

GROWING HARMONY

Where Food, Life and Architecture Thrive



The Western Harbour represents a major housing-led mixed-use development project guided by an established and approved master plan. Although the site has already seen the implementation of around a third of its estimated maximum housing capacity, much of the development is still in progress, and its future growth is underpinned by a set of planning and design principles that aim to ensure cohesive urban form, community functionality, and environmental responsiveness.

Central to the ongoing development is the completion of the approved street layout and the continuation of the perimeter block urban structure, which helps to define a clear and navigable public realm. As the housing delivery progresses, there is an emphasis on reusing the original housing mix to incorporate a greater number of townhouse units. This adjustment seeks not only to better support local residents but also to encourage faster delivery of new homes in a way that responds to current housing demands and urban design priorities.

In accordance with the Council's commitment to high-quality public spaces, the development must also deliver Western Harbour Central Park, as outlined in Proposal 152. The green space is a key feature of the overall landscape and is essential in meeting the Council's Large GreenSpace Standards, providing both environmental and social value to the community.

Another integral aspect of the development is the creation of a vibrant local centre. While a portion of this centre has already been implemented, the remaining corner of the central parkland will be developed with smaller commercial units situated beneath flatbed housing. This mixed-use approach aims to reinforce the functionality and liveliness of the neighbourhood, supporting a range of local services within walking distance of residents.

As the area continues to grow, the provision of educational infrastructure remains a priority. The development plan includes the delivery of school facilities, ensuring that the needs of future families are met in line with the Action Programme's strategic objectives.

Enhancing connectivity and public access is also a key theme in the Western Harbour's development vision. A publicly accessible path is planned along the water's waterfront edge, creating a continuous road network that promotes walkability and engagement with the coastal environment.

Given the site's proximity to industrial uses, the design of new housing must carefully consider residential amenity. This includes implementing mitigation measures where necessary to minimise any potential impacts from existing or future industrial activities nearby. Additionally, the flood risk assessment previously undertaken for the site is subject to review, ensuring that all new development reflects the most current understanding of climate resilience and environmental safety (City of Edinburgh Council, 2024).



Western Harbour
1940



Western Harbour
1990



Western Harbour
2000



Western Harbour
2005



Western Harbour
2015