

Planning Committee

2.00pm, Wednesday, 14 March 2018

Community engagement in planning – detailing proposals

Item number	8.1
Report number	
Executive/routine	Routine
Wards	All
Council Commitments	

Executive Summary

On 17 August 2017 the Planning Committee requested that a report be submitted on proposals for expanding community engagement in the planning system. The subsequent report to the 12 October Planning Committee set out the scope for a review of current practices with a view to increasing participation in the planning process.

This report sets out more detailed proposals for improving engagement and discharges the request by Committee.

Community engagement in planning – detailing proposals

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
 - 1.1.1 Notes the content of the report in terms of how the planning service intends to improve engagement in the planning process;
 - 1.1.2 Agrees to the proposals to involve more children and young people in planning projects and processes;
 - 1.1.3 Notes that the planning service will work with the development community to encourage the involvement of children and young people at pre-application stages of major planning applications;
 - 1.1.4 Agrees to engage with the process to increase participation in the planning system; and
 - 1.1.5 Requests a progress report be presented to Planning Committee on the outcomes of these engagement processes in 12 months.

2. Background

- 2.1 The review of engagement processes is timely in the context of the review of the Scottish Planning system. The Planning Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament on 4 December 2017 and contains a number of proposals which could impact on engagement as part of the planning process. This includes the role of the proposed regional partnerships, changes to the local development plan timescales, the creation of 'local place plans' and how resources could be used to improve engagement processes.
- 2.2 Legislative change is only part of the review of the planning system and the Council will continue to work with the Scottish Government on all aspects of the review and specifically on processes for improved engagement. The review provides a number of opportunities to promote new ideas and ways of working.
- 2.3 The proposals as set out below will go some way to improving engagement undertaken by the planning service and will be most effective when delivered in partnership with other Council services, such as Communities and Families, the Locality teams and external partners.

- 2.4 The Year of Young People 2018 (YOYP) has provided an additional impetus to get more children and young people involved in planning. The planning service has had discussions with Communities and Families to establish opportunities for the greater involvement of young people in planning, reflecting the purpose of this year, to *'give young people a stronger voice on issues which affect their lives, showcase their ideas and talents, and ultimately, aim to challenge status quo and create a more positive perception of them in society.'*
- 2.5 At the end of January 2018, PAS (Planning Aid Scotland) launched a Youth Volunteer programme to 'promote active citizenship among 16-25 year olds, encourage young people to be actively involved in placemaking in their community and broaden young people's skills and confidence to participate in the decision-making processes in their place'. As outlined below, the planning service is already working with PAS and others to deliver on this programme.
- 2.6 This report sets out progress to date and proposals for future engagement, and responds to the request made by Planning Committee on 17 August 2017.

3. Main report

Progress to date

- 3.1 Since reporting to the Planning Committee on 12 October 2017, the planning service has commenced the process to engage children and young people in planning in the city.
- 3.2 Working with PAS, in December, three workshop sessions were held with schools in the east of the city. These were Hermitage Park Primary School, Craigentenny Primary School, and Leith Academy. The sessions involved a general introduction to the role of planning, the use of the Place Standard and their suggestions for how their local area could change in the future. The reason for selecting this area of the city was to enable the outcomes to be used in the process to review of the Leith Docks Development Framework and prepare the next Local Development Plan. The wider outcomes will also be of use to the North East Locality team. The detailed programme and outcomes from these workshops is set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 The next step is to continue to expand the involvement of children and young people in the planning process. The feedback from the schools, (children and teaching staff) has been positive. There is clearly an appetite for this type of engagement, continuing the dialogue and developing a better understanding of how young people can affect change in planning as a democratic process.
- 3.4 The proposal is to work with PAS and Communities and Families to develop the relationship with schools in the city, focussing on areas of city which will see significant change in the future. The planning service will embed engagement with young people as part of its projects in this coming year, as set out below.

Proposals for improving engagement

- 3.5 The Building Standards service has recently undertaken ‘customer focus groups’ with defined customer groups such as architects, engineers and house-builders. The use of these smaller groups has been successful in getting more meaningful dialogue with defined outcomes from these sessions. The intention is to extend the use of this model across planning projects.
- 3.6 In using this method, the service will define our customer groups and ensure these are engaged as part of these projects. This will enable the service to hear from those who, for whatever reasons, do not normally get involved in planning processes.
- 3.7 The use of a ‘focus group’ approach to engagement, would not replace wider engagement exercises, normally open to anyone, but would help to garner views from a more diverse range of participants.
- 3.8 To help support this, in relation to major planning applications, the pre-application consultation guidance for developers and agents will be amended to include specific reference to involving children and young people at the Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) stage. This will be done through communication with these groups sharing examples of how this can work in practice.
- 3.9 The majority of day-to-day engagement with the planning service is through commenting on planning proposals with customers using the ‘planning portal’ to view and comment on applications. The portal allows customers to ‘track’ applications with notifications provided on their status. The portal is due to be upgraded this summer and the planning service will work with the suppliers to deliver improvements to make this a more user-friendly experience. The current guide on, ‘How to comment on Planning Proposals and Applications’ will in turn be updated, setting out how customers can track specific applications.

Children, young people and planning

- 3.10 In exploring the options for a ‘youth planning forum’, learning from the work with schools to date and in discussion with Communities and Families, it is not proposed to establish a “forum” but rather to use a mechanism to engage children and young people that will deliver better results and reach a wider audience. A “forum” would be limited by issues such as the school calendar and working arrangements such as supervision. Instead, embedding this engagement in to existing youth networks and programmes, including the Year of Young People programme, will help to make the best use of resources.
- 3.11 To this end, the intention is to extend the programme to include more schools, particularly in areas of significant change. Schools will be one way to reach young people and links to other local youth organisations will be made when carrying out engagement activities. This will include working with Young Edinburgh Action (YEA) as a group which ‘enables young people to set an agenda for action and supports young people to undertake research and make recommendations on topics about which they feel strongly, moving away from formalised participation structures

towards opening up spaces for inquiry, dialogue and action enabling young people's meaningful participation and active citizenship'.

- 3.12 Working with Communities and Families, a programme will be prepared, incorporating the projects set out below to involve young people in the planning process. This will include, developing co-designed approaches: working with young people to get their views on, and ideas for, effective ways of engaging young people across the city and getting their views on co-designing social media messages and which platforms are likely to be most effective.
- 3.13 The service will continue to work with PAS on specific projects to engage children and young people and potentially access their Youth Volunteer Programme to promote participation. This will bring benefits in terms of the valuable contribution young people can make as active citizens in a changing city. Engaging children and young people from a range of backgrounds, not just on planning processes, but also exposing them to possible future careers and interests in the built environment. This also contributes towards the aspiration for 'inclusive growth' in the city.

Increasing the use of digital technology

- 3.14 As noted previously, the planning service already makes use of social media (Twitter, a blog and Instagram) to inform and engage people in the planning process. The intention is, particularly with larger projects such as the local development plan, to extend the use of these platforms, alongside other means of engagement. This will include providing wider access to social media to planning staff, setting out a process for content and monitoring.
- 3.15 The planning service recently undertook training with community councils to help them make better use of social media. The intention is to continue to support these groups in sharing relevant planning issues.
- 3.16 The planning service is developing the greater use of video as one way to simplify complex information. The Edinburgh Planning blog has been used to [host video content](#) and the service will extend the use of this format.

Engagement in emerging plans and projects

- 3.17 The next Edinburgh Local Development Plan
 - 3.17.1 Proposals for engagement on the next Local Development Plan (LDP) are progressing and lessons have been learnt from the previous plan. One key aspect, will be maintaining the level of information and engagement throughout the plan-making process, avoiding long gaps between information sharing.
 - 3.17.2 The LDP project plan has set out ways to increase and focus engagement. This includes a 'LDP children and young people engagement programme', as a central plank of the communication and engagement strategy, alongside the 'community briefings'. This envisages covering all secondary schools at each stage of the plan preparation. At the Main Issues Report stage, the opportunity to bring community council representatives in to events with

young people will be explored, so as views between these groups can be shared.

3.17.3 Increasing the profile of the local development plan will be an important aspect of this process and will be done through a variety of means such as the greater use of social media and targeted engagement through the use of focus groups.

3.17.4 The use of the Council's consultation hub will be increased in the LDP process, and taking a lead from the Council's participatory budgeting and 2050 Vision, the planning service will consider the use of the dialogue online forum as part of the Main Issues Report stage.

3.17.5 Wider engagement such as formal periods of representation in the LDP process will continue, as required by legislation, but the intention is to seek innovations which go beyond this.

3.18 Local Transport Strategy, Low Emission Zones and Central Edinburgh Transformation

3.18.1 There is an opportunity in the preparation of these strategic processes to engage a diverse range of people and groups. The project plans to deliver these will include specific proposals to get the views of children and young people, alongside formal consultation processes such as those posted on the Consultation Hub. The intention is to look at how engagement can be delivered through common themes which sit across all three projects.

3.19 Leith Docks Development Framework review

3.19.1 A review of the Framework is progressing and the work already undertaken with the three schools will help to inform this process. The next step will be to widen this engagement, include other schools and groups such as the Citadel Youth Group in the waterfront area, and focus on key aspects for the future development of the area.

3.20 Planning Performance Framework

3.20.1 One aspect of the Council's annual Planning Performance Framework is to receive feedback from those customers who regularly use the service. In June last year, a customer forum was held to engage stakeholders, including community councils, agents, architects and partner agencies. The intention is to hold another forum to seek these wider views and a subsequent focus group with a smaller number of representatives.

Next steps

3.21 There is no 'one size fits' all when it comes to engaging a diverse range of people in the planning system. The above proposals seek to deliver innovative ways of improving the levels of engagement and will add significantly to other established means such as the Edinburgh Civic Forum, the work with community councils and the Edinburgh Development Forum.

- 3.22 As these programmes progress, there will be periodic internal reviews with a report in 12 months to Planning Committee on successes and lessons learnt.

4. Resources

- 4.1 Whilst there is no additional resource requested under these proposals, increasing the level of engagement will require a realignment of staff resource and more joined-up working with other Council services. Individual project plans will identify any specific requirements for additional resources. Opportunities for specific engagement training and development will be included within existing budgets.

