

2025-26 **IMPACT REPORT**





CEO INTRODUCTION

As Chief Executive, I am proud to introduce Edinburgh Leisure's Impact Report for 2025-26. It tells a story of progress, resilience and people — our colleagues, volunteers, partners, customers and communities — whose commitment, care and determination make Edinburgh Leisure a valued part of life in our city.

We began the year by reviewing and refreshing our purpose, vision, mission and values, reaffirming our commitment to inspire lifelong health and wellbeing for the people of Edinburgh. At its heart is a simple but powerful belief: everyone should have the chance to be active, feel included, build confidence and experience the physical, mental and social benefits of movement.

Financially, 2025-26 marked an important turning point. Through careful management, innovation and the dedication of colleagues across the organisation, we closed our financial gap and entered the new year on a more stable footing. This was not always easy, and I want to recognise the effort, adaptability and professionalism shown by our people as we strengthened Edinburgh Leisure for the future.

Across the city, more people are choosing to be active with us, and behind every number is a person, family or community experiencing the benefits of movement. Customer visits increased, membership reached an all-time high, and thousands of children, adults and older people built skills, confidence and connections through our programmes. From coaching and clubs to community access at schools and our multiple subsidised access programmes, we continue to reduce barriers and widen access for those who need us most.

Our greatest impact is seen in the difference this makes to people's lives. We expanded health and wellbeing programmes, launched Balanced Life to support falls prevention, and developed inclusive opportunities for children and adults with additional support needs — helping people feel safer, stronger, more connected and better able to participate in everyday life.



We also invested in the places that bring communities together, from improved leisure facilities and school access to practical action on environmental sustainability. National recognition, including awards for sustainability and in recognition of our exceptional colleagues, reflects the quality, care and commitment shown across Edinburgh Leisure every day. I am deeply grateful to everyone who has played a part in this work.

As we look ahead, we do so with confidence and compassion: grounded in strong foundations, guided by a clear purpose and strategy, and ambitious for the role we can play in helping Edinburgh become a healthier, happier and more active city for everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jen Holland".

Jen Holland
CEO | Edinburgh Leisure

WE ARE EDINBURGH LEISURE

Our purpose, vision, and mission help guide what we do and where we're going, keeping us focused on what matters most to the people of Edinburgh.

Since 1998, we have delivered sport and leisure services across Edinburgh, creating opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to be active and improve their health and wellbeing.

From our extensive children's coaching programme and bouldering at Europe's largest indoor climbing arena, to falls prevention support for older adults and access to gym facilities in local high schools, we offer opportunities for everyone to be active in a way that works for them.

We work closely with partners including the City of Edinburgh Council, Health and Social Care Partnership and third sector organisations to help ensure all residents, particularly people experiencing poverty or other barriers to participation, can access our services through subsidised or free provision.

“

I like to see everyone get the chance to participate in all the sports activities. It gives confidence, improves life and can provide a whole new social circle. My mum is a member of the Ageing Well walking groups and my sister goes to the danceability classes.

Leigh-Anne Baker, Victorian Pool Crawl participant

”

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

PURPOSE

To inspire lifelong health and wellbeing for the people of Edinburgh by creating opportunities for everyone to get active and thrive.

VISION

A city where everyone is inspired to engage in physical activity, to improve their health & wellbeing.

MISSION

By 2030, transform Edinburgh's health and wellbeing by reducing barriers, innovating delivery and engaging people and communities in being active.

SPORTS REMINISCENCE CLUB

In partnership with Sporting Memories Foundation Scotland, we launched a weekly club at Meadowbank Sports Centre, helping older adults build social connections and reduce isolation through their shared love of sport.



BOULDERING ZONE

We unveiled an exciting new bouldering room at EICA Ratho, designed to help children and novice climbers build confidence and skills as they progress from soft play to Clip 'n Climb and beyond.



VICTORIAN POOL CRAWL 2025

13 customers from Leith Victoria Swim Centre completed the original Victorian Pool Crawl, swimming 1km in each of Edinburgh Leisure's five Victorian pools and walking 16km, raising funds for our community programmes.



DANCEATHON EVENT

More than 180 people came together at Meadowbank Sports Centre to take part in a celebration of movement, music and community through activities including Musical Theatre Fitness, Konga, Bodyjam and Zumba.



INCLUSIVE FITNESS PROGRAMMES

We introduced our new Inclusive Fitness Programme for adults with additional support needs, creating more opportunities for them to improve their health, build confidence and connect with others in a supportive environment.



BALANCED LIFE

We launched Balanced Life, our expanded falls prevention programme delivered in partnership with Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership, increasing weekly classes from 34 to 65 and participation from 1,152 to 2,232 annually.



OUR SEASON HIGHLIGHTS!

