



Community
Planning
Aberdeen

Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future –

Central Locality results report 2025



Contents

WHY DID WE DO THIS?	2
WHAT DID WE ASK?	3
HOW AND WHO DID WE ASK?	3
WHO PARTICIPATED?.....	4
WHAT WE FOUND.....	4
WHAT THE CENTRAL LOCALITY SCORED HIGHEST AND LOWEST	4
WHAT HAS CHANGED IN CENTRAL SINCE 2023	5
WHAT SCORED HIGHEST AND LOWEST IN CENTRAL PRIORITY NEIGHBOURHOODS	5
WHAT PEOPLE IN CENTRAL SAID	7
TOP THINGS THAT THE CENTRAL LOCALITY THINK ARE 'GOOD NOW' AND THINGS THAT 'COULD MAKE ABERDEEN BETTER'	8
WHAT OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAID.....	28
WHAT PEOPLE FROM CENTRAL LOCALITY SAID ABOUT OUR PROPOSALS?	31
Work and Local Economy.....	32
Social interaction	32
Influence and Sense of Control	32
Housing and Community.....	33
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?	33
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.....	34

WHY DID WE DO THIS?

Over 2025 and years ahead, Community Planning Aberdeen partners were engaging on a number of plans and strategies aimed at improving our city.

The way our city, our neighborhoods, look, function and feel can influence everything from our health and wellbeing to the opportunities we can access. Improving the quality of places can help to tackle inequalities and improve outcomes for our communities. Understanding the existing and potential strengths of Aberdeen directly from the people of Aberdeen can inform good decision-making.

To support people to participate, Community Planning Aberdeen partners joined up to hold one engagement to inform the various strategic plans. By integrating the engagement, we aimed to reduce the ask on communities and streamline the engagement process.

The plans and strategies included the Local Housing Strategy, Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan, Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan, the Local Development Plan (LDP), the Visitor Levy Proposal, the Children's Services Plan, and the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans.

WHAT DID WE ASK?

We asked you to score (1 to 7) for each of the 14 themes below each focussed on one aspect of life in Aberdeen (1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little improvement needed).

To help us identify potential areas for improvement we asked you to share your view for each theme on:

- What is working well?
- What could be improved?



We also asked you tell us if you agreed, or not, with the priorities and actions in our current draft Strategies (Local Housing Strategy, Community Learning and Development, Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan, Local Development Plan Play Sufficiency Assessment, Visitor Levy Proposal) aligned to the following themes:

- Work and Economy
- Facilities and Services
- Social Interaction
- Influence and Sense of Control
- Play and Recreation
- Housing and Community

HOW AND WHO DID WE ASK?

The engagement ran from 24th March to 18th May and was a combination of the following:

- online survey for adults
- online survey designed for children and young people
- 6 locality events, with specific activities designed by the Aberdeen Youth Movement and Aberdeen Ambassadors for children and young people
- outreach programme where we went to 98 groups/schools/locations across Aberdeen and facilitated participation to meet people's needs.

We reached out to you, through the services you connect with, the people you know, the community and third sector group you are involved with, your friends and family. We also used our networks and social media platforms; we issued press releases and got stories in newsletters. Your contribution has been a valuable part of this exercise.

Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future
It's time to have your say Aberdeen

We would like all Aberdeen residents to share your views! Tell us what you think is good now and what could be better. Your views will help shape Aberdeen's plans for improvement. The engagement is open between 24 March and 18 May 2025

How to participate:
Share your views by scanning the QR code, or visiting: <http://yourplaceyourplans.commonplace.is>
or attend a drop in event in your locality:

Engagement Events	When	Where
North Priority Neighbourhood Partnership	Saturday 10th May 2025 10am - 4pm	Get Active @ Northfields, Kintore Hills Crescent, AB15 5TL
North Locality Improvement Group	Saturday 10th May 2025 10am - 12pm	Beagle Church, Errol Way, Bridge of Don AB22 6BL
Central Priority Neighbourhood Partnership	Saturday 26th April 2025 10am - 12pm	Aberdeen Sports Village, Lintrathie Road, AB24 5LJ
Central Locality Improvement Group	Thursday 27th March 2025 10am - 4pm	Rowanmont Community Centre, Rowanmont, AB22 2ND
Aberdeen South	Thursday 27th March 2025 10am - 12pm	Gringyhope Community Hub, Tullos Circle, Bally, AB11 8EL
South Locality Improvement Group	Saturday 26th April 2025 10am - 4pm	Bayhill Library, Springfield Road AB15 79W

Community Planning Aberdeen
Telephone and email enquiries available
01224 953906
Email: communityplanning@cityofaberdeen.gov.uk

Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future
It's time to have your say Aberdeen

Completed

Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future
Help shape our plans. Tell us what would make your neighbourhoods better.

600

Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future
It's time to have your say Aberdeen

Active

Children and Young People Survey
Children and Young People help shape our plans. Tell us what would make your neighbourhoods better.

Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future
It's time to have your say Aberdeen

Active

Locality Events and Outreach Programme
Explore the ways to participate in the engagement - our events in your

Get informed

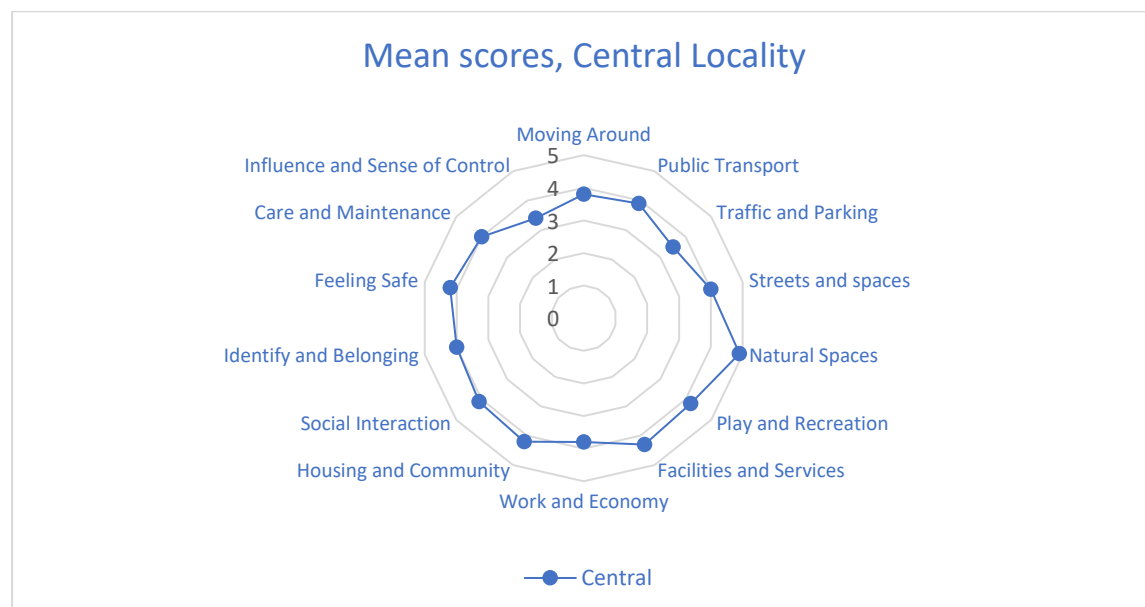
WHO PARTICIPATED?

2,087 people took part in engagement process – up from 470 participants in the last engagement in 2023.

We asked people to share where they lived, but this was not mandatory. 296 people who completed the survey (online and paper copies and locality events/facilitated outreach session) told us that they lived in the Central Locality. Of those, 77 were from priority neighbourhoods. 190 children and young people from schools within the Central Locality participated.

WHAT WE FOUND

Based on scores allocated by participants from the Central Locality, average (mean) scores were calculated for each of the themes. The lower the score, the more participants thought improvement was required. Scores ranged from a **low** of 3.4 (**Influence and sense of control**) to a high of 4.9 (**Natural Space**) out of a maximum of 7.



WHAT THE CENTRAL LOCALITY SCORED HIGHEST AND LOWEST

The **five highest** ranking themes were:

1. Natural Spaces (4.9)
2. Facilities and Services (4.3)
3. Play and Recreation (4.2)
4. Housing and Community (4.2)
5. Feeling Safe (4.2)

The **five lowest** ranking themes were:

1. Influence and Sense of Control (3.4)
2. Traffic and Parking (3.5)
3. Moving Around (3.8)
4. Work and Economy (3.8)
5. Public Transport (3.9)

WHAT HAS CHANGED IN CENTRAL SINCE 2023

Since we last asked in 2023, in **Central**, there has been an improvement for 9 of the themes, with scores for three themes remaining the same and a lower score for two themes (**public transport and identity and belonging**).

