

Notice of meeting and agenda

Leadership Advisory Panel

10.00 am Tuesday, 31st March, 2020

Meeting will be held by Skype

This is a public meeting and members of the public are welcome to attend

The law allows the Council to consider some issues in private. Any items under “Private Business” will not be published, although the decisions will be recorded in the minute.

Contacts

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1. Order of Business

- 1.1 Including any notices of motion and any other items of business submitted as urgent for consideration at the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests

- 2.1 Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.

3. Deputations

- 3.1 If any.

4. Minutes

- 4.1 None.

5. Forward Planning

- 5.1 None.

- 5.2 None.

6. Business Bulletin

- 6.1 None.

7. Executive Decisions

7.1	Covid 19 - verbal update	
7.2	Edinburgh City Centre Transformation: Meadows to George Street, Developed Design and Commencement of Statutory Procedures for Traffic Regulation Order and Redetermination Order – Report by the Executive Director of Place	7 - 60
7.3	Edinburgh City Centre Transformation: George Street and the First New Town: Project Update – Report by the Executive Director of Place	61 - 118
7.4	Haulage of Waste to Disposal Outlets – Report by the Executive Director of Place	119 - 122
7.5	Annual Review of Major events in Parks 2018/19 – Report by the Executive Director of Place	123 - 316
7.6	Culture Service Third Party Grants Funding 2020/2021 – Report by the Executive Director of Place	317 - 338
7.7	Neighbourhood Alliance - Grant Funding Payment – Report by the Executive Director of Place	339 - 342
7.8	Internal Audit: Internal Audit Charter Annual Update – Report by the Executive Director of Resources	343 - 362
7.9	Administering Authority Discretions Policy – Report by the Executive Director of Resources	363 - 374
7.10	Lothian Pension Fund - Administration Strategy – Report by the Executive Director of Resources	375 - 380
7.11	Temporary Changes to Contract Standing Orders – Report by the Executive Director of Resources	381 - 386
7.12	Decisions taken under urgency provisions – Report by the Chief Executive	387 - 392

7.13	Communities and Families Grants to Third Parties Programme - Extension of Awards for 2020-21 – Report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families	393 - 400
7.14	Planning Contingency Measures – Report by the Executive Director of Place	401 - 406
7.15	Licensing Contingency Measures – Report by the Executive Director of Place	407 - 412
7.16	Service Payment to Edinburgh Leisure - 2020/21 – Report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families	413 - 416
7.17	Grants to Third Parties: Third Sector Interface and Equality and Rights Network 2020/21 – Report by the Chief Executive	417 - 422

8. Routine Decisions

8.1 None.

9. Motions

9.1 None.

10. Resolution to consider in private

10.1 The Panel, is requested under Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the public from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6, 8 and 9 and of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

11. Private reports

11.1 Lothian Pension Fund Operating Plan and Budget for 2020/21 – 423 - 444

11.2 Marketing Edinburgh – Report by the Executive Director of Place 445 - 452

Laurence Rockey

Head of Strategy and Communications

Committee Members

Councillor Adam McVey (Convener), Councillor Cammy Day, Councillor Robert Aldridge, Councillor Alex Staniforth and Councillor Iain Whyte.

Information about the Leadership Advisory Panel

The Leadership Advisory Panel consists of 5 Councillors, the Council Leader and Deputy Leader, and the Leaders of the Conservative, Green and Scottish Liberal Democrat Groups.

Further information

If you have any questions about the agenda or meeting arrangements, please contact Gavin King, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council, Business Centre 2.1, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BG, Tel 0131 529 4239, email gavin.king@edinburgh.gov.uk

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Leadership Advisory Panel

10.00am, Tuesday, 31 March 2020

Edinburgh City Centre Transformation: Meadows to George Street, Developed Design and Commencement of Statutory Procedures for Traffic Regulation Order and Redetermination Order

Executive/routine Wards Council Commitments	Executive City Centre, Southside/Newington 16, 17, 18, 19
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1. Recommendations

- 1.1. It is recommended that the Panel:
 - 1.1.1 notes the developed design for the Meadows to George Street project;
 - 1.1.2 notes that, in addition to measures discussed in previous reports on this project, it is proposed to introduce ‘filtered permeability’ on Market Street. This will permit through journeys for buses, taxis and cycles only, with provision retained for drop off and pick up at Waverley Station, particularly by blue badge holders. This is part of a package of measures, detailed in this report, that were set out by the Edinburgh City Centre Transformation to achieve better streets for people and reduce car dominance; and
 - 1.1.3 approves commencing the statutory procedures for the necessary Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and Redetermination Order (RO).

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

Contact: Ewan Kennedy, Service Manager – Transport Networks

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Edinburgh City Centre Transformation: Meadows to George Street, Developed Design and Commencement of Statutory Procedures for Traffic Regulation Order and Redetermination Order

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Edinburgh City Centre Transformation strategy (ECCT), as approved at the October 2019 Transport and Environment Committee, has set out an ambitious but achievable strategy of street changes which will re-prioritise the city centre as pedestrian and cycle friendly rather than traffic dominated. Meadows to George Street will be one of the first major schemes within the ECCT to be delivered.
- 2.2 Building on high levels of support from public consultation, the Meadows to George Street project has completed its developed design stage and it is now proposed to commence the statutory procedures for the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and Redetermination Orders (RO) necessary to make the changes proposed to streets along the route.
- 2.3 This report sets out the key findings from the public consultation, summarises the developed design, including the addition of filtered permeability at Market Street, and recommends commencing the statutory procedures.

3. Background

- 3.1 In 2017 the City of Edinburgh Council was one of four local authorities that were successful in the Scottish Government's Community Links PLUS, now called Places for Everyone, funding competition. The Council had two successful projects: Meadows to George Street (MGS) and the West Edinburgh Link.
- 3.2 The MGS project aims to maximise the quality of walking, cycling and public spaces along some of Edinburgh's most iconic streets. The project area, as defined in Appendix 1, includes; Forrest Road, Teviot Place, Bristo Place, Candlemaker Row, George IV Bridge, Bank Street, the Mound and Hanover Street.

- 3.3 MGS is a key element of ECCT and will be one of the first parts of that strategy to be delivered.
- 3.4 Located within, or closely connected to, the MGS project area are many of Edinburgh's key visitor attractions; such as the National Gallery, National Museum, National Library, Greyfriars Bobby, The Royal Mile, Princes Street, George Street and the Meadows. The grand and varied architecture, built form and vistas make the streets themselves destinations and are important aspects of the Old and New Town's UNESCO's World Heritage Site inscription. The value therefore of these streets as linear public spaces, which can gather significant crowds at sites such as at Greyfriars Bobby, is significant.
- 3.5 In addition to the above attractions and characteristics, these streets serve as key commuter and visitor walking routes to and from the city centre. Due to their popularity for both local people and visitors, they carry very high footfall levels throughout the year and especially during the festivals. This results in the pavements being often over-capacity and people having to stray onto the road.
- 3.6 The corridor is well served by public transport that links to the city centre. This is an important aspect of the multi-modal sustainable transport package that these streets offer.
- 3.7 MGS will provide a key cycling connection linking existing routes to and from the south, west and east, which culminate at the Meadows, with the city centre. To the north, MGS links to the George Street and First New Town project and its planned cycle facilities that will, in turn, link to the City Centre West East Cycle Link, heading west and north east. As such, MGS will connect the majority of the city-wide cycling network and deliver a step change in strategic cycle connectivity in Edinburgh.

4. Main report

The Developed Design

- 4.1 The project has now reached the completion of its developed design stage. Plans showing the design are provided in Appendix 2 and a high level operations plan is set out in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 These plans have been developed on the back of high levels of public support for the concept design, see section 7.
- 4.3 As part of the wider ECCT strategy, the MGS design has been refined through close cross-departmental working, including key inputs from planning, public transport, city centre locality, public safety, roads renewals, waste, traffic management/signals, parks and greenspaces and estates. This is underpinned through internal governance structures of the City Centre Programme Delivery Board and Traffic Management Review Panel, which oversee interactions with all major city centre projects.

- 4.4 The MGS design proposes only permitting the use of Bank Street by buses, licensed black cab taxis and cycles. Loading provision for businesses on the street will be provided and access will be maintained for residents of properties on/from the street. The project also proposes to pedestrianise Forrest Road, with access maintained for businesses and residents of the street. Candlemaker Row, from Merchant Street to George IV Bridge, will only be accessible for local bus services and business loading.
- 4.5 In order to make the improvements on the Mound it is necessary to slightly widen out the footprint of the street. To achieve this the project team is engaged in positive dialogue with the National Galleries of Scotland.
- 4.6 The above changes are vital to both the MGS project and the wider ECCT strategy. For ECCT, it is central to the creation of a people friendly city centre where through traffic by private cars is reduced. For MGS, the closure of Bank Street to most traffic enables the street changes that are proposed by the project, in the following ways:
- 4.6.1 Segregated cycleways – the design provides for continuous segregated cycleways, including separation of cyclists from traffic at all junctions. The narrow road width of Bank Street, at the corner by the High Court, means it is only possible to fit segregated cycleways into the available space if traffic is restricted to an alternating one-way shuttle operation and this can only operate effectively if general through traffic is removed. Continuing to allow this traffic would result in very significant congestion along the whole corridor, with severe consequent impacts on bus services.
 - 4.6.2 Wider footways - reducing general traffic along the route, due to the proposed restrictions at Bank Street, makes it possible to remove two traffic lanes on George IV Bridge and greatly widen the footways. There are also wider footways proposed for other streets along the route which are made possible by this reduction in traffic.
 - 4.6.3 People friendly streets - more crossings, new public spaces, seating and greening. By restricting traffic, new public spaces can be created outside the Bedlam Theatre and Greyfriars Bobby, as well as a new publicly accessible greenspace at Mound Place. Throughout the project there will be more space available for seating and greening. Reduced traffic creates a less car-dominated and more people friendly street environment, with new formalised crossings on desire lines.
 - 4.6.4 Public transport corridor - reducing general traffic along the route, due to the proposed restrictions at Bank Street, enables the project to make all the above gains whilst still retaining the high-quality public transport service.
 - 4.6.5 Loading, servicing and parking - loading and servicing will be provided for all streets, however the locations and timings will be changed to best balance supporting the businesses and optimising use for walking and

social activities (relaxing, sitting and meeting). Details of these times are being refined prior to advertising the TRO. There will be provision for blue badge parking and for residents' parking bays at Mound Place.

