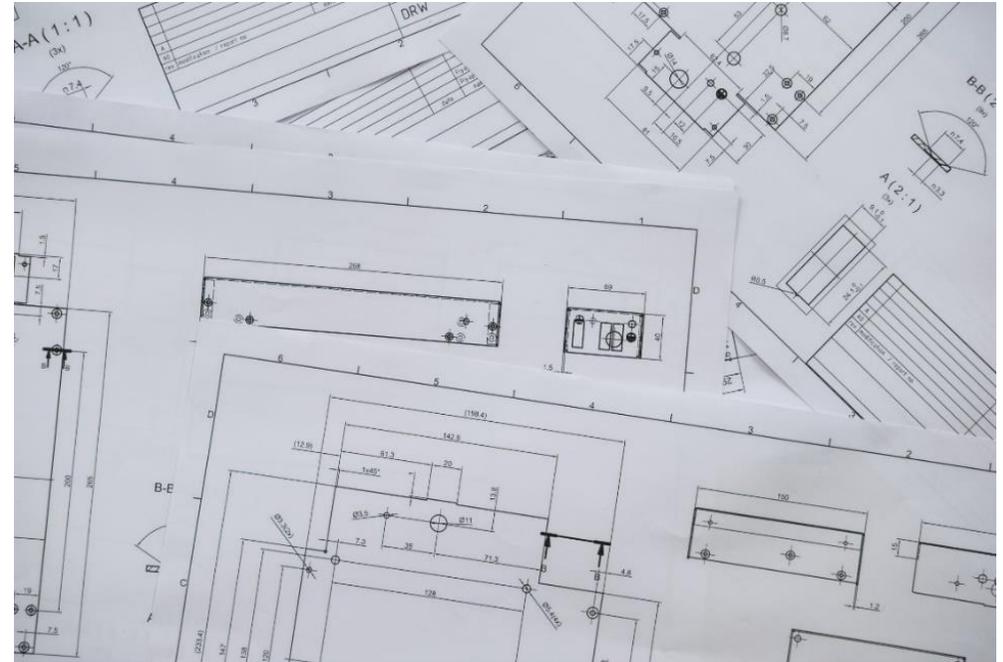
This quarter our Estates and Asset management team completed the letting of unit 38 to Drummond Miller, Solicitors and the sale of the Loanhead Police Station for residential development. The team have completed the review of the recent condition surveys across our property portfolio. The condition surveys assessed the physical status of repairs of the buildings (based on SFT methodology). The findings from the review are now subject to a prioritisation process, aligned with wider Blueprint asset rationalisation and objectives, with the aim of informing future financial investment and revenue, maintenance, and resource allocation.

Work continues this quarter in energy management activities to drive forward energy savings. The conclusion of a Forensic Energy Audit which identified more than £70,000 of annual savings now being implemented with £50,000 of annual savings now already secured.

Planning

Following the adoption of the National Planning Framework No.4, the Planning Service continue its review of the Council's adopted spatial strategy, the Midlothian Local Development Plan 2 (MLDP2). The first phase consisted of engagement with community groups, key agencies, the development industry, local residents and elected members. This engagement was ongoing throughout 2023/24 and continued into 2024/25. At its meeting in June 2024 Council approved the MLDP2 Evidence Report, including setting a Local Housing Land Requirement at 8,851, for submission to the Scottish Government for 'Gate Check'. This is the first major milestone in the MLDP2 process. The Evidence Report has now cleared the 'Gate Check' process.

A 'call for ideas and opportunities' exercise was carried out thereafter which generated over 160 sites. After a series of member workshops were held in March April this year, the suggested sites were uploaded this quarter to the public website to allow communities and other interested parties to see the level and location of development interest in our area. The timetable for MLDP2 contained in the Development Plan Scheme 17 (approved by Committee at its meeting in April 2025) sets the target of publishing the proposed plan in November 2025 for consultation.

