

Council performance during Covid-19 in numbers

The council's Chief Executive reported to the Policy and Sustainability Committee on Thursday about the council's performance in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

He [presented slides](#) which showed the various ways in which the council has reacted and taken positive action.

Now we have the meat on the bones.

Here is the council performance in numbers:

With their partners, the council is providing the families of children in need with around **2,000** food parcels every fortnight. More than **1,600** food parcels and **87** prescriptions have been boxed up and delivered to those who are shielding and are working with [EVOC](#) to deliver thousands more deliveries to vulnerable people across the City.

The council has around **170** teaching staff working across **11** schools to look after the children of many of Edinburgh's key workers and, in April, over **£500,000** was paid out to families in school meal payments.

The staff of The Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership are some of those who look after more than **2,760** people in care homes and the council has helped those who need to shield by answering their questions, arranging deliveries and supermarket support. More than **4,200** calls and **2,000** emails were dealt with about [shielding](#) in April alone.

Helping those facing [homelessness](#), the council has also drastically increased its stock of temporary accommodation with flats and hotel rooms, working with partners to source more than **200** additional bed spaces to provide a safe place for people to stay. The council is encouraging landlords to consider supporting those who need a home by renting out their empty properties to its [Public Sector Leasing](#) (PSL) scheme with Link, and the council supported more than **1,000** people in crisis at their [five resilience centres](#) in April.

Providing Council services

Making sure council services can still be provided in a safe way has been both a priority and a challenge and they thank residents for bearing with them.

They have moved many services online so you can report a problem through the council [website](#). Just last month, they handled almost **12,000** questions from residents on social media and **36,000** enquiries over the phone. You are asked to please keep on contacting the council online if you can, leaving their phone lines free for emergencies.

Helping to keep [Council tenants](#) safe, they have carried out around **180** essential repairs to their homes per day in April and enhanced cleaning and physical distancing in their **44** multi-storey blocks.

Dedicated refuse collectors are still picking up more than **300,000** bins a week and the council has worked hard to keep most [waste services](#) running. They collected close to **876** tonnes of food waste in April, which is like picking up and processing the weight of **30** Scott Monuments. They also collected more than **8,550** tonnes of general (non-recyclable) waste, or **1.5** times the weight of the Royal Yacht Britannia. Within the first **2** days of resuming the service they also collected the weight of **5** blue whales – **500** tonnes – of garden waste.

Your libraries may be closed, but they're still [here for you](#) online. Last month libraries 'loaned' more than **18,500** ebooks and **11,800** audio books – an increase of more than **60%** on April 2019 – and **181,550** magazines and newspapers, an increase of **118%**. Demand keeps growing, with mystery fiction, recipe books and the Beano in particularly high demand. They have also created a [Book Bus for the Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity](#), filled with around **1,800** books for children and young people who need to isolate.

The city is being kept in bloom by gardeners and natural heritage officers, providing you with access to **1,450** hectares of green space including **143** [parks](#) and greenspaces for your daily exercise. The Council-managed greenspace you can roam in is the equivalent of over **2,000** Murrayfield-sized rugby pitches, **twice** the size of Gibraltar, or **22** times the size of Disneyland! Up to **40,000** plants are also being used to create a [special Floral Clock design](#) in West Princes Street Gardens, honouring all NHS workers.



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A series of **seven** measures have been put into action for [safer walking and cycling](#) around the city, so that physical distancing is easier during exercise or while commuting, while Transport for Edinburgh have released **100** free [cycle hire passes for NHS workers](#) during the pandemic.

The council is continuing to progress [planning applications](#) during lockdown, with over **360** applications already decided and **320** building warrants granted in the first three weeks of April.

Issuing millions in grant funding

The pandemic is the most difficult event faced by Edinburgh in living memory, and financial support is being directed to

those who are struggling.

· Almost **£487,500** has been issued to people in critical need through **3,260** Crisis Grants and the council is helping to support projects in local communities, with over **£83,000** paid out in Community Care grants last month. Their webpages contain [detailed advice](#) for anyone having difficulty with their finances, including welfare support. They have already processed over **4,600** applications and distributed nearly **£600,000** in welfare payments since lockdown began.

They have also helped around **5,400** local businesses to get grant funding, paying out around **£70m** in coronavirus business support grants in April. Businesses can also check their [advice pages](#) on how to apply for rates relief, self-employed workers can ask for grant funding, and the council encourages everyone who can to support the City's high streets by [buying from small local businesses](#).