Market Street Filtered Permeability

- 4.7 The ECCT strategy included the introduction, under an experimental TRO, of 'filtered permeability' on Market Street in order to better deliver improved conditions for pedestrians and cyclists in the city centre. This would involve restricting through motorised access via Market Street to buses and taxis, whilst allowing access to Waverley Station for pick-up and drop-off. The subsequent detailed traffic modelling undertaken as part of the MGS project (see para 4.6) has demonstrated that, to ensure an effective bus service and prevent delays, it is vital to prevent through traffic using Market Street. It was not possible to undertake this detailed level of modelling prior to the approval of the ECCT strategy.
- 4.8 Based on the outcome of the modelling, it is now proposed to pursue a permanent closure of Market Street, between Cockburn Street and Jeffrey Street, to through traffic (exempting buses, taxis and cycles) as part of the MGS TRO. This closure/filter would continue to allow drop-off and pick up at the Market Street entrance of Waverley Station for Blue Badge holders. Making these changes permits significant widening of the footways and creation of a quieter, more pedestrian friendly street.
- 4.9 Closing this section of Market Street will have a number of benefits in addressing key existing issues on the street:
- 4.9.1 Footway overcrowding. The volume of people trying to move along the street outweighs the available width. This leads to it being difficult and uncomfortable to walk or spend time on the street, particularly during festival periods. Data from Waverley Station indicates that patronage levels at the station are to increase by 10% per year. The design we are proposing ensures excellent functioning of the street for pedestrians, both now and in the future.
- 4.9.2 Pedestrian and cycle safety. Feedback, particularly via the summer streets study, is that the level of traffic movements and narrow footways leads to a street environment that feels less safe for walking and cycling. Restricting general traffic, simplifying the street layout and widening footways will alleviate these problems.
- 4.9.3 Creating a welcoming people-friendly gateway to Edinburgh. The proposed street changes, wider footways and lower traffic, will make for a significantly better first impression for people entering Edinburgh's historic core from the station. There are a number of attractions along the street, including cafes, bars, hotels and the Edinburgh Dungeon. Our proposals will support these attractions through further developing the street as place enjoy spending time within rather than just passing through.

- 4.9.4 Station access. The changes will create better access to the station, for those on foot, bike and blue badge holders, whilst maintaining access for pick up and drop off by taxi. Drop off by private car is controlled so that it is still possible, either directly at Calton Road, or from slightly further away on Market Street, without compromising the above gains for the street as a whole.
- 4.9.5 Complementing the Waverley Station Masterplan. The recent Masterplan for Waverley Station highlights creating a more people friendly environment with improved active travel access. Our design compliments this view, takes the first step towards it and future proofs the street for the potential changes set out in the masterplan.
- 4.10 Based on these factors the MGS project will incorporate the design and delivery of this section of Market Street. A concept design for it is shown in Appendix 4. This design has been developed cross-departmentally. Its development is informed by ECCT traffic modelling and surveys of how the street functions in terms of loading and the interactions of vehicles and pedestrians. Further design work is underway to complete it to the same developed design stage as the rest of the project so that it can be part of the TRO/RO promotion.
- 4.11 The section of Market Street between The Mound and Waverley Bridge, is being considered to improve cycle connectivity to the station. This piece of work is part of a wider ECCT study on active travel connections across the Waverley Valley, including Waverley Bridge, East Princes Street, North Bridge and the proposed active travel bridge over Waverley Station. It is required to incorporate these elements together as one package as the interplay between them in terms of overall traffic movements has to be considered and modelled collectively.

Surveys and Traffic Modelling

- 4.12 Surveys undertaken as part of developing the design have included detailed analysis of; parking and loading, pedestrian flows and desire lines, public life (the use of streets for social activities), cycle flows, traffic flows, utilities, heritage, drainage and structures.
- 4.13 The traffic modelling work undertaken comprised of two elements:
- 4.13.1 Firstly, strategic modelling of the key traffic routeing changes set out in ECCT was undertaken, this comprised the Meadows to George Street proposed changes, including the traffic filters on Market Street and Bank Street. The results from the modelling showed that general traffic flows can still be maintained, without causing significant congestion issues, along all the key city centre routes where traffic is permitted under the strategy.
- 4.13.2 Secondly, outputs from this model were then incorporated into detailed modelling analysis of the MGS corridor. This detailed modelling helped to refine the design for buses, cyclist, pedestrian and general traffic movements, taking into account impacts on local delays and flows.

Traffic Regulation Order and Redetermination Order

- 4.14 The next stage of the project is to advertise the TRO and RO that are required to make the changes proposed. A delegated powers report setting out the proposed traffic restrictions in greater detail will be prepared for approval by the Director of Place.
- 4.15 The statutory procedures for the Traffic Orders include a further public consultation. This will be publicised using the following measures, to ensure awareness of the planned changes and how to comment or formally object to them:
 - 4.15.1 online publication of the Orders via the Council's Traffic Orders webpage;
 - 4.15.2 advertisement in local newspapers;
 - 4.15.3 notification to people on the project's mailing list;
 - 4.15.4 notification of the consultation on the project's website;
 - 4.15.5 leafleting of all local residents and businesses along the route, notifying them of when and how to respond; and
 - 4.15.6 several public drop-in sessions, where people can view the proposed changes and find out how to submit their views in response.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Details of proposed loading, servicing and blue badge access arrangements will be refined, prior to planned commencement of the statutory procedures for the TRO and RSO later in 2020.
- 5.2 Details of the landscape design proposals for the streetscape and public spaces of the streets will be developed throughout 2020, in parallel to the ongoing Traffic Orders process. The detailed technical design, including elements such as materials, drainage, structures and lighting, will also be completed in preparation for construction.
- 5.3 Depending on the duration and outcomes of the Traffic Orders process, construction is expected to commence in 2022.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The current estimated overall project cost for construction is £15.9 million, however this does not yet include the re-development of Market Street. Costs for Market Street will be added once the design is completed to the developed design stage. This will be carried out in next two months. Funding for this is split with:
 - 6.1.1 the Council's, Committee approved, Active Travel Capital Budget providing 45%; and

6.1.2 Transport Scotland, via Sustrans Places for Everyone funding, providing 55%.

6.2 A further breakdown of this budget calculation is provided in Appendix 3.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

7.1 The developed design has been informed by two rounds of public engagement and consultation, as well as detailed surveys and modelling.

7.2 The latest public consultation, carried out in Summer 2019, showed a very high level of overall public support (75% in favour) for the designs. Based on feedback from over 1,400 responses, the key findings include:

7.2.1 79% support for improvements for walking (wider pavements, planters, seating and crossings);

7.2.2 81% support for introduction of segregated cycleways;

7.2.3 76% support for improving the streets as places for people and restricting general traffic on certain streets;

7.2.4 high levels of support for the concept design for each specific street (between 79% and 75%);

7.2.5 overall support to retain general traffic on Hanover street and The Mound (between Princes Street and Market Street);

7.2.6 the majority of residents in or near the area are supportive of the project, welcoming the improvement of conditions for walking and cycling;

7.2.7 of the business owners who responded, there was a broadly even level of support and opposition to the various elements of the concept design. There is, however, a greater level of support for the concept of improving walking and cycling. There are some key concerns regarding loading, accessibility, retention of bus services and general accessibility to support local businesses. The project has been addressing these through further business engagement and surveys of loading patterns; and

7.2.8 young people show very high levels of support for the project.

7.2.9 of the 25% who were opposed to the proposals the most common reason for opposition was to retain access for general traffic along the corridor. Retaining general traffic access was felt to be beneficial for driving to work and accessing the city centre, preventing congestion on other streets, not increasing journey times and supporting local businesses.

7.3 A link to the full consultation report is provided in point 8.4.

7.4 The positive impacts for sustainability relate to the principle that places are for people rather than motor traffic. Increased levels of walking and cycling are expected through the project, which is likely to result in fewer private car trips and a reduction in carbon emissions. Sustainable urban drainage options are being

considered along the route, alongside planting of pollinator wildflower species and trees which will have positive environmental benefits.

- 7.5 An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been carried out and then updated at each stage of the project. The IIA identifies a majority of positive impacts for people with protected characteristics.

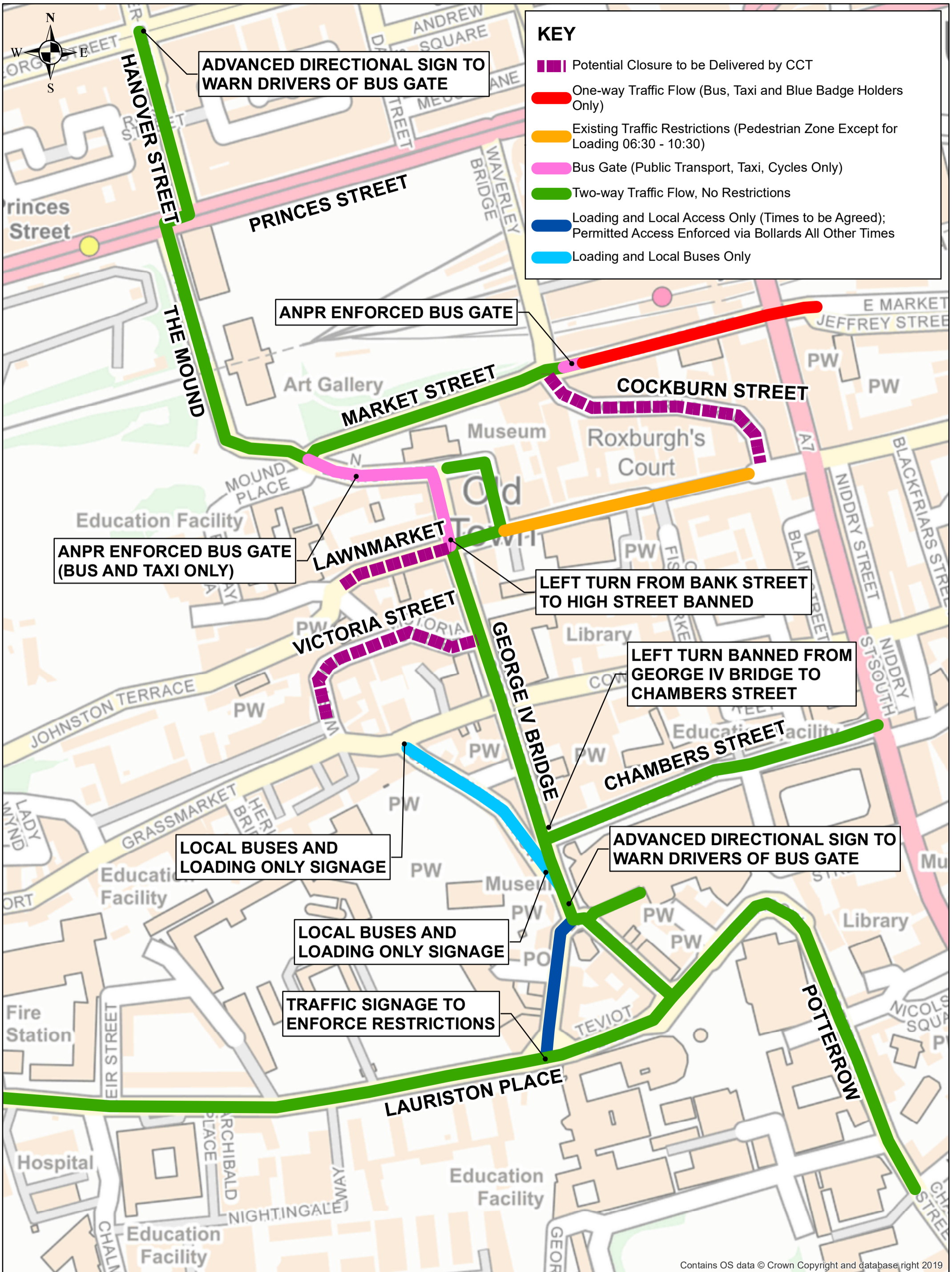
8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [Transport 2030 Vision](#)
- 8.2 [Edinburgh's City Centre Transformation Project](#)
- 8.3 [Meadows to George Street website](#)
- 8.4 [MGS public consultation report](#)
- 8.5 [MGS Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin October 2019](#)
- 8.6 [City Centre Transformation Strategy](#)
- 8.7 [Active Travel Action Plan](#)