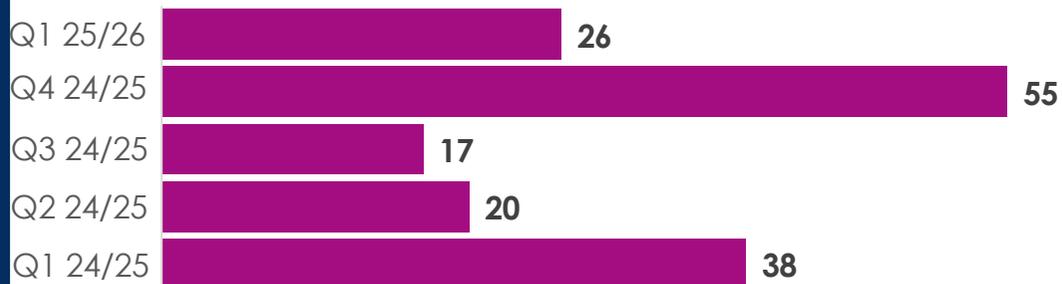


At its meeting in April 2025 the Planning Committee granted planning permission for a major commercial development at land southwest of ASDA Petrol Filling Station, Straiton and in June the Committee granted planning permission for the redevelopment of the Penicuik High School.

Planning application figures for this quarter have improved with the average timescale of 10.3 weeks to determine planning applications for major developments, a significant improvement from 28 weeks during the same period last year. The average timescale of 9.3 weeks to determine local development planning applications has improved from 10 weeks during quarter 1 of last year.

Planning, Sustainable Growth & Investment-performance

Number of new Business start ups (quarterly)



31 jobs created by new Business start ups (52 in Q1 24/25)

24 property enquires received (23 in Q1 24/25)

17 'Strengthen your business' enquiries (15 in Q1 24/25)

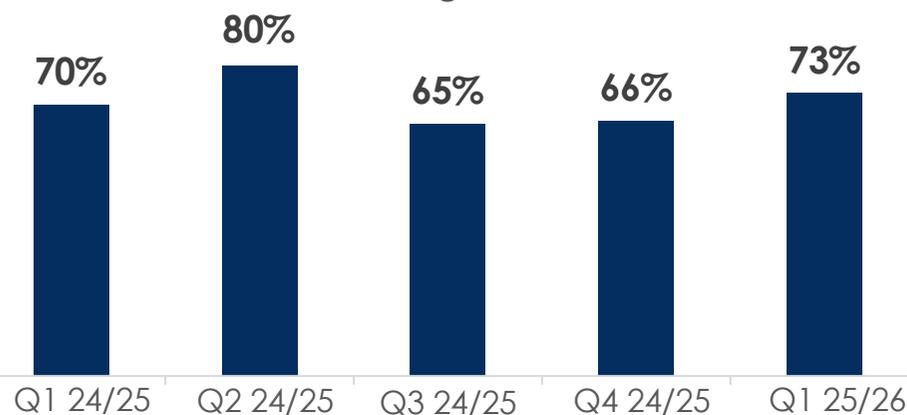
45 'Planning to Start' enquires/submissions this quarter (55 in Q1 24/25)

Social media

1,796 Locate in Midlothian followers.

