

## 37273 Tackling Digital Poverty

I would like to know what budget/policies your council have put in place to combat digital poverty/digital exclusion (such as lack of access to devices/internet or digital skills training) over the last 3 years.

Please break down by financial year, and include the following:

Amount of money/budget spent (£) on devices, digital skills training or anything else across each of the last three financial years (or as far back as you can provide).

2019/20 - £0.861m

2020/21 - £5.839m

2021/22 - £8.352m

Years 2020/21 and 2021/22 include costs related to the roll out of the council's Empowered Learning strategy and are therefore significantly higher than previous years.

Amount of devices donated to families, schools, or charities in need.

Please also include a breakdown of each device type (i.e. laptop, mobile phone, tablet, etc.) and associated costs.

2,592 old devices from the Council's refresh of desktops and laptops were supplied via our ICT provider, CGI, to ReusingIT.

The laptops received, after an upgrade of memory, were able to be used during early lockdown period by Scottish families to support at-home learning/working.

The bulk of the desktops were, in partnership with the Turing Trust, sent over to Malawian and Romanian schools to help their programme.

There are no associated costs recorded.

A list of any specific policies, activities or consultations introduced to tackle digital poverty.

Roll out of digital devices for pupils underway:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/13397/roll-out-of-digital-devices-for-pupils-underway#:~:text=Empowered%20Learning%20provides%20a%20learning,in%20delivering%20a%20digital%20classroom>)

Empowered Learning Project, which is our current substantive approach to reducing digital poverty in Education. Please refer to the following links which provide further detail of the project:

Empowered Learning press release:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/13149/digital-boost-for-pupils-with-39-000-ipads-in-1-1-roll-out>

Empowered Learning promotional video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kwyo5xcCN8>

Equality and diversity framework 2021 to 2025:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/equality-diversity-framework-2021-2025/5?documentId=13136&categoryId=20318>

The Council's Digital and Smart City Strategy is published on our website at:

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s26745/7.10>