



**Community
Planning
Aberdeen**

Your Place, Your Plans, Your Future –

South Locality results report 2025



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WHY DID WE DO THIS?

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

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

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

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

WHAT DID WE ASK?

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

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

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



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

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

HOW AND WHO DID WE ASK?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Engagement Events	When	Where
ABERDEEN NORTH		
North Priority Neighbourhood Partnership	Saturday 10th May 2025 2pm - 4pm	Get Active @ Northfield Katharine Crescent, AB15 5TL
North Locality Empowerment Group	Saturday 10th May 2025 10am - 12pm	King's Church, King's Way Bridge of Don AB23 8BL
ABERDEEN CENTRAL		
Central Priority Neighbourhood Partnership	Saturday 26th April 2025 10am - 12pm	Aberdeen Sports Village Linkfield Road, AB24 5RU
Central Locality Empowerment Group	Thursday 27th March 2025 2pm - 4pm	Rosemount Community Centre, Belgrave Terrace, AB23 2NS
ABERDEEN SOUTH		
Torry Partnership	Thursday 27th March 2025 10am - 12pm	Groycroft Community Hub Tulloch Circle, Torry, AB11 8DL
South Locality Empowerment Group	Saturday 26th April 2025 2pm - 4pm	Ayrhall Library, Springfield Road AB15 7RF

Community Planning Aberdeen
Telephone and email are available
01224 253906

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

Completed

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

600

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

Active

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

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

Active

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

Get informed

WHO PARTICIPATED?

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

We asked people to share where they lived, but this was not mandatory. **284** people who completed the survey (online and paper copies and locality events/facilitated outreach session) told us that they lived in the South Locality. Of those, 55 were from priority neighbourhoods. 196 children and young people from schools within the South Locality participated.

WHAT WE FOUND

Based on scores allocated by participants from the South Locality, average (mean) scores were calculated for each of the themes. The lower the score, the more participants thought improvement was required. Scores ranged from a **low** of 3.2 (**Influence and sense of control**) to a high of 4.9 (**Natural Space**) out of a maximum of 7.

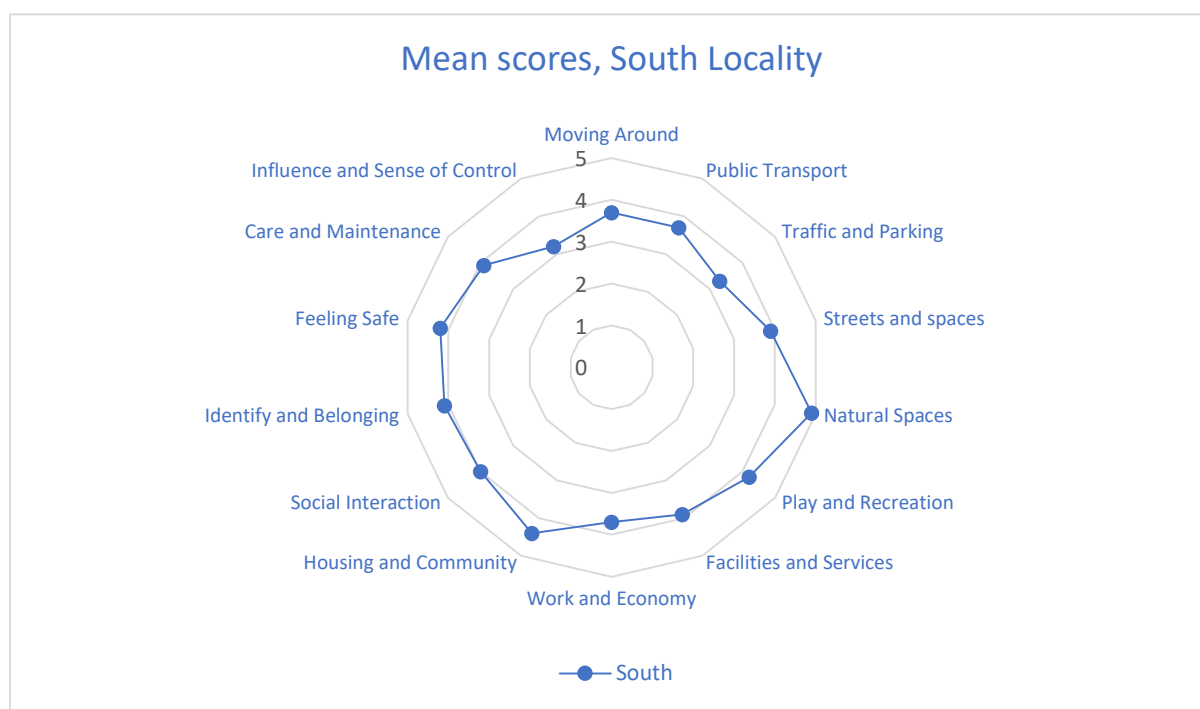
WHAT THE SOUTH LOCALITY SCORED HIGHEST AND LOWEST

The **five highest** ranking themes were:

1. Natural Spaces (4.9)
2. Housing and Community (4.4)
3. Play and Recreation (4.2)
4. Feeling Safe (4.2)
5. Identify and Belonging (4.1)

The **five lowest** ranking themes were:

1. Influence and Sense of Control (3.2)
2. Traffic and Parking (3.3)
3. Work and Economy (3.7)
4. Public Transport (3.7)
5. Moving Around (3.7)



WHAT HAS CHANGED IN SOUTH SINCE 2023

Since we last asked in 2023, in **South** there has been an improvement for 5 of the themes, with scores for 1 theme remaining the same and a lower score for 8 themes (**moving around, public transport, traffic and parking, streets and spaces, facilities and services, work and local economy, feeling safe and influence and sense control**).