Table xx: Comparison of locality mean scores with 2023.

	Central		
	2023	2025	Change
Moving Around	3.8	3.8	0.0
Public Transport	4.0	3.9	-0.1
Traffic and Parking	3.1	3.5	0.4
Streets and Spaces	3.9	4.0	0.1
Natural Space	4.6	4.9	0.3
Play and Recreation	4.2	4.2	0.0
Facilities and Services	3.9	4.3	0.4
Work and Local Economy	3.7	3.8	0.1
Housing and Community	3.9	4.2	0.3
Social Interaction	4.1	4.1	0.0
Identity and Belonging	4.1	4.0	-0.1
Feeling Safe	4.0	4.2	0.2
Care and Maintenance	3.4	4.0	0.6
Influence and Sense of Control	3.1	3.4	0.3

WHAT SCORED HIGHEST AND LOWEST IN CENTRAL PRIORITY NEIGHBOURHOODS

The table below shows the 5 lowest and highest ranking themes for Priority Neighbourhoods within the Central locality. As with the overall locality results, Influence and Sense of Control and Traffic and Parking were the lowest ranked themes for Central PNs. Feeling Safe was the third highest ranked theme in the Central PNs, although amongst the five lowest ranked themes in North and South. Natural Space was the highest ranked theme for Central and North priority neighbourhood, but only the 4th highest for South priority neighbourhoods where Public Transport was the highest ranked. Public Transport was the 4th highest ranked theme in North PNs but did not appear in the top five for Central.

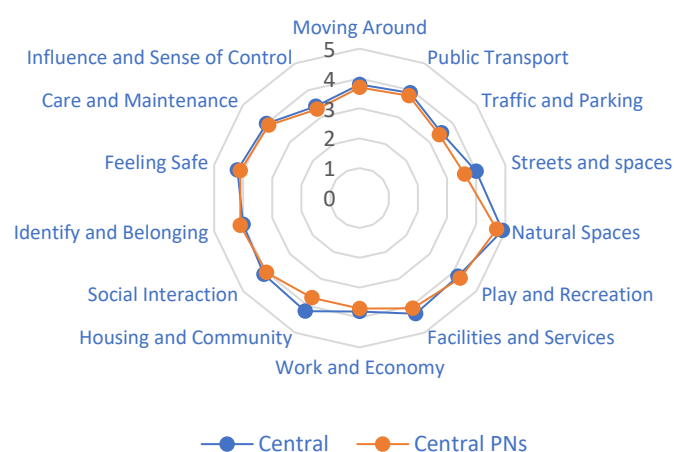
The **five highest** ranking themes were:

1. Natural Spaces 4.7
2. Play and Recreation 4.3
3. Feeling Safe 4.1
4. Facilities and Services 4.1
5. Identify and Belonging 4.1

The **five lowest** ranking themes were:

1. Influence and Sense of Control 3.3
2. Traffic and Parking 3.4
3. Streets and spaces 3.6
4. Moving Around 3.7
5. Work and Economy 3.7

Mean scores, Central and Priority Neighbourhoods



Since we last asked in 2023, in Central Priority Neighbourhoods there is improvement in 9 themes, 1 has remained the same and decreases in 4 themes (**moving around, public transport, streets and spaces and housing and community**).

The table below show highest and lowest ranking for Central Locality as a whole compared to the Central Priority Neighbourhoods. For the most part, the themes ranked highest and lowest are similar in PNs and the locality as a whole. However, there are some differences. The themes in the highest or lowest rankings which appear in one group but not the other have been highlighted.

Central Locality scores were similar for priority neighbourhoods and locality area as a whole. Priority neighbourhoods scored lower for **streets and spaces** and **housing and community**.

	Central		Central PNs	
	Theme	Mean	Theme	Mean
Lowest	Influence and Sense of Control	3.4	Influence and Sense of Control	3.3
	Traffic and Parking	3.5	Traffic and Parking	3.4
	Moving Around	3.8	Streets and spaces	3.6
	Work and Economy	3.8	Moving Around	3.7
	Public Transport	3.9	Work and Economy	3.7
Highest	Natural Spaces	4.9	Natural Spaces	4.7
	Facilities and Services	4.3	Play and Recreation	4.3
	Play and Recreation	4.2	Feeling Safe	4.1
	Feeling Safe	4.2	Facilities and Services	4.1
	Housing and Community	4.2	Identify and Belonging	4.1

WHAT PEOPLE IN CENTRAL SAID

A total of **3202** comments were received across each of the 14 themes, combining all 'good' now comments, and all 'improve' comments received by participants from the Central Locality who completed the survey or attended an in person event.

The number of comments for 'improve' are greater than the number for 'good' in all themes except 'Natural Space'. There was a wide variety and range of comments provided for each theme suggesting improvements.

Below is a summary taken from participants' comments of both the 'good' aspects about Aberdeen and their places, as well as the suggestions for improvement. The summarised comments from Central Locality participants are presented and grouped by theme.



TOP THINGS THAT THE CENTRAL LOCALITY THINK ARE ‘GOOD NOW’ AND THINGS THAT ‘COULD MAKE ABERDEEN BETTER’

Here are the summarised top areas participants from the Central Locality felt are ‘Good now’ and ‘Could Make Aberdeen Better’ in the future. There are a number of cross cutting areas arising across themes.

Theme	‘Good’ now	‘Improve’ for the future
Moving Around	Bus: Participants appreciate the bus routes for their reliability, frequency, and direct connections to key locations such as the beach retail park, Hilton, and the city centre. <i>“Where buses exist, they are frequent.” And “I take the bus and walk, mostly. Having a live tracker for buses is so good. and union street stops showing real times is great. my home bus stop has just had a shelter added which is more comfortable in bad weather</i> Cycle: Participants commented upon the availability of cycle lanes. There was a appreciation that though not continuous, they are seen as a positive step towards promoting cycling. <i>“Lots of cycle lanes at no cost to cyclists to install or maintain these paths also there isn’t a continuous cycle lane from a to b so cyclists have to mix with pedestrians or motorists.” And “Recent developments with the segregated cycle path on South College St are amazing and just what Aberdeen needs.”</i> Walking: Participants reported that the city is highly walkable, with wide, clean, and well-lit pavements making it easy to navigate on foot. <i>“Pavements are generally well-lit.” and “I tend to walk rather than use public transport and I think Aberdeen is a very walkable city.”</i> The presence of ample parking and pedestrian crossings adds to the sense of safety and convenience.	Pavements and Roads: The condition of pavements and roads is a concern for some participants. Issues such as uneven surfaces, broken pavements, and potholes pose risks to pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike. <i>“Many pavements across the city have slabs/cobbles which are either loose, no longer flush, or have large gaps between. This regularly puts the health and safety of pedestrians at risk, particularly elderly and disabled.” and “All Pavements around Seaton are completely uneven, with the tree roots pushing up the tarmac. Making it difficult to walk across.”</i> Cycling Infrastructure: Some participants commented upon the lack of dedicated and safe cycling infrastructure. Feeling that the absence of segregated cycle lanes and the risks posed by car users make cycling a dangerous activity. <i>“Cycling- I do not feel safe driving on Aberdeen streets with my bike. It does help when there are clear, designated, cycling lanes but that is often not the case and cars will not provide a safe space between a cyclist and themselves unfortunately.” And “More joined up cycle routes.”</i> Public Transport: Public transport services are frequently criticised for being unreliable, expensive, and not frequent enough. There are also complaints about the bus gates and LEZ zones, which residents feel are confusing and inconvenient.