2,610 Business Gateway followers

% of planning applications completed within target of 80%



10.3 weeks

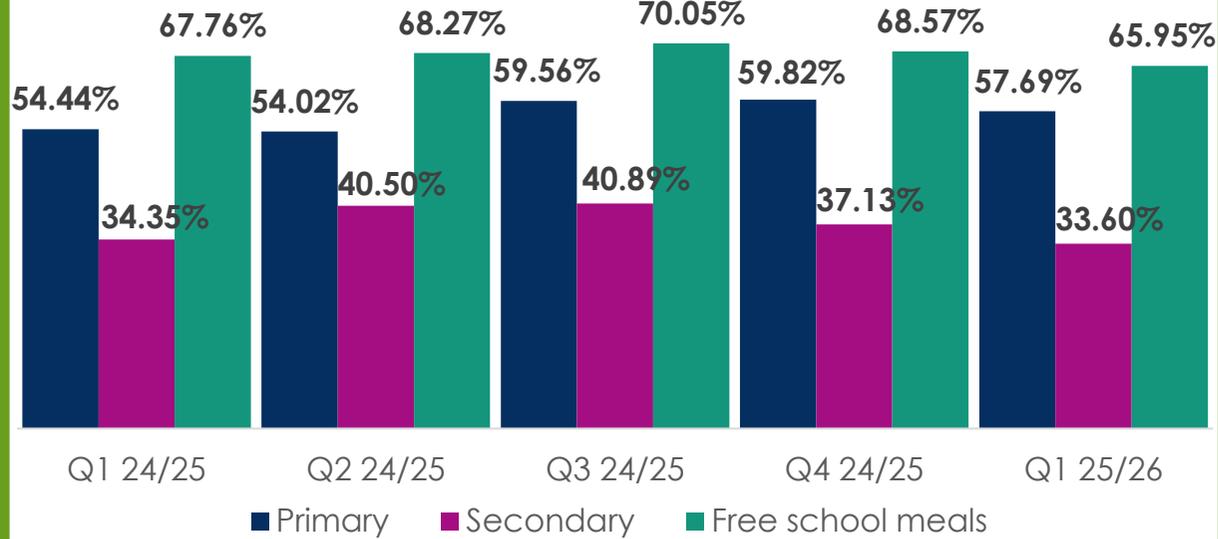
Average time to determine planning applications for **major** developments. (28 weeks in Q1 24/25)

9.2 weeks

Average time to determine planning applications for **local** developments. (10 weeks in Q1 24/25)

Property and Facilities – performance

% of school meal uptake



Percentage of school meal food waste

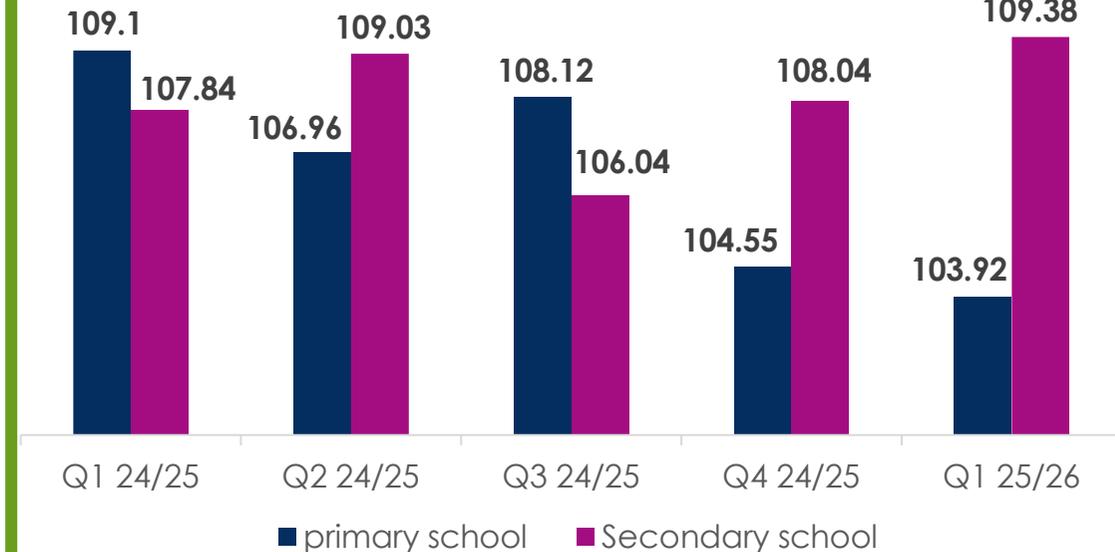


6.63 nursery and primary school meals prepared per hour this year (7.3 in Q1 24/25)

TARGET: APSE national average 8.84 meals prepared per hour

7.67 secondary school meals prepared per hour this year (7.13 in Q1 24/25)

Percentage of cleaning hours against budgeted hours achieved



Health and Wellbeing

Facility Services

The percentage of secondary school meal uptake this quarter was 33.6% and is expectedly lower than previous quarters due to school exam leave. Similar to last year, figures are expected to reach above the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) average of 36.23% during quarter 2 and beyond.

