Aberdeen City voice

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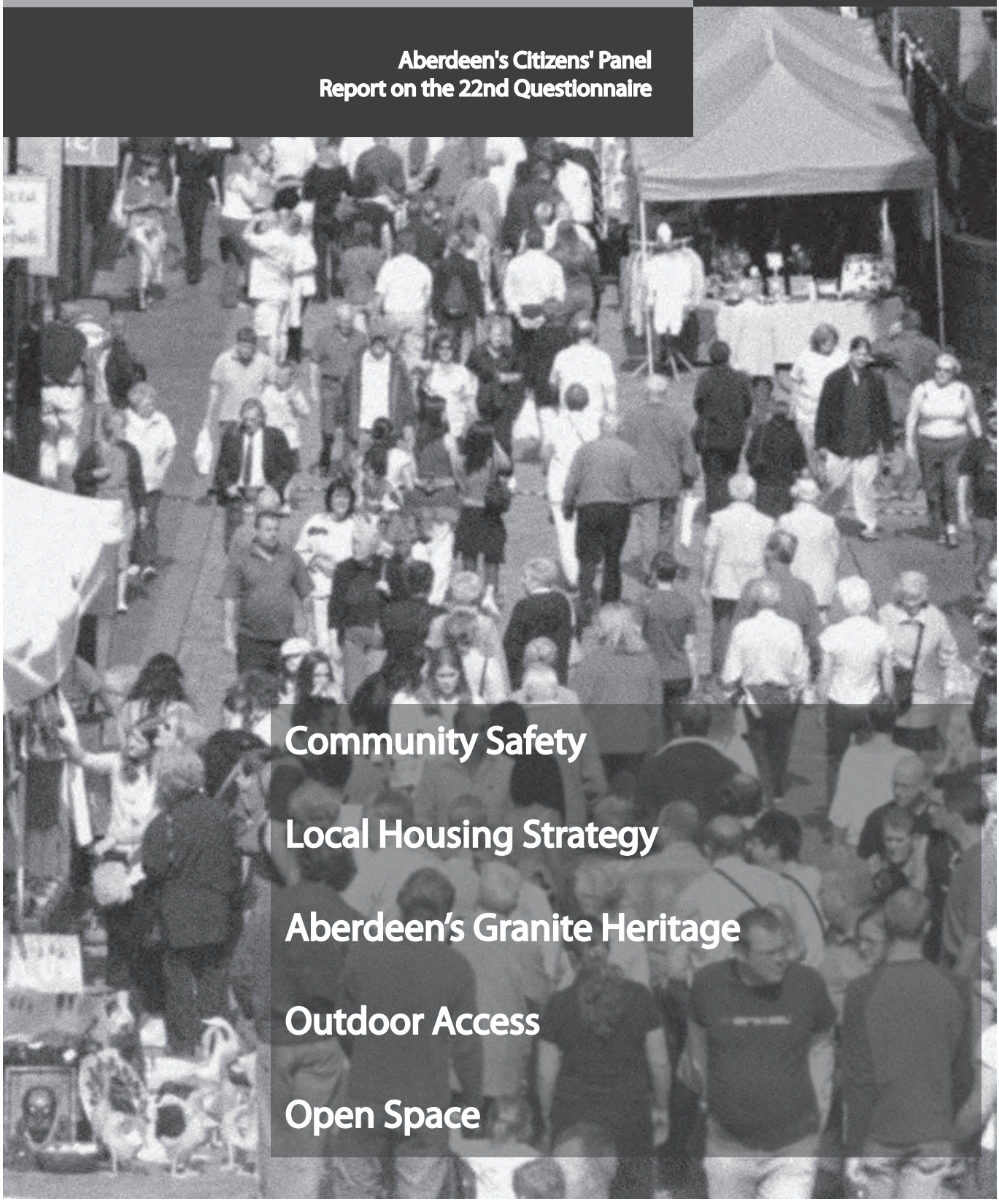
Aberdeen's Citizens' Panel
Report on the 22nd Questionnaire



Community Safety

Local Housing Strategy

Aberdeen's Granite Heritage

Outdoor Access

Open Space

Report for Aberdeen City Council Citizens' Panel 22nd Questionnaire

May 2011

Report produced by
The Centre for International Labour Market Studies
The Robert Gordon University

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INTRODUCTION

The final survey sample consisted of 748 responses from members of the Citizens' Panel. The total panel currently comprises 956 citizens of Aberdeen and so the response rate amounts to 78.2%. The 748 responses are, in the first instance, considered as a whole. Further analysis can be conducted on those results which provoke further investigation and where the various project partners direct further investigation. The further analysis will take the form of targeted analysis on the basis of the personal information of the respondents. This information allows breakdown on the basis of the following variables:

- Gender
- Area
- Age
- Employment
- Home Ownership
- Health Issues
- Ethnicity

The report as it stands attempts to provide a 'key findings' breakdown of many of the results by age and gender and neighbourhood area. However, where age-group analysis is included, the two youngest age groups (16-24 and 25-34) are considered in aggregate as one group (i.e. 16-34), due to the under-representation of the very youngest age group (16-24) in the Panel. An overview of the age, gender and neighbourhood breakdown is provided at Annex A. Please note that we are happy to provide full details of our crosstabulated results on request.

It should be noted that there is no demographic data whatsoever for 32 respondents, no age data for three additional respondents, no neighbourhood data for an additional two respondents and no gender data for one additional respondent. For this reason, there may appear to be a slight mismatch between the percentage results quoted in relation to the overall population for each question (which includes those panellists for whom demographic data is absent) and any subsequent analysis on the basis of gender, age or neighbourhood (which excludes these panellists for reasons of accuracy). Despite the occasional minor inconsistency between total results and disaggregated/stratified analysis, the approach adopted is intended to provide the greatest possible degree of analytical accuracy in each case.

Please also note that due to a) multiple responses to a question from one or more respondents, and b) the process of rounding percentage figures to one decimal place, total percentage figures given for some questions may not tally to exactly 100.0%.

The analysis presented here is split into the following main topics:

- Community Safety
- Local Housing Strategy
- Aberdeen's Granite Heritage
- Outdoor Access
- Open Space

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Aberdeen City Community Safety Partnership is an important focus for joint working around the issues of crime, disorder and danger. One of the high priorities for the Partnership is tackling antisocial behaviour in the city.

In the first half of 2011, the Partnership will publish an Antisocial Behaviour Strategy which will look at the nature and extent of antisocial behaviour in Aberdeen and will detail actions which will be taken to address the problems.

The information gathered through the City Voice will support the development of the Strategy and will allow Partners to develop responses based on the views and experiences of local people.

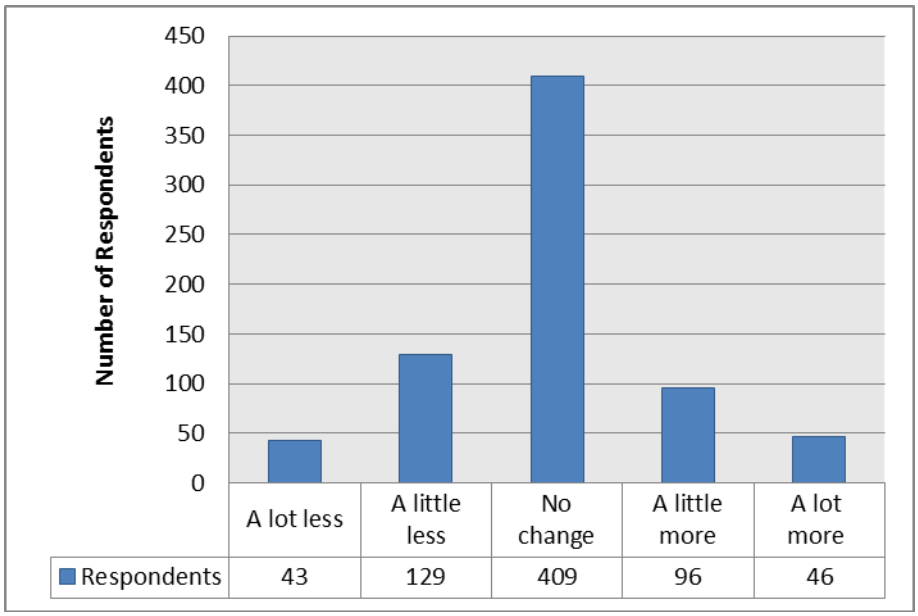
The first question panellists were asked in this section was how they believe the level of antisocial behaviour in their area has changed over the past two years. The results are provided below in Figure 1 (see page 9). The results show that the majority of respondents (409: 56.6%) believe that there has been no change. The next greatest share of respondents (129: 17.8%) believe that there is now slightly less antisocial behaviour, followed by 96 (13.3%) respondents who believe that there is now a little more. Only 43 respondents (5.9%) believe there is now a lot less antisocial behaviour, whilst slightly more (46 respondents: 6.4%) believe that there is now a lot more.

These results can be further broken down according to gender, age and neighbourhood. In terms of gender, there were few notable differences between male and female panellists. Overall, a greater proportion of male panellists (20.5% of them) than female panellists (18.0%) stated that there had been an increase in antisocial behaviour. However, males were marginally more likely to state that there was a lot less antisocial behaviour now, whilst females were slightly more likely to state that there was now a lot more antisocial behaviour.

In relation to age, a very similar proportion of each age-group (just over half of each group) stated that there had been no change. In terms of a net increase or net decrease, a somewhat surprising correlation emerged. The perception that there was now less antisocial behaviour than two years ago rose in line with respondents' age-groups: thus, whilst 18.9% of those aged 16-34 believed that there is now less antisocial behaviour (3.4% saying that there is a lot less), the equivalent figure among those aged 65+ was 28.7% (with 9.2% saying that there is now a lot less). The converse also held true: each progressively older age-group contained a smaller proportion of respondents who believed that there was now more antisocial behaviour: whereas 25.8% of those aged 16-34 said that there is now more antisocial behaviour (with 8.6% stating that there is a lot more), only 9.7% of those aged 65+ did so (with 4.3% saying that there is now a lot more).

Across the different areas of the city (North, Central and South), there was very little in the way of notable variation in responses, although it is perhaps worth noting that the proportion of respondents in South (4.1%) who believe that there is now a lot more antisocial behaviour is lower than in Central (7.8%) and North (6.6%).

Figure 1: In the last two years, how do you think the level of antisocial behaviour has changed in your area?



Base = 723 respondents

The following question asked respondents to consider the extent to which a number of different types of antisocial behaviour are a problem in their area. An overview of these types of behaviour and the extent to which they are seen as a problem by respondents is provided below in Figure 2 (see pages 11-12). The results show that the type of behaviour which is seen as a very big problem by the greatest share of respondents is dog fouling (identified by 13.1% of respondents). The types of behaviour seen as a very big problem by the next greatest share of respondents were litter (7.5%), antisocial driving (7.2%), drug dealing and misuse (6.2%), and motorcycle annoyance (5.0%).

It is worth noting that every type of antisocial behaviour was identified as a very big problem by a small minority of respondents. Furthermore, when considering problematic behaviour as a whole (i.e. by compounding the results for 'very big problem' and 'fairly big problem'), the results again show that no one type of behaviour is seen as a problem (either very big or fairly big) by a majority of respondents. However, those which are seen as problematic by the greatest share of respondents are dog fouling (identified as a very big or fairly big problem by 43.7% of respondents), litter (35.7% of respondents), antisocial driving (32.4% of respondents), drug dealing and misuse (22.1% of respondents), alcohol-related disorder (20.6% of respondents), youth disorder (17.9% of respondents) and fly-tipping (17.5% of respondents).

The types of behaviour seen as being least problematic overall (i.e. by compounding the figures for 'not a big problem' and 'not a problem at all') are racial harassment (99.3%), rough sleepers (98.2%), wilful fire-raising (96.1%), intimidation of neighbours (94.8%), verbal abuse (93.8%) and begging (93.5%), all of which were seen as a problem by less than 10% of respondents.

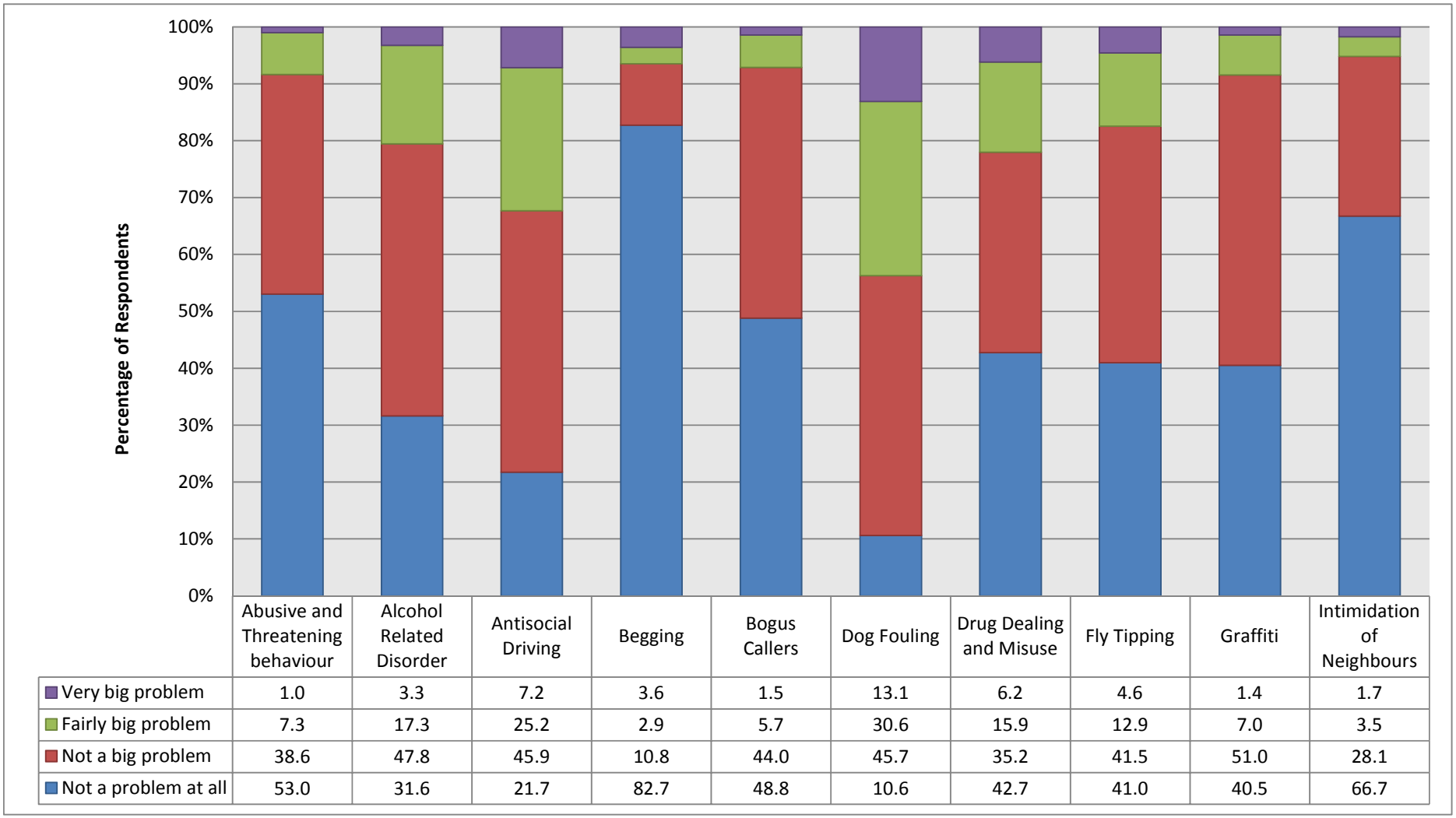
There were no particular gender-related trends to report when breaking these results down further, as there was a high degree of consistency between male and female panellists' responses.

In terms of area, it is worth pointing out a small number of noteworthy results. In Central areas, alcohol-related disorder was seen by a higher proportion of respondents as either a very big problem (6.2%) or a fairly big problem (24.4%) than was the case in North (2.4% and 13.4%, respectively) and South (1.9% and 14.6%, respectively). The same was also true of begging, which was seen as a fairly big problem by 6.8% of respondents or a very big problem by 7.8% of respondents in Central. This compared with 0.5% and 2.0% in North, and 1.6% and 2.0% in South. Shouting and general disorder was also identified as a fairly big problem or very big problem by a larger proportion of respondents in Central than in North or South. Whilst 10.6% of respondents in Central said this was a fairly big problem and 7.2% said it was a very big problem, only 4.9% of respondents stated that it was a fairly big problem and 1.0% that it was a very big problem, whilst the figures for South showed that 6.4% of respondents stated that there was a fairly big problem and just 2.8% that it was a very big problem.

Motorcycle annoyance was identified as being either a fairly big problem or a very big problem by 13.6% and 8.9% (respectively) of respondents in North. This was notably higher than in Central (where the equivalent figures were 7.8% and 3.9%) or South (7.5% and 3.1%). Other than these issues, there were few notable differences between aggregated neighbourhood areas.

There was also no clear evidence of age-related trends, although a number of interesting (albeit minor) individual results stood out. Again, these tended to echo the findings from the previous question, which suggested that younger respondents were more likely to believe that there was a higher level of antisocial behaviour than older respondents. In 12 of the 20 types of behaviour considered, the proportion of respondents stating that there was a very big problem was highest among those aged 16-34 and lowest among those aged 65+.

Figure 2: Please consider the following types of antisocial behaviour and indicate the extent to which each one is (or is not) a problem in your area.



	Abusive and Threatening behaviour	Alcohol Related Disorder	Antisocial Driving	Begging	Bogus Callers	Dog Fouling	Drug Dealing and Misuse	Fly Tipping	Graffiti	Intimidation of Neighbours
Very big problem	1.0	3.3	7.2	3.6	1.5	13.1	6.2	4.6	1.4	1.7
Fairly big problem	7.3	17.3	25.2	2.9	5.7	30.6	15.9	12.9	7.0	3.5
Not a big problem	38.6	47.8	45.9	10.8	44.0	45.7	35.2	41.5	51.0	28.1
Not a problem at all	53.0	31.6	21.7	82.7	48.8	10.6	42.7	41.0	40.5	66.7

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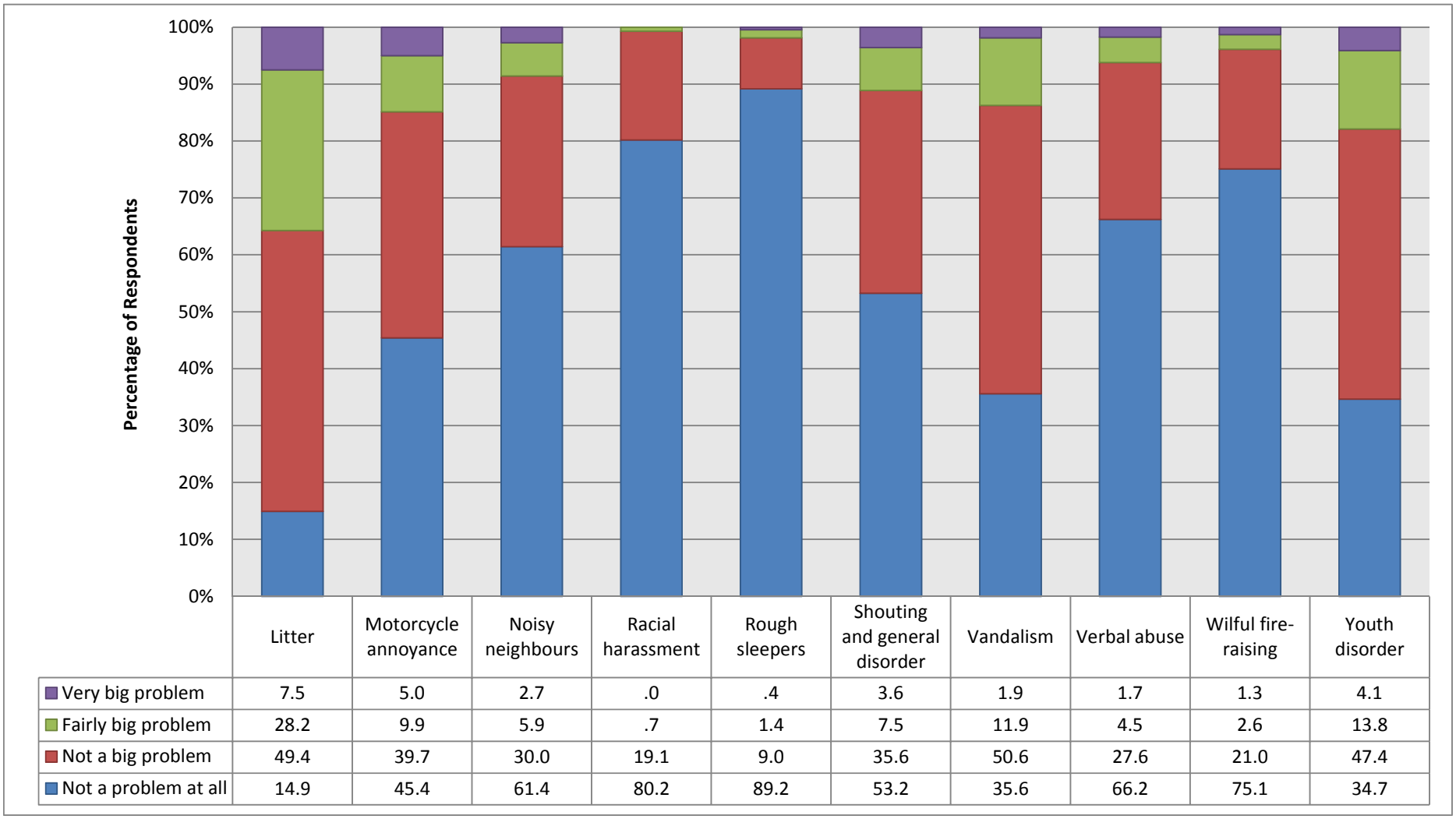


	Litter	Motorcycle annoyance	Noisy neighbours	Racial harassment	Rough sleepers	Shouting and general disorder	Vandalism	Verbal abuse	Wilful fire-raising	Youth disorder
Very big problem	7.5	5.0	2.7	.0	.4	3.6	1.9	1.7	1.3	4.1
Fairly big problem	28.2	9.9	5.9	.7	1.4	7.5	11.9	4.5	2.6	13.8
Not a big problem	49.4	39.7	30.0	19.1	9.0	35.6	50.6	27.6	21.0	47.4
Not a problem at all	14.9	45.4	61.4	80.2	89.2	53.2	35.6	66.2	75.1	34.7

Base = multiple (varies by behaviour type)

Panellists were then asked whether they had any personal experience of antisocial behaviour but had chosen not to report it. Prior to discussing the results for this question, it is worth noting that the wording of this question makes analysis of this question (and subsequent questions) extremely challenging. The wording of this question in the final survey issued to panellists differed significantly from the wording circulated to members of the Editorial Board in advance of the questionnaire being issued. Whereas the original wording circulated simply asked panellists if they had experienced antisocial behaviour over the last two years, the question issued to panellists asked them two questions in one: whether they had experienced antisocial behaviour and chosen not to report it. Asking multiple questions within the same prompt is strongly discouraged in survey design methodology, as the results can ultimately be of questionable quality.

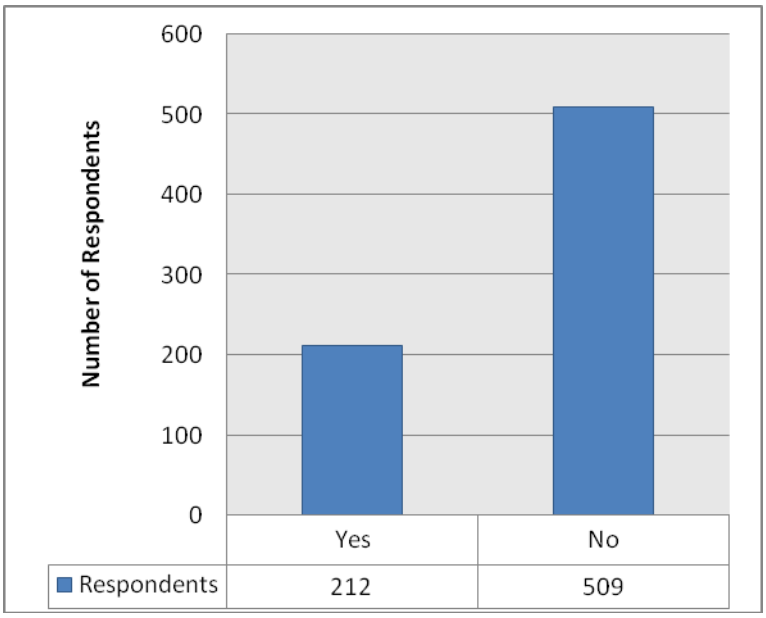
The key problem is that this wording makes it impossible to distinguish between panellists who have experienced no antisocial behaviour whatsoever, and those who have both experienced antisocial behaviour and chosen to report it. This causes problems for the analysis of responses to a number of subsequent questions, because some of these are premised upon being able to distinguish between these two groups. In addition, panellists who answered 'no' to the question ('in the last two years have you had personal experience of antisocial behaviour but did not report it?') were instructed not to answer the following questions, even though the subsequent questions were aimed at people who had experienced antisocial behaviour and had reported it (i.e. panellists who answered 'no' when asked if they had not reported antisocial behaviour).

Given the knock-on effects of the wording of the question and the subsequent incorrect routing of panellists, we are in the unfortunate position of having to urge readers to treat these particular results (Figures 3-6 and Table 1) with a high degree of caution.

The results for the question outlined at the top of this page are provided below in Figure 3 (see page 14). The chart shows that 212 respondents (29.4%) have experienced antisocial behaviour in the last two years but chose not to report it. The remaining respondents (509: 70.6%) stated that this was not the case for them. However, as stated above, the way in which the question has been worded makes it impossible to state whether these respondents have experienced no antisocial behaviour whatsoever, or have experienced antisocial behaviour and chose to report it. The only respondents for whom we can draw definite conclusions are those who answered 'yes' to this question (they have definitely experienced antisocial behaviour).

The proportion of males who stated that they have experienced antisocial behaviour but not reported it (30.0%) was slightly higher than females (27.7%). In terms of neighbourhood areas, the proportion of respondents who have experienced antisocial behaviour but not reported it was highest in Central (33.9% of respondents there), followed by North (29.6%) and South (24.1%). In terms of age-groups, the proportion who have experienced it but not reported it was highest among those aged 16-34 (34.5% of respondents in this age-group), falling across each successively older age-group, to 33.5% of those aged 35-54, 29.2% of those aged 55-64 and just 18.9% of those aged 65+.

Figure 3: In the last two years have you had personal experience of antisocial behaviour but did not report it?



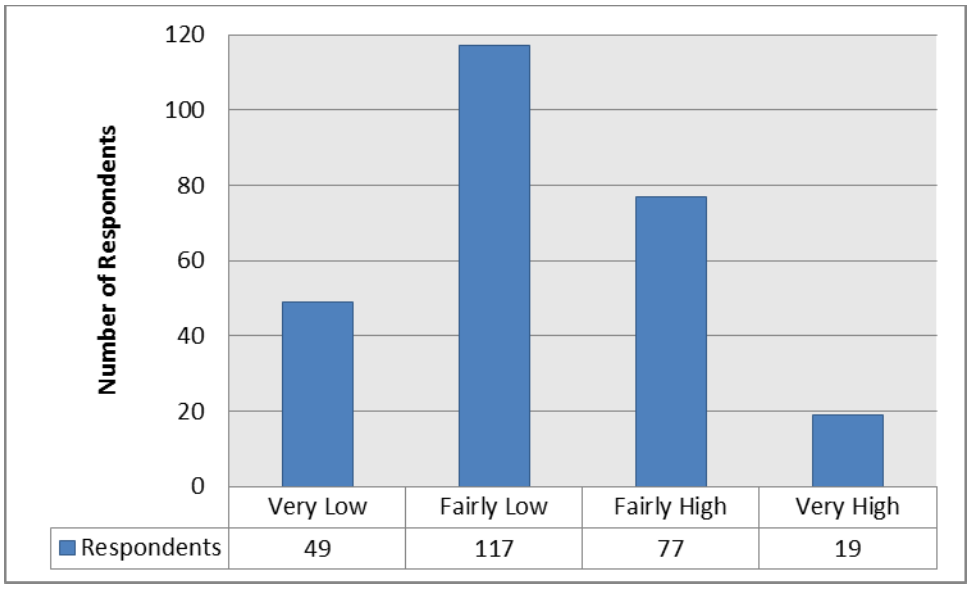
Base = 721 respondents

Those respondents who had experienced antisocial behaviour were asked to describe the level of behaviour in question. However, the wording of the previous question means that we are unable to identify respondents who have experienced antisocial behaviour and have also reported it. For this reason, the analysis was performed on the entire respondent population in the hope that those who had not experienced antisocial behaviour would simply skip this question.

The results of our analysis are provided below in Figure 4 (see page 15). Of those respondents who reported antisocial behaviour (262), just under half (117 respondents: 44.7%) stated that they had experienced a fairly low level of antisocial behaviour. 77 respondents (29.4%) stated that it was a fairly high level of antisocial behaviour, 49 (18.7%) that it was a very low level and 15 (5.7%) that it was a very high level of antisocial behaviour.

There was virtually no difference whatsoever between male and female panellists' responses to this question. There was also only very minor fluctuation across neighbourhood areas. Different age-groups also provided very similar answers, although there were some minor differences: a greater proportion of those aged 16-34 (25.9%) said that the antisocial behaviour was fairly low than was the case for those aged 35-54 (16.4%), 55-64 (18.5%) and particularly those aged 65+ (10.3%). However, older age-groups were also slightly less likely to state that the level of antisocial behaviour was very high. Rather, they opted for the 'fairly high' response in greater proportions than those aged 16-34.

Figure 4: How would you describe the level of antisocial behaviour you experienced?



Base = 748 respondents

The problematic wording of the question at Figure 3 had the most profound problems in relation to the next question, which sought to identify the body to which respondents had reported antisocial behaviour. As explained above, the final wording of the question made it impossible to identify respondents who have both experienced antisocial behaviour and reported it. Given that this particular question is aimed at exactly this category of people, it is unfortunate that we are unable to identify them. However, we have chosen instead to analyse the responses from the entire population of respondents, which should capture the full range of bodies to which antisocial behaviour was reported.

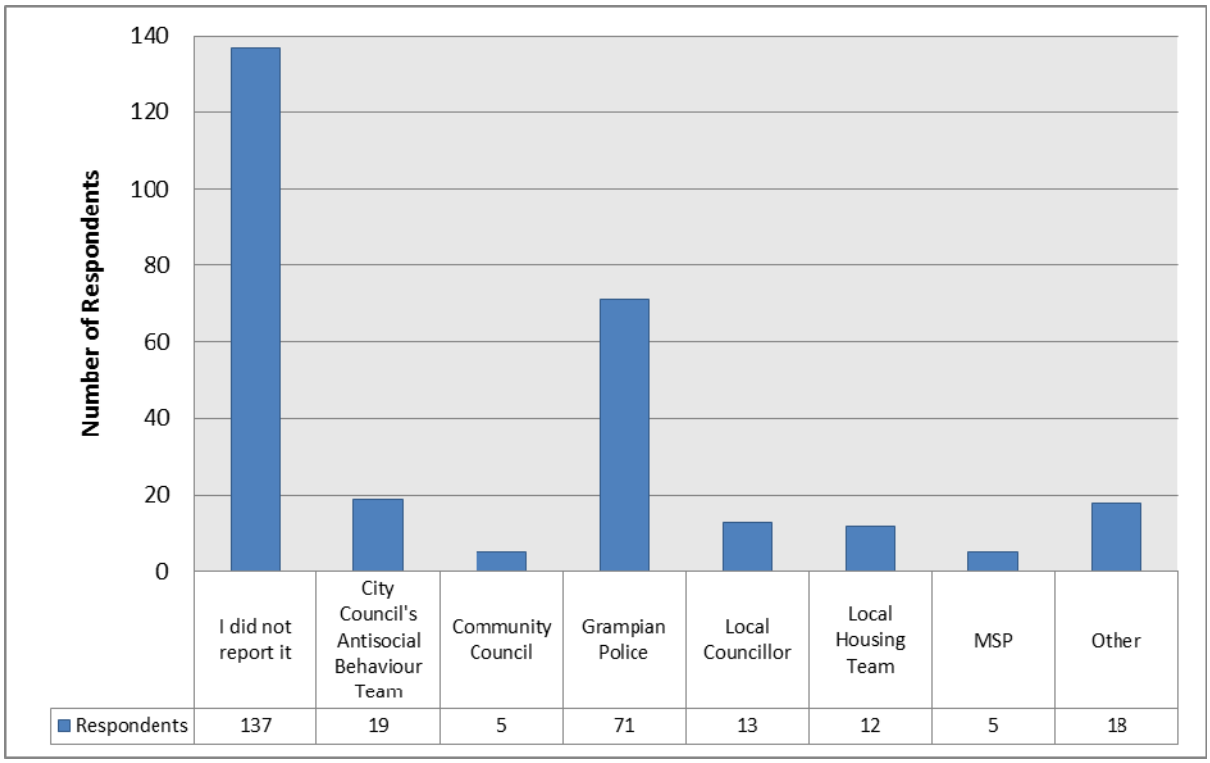
The results of this process are shown below in Figure 5 (see page 16). The chart shows firstly that 137 people experienced antisocial behaviour but did not report it. The inconsistency between this figure and the figure provided in Figure 3 (which indicated that 212 respondents have experienced antisocial behaviour but not reported it) is a further reflection of the problematic wording and routing of the earlier question.