	Infrastructure Maintenance: Participants value the city's efforts in maintaining infrastructure, including quick filling of potholes and ongoing road resurfacing projects and the impact of the AWPR. <i>"Potholes are being filled quickly." And "Big ring road had seen much of the traffic removed from the centre of the town."</i>	<i>"Buses are cancelled regularly by First Aberdeen on very short notice or while you are waiting at the stop which is extremely bad. The service 15 in particular is very bad for this meaning I have had to walk home on several occasions." And "Bus gates and LEZ have caused confusion and refusal of some people to go into the city. Public transport is too expensive so does not get used to its full potential."</i> Parking: Parking is an issue which participants have commented on, particularly around schools and in the city centre. Participants have suggested creating more parking spaces and making parking cheaper to encourage visitors to the city. <i>"Parking at school drop off time for Cornhill Primary School on Beechwood Road is poor. Parents park over drives, park on double yellows, mount kerbs, park on School yellow zig zag. There is space at the North of Beechwood Road and on the playing fields for 10 minute parking drop off spaces. Alternatively banning non-resident parking at the start and end of the school day." And "Parking fees are extortionate for those of us that cannot or refuse to use public Transport."</i> Safety: Safety concerns include the lack of safe crossing points for pedestrians, aggressive driving, and the need for better enforcement of traffic regulations. <i>"Safe crossing for elderly at junction of Ashgrove Gardens North and Foresterhill Road to get to bus stop heading to ARI and town centre."</i> <i>"Pedestrian crossings should work in the pedestrian's favour (no waiting 5 minutes for the lights to change!). ..."</i> Environmental Cleanliness: Participants commented upon the presence of dog mess and litter on pavements. Participants have called for more measures to control antisocial behaviour and improve the cleanliness of
--	--	--

		the streets. <i>"Walking- I walk pretty much everywhere and I would say the negative to this is the dog poop that is literally everywhere and I cannot grasp why. I am not from the UK and so perhaps it is a cultural thing but it is certainly disgusting, unhygienic and unpleasant." And "Maintenance of pavements, clearing of leaves from pavements and gutters, treatments of pavements and roads when ice and snow are present."</i> Accessibility: participants feel the city is not very accessible for wheelchair users and people with disabilities. Uneven pavements, lack of drop kerbs, and insufficient street lighting make it difficult for these individuals to navigate the city safely. <i>"Smooth pavements, continued access all over city, more drop kerbs." And "Pavements needs repaired, not good for wheelchairs due to tree trunks."</i>
Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Public Transport	Public Transport Services: many participants appreciate the range and reliability of services, noting that buses are generally frequent and on time. The availability of direct bus routes to key locations, such as the beach retail park, is also highlighted as a positive feature. <i>"The range of services and the reliability of these services is good." And "Public transport services are frequent and the available routes are to a large extent abundant. Modes of transport have been updated and are, for the most part, more inviting to travel in. The focus on reducing emissions within transport offerings are laudable."</i> Convenience and Accessibility: Participants find the bus routes to be well-connected and extensive, with multiple options available for getting around the city. The convenience of having bus stops close to their homes and the usefulness of apps showing bus routes and electronic boards showing waiting times	Frequency and Reliability: The frequency and reliability of buses are concerns to some participants. Some participants report that buses often do not appear when scheduled. This unreliability forces some to take cars instead of public transport. Participants suggest increased integration between bus companies and more frequent and reliable services. There are also mentions of the need for better integration of all bus companies into one app and more live timetables at bus stops to improve the overall user experience. <i>"Buses often disappear off the overhead list of arrival times for no reason" and "Better integration if all bus companies into one app and more live timetables at bus stops to improve the overall user experience."</i> Affordability: Affordability was also raised by participants. Participants find the bus fares expensive, especially for working people who do not receive discounts. The high cost of bus fares is seen as a deterrent to using public transport, with some participants feeling that they are bearing the price of free travel for others.

	are also mentioned. The introduction of young travel cards has been beneficial, encouraging independence. <i>"Bus stop close to where I live."</i> <i>"Great having young travel cards, has encouraged independence has meant they can take on additional education (my son is attending college) something he wouldn't have managed to do without his travel card as both parents work through the day and the cost would have been a prohibitor."</i> <i>"The live tracker in the firstbus app is really useful. I quite like that more buses are on schoolhill and guild street while union st is closed."</i> Eco buses and Drivers: Participants welcome the politeness of bus drivers are appreciated, and the hydrogen and electric buses are seen as a positive step towards sustainability. The bus station facilities at Union Square are noted for being clean and well-designed. <i>"Bus terminus at Union Square - clean, well designed. Can have pride in it.", "The public transport in my area is very popular and the drivers are very polite." And "Electric buses quieter and cleaner."</i>	<i>"Bus fares remain high which encourages people to drive, creating traffic issues and congested areas" and "The bus prices are too high, and it is far cheaper for me to drive my car to work"</i> Direct Routes: Participants reported the lack of direct routes and the need for multiple bus tickets to reach certain destinations as an area for improvement. Participants express frustration over the need to take multiple buses to get to places like the hospital or other parts of the city. <i>"Introduce circular bus routes that do not require going through the city centre, saving time and making the service more efficient"</i> <i>"Buses to more areas, such as new houses at Craibstone and restore service on Cornhill Road"</i> Hygiene and Cleanliness Hygiene and cleanliness of buses are also mentioned as areas for potential improvement. Some participants describe the buses as dirty and unpleasant to use. There are also concerns about the condition of bus shelters. <i>"The bus shelter is old, provides little shelter, and is not pleasant to have to wait in"</i> Safety and Behaviour: Safety and behaviour on buses are additional concerns. Issues with unsociable behaviour and abusive passengers are reported, making some participants feel unsafe using public transport. <i>"Remove child-free buses outside of school times to stop antisocial behaviour" and "Antisocial behaviour forces people, particularly women, to have to calculate whether they'd be better risking walking home alone in the dark"</i>
Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Traffic and Parking	Positive Aspects of Parking and Traffic: Some participants find the parking options generally good, with sufficient central parking and plenty of spaces available in the city centre. With	Parking Infrastructure and Maintenance: Participants have expressed concerns about the current state of parking infrastructure and maintenance in the city. Issues such as the need for more ticket machines,

	further participants mentioning that parking is reasonably safe and secure, and they appreciate the availability of free parking in certain areas. The AWPR has made a significant difference in alleviating traffic congestion, and the low emission zones (LEZ) and bus gates are seen as beneficial in reducing traffic and improving air quality. Participants also appreciate the pedestrian-friendly areas and the availability of disabled parking spaces in the city centre and around the hospital. <i>"Parking in the city centre is readily available but it's expensive, again another reason why I avoid city centre." And "The AWPR has improved traffic issues around the city centre. The announcement that the work on the Berryden corridor is moving forward is also a positive sign that traffic congestion in the city centre will improve."</i> Alternative Transportation Preferences: Some participants prefer to walk, cycle, or use public transport, which they find convenient and environmentally friendly. <i>"We try not to drive in town as it is far easier to bike or walk. We are happy with this as we want to do our bit for the environment. We were glad when you adjusted the bus gate so we can get to north Aberdeen under Union Street."</i> Net Zero and Improvements The effort to promote net-zero and the improvements done such as those at Haudagain are also appreciated by the participants. <i>"The new emission zones has definitely improved air quality in the town centre", "The low emission zone seems to be helpful for its intended purpose and is laudable. The concerted effort to promote net-zero is very encouraging." And "Haudagain project appears to have made a difference"</i>	wardens, and secure bike parking, as well as the poor condition of car parks, was highlighted. <i>"I would like the roadworks information pages on the council website to be graphical maps rather than text. The amount of bitty road works has been crazy recently. I'd love a big one word explanatory sign so I know the value each inconvenience is bringing." And "Parking availability in town. Some car parks in terrible state e.g. Chapel Street and really bad Denburn."</i> Traffic and Congestion: Traffic congestion and the impact of bus lanes and LEZ zones are of concern for participants. Some believe that these measures are causing more harm than good, leading to increased travel times and emissions. <i>"Get rid of bus lanes near junctions. They simply let less traffic through each change lights and are just there for revenue generation." And "More parking, with better prices, remove the Bus gates as parking is now clogging residential streets."</i> School Drop-off and Pick-up: The school drop-off and pick-up times are raised as particularly problematic, potentially creating safety hazards for children. <i>"Parents parking...blocking driveways and junctions. I'd love to see traffic wardens and traffic police make a few appearances at that time."</i> Road Conditions and Repairs: The poor condition of roads, including potholes and inadequate repairs, is a concern for some participants. They believe that better materials and more frequent maintenance are necessary. <i>"The condition of the roads with potholes and difficulty travelling into city centre is a concern. Need to replace the parking bay lines in car park at complex. More generally need to stop using cheap material to fill potholes as they open up too quickly."</i>
--	---	---