Table xx: Comparison of locality mean scores with 2023.

	2023	2025	Change
Moving Around	4.1	3.7	-0.4
Public Transport	3.9	3.7	-0.2
Traffic and Parking	3.5	3.3	-0.2
Streets and Spaces	4.0	3.9	-0.1
Natural Space	4.7	4.9	0.2
Play and Recreation	4.0	4.2	0.2
Facilities and Services	4.0	3.9	-0.1
Work and Local Economy	4.2	3.7	-0.5
Housing and Community	4.0	4.4	0.4
Social Interaction	4.0	4	0.0
Identity and Belonging	4.0	4.1	0.1
Feeling Safe	4.3	4.2	-0.1
Care and Maintenance	3.6	3.9	0.3
Influence and Sense of Control	3.4	3.2	-0.2

WHAT SCORED HIGHEST AND LOWEST IN SOUTH PRIORITY NEIGHBOURHOODS

The table below shows the 5 lowest and highest ranking themes for Priority Neighbourhoods within the South locality. As with the overall locality results, Influence and Sense of Control and Traffic and Parking were the lowest ranked themes for South PNs. Natural Space was the highest ranked theme for Central and North priority neighbourhood, but only the 4th highest for South priority neighbourhoods where Public Transport was the highest ranked

Since we last asked in 2023, in South Priority neighbourhoods there has been improvements in 9 themes, 3 have stayed the same and decreases in 2 themes (work and local economy and feeling safe)

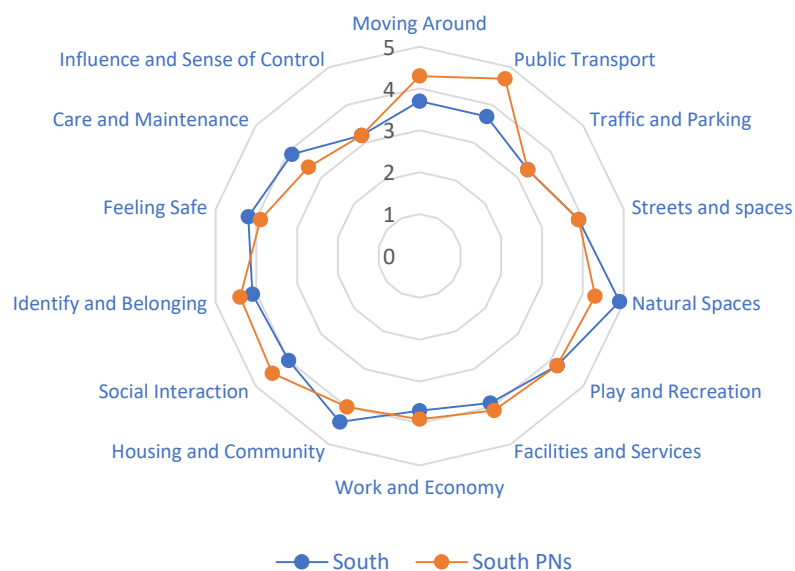
The **five highest** ranking themes were:

1. Public Transport (4.7)
2. Social Interaction (4.5)
3. Identify and Belonging (4.4)
4. Natural Spaces (4.3)
5. Moving Around (4.3)

The **five lowest** ranking themes were:

1. Influence and Sense of Control (3.2)
2. Traffic and Parking (3.3)
3. Care and Maintenance (3.4)
4. Streets and spaces (3.9)
5. Feeling Safe (3.9)

Mean scores, South and Priority neighbourhoods



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

Table xx: Highest and lowest ranking themes South

South			South PNs	
	Theme	Mean	Theme	Mean
Lowest	Influence and Sense of Control	3.2	Influence and Sense of Control	3.2
	Traffic and Parking	3.3	Traffic and Parking	3.3
	Moving Around	3.7	Care and Maintenance	3.4
	Public Transport	3.7	Streets and spaces	3.9
	Work and Economy	3.7	Feeling Safe	3.9
Highest	Natural Spaces	4.9	Public Transport	4.7
	Housing and Community	4.4	Social Interaction	4.5
	Play and Recreation	4.2	Identify and Belonging	4.4
	Feeling Safe	4.2	Natural Spaces	4.3
	Identify and Belonging	4.1	Moving Around	4.3

WHAT PEOPLE IN SOUTH SAID

A total of **3369** comments were received across each of the 14 themes, combining all 'good' now comments, and all 'improve' comments received by participants from the South Locality who completed the survey or attended an in person event.

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

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



TOP THINGS THAT THE SOUTH LOCALITY THINK ARE 'GOOD NOW' AND THINGS THAT 'COULD MAKE ABERDEEN BETTER'