HISTORIC POOL ANNIVERSARIES

We celebrated two major milestones this year: 125 years of Glenogle Swim Centre and 130 years of Dalry Swim Centre, recognising the important role these much-loved venues continue to play in communities across Edinburgh.



GOLF SIMULATOR AT CRAIGLOCKHART

A new Trackman golf simulator was introduced at Craiglockhart Tennis and Leisure Centre, offering an immersive indoor golf experience perfect for training, socialising, or simply enjoying the game – come rain or shine!



MEADOWS TENNIS COURTS REOPENING

The Meadows Tennis courts reopened following a major summer refurbishment, with upgraded facilities providing high-quality, accessible tennis opportunities for players of all abilities and ages.



FESTIVE GYMNASTICS DISPLAY

Our Festive Gymnastics Display brought together 727 young gymnasts from six Edinburgh Leisure venues and 46 visiting teams, performing to more than 2,100 spectators in a celebration of talent, dedication and teamwork.



BUDDY SWIMMING 10TH ANNIVERSARY

We celebrated 10 years of our volunteer-led Buddy Swimming sessions, which help older adults build confidence in the water stay active and enjoy the encouragement and support of trained volunteers.



JUNIOR GOLF COACHING LAUNCH

We introduced a new indoor Junior Golf programme for children aged 7-12, providing a fun, supportive and accessible introduction to golf and helping young people develop skills and confidence throughout the year.



THIS IS OUR IMPACT 2025-26



“ I have gained a lot since joining Edinburgh Leisure when I moved to the city in September. My membership is affordable, I like being able to access all venues across the city with my pass, and the RPM class I attend makes me feel welcome and included while being good for my physical and mental health. Lydia Allen, Edinburgh Leisure member ”

90%
OVERALL CUSTOMER
SATISFACTION

MORE PEOPLE MOVING

We provided opportunities, services and spaces that enabled more people to be active.

CUSTOMER VISITS
5.976m
(2024-25: 5.7M) 

ACTIVE MEMBERS
38,383
(March 2026) 

VISITS TO OUR GYMS AND FITNESS CLASSES
1.6m
(2024-25: 1.5M)   

DEVELOPING SKILLS FOR LIFE

We create opportunities for people to develop skills, confidence and experience at every stage of life.

15,111
(2024-25: 14,782) 
children and young people progressing through our sports coaching programme, with a few adults too!

69
YOUNG PEOPLE 
not in education, employment or training successfully completed sports coaching and leadership courses, helping them progress into further opportunities.

£463 
participants received training and qualifications through our Aquatics Training Academy.
(including 126 of our staff)

IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We work closely with partners to help more people experience the physical, mental and social benefits of being active.

15,764 
(16% growth from 2024-25)
people supported to access physical activity despite barriers to participation.

PARTNER REFERRALS
9,415   
health and exercise referrals from our partners in primary care, health and social care, and charity organisations.

3,351 PEOPLE MADE 
36,204 VISITS 
through our Community Access Programme, supporting partner organisations to help the people they work with be more active.

TACKLING POVERTY AND INEQUALITY THROUGH PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

We are improving access for those facing barriers to being active, particularly where poverty makes participation harder.

 **9,846**
people on low incomes were active through subsidised and free products and services, helping reduce financial barriers to participation.

 **171**
mums living on a low income were supported to be active through our Active Mums subsidised provision.

 **370**
young people, on average, attending free Open All Hours youth work provision every Friday night at venues citywide.

ACTIVE PEOPLE

Behind every number is a person building confidence, improving their health, or connecting with others through being active.



“
I wish I'd discovered earlier the camaraderie and wellbeing that comes from exercising as part of a group - which is now something I believe as many people as possible should have access to, no matter their confidence, fitness or skill level.
”
Timothea Armour,
customer at Leith Victoria Swim Centre



EVERYONE ACTIVE

Promoting inclusive, affordable, and welcoming spaces for everyone in Edinburgh to be active.

JENNIFER FROM WALKING AID TO SCHOOL PICK UPS



“I’ve gone from a walker to walking independently – now I have the confidence to know I’m not going to fall.”

Balanced Life is a falls prevention programme delivered in partnership with the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership. It supports older adults at risk of falling to improve their strength, balance and mobility, while reducing fear of falling and rebuilding confidence.

Jennifer Gallacher was recovering from a broken back and Stage 2 sepsis. Her mobility had declined to the point where she relied on a walker and found physiotherapy exercises difficult.

After being referred by her consultant, Jennifer started an introductory Balanced Life class. With sessions paced to suit her and exercises that felt achievable, she gradually rebuilt strength and confidence. Over time, she progressed from using a walker to sticks and now walks independently.

The biggest change, Jennifer says, was getting her life back. Today, she travels more independently, spends more time with friends, feels connected to her community and picks up her grandchildren from school twice a week.