		Accessibility and Inclusivity: Accessibility issues, particularly for disabled individuals and those with adapted cars, are reported as a concern. Participants suggest more disabled parking spaces and better access to facilities. <i>"You don't show where disabled parking is on your website. Visuals of where the parking spaces are would help. Specific streets as opposed to 'the green'. More disabled parking spaces available in the centre of town that are close to the amenities."</i> Public Transport and Traffic Control: Participants commented about the effectiveness of public transport and traffic control measures. Some participants believe that better public transport options and more effective traffic control are necessary to improve the overall quality of life in the city. <i>"More segregated cycle lanes. Cheaper, better connected buses. Parking charges for football fans. People definitely do not take priority over cars, as the survey prompt suggests! Quite the opposite. I would really like to not have to rely on a car, but I am often forced to, because it is so difficult to move safely by bike, and because the buses are poorly-connected and expensive."</i> Parking Costs and Permits Comments received show that the cost of parking permits and the need for more parking spaces are raised. Some participants suggest that parking charges should be reduced and that council tax should cover the cost of parking outside one's own home. <i>"Residents should not have to pay for permits to park in the Controlled Parking Zone. There should not be a restriction on the number of parking permits allocated to a resident in the controlled parking zone. NHS Grampian should provide sufficient onsite parking for staff at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary so that they don't have to park on surrounding streets."</i>
--	--	--

Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Streets and Spaces	Parks and Green Spaces: Participants appreciate the city's parks and green spaces, highlighting places like Victoria Park, Westburn Park, Duthie Park, and Hazelhead Park. Parks are described as well-maintained, providing lovely and safe places to socialise, exercise, and enjoy nature. "Parks and open spaces are generally well looked after, and our leafy tree-lined streets add colour to the mostly grey granite Aberdeen streets." Cleanliness and Preserving Historic Buildings: Some participants positively comment upon the city's cleanliness and maintenance. Streets are generally clean and litter-free, and efforts to preserve historic buildings and redevelop areas sympathetically was appreciated by some participants. <i>"Lots of work already underway in the city which will bring around improvements in this area."</i> Greenery and Public Spaces: Participants commented that they appreciate the greenery and public spaces in projects like Nuart street art enhance the urban environment. <i>"Nuart creates interest and colour in an otherwise grey city. HMT is looking great since it's clean. Our union street volunteers are doing a great job."</i> Community Spirit and Architecture: The community spirit and the presence of community groups working to create good quality green spaces are valued by some participants. The city's architecture is admired for its character and beauty. The efforts to improve the ambience and atmosphere of the city centre are also appreciated, .	Cleanliness: Some participants highlighted the need for cleaner streets, more rubbish bins, and better maintenance of dog mess bins. Participants also suggested the cleaning of buildings, especially in central areas, and the removal of graffiti and overgrowth. The cleanliness of public spaces, including parks and beaches, was also suggested. <i>"streets being cleaned, more rubbish bins, dog mess bins"</i> <i>"Cleaning of buildings in Aberdeen central, and wider, would see a remarkable visual improvement."</i> <i>"The dog poo is unsanitary, disgusting and just everywhere - pavements, car parks, etc."</i> Lighting, pavements and Drains: Participants suggest improved lighting in parks and on streets, especially during winter, to enhance safety. Participants also suggested fixing hazardous pavements, blocked drains, and the need for better road markings. <i>"Blocked drains can cause flooding of roads, and snow causes problems."</i> <i>"Better lighting in parks at night.", "Pavements are too slippery during snowfall." And "Road markings could be repainted more often, leads to disputes between motorists."</i> Green Spaces: Green spaces are highly valued, and participants suggest more trees, parks, and community gardens. There is a desire for the city to embrace more greenery and reduce the use of weed killers to protect biodiversity. <i>"The city centre really lacks greenery, I think the city can be very ugly and some more trees and plants would make a huge difference at not too high cost." And "More interconnected areas of greenspace, stop cutting the grass as much for biodiversity, more community gardens, where there are derelict buildings put a park."</i>

	"Good adult community spirit." And "The historic buildings in the city centre and in Rosemount are beautiful - especially the Grammar school building. These buildings help people to have civic pride."	Antisocial behaviour: Safety concerns include the need for better policing of antisocial behaviour, particularly in areas like George Street and Union Street. Participants have also mentioned the importance of addressing issues related to drug use and public intoxication to make the city feel safer. "The antisocial behaviour outside M&S, on George Street and at the beach is getting worse and it's really off-putting." "There needs to be something done about the graffiti in the parks. there is also a lot of drug use in the parks."
Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Natural Spaces	Natural Spaces and Parks: Some participants appreciate the well-maintained parks and the ease of access to these green spaces. Specific parks such as Victoria Park, Westburn Park, Duthie Park, and Seaton Park are frequently mentioned as being lovely, well-kept, and enjoyable to visit. "Living near the beach and having the rivers Dee and Don are lovely. Westburn Park, Victoria Park, Seaton Park, these are great to have." Beach: Participants also highlighted the beach is also as a great asset, providing a beautiful and accessible natural space for Aberdeen. "The beach is a great asset. The saunas and scotsurf business is excellent, very good for wellbeing to enjoy the sea." Rivers, Forests, and Biodiversity: Additionally, the presence of rivers, forests, and other natural areas within and around the city is valued, with some participants noting efforts to improve biodiversity. "River Don path erosion, post storm events, has been getting rectified relatively quickly which is positive. Works underway to improve Broad Hill and Union Street." "We are fortunate to have forest, rivers and the sea all easily accessible in Aberdeen. And I noticed some efforts to improve biodiversity where possible too."	Green Spaces: Participants have expressed a desire for more green spaces, better maintenance of existing ones, and the protection of these areas from development. "The disused space next to Seaton School would be ideal to turn into a large allotment area, trees were planted there but don't seem to be growing at all." And "More benches would allow people who don't have access to private gardens to socialise outside. Plants, shrubs, and flowers in the small areas of green space would help to improve the attractiveness of the area. I really liked it when the council allowed the grass to get nice and long, it makes the natural space look really healthy." Public Transport and Accessibility: Participants identified that public transport and accessibility are crucial for ensuring that all residents can enjoy green spaces and other public areas. A need for more affordable and frequent public transport options was suggested, as well as better cycling routes and safer pavements. "More green spaces spread across the city, public transport more available to bigger parks." Safety and Cleanliness: Participants reported issues with dog fouling, litter, and vandalism in parks and public spaces. Suggestions were made for more dog waste bins, better enforcement of dog control, and regular litter picking to keep these areas clean and safe.

		<i>"Keeping our parks clear of dog mess with enforcement would be good."</i> <i>"More work required to reduce littering in the parks (adding bins would be a good start)."</i>
Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Play and Recreation	Parks and Green Spaces: Participants have expressed their appreciation for the city's parks and green spaces. Comments were received that these areas are well-maintained and provide ample opportunities for outdoor activities and relaxation. The parks are widely used by families and individuals for various recreational purposes. <i>"Lots of spaces for young children to play and be outside."</i>, <i>"Our local parks offer facilities for most age groups, including swings and slides, football goals, etc., and Westburn skate park is well used, especially when the days are longer."</i>	Facilities and Public Spaces: Participants highlighted the need for more swimming pools and the reopening of closed ones, such as the beach swimming pool and Bucksburn swimming pool. Additionally, there is a call for more community events and activities to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility among residents. <i>"Swimming pools are being closed and we need more of them" and "With the addition of outdoor gym equipment. Having the community give names the playparks so they all have their own identity."</i> <i>"More walking trails with a rubberized distance marked loop to encourage walking, running, wheeling in the city centre would be very well received. Would a elevated tack above the railway line through the city centre be a possibility?"</i> Parks Maintenance: There is a desire for better maintenance and accessibility of parks, with specific mentions of the need for more dog bins, improved drainage, and better lighting. <i>"More work needs to be done to bring some of the other parks up to the same standard."</i> Activities for children and young people: Participants also suggested more varied and accessible play equipment, including outdoor gym equipment and facilities for teens to reduce antisocial behaviour. <i>"The skate parks/BMX/etc areas don't get much use, I suspect due to lack of maintenance/lighting."</i>