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

Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Moving Around	Bus: Participants appreciate the convenience and practicality of the bus routes and the accessibility to key locations. Also highlighted was the good frequency and technology help participants know when and where to catch buses. <i>"Buses are OK with good technology to know what to get, when and where."</i> Walking and Cycling: Participants highlighted the accessible and safe pedestrian layout. <i>"Walking around Aberdeen is great. With the current city layout, there isn't much that can be or even need be improved."</i> Additionally, the availability of cycling options was also highlighted. <i>"I can walk or cycle most places."</i> Road: Some participants mentioned broader infrastructure improvements, specifically the Western Peripheral Route (AWPR), as key contributors to better connectivity and ease of travel. <i>"Western peripheral route has made a huge difference."</i>	Cycling: Some participants have highlighted concerns about insufficient safe cycle routes and that existing cycle routes often poorly designed or maintained. Participants suggest dedicated, segregated cycle lanes separate from roads and pedestrian paths. <i>"We need more safe junctions for cyclists and more safe road crossing points for pedestrians."</i> Additionally, participants suggested the need for more parking facilities in the city. <i>"More cycle parking racks would encourage people to cycle..."</i> Pedestrian Safety: Participants highlighted hazards such as uneven pavements. <i>"Some pavements very uneven, a trip hazard. Eg Duthie Terrace."</i> There is also a call for better street lighting. <i>"Better street lighting for safety including parks."</i> Public Transport: Some participants express dissatisfaction of the city's bus services for being unreliable, expensive, and insufficiently connected to all areas. <i>"More buses and cheaper fares to Hazlehead as it has no direct bus service."</i> Low Emission Zones (LEZ): While some participants appreciate the environmental intentions, others feel these measures have disrupted daily commutes and city accessibility. <i>"LEZ were NOT WELL THOUGHT OUT. I understand that the layout of Aberdeen's city centre has contributed but to get to certain places you need to do a massive detour - putting out much more fumes. It's counter intuitive."</i>

		Roadworks: Participants express frustration with ongoing roadworks and perceived lack of progress. <i>"Roadworks taking months to finish."</i> Furthermore, participants highlight the need for improved road conditions. <i>"Potholes everywhere. Countesswell road, Froghall road, in general most of the streets are in really bad conditions."</i>
Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Public Transport	Concessions: Some participants have highlighted that public transport in Aberdeen demonstrates a focus on accessibility. <i>"There is a bus service with wheelchair access."</i> Additionally, participants express satisfaction of bus initiative and concessions. <i>"The concession bus passes for the service users are great. It enables them to access services in town and take somebody along when support is needed."</i> Reliability and Frequency: Some participants expressed their satisfaction of Aberdeen's bus services for the reliability, frequency and ability to serve various routes effectively. <i>"Frequent and reliable, good links to a lot of areas."</i> Technology and Information: Participants express satisfaction for information apps and communication about late buses enhance the convenience of using public transport in Aberdeen. <i>"The bus App is great for real-time information and makes journey planning easy."</i> Environmental Benefits: The introduction of electric buses are appreciated as taking steps to lower its environmental impact. <i>"Frequency is fine, electric buses are great - less noise and less pollution."</i>	Affordability: The cost of using public transportation is a major concern for some participants. High bus fares often discourage usage and make driving a more economical alternative. Some participants suggested that lower prices would encourage more people to shift from cars to buses. <i>"I don't know that they're very affordable to everyone, nor cheap enough to encourage more people out of their cars."</i> Scheduling, Waiting Times and Integration: some participants have highlighted the overcrowded buses, long waiting times, and inconsistent scheduling, particularly during peak hours. <i>"Some of the buses are overcrowded. More buses are needed at busy times."</i> Additionally, participants suggest better integration and cooperation to make public transportation more seamless. <i>"Stagecoach and First Bus don't even accept each other's tickets, so whichever bus company you use inbound, you have to use outbound."</i> Accessibility and Routes: Accessibility issues were raised, notably for elderly and those in areas poorly served by existing routes. <i>"Cannot get a bus to the city centre anymore. Real problem for the elderly."</i> There was also an identified need for more seating and bus shelters. <i>"More seating and shelter for those less able."</i> Environmentally Friendly Buses: Some participants are calling for the adoption of environmentally friendly transportation solutions. <i>"More use of low/zero emissions vehicles. Bus laybys installed to ensure that other traffic is not held up at every bus stop."</i>

Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Traffic and Parking	Parking Availability: Participants generally appreciate the availability of parking spaces across the city and in residential areas. "Plenty parking around Aberdeen." Traffic Levels: Some participants find Aberdeen relatively manageable when it comes to traffic. "Traffic levels tend to be reasonable...especially compared against other city locations." Road conditions: participants had mixed opinions, particularly on driving experience and potholes. "Everything outside of the city centre is pretty good, except the potholes."	Parking Concerns: Participants have highlighted concerns relating to high costs, limited spaces, and accessibility challenges. These concerns have discouraged visits to the city centre. "Parking in Aberdeen is very expensive. This contributes to people avoiding the town and using out-of-town shopping areas." And "<i>Parking is limited and expensive. Public car parks (Denburn and Train Station) feel unsafe....</i>" Traffic Flow: Some participants highlight concerns about traffic flow, as well as frustration with the bus gates and LEZ as a barrier. "Not enough parking where needed and difficult to access due to bus gates etc."
Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Streets and Spaces	Green Space: Participants express appreciation for the city's parks and gardens. "A lot of green spaces around the city." Cleanliness: Participants highlight that the city are "<i>generally clean and tidy.</i>" Additionally, some participants also highlight the community effort in maintaining these areas. "<i>Community efforts in areas like Peterculter help maintain high standards.</i>" Public Amenities: some participants express positive feedback of public amenities, such as libraries. "<i>Libraries are brilliant.</i>" Participants also express appreciation for historical landmarks. "<i>UTG and Marischal College are fantastic. A glimpse of pride in the city.</i>"	Infrastructure and Maintenance: Some participants have voiced frustration with the condition of infrastructure, particularly roads and pavements. "<i>Road quality is very poor, loads of potholes and uneven surface.</i>" Availability of Green Spaces: Some participants express issues with lack of green spaces "<i>We need far more green spaces and large play parks for families, teens and children.</i>" Safety: some participants express their concerns over safety. "...lack of wardens or Police patrols for youth disorder." Building maintenance and Street Cleaning: Participants highlighted the need for cleaner streets and better building maintenance, as well as issues with litter, dog mess and chewing gum. "<i>Buildings need to be maintained better, for example force owners in union street to clean them up and get weeds out of the roof etc. union at should sparkle. Pavements are dirty, lots of chewing gum, litter and dog poop.</i>"

Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Natural Spaces	Accessibility: participants highlight efforts to enhance accessibility in recent upgrades. <i>"Some paths have been upgraded around Seaton and the River Don. This helps wheelchair and pushchair users to access the outdoors."</i> The city's proximity to natural spaces and the countryside is seen as an advantage. Participants value the ease of access to these areas, which enhances their quality of life. <i>"Aberdeen is a small city. No-one needs to move very far to access natural space."</i> Parks and Natural Spaces: participants praised the upkeep of the parks. <i>"Parks very well maintained."</i>	Lack of Accessible Natural Spaces: Participants have highlighted concerns about the limited availability of accessible natural spaces and green areas within the city. <i>"I don't have access to any natural spaces in the city. Aberdeen is notorious for its low level of green space, and yet they are still removing St Fittick's park in favour of an industrial estate when we already have acres of vacant and derelict industrial estate land in the city. Why is nobody talking about restoring nature on some of this vacant and derelict land?"</i> Safety: Safety in green spaces is a concern for some participants. Suggestions include increased police patrols and better lighting to address vandalism, anti-social behaviour, and a general sense of insecurity. <i>"police patrols to stop kids damaging the area."</i> Maintenance: participants express concerns about the inadequate maintenance of parks and public areas. Issues such as litter, overgrown vegetation, and uneven surfaces are frequently mentioned, along with calls for better upkeep and enforcement of regulations. <i>"Pavements that have tree roots not very level and can cause a trip hazard. Dog mess, owners need fined."</i> Preservation: The preservation of existing green spaces, particularly against industrial development, is a recurring theme. Participants express frustration with development of areas, such as St Fittick's Park. <i>"Stop big companies taking over green space that has been enjoyed for many years by wildlife. Eg took away Nigg Bay for new harbour then now St Fittick's park."</i> Parking challenges: participants express mixed feelings about recreational amenities like food trucks and motorhomes, with some participants appreciating their presence while others note the negative impact on

		parking availability and convenience. <i>"No places to park near the beach area anymore due to an overabundance of food stalls and motor homes parked 24 hours."</i>
Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Play and Recreation	Parks and Green Spaces: Participants express appreciation for parks and green spaces accessibility and upkeep. <i>"Good availability of parks."</i> Some participants highlight the value of these areas for relaxation and recreation, particularly for families with young children. <i>"Great area with parks for kids, all well cared."</i> Facilities: Participants appreciate the amount of facilities such as sports venues and pitches. <i>"Good breadth of sports venues and pitches."</i>	Accessibility: participants express their concern regarding physical access, affordability, and inclusivity. There is a demand for facilities that are reachable for all, regardless of location or financial capability. <i>"Access to sport for residents at reasonable costs."</i> Safety: participants highlight concerns about lighting, and secure play areas. <i>"Better lighting in parks, especially during winter months."</i> Some participants also express the need for safety points. <i>"Lost child info points in large parks to assist carers."</i> Maintenance and Cleanliness: participants highlighted the need for improved maintenance and cleanliness across recreational facilities to ensure usability. <i>"Better dog bin facilities to support cleanliness."</i> Affordability: participants express concerns about rising costs for recreational facilities and advocating for budget-friendly options. <i>"Cheaper access to gyms, swimming pools, and other facilities."</i> Indoor Facilities: Participants highlighted the need for more indoor facility options due to weather and to ensure year-round recreational opportunities. <i>"Additional indoor recreational options during bad weather."</i>
Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Facilities and Services	Local Amenities: participants appreciate the variety and quality of shops, cafes, and other amenities available in the area, some within convenient walking distance. <i>"Good variety of shops, doctors, library."</i>	Health Services: The availability and quality of healthcare services are a concern for some participants. Issues with accessing doctors and dentists, long wait times, and a lack of mental health services were frequently mentioned. <i>"More mental health support." "Doctors appointments and hospital referral waiting times need improvement."</i>

