

Community Empowerment

The theme of this questionnaire is 'Community Empowerment'. Community Empowerment can be broadly defined as **'People having more power and influence to work together to make change happen in their communities'**. In November 2022, Community Planning Aberdeen published a Community Empowerment Strategy. The ambition of the strategy is for all communities across Aberdeen to be equal community planning partners. It provides a framework to guide how we work together for the benefits of our communities through engagement, participation and empowerment. The aim of this questionnaire is to try to get a better understanding of how people currently interact with their local communities and about their experiences of community engagement in Aberdeen City.

SECTION 1: YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Please answer the following questions with your **local neighbourhood** in mind, however, please think about/consider the wider area it sits within if it helps you to answer questions. Everyone will have their own idea about what a local neighbourhood is, for the purpose of these questions we suggest that the relevant area is within a 15 minute walk from your home.

Social Interaction

Good places have a mix of spaces and opportunities to meet and spend time with other people. Some places also have active websites or social media networks to help people meet and take part in the local community. Feeling isolated can be damaging to our health and wellbeing. The following questions ask about opportunities in your neighbourhood for social interaction.

1. Where do people get together? (please tick all that apply)

- ☐ Local halls and centres
- ☐ Schools
- ☐ Places of worship
- ☐ Food and drink outlets
- ☐ Streets
- ☐ Outdoor seating
- ☐ Online
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Other (please specify in the box below)

Other:

2. How do you find out what's happening? (please tick all that apply)

- ☐ Friends/family/neighbours
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Advertising and posters
- ☐ Local radio and newspapers
- ☐ Other (please specify in the box below)

Other:

For the remaining questions in this section, please answer each question on a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.

3. Can everyone join in and mix? For example, you could think about things like whether it is accessible, friendly, inclusive, welcoming, free or affordable, or you have the necessary digital access and skills.

1 - A lot of room for improvement	2	3	4	5	6	7 - Very little room for improvement	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Is there a mix of activities? For example, you could think about where there are indoor and outdoor groups, kids' clubs and pensioner clubs, community activities, events, specialist groups.

1 - A lot of room for improvement	2	3	4	5	6	7 - Very little room for improvement	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Would people come together in a crisis? For example, you could think about networks, support groups or resources.

1 - A lot of room for improvement	2	3	4	5	6	7 - Very little room for improvement	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Overall, considering your responses to questions 1-5 above, how would you rate the range of opportunities which allow you to meet and spend time with other people?

1 - A lot of room for improvement	2	3	4	5	6	7 - Very little room for improvement	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Identity and Belonging

How a place looks, its history and what other people think of it can affect how we feel. A positive identity can also attract people and businesses to move into an area.

Please answer the following questions on a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement. Please answer these questions with your local neighbourhood in mind.

- 7. How strong is the sense of identity and belonging?** For example, you could think of things like local pride, neighbourliness, traditions or local groups.

1 - A lot of room for improvement	2	3	4	5	6	7 - Very little room for improvement	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 8. How involved are people in the community?** For example you could think about things like volunteering, sharing experiences, support networks, groups coming together in a crisis.

1 - A lot of room for improvement	2	3	4	5	6	7 - Very little room for improvement	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 9. How welcoming are people in this place?** For example, you could think about things like friendliness, tolerance and openness, all ages and ethnicities, disabled people, language, and culture.

1 - A lot of room for improvement	2	3	4	5	6	7 - Very little room for improvement	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 10. What do others think of the place and community?** For example, you could think about its reputation, profile or sense of community.

1 - A lot of room for improvement	2	3	4	5	6	7 - Very little room for improvement	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 11. Overall, considering your responses to questions 7-10 above, to what extent does your neighbourhood have a positive identity that supports a strong sense of belonging?**

1 - A lot of room for improvement	2	3	4	5	6	7 - Very little room for improvement	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Influence and Sense of Control

Having a voice in decision-making can help to build stronger communities and better places. Having a sense of control can make people feel positive about their lives.

Please answer the following questions on a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement. Please answer these questions with your local neighbourhood in mind.

12. **Does your community have a voice?** For example, this may include confidence to take part or get involved, influencing decisions, doing things yourselves, knowing and successfully exercising your rights.

1 - A lot of room for improvement	2	3	4	5	6	7 - Very little room for improvement	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. **Is the community listened to?** For example, are your needs understood, do you know who to talk to, are you consulted, should there be more or less consultation.

1 - A lot of room for improvement	2	3	4	5	6	7 - Very little room for improvement	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. **Are there effective local groups?** For example, community council, residents' association, business groups, charities or lobby groups, building/user forums, or social media.

1 - A lot of room for improvement	2	3	4	5	6	7 - Very little room for improvement	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. **Do you feel able to take action/contribute to local improvement on your own or with neighbours?** For example, litter picking, local improvements, working together to take action.

1 - A lot of room for improvement	2	3	4	5	6	7 - Very little room for improvement	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

16. **Are there barriers to participation for some people?** For example, you could think about things like clear language, access to online/digital tools, hearing/vision needs, disabled people, can everyone take part.

1 - A lot of room for improvement	2	3	4	5	6	7 - Very little room for improvement	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

17. **Overall, considering your responses to questions 12-16 above, when things happen in your neighbourhood, how well do you feel listened to and included in decision-making?**

1 - A lot of room for improvement	2	3	4	5	6	7 - Very little room for improvement	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION 2 - YOUR ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY

Involvement in Community Groups/Activities

18. Thinking about your local community, please rate your agreement with the following statements: (Please tick one box in each row)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
I feel part of the community in the area where I live	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I know where to find information about what is happening within my community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would like to be involved in decisions which affect my community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I know how to get involved in decisions which affect my community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am involved in my community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have the knowledge and skills to work with others to make improvements in the community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have the knowledge and skills to gather information relevant to my community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I feel that efforts to address community issues are worthwhile	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I pitch in when there is work to be done	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

19. Do you currently belong to any community groups? This can be any local group that you give your time or support to.

- ☐ Yes
☐ No (please go to Section 3, Q.22)

We are keen to learn about the full range of active community groups in Aberdeen. If you answered 'yes', and would like to, please use the box below to give the name of the group/s you are in.