		<i>"Could do with more activities for the older children/ high school age to keep them off the streets and in a safe space"</i> Community Events and Activities: Participants suggested more community events and activities to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility among residents. These events can help build a stronger community and provide opportunities for residents to engage with each other. <i>"More festival/community events in the larger one but parking... are rather tight." And "They could open it up to other areas as well." Centre."</i> Safety Concerns: Concerns about safety, particularly in relation to vandalism and the presence of motorbikes, have also been raised as impacting use of areas. <i>"There are no areas for children to play within my area. The only garden is Albyn Terrace which discourages children from playing due to concerns over anti-social behaviour."</i>
Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Facilities and Services	Accessibility and Convenience of Facilities and Services: Participants highlight the accessibility and convenience of various facilities and services in the city. They appreciate the presence of good schools, local shops, and community centres. Essential services such as GP surgeries, pharmacies, and supermarkets are often mentioned positively, with many participants valuing their proximity and ease of access. <i>"Easy access to schools, GP and indeed hospital where I live."</i> <i>"A supermarket almost walking distance."</i> <i>"Local shops good, though maybe a bit expensive and have to go further afield for my budget. Community centre in my area is great, and library accessible."</i> Community Spirit: The community spirit is a significant positive factor for some participants. They mention the thriving community	Economic and Business Concerns: Participants have expressed concerns about the economic environment and the challenges faced by local businesses. There are suggestions for measures to support businesses and improve the economic landscape. <i>"There seems to be an issue with the profitability of food and drink establishments in Aberdeen, if not Scotland as a whole. Reduce rents, taxes and encourage the businesses to reflect the lower prices in customer costs to increase footfall in city centre."</i> <i>"Too many empty shop spaces, too many struggling bar/restaurants."</i> Education and Childcare: Participants comment upon education and childcare as areas of concern. There are suggestions for improvements in school performance, behaviour policies, and childcare funding. <i>"Schools performance is poor and when good there's an unpolished influx of Shire resident pupils."</i>

	in areas like Rosemount, the presence of independent shops, and the efforts of local charities and community projects as beneficial aspects of living in the city. <i>"Good community groups and lots of good volunteers."</i> Cultural Amenities: Participants also commented upon the cultural amenities available in the city. Libraries, art galleries, theatres, and music venues contribute to the city's vibrant atmosphere and are seen as essential to the community. <i>"Love the 'National' Aberdeen Gallery in the middle of the town."</i> <i>"Theatres music venues, cinema - these must be kept, as they are great. APA works hard to bring a good range of entertainment."</i> <i>"We need to support local libraries as these are key to allowing many people who would otherwise be excluded to access services."</i>	<i>"Childcare - Why does Aberdeen not fund child care from when they are three as per the Scottish government requirements, other councils do?"</i> Public Services and Amenities: Access to public services and amenities is a concern for residents. There are numerous comments about the need for better facilities, including libraries, GP Practices, community centres, and shops. <i>"There is a lack of accessible services such as post office and council services of any type. This makes it difficult for those with mobility issues and the elderly to access certain services."</i> <i>"A new community centre for Seaton and Linksfield. The community wing of Seaton School has been taken over by the school and the after-school club. There is no programme available for the centre now."</i> <i>"The field at the bottom of the Sports Village on Linksfield Road or the field next to Seaton School could be an ideal place for a new community centre, run by the community and not the communities team."</i>
Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Housing and Community	Housing Options and Availability: Some participants comment that they appreciate the variety and availability of housing options in the city. This includes new builds, social housing, and private housing, which cater to different needs and preferences. <i>"Lots of housing opportunities, new builds and facilities for people who need social housing." And "There are a range of types of houses in the area where I live, which are generally attractive and affordable."</i> Housing Types and Styles: Participants comment that they appreciate the mix of housing types and styles available, including older council homes with large gardens and the unique tenement stock. <i>"Mix of housing styles and size is good to encourage socialising."</i>	Housing Quality and Maintenance: participants expressed the need for improvements in the quality and maintenance of housing to enhance their living environment. <i>"Council housing is of very variable quality and there are lots of issues about the suitability and safety of some houses. Both through anti-social behaviour and issues with mould."</i> <i>"When you ask for a repair e.g. tap not working you get passed on and on and no-one comes to help."</i> Investment in Green Technology Participants commented on an interest in a bigger investment in green technology to promote sustainability and reduce carbon footprints. Participants have highlighted the need for better installations and genuine efforts from developers.

	Community Spirit and Neighbourhoods: Comments suggest that the community spirit and well-maintained neighbourhoods are valued by some participants. They appreciate the active community members, community council, and the efforts to keep the area clean and tidy. <i>"Good community spirit, some very active and engaged community members, strong community council."</i> <i>"The area I live in is well maintained by residents and the council do a good job keeping the streets clean and tidy."</i> Flats and Shopfronts: Participants also mention the good flats and the efforts to improve the appearance of shopfronts in unused shops. <i>"Good apartment complex."</i> And <i>"Action to improve messy shopfronts in unused shops."</i>	<i>"Needs to be more investment in green technology e.g. heat pumps, heating networks." And "Very few homes have low-carbon measures (solar panels, heat pumps etc)."</i> Business Impact on Residential Areas: The impact of businesses on residential areas was commented on by participants. They have expressed the need to manage business activities to ensure they do not negatively affect the quality of life in residential areas. <i>"Return all the empty 'to let' houses now used by businesses. Return them to housing.", "Stop hotels in housing areas expanding their noisy plans for drink and dining areas.", "Having planners listen when objecting to anti-social business in mixed-use areas."</i> Community Support and Engagement Participants highlighted the need for better support for community events and maintaining shared spaces. <i>"There are a lot of HMO properties in the area, with lots of residents coming and going frequently, which doesn't help to create a community spirit. However, everyone needs to live somewhere, including students and young people who are only around temporarily, and that is just the way of things. More support for community events, and better awareness of community organisations would help."</i>
Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Work and Local Economy	Opportunities for Young People: Despite some challenges, participants express that there are opportunities for young people, particularly through modern apprenticeships and local businesses. <i>"I think there are opportunities - you just really have to look for them."</i> <i>"There's a wide range of training available from the college and universities."</i>	Education and Lifelong Learning: Participants expressed concerns about the limited options for education beyond leaving school. <i>"Limited options for further/higher education out with the immediate post-school period. Lifelong Learning should be prioritised more."</i> Development and Building Use: Participants have highlighted issues such as derelict sites, the need for better housing, and the impact of building on greenfield sites.

Arts and Culture: The arts community is seen as vibrant. <i>"There seems to be a good arts community (even with lack of council support!)"</i> Local Economy and Employment: participants raise that local shops, volunteering opportunities, and the presence of the University of Aberdeen and ARI contribute positively to the economy and community engagement. Training opportunities from colleges and universities are also highlighted. <i>"Local shops are good. Lots of volunteering opportunities."</i> Participants acknowledge the availability of gyms and parks, although there is a need for more facilities for the elderly. Access to services that assist with job searching is valued, and there are numerous places to buy food or dine out. The local economy is seen as having good opportunities for work, volunteering, and training, although visibility and accessibility could be improved. <i>Access to services that help with looking for work, e.g., job or work for you, etc."</i> There is a concern that the focus on supporting oil and gas transition to net zero may leave some communities behind.	<i>"How about a council-sponsored programme to remove all the large eyesore derelict sites in Aberdeen centre. Return Union Street to housing where possible with food type outlets below."</i> Employment and Training: Some participants raised concerns about the lack of job opportunities, the need for modern apprenticeships, and the importance of volunteering and training schemes. <i>"Young people are struggling to find work. More modern apprenticeships, encouraging local business."</i> <i>"More could be done to get people into work, a scheme to set up volunteering opportunities in both the third sector and in the community."</i> Impact of Transport Measures: Concerns were raised by participants about the bus gates and Low Emission Zones (LEZ) and impact on the local economy. <i>"Companies and staff don't want to come into the city centre with the current restrictions to moving around having a choice of what transport option they wish to use."</i> Economic Development and Business Support: Participants expressed the need for a diverse economy, support for start-ups, and a strategy for community wealth building. <i>"If business rates were cut for Union St it might encourage more locals to set up new shops etc."</i> <i>"We need a genuine strategy for community wealth building. Let's start to think about how we can support local communities to develop community-owned and managed renewable energy."</i>
---	--