	Community Atmosphere: participants highlight the supportive and friendly community environment in the area. <i>"Great people."</i> Additionally, participants appreciate the interactions, safety, and the sense of belonging fostered through local initiatives and shared spaces. <i>"People feel safe when walking, cycling or being in a wheelchair or using a walker."</i> Accessibility: Some participants feel that services, shops, and amenities are accessible, as well as the reliable transport links that connect participants to various facilities within walking or short travel distances. <i>"All necessary facilities are within a 15 minute walk or 5 minute bus journey."</i>	Closure of Essential Facilities: Participants express frustration over the closure and neglect of vital community resources such as libraries, post offices, and community centres. They believe these facilities are essential. <i>"Libraries provide a vital link for the public to access many services."</i> Public Safety and facilities for vulnerable people: Safety and the overall environment of Aberdeen were also themes. Participants express concerns about safety around schools, Union Street, and the need for better community policing and facilities to support individuals experiencing homelessness or substance use. <i>"It's not a nice place to be now after dark - nor during the day in some parts of Union St."</i> Support for Local Businesses: Some participants believe that high business rates are discouraging local businesses and eroding the city. They called for measures to support shops and local enterprises to restore the community's commercial landscape. <i>"Council charges have made it possible for local businesses to lease property."</i> Support for Vulnerable Populations: Participants have highlighted the need for greater support for vulnerable populations, including those requiring social care, food banks, affordable housing, and mental health services. <i>"More investment in foodbanks/befrienders/translators is necessary."</i> Some participants feel that existing provisions are inadequate and underfunded, leaving these groups without the assistance they need. <i>"All we ever see is cuts to services for vulnerable people, including community services, libraries closing, pools closing, etc."</i>
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Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Housing and Community	Housing Availability and Development: Participants suggested the availability of housing is generally seen as sufficient, with new developments actively contributing to the stock of homes. <i>"More social housing being built. Variety of home in the area. New houses are being built."</i> Community Spirit and Inclusivity: Participants highlight the positive sense of community in their areas, with some noting efforts to support diverse needs and foster inclusivity. <i>"Good and inclusive community."</i> Adaptation: Participants express appreciation for well-designed homes, energy-efficient builds, and adaptations to support people with special needs or the elderly. <i>"Homes are well kept and there are options for elderly in terms of adapted homes."</i> Neighborhood Appeal: Some participants cherish the peace and safety of their neighborhoods. <i>"The area where I live is attractive and has a nice community sense."</i>	Oversupply and Empty Properties: Participants express their disappointment by the apparent oversupply of houses and flats, some of which remain unsold or abandoned. <i>"We have a very large number of houses and flats in our neighbourhood that have been for sale for more than 12 months. There appears to be a huge oversupply, with all of the misery of negative equity and unsellable properties that comes with that. Why are they building hundreds of new properties in the suburbs every year, when there is such an oversupply in the city?"</i> Impact of New Developments Participants highlight the strain on existing city infrastructure caused by new developments. Schools, social housing, and common spaces are often overlooked in favour of rapid housing expansion, creating significant challenges for the community. <i>"School is packed to the limits and more multi-apartment buildings are being built. This issue should be resolved first before expanding numbers of people living in the neighbourhood."</i> Housing Types: Participants highlighted the mismatch between the types of housing being built and the preferences of residents. Some participants express a desire for houses with gardens rather than flats, reflecting a demand for family-friendly and practical living spaces. <i>"There are too many flats in Aberdeen. People want houses with gardens."</i>

Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Work and Local Economy	Employment Opportunities: Participants highlight availability of employment opportunities, particularly in sectors like healthcare. Participants express confidence in the availability of jobs, making it an attractive place for job seekers. <i>"There are lot's of employment opportunities."</i> Volunteering and Training: Participants highlight the opportunities to volunteer and training. <i>"Local community centre and library hold different events around volunteering and training."</i> Local Businesses and Services: Participants express area boasts a lively and supportive local business environment. "A diverse range of shops and services caters to the community's needs. Some good diversity of shops, services etc. Camphill and Newton Dee are exemplars."	Challenges finding jobs and skill-building Opportunities: Participants express the challenges of finding local jobs and meaningful skill-building opportunities, particularly for young people and those in full-time education. <i>"I can't find any local jobs or any local opportunities to build my skills."</i> Infrastructure and Amenities: Participants express the need for better infrastructure to enhance daily life. <i>"Better parking near to the shops."</i> Energy and Economic Transition: Some participants call for Aberdeen to embrace renewable energy industries while collaborating with traditional sectors like oil and gas. <i>"Stop focusing on negatives of the oil and gas industry and work alongside while increasing offshore wind or wave industry."</i>
Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Social Interaction	Sense of Community: Participants appreciate the closeness and friendliness of their neighbours. <i>"The community has opened up since the lockdown again which was partially experienced as isolating."</i> Role of Community Centres and Schools: Some participants expressed local community centres foster social interactions and provide activities and classes. <i>"Again, Inchgarth has many activities which encourage socialising."</i> Additionally, participants suggested schools serve as integration spaces, offering opportunities for both parents and children to engage with the community. <i>"If you're involved with the school there's a lot going on"</i>	Social and Recreational Spaces: Participants have expressed a need for more social and recreational spaces that are not around alcohol consumption. <i>"Unless you want to drink there is literally NOTHING else to do on an evening. Late night cafes are needed."</i> Participants also suggest, affordable venue such as community halls, and spaces for families and children to gather and enjoy. <i>"Community hall could be made available to hire for local people for much cheaper it is now. It could be serving simple meals/soup/beans also on the weekend for families to enjoy a local outing/children to use the hall."</i> Libraries and Community Hubs: Participants have pointed to the importance of public libraries and community hubs as vital spaces for engagement, learning, and socialising. They suggest improvements to