Of those respondents who identified that they had reported antisocial behaviour to a public figure or body (143 respondents in total), Figure 5 (see page 16) shows that the body to which most reports were made was Grampian Police (71 respondents; 49.7% of all reports made). This was followed by the Council's Antisocial Behaviour Investigation Team (19 respondents; 13.3% of all reports), other bodies (18 respondents; 12.6% of all reports), a local councillor (13 respondents; 9.1% of all reports), the Local Housing Team (12 respondents; 8.4% of all reports), an MSP (5 respondents; 3.5% of all reports) and a community council (5 respondents; 3.5% of all reports).

There was virtually no difference between male and female panellists' responses to this question. The same was true of respondents in different areas of the city: there were no notable differences between responses from the North, South and Central areas of the city. Some very minor differences did emerge in relation to different age-groups, though. The most notable of these was that the proportion of respondents in the 16-34 age-group who had reported antisocial behaviour to Aberdeen City Council's Antisocial Behaviour

Investigation Team was around double (5.2%) the proportion in other age-groups (e.g. 2.6% of those aged 55-64). It is, however, worth noting that in absolute terms, the difference between age-groups was generally restricted to only one or two percentage points.

Figure 5: To whom did you report the incident?



Base = 748 respondents

18 respondents provided other suggestions: these are provided below in Table 1 (see page 17). Of these, the most frequently offered were landlords (4 respondents; 2.8% of all reports made), the Council's Environmental Health services (3 respondents; 2.1% of all reports made), a school or teacher (2 respondents; 1.4% of all reports made) and an MP (also 2 respondents; 1.4% of all reports made). A number of respondents provided unique answers, whilst a number of additional panellists simply used this as an opportunity to describe their experience of antisocial behaviour (hence the high number of 'n/a' responses).

Table 1: To whom did you report the incident? ('Other' responses)

Body / Figure	Respondents	
	Count	%
Landlord of Property	4	2.8
Council – Environmental Health	3	2.1
School / Teacher	2	1.4
MP	2	1.4
Solicitor	1	0.1
Neighbourhood Watch	1	0.1
Media	1	0.1
Parents	1	0.1
Community Learning Worker	1	0.1
First Bus	1	0.1
Friends / Family	1	0.1
N/a	17	N/a

Base = 748 respondents

Panellists were then asked to rate the extent to which they agreed with a number of statements about the way in which their report was handled. Again, although this question should have been targeted at those who had experienced antisocial behaviour and reported it, our inability to identify them meant that we performed this analysis on the entire respondent population. The statements and the extent to which respondents agreed or disagreed are provided below in Figure 6 (see page 19). The chart shows that respondents appear to have been more satisfied with the relevant agencies' understanding of the problem than they were with their action to deal with the problem. Whilst only 23.6% of respondents disagreed to some extent (i.e. selecting either the 'strongly disagree' or 'tend to disagree' options) with the statement that the relevant agency understood their problem, around half of respondents disagreed to some extent with the statements that the problem was resolved to their satisfaction (48.9%) and that the agency tackled the problem effectively (50.5%). The converse holds true in relation to overall levels of agreement: whilst only 32.6% agreed to some extent with the statement that the problem had been resolved to their satisfaction and only 32.2% with the statement that the agency tackled the problem effectively, 63.5% agreed to some extent with the statement that the agency in question had understood the problem.

In terms of more disaggregated analysis, our results show that in relation to the statement that the agency in question understood the problem, female panellists were more generally likely to express negative opinions than males, while the opposite was true in relation to males and positive statements. Whilst 25.6% of females either disagreed or strongly disagreed that the agency in question had understood their problem, only 21.8% of males did likewise. Conversely, whilst 67.4% of males agreed with the statement, the equivalent figure for female panellists was only 59.6%. Respondents in North were notably less likely to disagree with this statement (14.3% in total) than their counterparts in South (31.0%) and Central (27.6%). It is also worth noting that a relatively large proportion of respondents in South (17.2%) strongly disagreed with this statement (compared to just 6.9% in Central and 11.4% in North). However, respondents in South and Central were more likely to strongly

agree (41.4% and 44.8%, respectively) than their counterparts in North (25.7%). In terms of age-related analysis, the only notable difference was that the youngest age-group contained a greater proportion of respondents who disagreed to at least some extent with the statement (50.0%), although in each age-group, the greatest proportion (or equal greatest, in the case of those aged 16-34 and 55-64) strongly agreed.

In relation to the statement that they were satisfied with the advice or help they received, there were little differences when looking at overall levels of agreement and disagreement between male and female panellists. However, looking more closely, we see that a larger proportion of female respondents (35.4%) strongly agreed than was the case for male respondents (22.2%). Male panellists, however, opted for the 'tend to agree' response in much greater proportion (28.9%) than female panellists (14.6%). Respondents in South were once again most likely to strongly disagree (37.0%, compared to just 11.1% in North and 16.7% in Central). Again, respondents in North were much less likely to disagree with this statement than those in South and Central. There were no age-related trends, but once again, the youngest age-group contained the greatest proportion of people who disagreed with the statement to at least some extent (62.5%), followed by those aged 55-64 (40.7%), those aged 65+ (33.4%) and those aged 35-54 (32.5%). For each of the three eldest age-groups, the greatest share (or equal greatest share) of respondents strongly agreed with the statement.

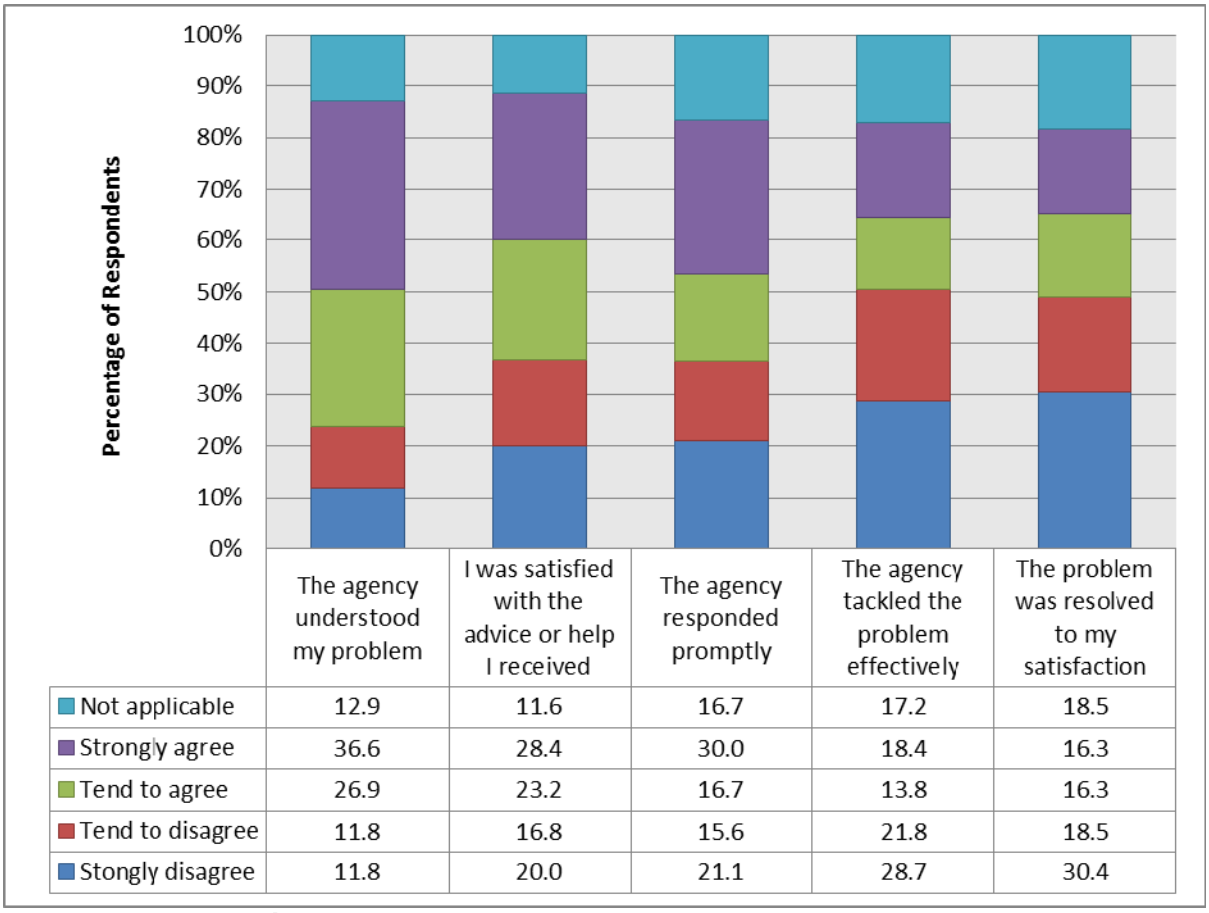
Turning to the statement that the agency responded promptly, there was once again very little difference between net levels of agreement and disagreement across the gender divide. However, a greater proportion of male panellists (27.3%) stated that they strongly disagreed than females (15.2%), whilst a greater proportion of females stated that they tended to disagree (19.6%) than was the case for male panellists (11.4%). Again, respondents in South were more likely to disagree with the statement than respondents in North and Central. This was particularly pronounced in relation to 'strongly disagree' responses: the proportion of respondents in South who selected this option was 39.3%, compared to just 13.8% in Central and 12.1% in North. Overall levels of agreement were highest in Central, where a majority of respondents (55.2%) either agreed or strongly agreed. Levels of strong disagreement rose in direct proportion with age-group, from 12.5% of those aged 16-34 to a high of 28.6% of those aged 65+. Beyond this, there were no clear age-based trends. Overall levels of disagreement were also highest among those aged 65+ (50.0%), and lowest among those aged 35-54 (30.0%). Conversely, levels of overall agreement were lowest among those aged 65+ (28.5%) and highest among those aged 35-54.

For the statement that the agency tackled the problem effectively, once again there was very little difference between male and female panellists' overall levels of agreement and disagreement. However, as was the case with the previous statement, a larger proportion of male panellists (34.1%) than female panellists (23.9%) opted for the 'strongly disagree' option, whilst the opposite was true in relation to the 'tend to disagree' option (26.1% of females, compared to 17.1% of males). Again, a much larger proportion of respondents in South strongly disagreed (46.2%) with the proposition than in Central (28.6%) or North (15.2%). A smaller proportion (23.0%) in South agreed (either slightly or strongly) with the statement than was the case in Central (42.8%) or North (30.4%). Levels of disagreement were particularly high among the youngest age-group, falling steadily across each successively older age-group, from 75.0% of those aged 16-34 either disagreeing or strongly

disagreeing with the statement to 51.2% of those aged 35-54, 46.2% of those aged 55-64 and 42.8% of those aged 65+. Overall levels of agreement were lowest in the 16-34 age-group: just 12.5%, compared to 35.4% of those aged 35-54, 34.6% of those aged 55-64 and 28.6% of those aged 65+.

The final statement to be considered asked respondents if they felt the problem was resolved to their satisfaction. Female panellists were slightly more likely to state that they either tended to agree or strongly agree with this proposition – just over a third of female respondents (34.8%) selected one of these two options, whilst only 30.4% of male respondents did so. Yet again, a greater proportion of respondents in South strongly disagreed with the statement (40.7%) than was the case in Central (35.5%) or North (17.6). Overall levels of disagreement were also highest in South: 62.9%, compared to 54.9% of respondents in Central and just 32.3% in North. Overall levels of agreement were highest in North (38.2%), followed by South (29.6%) and Central (29.0%). Again, overall levels of disagreement were highest among those aged 16-34 (75.0%), although it was the 65+ group which contained the greatest proportion of respondents (46.7%) who strongly disagreed. Similarly, overall agreement was lowest among those aged 16-34 (12.5%), followed by 20.0% of those aged 65+, 35.0% of those aged 35-54 and 41.4% of those aged 55-64.

Figure 6: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about how your report was handled?



	The agency understood my problem	I was satisfied with the advice or help I received	The agency responded promptly	The agency tackled the problem effectively	The problem was resolved to my satisfaction
Not applicable	12.9	11.6	16.7	17.2	18.5
Strongly agree	36.6	28.4	30.0	18.4	16.3
Tend to agree	26.9	23.2	16.7	13.8	16.3
Tend to disagree	11.8	16.8	15.6	21.8	18.5
Stongly disagree	11.8	20.0	21.1	28.7	30.4

Base = 748 respondents

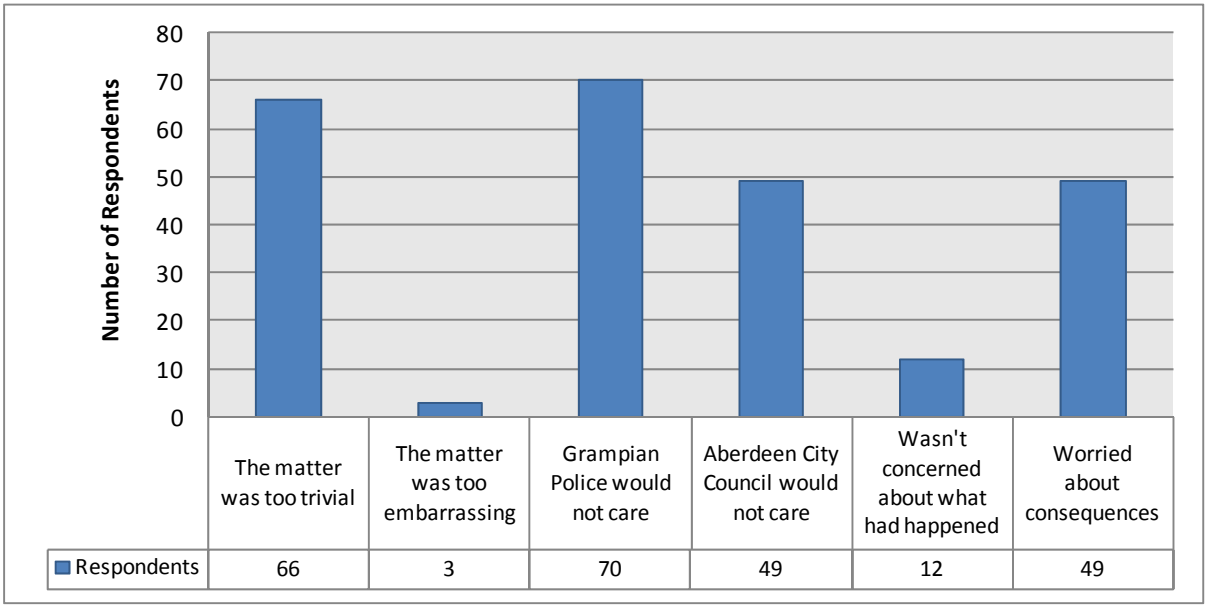
Respondents who had experienced antisocial behaviour but had chosen not to report it were subsequently asked why they had chosen not to report it. An overview of the responses received is provided below in Figure 7 (see page 21). The results show that the most common response (offered by 70 respondents; 57.9% of respondents to this question) was that it was believed that Grampian Police would not care about the incident, 66 respondents (54.5%) stated that the matter was too trivial and 49 respondents (40.5%) that they believed the Council would not care about the matter. 49 respondents (40.5%) also stated that they would be worried about the consequences of reporting antisocial behaviour, 12 respondents (9.9%) stated that they weren't too concerned by the antisocial behaviour in question and 3 respondents (2.5%) stated that the matter was too embarrassing to report.

Some interesting gender differences emerged when subjecting these responses to closer analysis. The most notable finding was that the proportion of females who were worried about the consequences of reporting the incident was almost twice as large (28.7%) as it was for males (16.2%). Male respondents, on the other hand, were more likely to cite not being concerned about what had happened (8.6% compared to 3.0% of female respondents), believing that the Council would not care (24.8%, compared to 20.8% of female respondents) and believing that Grampian Police would not care (37.1%, compared to 28.7% of female respondents) than was the case for female respondents.

In relation to differences between areas of the city, the most notable differences were as follows. Firstly, respondents in North were much less likely (22.4% of respondents there) than respondents in Central (36.5%) and South (35.4%) to state that the matter was too trivial. Secondly, the same held true in relation to believing that Grampian Police would not care (28.4% of respondents in North, compared to 35.1% in Central and 35.4% in South). However, respondents in North were more likely to say that they weren't concerned about what had happened (9.0%) than respondents in Central (4.1%) and South (4.6%). Finally, it is also worth noting that a larger proportion of respondents in South (27.7%) stated that they were worried about the consequences of reporting the incident than in Central (21.6%) or North (17.9%).

In terms of age-related findings, there were no clear trends which emerged. There was however, a good deal of non-correlated variation between groups. The only noteworthy findings were the differences between different age-groups in terms of the most popular response for each group. Thus, the most popular response among the youngest and oldest age-groups was that Grampian Police would not care (selected by 45.0% of those aged 16-34 and 45.7% of those aged 65+). For the two middle age-groups, the most popular response was that the matter was too trivial (selected by 28.3% of those aged 35-54 and 40.4% of those aged 55-64).

Figure 7: If you have been a victim of antisocial behaviour but did not report it, please indicate why.



Base = 121 respondents

Panellists were then asked to provide information on how safe they would feel in a number of different scenarios. The different scenarios and panellists' responses are provided below in Figure 8 (see page 22). The results show that the overwhelming majority of respondents would feel either very safe or fairly safe in all but one of the scenarios described. The exception relates to the scenario of walking in Aberdeen city centre after dark. In this situation, only 3.3% of respondents would feel very safe and 37.3% would feel fairly safe. In contrast, 98.5% of respondents feel either very safe or fairly safe at home in the daytime. The same is true of 95.0% of respondents in relation to being at home after dark, 97.5% in relation to walking near their home in the daytime, 84.5% in relation to walking near their home after dark and 93.1% in relation to walking in Aberdeen city centre in the daytime.

There were few major differences between male and female panellists' responses. A general trend found within each scenario was that similarly low proportions of male and female panellists felt fairly unsafe or very unsafe. For each of the first four scenarios, a similar proportion of males and females felt safe to some degree. A slightly larger proportion of male panellists felt very safe, whilst a slightly higher proportion of females felt fairly safe. However, for the scenario of walking in Aberdeen city centre in the daytime, this pattern was reversed, with a greater proportion of females stating that they felt very safe (45.9%, compared to 42.0% of males), and a greater proportion of males stating that they felt fairly safe (50.3%, compared to 48.3%). For the final scenario – walking in Aberdeen city centre after dark – the proportion of males stating that they felt either very safe (4.3%) or fairly safe (39.7%) was greater than the equivalent figures for female respondents (2.5% and 36.4%, respectively).

There was very little notable variation across different areas of the city. The most prominent differences emerged in relation to the scenarios based upon walking near one's home, either during the day or after dark. In relation to the daytime scenario, the proportion of respondents stating that they felt either very safe or fairly safe was highest in South (98.8%), followed by North (98.7%) and Central (95.8%). For the after dark scenario, the proportion

was again lowest in Central (79.3%), rising to 84.5% in South and 88.0% in North. Those who live in Central were also notably more likely (48.1%) to state that they felt safe walking in Aberdeen city centre after dark than respondents living in North (39.3%) or South (37.9%).

There were few clear age-related trends within these responses. In terms of being at home in the daytime, the extent to which respondents felt very safe correlated with their age-group. Although the vast majority of respondents in each age-group felt very safe, this decreased as the age profile of each group increased. The same was also true of walking near home in the daytime and walking in Aberdeen city centre in the daytime, although in each case, a smaller proportion in each group felt very safe than was the case in relation to being at home. A similar pattern could also be seen in relation to feeling very unsafe when walking in Aberdeen city centre either during the daytime or after dark. In each case, the proportion of respondents who feel very unsafe in these situations rose in accordance with the age profile of each group. Beyond this, there were no clear and reliable age correlations.

Figure 8: How safe would you feel in the following situations?

	At home in the daytime	At home after dark	Walking near your home in the daytime	Walking near your home after dark	Walking in Aberdeen city centre in the daytime	Walking in Aberdeen city centre after dark
Very safe	80.7	60.9	73.4	22.2	43.5	3.3
Fairly safe	17.8	34.1	24.1	62.3	49.6	37.3
Fairly unsafe	.4	3.7	1.6	11.8	5.4	41.4
Very unsafe	1.1	1.4	.8	3.7	1.5	18.1

Base = multiple (varies by situation)

SERVICE RESPONSE

Under the Antisocial Behaviour etc Scotland Act 2004 it is a statutory requirement that each local authority and relevant chief constable work together to prepare a strategy for dealing with antisocial behaviour.

This is to ensure that everyone understands the extent and nature of antisocial behaviour occurring within the local authority area, and the services which are available to address these problems.

A key element of this work is engaging with the community in order to understand how individuals and neighbourhoods are affected by antisocial behaviour. The findings from the 22nd City Voice will influence this work and will prompt various agencies to take actions based on public priorities and the perception of available services.

Margaret-Jane Cardno
Community Safety Manager

LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY

The Local Housing Strategy (LHS) is a statutory document that must be produced every five years by councils in Scotland. Aberdeen City Council last published its LHS in 2006 and therefore needs to produce another to cover the period from 2012 to 2017. The LHS will set out:

- The extent and type of housing need and demand in Aberdeen;
- The Council's vision for housing access across all tenures (i.e. owned, social rented, private rented, etc);
- Plans for improving the standard of housing in the city; and
- The strategic direction for housing investment.

Please note, the LHS is not about one's house or neighbourhood; it is about the whole of Aberdeen. Neither is it just about Council housing – e.g. the Council's procedures on allocations, repairs, rent collection or any other frontline service – it is all about tenures and housing types. The intention is to have an LHS that provides a strategic vision for the future of housing in Aberdeen.

This section of the questionnaire forms part of the consultation with individuals and groups. It is an integral part of the LHS process and gives panellists the opportunity to have their say on the Council's housing priorities for the next five years.

The first question in this section sought to obtain panellists' views on a number of possible housing priorities for Aberdeen. Panellists were provided with a number of possible priorities and were asked to state how much of a priority they believed each one to be. The various priorities and the degree to which panellists believe them to be a priority are provided below in Figure 9 (see pages 26-27).

The results show that the options which were rated as very high priorities by the greatest share of respondents were encouraging landlords in the private rented sector to carry out essential repairs to their properties (42.8% of respondents), providing support to ensure that vulnerable people are able to remain in their own homes (39.9% of respondents), increasing the supply of affordable housing (e.g. more social rented housing and low-cost home ownership initiatives) (34.8% of respondents), and ensuring that opportunities to regenerate our most deprived communities are maximised (32.5% of respondents).

The options selected by the greatest share of respondents as being very low priorities were encouraging the expansion of the private rented sector (14.6% of respondents), encouraging mixed housing developments (e.g. houses and flats, different house sizes and tenures) (9.6% of respondents) and encouraging population and economic growth in the city by providing more housing (9.4% of respondents).

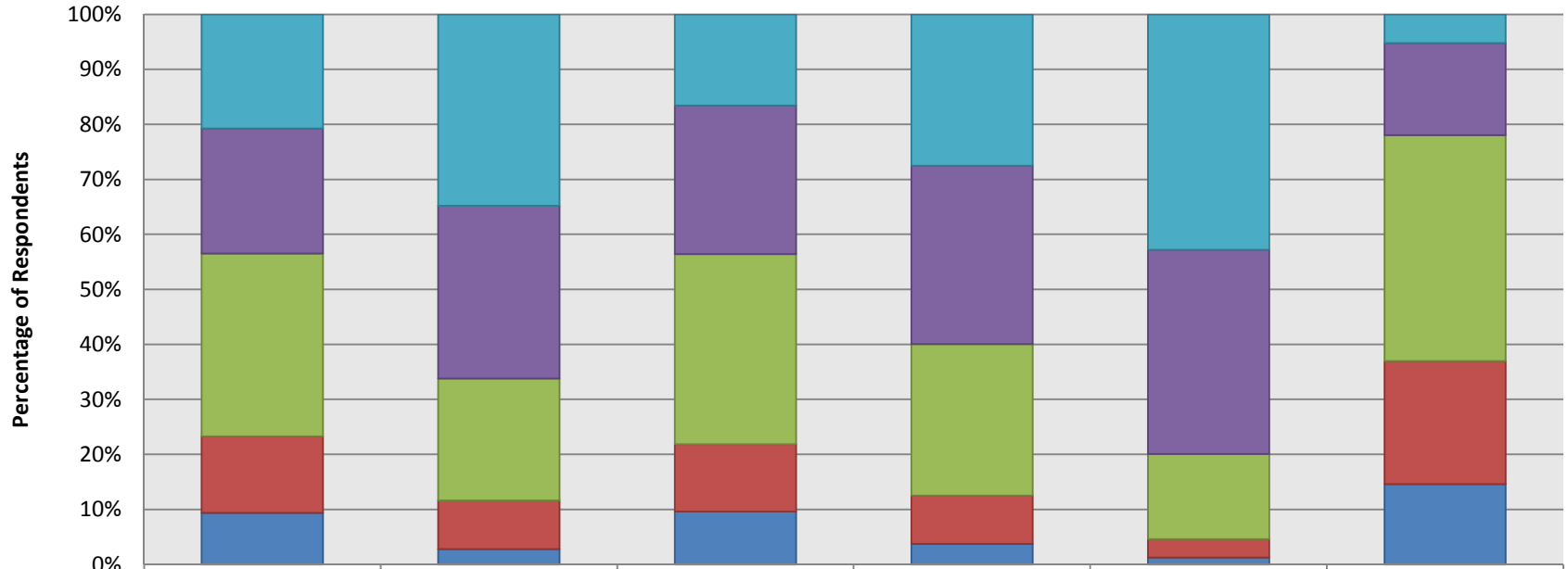
There were only a few notable distinctions between male and female panellists' responses to this question. In particular, a noticeably greater proportion of females than males selected the 'very high priority' option for increasing the supply of affordable housing (40.5%, compared to 28.7% of males), making improvements to the condition of social rented

housing (33.9%, compared to 22.6% of males), ensuring homeless people are adequately housed (30.1%, compared to 22.9% of males), providing support for people who are at risk of becoming homeless (30.3%, compared to 21.4% of males) and providing support to ensure that vulnerable people are able to remain in their own homes (43.9%, compared to 36.1% of males).

Similar findings emerged in relation to neighbourhoods. With the exception of just two priorities, the area containing the greatest proportion of respondents rating these priorities as 'very high priorities' was Central. The two exceptions were providing support to ensure that vulnerable people are able to remain in their own homes, and encouraging the expansion of the private rented sector. These two were also exceptional in another respect. With the exception of these two, the neighbourhood containing the smallest proportion of respondents marking a priority as 'very high' was North. However, for these two exceptions, North contained the greatest proportion of respondents who believed this was a very high priority.

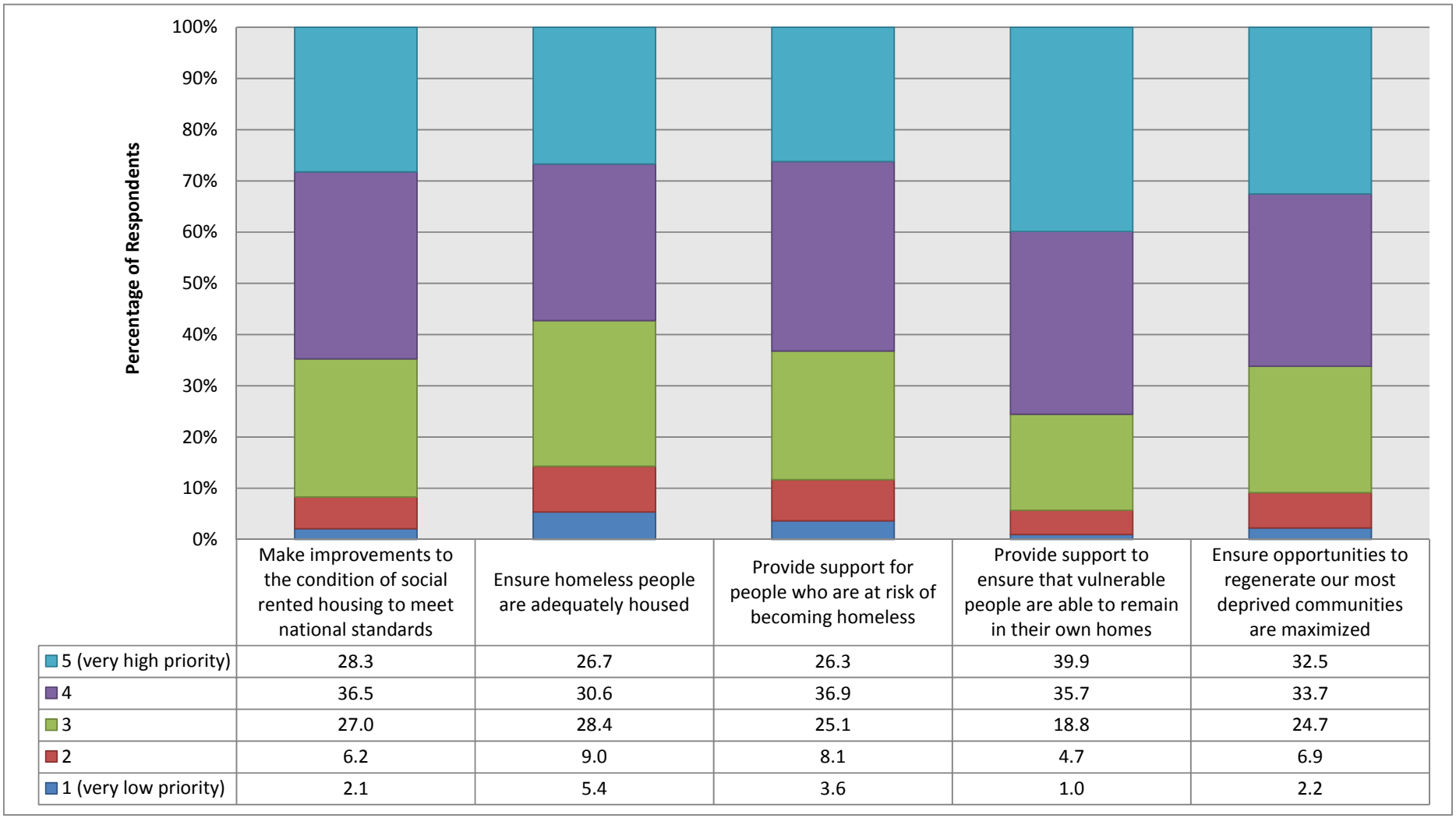
Once again, there was not much evidence of reliable age-group correlation with these results. However, in terms of the proportion of respondents within each age-group selecting different priorities as 'very high priority', there were some trends. In relation to encouraging homeowners to carry out essential repairs to their properties, encouraging the expansion of the private rented sector, providing support to ensure that vulnerable people are able to remain in their own homes, and ensuring opportunities to regenerate our most deprived communities are maximized, the proportion of respondents identifying them as a very high priority was lowest among those aged 16-34, rising steadily through each successively older cohort to a peak among those aged 65+.