The percentage of primary school meal uptake for this quarter is 57.69% and increased compared to a 54.44% uptake for 2024/25. Primary school meal uptake continues to sit well above the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) average of 41.24%. The percentage of school meal food waste continues to decrease this quarter at 3.42% from 4.98% during quarter 2024/25 and 6.86% at quarter 1 of 2023/24. The service have revised their targets for this year and aim to be under 5% by continuing to look at new ways to reduce our food waste across all schools.

Our Catering Services team successfully rolled out a new school meal menu across our nurseries, primary and secondary schools this quarter. The new menu ensures our schools continue to provide healthy, balanced meals that support pupil well-being and lifelong healthy eating habits, whilst demonstrating our ongoing commitment to quality food standards and sustainability.

Across our cleaning and janitorial functions, the percentage of cleaning hours against our budgeted hours achieved in both primary and secondary schools remain on target with productivity levels above APSE averages, based on the APSE national average of cleaning 195m per hour. This quarter Facility Services, in conjunction with, our Property Maintenance team, completed the Easter holiday works programmes across our schools. The team continue to assist in the smooth operation of the Midlothian House to Fairfield House decant.





Sport and Leisure

Our Tonezone memberships continues to remain high with a total of 5,123 memberships up to the end of quarter 1. Tonezone membership has decreased slightly during this quarter due to short term membership promotions running previous to this quarter. However, figures show a 17% increase compared to the same period last year and it is expected that many promotional memberships will transfer to full memberships throughout the year.

Usage figures across our sport and leisure facilities have increased this quarter compared to the same period last year with a 19% increase in usage across all facilities (excluding

pools).

Alpine Coaster - Midlothian Snowsports Centre

This quarter, we had the honour of hosting renowned Hollywood actor Matt Damon on the Alpine Coaster. His visit was a highlight for the team and attracted significant public interest, generating substantial engagement on social media with one post receiving 159k views, boosting our online visibility.

Additionally, quarter 1 brought further media promotion as we welcomed the BBC, who chose the Alpine Coaster as the loction for filming a children's challenge show. Alongside this, the team hosted a production crew from Spanish National TV. Both bookings were exclusive, proving not only valuable exposure across the UK and international audiences but also contributing to increased additional revenue for the site.



To ensure the Coaster is more assessible to the public, all groundworks are now to complete at the site allowing public transport up to the entrance of the facility.

Our **Alpine coaster** has seen a significant increase in ticket sales this quarter of 38,076, a 66.5% increase in the number of tickets sold compared to 22,868 sold last quarter. A breakdown of tickets sales is below:

Total sales this quarter (April to June 25):

Ticket type	Number of tickets sold
1 ride, 1 person	16,160 (36% of sales)
1 ride 2 persons	3,696 (10% of sales)
3 rides 1 person	14,721 (39% of sales)
3 rides 2 persons	3,499 (9% of sales)
Total	38,076

Our gym refurbishment project has continued to progress this quarter. The procurement evaluation process has now been successfully completed, following a thorough assessment of submitted bids. After consideration of quality, value for money and alignment with our project goals, a successful contractor has been formally appointed. This marks a step forward in the delivery of the refurbishment which will focus on mobilising resources, finalising timelines, and beginning on site works to remain committed in creating modern, high quality fitness facilities that meets the needs of our community and enhances the overall user experience. In addition, the team are in the process of rebranding the service, the output of which will be shared for approval over the coming months.

Additionally, this quarter our tennis court refurbishment project was completed with upgrades to local park tennis courts.



Our Active Schools Midlothian team continue to work in partnership with sportscotland, providing opportunities for our children to adopt healthy and active lifestyles throughout their school years and into adulthood by supporting and sustaining a network of volunteers, coaches, leaders and teachers who, in turn, deliver extra curricular physical activity and sport before, during and after school and in the wider community. 2,656 participants attended Active Schools free extra curricular club this quarter which is an increase of 7% compared to the same periods last year of 2,466 participants. The team have increased the number of distinct activities delivered by the programme to 185 this quarter from 163 during quarter 1 of last year.