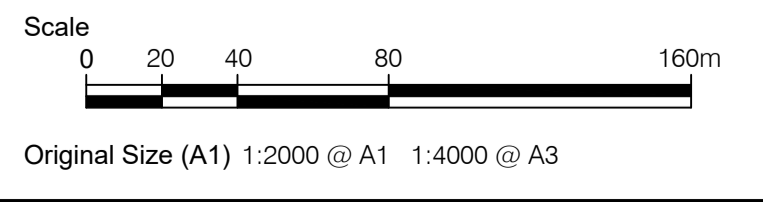
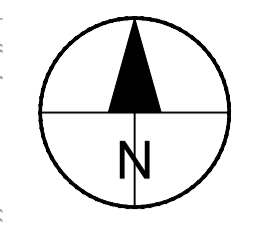
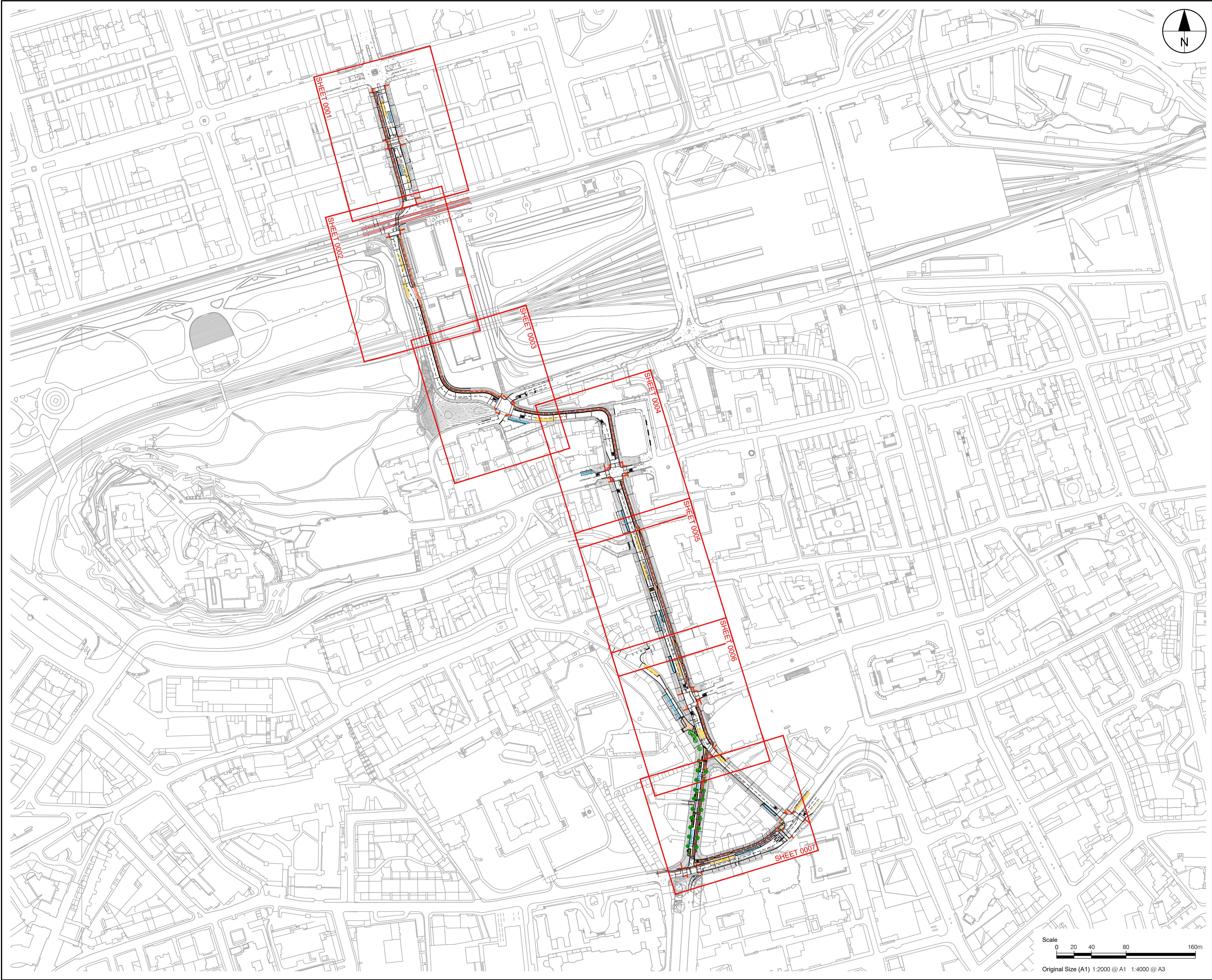
9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Project Area and Operations Plan
- 9.2 Appendix 2 – Developed Design Drawings
- 9.3 Appendix 3 – Construction Cost Estimate Summary
- 9.4 Appendix 4 – Market Street Concept Design
- 9.5 Appendix 5 – MGS Integrated Impact Assessment Report

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PROJECT
 MEADOWS TO GEORGE STREET

CLIENT

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I/R	DATE	DESCRIPTION
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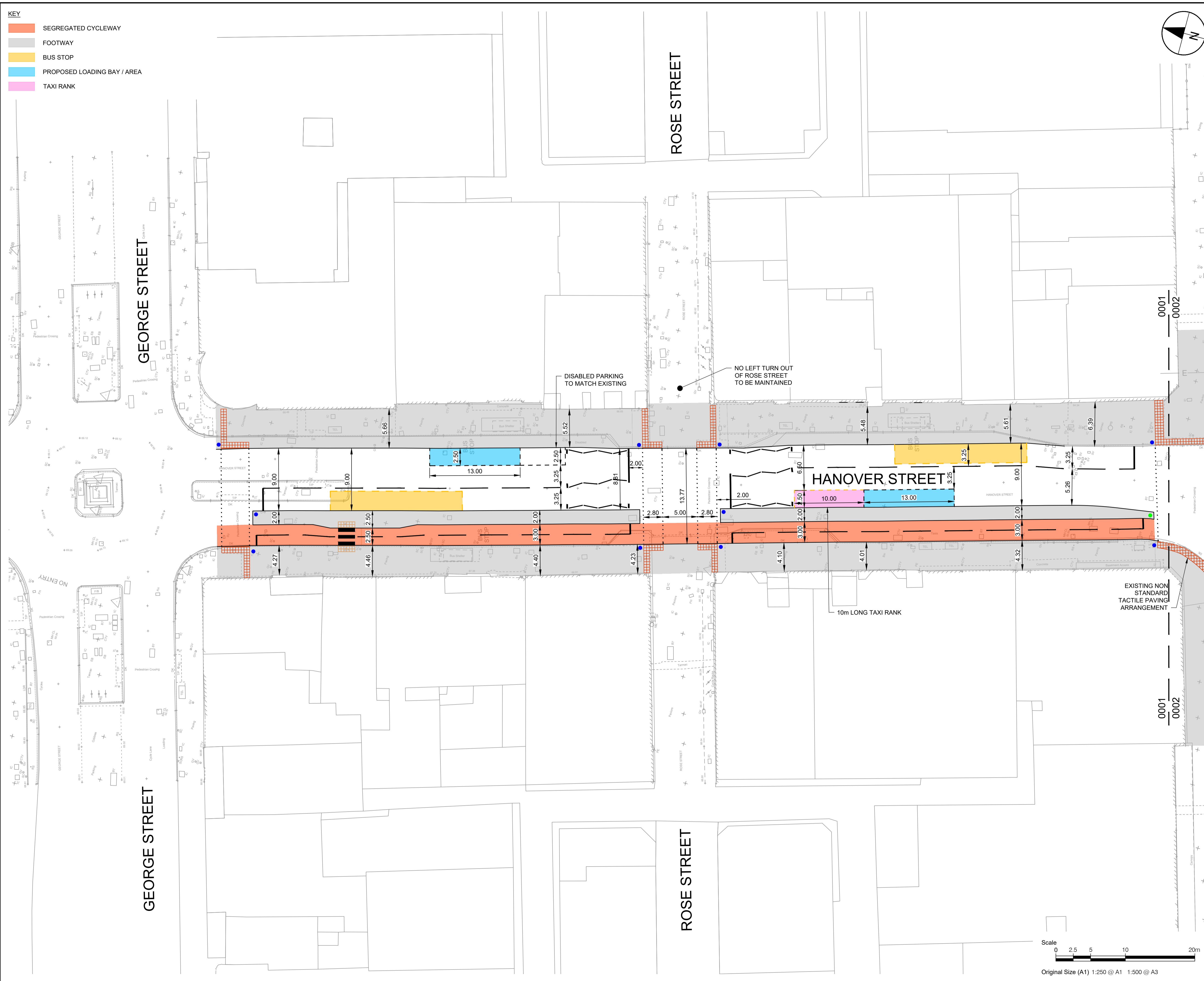
KEY PLAN

PROJECT NUMBER
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SHEET TITLE
 DESIGN PROPOSALS
 JANUARY 2020
 OVERVIEW