DANNY & ANDOR ACTIVITIES ADAPTED TO INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

At Gracemount Leisure Centre, children and young people with additional support needs take part in structured swimming and multisport sessions designed around their individual needs. Over 50 families benefit every week from activities delivered in a calm, consistent and welcoming environment, helping children to feel safe, supported and able to take part.

For friends Danny (L) and Andor (R), that consistency has made a real difference. Familiar routines, patient staff and adaptable activities have helped both boys grow in confidence, enjoy being active and build skills at their own pace.

For Andor, this has been especially clear in the pool, where trusted staff have supported him step by step to overcome his fear of swimming and develop

confidence in the water. His mum, Rita, says:

“When we started, he hated the swimming pool. Staff were kind and calm. Step by step he went in – see how he jumps now.”

For both families, the impact goes beyond the sessions themselves. Knowing that Danny and Andor are safe, understood and supported by staff they trust gives parents valuable time to rest, recharge and reconnect. Danny’s mum, Jill, says:

“It’s great having a break at the weekend. It’s good for us as we get a little bit of respite.”

By creating inclusive, supportive environments, Edinburgh Leisure is helping more children build confidence, develop skills and feel part of their community.

IN 2025-26 WE CONTINUED TO REDUCE BARRIERS FOR PEOPLE TO BE ACTIVE:



Active People

Launched at the Jack Kane Centre, creating new community-based opportunities for inactive adults in one of Edinburgh’s most deprived communities.



Fit & Active

Supported 168 adults with learning disabilities to become more active and socially connected through inclusive classes, tailored 1:1 support and six months’ access.



Active Futures

Supporting 644 care experienced children and young people to be active, with 97 benefitting from free sports coaching and holiday clubs.



Safer Spaces to Move

Joined a UK-wide initiative to prevent harassment and empower women and girls, equipping our teams to create safe, welcoming environments and respond confidently to concerns.

COMMUNITY ACCESS

Providing facilities and spaces to support sporting and non-sporting activities across Edinburgh.

This year, in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council, we provided community access to facilities and spaces across Edinburgh, including 23 high schools, the newly opened Currie Community High School and 163 sports pitches.

These venues enable local clubs, schools and community groups to take part in a diverse range of sports activities, from football, rugby, cricket and hockey to frisbee, quidditch, American football, Gaelic football, baseball, softball and school sports days.

To help strengthen and grow community sport, we introduced a dedicated Club Development Officer, providing tailored support to local clubs, promoting sustainable facility use and creating more opportunities for people to get involved in sport and physical activity.

Additionally, at nine high schools, we managed facility bookings for a range other activities and welcoming a diverse range of community, cultural and faith groups, including a language school, bridge club, and children’s theatre company.



556
DIFFERENT
CLUBS
WELCOMED
ACROSS THE ESTATE



30
DIFFERENT CLUB
SPORTS
REPRESENTED



14,000
EXTERNAL SPORTS
BOOKINGS



CURRIE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

In September 2025, we opened the doors of our newest community hub at Currie Community High School and welcomed customers to Scotland’s first Passivhaus secondary school with a swimming pool. This provides an increased range of locally available leisure services for the Currie and Balerno community.

Through Edinburgh Leisure’s management of facilities, the school provides high-quality fitness and recreational opportunities for the community seven days a week. These include a new fitness suite, fitness classes, gym, swim and family fun sessions, out with school operating times.

A gym instructor is on site to support customers visiting the gym and to provide access to NRG Zone sessions, which enable under-16s to gain accreditation to use the gym independently. The instructor also supports S1-4 pupils taking part in the City of Edinburgh Council’s Active Schools programme.

At Currie Community High School, as well as Queensferry High School and Wester Hailes High School, we offer a unique community membership which includes full access to gyms, swimming pools and fitness classes. This provides an affordable and convenient way for customers to stay active close to home.

NON-SPORTS ACTIVITIES ACROSS 9 HIGH SCHOOLS



3,000+
BOOKINGS



500
bookings supported the
City of Edinburgh Council’s Adult
Education Programme.



119,000
VISITS

CLUBS SPOTLIGHT

CLUBS THAT CALL EDINBURGH LEISURE HOME

Across Edinburgh, hundreds of clubs use Edinburgh Leisure facilities to provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to take part in sport. Corstorphine AAC and Harmeny AC are just one example of how these partnerships create lasting community impact.

Saughton Sports Complex, located in the west of Edinburgh, has a long history of supporting athletic achievement and community wellbeing. Its facilities cater for everyone from school groups and recreational participants to elite athletes, including Scottish and GB internationals. Facilities include a floodlit 400m athletics track enclosing a Grade A pitch, a long jump training area, and multiple full-size and 7-side grass and synthetic pitches.