The number of volunteer hours delivered in the Active Schools Programme during quarter 1 has also increased from this time last year from 1,162 volunteers compared to 1,280 during this quarter. A 10% increase.



Our Easter holiday programme saw an increase in offering of activities as well as an increase in participation and income compared to last year.

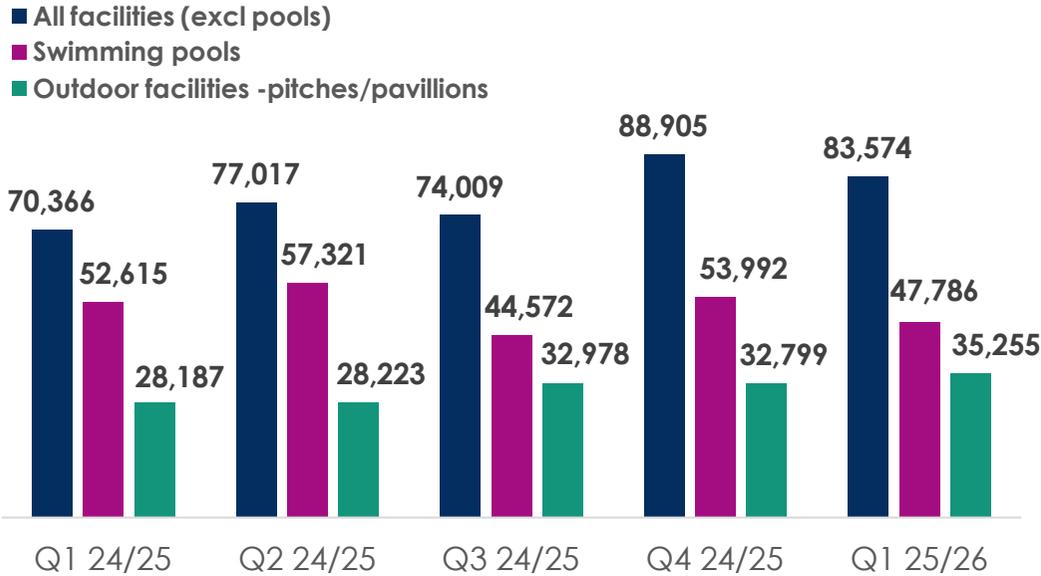
Primary 4 free swimming lessons continue this quarter after an effective system was put in place from our programme development officer. 18 classes per week were delivered as part of a 9 week block, totalling 4,328 attendances.

Midlothian Active Choices (MAC) is a sport and leisure physical activity referral programme, aimed at adults who are inactive and experience various health conditions. The programme offers a range of supported activities across Midlothian to help manage these health conditions. This quarter saw 2,209 Midlothian Active Choices attendees with 495 new referrals received after completion of MAC sessions showing an increase of 32% in attendees and 19% new referrals compared to the same period last year.

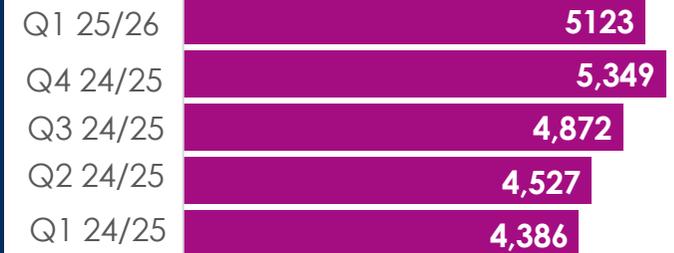
The number of activities offered by Ageing Well to 50 plus age groups has also increased this quarter with 845 activities offered compared to 741 offered during quarter 1 of last year.

