



Aberdeen City **voice**

**Aberdeen's Citizens' Panel
12th Questionnaire**



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LAND USE & THE ENVIRONMENT

Footpaths

Aberdeen City has a considerable number of trees planted on footpaths, for example on Hilton Drive, Gray Street and Watson Street. Unfortunately, in some areas, the trees are now causing problems including the increase of trip injury especially to the more elderly citizens, the blocking of the drainage system, and damage to the services that run underground. At present, these tree locations are maintained by selective root pruning, relaying the footpath over the root or narrowing the footpath in order to remove the trip hazard.

We would like to know what you think about the footpaths and streets in Aberdeen that are currently lined with trees. Your answers will help us to put together a Tree Replacement Programme and Tree Management Plan, as well as any impact on utility works and drainage.

1. Which of the following statements apply to you? Please tick ALL that apply.

a) I live on a tree lined street/footpath	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) I regularly drive on a tree lined street/footpath	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) I regularly walk on a tree lined street/footpath	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Do you agree that tree-lined streets are an attractive aspect of Aberdeen's urban landscape?

Please tick ONE box.

a) Strongly Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Strongly Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Don't mind/Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Why?

4. When a footpath on a tree-lined street is being upgraded, what do you think should be done about the trees that are causing problems? Please tick ONE box.

They should be:

- a) Removed and not replaced
- b) Removed but replaced with trees that are more suited to an urban environment
- c) Left as they are
- d) Left as they are but looked after as required
- e) Looked after as required but removed and replaced if necessary
- f) Other (please specify) _____

Safety of Play Areas

Over the last few years, children’s play areas and specifically equipped play spaces across the city have been improved to provide greater play opportunities, and to meet current European safety standards. These improvements have included safer surfacing, introduction of multi-play units, accommodating greater numbers of children, and the introduction of items suitable for older children. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that play areas are now not being used as much as they perhaps could be. We are being told that children do not find them adventurous enough, and as a result, the play parks are under used. Requests to the Council have increased for larger structures and particularly those with moving components, for example Ariel Runways, Large Section Tyre (Cantilever) Swings, and larger enclosed slides etc.

So, we want to find out what you think about current play areas, in particular how safe they are. This will help us redesign the City’s play areas and potentially increase or change the type of provision.

1. Do you have regular contact with children?

- a) Yes
- b) No (If No, please move on to the next section)

2. If YES, how old are the children?

3. Do those children use children’s play areas?

- a) Yes
- b) No (If No, please go to question 5)

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4. If YES, which play areas do they use and how often? Please use ONE box for each play area.

Play area (location)	Frequency of Use (daily / weekly / monthly / occasionally)

5. If NO, why not? Please tick ALL that apply.

a) There are no play areas near where I live	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) They are unsuitable for the age of the children	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) They have broken equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) They are dangerous	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) They are too close to traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) They are unfenced	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) The children find the play areas boring	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. What is important to you in a play area? Please tick ALL that apply.

a) It is local	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) It is safe (has gates/fences)	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) It is clean and has litter bins	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) It has a range of activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) It has grassy areas to run around in	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) There are attractive plants in/near the play area	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) The play equipment range is suitable for all ages	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) It has picnic or park benches near by	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) It encourages imaginative play	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) It has natural features (e.g. rocks, tree trunks, grass mounding, sand etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) All of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>
l) Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Please name any play areas you particularly like and/or dislike?

Like (location)	Dislike (location)

8. In general, do you think we are making play areas too safe when we are improving them?

Please tick ONE box.

a) Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Don't know/No opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>

Soft Landscaping

In the past, Aberdeen City Council has encouraged the development of 'hard landscaping' within inner City areas, for example paving, granite sett's (cobble) and grass. Examples of these can be seen in most inner City housing and retail areas. However, the Council has recently re-thought its policy on this and is now introducing increasing numbers of 'soft landscaped areas' into public sites. This means greater use of shrub/tree planting and seasonal flower beds. Examples of this include the introduction of rose and tree planting in Market Street and South College Street, as well as the improved planting at Mounthooly Roundabout. Such work would include the removal or large areas of sett's from central reservations and replacement with roses/shrubs and trees.