5. Measures of success

- 5.1 Ensure that every residents and other stakeholders to have the opportunity to participate in the planning processes through a variety of means and channels. Efforts will be made on key projects to target under-represented areas or groups. Feedback on these approaches will be sought and used to inform future engagement exercises.
- 5.2 The review of the Scottish planning system seeks to 'front-load' the planning process, increasing and enhancing the levels of engagement and participation. The success of the engagement processes will be whether issues are resolved early in the planning and development process.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There are no direct financial impacts as a result of this report.

7. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 7.1 The report represents a positive action being taken by the Council in relation to overall Council objectives in terms of securing better outcomes for Edinburgh.

8. Equalities impact

- 8.1 This report sets out a number of actions which will improve engagement in a number of planning processes. The basis for doing this is to help deliver better places for all citizens, informed by increased and enhanced participation and engagement.

9. Sustainability impact

- 9.1 The impact of this update report in relation to the three elements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties has been considered, and the outcome is summarised below:
- 9.1.1 The proposals in this report will have no impact on carbon emissions because the report sets out improvements to how we engage people in the planning process;
 - 9.1.2 The proposals in this report will have no effect on the city's resilience to climate change impacts because the report sets out actions to improve and extend engagement in the planning system; and
 - 9.1.3 The proposals in this report will help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh because they are working towards promoting meeting diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting equality of opportunity and facilitating the delivery of sustainable economic growth.

10. Consultation and engagement

- 10.1 The content of this report has been informed by review of engagement methods used by the planning service such as feedback on the LDP engagement. The work with PAS, the three schools and discussions with other Council services has informed the proposed actions to take forward. Feedback on these ongoing processes will be used to continue to improve how we engage and provide opportunities to share good practice.

11. Background reading/external references

- 11.1 [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(1989\)](#)
- 11.2 [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#)
- 11.3 [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#)
- 11.4 [PAS Young Volunteers](#)
- 11.5 [Year of Young People 2018](#)
- 11.6 Planning Committee, 12 October 2017, [Community engagement in planning](#)
- 11.7 Planning Committee, 17 August 2017, [Scottish Government Review of Planning – update and position statement](#)
- 11.8 The [Planning review – Young Scot survey](#) (June 2017)
- 11.9 [Barriers to community engagement: research study](#) - Scottish Government (May 2017)
- 11.10 [Scottish Government, Review of the Scottish Planning System](#)

- 11.11 [Empowering planning to deliver great places - an independent review of the Scottish planning system](#) (31 May 2016)
- 11.12 [Review of Planning – Scottish Government Response](#) (11 July 2016)
- 11.13 [National Standards for Community Engagement](#)
- 11.14 [Planning Advice Note 3/2010 Community Engagement](#)

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12. Appendices

Appendix 1 - PAS Partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council: Youth Engagement –
Leith School Consultations

PAS Partnership with The City of Edinburgh Council

Youth Engagement – Leith School Consultations January 2018

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Introduction and Findings Summary.

Appendices:

1. Workshop Format
2. Hermitage Park Primary (Primary 7)
3. Craighentinny Primary (Primary 7)
4. Leith Academy (Secondary 4-6)

Introduction

The City of Edinburgh Council commissioned Planning Aid Scotland (PAS) – an independent charity that helps communities engage with the planning system – to organise and facilitate three workshops across schools in the Leith area. Edinburgh Council hopes that such workshops may lead to a continuing relationship with these schools, and can encourage young people to become further involved in planning their local communities in order to help shape future growth in their city. The aim of these workshops is to help educate young people about planning, and to learn about changes young people would like to see in their neighbourhood.

PAS and staff from the Council's Planning service conducted a series of three workshops in December 2017 at three schools across Leith. Workshops were conducted with Primary 7 pupils at Hermitage Park Primary on Wednesday December 13 (see [Appendix 2](#)), Craighentenny Primary on Monday December 18 (see [Appendix 3](#)), and with Secondary 4-6 pupils at Leith Academy on Wednesday December 20 (see [Appendix 4](#)). Pupils were provided with an introduction to the planning system, and were encouraged to reflect changes they would like to see in both their immediate neighbourhoods, and in the greater Leith area. In each workshop, pupils were split into peer groups in order to complete group activities encouraging them to critically examine elements of their neighbourhood, and propose changes they would like to see implemented in the future.

Findings Summary

General Findings

Although there were many commonalities in terms of the feedback received across the three workshops, each workshop also saw pupils approach key issues in their community from different perspectives. Many of the commonalities concerned recreational spaces in the community, and proposals surrounding changes or additions to **recreational spaces** were featured heavily in the final proposals of many groups.

All three workshops provided positive feedback for the **Leith Links** as a recreational space, noting the wide range of activities present in the park, and the ample space for **sports** and other activities. **Lochend Park** also commonly received feedback, and while some groups praised the park's abundant **natural space**, others commented on its general lack of activities for children. However, all three workshops were critical of the condition of these parks, noting that they were often **poorly maintained**, and were frequently **vandalised**. Poor maintenance was a common observation across workshop groups, with many groups also noting the poor maintenance of local footpaths, and the frequency of **vandalism, litter, and broken glass** across public spaces. One common suggestion to help remedy this problem was to **increase the number of bins**, as well as the frequency of bin collection.

Expanding the quality and variety of recreational facilities in the area. Another common suggestion amongst all three workshops was a suggested return of **Leith WaterWorld**. Feedback from all three workshops suggested that pupils were unhappy with the recent change to a soft play area, and would like to see a return of the swimming pool to the community.

Feedback was also consistent for **Ocean Terminal** shopping centre, and the surrounding amenities along the Leith waterfront. Many pupils enjoyed some of the shops around Ocean Terminal, but found its selection to be somewhat limited. Instead, many pupils enjoyed ocean terminal for its recreational offerings, such as its **cinema**, and recognised the mall as a well-connected community hub. Similarly, the **Newkirkgate** was commonly discussed by students. Many pupils felt that the space should be redeveloped, as they found the selection of shops to be quite limited, with many also finding the centre to be quite ugly. There was a small minority across the three groups which enjoyed the Newkirkgate for its important **retail services and community centre**.

In the primary school workshops, the relative **lack of shops** in the **Lochend, Restalrig, and Craightinny** neighbourhoods was a point of discussion. While pupils enjoyed the area's existing shops (especially food outlets, such as takeaways), many students suggested that there could be more shopping opportunities within the communities themselves, especially for essentials such as food and clothing.

Groups across all workshops noted that they sometimes felt unsafe when **cycling** around the Leith area. It was a common suggestion on the Place Standard exercises that the areas network of **cycling lanes** should be expanded – especially along major roads. A perceived **lack of safety** in general was also a common theme, with suggested solutions including providing **better lighting** along streets and pathways at night, and increasing the coverage of **CCTV** cameras.

Workshop 1: Hermitage Park Primary School – 13 December 2017

Pupils at Hermitage Park Primary were primarily concerned with the recreational activities present in the area. Throughout the three major group exercises, pupils from Hermitage Park provided an extensive critique on many of the areas public spaces. In many cases, these were suggestions that could complement existing uses of the space, such as planting fruit trees in the Leith Links, or expanding protection areas for wildlife.

A large number of pupils in the workshop classes suggested the construction of a local **skate park**. These suggestions were provided both for the Leith Links, and Lochend Park. Development on local park space was also a fairly common proposal, with some working groups suggesting that a portion of the Leith Links could be redeveloped to include amenities such as **a local gym**, or open space to host **markets** and other events.

A **theme park** was another common proposal, especially in the day's final exercise. A number of groups put forward proposals for theme parks containing roller coasters, water slides, and other attractions. These proposals were commonly proposed for large parks and open spaces, such as the waterfront surrounding Ocean Terminal, and Lochend Park.

Hermitage Park students also commented positively on some of the community spaces offered in the area, such as **the Ripple**, which was praised for its food and community activities.

Workshop 2: Craightinny Primary School – 18 December 2017

Many groups from the Craightinny Primary workshop made reference to potential changes to the area's **housing**. One common proposal was to repurpose **Craightinny Golf Course** to construct new houses and shops. This was a common suggestion during the workshop. Groups further proposed renovating older housing stock in **Restalrig**, some of which is in poor condition, and aiming to provide housing for a wider range of family sizes and incomes. Students also proposed changes to make the area more **environmentally friendly**, such as installing solar panels on houses and businesses.

Pupils also proposed measures that would increase the connectivity of the area. Common proposals included increasing the number of **pedestrian crossing points** on busy roads, and increasing the **frequency of local bus services**.

Workshop 3: Leith Academy – 20 December 2017

Many of the suggestions from the Leith Academy workshop involved the redevelopment and revitalisation of many of the neighbourhood's spaces. These suggestions included the **redevelopment of the industrial land** around **Salamander Street** to provide new housing and recreational uses. Similar redevelopment opportunities were identified for areas such as **Newkirkgate**, and some of the areas **high-rise housing** stock. Furthermore, students from Leith Academy demonstrated a concern for the **heritage** character of the area, and a willingness to preserve aspects of this character. Many groups felt that future development in the Leith area should respect this heritage, as well as existing open spaces, and should make better use of derelict properties and gap sites.

Students noticed a widespread sense of pride and **community** in the Leith area, and identified these characteristics as things that they would like to preserve.

Appendix 1 – Introduction to workshops

1.1 Introduction and Goals

As part of the City of Edinburgh Council's youth outreach initiatives, PAS was commissioned to lead a series of workshops in Leith area schools to help young people further engage with planning processes in their community. Workshops were conducted not only to help develop an ongoing relationship between Edinburgh Council, and Leith area schools, but also to collect feedback from students regarding their neighbourhood and the greater Leith area, and to collect suggestions for further changes and improvements.

