

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING PRACTICE

The City of Edinburgh Council: Developing a CWB Framework for Granton Waterfront Regeneration



Background to Granton Waterfront

The Granton Waterfront regeneration is a major long-term project led by the City of Edinburgh Council alongside five key public sector partners, aiming to transform a former industrial area on the shores of the Firth of Forth into a vibrant, sustainable coastal community. Over the next 10-15 years, the development will deliver more than 3,500 net zero carbon-ready homes. At least 35% of these will be affordable, alongside new schools, health facilities, shops, cultural venues, and new parks and green spaces.

The regeneration is guided by a Development Framework that prioritises climate-conscious design, community wellbeing, and inclusive economic growth. Key features include:



- the restoration of historic landmarks like the Granton Gasholder
- the creation of new parks such as the Coastal Park and Gasholder Park
- low carbon heat solutions for the new homes
- sustainable transport infrastructure including mobility hubs and active travel connections.

Public sector partners within Granton have committed to promote and keep community wealth building at the heart of all regeneration.

Context and why a CWB Framework was needed

The Community Wealth Building Framework was developed to support the long-term vision of delivering sustainable and inclusive economic growth that benefits both the local community and the wider city. To embed CWB principles into the regeneration programme, the Granton team collaborated with the Senior Policy Officer for CWB to create a framework that outlines existing CWB activities, identifies key opportunities arising from the programme, and sets out clear next steps.

This framework will inform the programme's annual monitoring process, ensuring that CWB actions are tracked and integrated into ongoing evaluation. As the regeneration progresses, the framework will be revisited and further developed to reflect new insights and evolving priorities.

The Granton Waterfront CWB Framework

The Framework sets out next steps to continue to grow this work and embed it in the programme including:

1. Mapping out future job opportunities created by the programme and sharing information with employability partners.
2. Implementing the bespoke Community Benefits Package.
3. Communicating key news and opportunities with the community and local organisations through the newsletter and website.
4. Supporting community groups to access information about sustainable funding models to manage land and property.
5. Continuing to build relationships and work with key stakeholders in the area, particularly third sector organisations, to maximise opportunities from the site so that it is a hub for local small businesses and social enterprises.

Key achievements to date

One of the key achievements to date has been the successful connection between contractors and local employability partners. This collaboration is helping to support local



recruitment, ensuring that job opportunities generated by the regeneration programme are accessible to residents. In addition, the main developer hosted a 'meet the buyer' event, which aimed to raise awareness among local businesses about sub-contracting opportunities during the first phase of development. This event aimed to strengthen local supply chains and encouraged greater participation from small and medium-sized enterprises.

A bespoke Community Benefits Package has also been developed, shaped by community and wider stakeholder consultation. This consultation gathered views to identify the priorities within the community. As a result, the package reflects local aspirations and ensures that the benefits delivered through the development are meaningful and responsive to community needs.

Affordable lease arrangements have been put in place with several community groups and charities for key buildings in the area. For example, The Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden now manage the historic walled garden, while granton:hub and Forth Children's Theatre operate from Madelvic House. The granton:hub is a volunteer-run SCIO based in Granton's historic Madelvic House. These buildings and assets serve as a place to meet and learn for the community of Granton and Edinburgh, aiming to elevate Granton's profile and provide a focus for its diverse and evolving communities. The organisations are managed by a small team of dedicated volunteers who play a vital role in maintaining these important community space.

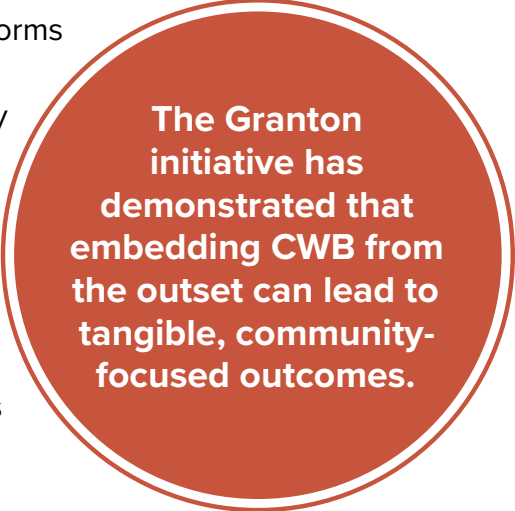
To maintain strong communication and transparency, a dedicated website and newsletter have been launched. These platforms provide regular updates on the regeneration programme and offer a way for communities and organisations to stay informed and engaged with ongoing developments.

Learning and next steps

The City of Edinburgh Council plans to publish the Granton Waterfront Community Wealth Building Framework as a practical example of how CWB principles can be effectively applied to regeneration projects.

The Granton initiative has demonstrated that embedding CWB from the outset can lead to tangible, community-focused outcomes. The format for developing the framework was found to be really effective. The senior policy officer ran a series of workshops focusing on each pillar individually, for each pillar the regeneration team worked collaboratively to develop actions that were ambitious but also achievable.

Looking ahead, the framework will be periodically revised and adapted to reflect evolving priorities and insights as the regeneration progresses. It will also play a central role in the programme's annual monitoring process, ensuring that CWB actions are tracked, evaluated, and continuously improved as the regeneration develops over the coming years.



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