Figure 9: From the following list of possible housing priorities for Aberdeen, please indicate the extent to which you think each should be a low or high priority.



	Encourage population and economic growth in the city by providing more housing	Increase the supply of affordable housing e.g. more social rented housing and low-cost home ownership initiatives	Encourage mixed housing developments e.g. houses and flats, different house sizes and tenures	Encourage homeowners to carry out essential repairs to their properties	Encourage landlords in the private rented sector to carry out essential repairs to their properties	Encourage the expansion of the private rented sector
5 (very high priority)	20.7	34.8	16.6	27.5	42.8	5.2
4	22.7	31.4	27.0	32.5	37.1	16.7
3	33.2	22.2	34.5	27.5	15.5	41.1
2	13.9	8.9	12.3	8.8	3.3	22.4
1 (very low priority)	9.4	2.8	9.6	3.7	1.2	14.6

(continues overleaf)



	Make improvements to the condition of social rented housing to meet national standards	Ensure homeless people are adequately housed	Provide support for people who are at risk of becoming homeless	Provide support to ensure that vulnerable people are able to remain in their own homes	Ensure opportunities to regenerate our most deprived communities are maximized
5 (very high priority)	28.3	26.7	26.3	39.9	32.5
4	36.5	30.6	36.9	35.7	33.7
3	27.0	28.4	25.1	18.8	24.7
2	6.2	9.0	8.1	4.7	6.9
1 (very low priority)	2.1	5.4	3.6	1.0	2.2

Base = multiple (varies by priority)

Panellists were then asked whether there were any other issues which they thought should be addressed within the Local Housing Strategy. Their responses were grouped thematically and are provided below in Table 2 (see page 29).

The greatest share of responses received (28 respondents; 16.4% of all respondents) related to some form of criticism of current housing policy. Typically, these were based upon the idea that the most deserving people were not the ones who were benefiting from the Local Housing Strategy: there were common complaints that 'native Aberdonians' should be given priority over people coming to the city from other places (including other parts of Scotland). The next most common group of responses were based around recommendations to clean up bad areas or to encourage people to take more pride in their immediate locality (20 respondents; 11.6%). Following this, the next most popular response (19 respondents; 11.1%) was that there should be a greater mix of housing types: in particular, many respondents in this category wanted to see more options made available to allow people to 'downsize': particularly for elderly or disabled residents, it would be beneficial for them if they had the option of moving to a smaller property, whilst this would also be beneficial in that it would potentially free up the larger property for families. However, a number of respondents were also keen to see a moratorium on the building of flatted accommodation in favour of more houses. 16 residents (9.4%) stated that there should be no more building or development on green belt land, whilst an identical number stated that the Council should ensure that any accommodation currently lying empty should be brought back into service if possible.

15 residents (8.8%) stated that there needed to be more stringent action taken against antisocial tenants, or that good tenants should be rewarded for their good behaviour, whilst a similar number (14 respondents; 8.2%) argued that there should be more attention paid to the social composition of neighbourhoods when introducing new tenants. Although these responses were primarily aimed at ensuring that 'problem' tenants should not be introduced to an area with an elderly or affluent profile, some tenants argued that more attention should be paid to ensuring that a good social mix was present across neighbourhoods.

Better infrastructure/amenities were identified by 11 respondents (6.4%), whilst 10 respondents (5.8%) stated that there is too much development within the city (and too little in the suburbs or outside the city). An identical number believed that there is too little affordable accommodation in the city. A wide range of additional issues was also identified, but each of these was raised by less than 10 respondents. They are, however, provided in Table 2 (see page 29).

Table 2: Are there any other issues you think should be addressed in the Local Housing Strategy?

Response	Respondents	
	Count	%
Critical of current policy: not meeting needs of most deserving etc.	28	16.4
Clean up bad areas / encourage pride in bad areas	20	11.6
Greater mix of housing types	19	11.1
Should not build on green belt / open spaces	16	9.4
Open up empty accommodation	16	9.4
Crack down on antisocial tenants / reward good tenants	15	8.8
Pay more attention to social mix when housing tenants	14	8.2
Better infrastructure / amenities	11	6.4
Too much development in city	10	5.8
Too little affordable accommodation	10	5.8
Greater mix of ownership schemes needed	8	4.7
Deal with unscrupulous private landlords	7	4.1
Crack down on benefit fraud / Council Tax avoidance	6	3.5
Too little accommodation available	5	2.9
More open space needed	5	2.9
Make Council houses more energy efficient	5	2.9
Better short-term / temporary housing needed	5	2.9
Improve design of new builds	3	1.8
Need purpose-built centre for homeless / drug addicts etc.	2	1.2
Need to police safety standards	2	1.2
Too much profiteering from builders at expense of public sector	2	1.2
Try to house families in city centre	2	1.2
Council should maintain its property better	2	1.2
Need to build on green belt	1	0.6
Insufficient parking	1	0.6
All tenants should pay something towards housing (i.e. no freebies)	1	0.6
Don't mix private and social housing	1	0.6
Look elsewhere to see how housing works well	1	0.6
Give communities more power over neighbourhood	1	0.6
More joined-up approach to housing databases etc.	1	0.6
N/a	13	7.6

Base = 171 respondents

SERVICE RESPONSE

The information provided through the questionnaire in City Voice provides an insight into the future housing priorities as seen through the citizens of Aberdeen. ACC are currently developing its Local Housing Strategy (LHS) for the next five years. This information from the City Voice will be incorporated with other consultation the Council has undertaken in the preparation of the LHS to give an overall assessment of what people (outwith the Council) think the housing priorities should be for the next five years.

The LHS is not only based on consultation as other work has been undertaken (such as the Housing Need and Demand Assessment) to inform the LHS.

The request for additional analysis of the City Voice respondents by ethnic group and tenure has helped us to understand better the result from the survey. Although there was a bias towards owner occupiers this has helped as the Council finds it difficult to consult with this group. The tables also show that about 2% of respondents came for an ethnic minority background which is slightly below the Census 2001 estimate of this part of the Aberdeen population (2.9%). However as part of the other consultation undertaken by the Council a special consultation event was arranged for the ethnic minority community, therefore the information in this survey will be compared to the responses from the event mentioned.

The information from the City Voice and other consultation will be correlated and form a chapter of the LHS. The outputs from the consultation and other work being undertaken will be used to develop the strategic objectives and outcomes for the new LHS.

Les McGonigle
Local Housing Strategy Officer

ABERDEEN'S GRANITE HERITAGE

Aberdeen is renowned world-wide as 'The Granite City'. Granite buildings and the space between them make a significant contribution to the quality of our environment. Often, however, we can be so familiar with our surroundings that we stop noticing them.

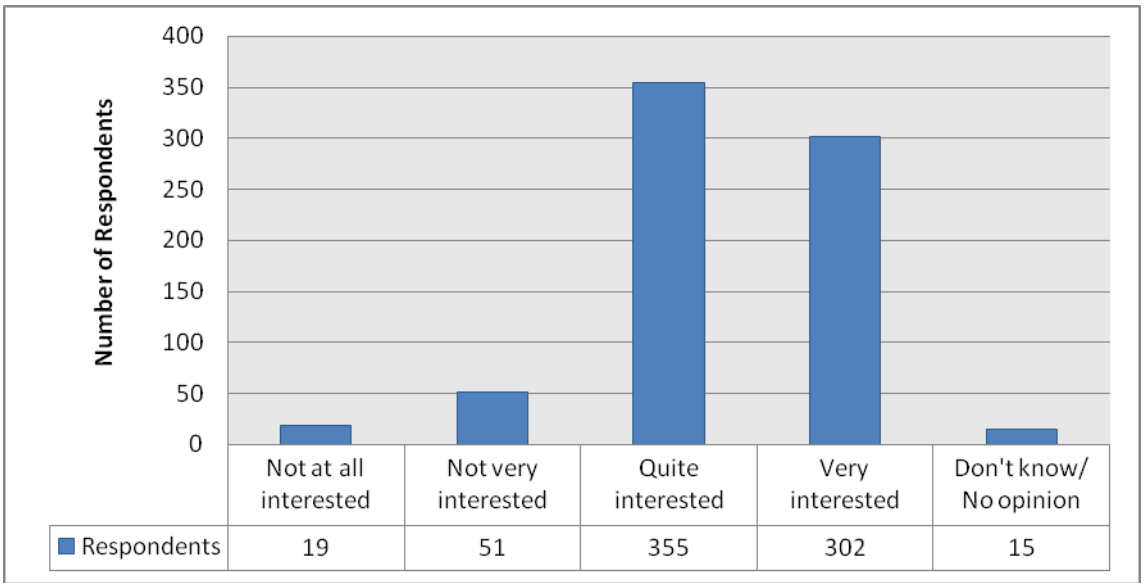
Aberdeen City Heritage Trust recently contributed to the re-printing of Aberdeen City Council's Granite Trail Booklet. The Trust has also supported and contributed to the cost of Doors Open Day for the past five years to encourage exploration of the city's granite and other heritage. The Council and Trust are interested in finding out panellists' views on Aberdeen's granite heritage.

The first question in this section asked panellists to indicate how interested they are in Aberdeen's granite heritage. The results are provided below in Figure 10 (see page 32). The chart shows that the vast majority of respondents are either quite interested (355 respondents; 47.8%) or very interested (302 respondents; 40.7%). 51 respondents (6.9%) stated that they were not very interested, 19 (2.6%) stated that they were not at all interested and 15 respondents (2.0%) stated that they either did not know or had no opinion.

There was virtually no difference between male and female panellists' responses to this question. There was also very little variation between respondents from different areas of the city, although a greater proportion of respondents in North than in South or Central stated that they were quite interested, whilst a greater proportion of respondents in South and Central stated that they were very interested.

Other than some specific results featuring the youngest age-group (16-34), there was very little in the way of notable age-related results, and no evidence of strong age correlations. The youngest age-group contained the greatest proportion of respondents who were either not at all interested (6.9%) or not very interested (12.1%). This group also contained the lowest proportion of respondents who were very interested (just 22.4%), although this group also contained the greatest proportion of respondents who were quite interested.

Figure 10: How interested are you in Aberdeen's granite heritage?



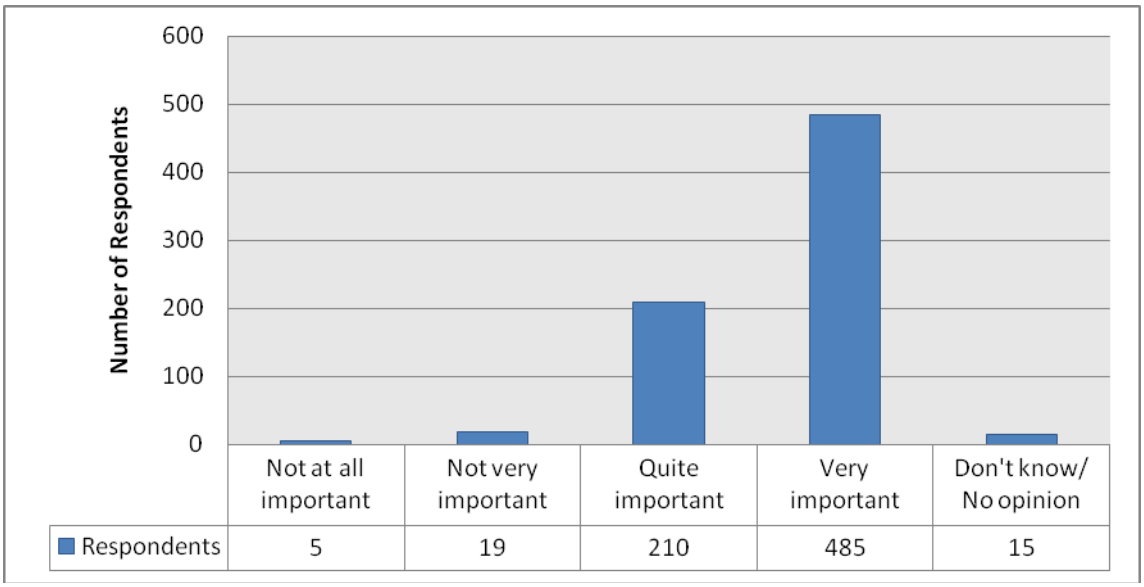
Base = 742 respondents

Panellists were subsequently asked how important they thought it was to look after Aberdeen's granite heritage. The results – as shown below in Figure 11 (see page 33) – show that almost two thirds of all respondents (485; 66.0%) believe that it is very important to do so. 210 respondents (28.6%) stated that it is quite important, 19 (2.6%) stated that it is not very important and only 5 respondents (0.7%) stated that it is not at all important. Again, 15 respondents (2.0%) stated that they did not know or had no opinion.

There were only very minor differences between male and female panellists. Although a slightly larger proportion of females (67.9%) than males (64.3%) stated that it was very important, the fact that a greater proportion of males (28.9%) than females (26.6%) selected 'quite important' meant that overall net levels of agreement were roughly equal (93.2% of males, compared to 94.5% of females). A similar pattern was found in relation to neighbourhoods. Although an identical proportion of respondents (69.3%) in Central and South stated that it was very important, a smaller proportion (59.3%) did so in North. However, because a larger proportion of respondents in North (34.1%) than in South (23.7%) and Central (26.1%) stated that it was quite important, the overall net levels of support for the importance of looking after Aberdeen's granite heritage was broadly similar across the city (93.4% in North, compared to 93.0% in South and 95.4% in Central).

There was a very strong degree of consistency between the responses given by the three eldest age-groups, but a slight difference in the youngest. Whilst the proportion of respondents aged 16-34 who selected 'very important' (56.9%) was lower than for any of the other age-groups (64.4% of those aged 35-54, 69.7% of those aged 55-64 and 67.6% of those aged 65+), their higher level of support for the 'quite important' option again meant that in terms of net overall support for the idea, there was a strong degree of similarity across age-groups. Indeed, in terms of net overall agreement, the youngest age-group was the most supportive group in respect of the need to look after Aberdeen's granite heritage (96.6% among those aged 16-34; 93.9% among those aged 35-54; 94.3% among those aged 35-54; and 92.5% among those aged 65+).

Figure 11: How important do you think it is to look after Aberdeen's granite heritage?



Base = 734 respondents

Panellists were then asked to identify their favourite granite building in the city centre. Their results have been aggregated and are displayed below in Table 3 (see page 34). The results show that among the 619 panellists who responded, Marischal College was by far the most frequently selected option (362 respondents; 58.5%). In comparative terms, the other buildings identified received a far smaller proportion of votes. The other buildings most often selected were the Salvation Army Citadel (37 respondents; 6.0%), the Town House (36 respondents; 5.8%), His Majesty's Theatre (34 respondents; 5.5%), the Music Hall (also 34 respondents; 5.5%), the Central Library (17 respondents; 2.7%), Kings College (also 17 respondents; 2.7%), the Sheriff Court buildings (13 respondents; 2.1%), Aberdeen Art Gallery (9 respondents; 1.5%), St Mark's Kirk (also 9 respondents; 1.5%), the Cowdray Hall (7 respondents; 1.1%), Archibald Simpsons (6 respondents; 1.0%) and the Monkey House (also 6 respondents; 1.0%). Each of the remaining buildings was selected by less than 1.0% of respondents.

Table 3: What is your favourite granite building in Aberdeen city centre?

Building	Respondents	
	Count	%
Marischal College	362	58.5
Citadel	37	6.0
Town House	36	5.8
His Majesty's Theatre	34	5.5
Music Hall	34	5.5
Central Library	17	2.7
Kings College	17	2.7
None	17	2.7
Sheriff Court	13	2.1
Art Gallery	9	1.5
St Mark's Kirk	9	1.5
Unidentifiable Building	8	1.3
Cowdray Hall	7	1.1
Archibald Simpsons	6	1.0
Monkey House	6	1.0
All of them	5	0.8
Grammar School	4	0.6
Skene House	4	0.6
Provost Skene's House	3	0.5
Robert Gordon's College	3	0.5
St Mary's Kirk	3	0.5
War Memorial	3	0.5
Arts Centre	2	0.3
Queens Cross Kirk	2	0.3
Rosemount Tenements	2	0.3
St Machar Cathedral	2	0.3
St Nicholas' Kirk	2	0.3
All of the city's churches	1	0.2
Bus Depot	1	0.2
Crown Street Post Office	1	0.2
Episcopalian Church	1	0.2
Esslemont & MacIntosh	1	0.2
Greyfriars Kirk	1	0.2
Harbour Buildings	1	0.2
King St Post Office	1	0.2
Masonic Temple	1	0.2
Old Infirmary	1	0.2
St Andrew's Kirk	1	0.2
Tivoli Theatre	1	0.2
Torry Library	1	0.2
N/a	3	0.5

Base = 619 respondents

Panellists were then asked to identify which feature(s) of their favourite building they particularly like. Their results have been aggregated and are provided below in Table 4. 567 panellists provided a response. Their answers have been categorised thematically and are provided below in Table 4. The table shows that the features of granite buildings which most respondents identify are the architecture, design or aesthetic features of the building in question (453 respondents; 79.9%), the fact that granite has been used to construct the building (129 respondents; 22.8%), the general 'feel' or impression of the building (125 respondents; 22.0%), the size or scale of the building (81 respondents; 14.3%), the heritage or historical significance of the building (51 respondents; 9.0%), the location of the building (37 respondents; 6.5%), the visibility or prominence of the building (17 respondents; 3.0%), the facilities offered by the building (also 17 respondents; 3.0%) and its 'fit' with the buildings around it (13 respondents; 2.3%). Each of the remaining categories was identified by no more than 10 respondents in total.

Table 4: What is it about this granite building that you particularly like?

Feature	Respondents	
	Count	%
Architecture / design / aesthetic features of building	453	79.9
Granite construction	129	22.8
'Feel' of building	125	22.0
Size of building	81	14.3
Heritage / historical significance of building	51	9.0
Unique / iconic nature of building	48	8.5
Location of building	37	6.5
Visibility of building	17	3.0
Facilities offered by building	17	3.0
'Fit' with surrounding buildings	13	2.3
Age of building	10	1.8
The fact that the building is being used	8	1.4
Open / green space around building	4	0.7
N/a	9	1.6

Base = 567 respondents

Panellists were then asked to identify their favourite street in Aberdeen city centre. Their results have been aggregated and are displayed below in Table 5 (see page 36). In total, 582 panellists provided an answer. Of these answers, the most frequently offered were Union Street (157 respondents; 27.0%), Queens Road (104 respondents; 17.9%), Union Terrace (49 respondents; 8.4%), Rosemount Viaduct (22 respondents; 3.8%), Albyn Place (17 respondents; 2.9%), High Street in Old Aberdeen (15 respondents; 2.6%), Belmont Street (14 respondents; 2.4%), Schoolhill (12 respondents; 2.1%), Bon Accord Crescent (11 respondents; 1.9%), Rubislaw Den (North and/or South) (11 respondents; 1.9%), Albert Terrace (10 respondents; 1.7%), Golden Square (10 respondents; 1.7%), King Street (8 respondents; 1.4%), Broad Street (7 respondents; 1.2%), Rubislaw Terrace (7 respondents;

1.2%), and the Castlegate (6 respondents; 1.0%). Each of the remaining answers was given by less than 1.0% of respondents.

Table 5: What is your favourite street in Aberdeen city centre?

Street	Respondents	
	Count	%
Union Street	157	27.0
Queens Road	104	17.9
Union Terrace	49	8.4
Rosemount Viaduct	22	3.8
Unidentifiable street	19	3.3
Albyn Place	17	2.9
High Street (Old Aberdeen)	15	2.6
None	15	2.6
Belmont Street	14	2.4
Schoolhill	12	2.1
Bon Accord Crescent	11	1.9
Rubislaw Den	11	1.9
Albert Terrace	10	1.7
Golden Square	10	1.7
King Street	8	1.4
Broad Street	7	1.2
Rubislaw Terrace	7	1.2
Castlegate	6	1.0
College Bounds	5	0.9
Crown Street	5	0.9
George Street	5	0.9
Queens Street	5	0.9
Great Western Road	4	0.7
Victoria Street	4	0.7
The Chanonry	3	0.5
Bon Accord Terrace	3	0.5
Carden Place	3	0.5
Holburn Street	3	0.5
Osborne Place	3	0.5
Queens Terrace	3	0.5
N/a	3	0.5

Base = 582 respondents

Panellists were then asked to identify which feature(s) of their favourite street they particularly like. Their results have been aggregated thematically and are provided below in

Table 6. The most frequent response among the 538 panellists who answered this question was that they liked the buildings on the street, typically due to their attractive or well-maintained characteristics (offered by 334 respondents; 62.1%). The next most popular response related to the diversity of architectural styles on the street in question (113 respondents; 21.0%), the visually pleasing presence of granite in the street (93 respondents; 17.3%), the general ambiance, character or 'feel' of the street (79 respondents; 14.7%), the presence of attractive or well-maintained open space, green space or gardens (76 respondents; 14.1%), the dimensions of the street (74 respondents; 13.8%), the historic relevance or traditional appearance of the street (63 respondents; 11.7%). Each of the remaining thematic categories was identified by less than 10% of respondents.

Table 6: What is it about this street that you particularly like?

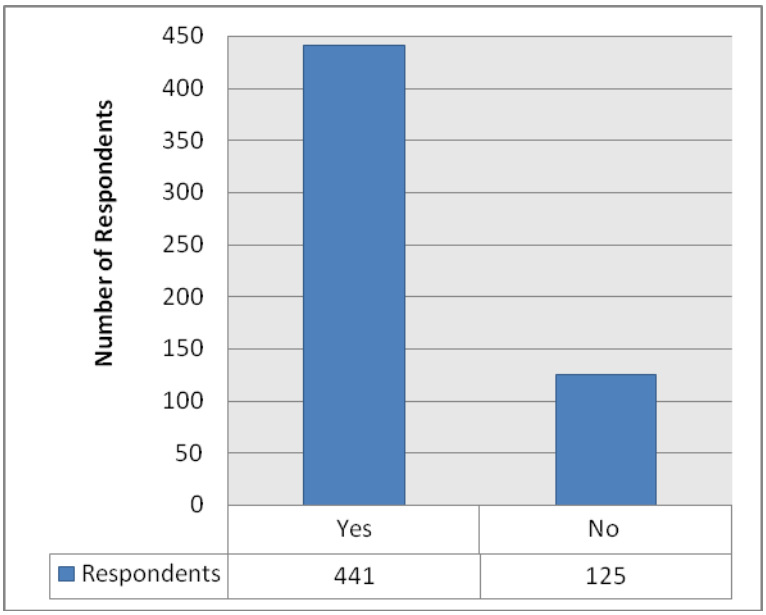
Feature	Respondents	
	Count	%
Attractive or well-maintained buildings	334	62.1
Architectural diversity	113	21.0
Presence of granite	93	17.3
General ambiance / character	79	14.7
Attractive or well-maintained open / green space or gardens	76	14.1
Dimensions of street (e.g. width, length etc.)	74	13.8
Historic relevance or traditional appearance	63	11.7
Views available	44	8.2
Amenities (e.g. pedestrianization, shopping etc.)	38	7.1
Location and strategic links	20	3.7
Enhancement features (e.g. floodlighting)	6	1.1
Always something new to see	4	0.7
N/a	23	4.3

Base = 538 respondents

Panellists were then asked if they knew of any granite buildings or streets in Aberdeen city centre that need to be improved. An overview of their responses is provided in Figure 12 (see page 38), which shows that over three quarters (441 respondents; 77.9%) did know of a granite building or street which needs to be improved. 125 respondents (22.1%) did not.

A slightly greater proportion of males (61.7%) than females (58.1%) was able to identify a granite building or street in Aberdeen which they believed needs to be improved. The proportion of respondents who could identify a granite building or street was also slightly higher in South (61.9%) and Central (63.0%) than in North (54.4%). There was also a wide variation across the responses given by different age-groups: whilst only 49.1% of those aged 35-54 could identify a granite building or street in need of improvement, this rose to 60.3% of those aged 16-34, 64.9% of those aged 65+ and 70.8% of those aged 55-64.

Figure 12: Are there any granite buildings or streets in Aberdeen city centre that you think need to be improved?



Base = 566 respondents

Again, the way in which this question was asked made the analysis both difficult and time-consuming. As per previous questions, this question essentially asks three questions in one, which seriously impacts upon the quality of conclusions which it is possible to draw, and renders any hope of straightforward cross-tabulation extremely difficult.

Firstly, we coded the responses to identify specific buildings mentioned by respondents. The total number of respondents who mentioned each building is provided below in Table 7 (see page 39). The results show that the building which was mentioned most frequently was Greyfriars Kirk (68 respondents; 15.4% of all respondents), followed by the Triplekirks building on Belmont Street (20 respondents; 4.5%) and the Music Hall (12 respondents; 2.7%). A number of respondents mentioned numerous unspecified buildings (e.g. “all of them”) (11 respondents; 2.5%), whilst 8 respondents (1.8%) each mentioned St Nicholas House and the Town House. 7 respondents (1.6%) mentioned the Tivoli Theatre, 6 respondents (1.4%) mentioned Marischal College, and 5 respondents (1.1%) mentioned the Arts Centre. A number of additional buildings were also identified: however, each of these was selected by less than 1.0% of respondents.

Table 7: Which one building would you improve?

Building	Respondents	
	Count	%
Greyfriars Kirk	68	15.4
Triplekirks	20	4.5
Music Hall	12	2.7
Numerous unspecified buildings	11	2.5
St Nicholas House	8	1.8
Town House	8	1.8
Tivoli Theatre	7	1.6
Marischal College	6	1.4
Arts Centre	5	1.1
Random property (e.g. 'my house')	4	0.9
Esslemont & MacIntosh	3	0.7
The Monkey House	3	0.7
Old Capitol Cinema (Union Street)	3	0.7
Broadfold Works (Maberly Street)	2	0.5
The Citadel	2	0.5
Law Courts	2	0.5
Medico-chirurgical Building (King Street)	2	0.5
Old Picture House (Harbour)	2	0.5
Provost Skene's House	2	0.5
St Mark's Kirk	2	0.5
Union Terrace Gardens	2	0.5
Aberdeen Market	1	0.2
Athenaeum	1	0.2
Beach Ballroom	1	0.2
BHS (Union Street)	1	0.2
Bon Accord Baths	1	0.2
Bon Accord Centre	1	0.2
Butchers Arms	1	0.2
Children's Theatre	1	0.2
Frederick Street School	1	0.2
Harbour Warehouses	1	0.2
His Majesty's Theatre	1	0.2
John Lewis (George Street)	1	0.2
Langstane Kirk	1	0.2
Mitchell Tower	1	0.2
Old Student Union (Gallowgate)	1	0.2
Palace (Bridge Street)	1	0.2
Rubislaw Parish Church	1	0.2
St Machar Cathedral	1	0.2
St Nicholas Centre	1	0.2
St Nicholas' Kirk	1	0.2
Station Hotel	1	0.2
Thistle Hotel	1	0.2

Base = 442 respondents

The next stage of analysis for this question was to attempt to identify the type of improvements which respondents wanted to see made to these buildings. We provide below in Table 8 (see pages 41-43) an overview of the different types of improvement mentioned by respondents, and the number of respondents who mentioned each type of improvement in relation to specific buildings.

The most notable result relates to Greyfriars Kirk, and the number of respondents (47) who stated that they wanted to see it cleaned to the same standard as the adjoining Marischal College. There was also a relatively high level of support for cleaning up the Esslemont and MacIntosh (9 respondents) building on Union Street, cleaning the façade of the Music Hall (also 9 respondents) and demolishing St Nicholas House (7 respondents).

Table 8: How would you improve this building?

Building	Not specified	General cleaning	Clean gutters / remove vegetation	Demolish	Clean / restore façade	Make owners clean them	General repairs	Refurbish inside and/or out side	Enhance quality / appeal of area	Fill empty properties	Remove modern glass / plastic features	Improve signage / shop fronts	Remove gum / stickers etc.	More in harmony with surroundings	Create civic area	Open shops longer	Use granite in new builds	Better disabled access
Numerous unspecified	7	3	1		1		1											
Random property	1	1					1							1				
The Palace (Bridge St)		1																
Aberdeen Market		1		1	1													
Arts Centre	1	3																1
Children's Theatre		1																1
Athenaeum			1															
Bon Accord Baths								1										
Broadfold Works	1									1								
Esslemont & MacIntosh	12	9	2		4	1	3	4	2	4		2	1					
Butchers Arms					1													
Old Student Union		1																
Citadel	2																	
Greyfriars Kirk	18	3			47	1	3	3		3		1		1				
St Nicholas House	1			7	1					1					3		1	
Triplekirks	10	1		4				6										
BHS (Union Street)				1														

(continues overleaf)

Building	Not specified	General cleaning	Clean gutters / remove vegetation	Demolish	Clean / restore façade	Make owners clean them	General repairs	Refurbish inside and/or out side	Enhance quality / appeal of area	Fill empty properties	Remove modern glass / plastic features	Improve signage / shop fronts	Remove gum / stickers etc.	More in harmony with surroundings	Create civic area	Open shops longer	Use granite in new builds	Better disabled access
Music Hall	1	5			9	1	2	1										
Frederick Street School	1																	
John Lewis				1														
Bon Accord Centre																1		
St Nicholas Centre																1		
His Majesty's Theatre											1							
Langstane Kirk									1									
Medico-chirur. Building					2			1										
Monkey House	2		1															
Mitchell Tower					1													
Old Capitol Cinema	1	2																
Tivoli Theatre	3	2			1		1	3		3								
Provost Skene's House	1														1			
Rubislaw Parish Church		1																
Law Courts	1	1																
Harbour Warehouses		1																

(continues overleaf)

Building	Not specified	General cleaning	Clean gutters / remove vegetation	Demolish	Clean / restore façade	Make owners clean them	General repairs	Refurbish inside and/or out side	Enhance quality / appeal of area	Fill empty properties	Remove modern glass / plastic features	Improve signage / shop fronts	Remove gum / stickers etc.	More in harmony with surroundings	Create civic area	Open shops longer	Use granite in new builds	Better disabled access
St Nicholas' Kirk		1																
St Machar Cathedral	1																	
St Mark's Kirk	1			1														
Station Hotel		1																
Old Picture House		2						2		2								
Town House		1			1					1								
Beach Ballroom																		
Thistle Hotel	1																	
Union Terrace Gardens	1	1					1											
Marischal College	2	1		1	2										1			

Base = 442 respondents

We then sought to repeat this process in relation to the streets identified by respondents. The results of this process are shown below in Tables 9 (see page 45) and 10 (see pages 47-49). Dealing firstly with Table 9, the results show that the street identified by the greatest number of respondents as being in need of improvement was Union Street (identified by 163 respondents; 36.9%). No other street was mentioned as regularly, although the streets which did attract the next greatest levels of support were Bridge Street (40 respondents; 9.0%), George Street (19 respondents; 4.3%), numerous unspecified streets (e.g. “the West End”) (15 respondents; 3.4%), the Castlegate (12 respondents; 2.7%), Market Street (11 respondents; 2.5%), King Street (6 respondents; 1.4%) and Broad Street (5 respondents; 1.1%). Again, although a number of other streets were mentioned, these were all identified by less than 1.0% of respondents.

Table 9: Which one street would you improve?