1.2 General Workshop Format

The information collected in this report was gathered over the course of three workshops conducted in Leith area schools. Each workshop was led in tandem by volunteers with PAS and representatives from the City of Edinburgh Council. Workshops were organised by 3-5 PAS volunteers (including a workshop leader), as well as two representatives from Edinburgh Council. Workshops were conducted with the following groups at the following institutions:

- **December 13 2017 – Hermitage Park Primary School:** The Hermitage Park workshop was conducted for two Primary 7 classes (for a total of ~50 pupils), and was led by three PAS volunteers (including workshop leader), and two representatives from Edinburgh Council. This session ran from approximately 9:00 to 15:00.
- **December 18 2017 – Craigentinny Primary School:** The Craigentinny workshop was conducted for one Primary 7 class (total of ~20 pupils) and was led by four PAS volunteers (including workshop leader), and two representatives from Edinburgh Council. This session ran from approximately 9:00 to 15:00.
- **December 20 2017 – Leith Academy:** The Leith Academy workshop was conducted for one Secondary school geography class consisting of students from Secondary 4-6 (total ~20 pupils) and was led by five PAS volunteers (including workshop leader), and one representative from Edinburgh Council. This was a shorter session than those conducted in the primary schools, and it ran from approximately 9:00 to 12:30. Notes detailing the key differences between the Leith Academy session and the primary school sessions have been included in [Appendix 1.3.5](#).

1.3 Workshop Agendas

1.3.1 Opening Class Exercises

Before beginning, pupils were asked to write down what they thought of when they hear the term “town planner”. After collecting responses, and briefly discussing some of the responses as a group, pupils were provided with a brief presentation on PAS, their partnership with Edinburgh Council, and an introduction to planning practice. Following this exercise, pupils were guided through a PowerPoint presentation encouraging reflection on the societal, lifestyle, and spatial changes that have occurred over the past few decades. Pupils were then invited to theorise over the kind of changes that may occur in the coming years, especially in the face of new societal trends brought on by technological innovations such as the internet.

To further illustrate this concept, and to guide discussion, the Council prepared a presentation comparing and contrasting key locations around Leith which had experienced significant change over the previous decades. The purpose of this exercise was to visually

demonstrate the fluid nature of spaces, and to provide concrete examples of tangible changes in the pupils' local communities.



PowerPoint slide illustrating changes to Commercial Street, Leith

Following this exercise, pupils were provided with 'viewfinders' (cardboard frames), and encouraged to go outside, and to use these viewfinders to examine land uses in their immediate vicinity. Students were then brought back inside to draw what they had 'captured' through these viewfinders. Pupils were introduced to the concept of land uses, and were asked to reflect on the land uses present in their drawings. This exercise was designed as a short introduction to the concept of Local Development Plans (LDP). The role of planners was linked to the development of LDPs, wherein the role of land uses would be debated and outlined, and the importance of seeking input from local communities in the development of LDPs was emphasised.



P7 Pupils from Hermitage Park spotting land uses



An example of local land uses as captured in the viewfinder exercise

Pupils were then shown a short video clip from the RTPI (Royal Town Planning Institute) designed to demonstrate the role of planning in mediating changes in the built environment. Pupils then participated in a small dramatic exercise designed to demonstrate the role of planners in mediating space. Pupils were selected to roleplay houses, and were asked to reflect on their feelings when their immediate environments were changed (ie. houses moved together, further apart, or with the introduction of new uses such as football stadiums, or scrapyards)

1.3.2 Local Development Plan Exercise

At this point, pupils were divided into small working groups, and provided with LDP maps of their school's catchment area, where they were asked to use stickers to mark spaces they felt they liked (green sticker), spaces they did not like or would like to see changed (red sticker), and to mark their regular travel routes through the neighbourhood. Pupils were also encouraged to write notes elaborating on their decision to identify a particular landmark, or in cases where a red sticker was placed, to identify what they disliked or would like to see change. Common feedback from this map exercise can be found in the results section of each workshop.



Craigentinny Primary 7 using LDP maps to identify land uses and travel routes

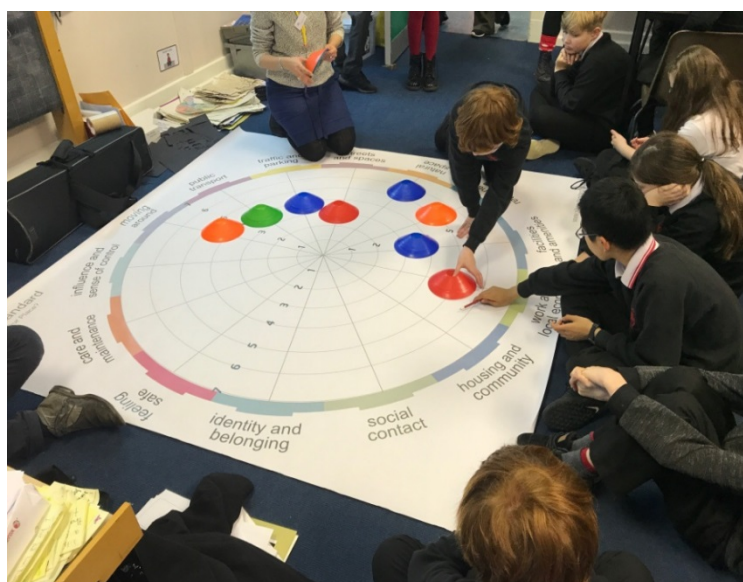
1.3.3 Place Standard Activity

Following this exercise, each group was provided with a copy of the place standard guide, and was invited to work through the booklet in their groups. The Place Standard guide is a tool promoted by the Scottish Government, and designed to examine 14 different aspects of

the built environment, with each section containing prompts to guide discussion. The tool can be used to determine people's satisfaction with their local area. Pupils are then asked to provide their neighbourhood with a score ranging from 1 to 7 (7 being the highest) in each of the 14 categories, noting the reasons for their responses. This information will allow the City of Edinburgh Council to identify priorities for change in the neighbourhood.

Pupils followed the prompts provided to lead discussion in each category. Following this exercise, the scores assigned by students to each of the categories in the place standard guide were tallied up, and pupils were invited to place the final scores for each category on a large place-standard mat in the middle of the room, to better visualise the results of the exercise. As with the previous exercise, a summary of points raised by the working groups will be presented according to the corresponding section of the Place Standard guide.

A visualisation of the final scores assigned by pupils at each workshop is provided in each appendix, along with some of the key feedback provided for each section.

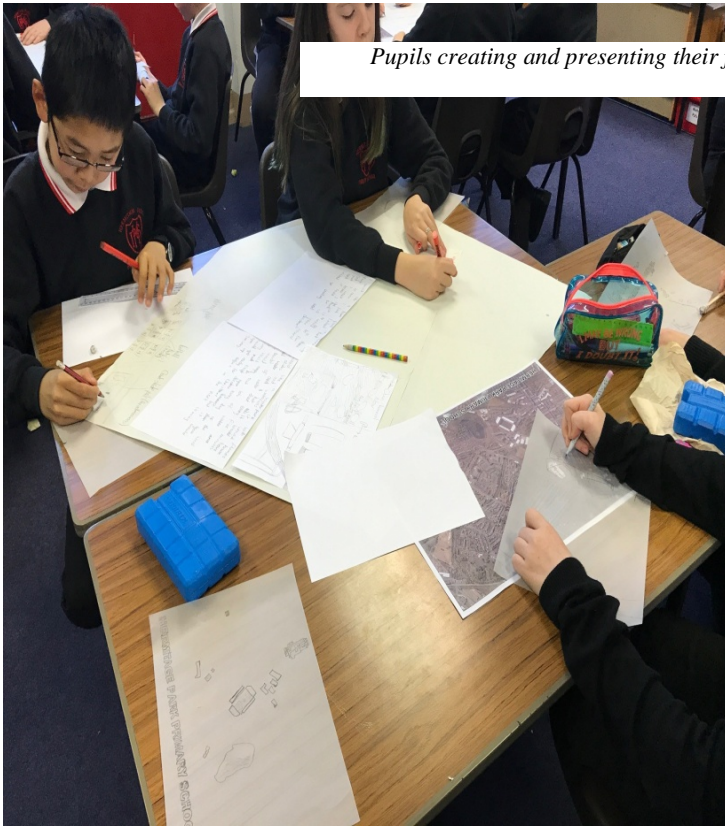


Discussing results from the place standard exercise

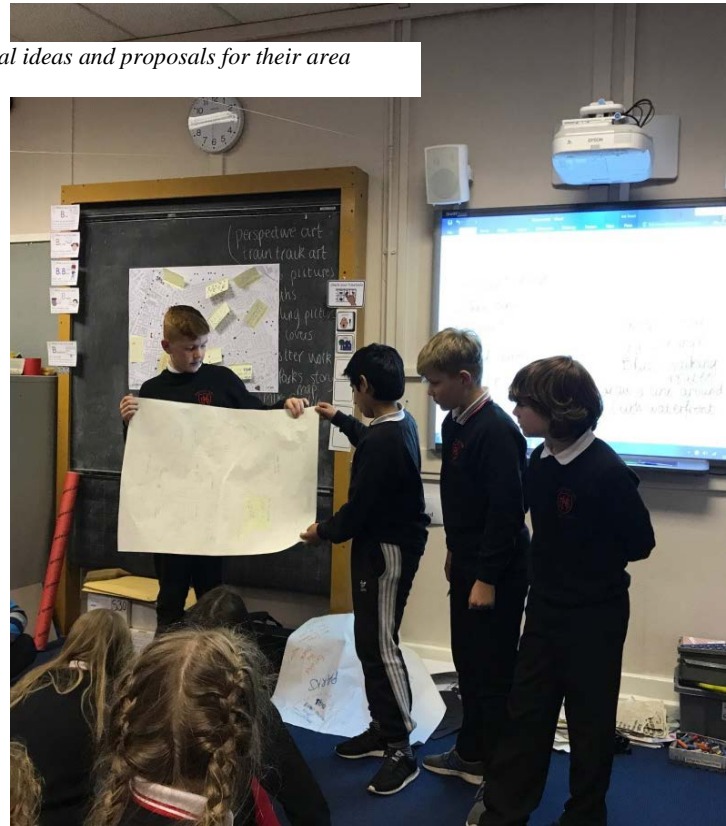
1.3.4 Neighbourhood Proposals

Following the place standard exercise, pupils were provided with blank paper to work in groups to propose desired changes for their neighbourhood. Pupils were instructed to keep their feedback from the Place Standard exercise in mind to propose new facilities, programmes, or additions which are currently absent from their neighbourhood. At the end of the workshop, groups were invited to present their ideas in front of their classmates, and to answer questions and discuss their proposals.