To turn some of the hard landscaped public areas back into soft landscaped areas, the Council will have to increase the money that they currently spend on landscaping. We would like to know what you think about public areas across the City and how they should be landscaped. Your answers will help us prioritise work and set the budget over the next years, particularly through Neighbourhood Community Action Plans.

1. Do you prefer soft landscaping or hard landscaping in public areas in the City? Please tick ONE box.

a) Hard Landscaping (e.g. paving/grass)	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Soft landscaping (e.g. shrubs/flower beds)	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) A mix of both Hard and Soft Landscaping	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Don't mind/Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>

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2. Is there anywhere you would like to see more soft landscaping? Please tick ALL that apply.

a) Roundabouts	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Roadside	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) In specific flower boxes	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Central reservations	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Retail Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Public parks	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Nowhere	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Do you think the Council should increase the money they spend on soft landscaping in public areas in the City? Please tick ONE box.

a) Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Don't mind/Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Generally, in what ways do you think the landscaping in our city can be improved?

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5. Who do you think has responsibility for keeping the city clean and presentable?

Please tick ALL that apply.

a) Aberdeen City Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Local Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Voluntary Organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) General Public	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) All of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Where should Aberdeen City Council be putting our efforts to make the City clean?

Please tick THREE boxes only.

a) Dog fouling	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Litter (including gum removal)	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Flytipping (dumping of litter including tyres, fridges, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Flyposting	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Abandoned vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Availability of recycling in the streets	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Planting/greenspace	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Cleaning granite buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Biodiversity

Biodiversity simply means the number and variety of plants, animals, insects and other life (including humans) within a specified geographic area. It also considers the relationship between species and how we live together.

In the last City Voice we asked you if you knew about the City's biodiversity strategy and to rank its importance against other environmental strategies the City Council is responsible for. From this information we have found that we need to explain the importance of these strategies and plans to you, in a way that is more understandable.

1. Do you think the term 'Biodiversity' without the definition given above is easy to understand?

a) Yes (Please got to Q.3)	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. If NO, which of the following terms do you think best explains the definition better?

Please tick ONE box.

- a) Conservation
- b) The Natural Environment
- c) The Green Environment
- d) Plants and wee beasties
- e) Flora and Fauna
- f) Other (please specify) _____

3. Please tick ONE box for each option.

Did you know...

- | | Yes | No |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Biodiversity is an indicator of Climate Change | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Biodiversity is impacted by humans | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Many of the local native plants, animal, insects and other life were introduced to our countryside? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) People and the economy rely on the healthy state of our natural environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Many of our current and new medicines come from native plants, animal, insects and other life. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) If we reduce our Biodiversity we will reduce the availability and ability to create new medicines and harvest for existing medicines. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Pests and diseases are more common in open space and poorly maintained environments | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4. In general, what do you think about Biodiversity in Aberdeen City?

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TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIONS

Local Transport Strategy – Annual Questions

Aberdeen City Council is currently developing a Local Transport Strategy (LTS) for the city which will set out the Council's transport policies and actions until 2012. We hope to publish the Final LTS in early 2008.

In last June's City Voice questionnaire we asked you questions on your transport priorities and what type of strategies you think we should put into practice through the LTS. The questions in this questionnaire look in more detail at what can be done to encourage higher levels of walking, cycling and public transport use. This is one of the LTS's main objectives. We will use the answers you give us as baseline data on your current travel patterns and hope to ask the same questions every year in the City Voice to find out changing trends. This will allow us to measure what impact Council strategies are having on delivering the LTS objectives.

If you would like more information on the LTS, please visit the City Council website www.aberdeencity.gov.uk

1. How many cars or vans are owned or available for use by your household? Please tick ONE box.

- a) None (Please go to Q. 3)
- b) One car or van
- c) Two cars or vans
- d) Three or more cars or vans

2. What years were your cars/vans first registered? If you don't know, please leave blank.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

3. Please tell us how you and your family usually travel to your work or school/college/university if in full time education. Please tick the MAIN MODE of travel for each adult and/or child only. For example, if you are an offshore worker we are most interested in how you travel to the air/heliport, or how your child travels to school.