Group/s:

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20. Are you happy for us to contact you to find out more about this group/these groups?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

21. If you do belong to a community group, the next questions relate to whether you feel you have the necessary support, tools or skills to succeed. This could be you personally or the group as a whole. Please rate your agreement with the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
I know where to find information about support or training that is available to me	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I know where to find information about support or training that is available to our group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I know where to find information and support about funding available to our group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I know where to find information about connecting with other (similar) groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I do not feel we need any additional support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

You can find information and resources from our website

<https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/ourcommunities/> Please note that we are making improvements to these pages at the moment.

SECTION 3 – WORKING WITH COMMUNITY PLANNING ABERDEEN

The City Voice is run by Community Planning Aberdeen. Community Planning Aberdeen is a partnership of public, private and third sector organisations working together to improve outcomes for people and communities across the City. The partnership includes public service organisations such as Aberdeen City Council; Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership; NHS Grampian; North East Scotland College; Police Scotland; and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. It works with many other organisations as well as community groups.

22. Before joining the City Voice panel, were you aware of Community Planning Aberdeen?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not sure

23. Community Planning Aberdeen has developed a Local Outcome Improvement Plan and other complementary plans and projects which detail the outcomes we are working together to improve. Are you aware of these? (Please tick one box in each row)

	Yes	No	Not sure
Local Outcome Improvement Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Locality Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Empowerment Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improvement Projects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

24. Are you aware of the opportunity to get involved through the following ways? (Please tick all that apply)

	Yes	No	Not sure	I would be interested in being involved
City Voice Citizens' Panel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Locality Empowerment Groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improvement Project Teams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sign up for community update emails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

25. There are a number of Improvement projects covering a range of issues. If you indicated in the above question that you would like to be involved in an Improvement Project, which of the following projects might you be interested in? (Please tick one box in each row)

	Yes	No	Not sure	Not applicable
Tackling Poverty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Growing an inclusive Economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nurturing Children and Young People	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting Vulnerable People	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improving the Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Engaging and Empowering Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 also introduces the right for a community to be involved in community planning by making a participation request or asset transfer request.

Asset Transfers introduce a right for community bodies to make requests to all local authorities, Scottish Ministers and a range of public bodies for any land or building they feel they could make better use of.

26. Are you aware of Asset Transfer? (please tick one box)

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

27. Do you know where to find information and support about making an Asset Transfer request? (Please tick all boxes that apply)

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I would like more information

Participation Requests are a new means by which community groups can request to have a greater involvement in, and influence over, decisions and services that affect their communities and community lives.

28. Are you aware of Participation Requests? (Please tick one box)

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

29. Do you know where to find information and support about making a Participation Request?
(Please tick all boxes that apply)

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I would like more information

30. This question aims to find out what, if any, experience you may have had of engaging with Community Planning Aberdeen and individual partner organisations. Engagement may be at a range of levels, from being told about decisions that have been made, to sharing in all or most of the decisions as equal partners. The table below asks about your level of engagement with Community Planning as a whole and with each of the individual partner organisations. (Please tick one box in each row.)

	None	Informed (e.g. told what was happening)	Consulted (e.g. had the opportunity to give feedback)	Engaged (e.g. had regular opportunities to express your views and influence decisions)	Co-designed (e.g. involved in decisions and designing solutions)	Co-produced (e.g. where everybody worked together as equals to come to a solution)	Don't know/not sure
Community Planning Aberdeen as a whole	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aberdeen City Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police Scotland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NHS Grampian	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
North East Scotland College	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	None	Informed	Consulted	Engaged	Co-designed	Co-produced	Don't know/not sure
North East Scotland Transport Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skills Development Scotland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
University of Aberdeen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robert Gordon University	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grampian Regional Equality Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please use this box if you have any comments on your responses to this question.

31. What changes you think would help improve community engagement in the City? (Please use the boxes below to tell us three things you think could help community engagement.)

Suggestion 1:

Suggestion 2:

Suggestion 3:

32. We are planning on developing resources and information to help people get involved in their communities. Would you be interested in taking part in a focus group to share your ideas?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Thank you!

Please return your completed questionnaire in the prepaid envelope provided. If you have not received an envelope, please return it to the Freepost address below (no stamp required):

Freepost RUBB-UERY-YHYE
Aberdeen City Voice
Marischal College
Broad Street
Aberdeen
AB10 1AB

Alternatively, if you would like to complete an online version of this questionnaire, please contact:
cityvoice@aberdeencity.gov.uk

To notify us of any changes to your contact details, please email:
cityvoice@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Your Information, Your Rights

You've got legal rights about the way the Council handles and uses your data, which include the right to ask for a copy of it, to correct it, to delete it and to ask us to stop doing something with your data. Please contact the Council's Data Protection Officer by e-mail at dataprotectionofficer@aberdeencity.gov.uk or in writing at The Data Protection Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Level 1 South, Marischal College, Aberdeen, AB10 1AU.

For more information about all the rights you have please visit our website at www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/your-data You also have the right to make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office. They are the body responsible for making sure that organisations like the Council handle your data properly and in line with the law. For more information visit their website at www.ico.org.uk