This was the final exercise of each workshop. Following the presentations, there was a short reflection on the events of the day's workshop in which pupils were invited to speak briefly about their thoughts on the day's workshop activities.



Pupils creating and presenting their final ideas and proposals for their area



1.3.5 Leith Academy Workshop

The workshop at Leith Academy involved a truncated session. While many of the exercises were similar, such as the opening presentation inviting pupils to reflect on past and potential future changes in their neighbourhood, some activities were not included in this workshop. This workshop did not include the viewfinder exercise or the role-playing activities, and was generally conducted at a quicker pace to accommodate the shorter timeframe. Pupils worked primarily in small groups on map exercises, Place Standard exercises, and proposals for changes to the Leith area. At Leith Academy, Turning Point software and clicker devices were used to help collect voting results to score the Place Standard exercise.

2.1 What do you think of when you hear the words “town planner”?



The figure consists of two pie charts. The left chart, titled 'Travel to/from school', shows that walking is the most common mode (approximately 65%), followed by car (approximately 15%), bus (approximately 5%), cycle (approximately 5%), and other (scooter) (approximately 10%). The right chart, titled 'Travel outside of school', shows that walking is also the most common mode (approximately 35%), followed by car (approximately 30%), bus (approximately 25%), cycling (approximately 10%), and other (approximately 0%).

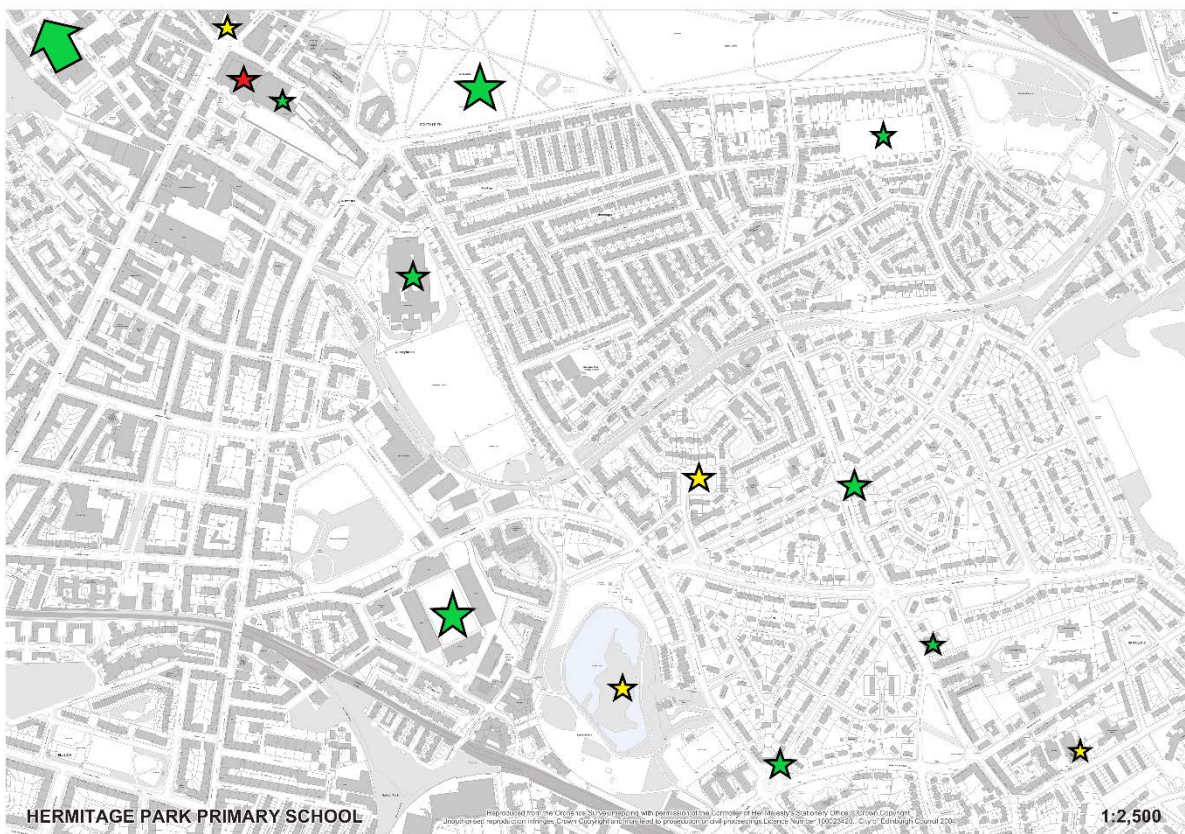
Travel Mode	Travel to/from school (%)	Travel outside of school (%)
Car	15	30
Walk	65	35
Bus	5	25
Cycle	5	10
Other (Scooter)	10	0

2.3 Local Development Plan Exercise

The results of the map exercise displayed a number of commonalities between working groups. Nevertheless, there was substantial disagreement both between and within working groups over certain spaces, facilities, and landmarks. Many pupils immediately located their school, and placed green and red dots on it accordingly. Pupils were also drawn to Easter Road stadium, where green and red dots were placed largely according to local football rivalries.

Many of the proposed changes revolved around the recreational opportunities available in the neighbourhood. While many pupils enjoyed the neighbourhood's large park spaces (such as Lochend Park or the Leith Links), many felt that there should be a greater number of recreational amenities.

Other key places outlined in the exercise include community hubs such as the Newkirkgate, Tesco, and Ocean Terminal (despite not being depicted on the map). Smaller local fixtures such as the Ripple (local community space) and local takeaways were also frequently identified. Presented below are some of the main landmarks identified by pupils. Comments and feedback provided for key landmarks has always been provided. This is followed by a short selection of other important neighbourhood landmarks that did not include further feedback. They have been colour-coded according to the sticker most often applied to the landmark on the neighbourhood maps.



Map indicating the main landmarks identified by students (Marked green, yellow, and red in accordance with pupil feedback)



Leith Links

- **Like:** The park proved popular with pupils and was frequently covered in green dots.
- **Improvements:** Some pupils felt that there could be a greater variety of uses in the park, with many suggestions being made for a skate park



Easter Road Stadium

- **Like:** Local landmark, and home of popular local football team.



Lochend Park

- **Like:** Many people enjoy large neighbourhood park space.
- **Dislike:** Existing activities tend to focus on younger children.
- **Improvements:** Allow for a greater variety of activities within the park.



Tesco and Leith Wonder World

- **Like:** Many groups liked the Tesco and felt that it was an important focal point in their community.
- **Dislike:** There were many criticisms of Leith Wonder world. Many pupils lamented the transformation of Leith Waterworld, and would like to see a return to its previous use.



Newkirkgate

- **Like:** Respondents enjoyed the shops and community activities. One pupil noted that they attend dance lessons there.
- **Dislike:** The main criticism of Newkirkgate is its limited collection of shops



The Ripple

- **Like:** Many students commented that they enjoyed the food and community activities in this space.



Cycle Paths

- **Improvements:** Pupils asked for better maintained pathways through Restalrig, and more dedicated cycle lanes in Lochend.



Hawkhill Park

- **Improvements:** Pupils would like to change this space to include more recreational activities.



Ocean Terminal



New Trinity Centre



Eastern Cemetery



Leith Academy



Scotmid



Allotment Gardens

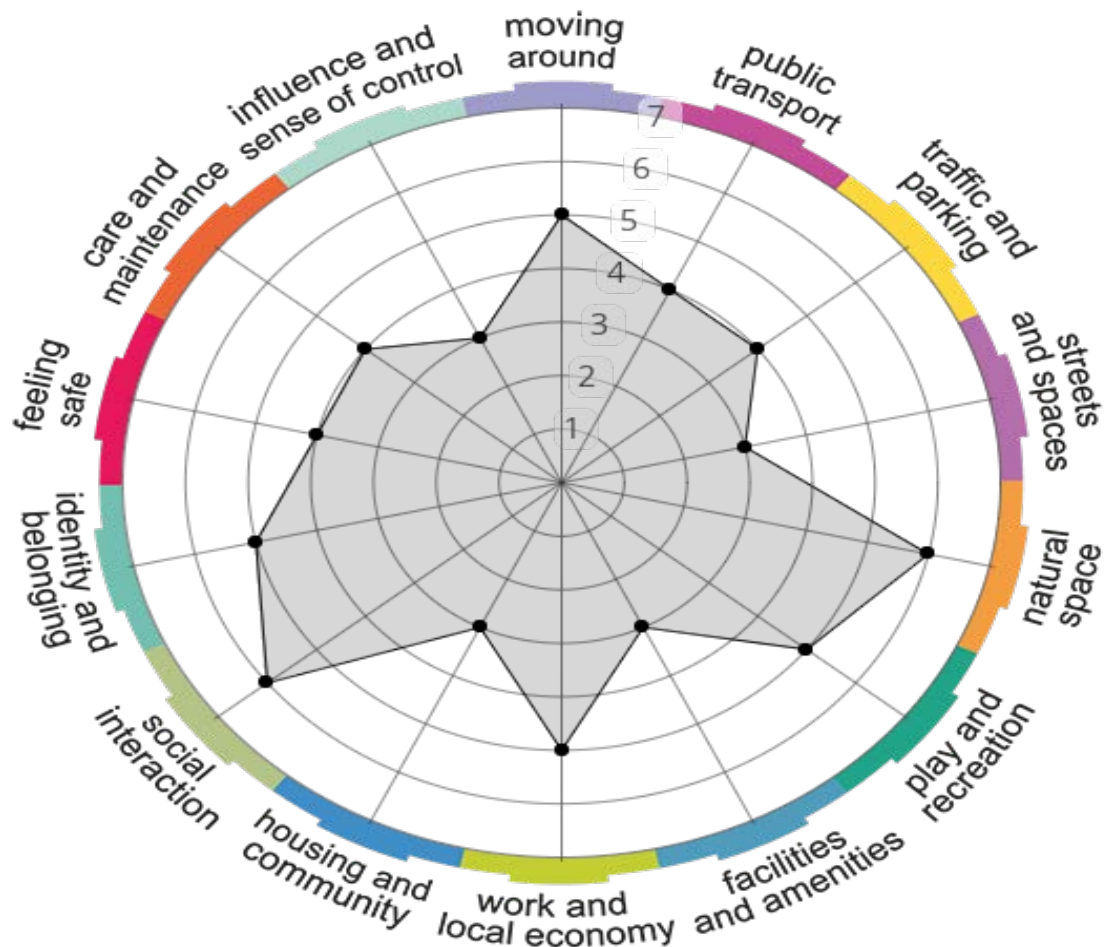


Angelo's Takeaway



Craigentinny
Community Centre

2.4 Place Standard Exercises



Moving Around

'Can I easily walk and cycle around using good quality routes?'