Social Hubs and Amenities: Participants appreciate the availability of outdoor spaces, walking routes, and sports facilities but note that the cost and distance of accessing these amenities can be barriers. <i>“Sport and outdoors activities are available albeit at a cost and some distance.”</i> Furthermore, participants value free activities and emphasises the importance of keeping sports and leisure facilities open. <i>“City centre still has some nice places to meet - good to have free activities like museums / art galleries which often run meetings.”</i> Community Events and Communication: Community councils and local events are well-regarded. <i>“Running groups have been great to meet people and have a sense of connections and community”</i> Participants also expressed the use of social media and local websites for effectively advertise events and keep residents informed. <i>“Whats on Aberdeen website and Event Brite work well. Local community groups also advertise well on posters and FB.”</i> However, some participants expressed the need for advertising for local events and activities. <i>“There seems to be a range of classes offered at community centres, but they are often not well advertised to local people meaning that it is difficult to know what is happening, when and where.”</i> Social Groups and Initiatives: Several social groups and initiatives, such as running groups, knitting groups, and playgroups, contribute to the community’s vibrancy. <i>“Girls who walk is a great initiative”</i> These initiatives foster connections and provide opportunities for social interaction and support. <i>“Family Learning and support group is fantastic!!”</i>	opening hours and accessibility to better serve the community. <i>“Better opening hours for Libraries.”</i> Safety in the City Centre: Concerns about safety in the city centre are raised. Spaces and Activities for Children and Young People: Some participants have voiced their concerns about the lack of clubs or places for their children to socialise and engage in group activities. They call for spaces tailored to young people and families to foster connections and provide meaningful experiences. <i>“My kids hang out at home or their friends’ houses. There are no clubs or places for kids to be together and socialise in groups.”</i> Improving Communication and Awareness: Participants expressed feel there is insufficient information about community happenings. Suggestions to better advertise events and opportunities both online and offline. <i>“More advertisement offline, not everyone is online or on social media.”</i>
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Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Identity and Belonging	Community and Culture: Participants expressed Aberdeen's community spirit is deeply ingrained in its residents, who take pride in fostering a sense of belonging and mutual support. <i>"Living in Newton Dee creates a sense of belonging."</i> Additionally, participants expressed that Aberdeen boasts a rich cultural heritage and historical identity, which are celebrated through events, landmarks, and local history. <i>"Maritime Museum, beach, Art Gallery, His Majesty's Theatre, Music Hall, Fittie—these are the iconic things I think about when I think of Aberdeen."</i> Improvement Initiatives: Participants express Aberdeen's infrastructure and ongoing development efforts enhance the quality of life for its residents. <i>"Ongoing development work in the city appears to be paying off."</i> Inclusivity: Some participants expressed inclusivity within Aberdeen. <i>"A diverse mixture of people live here and mix very well."</i> Festivals and Events: Participants highlighted local events and festivals are vital in bringing the community together and celebrating Aberdeen's culture. <i>"Granite Noir is good.", "Hosting events like bike race legs, light festivals, etc."</i>	Social Issues: Participants highlight safety concerns, with participants expressing the need for greater policing and measures to combat crime and antisocial behaviour. <i>"Disgraceful anti social behaviour and rising crime is a concern. More proactive policing."</i> City Appearance and Maintenance: Some participants expressed their disappointment with the physical condition of Aberdeen, with complaints about the city's appearance and the need for improved maintenance. <i>"The sewage smell at Aberdeen South Harbour is not a good welcome for cruise liners"</i> Community Events: Suggestions for more community-wide events and festivals. <i>"More community wide events for people to take pride in will raise the sense of belonging e.g. tall ships event"</i> Future Planning: Participants recognise the need for strategic planning, particularly in the oil industry. <i>"Need for a plan to address the city's future post-Oil Industry."</i>
Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Feeling Safe	Neighborhood Safety: Participants express their feelings regarding safety in their neighborhoods. For some, the city remains a relatively safe place to live. <i>"Overall, crime levels are pretty low. City centre is relatively safe, but there are areas where this needs improvements."</i>	Security and Policing: Participants call for increased visible policing. <i>"More police on beat."</i> Some participants feel that the lack of police presence contributes to a growing sense of insecurity in the city, especially in the city centre and during late hours. <i>"City centre is full of teenagers causing trouble, drink/drug addicts. Not safe to walk around at night."</i>

	Some participants express support from neighbours and the community. <i>"Strong community of home owners which keep the area safe and maintained."</i> Police: Visible police presence is appreciated by some participants. <i>"good to see Police on the roads quite frequently."</i>	Street Lighting: Participants highlighted inadequate street lighting as a concern. <i>"Street lighting must be brighter. Light up parks. "Poorly lit areas, especially parks and specific neighbourhoods, contribute to participants feelings of vulnerability."</i> Education: Participants highlighted a concern is the need for better education about societal issues such as violence, knife crime. Antisocial Behaviour and Activities for Young People: Participants have expressed frustrations regarding antisocial behaviour, particularly among teenagers and young adults. <i>"Something should be done about the kids on e-bikes and scooters that are out trying door handles etc."</i> Some participants believe that providing structured activities and spaces for older children can help address these issues while fostering community engagement. <i>"Have places for older children to go and play or community centres to teach kids how to build or create.""</i> Drug Use and Crime: Drug-related crimes and inadequate mental health services are viewed by some participants as factors affecting safety. <i>"Drug use and crime are prevalent in all parts of town."</i> Additionally, participants have called for enhanced drug support programmes and stricter policing of drug-related activities. <i>"Lack of mental health services and drug abuse programmes mean that those struggling with substance abuse issues aren't getting the support they need and have to resort to alternative means of support, which can lead to increased crime."</i>
Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Care and Maintenance	Cleanliness and Maintenance: Participants express appreciation for the cleanliness and tidiness of their surroundings. From streets to public spaces, efforts to maintain high standards of hygiene are acknowledged. <i>"Generally clean." The absence of excessive litter or graffiti contributes to a welcoming and well-</i>	Road Conditions: Participants have emphasised the poor condition of roads and the need for improved infrastructure maintenance. <i>"Condition of roads is very poor."</i> Reduced Maintenance: Participants highlighted that maintenance has reduced. <i>"Cutbacks resulting in maintenance being reduced/stopped. Grass</i>