Street	Respondents	
	Count	%
Union Street	163	36.9
Bridge Street	40	9.0
George Street	19	4.3
Numerous unspecified streets	15	3.4
Castlegate	12	2.7
Market Street	11	2.5
King Street	6	1.4
Broad Street	5	1.1
Crown Street	4	0.9
Guild Street	3	0.7
Union Terrace	3	0.7
Bon Accord Street	2	0.5
The Green	2	0.5
Union Grove	2	0.5
Woolmanhill	2	0.5
Beach Boulevard Area	1	0.2
Belmont Street	1	0.2
Bridge of Dee	1	0.2
Castle Street	1	0.2
College Street	1	0.2
Correction Wynd	1	0.2
Flourmill Lane	1	0.2
Footdee	1	0.2
Golden Square	1	0.2
The Grassmarket / The Tunnels	1	0.2
Guestrow	1	0.2
High Street (Old Aberdeen)	1	0.2
Langstane Place	1	0.2
Langstane Square	1	0.2
Marischal Street	1	0.2
Queen Street	1	0.2
Regent Quay	1	0.2
Rosemount Viaduct	1	0.2
Schoolhill	1	0.2
Silver Street	1	0.2
St Nicholas Street	1	0.2
Union Terrace	1	0.2
Upperkirkgate	1	0.2
Victoria Road	1	0.2
Windmill Brae	1	0.2

Base = 442 respondents

As with Table 8, we then aimed to identify the type of improvements which respondents wanted to see in relation to each of these streets. The type of improvements mentioned and the number of respondents mentioning these improvements for each specific street are provided below in Table 10 (see pages 47-49). Again, a number of notable results emerge.

Firstly, there was a very widespread concern that the main streets in the city centre were dirty and in a poor state of repair. This is reflected in the volume of respondents who stated that streets such as Union Street, Bridge Street and George Street were in need of cleaning, whilst a sizeable number of respondents also mentioned that general repairs were needed to many of the buildings on Union Street and Bridge Street. A number of respondents also mentioned that many gutters are broken or overgrown with unplanned vegetation, whilst an even greater number expressed unhappiness about the number of empty properties on Union Street and the proliferation of gaudy, cheap-looking shop signage which had been erected. Finally, a number of respondents also mentioned the need for the building façades along streets such as Union Street, George Street and Bridge Street to be cleaned in the way that Marischal College has recently been cleaned.

Table 10: How would you improve this street?

Building	Not specified	General cleaning	Clean gutters / remove vegetation	Demolish	Clean / restore façades	Make owners clean them	Repair pavements / street surface	General repairs	Refurbish buildings on street	Enhance quality / appeal of area	Fill empty properties	Ban vehicles / remove parking / congestion	Remove modern glass / plastic features	Improve signage / shop fronts	More harmonious buildings	Create civic area	Create underground link(s)	More trees / vegetation
Numerous unspecified	6	6	2		1		1											
Random property		1												1				
Bridge Street	13	24			4	1		10	2	1	5							
Union Street	41	65	14		9	5	2	24	6	10	25	4	2	22	2			2
King Street		4			1				1	1								
Castlegate	7	2			1					1	2	1	1	2				
Union Terrace	1																	
Queen Street	1																	
The Green					1					1								
Broad Street	1			2	1					1						2		
Silver Street												1				1		
Bon Accord Street	1																1	
George Street	9	8	1	1	4	2	1	2										
Castle Street		1																
Upperkirkgate		1																

(continues overleaf)

Building	Not specified	General cleaning	Clean gutters / remove vegetation	Demolish	Clean / restore façades	Make owners clean them	Repair pavements / street surface	General repairs	Refurbish buildings on street	Enhance quality / appeal of area	Fill empty properties	Ban vehicles / remove parking / congestion	Remove modern glass / plastic features	Improve signage / shop fronts	More harmonious buildings	Create civic area	Create underground link(s)	More trees / vegetation
College Street		1									1							
Correction Wynd					1													
Crown Street	1							1							2			
St Nicholas Street																	1	
Grassmarket / Tunnels										1	1						1	
Belmont Street		1								1								
Langstane Place	1																	
Windmill Brae	1																	
Langstane Square	1																	
Golden Square	1																	
Victoria Road		1																
Market Street	6	2			2		2		1	1								
Flourmill Lane				1					1							1		
Guestrow	1																	
Footdee		1																

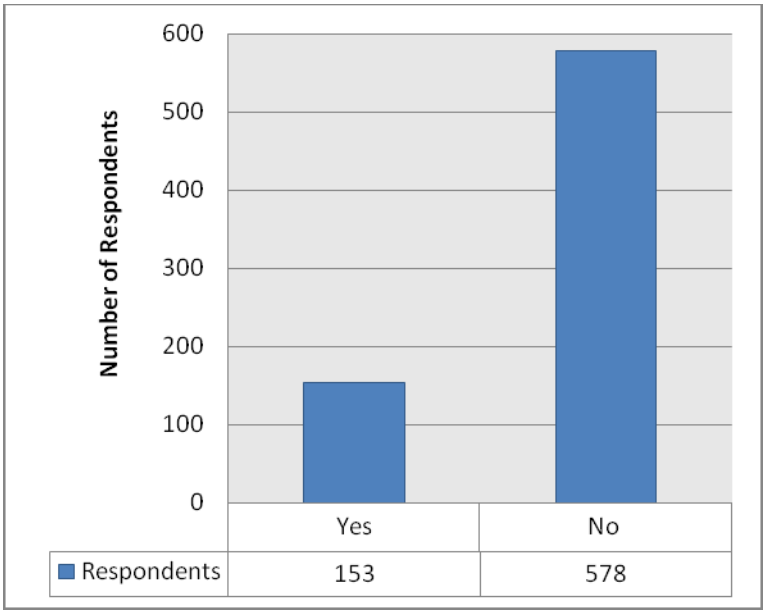
(continues overleaf)

Building	Not specified	General cleaning	Clean gutters / remove vegetation	Demolish	Clean / restore façades	Make owners clean them	Repair pavements / street surface	General repairs	Refurbish buildings on street	Enhance quality / appeal of area	Fill empty properties	Ban vehicles / remove parking / congestion	Remove modern glass / plastic features	Improve signage / shop fronts	More harmonious buildings	Create civic area	Create underground link(s)	More trees / vegetation
Rosemount Viaduct	1																	
Guild Street		1								1		1						
Beach Boulevard Area	1																	
Union Grove								1							1			
Bridge of Dee										1								
Union Terrace	3																	
Schoolhill	1																	
Woolmanhill	1	1																
Marischal Street					1													
High Street	1																	
Regent Quay		1						1										

Panellists were then asked whether they had ever seen a copy of Aberdeen City Council's 'Granite Trail' booklet. Figure 13 (see below) provides an overview of responses to this question. The results show that over three quarters (578 respondents; 79.1%) have not, whilst only 153 respondents (20.9%) have seen a copy. There was virtually no difference between the proportion of male (21.1%) and female (20.0%) panellists who have seen the booklet. The area of the city containing the lowest proportion of people who had seen the booklet was North, from which only 15.4% of respondents stated that they had seen it. This contrasts with 22.0% of respondents in Central and 24.1% of respondents in South.

Once again, there was considerable variation between age-groups. Whilst only 10.3% of those aged 16-34 have seen the booklet, this rose to 16.8% of those aged 65+, 22.6% of those aged 55-64 and 24.0% of those aged 35-54.

Figure 13: Have you seen a copy of Aberdeen City Council's 'Granite Trail' booklet?

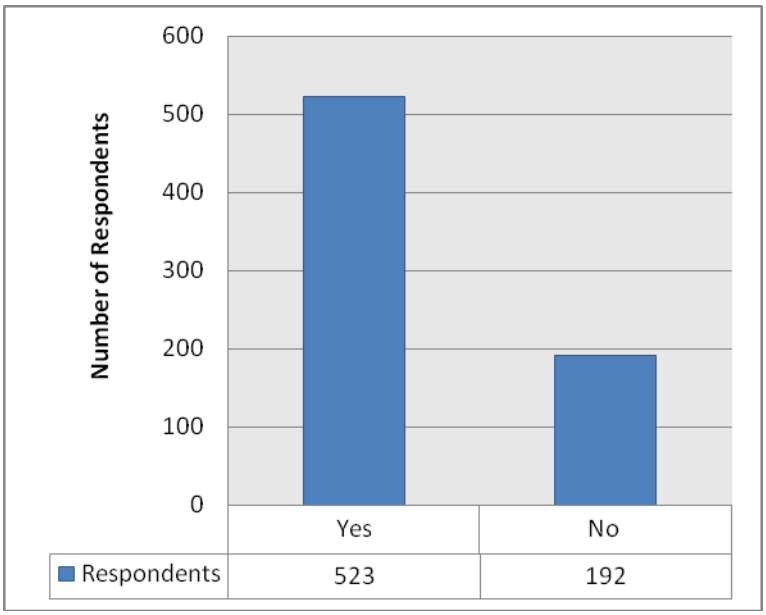


Base = 731 respondents

The survey then sought to determine how aware panellists were of Doors Open Day prior to reading about it in the City Voice. Figure 14 (see page 51) shows that a clear majority of respondents (523; 73.1%) were aware of Doors Open Day prior to reading about it in the City Voice, whilst 192 respondents (26.9%) were not.

Breaking these responses down, it can be seen that a noticeably larger proportion of female panellists (75.9%) were aware of this than was the case for their male counterparts (64.6%). Again, respondents in North had the lowest awareness (64.2%), followed by Central (68.8%) and South (76.7%). The three eldest age-groups all had very similar levels of awareness, but this was around 10% lower among those aged 16-34 (60.3%).

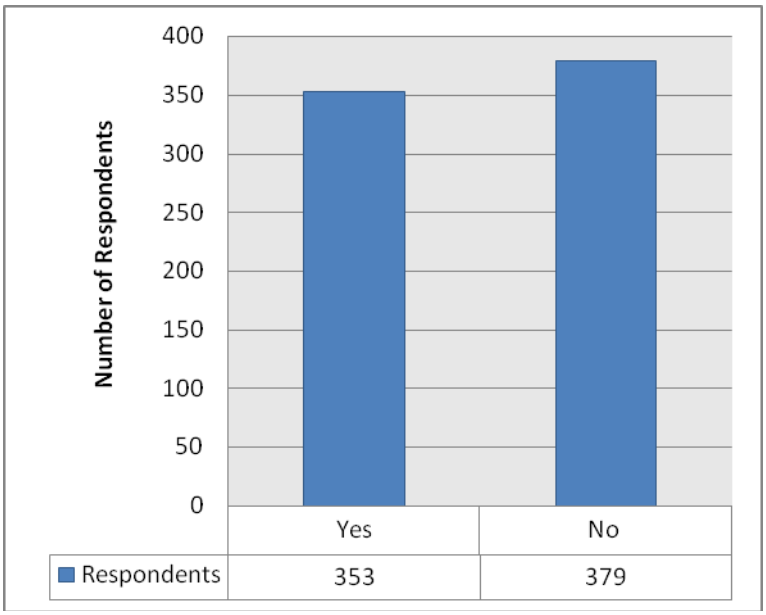
Figure 14: Before reading about it above, were you aware of Doors Open Day – which occurs on the second Saturday in September each year?



Base = 715 respondents

Panellists were then asked if they had ever actually visited a building as part of Doors Open Day. Their results are provided below in Figure 15 (see page 52). The chart shows that slightly more than half of respondents (379; 51.8%) have never visited a building as part of Doors Open Day, whilst a large minority of respondents (48.2%) had done so. A slightly larger proportion of female panellists (48.5%) than male panellists (46.0%) had done so. Across the city, responses also differed: whilst only 38.5% of respondents in North had visited a building as part of Doors Open Day, this rose to 47.2% among those in Central and 54.4% of those in South. There was also variation between age-groups. The youngest age-group (16-34) contained the lowest proportion of respondents who had visited a building as part of Doors Open Day (29.3%), followed by those aged 35-54 (45.8%), those aged 65+ (50.8%) and those aged 55-64 (51.3%).

Figure 15: Have you ever visited any building opened as part of Doors Open Day?



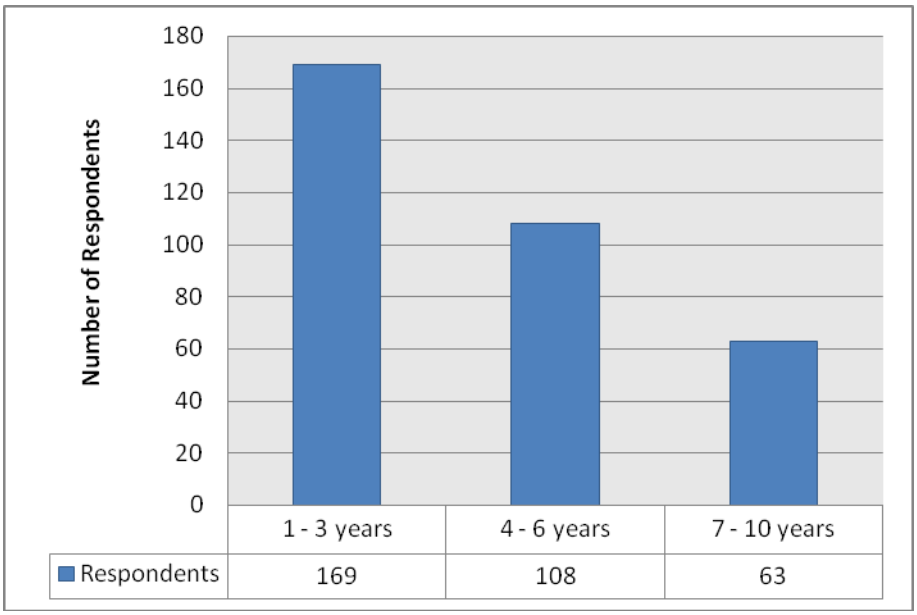
Base = 732 respondents

Panellists who have visited a building as part of Doors Open Day were subsequently asked to identify the number of years in which they had been visiting buildings as part of Doors Open Day. Their responses are provided below in Figure 16 (see page 53), which shows that half of respondents (169; 50.0%) have been doing so for 1-3 years, followed by 108 respondents (31.8%) who have been doing so for 4-6 years and 63 respondents (18.5%) who have been doing so for 7-10 years.

There was virtually no difference between male and female panellists' responses to this question. A majority of respondents from the North of the city (55.2%) have only been going to Doors Open Day for 1-3 years, and although the proportion of respondents from South (42.2%) and Central (48.5%) who have been going for 1-3 years was a minority in each case, it nevertheless still represented the most popular response in these two areas as well. Respondents from South (35.4%) and Central (31.1%) were more likely than those in North (20.7%) to have been visiting for 4-6 years. An identical proportion (20.7%) of those in the North of the city has been going for 7-10 years, compared to 19.7% of those in South and just 14.6% of respondents in Central.

Although there was considerable variation across age-groups, there did not seem to be a strong correlation between age and visiting habits. The greatest share of respondents in each age-group has been going for 1-3 years. In the case of the youngest age-group, this was a considerable majority: 70.6% of respondents aged 16-34 who have visited buildings as part of Doors Open Day have only been doing so for 1-3 years, compared to just 38.0% of those aged 55-64.

Figure 16: If you have visited a building as part of Doors Open Day, for how many years have you visited buildings as part of Doors Open Day?

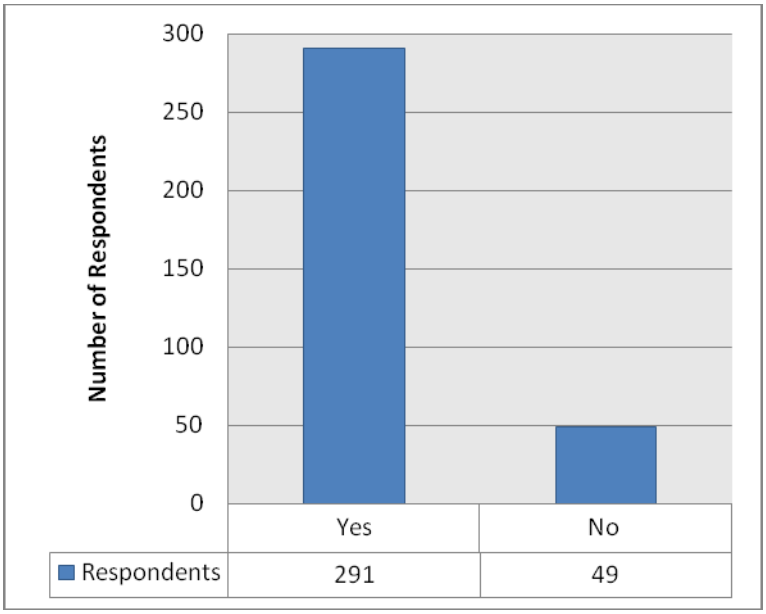


Base = 340 respondents

Those respondents who have visited buildings as part of Doors Open Day were then asked if they enjoy visiting modern buildings as well as older historic buildings. An overview of responses to this question is provided below in Figure 17 (see page 54). The results show that the vast majority of respondents (291; 85.6%) do enjoy visiting modern buildings as well as older historic buildings on Doors Open Day. A far smaller proportion of respondents do not enjoy visiting modern buildings (49; 14.4%).

In terms of a gender breakdown, the results show that a greater proportion of females (84.7%) than males (78.9%) enjoy visiting modern buildings as well as historic ones. Although a clear majority of respondents in each area of the city enjoys visiting modern buildings as well as older, more historic ones, the proportion was lower in Central (74.8%) than in North (85.1%) or South (85.0%). There was virtually no variation across different age-groups' responses.

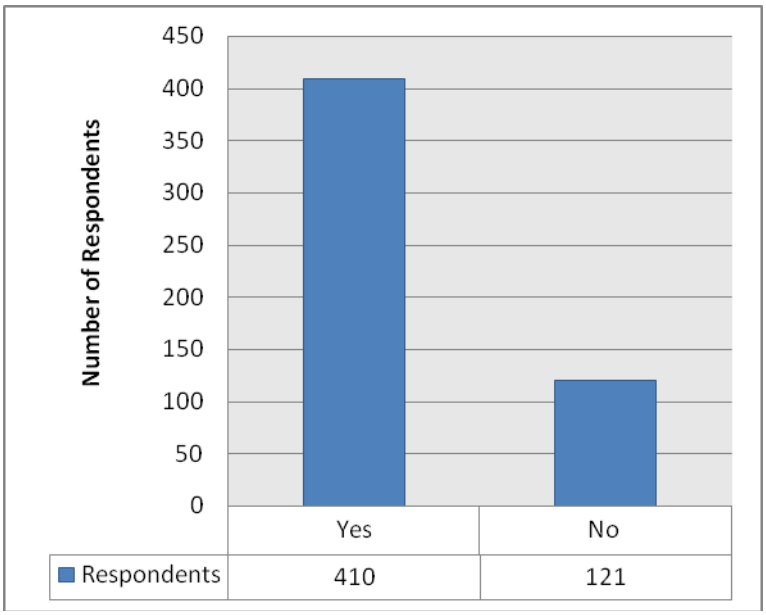
Figure 17: A mixture of ages of buildings are opened on Doors Open Day. Do you enjoy visiting modern buildings as well as older historic buildings on Doors Open Day?



Base = 340 respondents

All panellists were then asked if they would like to see more modern buildings opened on Doors Open Day. Their responses are provided below in Figure 18 (see page 55), which again shows that a very clear majority of respondents (410; 77.2%) would like to see more modern buildings opened on Doors Open Day, whilst only a minority (121 respondents; 22.8%) would not. The responses from male and female panellists were virtually identical, and there was only slightly more variation between areas of the city. Whilst 52.2% of those in North wanted to see more modern buildings opened as part of Doors Open Day, this rose to 54.1% of those in Central and 58.1% of those in South. The only notable variation across age-groups was that a slightly lower proportion of those aged 65+ (50.8%) would like to see more modern buildings opened than was the case for other age-groups (55.2% of those aged 16-34; 56.7% of those aged 35-54; and 57.4% of those aged 55-64).

Figure 18: Would you like to see more modern buildings opened on Doors Open Day?



Base = 531 respondents

Finally in this section, panellists were asked if there were any interesting old or new buildings that they would like to see opened on Doors Open Day. 145 panellists provided a response. These have been aggregated and are tabulated below in Table 11 (see pages 56-57). The results show that the most frequently identified buildings were Marischal College (once its refit is complete) (19 respondents; 13.1%), the new library at the University of Aberdeen (again, once it is complete) (12 respondents; 8.3%), the new Harbour Control Tower (11 respondents; 7.6%), the Town House (7 respondents; 4.8%), the Seven Incorporated Trades building (6 respondents; 4.1%), the Tivoli Theatre (once its refit is complete) (also 6 respondents; 4.1%), Robert Gordon University (particularly the Garthdee campus) (5 respondents; 3.4%), the Law Courts (4 respondents; 2.8%), the Glover house in Bridge of Don (4 respondents; 2.8%), the Harbour offices (4 respondents; 2.8%), the new International School (4 respondents; 2.8%), some of the new '3 Rs' school buildings (4 respondents; 2.8%), the Talisman building on Holburn Street (4 respondents; 2.8%), the old buildings at the Kings College campus of the University of Aberdeen (4 respondents; 2.8%), the new BP HQ at Stoneywood (3 respondents; 2.1%) and backstage at His Majesty's Theatre (3 respondents; 2.1%).

A number of additional buildings were identified by only one or two respondents. Although not discussed here, they are included in the list provided in Table 11.

Table 11: Are there any interesting old or new buildings that you would like to see opened on Doors Open Day?

Building	Respondents	
	Count	%
Marischal College	19	13.1
New library at University of Aberdeen	12	8.3
Harbour Control Tower	11	7.6
Town House	7	4.8
Seven Incorporated Trades Building	6	4.1
The Tivoli Theatre	6	4.1
Robert Gordon University	5	3.4
The Law Courts	4	2.8
Glover House	4	2.8
Harbour offices	4	2.8
New International School	4	2.8
New '3 Rs' school buildings	4	2.8
Talisman Building	4	2.8
University buildings at Kings College	4	2.8
BP HQ	3	2.1
Backstage at His Majesty's Theatre	3	2.1
Aberdeen City Council	2	1.4
Aberdeen Grammar School	2	1.4
Backstage at Aberdeen Art Gallery	2	1.4
Benholm's Tower (Wallace Tower)	2	1.4
Bishops House (Queens Cross)	2	1.4
Hazlehead Crematorium	2	1.4

Building	Respondents	
	Count	%
HMP Craiginches	2	1.4
Lighthouse	2	1.4
Mannofield Waterworks	2	1.4
Tolbooth	2	1.4
Unidentifiable	2	1.4
Unspecified private companies in West End	2	1.4
Unspecified private houses in West End	2	1.4
Woolmanhill Hospital	2	1.4
Aberdeen Journals	1	0.7
AECC Tower	1	0.7
Airport Control Tower	1	0.7
All historical buildings	1	0.7
Altens Post Office	1	0.7
Anatomical Museum at ARI	1	0.7
Balgownie Pavilion	1	0.7
Blaikies Quay	1	0.7
Bon Accord Baths	1	0.7
Castlegate Dungeons	1	0.7
Central Library	1	0.7
Chanonry Buildings	1	0.7
Coastguard HQ	1	0.7
Cornhill Hospital	1	0.7

(continues overleaf)

Building	Respondents	
	Count	%
Frederick St School	1	0.7
Free Gardeners Lodge	1	0.7
Marine Research Lab (Torry)	1	0.7
Masons Lodge, Crown St	1	0.7
Mitchell Tower	1	0.7
New CLAN House	1	0.7
New hotels	1	0.7
Old Blind Asylum (Huntly Street)	1	0.7
Private houses in Old Aberdeen	1	0.7
Pittodrie Stadium	1	0.7
Rubislaw Quarry	1	0.7
Sailors Home (Mearns Street)	1	0.7
Salvation Army Citadel	1	0.7
Salveston Tower	1	0.7
Shell Building	1	0.7
St Margaret's Kirk (Spital)	1	0.7
St Nicholas' House	1	0.7
St Nicholas' Kirk	1	0.7
Underground tunnels at harbour	1	0.7
War Memorial	1	0.7
Zoological Museum, University of Aberdeen	1	0.7
N/a	17	11.7

Base = 145 respondents

SERVICE RESPONSE

Aberdeen's granite heritage is important to most people and most think it should be looked after. Marischal College is by far the favourite granite building in the city centre followed by a range of other well known and prominent public buildings and structures. Most respondents focused on the architecture, design and aesthetic features of the building as being what they particularly like about their favourite building, followed by the fact that they are built of granite. Many refer to the 'feel' of the building as being an aspect of their favourite building that they particularly like. This intangible, more emotional response to the city's great works of architecture is interesting. Information on favourite buildings and streets, along with how you think they need to be improved is helpful. We can use this information to inform future thinking about how we look after Aberdeen's heritage.

Responses on Doors Open Day will be passed on to the independent Doors Open Day Committee which organises the Aberdeen event and will help inform how it publicises the event and targets buildings for inclusion within the event in the future. It was noted that many people would like to see more modern buildings opened and that the new University Library and the Harbour Control Tower featured prominently in the list of properties you would like to see opened.

Douglas Campbell
Project Officer

OUTDOOR ACCESS

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 introduced a right of responsible access to most land and inland water in Scotland. This right applies to all non-motorised users including walkers, cyclists, horse riders and canoeists. Access rights do not extend to any form of motorised recreation or passage (except people with a disability using a vehicle or vessel adapted for their use).

Visitors and residents of Aberdeen have many opportunities to enjoy their access rights in and around the city. From award-winning parks to the Rivers Dee and Don, a coastal path, forest trails and routes through farmland and settlements around the city, there's plenty to see and do outside.

Aberdeen's path network plays an important role in facilitating the enjoyment of these access rights. Paths link communities and provide routes between the places that people live and work, as well as to other local services and facilities such as schools and shops. Paths also link communities to recreational areas such as parks, woodland and water courses, making it easier for people to explore and enjoy the local environment.

Aberdeen has a network of core paths which are identified in the Aberdeen Core Paths Plan 2009. The core paths provide a framework of key routes for recreation and travel throughout the city and are made up of may types of path ranging from natural ground to high-specification constructed paths. Water access and egress points are also included. The core path network as a whole caters for all user types and abilities. Core paths are supported by paths in the wider network.

The first question in this section sought to identify how often panellists use Aberdeen's network of paths for a number of different leisure activities. The activities in question and the relevant frequencies are provided below in Figure 19 (see page 61). The chart shows that with the exception of walking, a very clear majority of respondents never use Aberdeen's network of paths for leisure activities. This ranges from 67.8% of respondents who never use the path network for cycling to 98.5% who never use the network for horse-riding.

Given that over 90% of respondents never use the path network for horse-riding, canoeing/kayaking or other leisure activities, they will not be discussed in depth here. However, in relation to walking, the greatest share of respondents (25.8%) use the path network on a weekly basis, followed by 22.1% who use it daily, 21.4% who use it less than once a month and 11.4% who do so more than once a month but less than once a week. 19.2% of respondents never use Aberdeen's network of paths for recreational walking. In relation to cycling, the greatest share of respondents (67.8%) never use Aberdeen's path network. 15.1% of respondents use the network for cycling less than once a month, 6.9% use the network weekly and 6.9% do so more than once a month but less than once a week, whilst only 3.2% do so on a daily basis.

A number of panellists identified 'other' activities for which they used the network of paths. Of these, the most common by far was running/jogging, although other activities mentioned

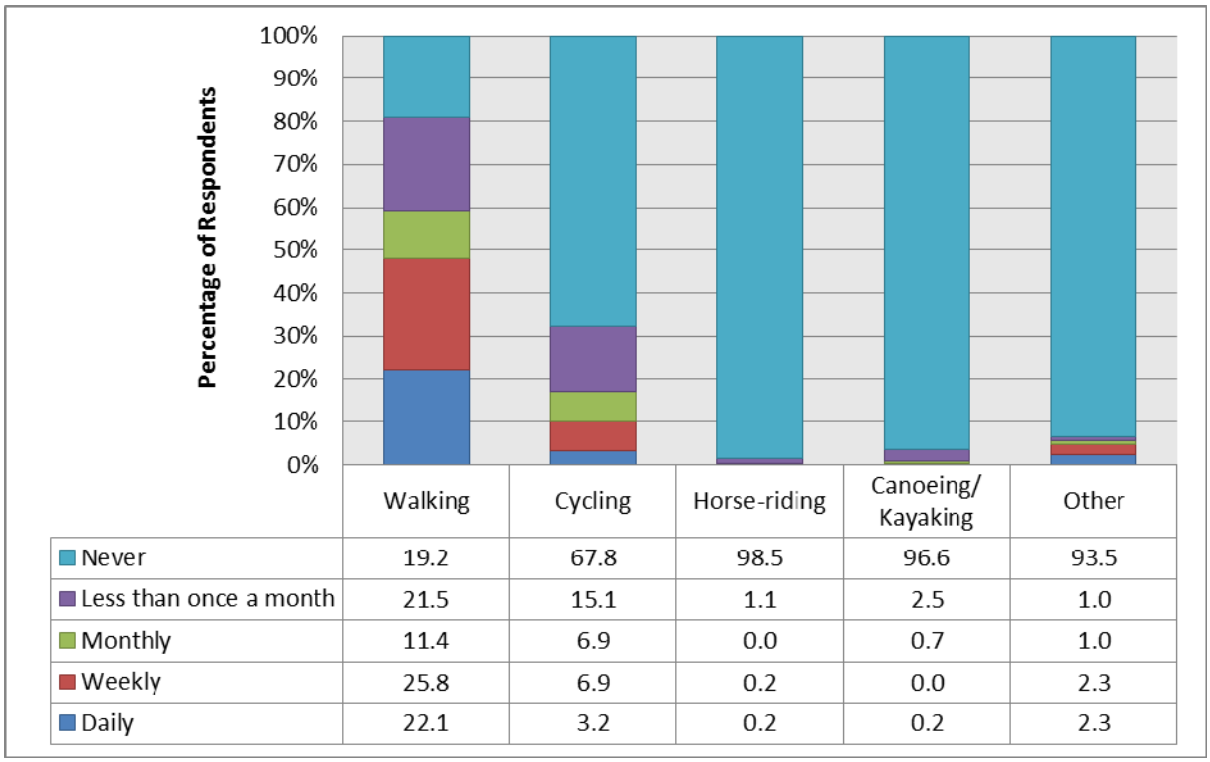
included swimming and bowling, which suggests that some panellists were possibly confused by what the question was actually asking.

There were few notable gender differences. The most prominent ones emerged in relation to cycling, although the difference between genders was still very small. A greater proportion of males than females stated that they cycle every day (5.0%, compared to 1.4% of females) or every week (8.2%, compared to 5.6% of females), whilst a greater proportion of females stated that they do so monthly (8.8%, compared to 5.7% of males) or never (70.2%, compared to 64.8% of males). Other than this, there were no notable differences between male and female panellists' responses.

There was very little variation between responses from different neighbourhoods in relation to canoeing/kayaking and horse-riding. However, some very minor variations could be seen in relation to walking and cycling. For walking, the proportion of respondents who do this daily was highest in North (24.5%), followed by South (22.5%) and Central (19.5%). The proportion of respondents who never use the path network for leisure walking was highest in Central (23.9%), followed by North (18.4) and South (14.7%). With regard to cycling, respondents in North were less likely than their counterparts in South and Central to go cycling, with the exception of the 'less than once a month' category, in which a very slightly larger proportion of respondents in South participate than their counterparts in South and Central. However, the proportion of respondents who never use the path network for leisure cycling was highest North (72.6%), followed by Central (69.4%) and South (61.8%).

There were also surprisingly few noteworthy age-related results to report. The only correlation appeared to be in relation to walking, where the proportion of respondents who state that they never use the path network for leisure walking increased in line with age, from 12.5% of those aged 16-34 to 13.9% of those aged 35-54, 20.1% of those aged 55-64 and 26.3% of those aged 65+. Similarly, the proportion of respondents who do so weekly decreased as the age of each cohort rose, from 33.9% of those aged 16-34 to 28.5% of those aged 35-54, 25.0% of those aged 55-64 and 21.6% of those aged 65+. In relation to cycling, the proportion of respondents who use the path network monthly was highest among those aged 16-34 (20.0%), falling to 10.8% among those aged 35-54, 2.0% of those aged 55-64 and 0.8% of those aged 65+. Other than this, there was considerable fluctuation between different age-groups. However, this appeared to be random, with no real correlation between the age of respondents and the answers provided.