- Average rating: 4.5
- Groups felt that mobility in their area was generally good, with a good network of paths that made travelling as a pedestrian easy.
- Some groups commented that the area was not safe for cyclists, and there were suggestions to increase the number of cycling paths, especially along busier roads.
- Groups also commented on poorly maintained pathways and pavements in the area. Pupils noted that they were often slippery in challenging weather conditions, and contained potholes.
- Some groups requested improvements to the pedestrian environment, including wider pavements, and a greater number of pedestrian crossings.

Public Transport

'How easy and fast is your local transport to use?'

- Average rating:3.75
- Bus service was generally thought to be good, although groups noted that buses are often late, and that transportation by bus can be quite slow.
- Many groups commented on the high fares, especially on Edinburgh trams.
- Pupils provided suggestions for increased service frequency, as well as more amenities, such as more space for wheelchairs and buggies, or to provide bike racks on buses.
- Some groups also expressed a preference for greater rail service in the Leith area.

Traffic & Parking

'How easy is parking and driving in your area? How safe do you feel near the roads?'

- Average rating:3.75
- There was a consensus that traffic and parking were generally pretty good in the neighbourhood, except for during the Edinburgh festival, or around football matches at Easter Road stadium.
- Pupils mentioned a dislike for the neighbourhood's narrow streets, and the difficulties of being able to find parking in town. -Some groups felt that heavy traffic in the area created an unsafe environment, and suggested more traffic lights to provide safer crossings and longer crossing times at certain key crossings (especially at the foot of Leith walk).
- There was a suggestion to better outline on-street parking spaces.

Streets & Spaces

'Does your local area look great and is it easy to get around?'

- Average rating: 3.5
- Groups often commented on the noise and traffic on streets, which created an unpleasant environment, and makes it more difficult to move around the neighbourhood.
- There were many complaints concerning litter on neighbourhood streets.
- Pupils enjoyed the nice housing and views afforded by the neighbourhood.

Natural Spaces

'How easy is it to get to your local nature and wildlife?'

- Average rating:5.5
- Pupils noted that there were many open spaces, and that parks such as Leith Links are well suited for recreational activities.
- Pupils also noted that they felt safe in many of the local park spaces.
- As with the surrounding streets, pupils noted that there is a significant amount of litter found in parks.
- Some groups noted the general absence of designated wildlife spaces, and suggested more space for wildlife in Lochend Park and/or Leith Links.

Play & Recreation

‘How great are the spaces to play and meet friends?’

- Average rating: 5
- Pupils noted the wide range of available recreational facilities, but noted that these facilities could be much better maintained.
- Suggestions for further recreational facilities included a skate park, basketball courts, and larger play areas in local parks.

Facilities & Amenities

‘Are there places for you to do things? Are these public places easy to get to?’

- Average rating: 3.5
- Pupils felt that there were not enough spaces to socialise.
- One group suggested constructing public toilets in the neighbourhood.

Work & Local Economy

‘Are there plenty of shops in your local area? When you are older, do you want to live and work there?’

- Average rating: 5
- Pupils felt that the area provided good job opportunities, and specifically mentioned the large number of colleges and universities in the Edinburgh area.
- Pupils felt that there were not many shops in the local area.

Housing & Community

‘How friendly and neighbourly is your neighbourhood?’

- Average rating: 3.5
- Pupils praised the area's friendly community.
- Some students felt that the area contains too many high rises, and has a poor mix of housing types.
- Some groups suggested providing a greater mix of housing types in the area.

Social Interaction

‘Are there lots of places and chances to meet people?’

- Average rating: 5.5
- Pupils felt that the area contained a good number of social clubs, and that it was easy to communicate with others.

Identity & Belonging

'How proud do you feel about your local area?
Does the area make you feel you belong?'

- Average rating:4.5
- Pupils noted a sense of pride in their local community.

Feeling Safe

'Do you feel safe around your local area? Is crime a problem?'

- Average rating:4.25
- While pupils generally feel safe in the area, there were many comments about crime and antisocial behaviour in the neighbourhood reducing the overall feeling of safety.

Care & Maintenance

'Are buildings, parks and spaces well cared for?'

- Average rating:4
- Pupils felt that public spaces are not well maintained, and noted that many areas contained graffiti.
- Some groups noted problems with drug use in local parks.

Influence & Sense of Control

'Do you know how to make your ideas about your places heard? How easy is it to change your local place?'

- Average rating:3
- Pupils felt that change would be difficult to enact.

2.5 Presentations

The majority of group presentations sought to increase the number and overall quality of recreational spaces in the neighbourhood. A variety of new recreational facilities were proposed. Skate parks were mentioned by a few groups as an improvement that they would like to see in the neighbourhood. Other recreational suggestions included a gym, and a broader range of recreational facilities in Lochend park (football pitches and a larger playground were two of the key suggestions). Football pitches were not only proposed for Lochend park, but also in Leith Links.

Recreational spaces were not the only suggested improvements to the Leith Links. One group suggested planting fruit trees along the Links, or the introduction of some wildlife ones in local parks. Another group felt that a part of the Links could be redeveloped in some way – either to construct new recreational spaces, or to build amenities like cafes, or local market

spaces. As part of this proposal, market spaces could also be used to host festivals or food trucks.

Another group proposed the construction of a community centre focused on cooking instruction with an emphasis on healthy eating. This proposal was also designed to tie in with local food bank initiatives.

Groups also provided suggestions for the waterfront. One groups felt that there should be a playground constructed near Ocean Terminal. Another group proposed reducing or eliminating some of the roads surrounding Ocean terminal to free up more space for other land uses.

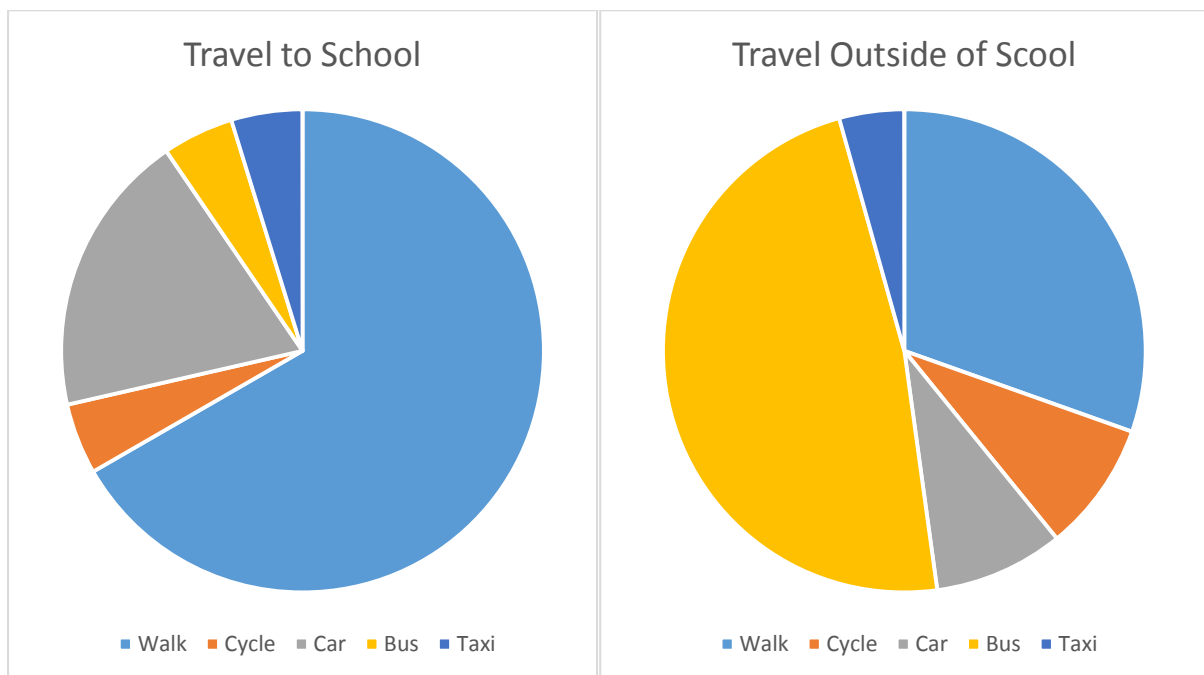
Another popular suggestion was that of a theme park, which was proposed by many of the groups. Those in favour of a Leith theme park suggested spaces in either Lochend park or vacant land surrounding Ocean Terminal as suitable locations for such an amenity.

One final suggestion was for an increased number of bicycle parking stands along Leith Walk.

Appendix 3 – Results: Craigentinny Primary School (P7), 18 December 2017

3.1 Moving Around

Pupils were asked about the way they most often travelled to and from school, as well as how they most often travelled locally outside of their school commutes. A quick tally was conducted to gather information on how pupils most often travelled around in their day-to-day lives.



3.2 Local Development Plan Exercise

Pupils were quickly drawn to some of the areas main landmarks, with Craigentinny Primary School and some of the areas parks receiving significant attention. However, pupils at Craigentinny also focused significantly on the housing situation in the area, providing feedback both for improvements to the areas current housing stock, as well as suggesting locations for future housing developments in the area.



Map indicating the main landmarks identified by students (Marked green, yellow, and red based on feedback)

Meadowbank Sports Facilities



- **Like:** Pupils generally liked the sports facilities.
- **Improvements:** While pupils liked the facilities, many also asked for an expansion and renovation of these facilities.

Craightinny Primary School



- **Like:** Many pupils commented positively on the school's history, as well as its prominent role as educational institution.