	<i>maintained environment. "Local streets are in the main kept tidy."</i> Parks and Green Spaces: Local parks and green spaces highlighted as being well cared for. <i>"Parks well maintained."</i> Sense of Ownership: Participants express pride in their community by maintaining their own properties and contributing to the upkeep of the area. <i>"Locally, people care about their place."</i>	<i>cutting/pot holes being two prime examples."</i> Concerns raised about poor quality of council properties.
Theme	'Good' now	'Improve' for the future
Influence and Sense of Control	Community Councils: The community council's involvement and efforts to engage residents have been expressed by participants. <i>"Community council is active."</i> Participation and Feedback: Participants also highlighted regular consultations and initiatives, providing a platform to voice their opinions. <i>"Surveys like this are useful."</i> Some participants highlighted a sense of collective action and collaboration among the community, with participants feeling empowered to share their views and influence decisions. <i>"I think collectively the community does have a voice."</i>	Listening to Feedback: Some participants feel that their voices are not truly heard during public consultations. <i>"I've almost given up interacting with the process, because it seems to be a mechanism for telling people why they're wrong and shutting down concerns than actually listening."</i> There is also frustration that feedback is ignored, leaving citizens feeling excluded from the decision-making process. <i>"If you ask for local feedback and the majority don't agree with a plan or suggest improvements then listen to them and don't just ignore them and go ahead with a bad plan."</i> Transparency and Communication: Participants highlighted the need for greater clarity and openness. Participants express they want to be informed about decisions and understand the rationale behind them, some perceive a lack of transparency to be a concern. <i>"A lot of surveys are conducted by the council but a lot of the time it feels like the opinions of the people are ignored. So there is an attempt at inclusion in decision making but it appears to be just a tick box exercise."</i>

WHAT OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAID

587 children and young people who took part in a children and young people designed versions (**533 in person and 54 online**). 196 children and young people from schools within the South Locality participated.

Scoring for in person children and young people's

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

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



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

The table below shows scoring by school/centre

	Streets, squares and buildings	Play hang out, games and hobbies	School, libraries, shops and services	Meeting and talking with people	Having our say and being listened to
Aberdeen Grammar	5.1	5.2	5.5	5.0	5.1
Aberdeen Sports Village	4.0	5.7	5.0	1.0	5.2
Dyce Academy	5.1	5.0	4.6	4.8	4.6
Lochside Academy	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.9
Northfield Academy	4.8	5.4	5.0	5.0	4.8
Northfield Youth Work	4.5	5.7	5.3	5.1	5.0

St Machar Academy	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.6
St Machar Youth Work	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.9	2.6
Missing	2.7	5.0	4.1	5.5	4.2

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

Scoring for online children and young people's survey

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

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

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

Traffic and parking	Places to cross/Low pollution levels	38.5%	Make streets less busy	58.3%
	Quiet streets	30.8%	Stop fast driving/Lower amount of traffic/Better places to cross/ Make streets less busy/wider paths	50%
	Slow traffic/Traffic free areas	15.4%	Traffic free areas/Tackle high pollution areas/more short and direct routes	25%
Influence and sense of control	I feel included	64.3%	I could be given more opportunities to share my views and ideas	57.1%
	My views are considered important	28.6%	I could be told more often that my views are important	35.7%
	It is easy to take part	21.4%	I could be given more chances to take part	21.4%
Care and maintenance	Clean and tidy	50%	Tackle dog poo	78.6%
	Places to recycle	43.8%	Tackle vandalism	50%
	Litter picks	18.8%	Stop broken things being dumped/Stop things being left unfixed	35.7%
Feeling safe	I feel safe during the day	85.7%	Tackle ant-social behaviour	78.6%
	There's good lighting/There are safe play spaces	28.6%	It could feel safer at night	71.4%
	It feels safe at night	14.3%	The lighting could be better	64.3%
Identity and belonging	The people	50%	More gala days/festivals	50%
	Arts/history/local museums	35.7%	Links to local museums	42.9%
	Food	21.4%	More culture/more arts/clearer ties to history/celebrations of food	35.7%
Facilities and services	There are good shops/access to doctors/local school	75%	A wider variety of clubs	72.7%
	Access to dentist/local libraries	50%	School improvements	54.4%
	Access to a sports hall/ choice of clubs/a community hall/easy to find who you need	33%	More shops/better access to doctors	45.5%
Work and local economy	There are jobs for my family	75%	More jobs nearby	62.5%
	There is volunteering	58.3%	More opportunities to train and learn new things/ fewer jobs being done far away	37.5%
	There are jobs nearby	50%	More volunteering in the area	25%
Housing and community	The houses feel like they are a home	90.9%	Homes could look better/the place could be more friendly for families	44.4%
	There are green gardens/ there are small houses	81.8%	More small houses/more big houses	22.2%
	There are homes that look good/ there are big houses/ there are more families	72.2%	There could be more green gardens/more flats/the houses could feel more like a home/the housing could be more of a variety of shapes and sizes/ Less rubbish in the streets	11.1%

			and less graffiti would hugely improve the look of the buildings	
Social interaction	Meeting friends	63.6%	More places to hang out/more chances to gather with friends	60%
	Cafes	54.5%	More child friendly spaces	50%
	There are child friendly places/Plenty of places to hang out	45.5%	It is too noisy	30%

WHAT PEOPLE FROM SOUTH LOCALITY SAID ABOUT OUR PROPOSALS?

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

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

Proposal	South Overall % Yes	South PN % Yes	Overall % yes
Proposal 1: Work with partners to provide accessible community based learning opportunities (e.g. skills in digital inclusion, literacy, numeracy, English for speakers of other languages, and financial resilience) for adults, particularly those furthest from inclusion and facing disadvantages, to foster lifelong learning, positive pathways and reduce reoffending.	82.2% (Base = 191)	90.3% (Base = 31)	86.2% (Base = 741)
Proposal 2: Provide targeted learning opportunities for young people to address key issues, provide opportunities to gain skills, improve mental and physical wellbeing, and have their voices heard.	91.3% (Base = 195)	96.0% (Base = 25)	93.4% (Base = 731)
Proposal 3: Refresh our Primary Care Improvement Plan to improved access to local primary care services.	93.5% (Base = 186)	92.6% (Base = 27)	93.6% (Base = 715)
Proposal 4: Review the allocation of social care resources to ensure more community and home-based services allowing people to live independently in their own homes.	92.4% (Base = 185)	100% (Base = 27)	93.4% (Base = 731)
Proposal 5: To introduce a visitor levy on overnight stays in places like hotels and guesthouses, with the money raised being spent in ways to benefit the visitor economy. The proposed levy is an additional charge of around	42.6% (Base = 190)	45.2% (Base = 31)	45.9% (Base = 734)