		Remote Working and Promotion: Concerns raised by participants include the impact of remote working on small businesses, and the need for better advertising of services and job opportunities. <i>"Too many working from home... Home working is killing small business in the city centre."</i> <i>"I'd love an Aberdeen jobs board. You'd think filters on indeed and linkedin and myjobscotland and all would be fine but they're not because so many jobs are fake or have the wrong location."</i> Environmental Initiatives: Participants have expressed mixed feelings about Net Zero initiatives and the need for renewable energy projects. <i>"Get rid of Net Zero"</i>
Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Social Interaction	Social Opportunities: Participants highlight various social opportunities available in the city, including events, gatherings, and places where people can socialise with others. <i>"The range of events and interaction opportunities within the local church centre, Fountainhall at the Cross."</i> and <i>"I receive the midstocket matters magazine which is helpful. Rosemount community centre is very active. I've been to bonnymuir community green once. I don't know of other initiatives."</i> Digital and Social Media Participants raise the role of digital and social media in raising awareness about activities and helping people come together. They also highlights the challenges some residents face in finding these opportunities online. <i>"I think Aberdeen does have a lot of ongoing activities the challenge is that you really need to go actively looking online/social media/etc., to find them."</i>	Community Interaction Opportunities and Hubs: Some participants commented that they feel disconnected and struggle to find ways to connect with others who share similar interests. Participants suggested that there is a desire for more social activities and events, such as festivals, shops, and bars, to foster community spirit. <i>"Make social activities and events more common, festivals, have more shops and bars, etc."</i> Additionally, participants have suggested expanding activities at local churches and using them as health hubs with GPs and health workers. Some participants said that they find it difficult to interact with neighbours and believe that community hubs would help foster interactions and build a sense of community. <i>"Community hubs would help to foster interactions, build a sense of community, and increase resilience in a crisis."</i> Affordable activities: Comments were received that there was a lack of free events, and highlighted the need for more affordable activities for children and families. <i>"There are no free events. I had a friend visiting</i>

		<i>from Holland and she couldn't believe there were no fun activities on for children, families etc. I appreciate the weather is not always on our side but there are very little events that don't cost a fortune."</i> Community Facilities: Participants highlighted the important role community facilities play in providing spaces for socialising, recreation, and community activities. Participants highlighted the need for more community centres, events, and classes for families and adults to meet people. There is a desire for easier access around town using various modes of transport and more benches to allow people to meet outdoors. <i>"More community centres, more community events." And "More classes for families or adults to meet people."</i> The impact of funding cuts on availability of activities, such as swimming was highlighted, with comments that this was short sighted. Participants felt that there is a need for "A better programme for the community centre." and more "Non-bar related opportunities." for socialising. It was also highlighted that some community centres have limited online presence. <i>"More access to information on events and activities."</i> There is also a call for reduced rates for businesses offering community services and better access to information on events and activities. Transportation: participants raise that transportation is essential for ensuring access to community activities and services. Suggestions for improving transportation include "More frequent late night bus service." and "extending bus service hours to satisfy school needs". Communication Some participants raised the challenge of finding out about activities in their area. <i>"Bringing together the information. At the moment it is in different places as not always up to date." And "More access to information on events and activities."</i>
--	--	---

Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Identity and Belonging	Local Identity: Participants highlighted the elements that they think contribute to the city's unique identity. <i>"The Foresterhill campus brings a strong identity I think. Independent shops in Rosemount, and their 'buy local or bye bye local' thing."</i> Community Spirit: Participants welcomed the efforts made by <i>"Community centres, community groups are trying to instil a community spirit through events/galas/litter picks/gritting."</i> Facilities and Amenities: Participants highlight the positive aspects of the city's facilities and amenities, such as <i>"Museums, Union Terrace Gardens, Provost Skene House, Winter Gardens, and Hazelhead Park are all good facilities."</i>	Union Street: Participants raise concern regarding Union Street in particular, due to derelict areas and traffic management and that <i>"The appeal of the city is diminished in my opinion. The city needs to work hard to build this up again."</i> There is a suggestion for <i>"more street decorations, such as Christmas lights, to enhance the city's appearance."</i> Council Housing and Community Spaces: council housing conditions and the availability of community spaces are concerns for some participants. <i>"Council housing and the state of the buildings brings the area down."</i> and <i>"More effective attractive meeting places e.g. Rubislaw Coffee morning where Community Council could also play a part (at least make their activities known). They could meet there and invite people to join in their meetings."</i> Integration: Comments suggest that integration could be improved and that the international community should have their presence more welcomed and celebrated. <i>"There are a lot of international people in Aberdeen, myself included, and it would be nice for that to be welcomed and celebrated in different areas including the workplace."</i> <i>"I step outside my front door and do not recognise anyone. There is zero community...I feel like a stranger in my own city."</i> Community Awareness and Engagement: Participants raise that there is need for better communication and <i>"Awareness of community organisations and their activities. It is difficult to know what is going on in the community. There is supposed to be a community council, but there is</i>

		<i>no communication from them, or any clear way to get involved with them. In this area, there is always a lot of flux, with students coming and going, but a lot of residents are also here permanently. It would be nice for those of us that are here permanently to have a greater sense of community (i.e. more interaction, more events, more groups, ways to get involved)."</i> Participants also suggest that <i>"More engagement and active listening about what is important."</i>
Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Feeling Safe	Safety and Security: Participants feel a sense of safety and security in their neighbourhoods. This feeling is reinforced by well-lit areas, functioning streetlights, and a visible police presence. <i>"Reasonably well lit. See police cars around at a reassuring but not worrying level."</i> The presence of public and private CCTV systems also contributes to the overall sense of security. Neighbours: Participants raise that neighbours look out for each other and maintaining a "Good neighbourhood spirit." This sense of community is strengthened by the presence of community group chats, <i>"I feel safe here. It's generally a safe place for kids as well. We have a community group chat and can keep each other updated on dangers."</i> Repairs: Participants reported that they appreciate the prompt response to maintenance issues, such as <i>"Replacing broken glass on entry doors is usually very prompt."</i>	Police Presence and Action: Participants expressed the need for better police presence and action. Some feel unsafe due to the lack of visible policing and the perceived increase in antisocial behaviour. They suggest having more police officers present, especially at night, and taking more action against young people on e-bikes. <i>"Feel unsafe in evening with large groups of teenagers/young people on electric bikes/scooters."</i> Lighting: Poor lighting in residential areas and community spaces is a concern raised. <i>"Lighting is poor in residential areas, making it feel less safe in the dark. There has been issues with antisocial behaviour and violence that makes me less inclined to go out at night on foot. There is little for young people to do in the evenings."</i> Participants suggest that better street lighting, especially in areas with high crime rates, would make them feel safer. They suggest increasing the brightness in these areas and exploring innovative ways to prevent and reduce crime through community-based projects. <i>"Improve area install proper lighting in community areas i.e. Stewart park, river don at Tillydrone."</i>

		CCTV Cameras: Participants highlight the need for <i>"More CCTV on smaller streets and known drug-dealing hotspots and places where groups congregate to drink alcohol."</i> Additionally, there is a call for the council to enforce actions against antisocial driving and parking. Social Activities for Young People: participants raise concern about the lack of social activities for young people, and engaging in antisocial behaviour.
Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Care and Maintenance	Community Pride: Participants appreciate the sense of community and the pride people take in their surroundings. <i>"Communities come together." And "People pride in their place."</i> Ease of Reporting Issues: Some participants find it easy to report issues through the council website, which helps in addressing problems efficiently. <i>"Can report issues easily enough through council website."</i> Road Resurfacing Efforts: Participants welcome the recent road resurfacing efforts improving the condition of roads and pavements, making them safer and more pleasant to use. <i>"There has been a good programme of road resurfacing recently."</i> Cleanliness of the City: The cleanliness of the city is commented upon by participants, with regular rubbish collection, street cleaning, and well-maintained green spaces contributing to a positive living environment. <i>"Grass cutting, park maintenance, street cleaning is in general very impressive." And "Roads clean, litter bins emptied regularly and well located."</i>	Maintenance and Cleanliness of Public Spaces: Some participants expressed dissatisfaction with the current state of street cleaning and litter collection. The issue of dog waste on pavements and playing fields is also a concern, with residents advocating for bigger fines for those who do not clean up after their pets. <i>"Bigger fines for dog walkers leaving their dog bags on the pavements on playing fields or even on tree branches."</i> Condition of Pavements and Roads The condition of pavements and roads is another issue raised. Some participants pointed out that pavements are difficult to walk on due to being uneven and overgrown with weeds. <i>"Repair the really broken pavements as it is difficult to push a wheelchair across."</i> Potholes are felt to be a nuisance for drivers and pose a danger to cyclists and pedestrians. It is also commented that the quality of repairs, such as the use of "cheap tarmac" that quickly wears down, exacerbates the problem. Participants also commented on the treatments of paths in winter conditions and the challenge this can pose. <i>"During snow and icy periods, the paths are not treated adequately, at all. This winter we endured 10 days of sheet ice on all the paths and</i>