SHEET NUMBER
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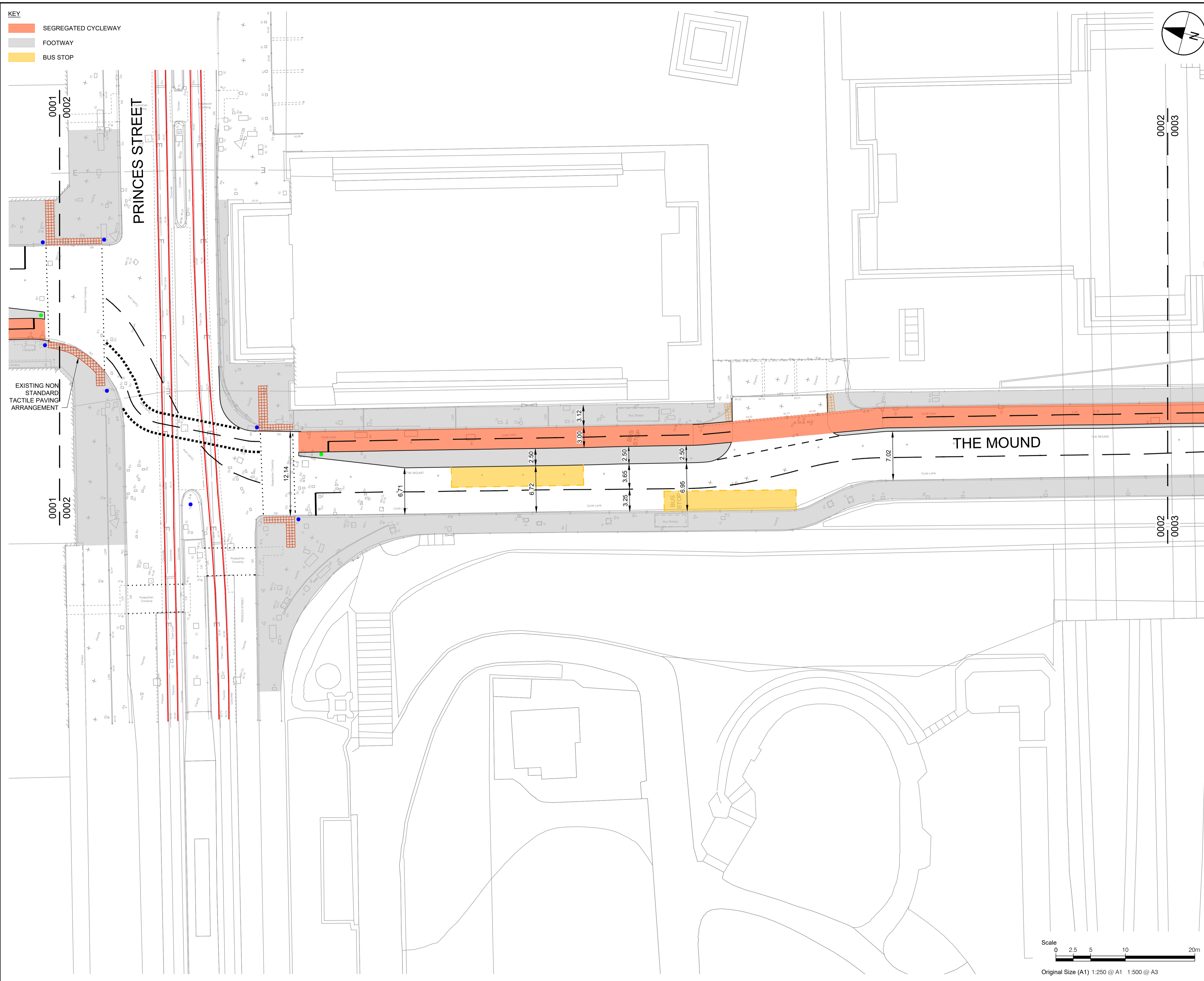
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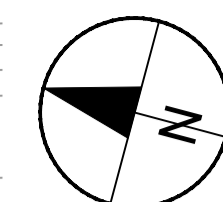
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KEY

	SEGREGATED CYCLEWAY
	FOOTWAY
	BUS STOP



PROJECT
 MEADOWS TO GEORGE STREET

CLIENT



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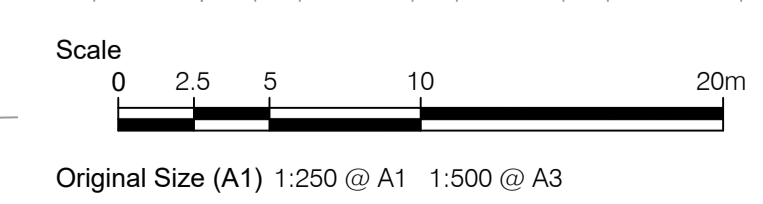
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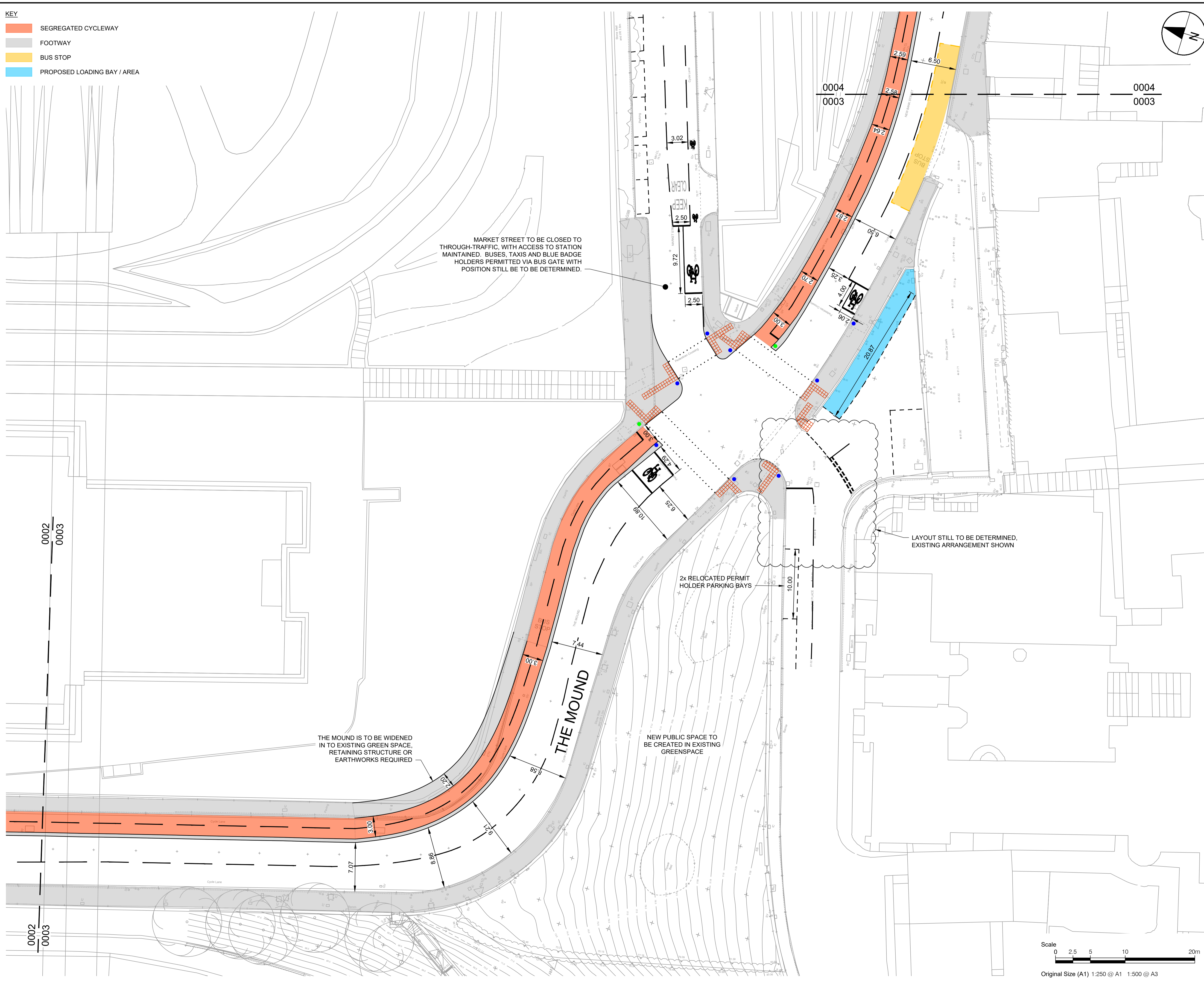
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 SHEET 2 OF 7

SHEET NUMBER
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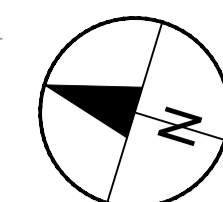
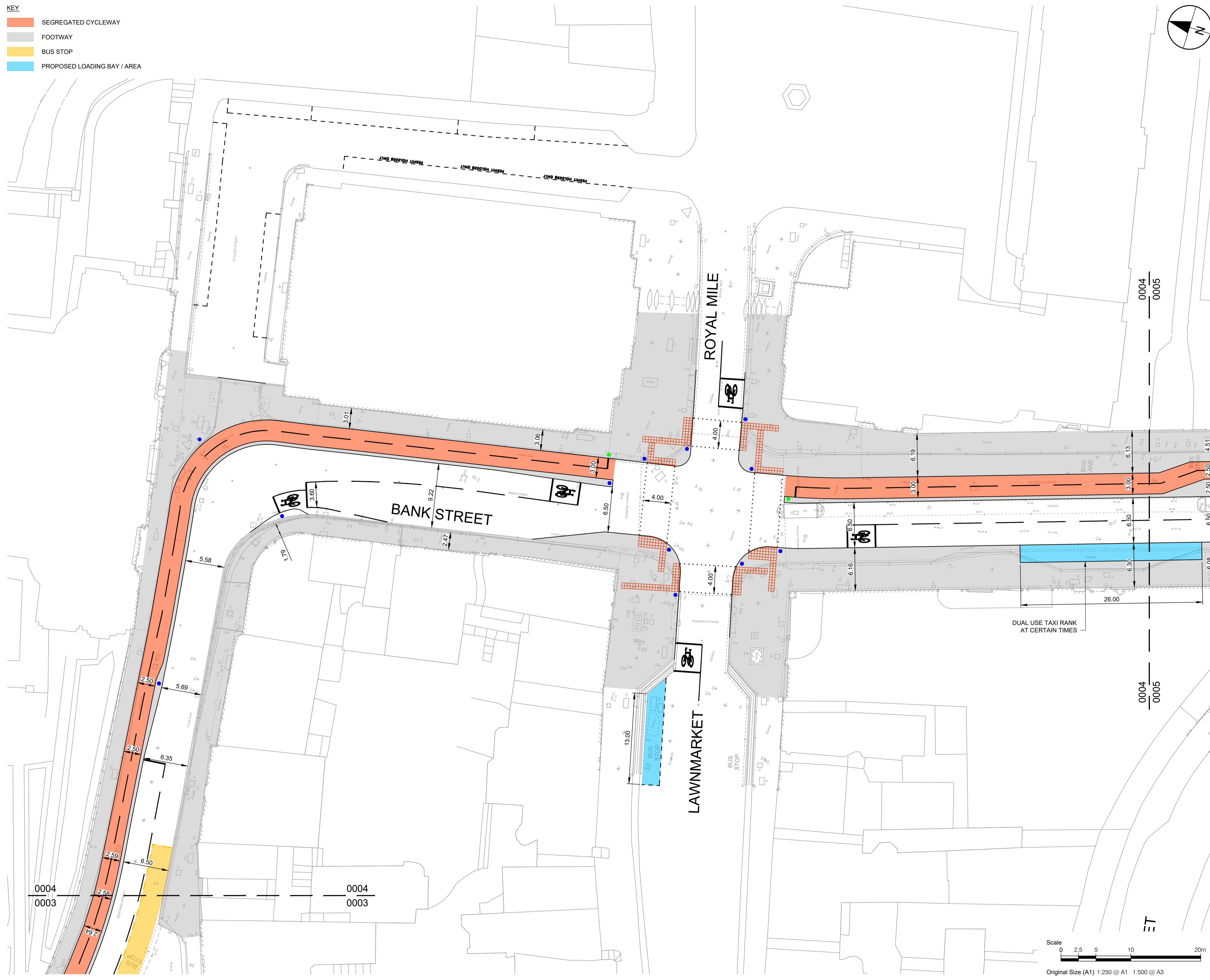
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- KEY
- SEGREGATED CYCLEWAY
 - FOOTWAY
 - BUS STOP
 - PROPOSED LOADING BAY / AREA