Restalrig Housing



- **Dislike:** Some pupils stated that housing in the the area is in poor condition, with some pupils noting that a significant amount of the areas housing was poorly heated, and contained issues with mold.
- **Improvements:** Allow for a greater variety of activities within the park.

Craightinny Golf Course



- **Like:** Some pupils liked the recreational space.
- **Dislike:** Many pupils felt that the golf course should be changed to incorporate new housing developments, and could be used to add more shops to the area.

Local Parks



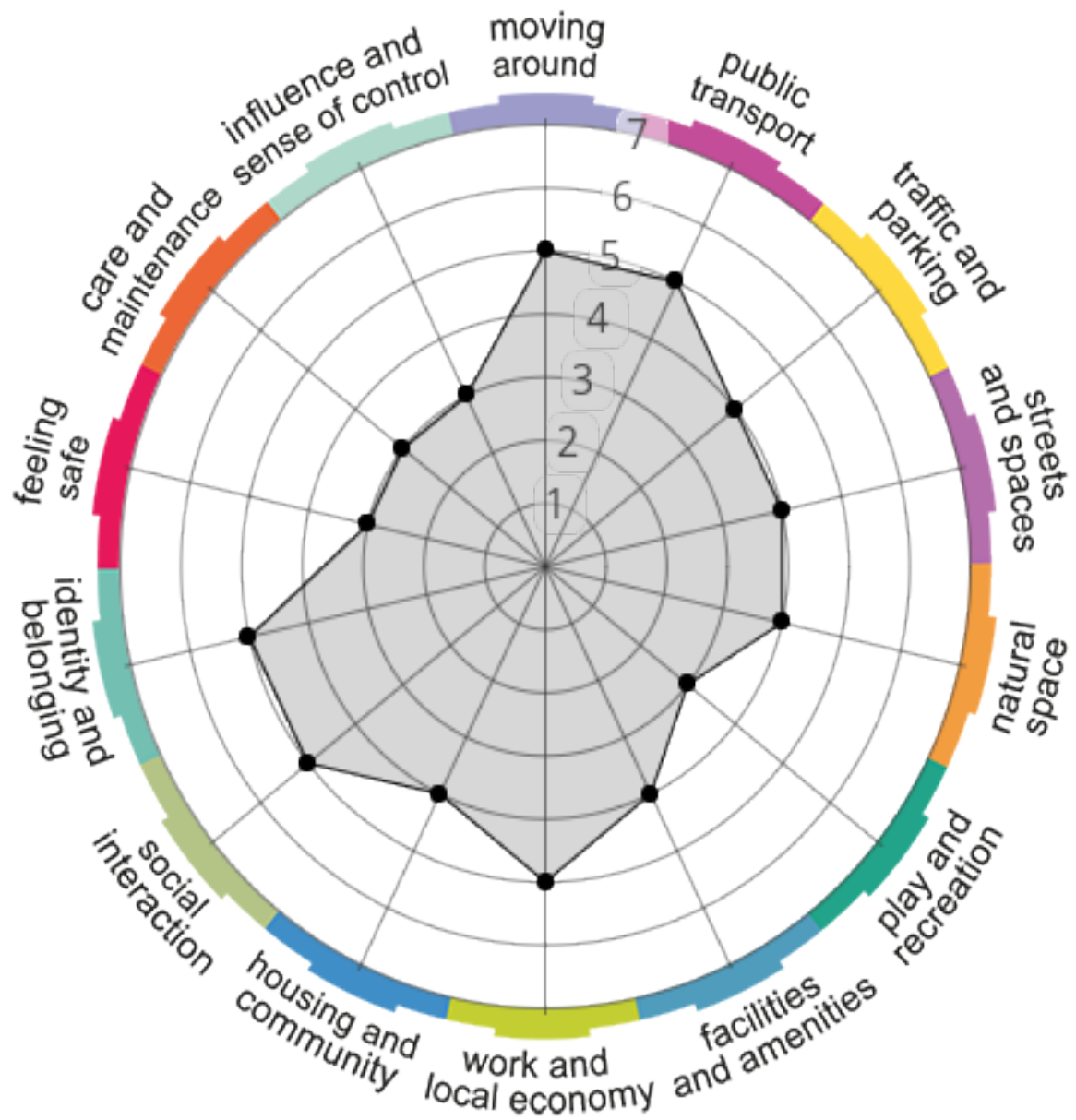
- **Improvements:** Many pupils called for more parks and recreational spaces for children across a variety of open spaces in Lochend and Craightinny. One group suggested adding in basketball courts, as there are many facilities for other sports, but no public outdoor basketball courts in the area.

Local Shops



- **Like:** Many students enjoyed the existing local shops
- **Improvements:** Pupils called for a greater range of local shops in Craightinny.
- One group commented that they would like to see the Morrison's reduced in size to make space for an expanded local library.

3.3 Place Standard Exercise



Moving Around

‘Can I easily walk and cycle around using good quality routes?’

- Average rating: 5
- Pupils felt that pavements were quite good, although there were not enough pedestrian crossings.
- Cycle paths were believed to be poorly maintained.
- Some groups felt that pathways could be better maintained as they become quite icy in winter.

Public Transport

‘How easy and fast is your local transport to use?’

- Average rating: 5
- Pupils feel that there are many buses on a variety of routes that serve the area.
- Many pupils feel that the bus fares are quite high. One group suggested lowering fares, especially for disabled persons.
- One group would like to see higher frequency bus service, especially for the local Skylink service.

Traffic & Parking

‘How easy is parking and driving in your area? How safe do you feel near the roads?’

- Average rating: 4.25
- One group felt that there was ample parking in the neighbourhood, while another felt that the neighbourhood's parking spots are often full.
- Some groups felt that noise from local traffic was quite loud, and felt that some of the narrow streets were unsafe environments.
- Pupils advocated for more traffic lights and safer pedestrian crossings.

Streets & Spaces

‘Does your local area look great and is it easy to get around?’

- Average rating: 4.25
- Many pupils commented on the nice parks in the neighbourhood, but lamented the amount of litter, broken glass, and dog waste in these parks, and on local streets.
- One group mentioned the bad smells from Seafield, and Seafield's unclean beach.
- Some commented that they enjoy the nice buildings in their neighbourhood.

Natural Spaces

‘How easy is it to get to your local nature and wildlife?’

- Average rating: 3.75
- Pupils were split over the amount of green space in the community, with some groups believing that there was ample green space in the area, while others felt that there was too little (with too few trees).
- One group felt that the existing green space was good for recreational activities such as walking dogs.

Play & Recreation

‘How great are the spaces to play and meet friends?’

- Average rating: 3.25
- Pupils felt that there were not many local recreational activities, and many groups commented that they would like to see a greater variety of recreational activities in the neighbourhood (especially those for teenagers).
- One group felt that there were some recreational activities available at Ocean Terminal, and the Lieth Links was generally considered to be a well-liked recreational space.
- Groups also commented that there was a lot of broken glass by recreational venues, as well as antisocial behaviour from teenagers, which reduced the overall feeling of safety in these spaces.

Facilities & Amenities

‘Are there places for you to do things? Are these public places easy to get to?’

- Average rating: 4.5
- One group felt that there were good recreational facilities in the neighbourhood, such as the Meadowbank sports complex.
- Pupils stated that they would like to see more bins for litter.
- Some groups would like to see more shops, especially cafes and food vendors in the vicinity.

Work & Local Economy

‘Are there plenty of shops in your local area? When you are older, do you want to live and work there?’

- Average rating: 5
- Pupils felt that there are good employment opportunities, with a variety of employment types.
- However, pupils also noted that most people would travel in to town to work, with few working locally.
- Pupils felt that while there are many local businesses, not many are hiring.

Housing & Community

‘How friendly and neighbourly is your neighbourhood?’

- Average rating: 3.75
- Some groups felt that there was a suitable amount of housing, with housing being in good condition.
- Other groups felt that housing in the neighbourhood was in poor condition (with one pupil mentioning damp and mold issues).
- Some groups also felt that there should be more housing and shops in the neighbourhood.

Social Interaction

‘Are there lots of places and chances to meet people?’

- Average rating: 4.75
 - Pupils feel that there is a good variety of spaces to socialise in in the neighbourhood.
- Ocean terminal was identified as a good space to socialise with its restaurants and cinema.
- One group noted that the neighbourhood could use more food service outlets.

Identity & Belonging

'How proud do you feel about your local area? Does the area make you feel you belong?'

- Average rating: 4.5
- Pupils remarked on the strong sense of belonging in their neighbourhood.
- One group commented on their love of local history.

Feeling Safe

'Do you feel safe around your local area? Is crime a problem?'

- Average rating: 3
- Many groups stated that they felt unsafe in Leith. Groups mentioned antisocial behaviour from teenagers (including recent incidents of vandalism on bonfire night). Students also noted the abandoned housing and dark alleyways in the neighbourhood.
- Some pupils felt that the street lighting in the neighbourhood was sufficient, while many others felt that street lighting should be much better.

Care & Maintenance

'Are buildings, parks and spaces well cared for?'

- Average rating: 3.25
- Pupils felt that the local environment is unclean and not well maintained.
- Pupils felt that increasing the number of bins (and adding recycling bins) would be a good idea.

Influence & Sense of Control

'Do you know how to make your ideas about your places heard? How easy is it to change your local place?'

- Average rating: 3
- Pupils feel that they have good support from parents, teachers, and friends, although many felt that they could not adequately give their opinions to the council.

4.4 Suggestions

Many of the suggestions from the students at Craigentenny involved infrastructure improvements in the local area. The first proposal presented to the class was for providing better lighting at night, noting that an increase in the number of streetlights could increase feelings of safety amongst residents. The proposal also felt that new streetlights placed in Leith could make use of green technologies (such as solar power). Other infrastructure improvements proposed include increasing the number of bins and benches in public spaces, implementing better cycling networks, and increasing the number of car parking spaces.

However, as with the workshop at Hermitage Park, new recreational facilities were also key suggestions proposed by some of the groups. One group suggested adding a dry ski slope to Arthur's Seat, while another felt that a small zoo in Lochend Park would be appropriate. Another recreational proposal was for a virtual reality centre in which children could explore new technologies.

