

57545 Artificial Intelligence

I would like to know:

The total amount spent by the council on artificial intelligence (AI) systems, software, consultancy, training, or related services in each of the last five financial years for which data is available.

The total spend across 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years has been £209,593.

This amount was spent via our CGI Change for AI analysis, covering potential use cases, process opportunities, organisational engagement, technology solutions, vendor engagement, RFI and RFP process and analysis, across the City of Edinburgh Council.

If held, a breakdown of this spend by category (e.g. software licences, consultancy, training).

If held, any recorded information on expenditure specifically related to AI “agents.”

This specific information is not separately recorded.

Any recorded information (e.g. strategy documents, business cases, budget papers) concerning planned investment in new or expanded AI tools or services within the next 12 months.

There is nothing specific regarding planned investment in new or expanded AI tools or services, however the Digital and Smart City Strategy does reference investment in more general terms.

This is published on our website at:

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=5671>

Please refer to ‘Item 7.9 – Digital and smart City Strategy’

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=7346>

Please refer to ‘Item 8.5 – Digital and smart City Strategy 2024-2027 - Update’

A Generative AI Policy will be going to Policy and Sustainability Committee later this year, if approved, and only following this, will any potential business case and budget paper be progressed via the appropriate Committee.

AI is detailed in the Council Business Plan under Section 10a, which was approved by Elected Members in May 2025:

“10a: Modernise and streamline the Council’s core business processes to deliver better outcomes for citizens, and a more secure and efficient organisation

Year 3: Progress the Council’s AI strategy and procurement programme, with the aim of gaining investment and member approval for roll out across 25/26”

Please refer to the link below to the Council Business Plan which was approved in May 2025:

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=7347>

Please refer to ‘Item 7.2 – Council Business Plan 2023-27 New Delivery Plan’

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/Business Plan May 2025>