PROJECT
MEADOWS TO GEORGE STREET

CLIENT



CONSULTANT

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NOTES

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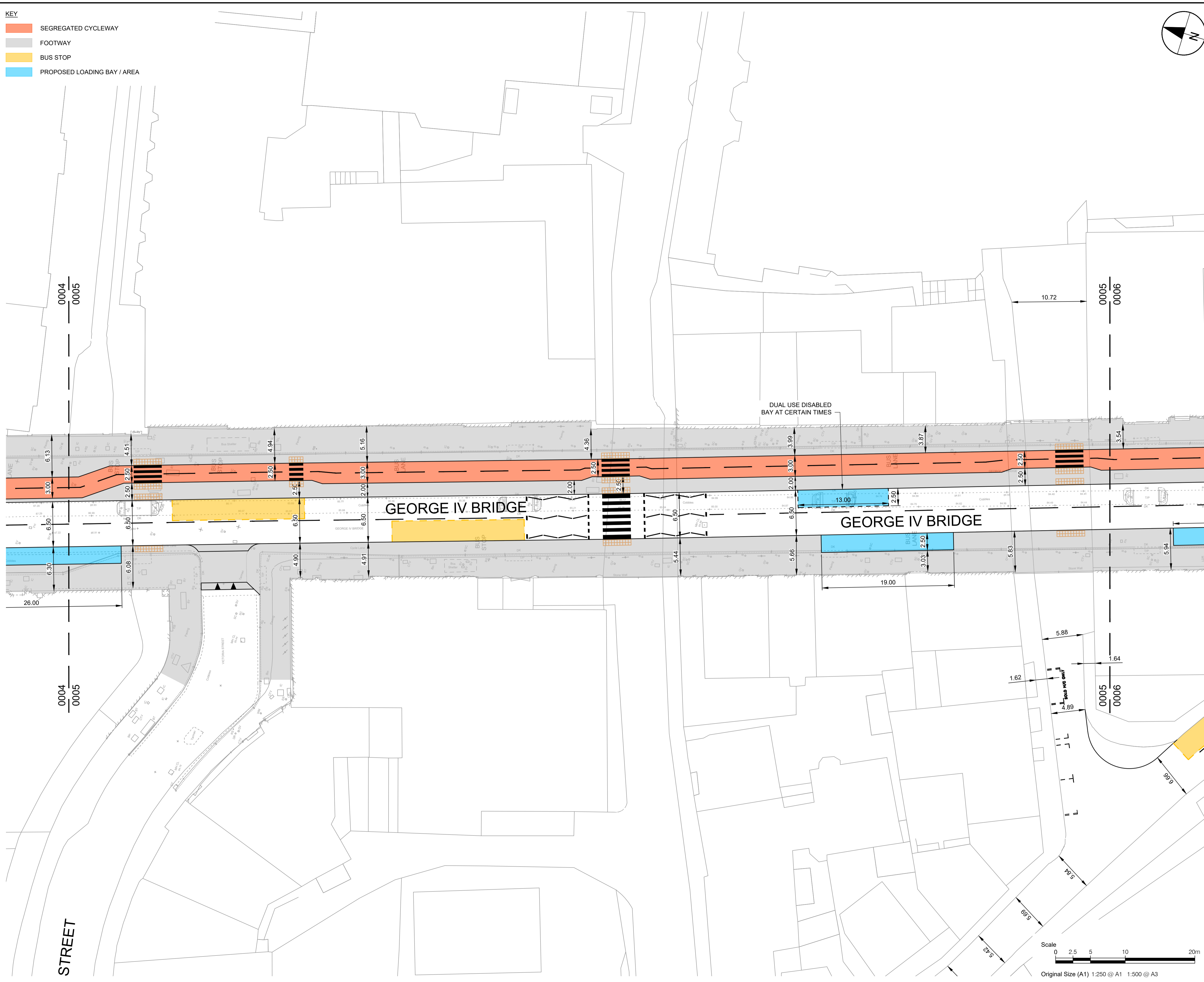
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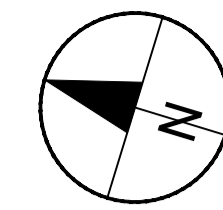
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- KEY**
- SEGREGATED CYCLEWAY
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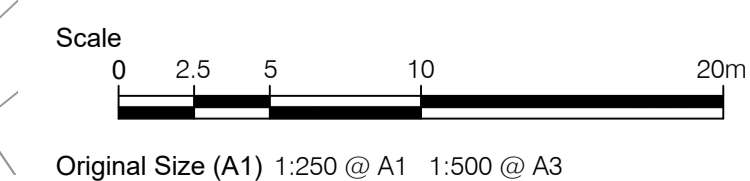
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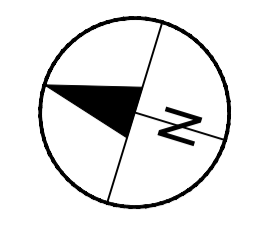
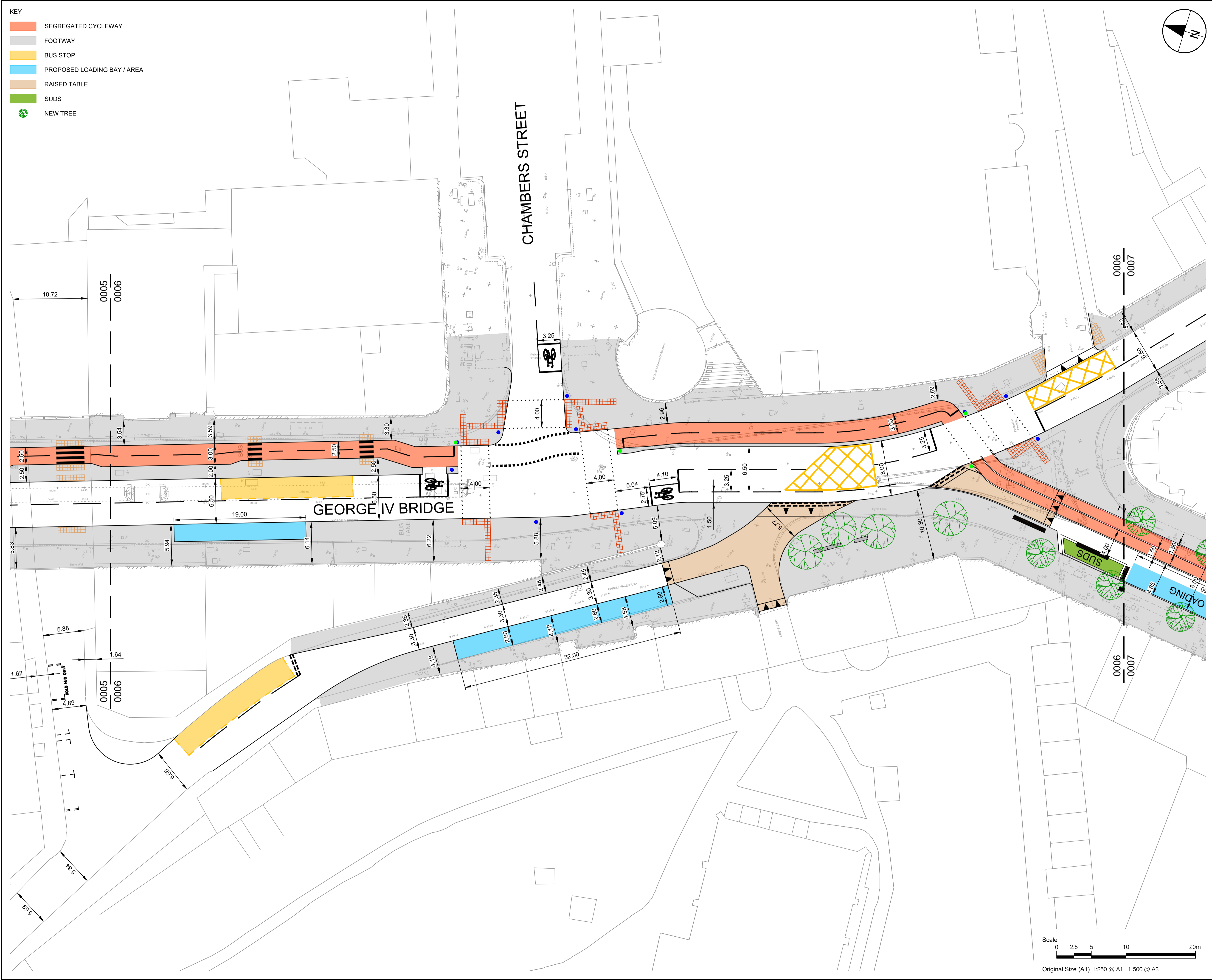
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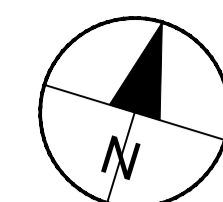
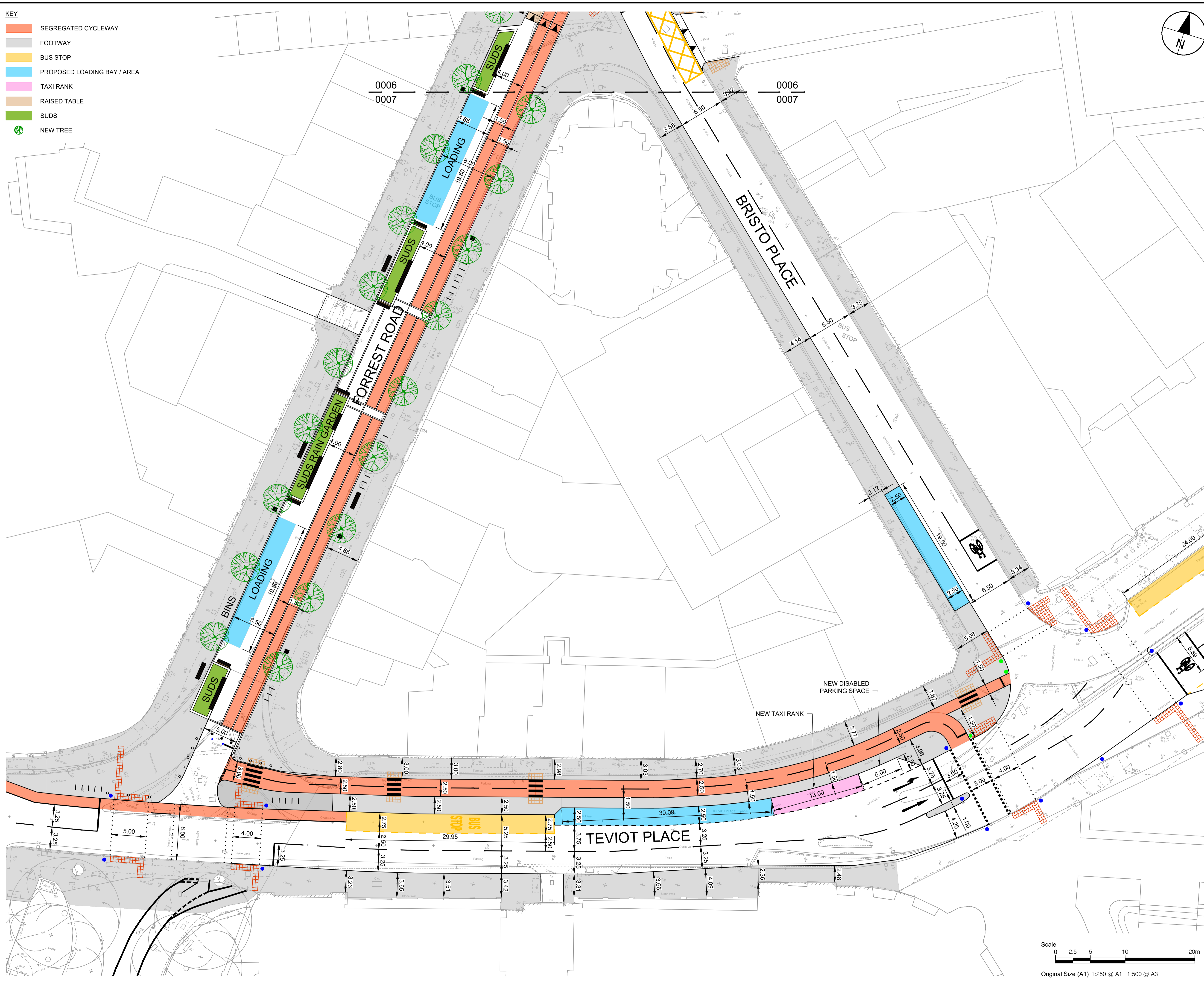
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Appendix 3: Meadows to George Street: Construction Cost Estimate Summary