Corstorphine Athletics Club and Harmeny Athletic Club have been long-standing users of Saughton running track, an Edinburgh Leisure-managed venue that has been home to generations of athletes. Together, the two clubs support around 1,500 members and users, from junior runners to adult athletes, and both are committed to making athletics more inclusive. Corstorphine's Frame Running section has supported disabled athletes for the past five years and now works with 16 athletes. Both clubs offer free membership and additional support for people from disadvantaged backgrounds, helping to

remove financial barriers to participation. The clubs often work together to deliver athletics events for children and young people.

This year, Edinburgh Leisure has worked closely with Corstorphine AAC and Harmeny AC to help shape facilities that will meet the needs of athletes and clubs into the future. With phase one of development at Saughton, a new running track is being installed (summer 2026) providing an upgrade in facilities for both clubs. Acknowledging there have been challenges in the past, David Arnott, President of Corstorphine AAC, says:

“Saughton is entering a really positive new phase. Edinburgh Leisure is working much more closely with the clubs, with better dialogue, meaningful consultation and a clear commitment to improving the track and facilities in ways that will make a real difference to the people who use them. It feels like we are now moving forward together, and that gives us real confidence for the future.”



“Both clubs have grown significantly over the past 10 years, and Edinburgh Leisure has played an important part in that by working with us flexibly – from opening hours that reflect when clubs need to train, to practical support like siting storage facilities at Saughton. That kind of partnership has helped create the conditions to reach out to our local communities and get more people involved in athletics.”

Craig Stewart,
Board Member at Harmeny AC



OUR PEOPLE

From first jobs to decades of service, and from volunteering to leadership roles, our people are at the heart of everything we do.

1,100
employees
(2024-25: 1,150)

96%

of employees completed at least one development activity.

(v. 59% of Scottish employees who received any training in the previous 12 months, 2024-25: 95%)

9%

of our staff have between 20 and 40 years' service
(9 with over 40 years' service)

1,744
training days delivered to employees
(2024-25: 2,225)

Our median hourly rates are identical for men and women.

Our mean (average) hourly rate for women is

2.7%

higher than for men.
(2024-25: 3.2%)

169
different roles
(2024-25: 159)

DEBRA & LOUISE

FOUR DECADES OF PASSION, LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP IN AQUATICS

For more than four decades, Debra Taylor and Louise Findlay have helped shape aquatics across Edinburgh, progressing from frontline lifeguarding and swim teaching roles into specialist positions supporting workforce development. Their longevity is impressive, but their real impact lies in their continued enthusiasm, willingness to adapt, and commitment to passing on their knowledge to others.

Together, they have played a central role in developing Edinburgh Leisure's Aquatics Training Academy, now celebrating 20 years of training swim teachers, lifeguards, first aiders and coaches. Their experience has helped create a high-quality, supportive learning environment that gives people the confidence, skills and qualifications to progress in the sector.

Their influence reaches far beyond individual courses. In 2025-26, the Academy trained 337 external participants and 126 Edinburgh Leisure staff, helping create 750 additional swimming lesson places and improving access to an essential life skill. Through partnerships with organisations such as The King's Trust, the Rural and Urban Training Scheme and Active Schools, Debra and Louise have also helped open pathways for young people and those facing barriers to employment.

Through initiatives such as our Aquatics Training Academy, The King's Trust partnership programme, apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities, Edinburgh Leisure helps people develop skills, gain qualifications and progress into employment.



Left to right: Debra and Louise with Swim Education colleagues Isla and Shannon

What stands out most is their ability to keep learning while helping others grow. Their legacy is more than four decades of service. It is a stronger, more confident aquatics workforce and a Training Academy built on passion, adaptability and shared expertise.



EILIDH FROM VOLUNTEER TO SWIM TEACHER

At just 14 years old, Eilidh Place became our youngest volunteer, demonstrating how volunteering can build confidence, develop skills and create pathways into employment. She started volunteering at Gracemount Leisure Centre for her Duke of Edinburgh award, helping with children's swim coaching classes before progressing through the Aquatics Training Academy to achieve her Scottish Swim Teacher Award.

What started as a short-term placement became something she wanted to continue, and she now teaches part-time whilst finishing her 6th year at school.

“I've really liked being part of the swim team and seeing the kids progress over time.”

Eilidh Place, Swim Teacher at Gracemount Leisure Centre

VOLUNTEERING



At Edinburgh Leisure, our volunteers play a vital role in supporting people, programmes and communities across the city. They make a difference every day, helping people be more active, connected and confident. Many of our Active Communities projects would not be possible without their commitment and support.

EUAN FROM ISOLATION TO BELONGING

Edinburgh Leisure's Healthy Active Minds project supports people experiencing mental health challenges to become more active, connected and confident through regular, inclusive sessions in a safe and welcoming environment.