	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5
Please indicate whether Adult (A) or Child (C)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
a) Do not work/study (Please go to Q.6)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
b) Walk	<input type="checkbox"/>				
c) Driver car/van	<input type="checkbox"/>				
d) Passenger car/van	<input type="checkbox"/>				
e) Motorcycle/moped	<input type="checkbox"/>				
f) Bicycle	<input type="checkbox"/>				
g) School bus	<input type="checkbox"/>				
h) Work bus	<input type="checkbox"/>				
i) Ordinary (service) bus	<input type="checkbox"/>				
j) Taxi/minicab	<input type="checkbox"/>				
k) Rail	<input type="checkbox"/>				
l) Horse-riding	<input type="checkbox"/>				
m) Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>				

4. For each of the journeys mentioned above, please provide the postcode or address for the destination location of each. Please match your numbered answers above to those below. For example, where Person 1 was travelling should be entered next to Person 1 below.

Person 1 _____

Person 2 _____

Person 3 _____

Person 4 _____

Person 5 _____

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5. If you normally travel to work by car, what are your main reasons for doing so?

Please tick ALL that apply.

a) Car essential to perform job	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Dropping / Collecting children	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Give others a lift	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Public transport not available	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Public transport not reliable	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Health reasons	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Public transport not frequent enough	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Public transport not quick enough	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Cheap	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Safe	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) Allowance / Company Car	<input type="checkbox"/>
l) Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. To what extent do you think you are, or would be, safe from crime when travelling by bus and train in the evenings? Please tick ONE box for each option.

	Very safe	Fairly safe	Not particularly safe	Not at all safe	Don't know
a) Bus	<input type="checkbox"/>				
b) Train	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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	Strongly Agree	Tend to Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
Generally, when I use the train:						
l) The trains are on time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m) The trains are frequent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n) The service runs when I need it	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o) The service is stable and isn't regularly changing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p) The trains are clean	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
q) The trains are comfortable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
r) I feel personally safe and secure on the train	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
s) It is simple deciding the type of ticket I need	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
t) Finding out about routes and times is easy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
u) It's easy changing from trains to other forms of transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v) The fares are good value	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. On how many days in the last seven have you travelled more than a quarter of a mile (400m) by the following options?

	None	1-2 days	3-5 days	6-7 days	Don't know
a) Bike – to travel to work, go shopping or visit friends	<input type="checkbox"/>				
b) Bike – for the pleasure of cycling or to keep fit	<input type="checkbox"/>				
c) Foot – to travel to work, go shopping or visit friends	<input type="checkbox"/>				
d) Foot – for the pleasure of walking/ jogging/running, to keep fit or to walk the dog.	<input type="checkbox"/>				

2. How often do you access the outdoors for the following informed activities?

Please tick **ONE** box for each option.

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Occasionally	Never
a) Walking	<input type="checkbox"/>				
b) Cycling	<input type="checkbox"/>				
c) Horse-riding	<input type="checkbox"/>				
d) Canoeing/Kayaking	<input type="checkbox"/>				
e) Other	<input type="checkbox"/>				

(please specify) _____

3. Which of the following would encourage you to take part in outdoor access more?

Please tick **ALL** that apply.

a) Better information	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Better path maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) More off-road options	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) New path links	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Nothing	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Of those you have ticked above, which ONE is the most important?

5. Are you familiar with the guidance given in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code on responsible access to the outdoors?

a) Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you would like more information on the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, please contact:

Rachel Sharp, Senior Planner, Aberdeen City Council on **523316** or **rsharp@aberdeencity.gov.uk**

Thank-you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Please return it in the prepaid envelope provided, or send it to:

Freepost Plus RLZR-RYJT-KXJU

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Community Planning
in Aberdeen