Update February 2020

Background

In January 2019 the Meadows to George Street project completed its Concept Design proposals which included creation of new segregated cycle tracks, widened footways, new public spaces, pedestrianised streets and a number of new signalised junctions and crossings across the project area. At this time a construction cost estimate was developed and agreed which amounted to a total cost of £13.8m ex. VAT.

Over the past 12 months the project has completed wide reaching public consultation, business engagement and further technical design feasibility. The general concept of the scheme and its design proposals were widely supported, and further technical design and investigations are ongoing. With the project now at Developed Design stage a new construction cost estimate has been developed. For this latest cost estimate, the project team have been working closely with other design teams on similar projects in Edinburgh to ensure lessons are being learned and a consistency in approach. The latest construction cost estimate has increased to £15.9m ex. VAT.

The detail of the changes to the cost estimates and approach are discussed below.

Change in Costs

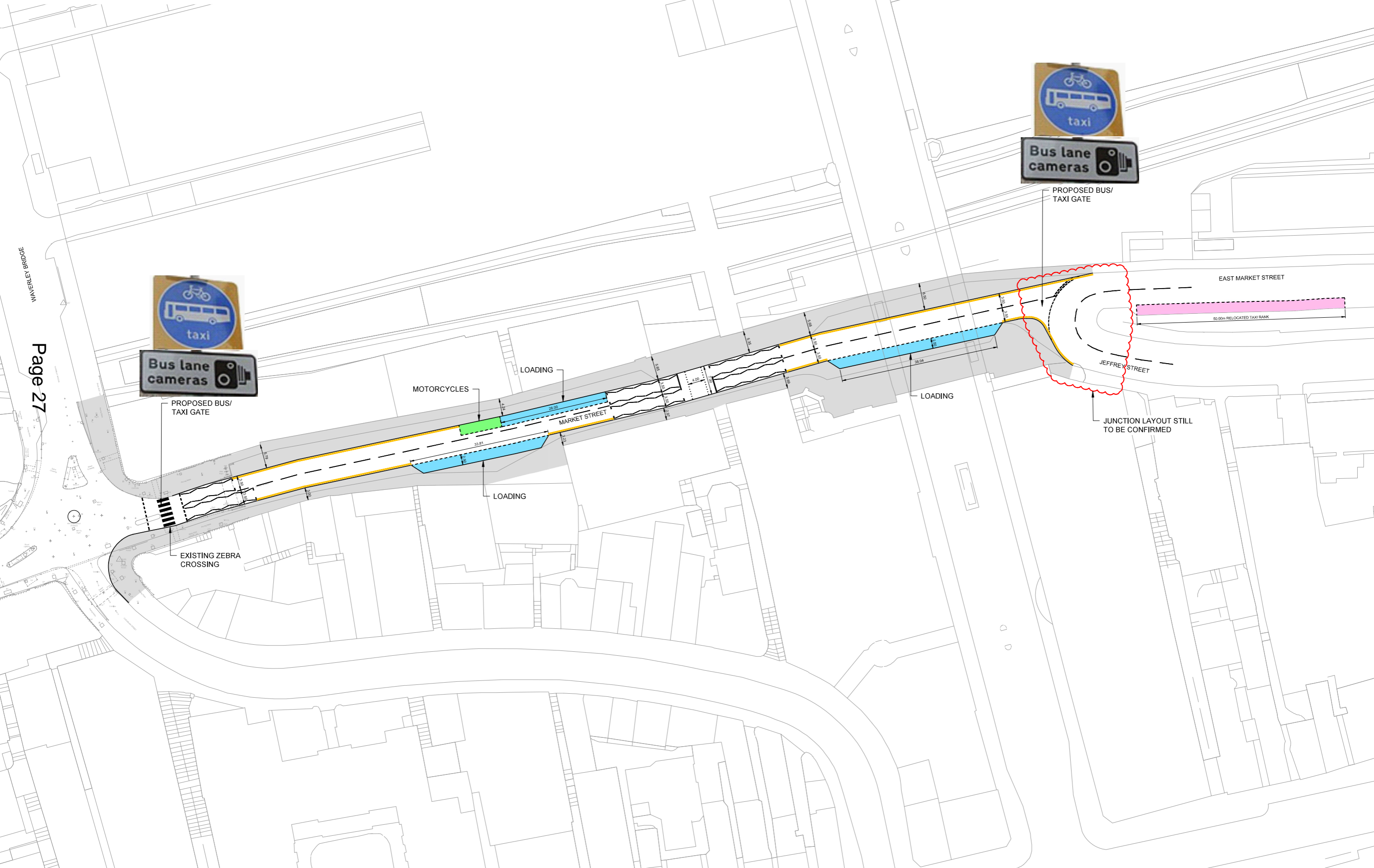
- It should be noted the base cost estimate of the works – plant, labour, materials – is generally consistent across both stages with minimal change – circa £8m. This reflects the fact the general scope has remained unchanged and the design team have worked to maintain this.
- Based on the current market conditions, and prices being received by other similar projects, it is noted the costs are generally proving higher than previously anticipated. Recent projects have seen an increase in prices up to 25% higher than budget estimates. The updated MGS cost estimate includes for a high level of preliminary costs to account for this.
- In January 2019 optimism bias was applied at 44% in accordance with national guidance given the early stage of development. This previous allowance of optimism bias included for the unknowns relative to the stage of development including utilities.
- Given the latest stage of design, and information available on utilities within the project area, an increased allowance has been made for potential impacts to public utility apparatus and this is being treated separate to general optimism bias/budget contingency. Further investigation works are ongoing to better define these impacts and consultation with affected providers. An allowance of 25% has been applied and is in line with similar city centre projects.
- In the latest updated cost estimate, it has been recommended to provide an allowance for price inflation. The project programme is proposing construction 2022-23 and inflation has been applied at 3% per year in accordance with industry trends, totalling a 9% increase come completion of construction.

Funding

The project is currently match funded by City of Edinburgh Council and Transport Scotland, via Sustrans' Places for Everyone funding. In summary the current split of the capital construction budget is:

- City of Edinburgh Council, Active Travel Budget: 45%
- Transport Scotland, via Sustrans Places for Everyone funding: 55%

- Market Street two-way
- Bus gates at Waverley Bridge and Jeffrey Street
- No waiting or loading allowed outwith marked bays
- Drop off permitted on double yellow lines



WAVERLEY BRIDGE



Bus lane cameras

PROPOSED BUS/TAXI GATE

EXISTING ZEBRA CROSSING

MOTORCYCLES

LOADING

LOADING

LOADING



Bus lane cameras

PROPOSED BUS/TAXI GATE

JUNCTION LAYOUT STILL TO BE CONFIRMED

EAST MARKET STREET

50.00m RELOCATED TAXI RANK

JEFFREY STREET

Section 1 What is Integrated Impact Assessment

1.1 Introduction

Chief Executives, Elected Members, Directors, Heads of Service, managers and staff should recognise that the decisions they make every day profoundly influence the health and wellbeing of our diverse community in Lothian.