Figure 19: How often do you normally use Aberdeen's network of paths for the following leisure activities?



	Walking	Cycling	Horse-riding	Canoeing/ Kayaking	Other
Never	19.2	67.8	98.5	96.6	93.5
Less than once a month	21.5	15.1	1.1	2.5	1.0
Monthly	11.4	6.9	0.0	0.7	1.0
Weekly	25.8	6.9	0.2	0.0	2.3
Daily	22.1	3.2	0.2	0.2	2.3

Base: multiple (varies by activity)

Panellists were then asked how often they use Aberdeen's network of paths to travel to work, to go shopping and to access other facilities using sustainable transport (walking, cycling and other). An overview of the responses received are provided below in Figure 20 (see page 63). The responses received show that a sizeable proportion of respondents never use the path network to travel to work, go shopping and access other facilities using sustainable means of transport. This is particularly true in relation to cycling and other forms of transport, for which the proportion of respondents selecting 'never' was 77.7% and 92.9%, respectively. In comparison, only 40.0% of respondents stated that this was the case in relation to walking. Indeed, around a fifth of respondents (19.9%) stated that they use the network of paths to travel to work, go shopping or access other facilities by walking on a daily basis. 18.6% do so on a weekly basis, 14.8% do so less than once a month and 6.6% do so more than once a month but less than once a week. For cycling, the greatest share of respondents who do use the path network to travel to work, go shopping or access other services by bicycle do so less than once a month (9.1%), followed by weekly (5.5%), more than once a month but less than once a week (4.5%) and daily (3.3%).

Again, only a very small number of respondents selected that they use the path network for other forms of sustainable transport. Most responses were variations or clarifications on the two options of walking and cycling, but also included options such as skating and running/jogging.

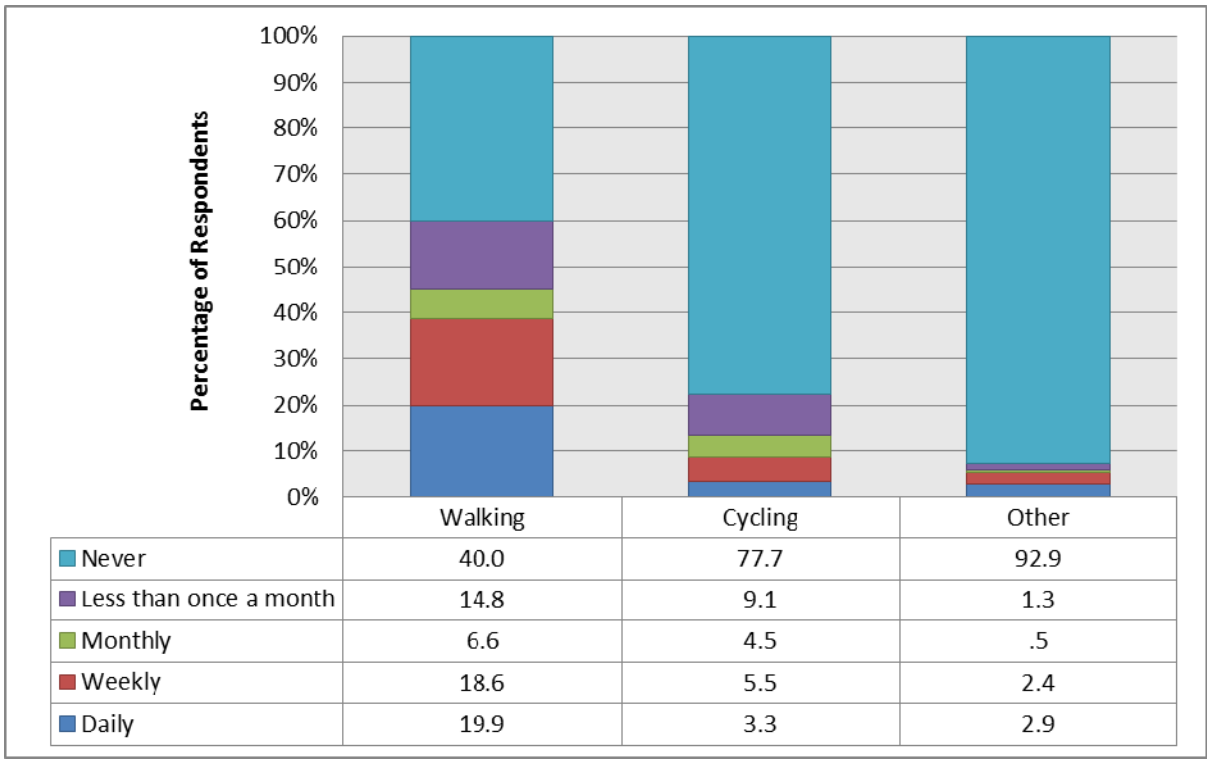
There was some variation in responses according to gender. For both walking and cycling, the proportion of respondents who state that they never use Aberdeen's path network to go to work, go shopping and access other facilities was higher among females (41.8% for

walking and 81.2% for cycling) than it was among males (38.5% for walking and 74.2% for cycling). However, a greater proportion of females (22.4%) than males (18.2%) use the path network for walking every day, whilst the opposite was true in relation to cycling (4.6% of males, compared to 1.8% of females). For walking, it was also the case that a larger proportion of females than males use the path network monthly, whilst the opposite was true for the 'weekly' and 'less than once a month' options. For cycling, a greater proportion of females than males selected the 'less than once a month' option, but the opposite was true for the 'weekly' and 'monthly' options.

There was similar variation between results from different parts of the city. The proportion of people who never use the path network for this type of walking was largest in South (42.9%), followed by Central (40.0%) and North (36.7%). For cycling, the proportion was largest in North (82.1%), followed by Central (76.6%) and South (74.8%). The proportion who cycle daily was very similar across areas, but there was greater spread of results when it comes to walking: in Central, 24.1% use the path network for this purpose on a daily basis, followed by 21.3% of those in North and just 16.7% of those in South. Other than these results, there were no other neighbourhood-based results which were particularly notable.

There were no clear correlations between age and responses given. The only option in which a direct correlation existed was in relation to the 'monthly' option for cycling, which peaked at 16.1% of those aged 16-34, falling steadily to a low of 1.7% of those aged 65+. Although not a strict correlation, there was nevertheless another pattern which emerged from these results. For both walking and cycling, the proportion of respondents who never participate was lowest among those aged 35-54, followed by those aged 16-34, those aged 35-54 and those aged 65+. Beyond this, the variation in responses appeared to follow no strict pattern.

Figure 20: How often do you use Aberdeen's network of paths to travel to work, go shopping and access other facilities using the following types of sustainable transport?



	Walking	Cycling	Other
Never	40.0	77.7	92.9
Less than once a month	14.8	9.1	1.3
Monthly	6.6	4.5	.5
Weekly	18.6	5.5	2.4
Daily	19.9	3.3	2.9

Base: multiple (varies by transport type)

Panellists were then asked for their opinion as to how well the quantity (or extent) of paths provided in Aberdeen meets the needs of a number of different user groups. The different user groups and the corresponding responses are provided below in Figure 21 (see page 65).

The results show that very few panellists consider the quantity of paths to be excellent for any of the user groups: the highest levels of approval were in relation to walkers and cyclists, with 10.2% and 8.1% of panellists respectively stating that the quantity of paths provided for them was excellent, whilst 36.8% and 24.1% respectively stated that the quantity of paths was 'good' for walkers and cyclists. However, it is worth noting that in relation to each of the other user groups, a majority of respondents selected the 'don't know' option; this was particularly pronounced in relation to horse-riders (71.5%), canoeists/kayakers (81.1%) and other users (83.5%).

Similarly, 36.8% and 24.1% respectively stated that the quantity of paths was good for walkers and cyclists. However, cyclists also constituted the user group for which the greatest share of respondents rated the quantity of paths 'very poor' (4.8%) or 'poor' (16.5%), followed by all abilities use (2.8% and 10.9%, respectively).

A small number of panellists provided a response in relation to 'other' users. However, the majority of these responses related to people with disabilities, particularly wheelchair users. Again, this perhaps suggests that panellists either misunderstood the 'all abilities use' category, or simply failed to read the clarification provided for them on the survey form.

Breaking these results down by gender, area and age provides some interesting results. Beginning firstly with age, there was general consensus across male and female panellists' responses. For all but one of the user groups, the most popular response among females was mirrored among males, with the exception of cyclists, for which the greatest share of females (27.5%) rated the quantity of paths as good and the greatest proportion of males (22.1%) rated the quantity of paths as acceptable. Despite other minor variations, net levels of approval (i.e. compounding the figures for those who replied 'good' or 'excellent') and disapproval (i.e. compounding the figures for those who replied 'very poor' or 'poor') showed a high level of consistency across male and female panellists' responses. The most notable differences emerged in relation to walkers (for which overall disapproval among males was 10.1%, compared to 6.1% of females), cyclists (for which overall approval was 35.7% among females and 29.7% among males) and horse-riders (for which overall disapproval was 8.2% among males and 5.9% among females; and overall approval was 11.3% among females and 7.7% among males). Beyond this, no notable gender-related results were identified.

Overall levels of approval and disapproval also varied by neighbourhood. Net disapproval in relation to the provisions for walkers was highest in Central (11.9%), followed by North (8.1%) and South (5.7%). Conversely, net approval was highest in South (49.4%), followed by North (48.8%) and Central (42.5%). Once again, the cyclist user group provoked a split between the most popular responses across neighbourhoods. Whilst the greatest proportion in North (27.4%) and South (25.5%) rated the provision as good, the largest share of those in Central rated the provision as poor (20.5%). Net approval of the provisions for cyclists was also notably lower in Central (24.9%) than in North (37.8%) or South (34.1%), while net disapproval was lowest in South (16.4%), followed by North (21.3%) and Central (27.3%).

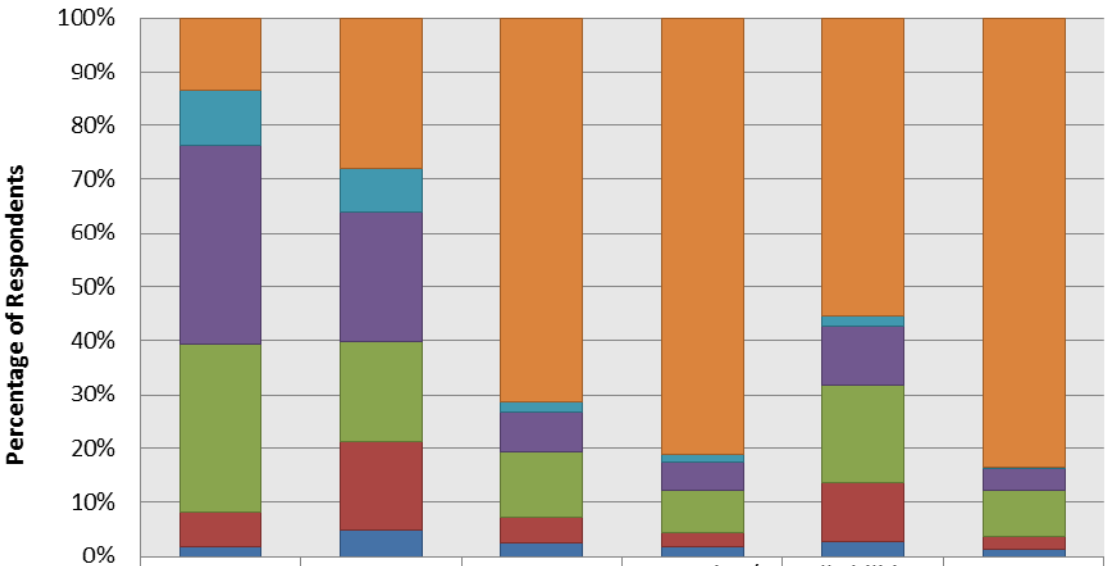
There was very little in the way of variation across areas in relation to the category of horse-riders and canoeists/kayakers. However, in relation to all abilities use, net disapproval was highest in North (15.6%), followed by Central (12.7%) and South (11.4%). There was also a very wide spread of responses in terms of net approval for the provision for all abilities use: this ranged from just 7.1% of those in Central to 12.0% of those in South and 19.1% of those in North.

In relation to walkers, the greatest proportion of three age-groups rated the provision as good: the exception was those aged 55-64, the greatest share of whom rated provision as acceptable. There was no correlation between age and responses in relation to walkers. A very minor correlation did emerge in relation to cyclists, with the proportion of respondents replying 'poor' decreasing as the age of each cohort rose (from 18.0% of those aged 16-34 to 15.1% of those aged 65+). However, in terms of net approval and disapproval there was no correlation, although overall approval was higher among those aged 16-34 (44.0%) than any other age-group (e.g. 28.4% of those aged 55-64).

A correlation in terms of net approval emerged in relation to provision for horse-riders. Net approval levels were lowest among those aged 16-34 (6.8%), rising to 7.8% among those aged 35-54, 10.2% of those aged 55-64 and 13.3% of those aged 65+. There was no such correlation when looking at net disapproval ratings.

Once again, there was a split between age-groups in terms of the most popular response to being asked about the provisions for canoeists/kayakers. Whilst the highest (or joint highest) share of respondents in the 16-34, 55-64 and 65+ age-groups stated that provision was only 'acceptable', the greatest share of respondents in the 35-54 age-group rated it 'good'. There were, however, no age-related qualifications in terms of net approval and disapproval. Similarly, there were no age correlations for all abilities use.

Figure 21: How well do you feel that the quantity (or extent) of paths provided in Aberdeen meets the needs of the following user groups?[1]



	Walkers	Cyclists	Horse-riders	Canoeists/ Kayakers	All abilities use	Other users
Don't Know	13.6	28.0	71.5	81.1	55.4	83.5
Excellent	10.2	8.1	2.0	1.6	2.0	.4
Good	36.8	24.1	7.4	5.2	10.9	4.0
Acceptable	31.3	18.6	12.0	7.6	18.0	8.5
Poor	6.3	16.5	4.8	2.7	10.9	2.4
Very poor	1.8	4.8	2.4	1.8	2.8	1.2

Base: multiple (varies by activity)

Panellists were then asked to rate how they feel that the quantity (or extent) of paths provided in Aberdeen meets people's needs whilst participating in the aforementioned types of sustainable transport. The results of this question are provided below in Figure 22 (see page 67), which again shows that only a very small minority of respondents see the quantity of paths as excellent: this was selected as an option by only 8.2% of respondents in relation to walking, 5.0% in relation to cycling and just 0.3% in relation to other forms of sustainable transport. However, similarly low levels of respondents rated the quantity of paths as being very poor or poor in this respect, although it is worth noting that the proportion stating that the quantity of paths was either 'poor' or 'very poor' for meeting the needs of cyclists (20.8% in total) was much higher than for walking (10.4%) or other forms of sustainable transport (5.4% total). Disregarding the 'don't know' responses, the greatest share of respondents

[1] All abilities use refers to people with additional accessibility requirements e.g. wheelchair users, people with a visual impairment, people with buggies/pushchairs etc.

believed that the quantity of paths was either good or acceptable for each of the types of transport covered.

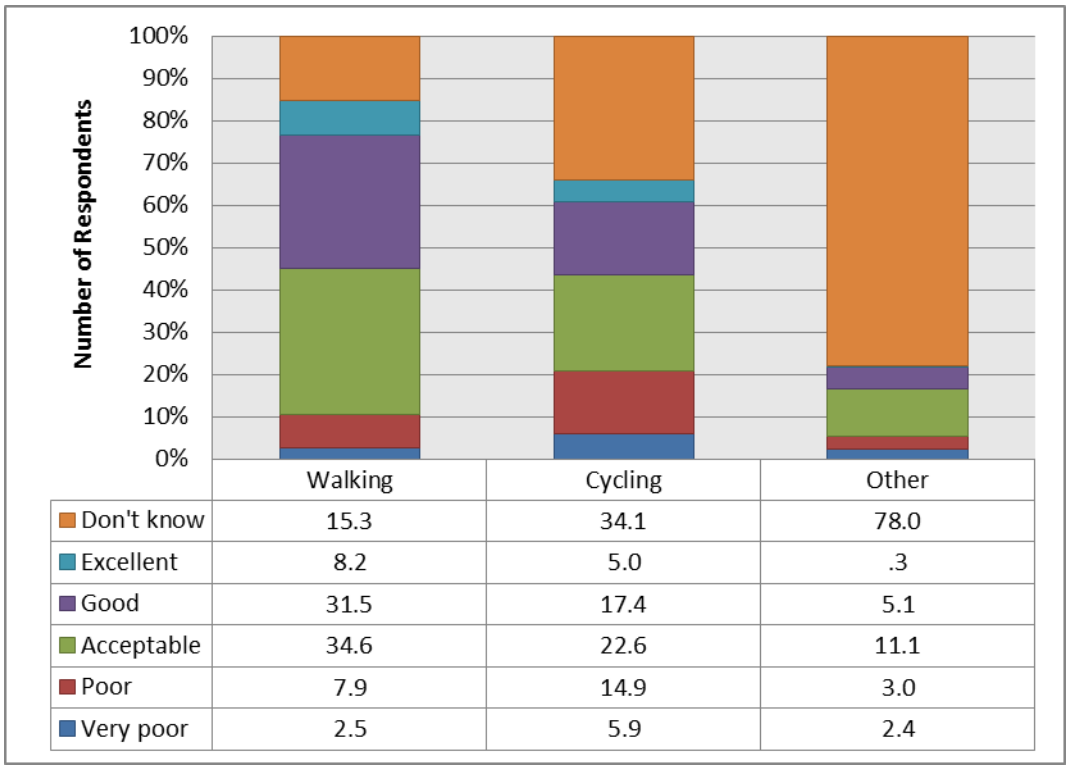
Once again, only a small number of respondents provided details in relation to the 'other' category. Most of these, however, did not provide details on other forms of sustainable transport. Rather, the responses overwhelmingly related to complaints about the path network in Aberdeen, often about there being too many cyclists or cycle-paths.

Breaking these results down further shows some interesting differences. In terms of gender, male respondents tended to take a slightly more opinionated stance than females: thus, overall approval levels for the quantity of paths for walking was 41.6%, compared to 38.6% among females. Similarly, disapproval levels among males were 12.3%, compared to 7.6% of females, who replied 'acceptable' or don't know' in greater proportion than males. This was also true in relation to approval levels of the quantity of path provision for cycling, although not for overall disapproval levels. Again though, a greater proportion of females (37.7%) opted for the 'don't know' option than males (29.9%).

Overall disapproval levels for walking were higher in Central (12.6%) and North (11.4%) than in South (6.3%), whilst overall levels of approval in this instance were highest in North (41.7%), followed closely by South (41.3%) and Central (37.8%). For cycling, overall disapproval levels were highest in Central (26.8%), followed by North (21.2%) and South (15.8%). Overall approval ratings were highest in North (27.9%), followed by South (21.4%) and Central (19.7%).

There were also some minor variations by age-group. Whilst the greatest share of respondents in the three youngest age-groups rated the level of provision for cycling as 'acceptable', the greatest share of those aged 65+ replied 'good'. Similarly, in relation to the level of provision for cycling, the greatest share of respondents in the three oldest age-groups replied 'acceptable' whilst the greatest share of those aged 16-34 replied 'poor'. However, there was no correlation between age and overall level of approval or disapproval in relation to walking. For cycling, there was a clear correlation between age and overall disapproval level. The proportion of respondents who replied either 'poor' or 'very poor' was highest among those aged 16-34 (29.1%), dropping to 23.3% of those aged 35-54, 20.0% of those aged 55-64 and 13.9% of those aged 65+. Despite this variation in terms of disapproval levels, there was much less variation (and no age correlation) when looking at levels of overall approval.

Figure 22: How well do you feel that the quantity (or extent) of paths provided in Aberdeen meets people's needs whilst participating in the following types of sustainable transport?



	Walking	Cycling	Other
Don't know	15.3	34.1	78.0
Excellent	8.2	5.0	.3
Good	31.5	17.4	5.1
Acceptable	34.6	22.6	11.1
Poor	7.9	14.9	3.0
Very poor	2.5	5.9	2.4

Base: multiple (varies by transport type)

Having considered the quantity of paths, panellists were next asked for their opinion as to how well the quality of paths provided in Aberdeen meets the needs of a number of the same user groups considered above in Figure 21. Their responses in relation to the quality of the path network are provided below in Figure 23 (see page 70).

The results show that once again, very few panellists rate the quality of paths as 'excellent' in meeting the needs of the different user groups, although once again the highest levels of approval were found in relation to walkers and cyclists: for the former, 7.2% of respondents felt that the quality of paths was excellent at meeting their needs and 32.4% felt it was good at doing so; for the latter, the equivalent figures were 5.0% and 21.1%.

As with the earlier question about the quantity of paths, the greatest share of respondents to this question on the quality of the paths meeting the needs of horse-riders, canoeists/kayakers, all abilities users and other users selected the 'don't know' option. However, the share of respondents who stated that the quality of paths was either poor or very poor at meeting the needs of all abilities users was notably higher (13.7% combined 'poor' and 'very poor' responses) than for every other group bar cyclists (19.9% total).

A small number of respondents elaborated on their responses to the 'other' category. Most of their contributions were not pertinent to the question, with a selection of respondents complaining that these questions simply repeated the previous ones, suggesting that they had not noted the distinction between the previous questions on quantity and these

questions on quality of the path network. The remaining details provided related predominantly to disabled people (principally wheelchair users).

Again, there was general consensus across male and female panellists' responses. For each user group, the most popular response among males was the same among females. Despite this, there were, of course, minor variations between male and female panellists' responses. This variation was most evident when looking at overall disapproval levels (overall approval levels showed a high degree of consistency). The most notable differences emerged in relation to walkers (for which overall disapproval among males was 13.0%, compared to 6.8% of females) and canoeists/kayakers (for which overall disapproval among males was 6.0%, compared to 3.0% of females). Other than these, no noteworthy gender-related results emerged.

Overall levels of approval and disapproval also varied by neighbourhood. Whilst the greatest share of respondents in both North and South consistently responded similarly, the same was not true for the greatest share of respondents in Central. In relation to walkers, the greatest share of respondents in Central opted for the 'good' option (compared to those in North and South, who opted for the 'acceptable' response), whilst in relation to cyclists, all abilities users and other users, the greatest share of respondents in Central opted for the 'poor' option (compared to those in North and South, who opted for the 'acceptable' response).

There were also some differences in relation to overall approval and disapproval levels. Net disapproval in relation to the provisions for walkers was highest in Central (16.3%), followed by North (8.5%) and South (5.5%). Conversely, net approval was highest in North (40.9%), followed by Central (39.9%) and South (39.7%). With regard to provision for cyclists, overall disapproval levels were highest in Central (27.1%), followed by North (19.5%) and South (14.2%); while net approval was lowest in Central (21.8%), followed by South (26.9%) and North (30.5%).

Some interesting results emerged from the age-group analysis. For all but one of the user groups, the greatest (or joint greatest) proportion of the three oldest age-groups selected the same option ('acceptable' for walkers, cyclists, horse riders, all abilities users and other users). The exception to this was canoeists/kayakers, in which the greatest proportion of the two oldest age-groups and the youngest age-group selected the 'acceptable' option, and the greatest share of the 35-54 age-group selected the 'good' option. In relation to walkers and cyclists, the greatest share of respondents in the youngest age-group selected the 'good' option, whilst in relation to horse-riders, they selected the 'very poor' option. The all abilities user group was the only one in which the greatest share of each age-group chose the same option ('acceptable').

Age-group analysis also reveals a number of very specific correlations, as well as general correlations in terms of overall approval and disapproval. In terms of specific correlations, it can be seen that in relation to walkers, the proportion of respondents who stated that the quality of provision was excellent was highest among those aged 16-34 (13.5%), dropping in the 35-54 (9.6%) and 55-64 (4.7%) age-groups to its lowest point among those aged 65+ (3.6%). In relation to cyclists, two apparent correlations were visible. Firstly, the proportion of respondents rating the quality of provision as very poor was highest among those aged 16-

34 (8.3%), dropping in the 35-54 (5.5%) and 55-64 (3.6%) age-groups to its lowest value among those aged 65+ (0.9%). Secondly, the proportion of respondents rating the quality of provision for cyclists as 'good' was also highest among those aged 16-34 (29.2%), followed by those aged 35-54 (21.4%), those aged 55-64 (20.7%) and those aged 65+ (18.6%). Three correlations emerged when examining the responses in relation to horse-riders: the proportion of respondents who selected the 'poor', 'acceptable' and 'good' options were in each case smallest among those aged 16-34 (0.0%, 2.4% and 0.0%, respectively), rising among those aged 35-54 (4.1%, 7.6% and 5.3%, respectively) and 55-64 (6.4%, 11.0% and 5.5%, respectively) to a high point among those aged 65+ (8.3%, 12.5% and 6.3%, respectively). Two other specific correlations were visible: in relation to all abilities use, the proportion of respondents selecting the 'good' option was lowest among those aged 16-34 (4.9%), followed by those aged 35-54 (8.4%), those aged 55-64 (9.3%) and those aged 65+ (9.8%). Finally, the proportion of respondents selecting the 'acceptable' option in relation to other users was lowest among those aged 16-34 (0.0%), followed by those aged 35-54 (3.0%), those aged 55-64 (5.1%) and those aged 65+ (6.1%).

A number of more general correlations were also observed. These related to overall approval and/or disapproval ratings for the quality of provision for different user groups. Firstly, in relation to walkers, overall levels of approval (i.e. compounding the figures for those selecting the 'good' and 'excellent' options) were highest among those aged 16-34 (50.0%), followed by those aged 35-54 (42.1%), those aged 55-64 (37.2%) and those aged 65+ (36.5%). Net disapproval ratings did not appear to correlate with age, as overall disapproval was highest among those aged 65+ (11.5%), followed by those aged 35-54 (11.3%), those aged 16-34 (9.6%) and those aged 55-64 (7.1%).

There were no correlations between age and overall (dis)approval levels in relation to cyclists. Overall levels of disapproval in relation to the quality of provision was highest among those aged 35-54 (23.7%), followed by those aged 16-34 (18.7%), those aged 65+ (17.7%) and at its lowest among those aged 55-64 (16.5%). Overall approval levels were highest among those aged 16-34 (35.5%), those aged 55-64 (26.4%), those aged 35-54 (25.9%) and those aged 65+ (23.9%).

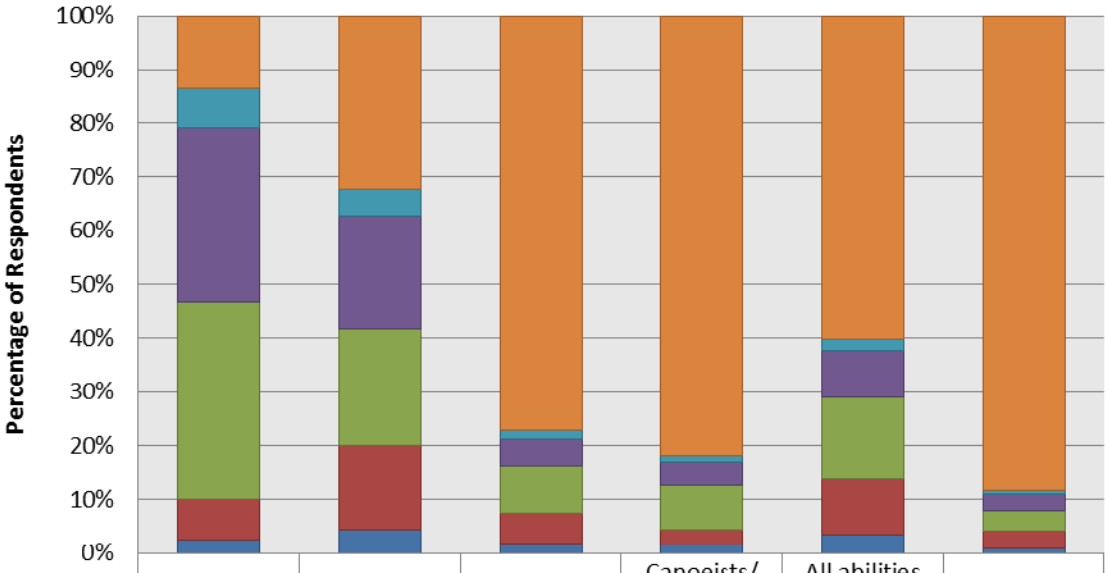
For horse-riders, there was a correlation between general disapproval level and age-group. Thus, disapproval was highest among those aged 65+ (9.3%), lower among those aged 55-64 (7.3%) and 35-54 (6.5%), and lowest among those aged 16-34 (4.9%). Surprisingly, though, general levels of approval also correlated with age. Given that general levels of disapproval were highest among those aged 65+ and decline across each successively younger age cohort, it might reasonably be expected that the opposite trend would be in evidence here (i.e. overall levels of approval lowest among older age-groups). In fact, this was not the case, as general approval was highest among those aged 65+ (8.4%), lower among those aged 55-64 (7.3%) and 35-54 (6.5%), and lowest among those aged 16-34 (2.4%). This can be accounted for by looking at the proportion of respondents from each age-group selecting the 'don't know' response: this was highest among those aged 16-34 (90.2%), and fell across each successively older age-group (79.4% of those aged 35-54, 74.3% of those aged 55-64 and just 69.8% of those aged 65+).

There was no correlation between age-groups and overall levels of (dis)approval in relation to canoeists/kayakers. Overall disapproval was highest among those aged 16-34 (7.3%),

followed by those aged 55-64 (5.6%), those aged 35-54 (3.6%) and those aged 65+ (3.3%). Overall approval was highest among those aged 35-54 (6.7%), followed by those aged 55-64 (5.6%), those aged 65+ (5.5%) and those aged 16-34 (2.4%).

For all abilities use, there was once again no evident age correlation. Overall disapproval was highest among those aged 65+ (16.3%), followed by those aged 35-54 (12.9%), those aged 16-34 (12.2%) and those aged 55-64 (12.1%). Overall approval was highest among those aged 35-54 and 55-64 (both 11.2%), those aged 65+ (10.9%) and those aged 16-34 (7.3%).

Figure 23: How well do you feel that the quality of paths provided in Aberdeen City meets the needs of the following user groups?[2]



	Walkers	Cyclists	Horse-riders	Canoeists/ Kayakers	All abilities use	Other users
Don't know	13.6	32.2	77.2	81.9	60.2	88.2
Excellent	7.2	5.0	1.6	1.2	2.1	.8
Good	32.4	21.1	4.9	4.3	8.7	3.0
Acceptable	36.6	21.8	8.8	8.4	15.3	3.8
Poor	7.5	15.5	5.6	2.9	10.3	3.4
Very poor	2.6	4.4	1.9	1.4	3.4	.8

Base: multiple (varies by user group)

Panellists were then asked to rate how they feel that the quality of paths provided in Aberdeen meets people's needs whilst participating in the types of sustainable transport covered above in Figure 22. Their opinions are provided below in Figure 24 (see page 70). The chart again shows that in relation to other modes of sustainable transport, the overwhelming majority of respondents (84.3%) do not know how well the quality of paths meets the needs of people participating. In relation to walking and cycling, the results are very similar to those obtained in relation to the quantity of paths (see Figure 22 above). Again, only a very small minority of respondents see the quality of paths as excellent: 7.4%

[2] All abilities use refers to people with additional accessibility requirements e.g. wheelchair users, people with a visual impairment, people with buggies/pushchairs etc.

of respondents selected this in relation to walking, and 4.8% in relation to cycling. Similarly, few respondents rated the quality of paths as being very poor, although compounding the figures for 'poor' and 'very poor' again show that a considerably larger proportion of respondents are unimpressed with the quality of paths for cycling (22.2%) than for walking (11.0% in total). However, if we again disregard the 'don't know' responses, we see that the greatest share of respondents believed that the quality of paths was either 'good' or 'acceptable' for each of the types of transport covered.