When Euan Biggar first joined the project, anxiety, depression and agoraphobia had left him isolated and inactive. He had stopped working in 2019 and found it difficult to leave the house or be around other people.

After being referred into the project, he joined a badminton group at Craiglockhart Leisure and Tennis Centre. What started as one session a week gradually became something much bigger. With encouragement from staff and the reassurance of familiar faces, Euan built confidence, developed a routine, started trying new activities and now uses the gym independently.

"The group probably saved my life, actually," he says. "I was at rock bottom."

Now, Euan also volunteers within the group, alongside instructor Martin Bailey, helping lead sessions and making the group feel welcoming for new and returning participants. They value seeing a familiar face and, for some people, this has increased their confidence to use other facilities at the centre. As Healthy Active Minds participant Dan explains:

"I sometimes bump into Euan, or other people I know. It makes the gym a slightly less scary place."

Euan's journey from participant to volunteer demonstrates the power of safe, inclusive spaces to help people rebuild confidence, reduce isolation and feel part of a community again.

205

volunteers

12,000

volunteer hours

1,100

people supported by
volunteers across 25
different activities

81

oldest volunteer

14

youngest volunteer

ENRICO MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN AND BEYOND THE POOL

Enrico Pavan brings warmth, commitment and purpose to his role as a Leisure Attendant at Dalry Swim Centre, supporting customers, pool safety and the smooth running of the venue. His positive influence and example go well beyond his day-to-day role, through his volunteering, fundraising and dedication to sustainability.

Inspired by a staff dementia awareness session at Dalry, Enrico became an Edinburgh Leisure Movement for Memories volunteer, providing one-to-one swimming support for a person living with dementia. He helps with access around the venue, changing facilities and swimming, while offering companionship, reassurance and conversation.

Enrico has also supported our Ageing Well Buddy Swimming sessions and took part in the 2025 Victorian Pool Crawl to raise vital funds for Movement for Memories. Alongside this, he is one of Dalry's Green Champions, encouraging staff discussions around sustainability, improving waste management, and building his own knowledge through Carbon Literacy training.

Across all of these roles, Enrico shows a real willingness to learn, contribute and help others. As he says:

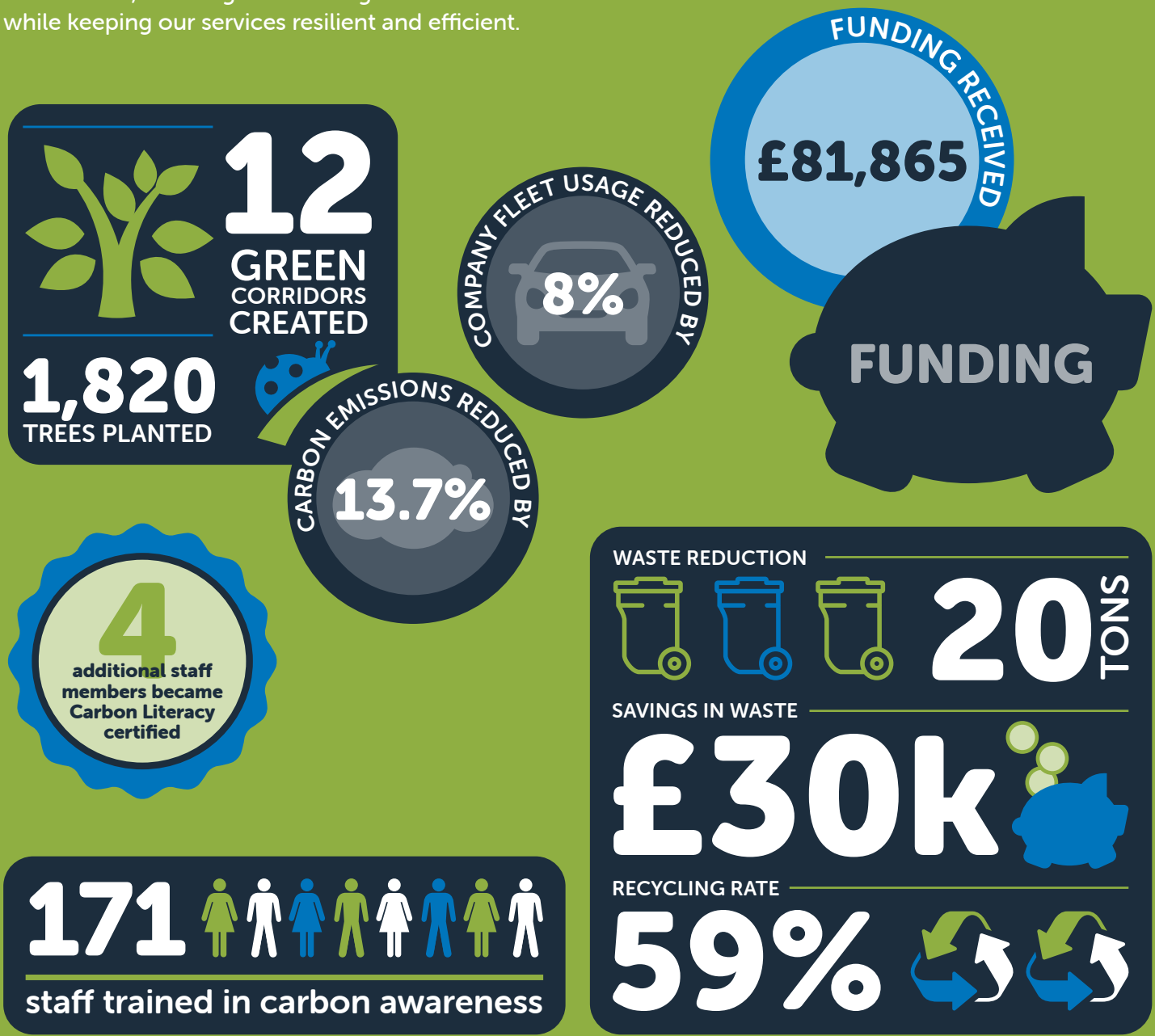
"Volunteering with Movement for Memories has genuinely given me a new outlook on life. What we do as volunteers really helps — even in the smallest moments."