Sport and Leisure - performance

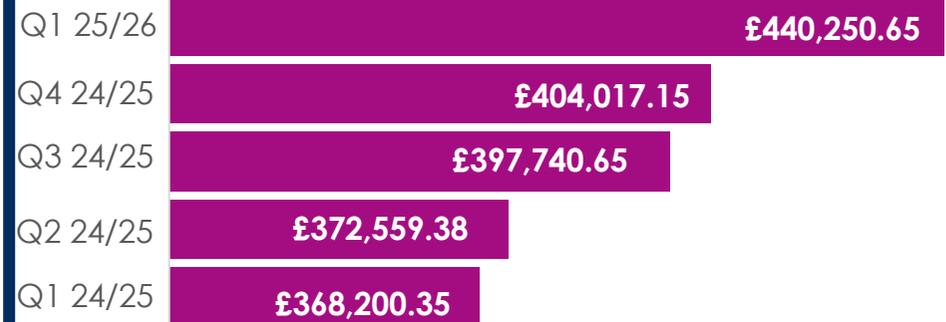
Number of attendances at Sport and Leisure facilities (quarterly)



Number of Tonezone memberships (cumulative)

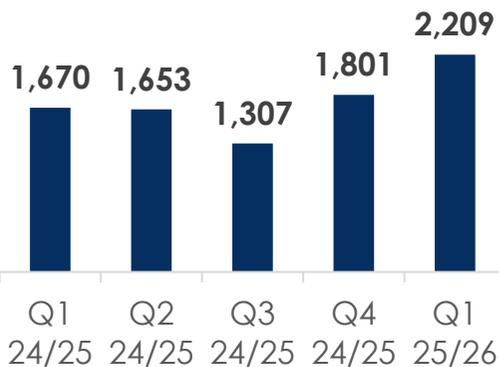


Total income generated from Tonezone memberships

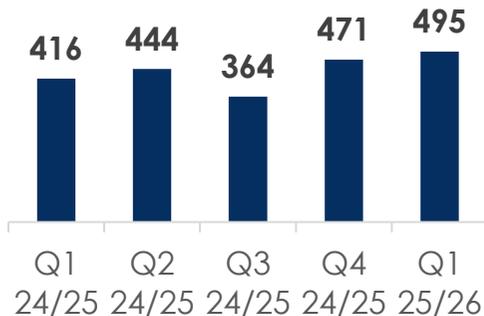


Midlothian Active Choices (MAC)

Number of MAC attendees (quarterly)



Number of new referrals after completion of MAC sessions (quarterly)



Ageing Well

Number of activities offered by Ageing Well to 50+ age groups (quarterly)



Capital Investment Programme

The Capital Investment Strategy sits centrally within the Council's future planning activities and in doing so has to reflect the demands of Council services to ensure positive outcomes are achieved in the right place, at the right time for the maximum benefit to Midlothian. The extensive capital programme delivers new schools, investment in council housing, improved community infrastructure, investment in the local transport network and innovative developments such as the low carbon heat network in Shawfair.

To ensure Midlothian is 'building back better', this investment is also creating new jobs, apprenticeship opportunities, opportunities for businesses and communities and families. Capital investment is also an opportunity to support the transition to a green economy as we invest in sustainable, highly energy efficient buildings. These new opportunities help lead the way towards a better future for Midlothian.

The Education Learning Estate Strategy programme continues and is subject to regular review meetings with Education and stakeholders to ensure effective monitoring, reporting and delivery of improvement and expansion of the Education estate including Early Years provision. This covers a number of projects at various stages of development.

The delivery of more affordable housing remains a priority for Midlothian Council. As part of our housing programme phase 1 provided 864 additional houses within Midlothian. The total number of new homes from phase 2, 3 and 4 is currently estimated at 1134, comprising of 489 from phase 2 budget and 645 from phase 3 and 4 budgets. Progress continues with 645 homes currently being constructed on site either through commencement of enabling works or main contract works as of November 2022. An additional 297 homes are funded for delivery in phase 5. This included the largest Passivhaus programme in Scotland, with 191 homes to be built to the exacting Passivhaus standard, in line with Midlothian Council's Net Zero Housing Design Guide. This ensures exceptionally high levels of energy efficiency and low utility bills for our residents. At present any further Passivhaus developments are paused for a cost benefit analysis exercise.