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) aims to enable the partners to meet the legal duties to consider equality, human rights, sustainability and the environment in planning decisions. It also creates an opportunity to identify and tackle unanticipated impacts on wider causes of poor outcomes in our communities, such as inadequate housing, low educational achievement, low income, transport and pollution, poverty, stigma and social inequality.

This guidance to completing the Integrated Impact Assessment has been developed in collaboration between the four local Lothian authorities and NHS Lothian. It takes you through the process of undertaking an IIA. The supporting information document contains additional information on the policy and legal context, recent case law, how to test for relevance, population groups and social and environmental issues and examples of positive and negative impacts.

1.2 Why is Integrated Impact Assessment required?

Assessing impact is an important part of the public sector's decision making process. It is important in developing any proposal to understand how the needs of different groups in the population may differ. IIA is a mechanism which enables you to consider the needs of different groups. It enables us to:

- Develop better policies and practices, based on evidence
- Prevent or mitigate negative impacts on determinants of social and health inequality
- Take joint action on key social policy areas including equality and human rights, poverty and the economy
- Meet legal requirements in relation to equality, climate change, sustainability, the environment and the need to promote human rights, including the rights of children and young people Consider the potential to advance/hinder the wellbeing of children and young people
- Be more transparent and accountable.

We have a legal requirement to assess our proposals for equality impact to ensure that we do not unlawfully discriminate. As partners we have agreed that all new policies, plans or strategies should have an integrated impact assessment which can be used by all partners in Lothian thus reducing duplication of effort and enhancing the assessment process through joint working.

In addition, we are committed to **3 core objectives in relation to equality and rights**:

- To plan services and policies which promote equality of opportunity; eliminate discrimination and harassment; and promote good relations between those with protected characteristics and those with none.
- To address broader inequalities. This means we want to ensure that policies meet the needs of all people including children and young people , especially those from population groups that are known to have poorer outcomes.
- To identify and address wider impacts on poverty, health and health inequalities in our policies, plans and strategies. For example employment, education, transport, the built environment, purchasing policies, public safety, waste disposal all have wider impacts on people's health, wellbeing and life experience.

We are also committed to 3 core objectives in relation to climate change:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Adapting to the impacts of a changing climate.
- Acting sustainably.

Once the IIA has been completed, the proposal revised to mitigate any negative impacts which were identified, the IIA has been signed and made available to the public on the internet you will have met your legal requirements to:

- Undertake an Impact Assessment on equality, human rights including the rights of children and young people, the environment and climate change.
- Consider sustainability as part of the decision making process.
- Identify whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required.
- Ensure that public services and economic decisions promote human dignity for all¹.
- Identify and mitigate against some of the socio-economic factors that have the largest impact on the health and well-being of the local community.

¹ A human rights based approach emphasises participation, accountability, non-discrimination, empowerment and legality. This has several benefits: upholding the rights of everyone, supporting person-centred services, helping good decision making, improving institutional culture and relationships, ensuring legal compliance and promoting best practice. For children and young people's rights include participation, provision and protection.

1.3 Completing an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Guidance on the process is given in Section 2. In summary, it involves the following:

1. **Gather relevant data and evidence** about the needs and experiences of people with protected characteristics and those vulnerable to experiencing poverty and ill health in the context of the work you are undertaking.
2. **As a group exercise**, go through the IIA checklist at Section 3 to think critically about how your proposal will meet the needs of and impact on different groups of people including those with protected characteristics² and impact on human rights, sustainability and the environment. Consider whether further evidence is needed before making recommendations. This group process should take no longer than two hours.
3. **Review and record** the results of your assessment and plan, take action and set review dates to address any issues identified. This helps towards meeting the specific duty in equalities legislation to mainstream equalities in all the work the public sector is involved in.
4. **Publish** the finalised IIA on your public internet site to comply with equalities legislation.

1.4 Terminology

This guidance uses the term 'proposal' as shorthand for any activity that you undertake as part of the work you do. It should be understood broadly to embrace the full range of your plans, programmes, strategies, policies, criteria, functions, practices and activities, including the delivery of services.

² Protected characteristics under the Equality Act include: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation and sex.

Section 2 Undertaking an Integrated Impact Assessment

2.1 What should I impact assess?

The first stage is to consider whether a full assessment is required. If you answer yes to any question in the high relevance category, then an IIA is required. If you identify that an IIA is not required then you need to explain why/how you have reached this decision.

High Relevance	Yes/no
The proposal has consequences for or affects people	Yes
The proposal has potential to make a significant impact on equality even when this only affects a relatively small number of people	Yes
The proposal has the potential to make a significant impact on the economy and the delivery of economic outcomes	Yes
The proposal is likely to have a significant environmental impact	Yes
Low Relevance	
The proposal has little relevance to equality	No
The proposal has negligible impact on the economy	No
The proposal has no/minimal impact on the environment	No
If you have identified low relevance please give a brief statement of your reasoning and report this to your Head of Service. Please then attach this paragraph to the section in the relevant management or committee report where Impact on Equality is considered.	

NB You should always consider the **cumulative impact** on your services or service reviews. E.g. what is the impact if you make a number of changes across different proposal areas?

For further advice on checking relevance see Section 3 in the Supporting Information.

2.2 When should I do an impact assessment?

Assessing the impact is not an end in itself but should be an integral part of proposal development and decision making. The regulations emphasise that it is the **impact** of applying a new or revised proposal that must be impact assessed.

This means that the assessment process must happen **before** a proposal is finalised, preferably early in its development but when the proposal is clear enough to be able to make a reasonable assessment. If the proposal then changes significantly the IIA may need to be repeated. The assessment cannot be retrospective, or undertaken only near the end of the process, but instead should be seen as integral to the development process and able to inform the consultation process.

For existing policies or strategies, impact assessment should be undertaken when they are being reviewed or amended. The IIA should be undertaken before any changes are agreed.

2.3 Who is responsible for doing an Integrated Impact Assessment?

The people responsible for developing a new proposal, or delivering a service are responsible for undertaking the assessment. Recent legal cases highlight that the duty cannot be delegated – it must be considered by the person with the ultimate responsibility for the proposal or the service and for the decision to implement the proposal. Therefore the relevant Head of Service or NHS Project Lead needs to be aware that the IIA is being undertaken and **must sign off the final document**.

2.4 Participation/Involvement and Evidence

Gather existing evidence on the policy, plan or strategy and how it may affect different groups. **Use Table 6 in Section 4** to summarise what it tells you.

Circulate the completed table to all participants in the group exercise in advance of the IIA meeting so that it can inform the discussion and be reviewed.

During the meeting the group should consider whether further evidence is needed to understand impacts and inform recommendations. In this case you should identify how this evidence can be collected.

2.5 How to do an Integrated Impact Assessment

Carrying out an IIA is a group exercise. The IIA group should include those involved in developing the policy, plan or strategy and bring together different perspectives on the topic being discussed. A sound understanding of what is proposed is essential to allow the IIA to be completed successfully. At least one member of the group should

Last edited: 01 November 2019

2nd draft Author: Anna McRobbie

have undertaken training on how to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment.

Ideally the group should include:

- the person who wrote the plan, proposal or strategy
- the person who has strategic responsibility for it
- a person who will implement it
- a person with an operational or front line perspective

plus

- it is good practice to invite an employee representative and/or HR colleague particularly where the proposal will have an impact on service delivery or will impact on staffing arrangements or other workforce issues
- unless in exceptional circumstances the group should consist of at least four people to bring a broad perspective, and include people with protected characteristics where there are gaps in evidence

2.6 Identifying impacts

The group should get together to go through the checklist systematically. The checklist is given in [Section 3](#) of this document. It is intended to help you to critically consider the possible impacts on different groups in the community. Your comments should focus on how the policy may impact on different groups in different ways – this is called ‘differential impacts’ in the checklist.

The checklist asks you to critically consider the impact of the policy on equality, human rights, social, environmental and economic objectives.

IIA is not a way of gathering new evidence or a part of the consultation process. These are separate activities which may help to inform the impact assessment as well as the development of the proposal.

NB A service provided to all people will not necessarily address inequality. It is important to remember that some people will fall into multiple groups e.g. many people will have more than one protected characteristic e.g. age, disability, ethnicity and sex. Some other groups will share the same concerns or barriers to services or participation.

The checklist includes factors that influence people’s health, wellbeing and human rights. Health and wellbeing are not only affected by people’s individual lifestyles but also by their families, social circumstances and the environment in which they live and work and the amount of control they have over decision making.

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2nd draft Author: Anna McRobbie

The check list is not exhaustive. If you can identify other populations who will be impacted or other kinds of impact, they should be considered here also.

Think about:

- Who is likely to be directly affected by the proposal?
- Who is likely to be indirectly affected by the proposal?
- Is it likely that some people might be excluded from the proposal?
- Are there any unintended consequences for children and young people in a proposal designed for adults?
- How will you communicate with people about what is being proposed?

The Supporting Information document contains information on the legal context and some issues to consider relating to the population groups and issues in the checklist.

2.6.1 Positive Impact

An impact that could improve or support work towards the objectives listed. The positive impact may be different for people with one or more protected characteristic. This is permissible but you must always be able to demonstrate that positive impacts are justifiable in law and do not amount to discrimination, direct or indirect. You can also identify how the work will contribute to advancing equality.

For example: A targeted health improvement campaign for young men between the ages 16 to 24 would have a positive impact on this age group, compared with its impact on other age groups. It would not however have a negative impact on other age groups or women, so long as there is evidence that young men in that age group are disadvantaged (an example of positive action to address a current inequality).

2.6.2 Negative Impact

An impact that does not support or hinders the achievement against the objectives identified.

For example: Holding a public meeting as part of a consultation exercise in a building that is not accessible and does not contain an induction loop system will have a negative impact on attendees with poor mobility and those who use hearing aids.

2.7 Services delivered on behalf of the Public Bodies

Public bodies cannot abdicate or delegate their responsibility for meeting the public sector equality duty by 'contracting out' functions. Where a partner's functions will be carried out by an external supplier, both the partner and the contractor have joint responsibility for meeting the duty. If an external organisation is carrying out

functions on behalf of the partnership, then you need to make sure that equality is given due regard³. As part of the impact assessment, identify if any part of the service will be delivered externally and if so, consider how equality and human rights have been considered as part of the procurement process.