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Edinburgh Leisure is committed to responding to the climate and nature emergency, supporting the city's ambition to be climate ready, low carbon and nature positive by 2030. These pages show how we are turning that ambition into practical action across our estate. Environmental sustainability is now one of our five Strategic Aims, reflecting its importance to our organisation and the communities we serve. Our approach aligns with global efforts to limit warming to below 1.5°C, focusing on reducing carbon emissions while keeping our services resilient and efficient.

This year we made positive progress across all eight sustainability goals, marking a successful first year of our five-year Net Zero framework. These early results underline the value of strong governance, targeted action and long-term commitment. By managing energy, water and waste more sustainably, alongside initiatives to support biodiversity, we are embedding sustainability at the heart of how we operate, helping create a more resilient organisation for the future.



WHAT HAVE OUR STAFF BEEN UP TO?

Across our venues, Green Champions and local teams have made practical changes to reduce waste, reuse resources and support Edinburgh Leisure's net zero aims.

Gracemount Leisure Centre

Replaced disposable blue roll in the gym with reusable cleaning cloths, reducing waste and receiving positive customer feedback. The approach has since been adopted by other venues.

Meadowbank Sports Centre

Introduced coffee pod recycling in the staff room, ensuring used pods are collected and recycled.

Edinburgh Leisure's Grounds Team

Collected almost 300kg of compost from HotBins at café venues to enrich greenspaces across multiple sites. The team also created recycled compost storage using leftover wood.

Dalry Swim Centre

Held a Green Champion-led team discussion on sustainability, leading to improved waste management and reduced site waste.

Leith Victoria Swim Centre

Repurposed an old chemical tub into a small vegetable garden, turning limited outdoor space into a productive green area.

Portobello Swim Centre

Introduced soft plastics recycling and refurbished a room to support staff cycling, helping the venue achieve a Cycling Scotland Cycle Friendly Award.



RECOGNITION & AWARDS

Always striving to be the best we can be for the city and its people.

These awards and recognitions reflect the dedication of our colleagues, volunteers and partners, and the positive difference Edinburgh Leisure makes to communities across Edinburgh.

Josh Ward wins Rising Star Award

Josh Ward's journey demonstrates how an aquatics career can be life-changing.

In November 2025, Josh, a Swim Teacher at Leith Victoria Swim Centre, won the Rising Star Award at the Scottish Leisure Network Group Awards.

Josh began his journey through Edinburgh Leisure's Positive Destinations programme, which supports young people facing barriers into employment. Facing significant personal and financial challenges, Josh's future could have looked very different. Instead, he embraced the opportunity, gained his lifeguard qualification and started work as a Leisure Attendant before going on to train as a swim teacher.

His decision to move to a different venue to create a more positive environment for himself marked a turning point. With support from his manager, Josh progressed into swim teaching and has become a valued member of the team.

Known for his positive approach, inclusive teaching style and willingness to help others, Josh has played a key role in developing participants and supporting less experienced colleagues, particularly through our Care-Experienced and Active Communities programmes.



Josh is a fantastic role model whose journey shows what can happen when someone is given the right support and opportunities.

Louise Bathgate, Manager at Leith Victoria Swim Centre



Gold Award at the 2026 Green Apple Environment Awards

Edinburgh Leisure was proud to receive a Gold Award at the 2026 Green Apple Environment Awards - a national recognition of our commitment to environmental sustainability and innovation.