Again, a very small number of respondents elaborated on their responses to the 'other' option. Once again though, most of these were inadmissible due to the fact that they were not relevant to the question. Again, some respondents had not picked up on the distinction between the questions on quantity and quality, and complained that these were repeat questions. The very small number of relevant responses related principally to runners / joggers and wheelchair users, both of which are distinct from the options of walking and cycling.

It is also possible to break these responses down by respondents' characteristics. Dealing firstly with walking, overall disapproval levels were higher among males (12.9%) than females (9.0%), whilst overall approval levels were fairly similar (38.3% of male respondents, compared to 36.5% of female respondents). As with the earlier question about the quantity of paths, a greater proportion of females (16.3%) than males (13.2%) opted for the 'don't know' option.

In relation to cycling, overall disapproval levels were fairly similar across genders (22.7% of males, compared to 21.5% of female respondents), whilst a greater proportion of males (26.5%) than females (22.4%) showed an overall level of approval. Once again though, a noticeably larger proportion of females (35.5%) than males (27.3%) selected the 'don't know' option.

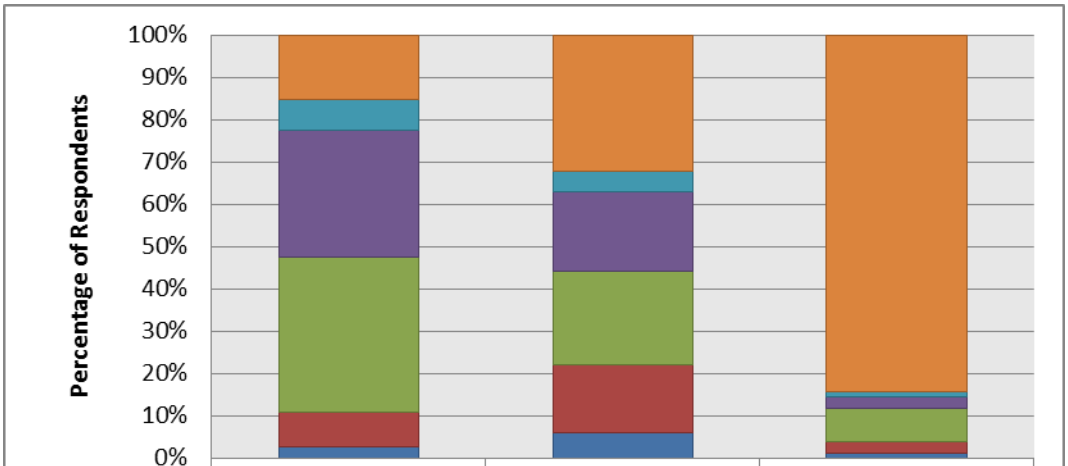
For walking, overall levels of approval were highest in North (40.0%), followed by South (36.9%) and Central (36.1%). Overall disapproval was highest in Central (15.9%), followed by North (11.3%) and South (6.6%). In relation to cycling, overall levels of disapproval were highest in Central (28.3%), followed by North (22.0%) and South (16.8%). Conversely, overall approval levels were highest in North (28.9%), followed by South (24.4%) and Central (20.7%).

There were very few age-related correlations. In terms of walking, the only correlation emerged in relation to respondents rating the quality of path provision as 'excellent'. This peaked at 14.0% in the 16-34 age-group, falling to 8.4% among those aged 35-54, 5.4% of those aged 55-64 and 5.1% of those aged 65+. Overall disapproval was highest among those aged 35-54 (12.7%), followed by those aged 65+ (12.4%), those aged 16-34 (10.0%), and lowest among those aged 55-64 (7.8%). Overall approval levels were highest among those aged 16-34 (42.0%), followed by those aged 35-54 (40.0%), those aged 65+ (37.2%) and those aged 55-64 (32.9%).

In terms of cycling, the only correlation between age-group and responses could be seen in relation to the 'very poor' replies given. The proportion of respondents who rated the quality of path provision as 'very poor' was highest among those aged 16-34 (8.9%), falling across

the 35-54 (8.1%) and 55-64 (4.5%) age-groups, to a low of 1.8% in the 65+ age-group. Overall levels of disapproval were highest in the 16-34 age-group (26.7%), followed by those aged 35-54 (26.1%), those aged 65+ (19.7%) and lowest among those aged 55-64 (16.4%). Overall approval was highest among those aged 16-34 (28.9%), falling to 25.9% of those aged 65+, 25.1% of those aged 35-54 and 21.6% of those aged 55-64.

Figure 24: How well do you feel that the quality of paths provided in Aberdeen City meets people's needs whilst participating in the following types of sustainable transport?



	Walking	Cycling	Other
Don't know	15.2	32.1	84.3
Excellent	7.4	4.8	1.1
Good	29.9	19.0	3.0
Acceptable	36.6	21.9	7.9
Poor	8.2	16.2	2.6
Very poor	2.8	6.0	1.1

Base: multiple (varies by transport type)

Panellists were then asked to identify different ways in which they had found out about paths and outdoor access opportunities in Aberdeen. An overview of their responses is provided below in Figure 25 (see page 73). The chart shows that the most frequently selected source of information was local knowledge (536 respondents; 71.8% of all respondents). The next most popular were signposts (261 respondents; 34.9%), friends or family (263 respondents; 35.2%), leaflets (149 respondents; 20.0%), websites (66 respondents; 8.4%), work (52 respondents; 7.0%) and other (30 respondents; 4.1%).

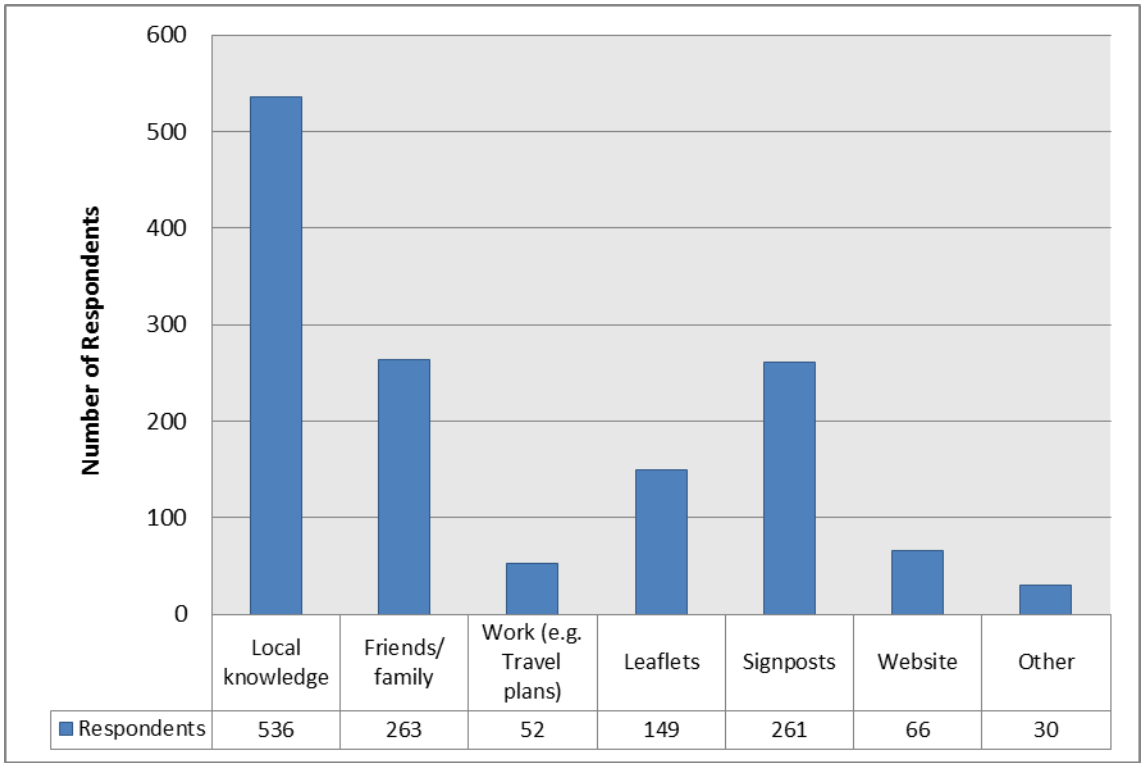
A small number of respondents elaborated upon their 'other' responses. However, similar to previous questions, most of these were not relevant to what the question was actually asking. Of those which were relevant, the most common responses were just exploring (6 respondents; 0.8%), books (4 respondents; 0.5%), newspapers (4 respondents; 0.4%), maps (2 respondents; 0.3%) and Community Councils (also 2 respondents; 0.3%).

Male panellists were marginally more likely to have found out about paths and outdoors access opportunities from local knowledge, work, leaflets, signposts and websites than their female counterparts, who in turn were slightly more likely than males to have found out

through other means, and much more likely than males to have done so through friends/family. In relation to area, it can be seen that respondents in Central (67.4%) were less likely than those in North (71.7%) and South (75.2%) to find out from local knowledge, that respondents in South (38.1%) were more likely than respondents in Central (31.2%) and North (31.9%) to find out from friends/family, that respondents in South (41.9%) were more likely than those in Central (30.3%) and North (31.9%) to find out from signposts, and that leaflets were identified as a source of information by a greater proportion of respondents in Central (25.7%) than in South (20.4%), but by more respondents in South than in North (15.0%).

There was some degree of variation between age-groups, but only two real correlations could be found. Firstly, the proportion of respondents who said that they found out through friends/family was highest among those aged 16-34 (41.4%), dropping to 39.3% of those aged 35-54, 30.3% of those aged 55-64 and 28.6% of those aged 65+. The same was also true of websites, with 13.8% of respondents aged 16-34 identifying this as a source of information for them on paths and outdoors opportunities, dropping to 11.3% of those aged 35-54, 6.2% of those aged 55-64 and 5.4% of those aged 65+. Beyond this, there were no further correlations, but a small number of individual results stand out. For example, a smaller proportion of those aged 65+ find out about this from local knowledge than is the case for the other three age-groups, while the same is true of those aged 16-34 and leaflets as a source of information.

Figure 25: How have you found out about paths and outdoors access opportunities in Aberdeen?



Base: 747 respondents

The next question asked panellists to state whether there were any factors which would encourage them to take part in outdoors access more. A list of factors was provided, but

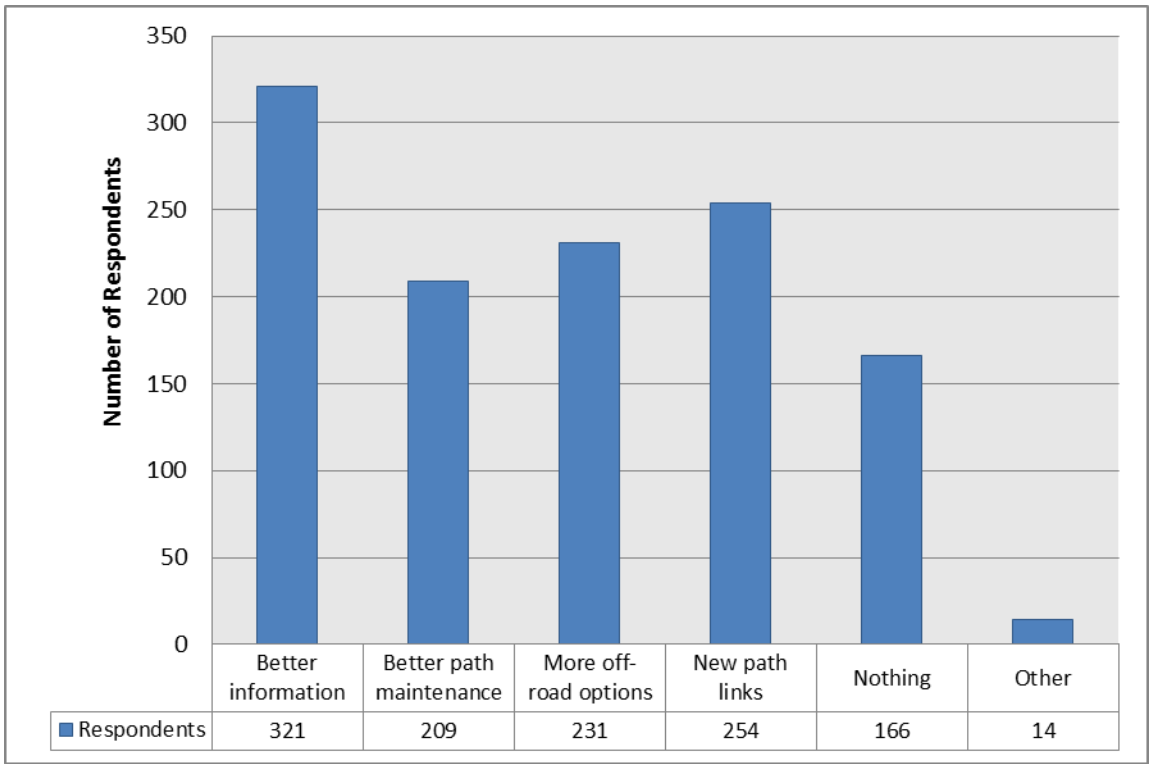
respondents were also able to make their own suggestions. The results are provided below in figure 26 (see page 75). The most popular factors were better information (321 respondents; 43.0%), new path links (254 respondents; 34.0%), more off-road options (231 respondents; 30.9%) and better path maintenance (209 respondents; 28.0%). 143 respondents (19.1%) stated that nothing would encourage them to take part in outdoors access more, whilst 14 respondents (1.9%) provided 'other' suggestions. A small number of respondents elaborated upon this 'other' response: the most popular were better facilities (e.g. parking sites along the network, picnic spots etc.) (13 respondents; 1.7%), better access for disabled users (4 respondents; 0.5%), better weather (4 respondents; 0.5%), better or more considerate behaviour from other users of the network (e.g. cyclists, dog-walkers, horse-riders) (4 respondents; 0.5%) and better connections between paths in the network (3 respondents; 0.4%). It should be noted that some respondents provided more than one 'other' suggestion.

Looking at these responses in greater detail, a number of additional points can be made. In relation to gender, disaggregating these results shows that a noticeably greater proportion of males than females identified better path maintenance, more off-road options and new path links as factors likely to encourage them. Indeed, every option except 'nothing' and 'other' attracted a greater proportion of males than females.

A number of interesting area-related results also emerged. The proportion of respondents in Central (51.8%) who stated that better information would encourage them was larger than in North (37.6%) and South (40.0%). A greater proportion of respondents in North (32.3%) than in South (23.0%) or Central (25.7%) identified better path maintenance, although a smaller proportion of respondents in North (27.4%) identified more off-road options than in South (33.7%) and Central (32.6%). The same was also true in relation to new path links, identified by only 26.5% of respondents in North but by 31.2% of those in Central and 42.2% of those in South. The proportion of respondents who stated that nothing would encourage them to take part in outdoors access more was greatest in North (20.8%) and South (20.4%) and lowest in Central (15.6%).

Some age-based correlations also emerged. Most notably, the proportion of respondents who stated that nothing would encourage them to take part in outdoors access more was greatest among those aged 65+ (25.9%), falling progressively through each successively younger cohort (18.5% of those aged 55-64, 16.4% of those aged 35-54 and 12.1% of those aged 16-34). The proportion of respondents who identified better information and better path maintenance was largest among respondents aged 16-34 (50.0% and 29.3%, respectively), falling through each successively older age-group (respectively, 46.5% and 28.0% of those aged 35-54, 43.6% and 26.2% of those aged 55-64, and 34.1% and 25.9% of those aged 65+). Other than this, there was some minor variation across age-groups, but nothing which correlated with age, although it is worth noting that for each suggestion, the 65+ age-group contained the lowest proportion of respondents who stated that it would encourage them.

Figure 26: Which of the following would encourage you to take part in outdoors access more?



Base: 747 respondents

Panellists were then asked which of the options in the previous question was most important in encouraging them to participate in outdoors access more. Their responses are provided below in Figure 27 (see page 76). The chart shows that the single most important factor is better information (216 respondents; 28.9%), followed by better path maintenance (104 respondents; 13.9%), more off-road options (101 respondents; 13.5%), new path links (83 respondents; 11.1%) and 'other' (17 respondents; 2.3%). 89 respondents (11.9%) stated that there was no single most important factor in encouraging them to participate more in outdoors access.

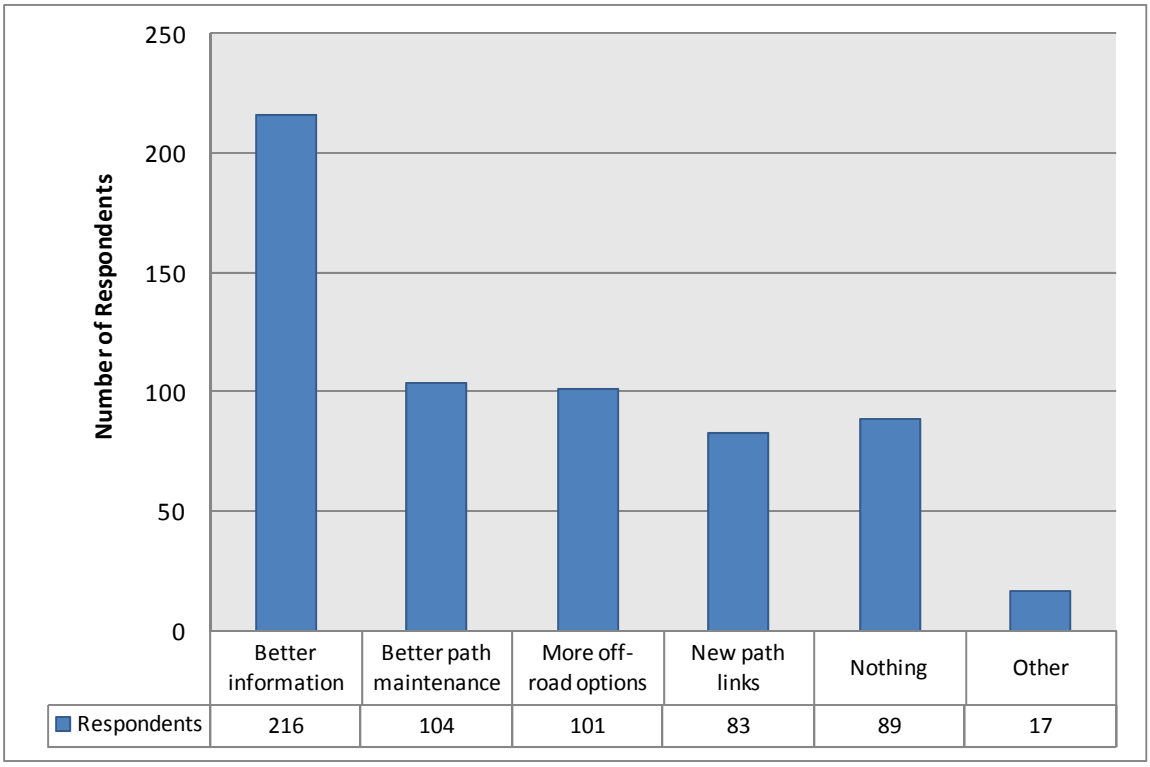
There was a fairly high degree of consistency across male and female panellists' responses to this question, with the exception of new path links, which was selected by 14.3% of male respondents but by only 8.8% of female respondents.

There was also some variation across neighbourhoods. The most prominent of these were in relation to better information (selected by 34.4% of respondents in Central, but by just 25.6% of those in South and 28.8% of those in North), better path maintenance (selected by 18.1% of respondents in North but by just 11.5% in both Central and South) and more off-road options (selected by 19.3% of respondents in South but by only 9.7% of those in North and 11.5% of those in Central).

Only two clear age correlations emerged. Once again, the proportion of respondents selecting 'nothing' was lowest among those aged 16-34 (5.2%), rising to a peak among those aged 65+ (16.2%). In addition, the proportion of respondents selecting better information as the most important factor was highest among those aged 16-34 (34.5%),

falling to 30.9% among those aged 35-54, 30.8% of those aged 55-64 and just 23.2% of those aged 65+. Beyond this, there were a number of minor variations in responses which appeared not to be directly correlated with age.

Figure 27: Which of the above options is most important?

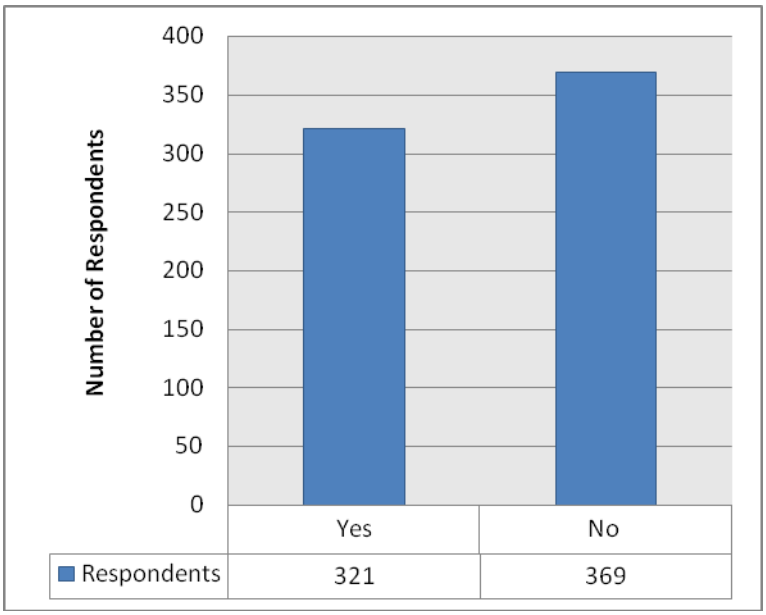


Base: 747 respondents

The next question asked panellists whether they are familiar with the guidance given in the Scottish Outdoors Access Code on responsible access to the outdoors. Their responses are provided below in Figure 28 (see page 77), which shows that just under half of respondents (321; 46.5%) are familiar with the guidance, while just over half (369 respondents; 53.5%) are not.

There was virtually no difference between male and female respondents' replies to this question: 43.4% of male respondents were aware of the guidance, compared to 43.3% of female respondents. However, there was some variation between neighbourhoods: awareness was highest in Central (46.8% of respondents), followed by South (44.1%) and South (39.8%). Responses also varied between age-groups, although age did not correlate strongly with responses. Awareness was highest among those aged 35-54 (50.2%), followed by those aged 16-34 (48.3%), 55-64 (41.5%) and was at its lowest among those aged 65+ (34.6%).

Figure 28: Are you familiar with the guidance given in the Scottish Outdoors Access Code on responsible access to the outdoors?



Base: 690 respondents

Panellists were then asked if they had any additional comments to make on Aberdeen's network of paths. 151 panellists responded, and their comments were analysed thematically. The results of this process are provided below in Table 12 (see page 78). The results show that the most frequent type of comment offered was that the network of paths needed more maintenance and/or cleaning (27 respondents; 17.9%). Within this theme, respondents mentioned such issues as drainage, dog fouling, overgrown foliage, potholes and litter. The next most frequent response was that panellists knew nothing or very little about the network of paths (23 respondents; 15.2%). This coincided with an identical number of panellists who stated that more should be done to publicise the network, or that different types of publicity (e.g. websites or free maps) should be used to publicise the network (23 respondents; 15.2%). The next most popular response was that the network needed better facilities for cyclists (22 respondents; 14.6%). In particular, many of these responses wanted to see dedicated cycle facilities (e.g. cycle lanes) on the path network. After this, the most popular response type was one of general approval in relation to the path network (22 respondents; 14.6%). However, a similar number (20 respondents; 13.2%) expressed concerns about the difficulty of mixing different user types on Aberdeen's paths. In particular, there was a degree of animosity expressed by walkers, cyclists and dog-owners towards each other, coupled in some cases with a desire to see segregated facilities for different types of users (e.g. pedestrian paths from which bicycles or dog-walkers should be banned).

15 respondents (9.9%) stated that better facilities should be put in place for walkers. Security concerns were particularly prominent here, with many of these responses relating to better lighting along the path network. However, comfort facilities were also popular, with a number of respondents requesting seating areas and public toilet facilities at regular intervals along paths. A slightly smaller number (12 respondents; 7.9%) argued that the network of paths should be extended, whilst 8 respondents (5.3%) said that paths should be better linked to public transport, residential areas, shopping facilities or other paths within the network. Better disabled access was mentioned by 6 panellists (4.0%), 4 panellists (2.6%) stated that

the money required for the path network would be better spent on other Council services, and 2 panellists (1.3%) asked for the Council to do more to encourage more wildlife and/or vegetation along the network. 1 panellist (0.7%) mentioned the importance of maintaining funding for the path network in the current financial climate and 1 panellist (0.7%) stated that they simply didn't care about the network. 18 respondents provided answers which were not relevant to the question. However, it may be worth noting two key trends in these particular responses: firstly, a number of respondents (pedestrians) mentioned unhappiness about cyclists travelling on pavements (which are not part of the path network); and secondly, a number of cyclists highlighted the need for more and better provision for cyclists on Aberdeen's roads (again, not part of the path network).

Table 12: Do you have any other comments on Aberdeen's path network?

Theme	Respondents	
	Count	%
More maintenance / cleaning needed	27	17.9
Don't know much or anything about it	23	15.2
Needs more or different publicity	23	15.2
Better facilities needed for cyclists	22	14.6
General approval	22	14.6
Hard to mix different users (e.g. walkers, cyclists, dog-owners)	20	13.2
Better facilities needed for walkers (e.g. seating, lighting, toilets)	15	9.9
Network should be extended	12	7.9
Better links needed (e.g. with public transport, shops, other paths)	8	5.3
Better disabled access needed	6	4.0
General disapproval	4	2.6
Money would be better spent elsewhere (e.g. roads, social services)	3	2.0
Encourage more wildlife / vegetation along network	2	1.3
Need to maintain funding	1	0.7
No interest in it	1	0.7
N/a	18	11.9

Base: 151 respondents

SERVICE RESPONSE

Aberdeen is required to prepare a Core Paths Plan under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. The Plan was approved in 2009, aiming to form a complete paths network throughout the City, encouraging healthy and sustainable access opportunities for all. We have been investing external grant funding on the improvement of the network of core paths and other paths in the city, including mainly path works, but also starting to extend signposting throughout the network. The City Voice results show us that better information about the paths network is the most important thing that would encourage people to use the outdoors more and that many people find out about paths through signposts. Therefore, we will continue to try to source funding for the promotion of the path network in this way.

The answers to our questions about the amount you use the paths network of Aberdeen for a range of activities, are important to us because we want to check that the work we are doing on improving the paths network is having the right effect, in getting more people out enjoying the outdoors. We will compare these results with future editions of the City Voice to identify trends.

The information you provided will feed directly into a review of the paths network and how it caters for different types of use, such as for walking, cycling, horse riding etc. This will in turn be used to help us prioritise the projects we take forward and the designs for the path work that is being planned. For example, the answers to the questions on how well the paths network meets the needs of different types of activities show us that perhaps more should be done to cater for cyclists in some areas. The results also show that there is some conflict between user types, and this will be considered further, with the Outdoor Access Forum for Aberdeen, in order that possible solutions or measure to help address this can be found.

Rachel Sharp, Senior Planner

Aberdeen City Council

OPEN SPACE

Aberdeen City Council is preparing an open space strategy for the city. The purpose of the strategy is to ensure that we maximise the value and benefits of our open spaces. The Council wants to ensure that Aberdeen's open spaces are well managed, of good quality and meet the requirements of our communities.

Scottish Planning Policy encourages councils to accurately assess the open space resources within their area and prepare open space strategies. An open space audit has been carried out by Aberdeen City Council which informed the strategy objectives and established the quality, quantity and accessibility criteria for our city's open spaces. Open Space Audit is a process of collecting, analysing and reviewing base line information that provides a robust understanding of open space assets.

To better understand the term "open space" and to monitor the quality, quantity and accessibility of open spaces, Aberdeen City Council has designed the following questions.

Firstly, panellists were asked to identify which types of space and natural feature they considered to constitute green spaces or open spaces. They were provided with a list of features and were prompted to select as many as they felt fitted the description. The different types of space and feature are provided below in Table 13 (see page 82), along with the proportion of respondents who selected each one.

The results show that eight types of space and/or natural feature were identified by more than half of respondents. Six of these were selected by more than three quarters of all panellists. These were public parks or gardens (699 respondents; 93.6%); trees and woodlands (655 respondents; 87.7%); neighbourhood parks or local parks (643 respondents; 86.1%); open water (e.g. rivers/ponds/lochs/canals in and around the city) (582 respondents; 77.9%); green corridors (including paths, disused railway lines and rivers) (579 respondents; 77.5%); and natural and semi-natural habitats (567 respondents; 75.9%).

There were no particularly notable differences between male and female respondents' replies to this question. The most notable difference emerged in relation to sports fields or grounds (classed as open spaces or green spaces by 66.9% of male respondents but only 60.8% of female respondents), paths and 'civic spaces' (classed as open spaces or green spaces by 58.6% of male respondents but only 52.1% of female respondents) and church yards or cemeteries (classed as open spaces or green spaces by 40.0% of male respondents but only 35.6% of female respondents).

There were no particularly dramatic differences between different areas, although there was some variation in terms of their responses. The biggest differences emerged in relation to open water (classed as open spaces or green spaces by 81.5% of respondents in South and 79.4% in Central, but by only 75.2% in North), church yards or cemeteries (classed as open spaces or green spaces by 42.7% of respondents in Central, but only 34.5% in North and 36.3% in South), green corridors (classed as open spaces or green spaces by 80.5% of respondents in North and 79.6% in South, but by only 73.4% of respondents in Central), private gardens or grounds (classed as open spaces or green spaces by 22.0% of

respondents in Central and 21.2% in North, but by only 15.6% of respondents in South), patches of grass around residential buildings (classed as open spaces or green spaces by 29.8% of respondents in Central and 28.8% of respondents in North, but by only 21.9% in South), sports fields or grounds (classed as open spaces or green spaces by 67.0% of respondents in Central, but by only 60.6% of respondents in North and 63.3% of respondents in South) and any other paved or hard landscaped areas with a civic function (classed as open spaces or green spaces by 39.0% of respondents in Central, but by only 31.0% of respondents in North and 34.4% of respondents in South).

There was only one correlation between age-group and responses offered: the proportion of respondents who consider trees and woodlands to be open or green spaces was highest among those aged 16-34 (93.1%), falling to 92.4% of those aged 35-54, 90.8% of those aged 55-64 and 77.3% of those aged 65+. Aside from this, there was a considerable gap between age-groups for some options. The most noteworthy of these were in relation to areas of land with or without vegetation (selected by 55.2% of those aged 16-34, but just 37.8% of those aged 65+), open water (selected by 85.5% of those aged 35-54, but just 70.3% of those aged 65+), paths and ‘civic spaces’ (selected by 50.0% of those aged 16-34, but just 62.5% of those aged 35-54), other paved or hard landscaped areas with a civic function (selected by 42.2% of those aged 35-54, but just 22.7% of those aged 65+), church yards or cemeteries (selected by 43.6% of those aged 55-64, but just 19.0% of those aged 16-34), green corridors (selected by 85.1% of those aged 35-54, but just 68.1% of those aged 65+), public parks or gardens (selected by 96.7% of those aged 35-54, but just 88.1% of those aged 65+), neighbourhood or local parks (selected by 91.3% of those aged 35-54, but just 81.0% of those aged 16-34), road verges (23.8% of those aged 65+, but just 10.3% of those aged 16-34), sports fields or grounds (selected by 67.6% of those aged 35-54, but just 57.8% of those aged 65+) and natural and semi-natural habitats (selected by 82.2% of those aged 35-54, but just 62.2% of those aged 65+).

Table 13: Which of the following types of space and natural features do you consider to be open spaces or green spaces?

