

# Edinburgh Local

## Partnering to Support Inclusion

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# Strategic imperatives

- Delivering impact for society
- Contributing locally as one of four University development themes
- Putting University research and teaching in the service of the local community
- Building and strengthening relationships with the City region and its communities



# What 'contributing locally' means for the University and its communities: examples

## **For the community**

- University co-produces research/services which solve real-life problems in community
- Communities can access information about services provided (in-reach)

## **For the University**

- Student experience: creates a stronger sense of identity and common purpose
- Research: creates stronger and clearer pathways to research impact as the City region provides a living context for co-produced research projects that seek to be genuinely transformative
- Learning and teaching: creates opportunities to build experiential learning into the curriculum
- Alumni relations : opportunities to engage alumni and encourage sponsorship

# Timeline and resources

## 2016

- University Community Engagement Strategy approved
- University makes its first Social Impact Pledge

## 2017

- Dedicated staff appointed to implement community engagement programme
- Community Grants scheme launched
- Edinburgh Local website launched (<https://www.ed.ac.uk/local>)
- First Social Impact Pledges successfully completed
- Mapping of University activities and partnerships begun

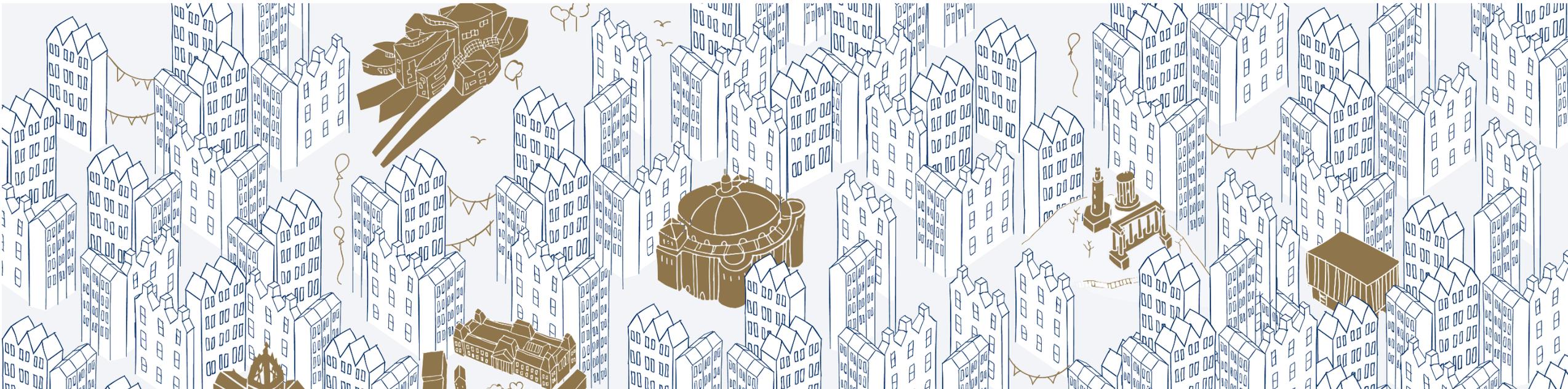
## 2018

- Second round of Pledges made
- Academic lead becomes Director of Edinburgh Futures Institute

# The challenges

Partnering to promote ‘inclusive growth’ which transforms the lives of the many, not the few

- Future-scoping
- Engaging and mobilising hard-to-reach groups
- Transforming the academic role from ‘pedagogy’ to co-production



# Flagship projects



# Characteristics of flagship projects

- Integrate research and teaching
  - Involve external partnerships (with locally-based individuals, groups, institutions)
  - Have transformative impact on the community
  - Have transformative impact on the student experience
  - Have spin-off potential for research grant applications
  - Are evaluated and learning used to up-scale
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- *Digital Ambassadors*
  - *Design for Wellbeing*

# Digital Ambassadors

- Basic digital life skills (e.g. sending email, taking pictures using a phone)
- Delivered by student volunteers
- Delivered in partnership with:
  - City of Edinburgh Libraries
  - Charteris Centre for Community
  - Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre
  - People Know How



# Design for Wellbeing

- Redesign of public spaces near the University
- New designs will reduce antisocial behaviour without excluding people
- Researchers and students work with community partners
  - Police
  - Council
  - Local businesses and residents
  - People using the public spaces



# More information

[www.ed.ac.uk/local](http://www.ed.ac.uk/local)

[local@ed.ac.uk](mailto:local@ed.ac.uk)

t: @EdinUniLocal

f: /EdinUniLocal/

i: edinburghunilocal



The screenshot displays the University of Edinburgh website. At the top, a dark navigation bar contains the following menu items: Study, Global, Visit, Research, News, About, Alumni, Local, Staff, and Students. A blue arrow points to the 'Local' menu item. Below the navigation bar is the University of Edinburgh logo and name. A search bar is located on the right side. The main content area features a large image of the Edinburgh cityscape at sunset, with the Belfry in the foreground. Below the image is a purple banner with the text 'EDINBURGH LOCAL'. On the left side, there is a sidebar with a purple header 'Edinburgh Local home' and four menu items: 'University in the city', 'Local news', 'Read our strategy', and 'Projects in the community'. On the right side, there is a 'Local news' section with a sub-header 'Home > Local' and a featured image of the Anatomical Museum entrance. The text below the image reads: 'Local news', 'Experienced teacher project', and 'University opens its...'