The award celebrated our innovative café composting initiative, which is helping to set a new standard for food waste reduction in the sport and leisure sector.

It reflects our commitment to taking practical action to reduce environmental impact across our venues and services.



Braid Hills named a finalist in the Scottish Golf Tourism Awards 2026

Braid Hills Golf Course was named a finalist in the Scottish Golf Tourism Awards 2026, highlighting the quality of the visitor experience it offers golfers from across Edinburgh and beyond.

The recognition reflects the course's strong reputation for customer service, value and community appeal, and reinforces the important role it plays within Edinburgh Leisure's portfolio of six distinctive golf courses.



Leith Victoria named a finalist in ukactive Awards 2025

Leith Victoria Swim Centre – affectionately known as 'the Veggies' – was named a Scottish finalist in the ukactive Awards 2025, recognising the quality of the experience it offers local people in the heart of Leith.

The recognition reflects the centre's strong community spirit, welcoming customer experience and long-standing role as a much-loved local hub supporting people of all ages and backgrounds to be active.



Scottish Water Learn to Swim Provider of the Year shortlist

Edinburgh Leisure was shortlisted for Scottish Water's Learn to Swim Provider of the Year award, recognising the strength and quality of our inclusive swimming programme across the capital.

During the year, more than 6,700 children learned to swim with us across eight Edinburgh Leisure venues and two high school pools.

Their progress was celebrated at six local venue galas with 375 children taking part and culminated in an end of term Medallist Swim Gala showcasing achievement, attended by 136 swimmers.

ORGANISATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Edinburgh Leisure returned to a more stable financial position in 2025-26, with growing participation, improved income performance and reduced reliance on additional Council support.

Financial performance in 2025-26 showed clear improvement, with Edinburgh Leisure strengthening its underlying operating position while continuing to manage significant cost pressures. Operational income remained resilient, supported by strong participation growth.

Total visits increased by 4.2% to 5.976 million and memberships also grew, helping unrestricted income from leisure facilities exceed budget by 5%. Membership income grew by around 11% year on year, driven mainly by full fitness memberships and strong growth in golf memberships.

The organisation continued to receive an £8.0 million management fee from the City of Edinburgh Council. Additional one-off Council support reduced significantly, from £4.2 million in 2024-25 to £1.868 million in 2025-26, reflecting early benefits from the Fit for the Future transformation programme and improved financial resilience. No further additional Council support is expected for 2026-27.

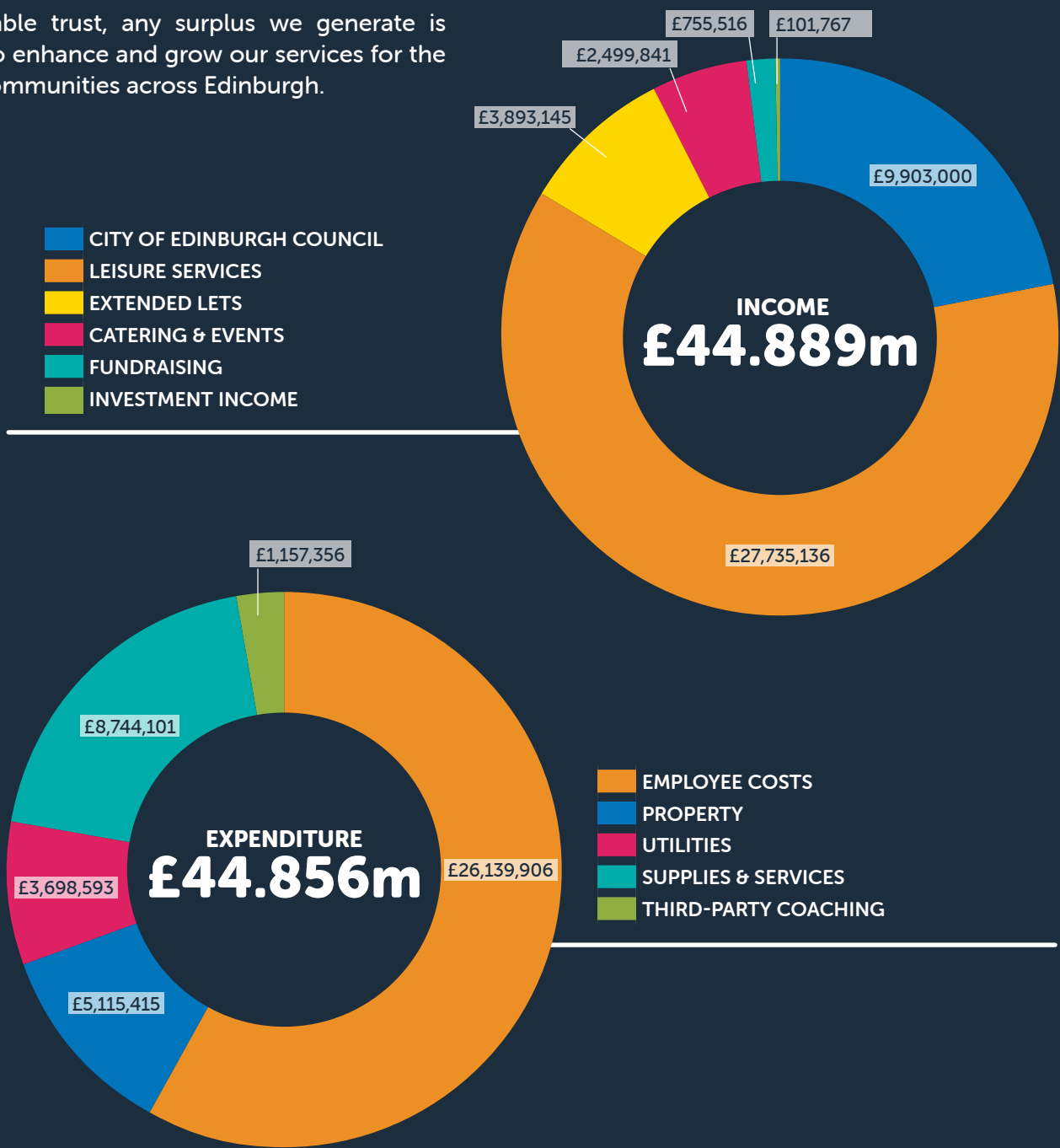
The reported unrestricted surplus was £2.315 million before actuarial pension losses. After adjusting for non-cash pension accounting, sinking fund treatment and designated fund expenditure, the underlying operating deficit was £18k, broadly in line with a break-even position. Staff costs were below budget and energy costs reduced due to favourable market conditions.