Type of Space / Feature	Respondents	
	Count	%
Public parks or gardens	699	93.6
Trees and woodlands	655	87.7
Neighbourhood parks or local parks	643	86.1
Open water e.g. rivers/ponds/lochs/canals in and around the city	582	77.9
Green corridors, including paths, disused railway lines and rivers	579	77.5
Natural and semi natural habitats	567	75.9
Sports fields or grounds	472	63.2
Paths and 'civic space' consisting of squares and pedestrian areas	404	54.1
Allotments or community gardens	335	44.8
Any area of land with or without vegetation	334	44.7
Church yards or cemeteries	287	38.4
Any other paved or hard landscaped areas with a civic function	257	34.4
Patches of grass around residential buildings	192	25.7
Road verges	156	20.9
Private gardens or grounds	142	19.0
Patches of grass around business premises	133	17.8

Base = 747 respondents

Panellists were then asked what they considered the three key features of a good quality open space to be. Their responses are provided below in Table 14 (see page 84), which shows that the most regularly identified feature is that they should be well maintained and free of litter (identified by 441 respondents; 59.0%). The next most popular features were that they should be easily accessible with adequate paths (371 respondents; 49.7%), that they should have clean and safe facilities in usable condition (349 respondents; 46.7%), that they should be well located and close to communities (286 respondents; 38.3%) and that they should contribute positively to biodiversity and provide a habitat for wildlife (250 respondents; 33.5%). The remaining features were each selected by less than one in three respondents.

There were no particularly large differences between male and female panellists' responses to this question. The most notable differences emerged in relation to being well located and close to the community (selected by 41.9% of females but just 36.6% of males), having good transport connections and access routes (selected by 27.4% of females but just 18.9% of males), contributing positively to biodiversity and providing a habitat for wildlife (selected by 38.6% of females but just 29.7% of males) and having diverse play, sport and recreational activities (selected by 17.7% of males but just 12.1% of females).

There were also some noteworthy results when disaggregated by area. A difference between the proportion of respondents in different areas identifying particular factors was most notable in relation to being well located and close to the community (selected by 43.6%

of respondents in Central, but only 36.3% of respondents in South), being easily accessible with adequate paths (selected by 53.5% of respondents in North, but only 46.8% of respondents in Central), having good transport connections and access routes (selected by 26.1% of respondents in Central, but only 19.6% of respondents in South), being accessible to disabled users (selected by 32.3% of respondents in North, but only 26.3% of respondents in South), contributing positively to biodiversity and providing a habitat for wildlife (selected by 37.6% of respondents in Central, but only 28.8% of respondents in North) and having diverse play, sport and recreational activities (selected by 18.8% of respondents in Central, but only 11.1% of respondents in North).

Two age correlations emerged when these results were disaggregated by age-group. Firstly, the proportion of respondents who believed that being well located and close to the community was a key feature of a good quality open space was highest among those aged 16-34 (41.4%), falling to 40.4% of those aged 35-54, 38.5% of those aged 55-64 and 37.8% of those aged 65+. Secondly, the proportion of respondents identifying disabled access as a key feature was highest among those aged 65+ (41.1%), dropping to 36.4% of those aged 55-64, 18.5% of those aged 35-54 and just 15.5% of those aged 16-34.

Apart from these correlations, there were also features in which a particularly wide spread could be seen between the age-groups containing the highest and lowest proportion of respondents selecting particular features. These differences were most noticeable in relation to being easily accessible with adequate paths (selected by 53.1% of those aged 35-54, but just 44.8% of those aged 16-34), having good transport connections and access routes (selected by 33.0% of those aged 65+, but just 17.5% of those aged 35-54), having good quality equipment and furniture (selected by 17.2% of those aged 16-34, but just 4.6% of those aged 55-64), having clean and safe facilities in a usable condition (selected by 58.6% of those aged 16-34, but just 43.6% of those aged 55-64), contributing positively to biodiversity and providing a habitat for wildlife (selected by 40.4% of those aged 35-54, but just 25.9% of those aged 65+), having diverse play, sport and recreational activities (selected by 16.4% of those aged 55-64, but just 5.2% of those aged 16-34), providing places for social interaction (selected by 15.3% of those aged 35-54, but just 9.7% of those aged 55-64) and being well maintained and free of litter (selected by 63.6% of those aged 35-54, but just 55.9% of those aged 55-64).

Table 14: What do you think should be the three key features of a good quality open space?

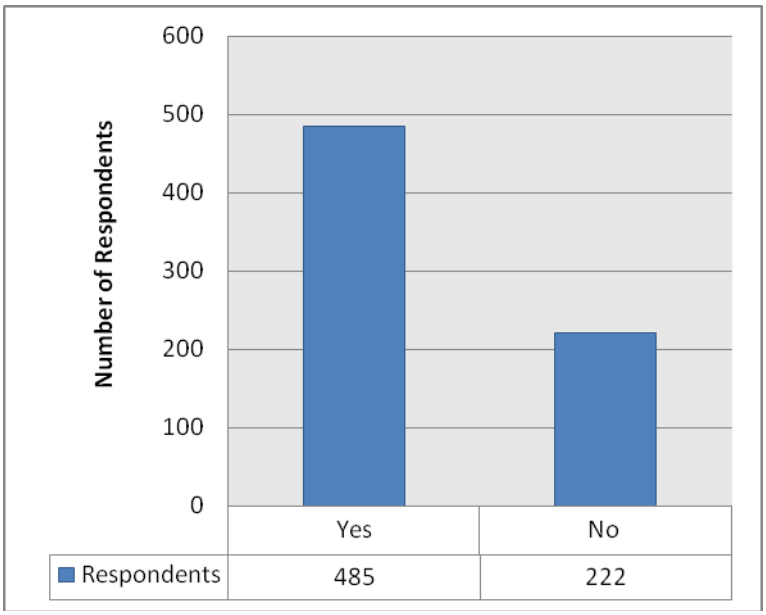
Key Feature(s)	Respondents	
	Count	%
Well maintained and free of litter	441	59.0
Easily accessible with adequate paths	371	49.7
Clean and safe facilities in usable condition	349	46.7
Well located and close to community	286	38.3
Contribute positively to biodiversity and provide habitat for wildlife	250	33.5
Accessible for disabled users	217	29.0
Good transport connection and access routes	173	23.2
Diverse play, sport and recreational activities	107	14.3
Places for social interaction	99	13.3
Good quality equipment and furniture	53	7.1

Base = 747 respondents

Panellists were then asked whether they think that there is enough open space in Aberdeen. Their responses are charted in Figure 29 (see page 85), which shows that over two thirds (485 respondents; 68.6%) believe that there is enough open space in Aberdeen. Just under a third (222 respondents; 32.2%) do not believe this to be the case.

There was little difference between responses from male and female respondents: 65.7% of male respondents answered ‘yes’, whilst 64.9% of female respondents did likewise. There was also little variation across neighbourhoods. The proportion of respondents who replied ‘yes’ was highest in North (67.7%), followed by Central (65.1%) and South (63.3%). There seemed to be a correlation (albeit a fairly weak one) between age and responses to this question, with the proportion of respondents who answered ‘yes’ at its highest among those aged 16-34 (72.4%), falling to 66.5% of those aged 35-54, 63.6% of those aged 55-64 and 63.2% of those aged 65+.

Figure 29: Do you think there is enough open space in Aberdeen?

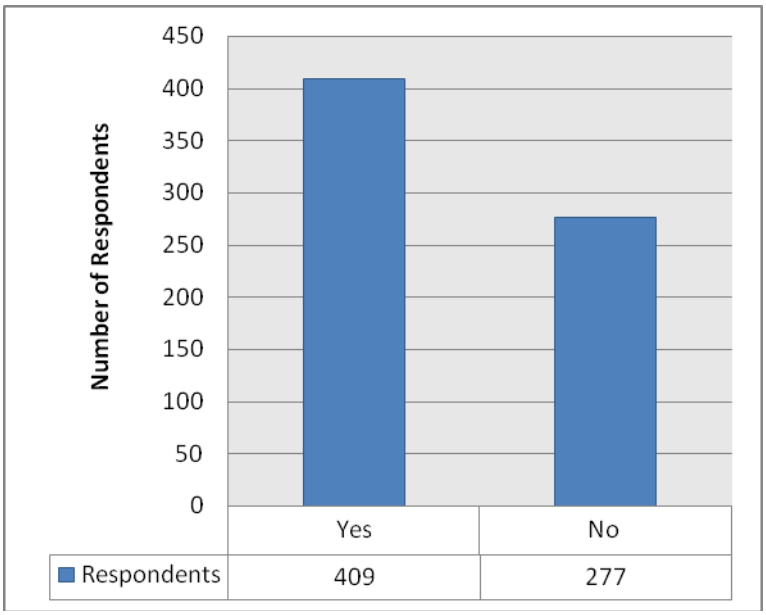


Base = 707 respondents

Similar findings emerged in relation to the next question, which asked panellists whether they felt this open space is spread evenly across the city. Their responses – displayed below in Figure 30 (see page 86) – reveal that over half (409 respondents; 59.6%) believe that the open space is evenly spread across the city, whilst 277 respondents (40.4%) do not.

Once again, there was virtually no difference between male and respondents in relation to this question, although some variation did emerge across different areas of the city. The proportion of respondents who believe that there is enough open space in Aberdeen was highest in North (61.9%), followed by Central (53.2%) and South (52.6%). There was no apparent relationship between age and responses to this question: the proportion of respondents answering 'yes' was highest among those aged 65+ (57.8%), followed by those aged 35-54 (56.7%), those aged 55-64 (52.8%) and lowest among those aged 16-34 (51.7%).

Figure 30: Do you think the open space is spread evenly across the city?

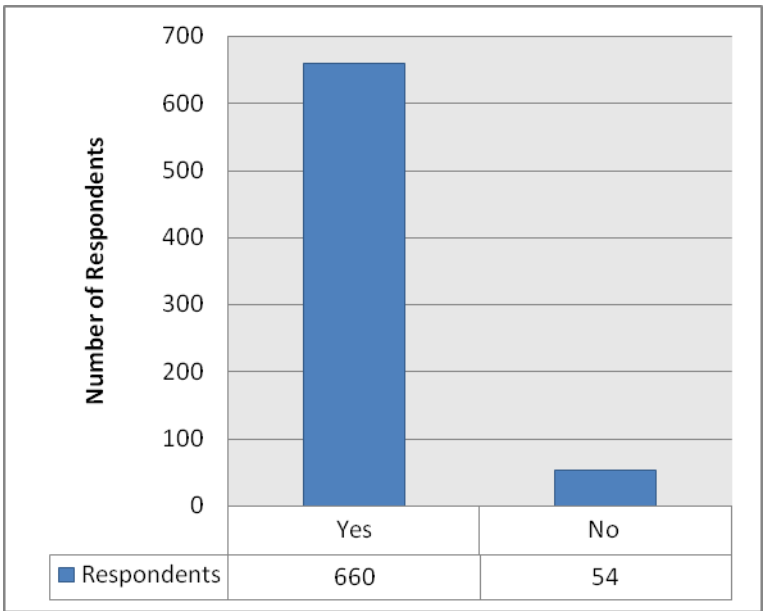


Base = 686 respondents

The next questions asked panellists about their experience of open space in Aberdeen. Firstly, panellists were asked if there are any good quality open spaces close to where they live. An overview of their responses is provided below in Figure 31 (see page 87). The chart shows that the overwhelming majority of respondents (660; 92.4%) do have good quality open spaces close to where they live. Only 54 respondents (7.6%) stated that there are not.

There was virtually no difference between male and female panellists' responses to this question: 88.9% of male respondents replies 'yes', as did 88.8% of female respondents. Minor variations appeared across neighbourhoods, with the proportion of respondents replying 'yes' highest in South (91.5%), followed by North (88.5%) and Central (85.8%). There was also a degree of variation between the responses from different age-groups, although there was no direct correlation between the two. The proportion of respondents who stated that there are good quality open spaces close to where they live was highest among those aged 35-54 (92.4%), followed by those aged 55-64 (89.2%), those aged 16-34 (86.2%) and lowest among those aged 65+ (84.3%).

Figure 31: Are there good quality open spaces close to where you live?



Base = 714 respondents

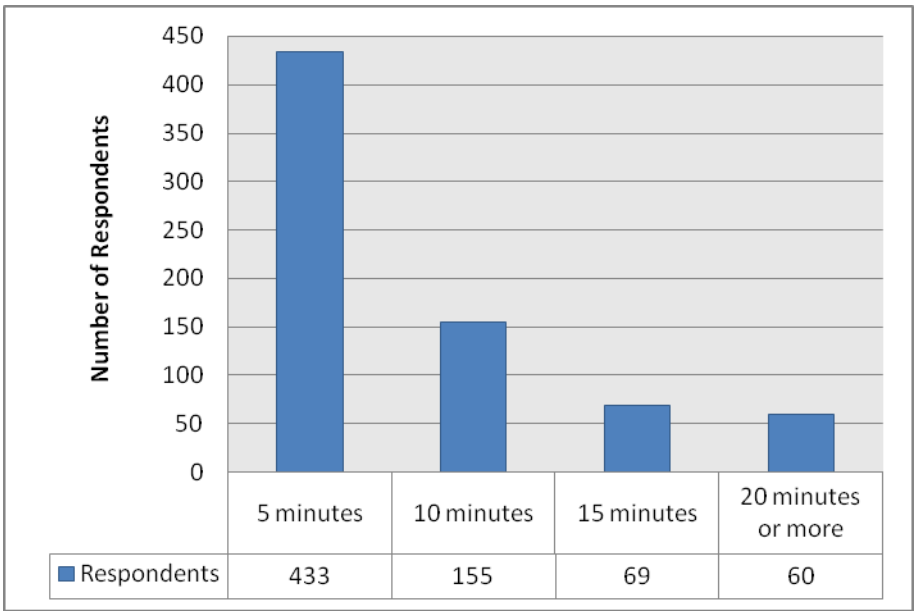
Panellists were then asked to identify how long it takes them to walk to their nearest open space. Their results are provided below in Figure 32 (see page 88), which shows that for most respondents (433; 60.4%), it only takes about 5 minutes to walk to their nearest open space. This is followed by about 10 minutes (155 respondents; 21.6%), about 15 minutes (69 respondents; 9.6%) and 20 minutes or more (60 respondents; 8.4%).

There was very little difference between male and female panellists' responses to this question. The biggest difference emerged in relation to the proportion of respondents who selected the '20 minutes or more' option (9.9% of female respondents, compared to just 6.0% of male respondents).

There was a greater level of variation in responses across neighbourhoods. A majority of respondents in North (65.5%) and South (61.5%) lived within 5 minutes' walking distance of their nearest open space. Although the most common response among those living in Central was also '5 minutes', the proportion selecting this (46.3%) was much smaller than in North and South. Conversely, a greater share of respondents from Central lived either 10 minutes' (28.4%) or 15 minutes' walk (13.8%) from their nearest open space than was the case for those living in North (15.5% and 6.6%, respectively) and South (19.6% and 8.1%, respectively).

There was also evidence of an age correlation in terms of the responses of '5 minutes' and '10 minutes' (although this did not hold true for other responses). In relation to respondents selecting the '5 minutes' option, the proportion who did so was largest among those aged 16-34 (67.2%), falling to 64.4% of those aged 35-54, 57.4% of those aged 55-64 and 47.6% of those aged 65+. Conversely, the proportion selecting the '10 minutes' option was highest among those aged 65+ (24.3%), falling to 21.0% of those aged 55-64, 19.3% of those aged 35-54 and 17.2% of those aged 16-34. For '15 minutes' and '20 minutes or more', the 65+ age-group contained the largest share of selecting these options.

Figure 32: Approximately how long does it take you to walk to your nearest open space?

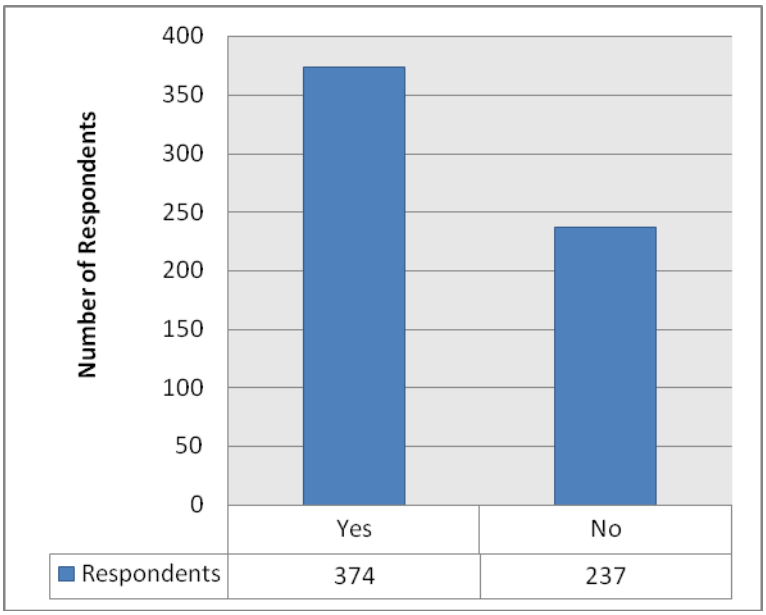


Base = 717 respondents

Panellists were then asked whether there were any improvements they would like to see to open spaces in Aberdeen. Their responses are provided below in Figure 33 (see page 89). The chart shows that just under two thirds of respondents (374; 61.2%) wanted to see improvements to open spaces in Aberdeen, whilst just over a third (237 respondents; 38.8%) did not.

Interestingly, a noticeably larger proportion of female respondents (54.5%) than males (45.7%) stated that they could think of improvements to be made to open spaces in Aberdeen. However, there was very little variation between different areas: the proportion of respondents who replied 'yes' ranged from 47.0% in South to 51.8% in Central and 52.7% in North. There was no apparent age correlation either: the proportion of respondents who replied 'yes' ranged from 44.8% among those aged 16-34 to 53.8% of those aged 55-64, with the proportion for those aged 35-54 and 65+ falling between these.

Figure 33: Are there any improvements you would like to see to open spaces in Aberdeen?



Base = 611 respondents

Panellists were then asked what improvements they would like to see to open spaces in Aberdeen. Their results were grouped thematically and are provided below in Table 15 (see page 90). The most popular responses by far were that Aberdeen's open spaces should be cleaner (102 respondents; 25.6%), that they should be better maintained (101 respondents; 25.4%) and that they should have better facilities (100 respondents; 25.1%). With regard to cleaning, many panellists mentioned the need for more regular litter collection and the need to clamp down on dog fouling. Similarly, when providing suggestions which fell under the 'maintenance' heading, many panellists identified better upkeep of the installations in Aberdeen's open spaces, both organic (flower displays, grass-cutting) and man-made (e.g. playparks). Popular items covered by the 'facilities' heading were better play facilities for children and young people, more suitable modern cafes within Aberdeen's open spaces, the provision of more litter or dog bins and the provision of more public toilet facilities.

A number of additional categories were also identified, although these attracted much less support than the three discussed already. These additional response categories included the need to protect green spaces and restrict new building developments: these two were often mentioned as a statement of opposition to the Union Terrace redevelopment plans. Other categories included better safety or law/rule enforcement within open spaces (e.g. 'moving on' travellers, spot-fines for dog fouling, littering or vandalism) (39 respondents; 9.8%), improved accessibility (34 respondents; 8.5%), a greater proliferation of open spaces in Aberdeen (particularly in the city centre) (31 respondents; 7.8%), more control of dogs in open spaces (30 respondents; 7.5%), more trees and/or floral displays in Aberdeen's open spaces (17 respondents; 4.3%), better transport links to the open spaces across the city (14 respondents; 3.5%), more information on the open spaces or better signage to facilities within open spaces (also 14 respondents; 3.5%), better lighting (9 respondents; 2.3%) and more community ownership of or involvement in Aberdeen's open spaces (also 9 respondents; 2.3%).

Table 15: What improvements to open spaces in Aberdeen would you like to see?

Suggested Improvement	Respondents	
	Count	%
Cleaner	102	25.6
Better maintenance	101	25.4
Better facilities (e.g. seats, cafes)	100	25.1
Protect green spaces	55	13.8
Enforce rules / law	39	9.8
Restrict building	35	8.8
Improved accessibility	34	8.5
Increase amount of open space	31	7.8
More control of dogs	30	7.5
More trees / displays etc.	17	4.3
Better transport links	14	3.5
More information / signage	14	3.5
Better lighting	9	2.3
Community ownership / involvement	9	2.3
Encourage activities	8	2.0
Encourage wildlife	8	2.0
Segregated facilities (e.g. dogs)	8	2.0
Longer opening times	2	2.0
Pedestrianize areas of the city	2	2.0
N/a	13	3.3

Base = 398 respondents

Panellists were then asked to consider a number of aspects of Aberdeen's open spaces, and rate the extent to which these aspects meet their expectations of an open space. The various different aspects being considered and the extent to which they meet with panellists' expectations are provided below in Figure 34 (see page 94).

The chart shows that only a very small minority of respondents believe that any of the aspects being considered completely fail to meet their expectations of an open space. The most notable results in this respect relate to being well maintained and free of litter, and having clean and safe facilities in usable condition: 9.0% and 6.0% of respondents respectively believe that Aberdeen's open spaces completely fail to live up to their expectation in these respects. In terms of overall dissatisfaction (i.e. by compounding the figures for options '1' and '2'), being well maintained and free of litter again attracts the greatest proportion of respondents (34.2% reporting some level of dissatisfaction) followed by having good quality equipment and furniture (26.9%) and having clean and safe facilities in usable condition (26.3%). Each of the other factors attracted was reported as unsatisfactory to at least some extent by less than one in six respondents.

The factors which attracted the greatest proportion of respondents who were completely satisfied with their ability to meet their expectations were being well located and close to communities (28.0%), being easily accessible with adequate paths (21.3%), contributing to biodiversity and providing a habitat for wildlife (14.4%) and having good transport connections and routes (14.2%). For each of the remaining aspects, less than one in seven respondents believed that they satisfied their requirements for open space completely.

In terms of overall satisfaction (i.e. compounding the figures for options '4' and '5'), being well located and close to communities and being easily accessible with adequate paths were the features the features with which the greatest share of respondents were satisfied to at least some extent (66.4% and 65.6% respectively). This was followed by having good transport connections and routes (43.5%), contributing to biodiversity and providing a habitat for wildlife (41.9%) and providing places for social interaction (41.7%).

These responses can also be further disaggregated by gender, area and age-group. Looking firstly at how these results differed by gender, it can be seen that there are few considerable differences. For each aspect, the greatest share of male and female respondents opted for the same answer, with the exception of contributing positively to biodiversity and providing a habitat for wildlife (the greatest share of male respondents opted for a '4' rating; the greatest share of female respondents opted for a '3' rating). For each other aspect, the greatest share of male and female respondents opted for a '3' rating, other than being well located and close to the local community and being easily accessible with adequate paths: for each of these, the greatest share of both genders gave a '4' rating.

There were also very few notable differences in terms of overall approval and disapproval levels. For each aspect considered, a greater proportion of female respondents than males provided a '5' rating (i.e. satisfies requirement completely). However, for most aspects considered, a greater proportion of males than females opted for a '4' rating, meaning that overall approval levels tended to be fairly balanced across males and females. The aspects in which the greatest divide emerged were the approval ratings in relation to being accessible for disabled users (36.6% of female respondents opted for either a '4' or '5' rating; the equivalent proportion among males was just 29.5%), having good quality equipment and furniture (27.1% of female respondents; 19.4% of male respondents), contributing positively to biodiversity and providing a habitat for wildlife (46.1% of male respondents; 39.0% of female respondents) and being well maintained and free from litter (30.7% of female respondents; 24.6% of male respondents).

There were also few big differences in terms of area. The greatest proportion of respondents in each area opted for the same rating in each aspect other than having good transport connections and access routes: in this aspect, the greatest share of respondents in Central opted for a '4' rating, whilst those in North and South opted for a '3' rating. There were very few notable differences in terms of overall approval and disapproval ratings. The most notable differences emerged in relation to being well located and close to the community (which obtained an overall approval rating of 73.0% in South, but just 61.9% in North and 63.1% in Central), being easily accessible with adequate paths (which obtained an overall approval rating of 71.6% in South, but just 61.7% in Central and 63.4% in North), having good quality equipment and furniture (which obtained an overall approval rating of 28.2% in South, but just 18.3% in North and 22.3% in Central), having clean and safe facilities in

usable condition (which obtained an overall approval rating of 38.2% in South, but just 25.0% in North and 25.6% in Central), contributing positively to biodiversity and providing a habitat for wildlife (which obtained an overall approval rating of 46.2% in South and 44.1% in North, but just 36.8% in Central), and being well maintained and free of litter (which obtained an overall approval rating of 33.6% in South and 28.1% in Central, but just 19.4% in North).

There was a fairly high level of consistency across age-groups in their responses to this question. For a number of aspects, the greatest share of respondents in each age-group opted for the same rating. The only exceptions to this were having good transport connections and access routes (rated as a '4' by the greatest share of respondents aged 16-34, but a '3' by the greatest share of respondents in each other age-group), contributing positively to biodiversity and providing a habitat for wildlife (rated as a '4' by the greatest share of respondents aged 35-54, but a '3' by the greatest share of respondents in each other age-group) and providing places for social interaction (rated as a '4' by the greatest share of respondents aged 16-34, but a '3' by the greatest share of respondents in each other age-group).

There were few correlations between age-groups and the responses they offered. The only clear correlations for specific results were seen in relation to being well located and close to the community (the share of respondents giving a '5' rating was highest – at 30.8% – among those aged 16-34, falling to 29.1% of those aged 35-54, 26.7% of those aged 55-64 and 23.8% of those aged 65+) and having diverse sport, play and recreational activities (the share of respondents giving a '2' rating was highest – at 17.3% – among those aged 16-34, falling to 13.5% of those aged 35-54, 11.0% of those aged 55-64 and 8.9% of those aged 65+).

In terms of overall levels of approval and disapproval, the most notable differences emerged in relation to having good transport connections and access routes (overall approval rating was highest – at 50.9% – among those aged 16-34, falling to 46.9% of those aged 55-64, 44.7% of those aged 65+ and just 37.7% of those aged 35-54), being accessible for disabled users (overall disapproval was 18.7% among those aged 55-64, falling to 17.2% of those aged 65+, 14.2% of those aged 35-54 and just 9.8% of those aged 35-54; whilst overall approval correlated with age, from a high of 40.7% among those aged 65+, to 33.1% of those aged 55-64, 29.6% of those aged 35-54 and a low of 29.4% of those aged 16-34)

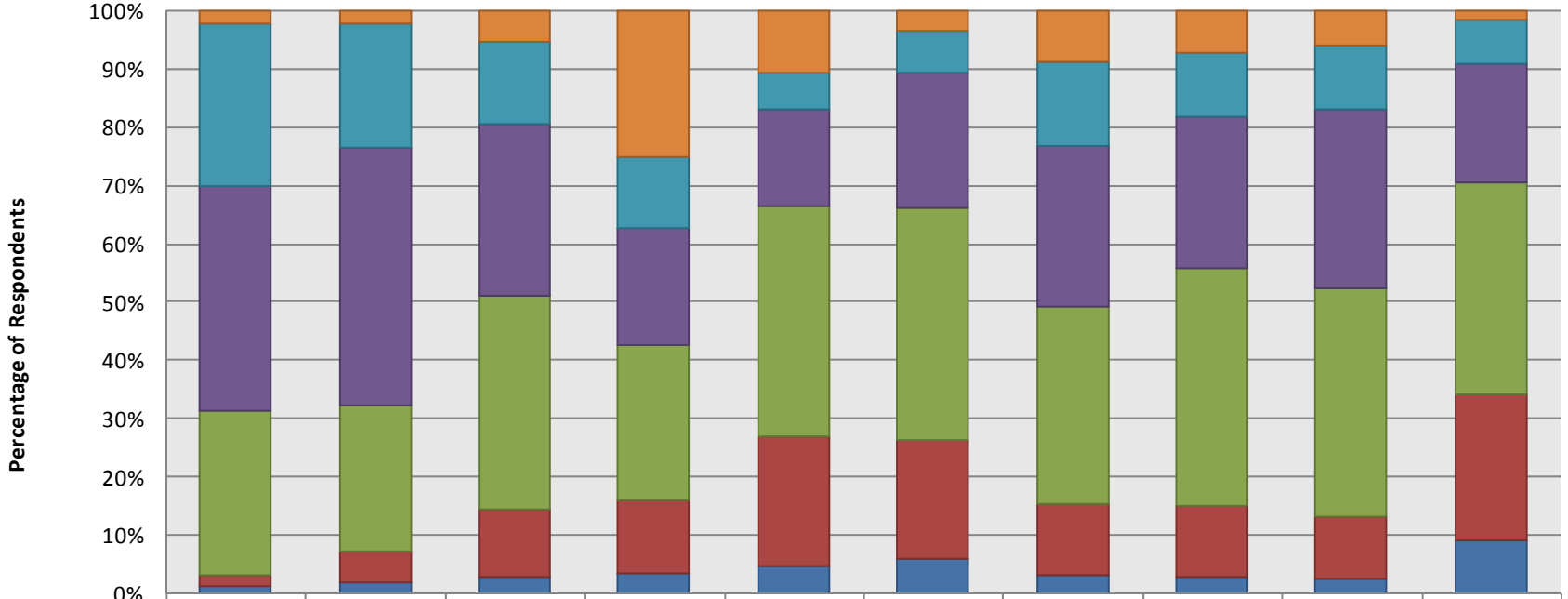
There was also a correlation between age and overall disapproval levels in relation to good quality equipment and furniture. Disapproval was at its highest among those aged 16-34 (30.8%), falling to 27.7% of those aged 35-54, 26.3% of those aged 55-64 and at its lowest among those aged 65+ (23.7%). A further correlation emerged between age and overall approval levels for providing places for social interaction. Approval was at its highest among those aged 16-34 (46.2%), falling to 42.5% of those aged 35-54, 42.0% of those aged 55-64 and at its lowest among those aged 65+ (38.6%).

Another correlation emerged when looking at responses to providing diverse play, sport and recreational activities: disapproval was highest among those aged 16-34 (19.2%), falling to 15.9% of those aged 35-54, 13.4% of those aged 55-64 and just 13.0% of those aged 65+. The opposite correlation was in evidence when looking at overall approval ratings: these were highest among those aged 65+ (39.8%), falling to 38.4% of those aged 55-64, 35.3%

of those aged 35-54 and 32.7% of those aged 16-34. The final correlation to be found in this section related to open spaces being well maintained and free of litter. Overall disapproval levels in relation to this aspect were highest among those aged 65+ (38.8%), falling to 37.2% of those aged 55-64, 33.1% of those aged 35-54 and 26.9% of those aged 16-34.

Although not a correlation, there was also considerable variation in relation to approval for contributing positively to biodiversity and providing a habitat for wildlife. Approval was at its highest among those aged 65+ (46.0%), followed by those aged 35-54 (44.7%), those aged 55-64 (39.1%) and those aged 16-34 (just 30.8%). Overall disapproval levels were highest among those aged 35-54 (19.7%), falling to 15.5% among those aged 65+, 15.4% of those aged 16-34 and 10.1% of those aged 55-64.

Figure 34: To what extent do the following aspects of Aberdeen's open spaces meet your expectations of an open space?



	Well located and close to community	Easily accessible with adequate paths	Good transport connection and access routes	Accessible for disabled users	Good quality equipment and furniture	Clean and safe facilities in usable condition	Contribute positively to biodiversity and provide habitat for wildlife	Diverse play, sport and recreational activities	Places for social intereaction	Well maintained and free from litter
Don't Know	2.3	2.3	5.4	25.1	10.9	3.7	8.9	7.4	6.0	1.8
5 (satisfies completely)	28.0	21.3	14.2	12.3	6.1	7.2	14.4	10.8	11.1	7.5
4	38.4	44.3	29.3	20.2	16.7	23.1	27.5	26.2	30.6	20.2
3	28.0	25.1	36.9	26.4	39.4	39.6	33.9	40.5	39.2	36.2
2	2.1	5.2	11.4	12.5	22.2	20.3	12.3	12.4	10.5	25.2
1 (fails completely)	1.1	1.8	2.8	3.6	4.7	6.0	3.0	2.7	2.5	9.0

Base = multiple (varies by aspect)

Panellists were then asked to identify their favourite open space in Aberdeen. Their responses have been compiled and aggregated below in Table 16 (see pages 96-97). The results show that the most frequently identified open space was Duthie Park (identified by 183 respondents; 29.7% of those who responded). This was followed by Hazlehead Park and surrounding area (114 respondents; 18.5%), Union Terrace Gardens (67 respondents; 10.9%), the beach and surrounding area (53 respondents; 8.6%), Seaton Park (43 respondents; 7.0%), Johnston Gardens (40 respondents; 6.5%), the Old Deeside Railway Line (34 respondents; 5.5%), the banks of the River Dee (21 respondents; 3.4%), Victoria Park (17 respondents; 2.8%), the banks of the River Don (13 respondents; 2.1%) and Scotstown Moor (12 respondents; 1.9%). Although each of the other locations was identified by less than 10 participants, they are nevertheless provided below in Table 13 for perusal.