Construction and Development

Key achievements across our Construction and Development team this quarter include:

- Successfully completed the decant of all staff into Fairfield House, Normandy Court and No 8 White Hart Street, Dalkeith and the contractor now appointed for Midlothian House repair and retrofit.
- Regeneration Capital Grant Fund Stage 1 application submitted for Woodburn Community Hub.
- Entered into pre Construction services agreement with CCG for the development of circa 47 affordable homes on land acquired at Rullion Road, Penicuik.
- Extension to Shawfair District Heat Network underway, into Newton & Wellington Farm site (CALA) and additional Plot Connection Agreements signed with housebuilders in Shawfair LLP site.
- Danderhall Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing 2 (ESSH2) for the decarbonisation of around 200 Council and private homes was completed on time and to budget. 50% of the costs funded by Scottish Government. BSIF programme now out to tender (£1.9m budget). Pathhead ESSH2 programme (£2.8m budget) has been awarded to a contractor.
- Planning consent granted for Bush Loan Junction (A701 Relief Road project). Technical design now underway, with site start due August 2026.
- Following approval of the Development Team and Learning Estate Rationale Report by CMT in June 2025, the personnel delivering the Learning Estate development were moved to report to Children, Young People & Partnerships Directorate. The Development Team in the Place Directorate has also now expanded to encompass Property & Estates.



Challenges and risk

Midlothian Council continues to face a challenging environment, with financial, demographic, and economic pressures shaping how services are delivered and funded.

Financial constraints: rising service delivery costs and uncertainty over future funding from the Scottish Government are placing significant strain on the council's budget. Cost and income projections for future years are embedded in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy which is supported by the Transformation Blueprint containing a range of transformation themes to drive towards a position of financial sustainability.

Economic pressures: the ongoing cost of living crisis is affecting residents and businesses, increasing the need for council funded support. Inflationary pressures on goods, services, and energy are also significantly increasing the cost of delivering council services.

Growing service demands: Midlothian's sustained population growth and ageing demographic continues to drive an increase in demand for education, social care, housing and transport infrastructure. The 2022 Census results highlight that Midlothian remains the fastest growing local authority in Scotland with an increase of 16.1%. The 2011 census data lists Midlothian as having a population of 83,187 which has risen to 96,600 in the 2022 census data. The level of growth is 2.3% higher than our previous calculation and is now 13.4% higher than the Scottish average of 2.7%. In terms of households, Midlothian saw the highest percentage increase at 17.2% since the 2011 census. Population density in Midlothian is 273.1 residents per square kilometre compared to the Scottish average of 69.8.

This growth creates the opportunity to meet the housing need with 25% of new homes being built in the affordable housing bracket, in addition to the expansion in Council house building. This construction will directly support employment and will see a steady increase in the value of Council Tax income received over time.

Our Capital Strategy sets out the infrastructure required to meet those demographic pressures and includes the financial contributions Midlothian will make to the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal. Encompassing five main themes the City Region Deal will bring significant investment across the regions with total investment of circa £1.3 billion across:

- Data Driven Innovation: £751 million
- Integrated Regional Employability and Skills: £25 million
- Transport: £156 million
- Culture: £45 million
- Housing: £313 million

Through the Data Driven Innovation strand the Deal will leverage existing world-class research institutes and commercialisation facilities in order that Easter Bush becomes a global location of Agritech excellence. The Easter Bush project includes significant investment in transport infrastructure along the A701/2 transport corridor. In addition, by improving on-site infrastructure at Easter Bush and transport infrastructure, The University of Edinburgh expects commercial partners will be able to co-locate at scale to commercialise Agritech breakthroughs. The UK Government has announced the University of Edinburgh as the preferred location for the exascale supercomputer, which will be able to perform one billion, billion calculations each second. Once operational, it will provide high-performance computing capability for key research and industry projects across the UK. Exascale will help researchers model all aspects of the world, test scientific theories and improve products and services in areas such as artificial intelligence, drug discovery, climate change, astrophysics and advanced engineering. Exascale will be housed in a new £31 million wing of EPCC's Advanced Computing Facility in Easter Bush, which has been purpose-built as part of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal. Installation of the first phase is due to begin in 2025.