	Participants also raise that public spaces, trees and buildings are generally well cared for, and the community takes pride in their surroundings. <i>"The area is generally clean. Both public spaces, and spaces managed by the University are well-cared for, on the whole."</i>	<i>pavements in the area, which was dangerous and made it difficult to move about"</i> Time to resolve issues: Some participants raise time to resolve reports. <i>"The constant stream of water that comes out of the Campus onto Hilton Road could be stopped once and for all. Various attempts made over the years and it's not a council problem to fix other than it undercuts pavement slabs and causes pit holes. Ridiculous it's gone on for so long."</i> Maintenance of Buildings and Communal Areas: The condition of buildings and communal areas is raised as a concern. Some buildings were reported as being in need of repair, with broken windows, graffiti, and overgrown hedges. There are calls for more frequent maintenance and repairs, as well as better enforcement of anti-social parking rules and repair mandates for older buildings. <i>"Buildings look run down, the fascias and soffits and paint on the flats are deteriorating. The fencing used in the area is utilitarian and uninviting, there's lots of graffiti, although the pavements recently got a long overdue resurfacing, they were in awful condition for well over a decade before being repaired."</i>
Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Influence and Sense of Control	Community Engagement: Participants highlight importance of engagement exercises and welcome these. <i>"There is the option to join consultations and working groups." And "Being invited to participate in this survey is much appreciated."</i> Community Councils: participants raise that Community councils play a role in representing the interests of residents and ensuring their voices are heard. <i>"Ashgrove and Stockethill Community Council is doing excellent work."</i> <i>"I think my community council does well."</i>	Responsiveness to Complaints: Some participants raised concerns about the council's responsiveness to complaints and issues. Some feel that their concerns are not being taken seriously <i>"No concerns or issues are ever addressed by the council. I have been sure to raise any concerns I have about anything and I see zero result."</i> Community Involvement: Participants have highlighted the need for better mechanisms to support community involvement in decision-making, particularly for those who are often excluded due to age, digital exclusion, or language barriers. There is a call for more transparency in the decision-making process and for the council to listen to and respect

	Communication: is highlighted as important in keeping residents informed about matters. <i>"Communication of road repairs and road closures is good. The publication of gritting routes and priorities in the winter was very good."</i>	the views of the community. There is a suggestion for community assemblies to bring in voices that are often ignored. <i>"This survey is the closest thing to 'having a voice in decision-making' in years, and I only found out about it by chance online."</i>
--	---	--

WHAT OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAID

587 children and young people who took part in a children and young people designed versions (**533 in person and 54 online**). 190 children and young people from schools within the Central Locality participated.

Scoring for in person children and young people's

Youth participation groups, Aberdeen Youth Movement and the Young Ambassadors took a leading role in designing and delivering engagement approaches for children and young people to have their say in Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future. The Young Ambassadors created activities focused on under 12s for locality events and Aberdeen Youth Movement hosted lunchtime roadshows at 5 of our secondary schools.

Aberdeen Youth Movement (AYM) created an engagement activity for young people to participate in during their lunchtime. The interactions were designed to be quick, clear, and fun. To keep things simple, AYM reviewed the 14 themes and, based on their experience with youth participation, selected 6 key themes for young people in the city. These themes were used for scoring and providing opportunities for discussion and sharing ideas and comments on other matters. The shared comments were assigned across the 14 place standard themes. Similar to the main survey – scored 1-7.



Category	Mean Score	Base
Streets, squares and buildings	4.7	429
Play, hang out, games and hobbies	4.9	435
School, libraries, shops and services	4.8	429
Meeting and talking with people	4.9	425
Having our say and being listened to	4.7	430
Public Transport	5.2	423

The table below shows scoring by school/centre

	Streets, squares and buildings	Play hang out, games and hobbies	School, libraries, shops and services	Meeting and talking with people	Having our say and being listened to
Aberdeen Grammar	5.1	5.2	5.5	5.0	5.1
Aberdeen Sports Village	4.0	5.7	5.0	1.0	5.2
Dyce Academy	5.1	5.0	4.6	4.8	4.6
Lochside Academy	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.9
Northfield Academy	4.8	5.4	5.0	5.0	4.8
Northfield Youth Work	4.5	5.7	5.3	5.1	5.0
St Machar Academy	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.6
St Machar Youth Work	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.9	2.6
Missing	2.7	5.0	4.1	5.5	4.2

Generally, there is evidence that young people who engaged in priority areas were less positive about streets, squares and buildings than their peers. St Machar scored particularly low.

Scoring for online children and young people's survey

A total of 54 Children and Young People took part in this exercise – the ages ranged from 5 years to 16 years. The average (mean) age of those taking part was 11.9 years. The number of children of each age is given in the table below.

Participants were also asked two additional questions to capture, from a list of choices, what they felt were positive aspects of their place and what they felt could be improved.

Theme	What is good now?	%	What would make it better?	%
Play	It's easy to access	62.8%	More play and sports equipment could be added	53.7%
	There is plenty of space	51.2%	They could provide sheltered spaces	39%
	It feels safe and secure	51.2%	They could be cleaner and better cared for/ They could provide sheltered spaces	36.6%
Streets and spaces	There are shops	54.5%	Fix and improve uneven surfaces/grounds	54.5%
	My place has public gardens	36.4%	More shops	45.5%
	My local place feels old and interesting/The surfaces/grounds are in good condition	27.3%	Add more artwork/There are too many dull places/Improve or add public gardens	36.4%
Natural space	Parks	81.8%	Better parks	63.6%
	Trees	72.2%	More trees	45.5%
	Rivers/Woods	63.6%	Ways to welcome more animals	27.3%
Play and recreation	Easy to find spaces	63.6%	Sports areas/Organised fun stuff/Somewhere to go to the toilet	63.6%
	Play parks/places to relax	36.4%	Places to relax/Play parks	45.5%
	Play for everyone	18.2%	More seats/Mix of activity	36.4%
Moving around	More plants and nature	38.5%	Interesting walking and wheeling routes	46.2%
	Interesting walking and wheeling routes	30.8%	More plants and nature	38.5%
	Signs to find your way/bright lights	23.1%	Places to stop/Bright lighting/No cars	30.8%
Public transport	Free bus travel	69.2%	The cost of busses for adults in my life/ Timetable information/Feeling safe/Shelter from the weather	30.8%
	Shelter from the weather	46.2%	Stops or stations nearby	23.1%
	Travel apps/Stops and stations nearby	30.8%	Bright lighting	154%
Traffic and parking	Places to cross/Low pollution levels	38.5%	Make streets less busy	58.3%

	Quiet streets	30.8%	Stop fast driving/Lower amount of traffic/Better places to cross/ Make streets less busy/wider paths	50%
	Slow traffic/Traffic free areas	15.4%	Traffic free areas/Tackle high pollution areas/more short and direct routes	25%
Influence and sense of control	I feel included	64.3%	I could be given more opportunities to share my views and ideas	57.1%
	My views are considered important	28.6%	I could be told more often that my views are important	35.7%
	It is easy to take part	21.4%	I could be given more chances to take part	21.4%
Care and maintenance	Clean and tidy	50%	Tackle dog poo	78.6%
	Places to recycle	43.8%	Tackle vandalism	50%
	Litter picks	18.8%	Stop broken things being dumped/Stop things being left unfixed	35.7%
Feeling safe	I feel safe during the day	85.7%	Tackle ant-social behaviour	78.6%
	There's good lighting/There are safe play spaces	28.6%	It could feel safer at night	71.4%
	It feels safe at night	14.3%	The lighting could be better	64.3%
Identity and belonging	The people	50%	More gala days/festivals	50%
	Arts/history/local museums	35.7%	Links to local museums	42.9%
	Food	21.4%	More culture/more arts/clearer ties to history/celebrations of food	35.7%
Facilities and services	There are good shops/access to doctors/local school	75%	A wider variety of clubs	72.7%
	Access to dentist/local libraries	50%	School improvements	54.4%
	Access to a sports hall/ choice of clubs/a community hall/easy to find who you need	33%	More shops/better access to doctors	45.5%
Work and local economy	There are jobs for my family	75%	More jobs nearby	62.5%
	There is volunteering	58.3%	More opportunities to train and learn new things/ fewer jobs being done far away	37.5%
	There are jobs nearby	50%	More volunteering in the area	25%
Housing and community	The houses feel like they are a home	90.9%	Homes could look better/the place could be more friendly for families	44.4%
	There are green gardens/ there are small houses	81.8%	More small houses/more big houses	22.2%
	There are homes that look good/ there are big houses/ there are more families	72.2%	There could be more green gardens/more flats/the houses could feel more like a home/the housing could be more of a variety of shapes and sizes/ Less rubbish in the streets and less graffiti would hugely improve the look of the buildings	11.1%

Social interaction	Meeting friends	63.6%	More places to hang out/more chances to gather with friends	60%
	Cafes	54.5%	More child friendly spaces	50%
	There are child friendly places/Plenty of places to hang out	45.5%	It is too noisy	30%

WHAT PEOPLE FROM CENTRAL LOCALITY SAID ABOUT OUR PROPOSALS?