Pupils at Craigentenny primary also placed a large focus on housing in their proposals. There were proposals to modernise and update the areas housing stock, as well as to increase the availability of affordable housing in the area. These proposals centred on providing a greater variety of housing for different family sizes and income levels. In addition to this proposed housing, groups also proposed increasing the number of shops in the area – especially those dealing with necessities, such as grocery stores and other food outlets, clothing stores, and cafes. Key services, such as bringing more doctors to the area, were also pointed out as part of the proposals to improve the neighbourhood.

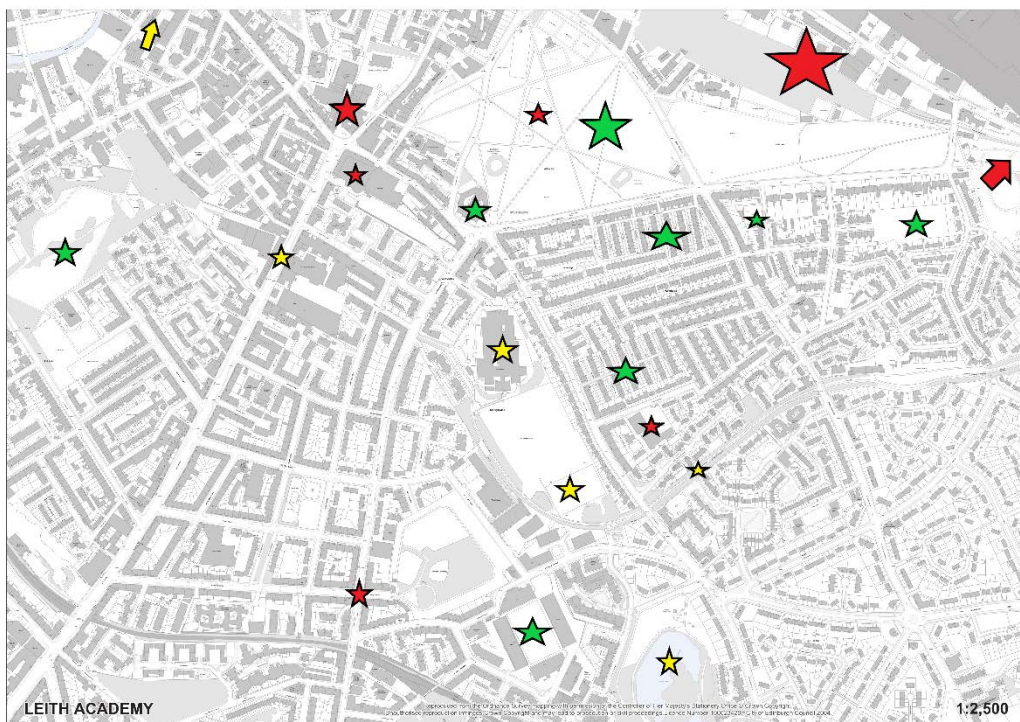
Appendix 4 – Results: Leith Academy (S 4-6), 20 December 2017

4.1 What do you think of when you hear the words “town planner”?



4.2 Local Development Plan Exercise

Pupils at Leith Academy provided a wide range of suggestions for the neighbourhood on their LDP maps. These suggestions covered a wide range of local landmarks



Map indicating the main landmarks identified by students (Marked green, yellow, and red based on feedback)



Leith Academy

Like: Students generally liked the school and its facilities.

Dislike: Some groups disliked the building.



Leith Links

Like: Popular local park space with ample room for sports and other recreational activities.

Improve: Some groups suggested improvements to the playground.



Leith Wonder World

Dislike: There were many criticisms of Leith Wonder world. Many pupils lamented the transformation of Leith Waterworld, and would like to see a return to its previous use.



Newkirkgate

Dislike: Pupils widely considered the space ugly and dirty. Additionally, many disliked the selection of shops, and believed this selection could be more varied.



Pilrig Park

Like: One group commented positively on the well-used green spaces in the park.

Improvements: Other groups felt that this park could provide more activities for children.



Easter Road

Dislike: Some groups disliked Easter Road noting aspects such as its narrow streets, rundown appearance, and poor lighting at night. Some students remarked that they felt unsafe in this environment.



Salamander Street

Dislike: Pupils remarked on its unpleasant and unsafe environment. Many pupils disliked the amount of derelict and industrial land bordering the street.

Improvements: One group proposed that some of the old warehouse buildings located in the vicinity could be reused for leisure activities.

More housing was suggested for some of the industrial land along Salamander Street. Pupils also proposed that the land in this area could also be used for shops or sports fields.



Lochend Sports Fields

Like: Many pupils enjoyed making use of the football pitches.

Dislike: Some students felt that the surface of the pitches was poorly maintained, and should be replaced.

Improvements: The existing sand pitches could be replaced with astroturf.



Restalrig Railway Path

- Like:** Pupils noted that the path provides good pedestrian and cycling connectivity.
- Dislike:** Many pupils believe the path to be poorly maintained, noting issues with overgrowth of vegetation, and lots of litter.



•Old Housing Stock in Leith Area

- Like:** Some students noted that they would like to maintain the areas heritage by preserving much of the areas old Victorian housing.



Hermitage Park School

- Dislike:** Some pupils felt the school looked rundown.
- Improvements:** School could be moved to a quieter location in the neighbourhood which would be further removed from traffic



Lochend Park

- **Like:** One group commented that the park provided a good space to walk dogs.
- Dislike:** Many commented that the park was poorly lit at night.
- Improvements:** Some groups would like to see better lighting along pathways in the park, as well as more activities for children.



•Leith Walk

- Dislike:** Some pupils noted the unpleasant pedestrian environment on Leith walk. They noted the many boarded up shops, and that they felt unsafe travelling through the space.



•Waterfront

- Improvements:** More housing was proposed for the vicinity of Ocean Terminal. It was suggested that this housing could be high density, and could also include park spaces.
- One group proposed that Ocean Terminal and its surrounding area could play host to a wider variety of shops.



•Leith Harbour

- Improvements:** Some groups proposed redeveloping the Leith docklands to include more housing, commercial, and park space.



•Seafeld Treatment Plant

- Dislike:** Many pupils disliked the Seafeld sewage treatment plant on the grounds that it is unsightly and extended a foul odour to the surrounding area.



Easter Road Stadium



Dalmeny Street Sports Facilities



Allotment Gardens



Lawn Bowling in Lochend



Housing Stock in Lochend



Old Leith Academy Building

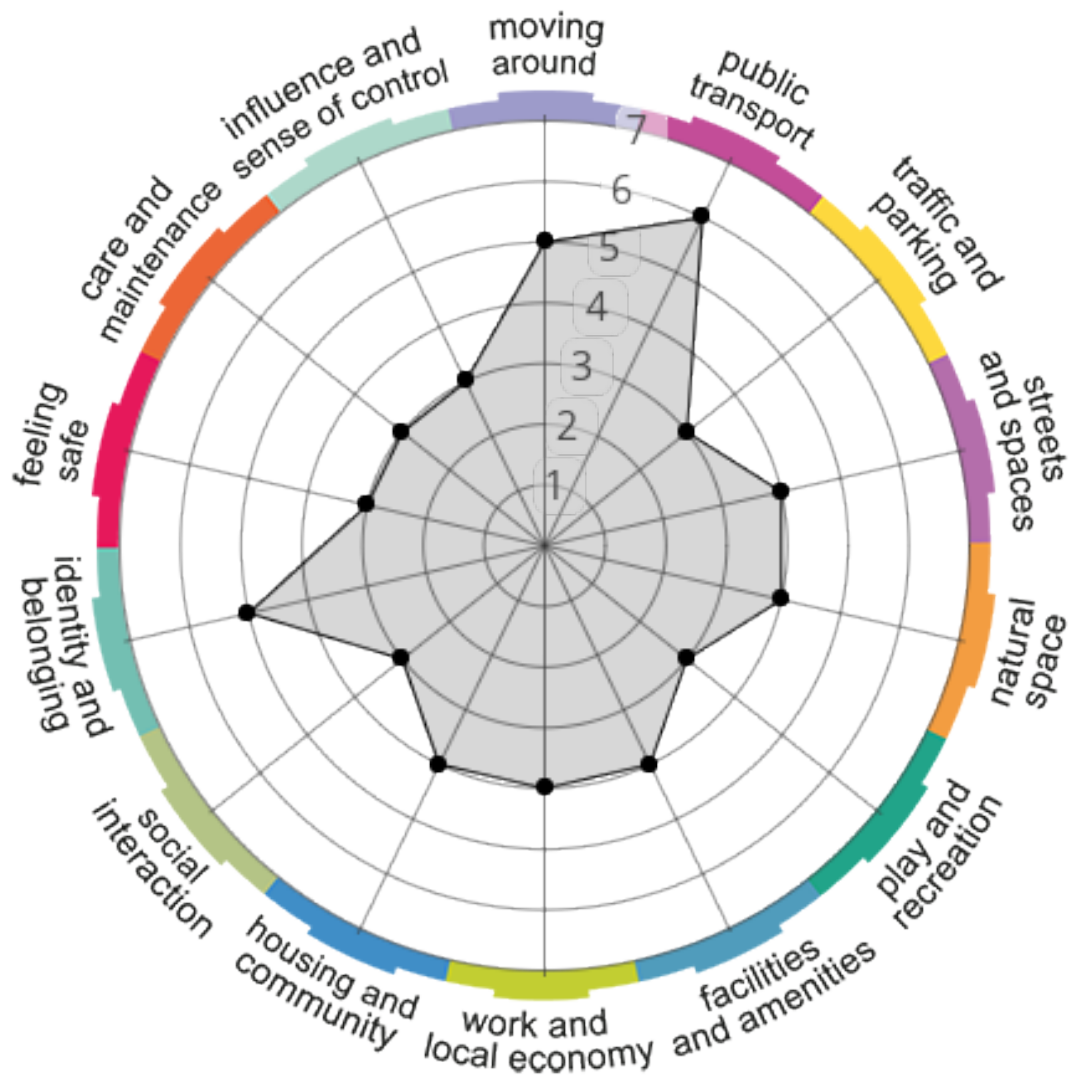


Hermitage and Lochend Colonies



New Office Spaces

4.3 Place Standard Exercise



Moving Around

‘Can I easily walk and cycle around using good quality routes?’