Risk

The Council's Strategic Risk Profile is reviewed on a retrospective basis and presented to Audit Committee on a quarterly basis. This process provides regular oversight of the most significant threats to the Council's objectives and operations. At present, the highest priority risks identified relate to financial sustainability, climate change and the successful delivery of the Council's transformations programme. Our Place directorate plays a pivotal role in mitigating these risks and spans a range of strategic functions, including long-term spatial and infrastructure planning, implementation of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, and leadership in delivering the Council's transformation programme.

Pentana Performance Dashboard – Q1 25/26

A full review of quarterly performance data is available via Pentana (Browser login link - <https://midlothian.pentanarpm.uk/login>)



Quarterly Reporting Place PIs - Off Target

Code & Title	Gauge	Value	Target	Last Update	History
PLACE.P.5.2a Percentage of the Council's housing stock meeting the 'Free from seri...		98.9%	100%	Q1 2025/26	
BS.PLACE.P.5.2b Percentage of the Council's housing stock meeting the 'Modern fa...		98.4%	100%	Q1 2025/26	
HSN3 Corporate Indicator - Percentage of the Council's housing stock meeting the S...		90.67%	100%	Q1 2025/26	
PLACE.P.5.2c Percentage of the Council's housing stock meeting the 'Healthy, safe ...		90.67%	100%	Q1 2025/26	
BS.PLACE.P.15.3a Percentage of Council fleet which is 'Green' (cumulative)		8.2%	12.5%	Q1 2025/26	
PLACE.P.14.2f Percentage of the footpath network resurfaced (cumulative)		0.01%	0.75%	Q1 2025/26	
PLACE.BUILDS.02 Be on site with first modular housing development within 12 mon...		No	Yes	Q1 2025/26	
PLACE.BUILDS.04 95% of first reports for building warrant applications issued withi...		42.01%	95%	Q1 2025/26	
PLACE.BUILDS.05 90% of Building warrants issued within 10 working days, followin...		70.16%	90%	Q1 2025/26	
PLACE.BUILDS.06 Building Standards service to achieve a minimum overall averag...		7.2	7.5	Q1 2025/26	
PLACE.BUILDS.07 Respond to general Building Standards emails and corresponde...		91.95%	95%	Q1 2025/26	
BS.PLACE.HSN.01 Re-let time permanent accommodation properties (calendar days)		54 days	35 days	Q1 2025/26	
PLACE.MPI.01 Performance against revenue budget		£45.544m	£45.541m	Q1 2025/26	
PLACE.MPI.05 % of Service PIs that are on target/ have reached their target. (does ...		85.19%	90%	Q1 2025/26	
PLACE.MPI.07 % of internal/external audit actions progressing on target or complet...		77.05%	90%	Q1 2025/26	
PLACE.P.14.2e Percentage of total road network resurfaced (cumulative)		0.38%	2.75%	Q1 2025/26	
PLACE.PFM.17 Number of secondary school meals prepared per hour (APSE)		7.67	8.84	Q1 2025/26	
PLACE.PFM.18 Number of nursery and primary meals prepared per hour (APSE)		6.63	8.84	Q1 2025/26	
PLACE.PFM.20 Percentage of secondary school meal uptake		33.6%	36.23%	Q1 2025/26	
PLACE.PFM.21 Percentage of free school meal uptake (P1-P5)		65.91%	77.57%	Q1 2025/26	
PLACE.PLAN.01 Determine 80% of planning applications within target (2 months for...		73%	80%	Q1 2025/26	
PROSERVICES.30 Percentage of businesses registered for tobacco/vapes in Midlot...		0%	1.4%	Q1 2025/26	
RHM.a.04.4oi Percentage of lets made to general needs list applicants		30.1%	40%	Q1 2025/26	
PLACE.SPSO.04.3 Average time in working days for a full response for escalated co...		138.708	20	Q1 2025/26	
PLACE.SPSO.05.1 Percentage of complaints at stage 1 complete within 5 working d...		90%	95%	Q1 2025/26	
PLACE.SPSO.05.2 Percentage of complaints at stage 2 complete within 20 working ...		63.64%	95%	Q1 2025/26	
PLACE.SPSO.05.3 Percentage of complaints escalated and complete within 20 wor...		40.71%	95%	Q1 2025/26	