All of our plans and strategies align to one, or more, of the 14 themes. As well as seeking scores and comments on 14 themes to refresh our strategies, we also sought views on whether we are focusing on the right priorities/actions in the current draft plans (Local Housing Strategy, Community Learning and Development, Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan, Local Development Plan Play Sufficiency Assessment, Visitor Levy Proposal) we are consulting on.

The tables below show the percentage of participants from Central Locality who answered 'yes' for each of the proposals. The overall figure gives the percentage for all participants who answered this question (survey respondents, locality events and out-reach sessions) with the base number given in brackets below (note – this will not match the total number of participants as not everyone answered all the questions).

Proposal	Overall % yes	Central % Yes	Central PN % Yes
Proposal 1: Work with partners to provide accessible community based learning opportunities (e.g. skills in digital inclusion, literacy, numeracy, English for speakers of other languages, and financial resilience) for adults, particularly those furthest from inclusion and facing disadvantages, to foster lifelong learning, positive pathways and reduce reoffending.	86.2% (Base = 741)	88.8% (Base = 215)	91.0% (Base = 67)
Proposal 2: Provide targeted learning opportunities for young people to address key issues, provide opportunities to gain skills, improve mental and physical wellbeing, and have their voices heard.	93.4% (Base = 731)	94.8% (Base = 211)	95.4% (Base = 65)
Proposal 3: Refresh our Primary Care Improvement Plan to improved access to local primary care services.	93.6% (Base = 715)	94.1% (Base = 204)	93.7% (Base = 63)
Proposal 4: Review the allocation of social care resources to ensure more community and home-based services allowing people to live independently in their own homes.	93.4% (Base = 731)	93.3% (Base = 210)	89.2% (Base = 65)
Proposal 5: To introduce a visitor levy on overnight stays in places like hotels and guesthouses, with the money raised being spent in ways to benefit the visitor economy. The proposed levy is an additional charge of around £5 for each room for each night. There will be some exemptions, including people with disabilities.	45.9% (Base = 734)	45.6% (Base = 204)	46% (Base = 63)

Proposal 6: If the visitor levy is introduced, we think some of money raised should be spent on more things to see and do in the city, such as big events, exhibitions, festivals, business events and sport championships.	61.4% (Base = 681)	64.4% (Base = 191)	63.8% (Base = 58)
Proposal 7: Other uses for the visitor levy money could be on improvements to places which benefit local people as well as tourists, for example museums, theatres, sport venues and parks.	73.2% (Base = 672)	76.6% (Base = 192)	78.9% (Base = 57)
Proposal 8: Another possible use for the money raised by the visitor levy could be to help promote the city to more visitors and major event organisers, by telling them more about the city, its facilities and what is going on.	56.0% (Base = 654)	63.2% (Base = 185)	66.1% (Base = 56)

Work and Local Economy

Proposal	Overall % yes	Central % Yes	Central PN % Yes
Proposal 1: Provide a range of activity to improve people's physical and mental health and reduce harm ensuring people can continue to work and make a positive contribution to the economy whilst also improving their own financial wellbeing.	92.3% (Base = 710)	90.2% (Base = 205)	92.1% (Base = 63)
Proposal 2: Provide accessible opportunities for people to build skills (education, training or retraining, community work and volunteering) to support them access work.	94.1% (Base = 708)	92.2% (Base = 205)	91.9% (Base = 62)
Proposal 3: Work with young people to promote children's rights and provide targeted support to reduce the poverty-related attainment gap and support employment and positive destinations, through relevant and accredited learning opportunities.	91.6% (Base = 690)	91.9% (Base = 198)	93.2% (Base = 59)

Social interaction

Proposal	Overall % yes	Central % Yes	Central PN % Yes
Proposal 1: Work with partners to develop, deliver and promote a range of activities in our communities to increase social interaction and improve both physical and mental health and wellbeing.	93.1% (Base = 699)	92.8% (Base = 207)	91.3% (Base = 69)

Influence and Sense of Control

Proposal	Overall % yes	Central % Yes	Central PN % Yes
Proposal 1: Continue our inclusive approach when designing and delivering services ensuring the voices of our communities are heard and help influence decision making.	91.9% (Base = 669)	92.5% (Base = 213)	94.0% (Base = 67)

Proposal 2: Provide capacity building support to communities, all ages, to support them to have a voice, participate in decision making and take action to create, develop and sustain local programmes and activities which address emerging priorities.	91.9% (Base = 628)	91.7% (Base = 193)	90.6% (Base = 64)
Proposal 3: Provide capacity building support to communities, all ages, to support them to have a voice, participate in decision making and take action to create, develop and sustain local programmes and activities which address emerging priorities.	91.5% (Base = 660)	90.9% (Base = 198)	89.2% (Base = 65)

Housing and Community

Proposal	Overall % yes	Central % Yes	Central PN % Yes
Proposal 1: We will work collaboratively to support a sufficient supply of housing across all tenures to meet the varying needs of our citizens and to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring.	89.1% (Base = 746)	92.2% (Base = 218)	93.9% (Base = 66)
Proposal 2: We are committed to enhancing the condition of all homes, including improving their energy efficiency which will help to alleviate fuel poverty.	88.5% (Base = 742)	92.1% (Base = 214)	90.6% (Base = 64)
Proposal 3: We will help to create thriving, inclusive communities across the city which support independent living and involve local people in decision making about the places they want to live.	93.3% (Base = 686)	93.6% (Base = 204)	95.2% (Base = 63)

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- Results analysed by Community Planning Aberdeen, the Locality Empowerment Groups and Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships, incorporating active engagement with communities to gather their ideas for change, to support the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans 2026-36
- 27 August 2025 - Towards a Fairer Future Aberdeen 2036 Conference
- Stakeholder thematic sessions – Jan 2026
- Public consultation on draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans – Feb/March 2026
- Final draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans approved by CPA Board – June 2026
- Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans approved and opportunities to get involved promoted – June 2026
- Keep up to date with the Local Outcome Improvement Plan development at www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/
- Health and Social Care Strategic Plan: consultation comments used to update the Strategic Plan which will then make its way through an internal consultation process before being presented to the Integration Joint Board meeting on 1 July 2025 for final approval.
- Local Housing Strategy: consultation comments used to update the Local Housing Strategy which will be presented to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on 26 August 2025 for final approval.

- Community Learning and Development (CLD) plan: Feedback across CLD related themes shared and considered with city wide CLD partners to inform the 2025-27 CLD plan.
- Visitor Levy: Results will be analysed by officers in City Development and Regeneration, in conjunction with the wider Visitor Levy consultation, and including written submissions from businesses and representative organisations in the sector. Visitor Levy Report to Finance and Resources Committee on 6 August 2025 with recommendations and appendices, including data and comments from the engagement
- The Evidence Report to inform production of the next Local Development Plan will be reported to Council for approval in Summer 2025, and submitted to Scottish Ministers for their review thereafter. The Play Sufficiency Assessment will be reported to Council at the same time.
- Public consultation on Proposed Local Development Plan and Draft Local Transport Strategy - Autumn 2026.
- Keep up to date with Local Development Plan progress via [Keep in Touch with Latest News - Local Development Plan - Commonplace](#)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- View Community Planning Aberdeen's full Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future Engagement Report at www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk
- Email the Community Planning Aberdeen Team at communityplanningaberdeen@aberdeencity.gov.uk