The Community Access to Schools programme returned to surplus, generating a gross surplus of £447k and returning £415.9k to the Council. While maintenance costs and inflationary pressures remain challenging, the year demonstrated a stronger financial trajectory, improved cash resilience and a clearer route toward long-term sustainability.

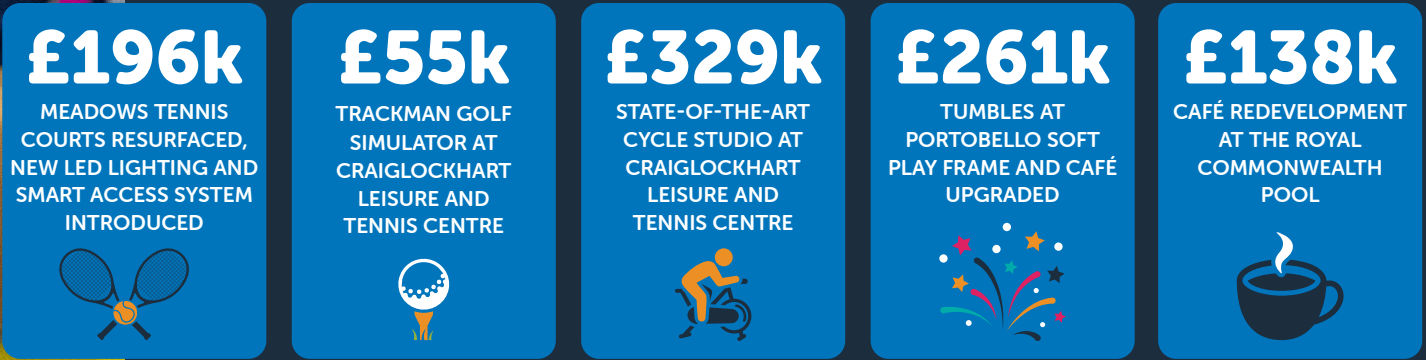


INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2025-26

As a charitable trust, any surplus we generate is reinvested to enhance and grow our services for the benefit of communities across Edinburgh.



KEY INVESTMENTS



Join our mission to improve Edinburgh's health and wellbeing by reducing barriers, creating opportunities and helping more people and communities to be active.

Join Us

Donate

Volunteer

Partner

Together, we can achieve our vision of a city where everyone has the opportunity to be active, improve their health and wellbeing, and feel part of a thriving community.

Visit our website or contact us:

supportus@edinburghleisure.co.uk

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I think it's important for everyone, regardless of wealth, health or age, to be able to have access to facilities to enable them to live an active life. Regular exercise is really important for improving all aspects of our life - particularly as we age and for those more isolated members of our community.

*Eileen Ingram,
Victorian Pool Crawl participant*

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Registered Scottish Charity No: SC027450