- Average rating: 4.8
- Pupils felt that there were many walkways. Some groups felt that these pathways were well maintained and easy to access, while others stated that they felt these pathways were unpleasant to use.
- Many groups commented on the cycling infrastructure. While they stated that there is ample bicycle parking, and a number of cycling routes heading in to town, they believe that the current infrastructure still heavily favours cars, with the number of cars making it difficult to cycle on the road in the neighbourhood. An issue was raised over frequent double parking on the cycle path in Leith walk. Furthermore, the integration of the cycle path into the pavement was identified as a problem as pedestrians frequently walk over the cycle paths, causing cyclists to have to stop frequently.

Public Transport

‘How easy and fast is your local transport to use?’

- Average rating: 6
- Pupils were pleased with the number of buses (with a wide variety of routes, and many stops). Pupils generally felt that buses were safe and easy to access (one group praised the built in wheelchair ramps). The Lothian Buses app was also identified as a positive feature of the bus system.
- Some groups stated that buses are often late, and that fares are quite expensive (especially those for day passes). One group proposed increasing the age cutoff for youth tickets.
- The bus was often viewed as a good option for travel over longer distances, and for its connections to the city centre and airport.
- Some groups opposed the proposed tramline extension into Leith citing the significant traffic disruptions that would accompany construction.
- Pupils provided suggestions for increased cycle storage, adding more seating at bus stops, and increasing the number of bins.

Traffic & Parking

‘How easy is parking and driving in your area? How safe do you feel near the roads?’

- Average rating: 3.5
- Many groups feel that traffic and congestion are problems in Leith. Narrow streets are also seen as problematic when attempting to accommodate cyclists. Restalrig road in particular was identified as being too narrow as buses and fire engines often had difficulty passing each other.
- A general lack of parking was identified, as well as the high cost of parking in the city centre.

Streets & Spaces

‘Does your local area look great and is it easy to get around?’

- Average rating: 3.5
- Leith Links was often held up as a good community space. Some groups also commented positively on historic monuments and buildings in the Leith area.
- Many groups commented that they found Newkirkgate to be an unattractive space.
- Other common criticisms include overgrown pathways, unkept areas with significant amounts of litter, as well as social issues with drunkenness and homelessness.
- Although some groups praised the built environment, noting the abundance of Victorian housing, others felt that many of the buildings were ugly, and that many of Leith's buildings look quite similar.

Natural Spaces

‘How easy is it to get to your local nature and wildlife?’

- Average rating: 4
- Pupils generally harboured a positive view towards Leith's public spaces, with a number of parks offering a range of recreational activities. Examples of activities mentioned by pupils include walking dogs, playing sports, gardening in the various allotments, and holding barbeques.
- However, pupils did have some suggestions for Leith's public spaces, such as placing additional benches in parks, and ensuring that park space is better maintained. Pupils also commented that there was very little natural space along the seaside, and that improved access to the neighbourhoods beaches would be a positive improvement.
- One group also commented on the poor water drainage in Leith Links.

Play & Recreation 'How great are the spaces to play and meet friends?'

- Average rating: 3.5
- Pupils generally agreed that there is good access to various recreational spaces, however, they noted that many of these spaces were not well cared for (playgrounds and astroturf football pitches being specific examples).
- Pupils also mentioned that the main sports facility at Meadowbank is located fairly far away, and that the closure of Leith Waterworld removed a well-liked pool facility from the community.
- One group commented that the majority of recreational facilities for teenagers in the area are sports facilities, and that they would like to see a greater variety in local recreational opportunities.

Facilities & Amenities

'Are there places for you to do things? Are these public places easy to get to?'

- Average rating: 4
- Pupils stated that Leith contains many shops, most of which are well maintained. Nearby Ocean Terminal also contains a number of key amenities such as the gym and cinema.
- Some groups would like to see a better variety of shops in the area, more cafes, and more affordable restaurants.
- A number of other amenities were suggested including an ice rink and more cultural amenities such as music venues.
- One group mentioned that local medical practices are often overcrowded, and suggested bigger and better health facilities for the area.

Work & Local Economy

'Are there plenty of shops in your local area? When you are older, do you want to live and work there?'

- Average rating: 4
- Some groups felt that Leith provides significant opportunities to young people looking to start their own businesses, and offers many volunteer opportunities.
- Other groups state that not many opportunities are available locally, and many jobs require travel to the city centre. Furthermore, some groups claim that there is a shortage of opportunities for part-time jobs available to them.
- One group suggested that they would like to see more opportunities in creative industries.

Housing & Community

'How friendly and neighbourly is your neighbourhood?'

- Average rating: 4
- Most groups felt that housing in Leith generally suited the needs of its inhabitants, with a good variety of different housing choices for households of varying income levels. However, some groups noted that there is a poor variety in the housing stock, with the area being composed primarily of tenements.
- One group commented positively on the colony houses in the area, which they stated could comfortably house many people within a small area.
- One group stated that they would like to see more community centres and spaces in the area.
- One group commented that some of the housing in the area lacked important facilities.

Social Interaction

'Are there lots of places and chances to meet people?'

- Average rating: 3.5
- Many groups felt that children and the elderly were quite well engaged in community activities, but that there were not many similar opportunities for teenagers and young adults.
- Some groups noted difficulties with meeting new people, noting that it was quite difficult to do so outside of organised clubs. One group requested more spaces for teenagers to meet others.
- One group mentioned the community centre at Newkirkgate, but stated that many people either do not know of or do not use the facility.
- Some groups requested more indoor activities (such as paintball or indoor football)

Identity & Belonging

'How proud do you feel about your local area? Does the area make you feel you belong?'

- Average rating: 5.4
- Most groups feel proud of their community, and feel accepted as members of the local community. Pupils noted that the neighbourhood is accepting, and sociable (people know their neighbours), and there is a sense that this is a tight-knit community. One group pointed out events such as the Leith Gala Day as events that helped build this community spirit.
- Some groups did not negative aspects about the community, namely the high levels of vandalism in the community, and the feeling that those outside Leith do not view the neighbourhood positively.

Feeling Safe

'Do you feel safe around your local area? Is crime a problem?'

- Average rating: 3.2
- While one group commented that there is generally not as much crime as people believe there to be, many groups commented that they did not feel safe in the neighbourhood at night. Pupils noted insufficient lighting in Newkirkgate and Lochend, and dark, empty walkways as contributing to this feeling.
- Pupils also mentioned murders in Lochend park, frequent robberies, drug use, and drunkenness around pubs as further behaviours which reduced this feeling of safety.
- One group commented that the large number of people walking in the streets contributed to a positive feeling of safety.

Care & Maintenance

'Are buildings, parks and spaces well cared for?'

- Average rating: 3
- Many pupils commented on the poor maintenance of public spaces in the Leith area. Issues such as vandalism, litter, dog waste, and reduced bin collection were highlighted.
- Many groups also believe that the area's council housing is also not well maintained, with specific mention of the area's high rise buildings.
- Some groups commented positively on the newer buildings in the area, and that some of Leith's older buildings have been well preserved.

Influence & Sense of Control

'Do you know how to make your ideas about your places heard? How easy is it to change your local place?'

- Average rating: 3.5
- Many of the groups believe that teenagers have useful suggestions for the neighbourhood, but that they do not feel as though their opinions are listened to, or that they would be implemented by the council.
- Some groups also stated that they do not often get asked their opinion, and do not feel as though their feedback could make a difference.
- Other groups noted that they felt that it is easy to get involved in the community (pointing to initiatives such as the neighbourhood watch and Children's Parliament)

4.4 Proposals

Pupils at Leith Academy put forward a wide range of proposals. As with the elementary school workshops, the improvement and expansion of recreational spaces was an important priority. Many groups felt that Leith could use more gathering spaces geared towards teenager and young adults. Sports facilities were a common proposal by groups, which advocated for amenities such as ice rinks, more affordable gym spaces, and larger sports facilities like Meadowbank. Pupils also proposed reopening Leith Waterworld. These proposals also extended to existing public parks. Proposals for Leith Links included adding a pond (with the possibility of boat rentals), or reconnecting the space with its history by restoring the public golf course in a portion of the park. Similar proposals were put forward for Lochend park, where comments were made that the park should provide more play options for children. Some groups commented positively on Leith's existing allotments, and felt that more could be done to further encourage residents to grow their own produce locally. This group proposed increasing the total number of allotments in the area.

Many proposals put forth by Leith Academy students also focused on infrastructure improvements. Poor lighting had been identified in the Place Standard exercise as being detrimental to the overall feeling of safety in the community, and some groups proposed providing more street lighting, especially on pathways. This proposal accompanied suggestions to expand the coverage of CCTV cameras in the area. Other improvements proposed by groups included adding more bins (especially those for recycling), and bicycle parking. A few groups commented on the high degree of on-street parking in the neighbourhood, and one group suggested to remove some of the on-street parking, and to construct dedicated parking structures instead. Parking was especially identified as a problem on Restalrig road, where one group argued that the reduction or removal of on-street parking on the narrow road could help alleviate traffic congestion.

In addition to recreational and public realm improvements, many groups sought to make certain changes to the built environment. Many groups felt that Newkirkgate should be revamped to provide a more pleasant space, with a greater variety of shopping and recreational opportunities. Other groups did not like some of the high-rise housing stock in the area, and felt that changes should be made to these housing schemes. Overall, groups felt that cheaper housing should be more readily available, but that the neighbourhood should preserve its existing open spaces, and should instead focus on making good use of existing gap sites.

There were also a number of suggestions for community actions in the area. One group felt that it would be important to "brighten" the local community by planting more vegetation and adding more visual flair to the area through painting projects. One group felt that heritage initiatives in Leith would be a good way of expanding and capitalising on the tourist industry. Other groups also put forward suggestions for entrepreneurial hubs to encourage innovation, and to increase local job opportunities. Job opportunities were another key concern for pupils, who felt that there should be more available job opportunities for teenagers, along with more opportunities for apprenticeships and skills training.