Table 16: What is your favourite open space in Aberdeen?

Open Space	Respondents	
	Count	%
Duthie Park	183	29.7
Hazlehead Park (including woods, playing fields)	114	18.5
Union Terrace Gardens	67	10.9
Beach	53	8.6
Seaton Park	43	7.0
Johnston Gardens	40	6.5
Old Deeside Railway Line	34	5.5
River Dee	21	3.4
Victoria Park	17	2.8
River Don	13	2.1
Scotstown Moor	12	1.9
Westburn Park	9	1.5
None	7	1.1
Parks (unspecified)	6	1.0
Countesswells Woods	5	0.8
Kingswells Woods and pathways	5	0.8
Kincorth Hill	4	0.6
Nigg Bay	4	0.6
Balnagask Golf Course	3	0.5
Cove cliffs	3	0.5
Denburn	3	0.5
Loirston Loch	3	0.5

Open Space	Respondents	
	Count	%
Maidencraig	3	0.5
Persley	3	0.5
Tullos Hill	3	0.5
Allan Park	2	0.3
Balmedie Beach	2	0.3
Botanic Gardens (University of Aberdeen)	2	0.3
Donmouth Nature Reserve	2	0.3
Howes Road	2	0.3
Kirkhill Forest	2	0.3
Riverside Drive (Dyce)	2	0.3
Rotten O'Gairn	2	0.3
Rubislaw Terrace Gardens	2	0.3
Westfield Park	2	0.3
Academy Shopping Centre	1	0.2
Albury Park	1	0.2
Argyll Place	1	0.2
Auchmill Woods	1	0.2
Brig O'Balgownie	1	0.2
Calder Park	1	0.2
Coronation Park	1	0.2
Cromwell Park	1	0.2
Danestone Park	1	0.2

(Continues overleaf)

Open Space	Respondents	
	Count	%
Denmore Park	1	0.2
Donmouth	1	0.2
Foggieton Woods	1	0.2
Footdee Playpark	1	0.2
Garthdee allotments	1	0.2
Girdleness Lighthouse	1	0.2
Grandholm	1	0.2
Graveyards	1	0.2
Hilton Road	1	0.2
Inverdee Football Grounds	1	0.2
Newhills footpaths	1	0.2
Newmachar Railway Line walk	1	0.2
Old Dyce Railway Line	1	0.2
Polmuir Road	1	0.2
Riverview Park, Dyce	1	0.2
Royal Aberdeen Golf Course	1	0.2
Sheddocksley Playing Fields	1	0.2
Steward Park	1	0.2
Sunnybank Park	1	0.2
The Howes	1	0.2
Torry Battery	1	0.2
Tyrebagger Forest	1	0.2

Open Space	Respondents	
	Count	%
Walker Park	1	0.2
Winter Gardens	1	0.2
Woodburn	1	0.2
N/a	15	0.2

Base = 617 respondents

SERVICE RESPONSE

The data collected and the information provided shows some interesting results on management and maintenance of open spaces and their over all satisfaction of open space quality. The data collected and the information provided will be used alongside with the open space audit results to prepare the final open space strategy and developing open spaces projects and action plan.

The data collected will be used to monitor the open spaces across the city and the results will also be used to set indicators to judge progress of the open space strategy and the future investment to improve the quality and accessibility of open spaces in the City. It will also help us in using and distributing our resources for the future management and maintenance of open spaces equitably and focus on the areas where they are mostly needed or required.

The information provided will also be used to provide the right size and type of open spaces including the required facilities according to gender and age class.

Aftab Majeed, Environmental Planner

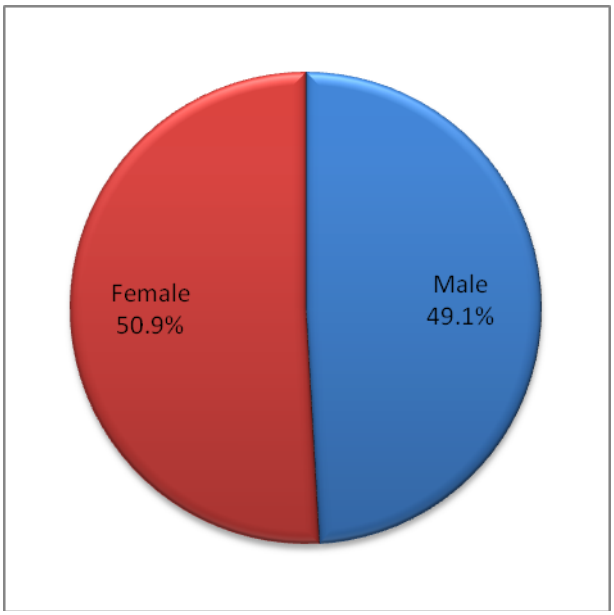
Aberdeen City Council

ANNEX A: OVERVIEW OF RESPONDENTS' CHARACTERISTICS

This section contains a brief overview of the different demographic characteristics of respondents to the survey.

In relation firstly to gender, a breakdown of respondents is provided below in Figure 35. The results show that just over half (50.9%) of all respondents to this particular survey are female, whilst just under half (49.1%) are male.

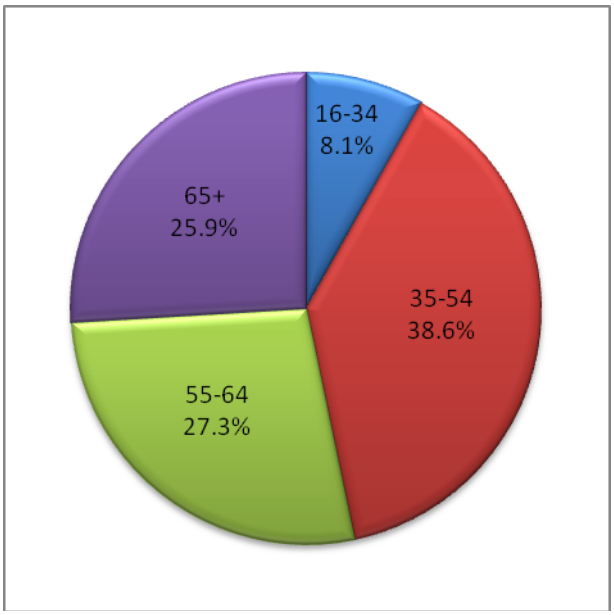
Figure 35: Gender breakdown of respondents



Base: 713 respondents

Secondly, Figure 36 (see page 100) shows that when considering the age-group to which respondents belong, the greatest share of respondents are aged 35-54 (38.6%), followed by 55-64 (27.3%) and 65+ (25.9%). Those aged 16-34 constituted the smallest group of respondents (8.1%).

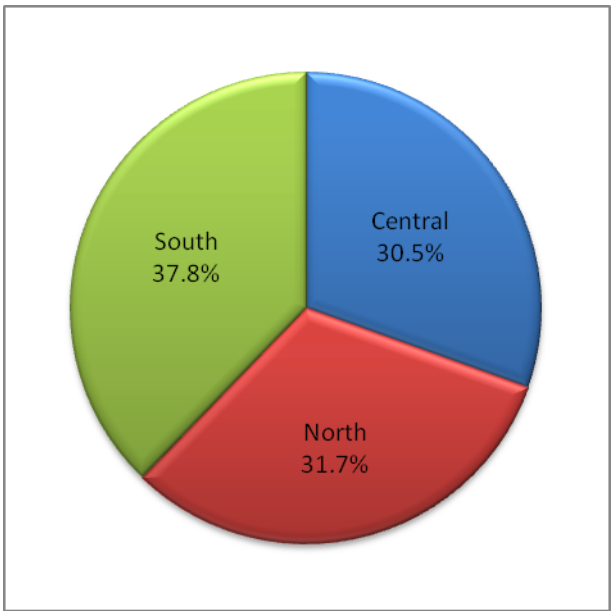
Figure 36: Age breakdown of respondents



Base: 713 respondents

Finally, it is possible to identify the area of the city in which respondents live. The results are provided below in Figure 37, which shows that there is a relatively even spread of respondents across the North, South and Central areas of the city. The largest share of respondents live in South (37.8%), followed by North (31.7%) and Central (30.5%).

Figure 37: Neighbourhood breakdown of respondents



Base: 712 respondents

ANNEX B: ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS – LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY

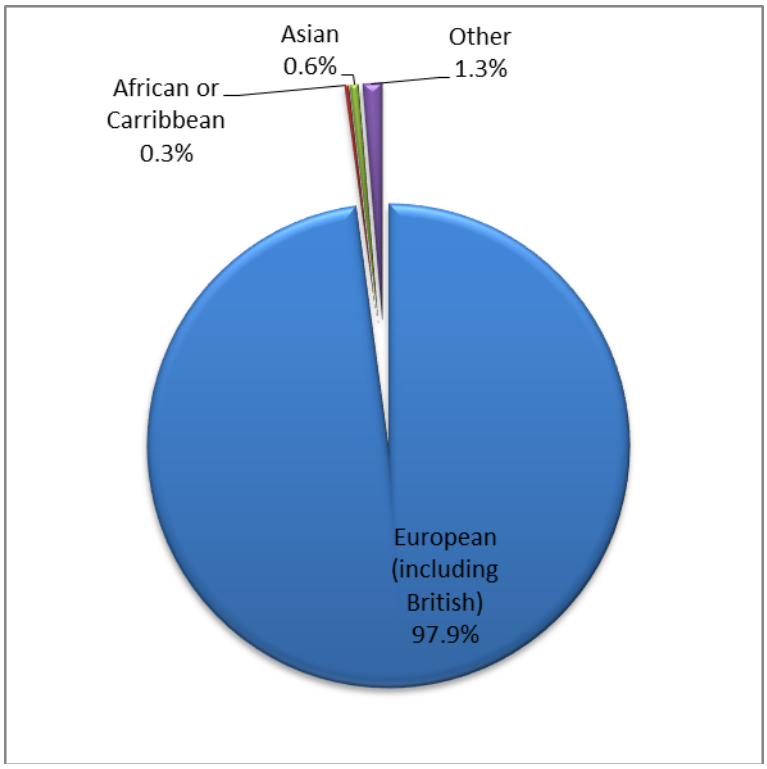
Following a request from the Department of Housing and Environment at Aberdeen City Council, additional analysis was conducted on one of the questions in the section on the Local Housing Strategy. The question was: "From the following list of possible housing priorities for Aberdeen, please indicate the extent to which you think each should be a low or high priority". The overall results and discussion of the crosstabulations conducted by gender, age and neighbourhood are provided in Figure 9 (see pages 26-27). The only other question in this section was an open response question, for which it is not possible to run automatic crosstabulations.

A further request was submitted in relation to providing a breakdown of these responses by ethnicity and housing tenure type. We provide these results here, but would preface them with the following caution. As is the case for gender, age and neighbourhood data (see page 7), we also do not have a comprehensive database of the ethnicity and housing tenure type for the entire Citizens' Panel. More specifically, if we consider the panellists who responded to this particular survey, we find that we have no data whatsoever for ethnicity and housing tenure type for 37 respondents. In addition, we have no ethnicity data (but do have housing tenure type data) for a further 8 respondents, and have no housing tenure type data (but do have ethnicity data) for an additional 4 respondents.

Ethnicity

A breakdown by ethnicity is problematic due to the dominance of the Citizens' Panel by one particular ethnicity type. Focussing on the members who responded to this particular survey, Figure 38 shows that almost every single respondent is European (including British). Only 2.1% of respondents identify as belonging to another ethnic group. Of these, the largest are 'other' (1.3%), followed by Asian (0.6%) and African or Caribbean (0.3%).

Figure 38: Ethnic breakdown of respondents



Base: 703 respondents

The issue here is that because there is such ethnic uniformity within the panel, any results broken down by ethnic group are likely to differ very little from the results reported for the entire panel. However, we have calculated the responses according to ethnic groups, and provide a breakdown of responses by ethnic group in a series of tables (Tables 17-27; pages 103-108) below.

Each table represents one of the priorities laid out in Figure 9 (see pages 26-27). The columns in each table correspond to the different ethnic groups of respondents. The rows represent the options available to respondents. The figures in each box correspond either to the absolute number of respondents from that ethnic group who selected that option ('Count') or the proportion of respondents from that ethnic group who selected that option ('%'). For example, in Table 17, it can be seen that while 53 European respondents stated that 'encouraging population and economic growth in the city by providing more housing' should be a priority, only 1 Asian respondent did likewise. However, 53 European respondents corresponds to 8.1% of all European respondents to the question, while the 1 Asian respondent corresponds to 25.0% of all Asian respondents to this question. The total size of respondent population for each ethnic group is provided in the bottom rows of each table. In some cases, this number varies (particularly in the European group) because some respondents only entered a value for some priorities.

Table 17: Encourage population and economic growth in the city by providing more housing

		Ethnic Group			
		European	**African / Caribbean**	**Asian**	**Other**
1 (very low priority)	Count	53	0	1	4
	%	8.1%	.0%	25.0%	50.0%
2	Count	90	0	0	0
	%	13.8%	.0%	.0%	.0%
3	Count	226	0	1	1
	%	34.6%	.0%	25.0%	12.5%
4	Count	148	0	2	0
	%	22.6%	.0%	50.0%	.0%
5 (very high priority)	Count	137	2	0	3
	%	20.9%	100.0%	.0%	37.5%
Total	Count	654	2	4	8
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 18: Increase the supply of affordable housing, e.g. more social rented housing and low cost home ownership initiatives

		Ethnic Group			
		European	**African / Caribbean**	**Asian**	**Other**
1 (very low priority)	Count	19	0	0	0
	%	2.8%	.0%	.0%	.0%
2	Count	56	0	1	3
	%	8.4%	.0%	25.0%	37.5%
3	Count	151	0	0	0
	%	22.5%	.0%	.0%	.0%
4	Count	214	0	2	2
	%	31.9%	.0%	50.0%	25.0%
5 (very high priority)	Count	230	2	1	3
	%	34.3%	100.0%	25.0%	37.5%
Total	Count	670	2	4	8
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 19: Encourage mixed housing developments - e.g. houses and flats, different house sizes and tenures

		Ethnic Group			
		European	**African / Caribbean**	**Asian**	**Other**
1 (very low priority)	Count	62	0	0	1
	%	9.3%	.0%	.0%	12.5%
2	Count	81	0	1	2
	%	12.1%	.0%	25.0%	25.0%
3	Count	231	0	0	1
	%	34.6%	.0%	.0%	12.5%
4	Count	183	1	0	2
	%	27.4%	50.0%	.0%	25.0%
5 (very high priority)	Count	110	1	3	2
	%	16.5%	50.0%	75.0%	25.0%
Total	Count	667	2	4	8
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 20: Encourage homeowners to carry out essential repairs to their properties

		Ethnic Group			
		European	**African / Caribbean**	**Asian**	**Other**
1 (very low priority)	Count	25	0	0	1
	%	3.7%	.0%	.0%	12.5%
2	Count	57	0	0	0
	%	8.4%	.0%	.0%	.0%
3	Count	188	1	1	2
	%	27.9%	50.0%	25.0%	25.0%
4	Count	220	0	2	3
	%	32.6%	.0%	50.0%	37.5%
5 (very high priority)	Count	185	1	1	2
	%	27.4%	50.0%	25.0%	25.0%
Total	Count	675	2	4	8
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 21: Encourage landlords in the private rented sector to carry out essential repairs to their properties

		Ethnic Group			
		European	**African / Caribbean**	**Asian**	**Other**
1 (very low priority)	Count	9	0	0	0
	%	1.3%	.0%	.0%	.0%
2	Count	23	0	0	0
	%	3.4%	.0%	.0%	.0%
3	Count	103	1	0	1
	%	15.4%	50.0%	.0%	12.5%
4	Count	255	0	1	1
	%	38.1%	.0%	25.0%	12.5%
5 (very high priority)	Count	280	1	3	6
	%	41.8%	50.0%	75.0%	75.0%
Total	Count	670	2	4	8
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 22: Encourage the expansion of the private rented sector

		Ethnic Group			
		European	**African / Caribbean**	**Asian**	**Other**
1 (very low priority)	Count	92	0	0	1
	%	13.9%	.0%	.0%	12.5%
2	Count	144	2	0	3
	%	21.8%	100.0%	.0%	37.5%
3	Count	277	0	2	4
	%	41.9%	.0%	50.0%	50.0%
4	Count	112	0	2	0
	%	16.9%	.0%	50.0%	.0%
5 (very high priority)	Count	36	0	0	0
	%	5.4%	.0%	.0%	.0%
Total	Count	661	2	4	8
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 23: Make improvements to the condition of social rented housing to meet national standards

		Ethnic Group			
		European	**African / Caribbean**	**Asian**	**Other**
1 (very low priority)	Count	13	0	0	0
	%	2.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%
2	Count	43	0	0	0
	%	6.5%	.0%	.0%	.0%
3	Count	178	0	1	2
	%	26.8%	.0%	25.0%	25.0%
4	Count	243	1	1	3
	%	36.5%	50.0%	25.0%	37.5%
5 (very high priority)	Count	188	1	2	3
	%	28.3%	50.0%	50.0%	37.5%
Total	Count	665	2	4	8
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 24: Ensure homeless people are adequately housed

		Ethnic Group			
		European	**African / Caribbean**	**Asian**	**Other**
1 (very low priority)	Count	35	0	0	2
	%	5.2%	.0%	.0%	25.0%
2	Count	62	1	0	0
	%	9.2%	50.0%	.0%	.0%
3	Count	191	0	2	3
	%	28.4%	.0%	50.0%	37.5%
4	Count	209	0	0	2
	%	31.1%	.0%	.0%	25.0%
5 (very high priority)	Count	176	1	2	1
	%	26.2%	50.0%	50.0%	12.5%
Total	Count	673	2	4	8
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 25: Provide support for people who are at risk of becoming homeless

		Ethnic Group			
		European	**African / Caribbean**	**Asian**	**Other**
1 (very low priority)	Count	23	0	0	1
	%	3.4%	.0%	.0%	12.5%
2	Count	56	1	0	0
	%	8.4%	50.0%	.0%	.0%
3	Count	170	0	1	2
	%	25.5%	.0%	25.0%	25.0%
4	Count	248	0	1	4
	%	37.2%	.0%	25.0%	50.0%
5 (very high priority)	Count	170	1	2	1
	%	25.5%	50.0%	50.0%	12.5%
Total	Count	667	2	4	8
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 26: Provide support to ensure that vulnerable people are able to remain in their own homes

		Ethnic Group			
		European	**African / Caribbean**	**Asian**	**Other**
1 (very low priority)	Count	5	0	0	0
	%	.7%	.0%	.0%	.0%
2	Count	32	1	0	0
	%	4.8%	50.0%	.0%	.0%
3	Count	123	0	0	2
	%	18.4%	.0%	.0%	22.2%
4	Count	239	1	2	3
	%	35.8%	50.0%	50.0%	33.3%
5 (very high priority)	Count	268	0	2	4
	%	40.2%	.0%	50.0%	44.4%
Total	Count	667	2	4	9
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

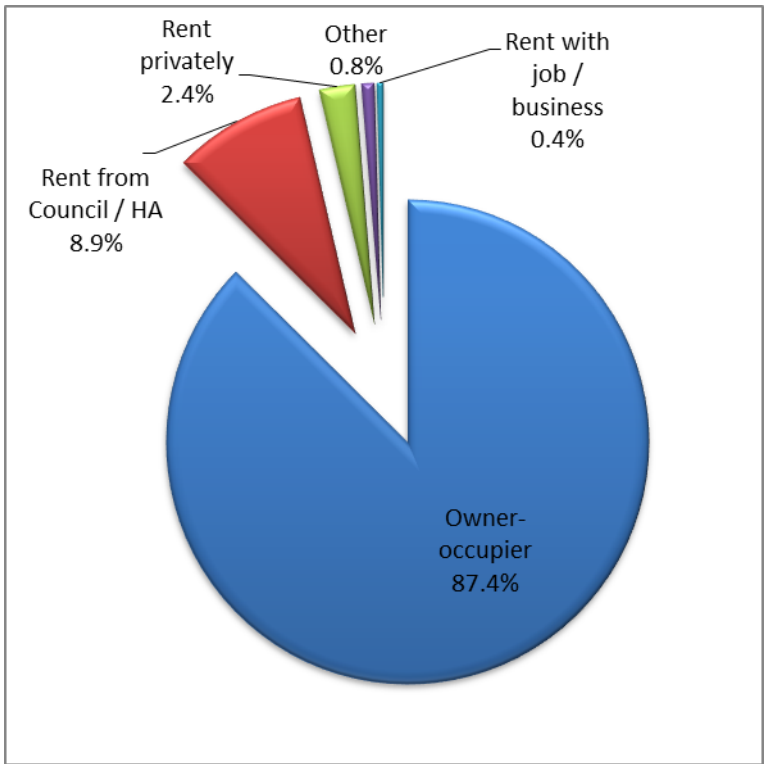
Table 27: Ensure opportunities to regenerate our most deprived communities are maximized

		Ethnic Group			
		European	**African / Caribbean**	**Asian**	**Other**
1 (very low priority)	Count	15	0	0	0
	%	2.3%	.0%	.0%	.0%
2	Count	44	1	0	0
	%	6.6%	50.0%	.0%	.0%
3	Count	168	0	0	2
	%	25.4%	.0%	.0%	25.0%
4	Count	224	0	1	3
	%	33.8%	.0%	25.0%	37.5%
5 (very high priority)	Count	211	1	3	3
	%	31.9%	50.0%	75.0%	37.5%
Total	Count	662	2	4	8
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Housing Tenure

Compared to ethnic group, there is greater value to breaking these responses down by housing tenure type due to the greater diversity among panellists in this respect. An overview of the housing tenure characteristics of respondents to this particular City Voice survey is provided below in Figure 39. The chart shows that 87.4% of respondents are owner-occupiers, 8.9% rent from the Council or a Housing Association, 2.4% rent privately, 0.4% rent through their job or business, and 0.4% are characterised as 'other'.

Figure 39: Housing tenure breakdown of respondents



Base: 707 respondents

As with ethnicity, we have calculated the responses for each housing tenure type, and provide a breakdown of responses by ethnic group in a series of tables (Tables 28-38; pages 110-115) below. Each table represents one of the priorities laid out in Figure 9 (see pages 26-27). The columns in each table correspond to the different housing tenure types of respondents. The rows represent the options available to respondents. The figures in each box correspond either to the absolute number of respondents from that housing tenure type who selected that option ('Count') or the proportion of respondents from that housing tenure type who selected that option ('%'). For example, in Table 28, it can be seen that while 51 owner-occupiers stated that 'encouraging population and economic growth in the city by providing more housing' should be a very low priority, only 4 people who rent their home from the Council or a Housing Association did likewise. However, 51 owner-occupiers corresponds to 8.7% of all owner-occupiers who responded to the question, while the 4 respondents who rent from the Council or a Housing Association corresponds to 6.9% of all respondents who belong to this housing type. The total size of respondent population for housing tenure type is provided in the bottom rows of each table. In some cases, this number varies because some respondents only entered a value for some priorities.

Table 28: Encourage population and economic growth in the city by providing more housing

		Housing Tenure Type				
		Owner-occupier	Rent LA/HA	Rent privately	Rent job/ business	Other
1 (very low priority)	Count	51	4	2	1	0
	%	8.7%	6.9%	11.8%	33.3%	.0%
2	Count	83	5	2	0	1
	%	14.1%	8.6%	11.8%	.0%	16.7%
3	Count	198	24	5	1	2
	%	33.7%	41.4%	29.4%	33.3%	33.3%
4	Count	136	9	3	0	1
	%	23.2%	15.5%	17.6%	.0%	16.7%
5 (very high priority)	Count	119	16	5	1	2
	%	20.3%	27.6%	29.4%	33.3%	33.3%
Total	Count	587	58	17	3	6
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 29: Increase the supply of affordable housing, e.g. more social rented housing and low cost home ownership initiatives

		Housing Tenure Type				
		Owner-occupier	Rent LA/HA	Rent privately	Rent job/ business	Other
1 (very low priority)	Count	17	1	0	1	0
	%	2.8%	1.6%	.0%	33.3%	.0%
2	Count	55	3	0	0	0
	%	9.2%	4.9%	.0%	.0%	.0%
3	Count	129	18	4	0	1
	%	21.5%	29.5%	23.5%	.0%	16.7%
4	Count	198	9	8	1	3
	%	32.9%	14.8%	47.1%	33.3%	50.0%
5 (very high priority)	Count	202	30	5	1	2
	%	33.6%	49.2%	29.4%	33.3%	33.3%
Total	Count	601	61	17	3	6
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 30: Encourage mixed housing developments - e.g. houses and flats, different house sizes and tenures

		Housing Tenure Type				
		Owner-occupier	Rent LA/HA	Rent privately	Rent job/ business	Other
1 (very low priority)	Count	54	8	1	0	1
	%	9.0%	13.3%	5.9%	.0%	16.7%
2	Count	78	4	1	0	0
	%	13.0%	6.7%	5.9%	.0%	.0%
3	Count	203	21	5	3	4
	%	33.9%	35.0%	29.4%	100.0%	66.7%
4	Count	168	10	7	0	1
	%	28.0%	16.7%	41.2%	.0%	16.7%
5 (very high priority)	Count	96	17	3	0	0
	%	16.0%	28.3%	17.6%	.0%	.0%
Total	Count	599	60	17	3	6
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 31: Encourage homeowners to carry out essential repairs to their properties

		Housing Tenure Type				
		Owner-occupier	Rent LA/HA	Rent privately	Rent job/ business	Other
1 (very low priority)	Count	21	4	0	1	1
	%	3.5%	6.7%	.0%	33.3%	16.7%
2	Count	53	5	0	0	0
	%	8.7%	8.3%	.0%	.0%	.0%
3	Count	162	23	2	1	3
	%	26.7%	38.3%	11.8%	33.3%	50.0%
4	Count	203	13	7	1	0
	%	33.5%	21.7%	41.2%	33.3%	.0%
5 (very high priority)	Count	167	15	8	0	2
	%	27.6%	25.0%	47.1%	.0%	33.3%
Total	Count	606	60	17	3	6
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 32: Encourage landlords in the private rented sector to carry out essential repairs to their properties

		Housing Tenure Type				
		Owner-occupier	Rent LA/HA	Rent privately	Rent job/ business	Other
1 (very low priority)	Count	7	1	0	0	1
	%	1.2%	1.6%	.0%	.0%	16.7%
2	Count	21	2	0	0	0
	%	3.5%	3.3%	.0%	.0%	.0%
3	Count	89	13	1	1	2
	%	14.8%	21.3%	5.9%	33.3%	33.3%
4	Count	223	21	7	2	2
	%	37.2%	34.4%	41.2%	66.7%	33.3%
5 (very high priority)	Count	260	24	9	0	1
	%	43.3%	39.3%	52.9%	.0%	16.7%
Total	Count	600	61	17	3	6
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 33: Encourage the expansion of the private rented sector

		Housing Tenure Type				
		Owner-occupier	Rent LA/HA	Rent privately	Rent job/ business	Other
1 (very low priority)	Count	82	14	0	0	0
	%	13.8%	24.1%	.0%	.0%	.0%
2	Count	132	13	4	1	1
	%	22.2%	22.4%	23.5%	33.3%	20.0%
3	Count	246	25	6	1	4
	%	41.3%	43.1%	35.3%	33.3%	80.0%
4	Count	104	3	5	0	0
	%	17.5%	5.2%	29.4%	.0%	.0%
5 (very high priority)	Count	31	3	2	1	0
	%	5.2%	5.2%	11.8%	33.3%	.0%
Total	Count	595	58	17	3	5
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 34: Make improvements to the condition of social rented housing to meet national standards

		Housing Tenure Type				
		Owner-occupier	Rent LA/HA	Rent privately	Rent job/ business	Other
1 (very low priority)	Count	11	2	0	0	0
	%	1.8%	3.3%	.0%	.0%	.0%
2	Count	37	4	1	0	1
	%	6.2%	6.7%	5.9%	.0%	20.0%
3	Count	171	7	2	0	2
	%	28.6%	11.7%	11.8%	.0%	40.0%
4	Count	220	14	11	2	1
	%	36.9%	23.3%	64.7%	66.7%	20.0%
5 (very high priority)	Count	158	33	3	1	1
	%	26.5%	55.0%	17.6%	33.3%	20.0%
Total	Count	597	60	17	3	5
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 35: Ensure homeless people are adequately housed

		Housing Tenure Type				
		Owner-occupier	Rent LA/HA	Rent privately	Rent job/ business	Other
1 (very low priority)	Count	32	5	0	0	0
	%	5.3%	8.3%	.0%	.0%	.0%
2	Count	56	3	1	0	1
	%	9.3%	5.0%	5.9%	.0%	16.7%
3	Count	169	20	4	0	4
	%	27.9%	33.3%	23.5%	.0%	66.7%
4	Count	191	13	7	1	0
	%	31.6%	21.7%	41.2%	33.3%	.0%
5 (very high priority)	Count	157	19	5	2	1
	%	26.0%	31.7%	29.4%	66.7%	16.7%
Total	Count	605	60	17	3	6
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 36: Provide support for people who are at risk of becoming homeless

		Housing Tenure Type				
		Owner-occupier	Rent LA/HA	Rent privately	Rent job/ business	Other
1 (very low priority)	Count	20	2	0	0	1
	%	3.3%	3.3%	.0%	.0%	16.7%
2	Count	50	5	1	0	0
	%	8.3%	8.3%	5.9%	.0%	.0%
3	Count	154	12	3	0	4
	%	25.7%	20.0%	17.6%	.0%	66.7%
4	Count	225	20	8	2	0
	%	37.6%	33.3%	47.1%	66.7%	.0%
5 (very high priority)	Count	150	21	5	1	1
	%	25.0%	35.0%	29.4%	33.3%	16.7%
Total	Count	599	60	17	3	6
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 37: Provide support to ensure that vulnerable people are able to remain in their own homes

		Housing Tenure Type				
		Owner-occupier	Rent LA/HA	Rent privately	Rent job/ business	Other
1 (very low priority)	Count	3	2	0	0	0
	%	.5%	3.2%	.0%	.0%	.0%
2	Count	27	2	1	1	1
	%	4.5%	3.2%	5.9%	33.3%	16.7%
3	Count	114	6	1	0	3
	%	19.1%	9.7%	5.9%	.0%	50.0%
4	Count	216	23	8	1	0
	%	36.2%	37.1%	47.1%	33.3%	.0%
5 (very high priority)	Count	237	29	7	1	2
	%	39.7%	46.8%	41.2%	33.3%	33.3%
Total	Count	597	62	17	3	6
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 38: Ensure opportunities to regenerate our most deprived communities are maximized

		Housing Tenure Type				
		Owner-occupier	**Rent LA/HA**	**Rent privately**	**Rent job/ business**	**Other**
1 (very low priority)	Count	12	2	1	0	0
	%	2.0%	3.3%	6.3%	.0%	.0%
2	Count	41	1	1	1	1
	%	6.9%	1.7%	6.3%	33.3%	16.7%
3	Count	154	12	3	0	2
	%	25.9%	20.0%	18.8%	.0%	33.3%
4	Count	198	19	8	0	2
	%	33.3%	31.7%	50.0%	.0%	33.3%
5 (very high priority)	Count	189	26	3	2	1
	%	31.8%	43.3%	18.8%	66.7%	16.7%
Total	Count	594	60	16	3	6
	%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%