£5 for each room for each night. There will be some exemptions, including people with disabilities.			
Proposal 6: If the visitor levy is introduced, we think some of money raised should be spent on more things to see and do in the city, such as big events, exhibitions, festivals, business events and sport championships.	60.7% (Base = 178)	44.8% (Base = 29)	61.4% (Base = 681)
Proposal 7: Other uses for the visitor levy money could be on improvements to places which benefit local people as well as tourists, for example museums, theatres, sport venues and parks.	73.3% (Base = 172)	60.7% (Base = 28)	73.2% (Base = 672)
Proposal 8: Another possible use for the money raised by the visitor levy could be to help promote the city to more visitors and major event organisers, by telling them more about the city, its facilities and what is going on.	50.9% (Base = 171)	48.3% (Base = 29)	56.0% (Base = 654)

Work and Local Economy

Proposal	South % Yes	South PN % Yes	Overall % yes
Proposal 1: Provide a range of activity to improve people's physical and mental health and reduce harm ensuring people can continue to work and make a positive contribution to the economy whilst also improving their own financial wellbeing.	91.5% (Base = 188)	93.5% (Base = 31)	92.3% (Base = 710)
Proposal 2: Provide accessible opportunities for people to build skills (education, training or retraining, community work and volunteering) to support them access work.	94.2% (Base = 189)	91.2% (Base = 34)	94.1% (Base = 708)
Proposal 3: Work with young people to promote children's rights and provide targeted support to reduce the poverty-related attainment gap and support employment and positive destinations, through relevant and accredited learning opportunities.	90.2% (Base = 184)	93.9% (Base = 33)	91.6% (Base = 690)

Social interaction

Proposal	South % Yes	South PN % Yes	Overall % yes
Proposal 1: Work with partners to develop, deliver and promote a range of activities in our communities to increase social interaction and improve both physical and mental health and wellbeing.	94.0% (Base = 184)	93.9% (Base = 33)	93.1% (Base = 699)

Influence and Sense of Control

Proposal	South % Yes	South PN % Yes	Overall % yes
Proposal 1: Continue our inclusive approach when designing and delivering services ensuring	88.6% (Base = 184)	91.2% (Base = 34)	91.9% (Base = 669)

the voices of our communities are heard and help influence decision making.			
Proposal 2: Provide capacity building support to communities, all ages, to support them to have a voice, participate in decision making and take action to create, develop and sustain local programmes and activities which address emerging priorities.	90.8% (Base = 184)	88.2% (Base = 34)	91.9% (Base = 628)
Proposal 3: Provide capacity building support to communities, all ages, to support them to have a voice, participate in decision making and take action to create, develop and sustain local programmes and activities which address emerging priorities.	89.8% (Base = 187)	91.2% (Base = 34)	91.5% (Base = 660)

Housing and Community

Proposal	South % Yes	South PN % Yes	Overall % yes
Proposal 1: We will work collaboratively to support a sufficient supply of housing across all tenures to meet the varying needs of our citizens and to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring.	86.1% (Base = 209)	94.1% (Base = 34)	89.1% (Base = 746)
Proposal 2: We are committed to enhancing the condition of all homes, including improving their energy efficiency which will help to alleviate fuel poverty.	84.1% (Base = 208)	97% (Base = 33)	88.5% (Base = 742)
Proposal 3: We will help to create thriving, inclusive communities across the city which support independent living and involve local people in decision making about the places they want to live.	92.3% (Base = 183)	93.9% (Base = 33)	93.3% (Base = 686)

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- Results analysed by Community Planning Aberdeen, the Locality Empowerment Groups and Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships, incorporating active engagement with communities to gather their ideas for change, to support the development of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans 2026-36
- 27 August 2025 - Towards a Fairer Future Aberdeen 2036 Conference
- Stakeholder thematic sessions – Jan 2026
- Public consultation on draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans – Feb/March 2026
- Final draft Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans approved by CPA Board – June 2026
- Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans approved and opportunities to get involved promoted – June 2026
- Keep up to date with the Local Outcome Improvement Plan development at www.communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/
- Health and Social Care Strategic Plan: consultation comments used to update the Strategic Plan which will then make its way through an internal consultation process before being presented to the Integration Joint Board meeting on 1 July 2025 for final approval.
- Local Housing Strategy: consultation comments used to update the Local Housing Strategy which will be presented to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on 26 August 2025 for final approval.
- Community Learning and Development (CLD) plan: Feedback across CLD related themes shared and considered with city wide CLD partners to inform the 2025-27 CLD plan.
- Visitor Levy: Results will be analysed by officers in City Development and Regeneration, in conjunction with the wider Visitor Levy consultation, and including written submissions from businesses and representative organisations in the sector. Visitor Levy Report to Finance and Resources Committee on 6 August 2025 with recommendations and appendices, including data and comments from the engagement
- The Evidence Report to inform production of the next Local Development Plan will be reported to Council for approval in Summer 2025, and submitted to Scottish Ministers for their review thereafter. The Play Sufficiency Assessment will be reported to Council at the same time.
- Public consultation on Proposed Local Development Plan and Draft Local Transport Strategy - Autumn 2026.
- Keep up to date with Local Development Plan progress via [Keep in Touch with Latest News - Local Development Plan - Commonplace](#)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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