2.8 Summary of Impacts

Having considered the evidence and **critically considered** the potential impacts, the group should decide whether it needs further evidence to determine likely impacts or make recommendations. If further evidence is to be gathered this could be marked as an interim IIA and be finalised when this evidence has been gathered. If the evidence is considered to be sufficient the group should discuss and agree a summary of the positive and negative impacts identified and recommendations. This summary will be used to populate the summary report template at Section 4.

In times of financial constraint, public sector partners will have to make difficult and often unpopular decisions regarding funding and service provision. The Public Sector Equality Duties do not prevent the partners making these decisions. The impact assessment process aims to identify potential adverse impacts or missed opportunities to address any inequitable loss of service. In this instance the Equality and Human Rights Commission⁴ will be looking for steps you have taken or considered to mitigate any adverse impacts. Some useful questions to consider:

- What actions are required to improve the proposal as a result of the IIA?
- How will the proposal be monitored after full implementation and how will you ensure that the recommendations made in the IIA are effective?
- Have you planned reviews of the proposal? If so, how often and who will be responsible?

If the proposal shows **actual or potential unlawful discrimination** you will only be able to meet your legal obligations under the duties by stopping, removing or changing the policy.

³ Those organisations subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty must have due regard to its three general duties in all aspects of carrying out business decisions and day-to-day activities i.e: eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

⁴ The Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland has a mandate from the Government to challenge discrimination, and to protect and promote human rights. It has responsibilities to hold the public sector to account on its actions to meet its general and specific duties under equalities legislation

2.9 Communicating Information

The checklist asks you to consider communication issues relating to the proposal. This may include consultation and engagement about the proposal and/or about the service once it is in place. Consider ways to ensure this is inclusive for all members of the community including children and young people, people with sensory impairment, people with low literacy and for whom English is not their first language.

2.10 Action Plan

Following the group exercise, the person responsible for the proposal should use the recommendations to prepare a detailed action plan and build these into the implementation of the proposal.

2.11 Follow up

Integrated Impact Assessment should inform future monitoring of the policy. The true impact of a proposal may only become clear once it is implemented or operating in practice. Existing and normal monitoring practices may need to be adapted to include the monitoring of impacts on people with protected characteristics, other vulnerable groups, human rights and meeting the general equality duties, the environment, and sustainability.

2.12 Sign Off, Paperwork and Publication

The IIA report template at Section 4, should be used when reporting impact assessments. Please complete the form electronically. Please note that all IIAs are required to be published on the relevant organisation's external internet site by each of the partners and therefore authors must ensure that the information is presented clearly and in plain language that can be easily understood by the general public.

The relevant Head of Service or Project Lead needs to be aware that the IIA is being undertaken and **must sign off the final document**.

Once completed, the impact assessment report should be sent to the relevant contact(s) in Section 5 of this document.

2.13 Quality Assurance

A sample of IIAs will be checked by an IIA quality assurance group which includes colleagues working on equality, sustainability, health inequality and tackling poverty to ensure that IIAs are completed to a suitable and consistent standard. The QA team will use the following criteria to check the IIA reports.

Criteria: for use by IIA QA group	Tick
Overall, the IIA is understandable and set in context	
The need for an IIA was identified appropriately	
There is evidence that all relevant populations were considered	
There is evidence that all parts of the IIA were completed appropriately	
There are no obvious impacts that were not identified	
There is an action plan to implement any recommendations arising from the IIA and it specifies how these will be monitored	
The appropriate person has signed off the IIA	
Any relevant reports to committee contain the appropriate reference to IIA	
Any further considerations	

Feedback will be given to the lead person for the IIA report. This may include the need for minor adjustments, follow up action or other recommendations.

Section 3 Integrated Impact Assessment Checklist

This checklist does not form part of the IIA report but is intended to inform the group discussion. The boxes may help you to write your ideas down before discussion within the group. For further support see the IIA guidance and supporting information.

1. Before going through the checklist, consider:
 - What do you think will change as a result of this proposal?
2. Now consider impacts on different populations.
 - Which groups will be affected?
 - Go through the checklist below to identify how different people could be affected differentially, and possible areas of impact.

Population Groups	Differential impacts (<i>how may each group be affected in different ways?</i>)
<p>People with protected characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older people and people in their middle years • Young people and children • Men (including trans men), Women (including trans women) and Non-binary people (Include issues relating to pregnancy and maternity including same sex parents) • Disabled people (includes physical disability, learning disability, sensory impairment, long-term medical conditions, mental health problems) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive – by improving ease of access and infrastructure to improve safety. More seating in design proposals for rest points. • Negative – removal of southbound bus stop on the Mound increases distance between bus stops on the route in excess of standard 400m. Floating bus stops are also an unfamiliar concept which may hinder travel. • Positive – by improving ease of access and infrastructure to improve safety • Positive – improve the safety of infrastructure relating to active travel may increase the level of female cyclists • Potential Negative – safety/security concerns walking along pedestrianised areas (Forrest Road) alone / after dark. • Positive – by improving ease of access and infrastructure to improve safety and engaging with Edinburgh Access Panel to maintain a line of communication throughout the project • Negative - removal of southbound bus stop on

Population Groups	Differential impacts (how may each group be affected in different ways?)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minority ethnic people (includes Gypsy/Travellers, migrant workers, non-English speakers) • Refugees and asylum seekers • People with different religions or beliefs (includes people with no religion or belief) • Lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual people • People who are unmarried, married or in a civil partnership 	<p>the Mound increases distance between bus stops on the route in excess of standard 400m. Floating bus stops are also an unfamiliar concept which may hinder travel. Reduction in available parking. Safety concerns/obstacles in areas of shared space – design will strive to reduce conflict. Severing of routes due to restriction to private traffic may be of a negative impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neutral Consultation did not gather feedback from ethnic minorities. Feedback on survey not representative of census data. • Neutral • Potential negative – reduction of parking around Augustine United Church / St Giles' and no Sunday parking. Access will be more constrained. • Potential Negative – safety/security concerns walking along pedestrianised areas (Forrest Road) alone / after dark. • Neutral
<p>Those vulnerable to falling into poverty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployed • People on benefits • Single parents • Vulnerable families e.g. young mothers, people experiencing domestic abuse, children at risk of statutory measures • Pensioners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive – by improving mobility by a modes of travel that is cheap and affordable – improving transport equality (walking and cycling) • Positive – by improving mobility by a modes of travel that is cheap and affordable (walking and cycling) • Neutral • Neutral • Positive - by improving ease of access and

Population Groups	Differential impacts (how may each group be affected in different ways?)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looked after children and young people • Those leaving care settings (including children and young people and those with illness) • Homeless people • Carers (including young carers and carers with protected characteristics) • Those involved in the criminal justice system • Those living in the most deprived communities • People with low literacy/numeracy • People misusing substances • Others e.g. students, church congregations 	<p>infrastructure to improve safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neutral – potential for play features to be incorporated into design • Neutral – potential for play features to be incorporated into design • Neutral • Potential negative – General traffic restrictions restrict access. Consider controlled pass for access. • Positive - provided bus access is not jeopardised – improve for people with no access to car. Have to bear in mind these groups would disproportionately use bus • Negative – for those in justice system with potential for restricted access to the court • Neutral • Neutral • Neutral • Students positively - improving ease of access and reducing barriers to cycling; church congregations • Possible negative impact if parking on Sunday is restricted (no parking on cycleway e.g.)
<p>Geographical communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural/ semi-rural communities • Urban communities • Coastal communities • Business community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A • Neutral • N/A • Positive – increased footfall and cyclists on the corridor better for business Temporary negative traffic impacts could affect business although this will be taken into account during the construction phase Negative – impact on loading/parking

Population Groups	Differential impacts (how may each group be affected in different ways?)
	operations;
Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-time • Part-time • Shift workers • Staff with protected characteristics • Staff vulnerable to falling into poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive for all – by improving ease of access and infrastructure to improve safety. The seasonal nature of employment in the area and shift workers may be impacted differently. Limited parking for staff along the corridor so minimal impacts. potential negative for staff being unable to drive to work.

3. Consider how your proposal will impact on each of the following from both an equalities and human rights perspective.

Objectives	Positive/negative impacts
Equality and Human Rights	
Eliminate discrimination and harassment	Negative - pedestrianisation can change perceived safety amongst women Positive - reduce conflict between active travel and road users
Advance equality of opportunity e.g. improve access / quality of services	Positive
Foster good relations within and between people with protected characteristics	Positive – Introduction of improved crossing facilities, reduction of street clutter. Negative – Potential conflicts with shared space, potential confusion initially with floating bus stops
Enable people to have more control of their social/work environment	Positive – fostering an understanding between different user groups through engagement stage will allow them to act upon their control once designs has been implemented.
Reduce differences in status between different groups of people	Positive – building empathy through engagement stage by engaging with a wide range of groups leading to a more democratic use of space
Promote participation, inclusion, dignity and control	Positive – through engagement stage, people are encouraged to participate to mould future designs and

Objectives	Positive/negative impacts
over decisions	allows for a desired design.
Build family support networks, resilience and community capacity	Neutral
Reduce crime and fear of crime including hate crime	Potential Negative – pedestrianisation of Forest Road – be mindful of perception of safety in design.
Protect vulnerable children and adults	Neutral
Promote healthier lifestyles including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • diet and nutrition, • sexual health, • substance misuse • physical activity • lifeskills 	Positively for diet and nutrition, physical activity and lifeskills
Environmental	
Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (including carbon management)	Positive aiming for modal shift to low carbon forms of travel (walking and cycling) from motorised means of travel. Negative – emissions spread due to dispersed traffic as result of road restrictions
Plan for future climate change	Positive aiming for modal shift to low carbon forms of travel (walking and cycling) from motorised means of travel.
Pollution: air/ water/ soil/ noise	Positively for air + noise pollution reduction
Protect coastal and inland waters	Neutral
Enhance biodiversity	Neutral – urban environment and limited opportunity for this. Potential to enhance through design
Encourage resource efficiency (energy, water,	Positive – aiming for modal shift to low carbon forms of travel (walking and cycling) from motorised means of travel.

Objectives	Positive/negative impacts
materials and minerals)	Potential to re-use materials in the project – actively looking to do so where possible i.e. paving slabs
Public Safety eg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimise waste generation • infection control • accidental injury • fire risk 	Positively for accidental injury reduction, particularly for people on bikes and on foot. Positively effect road traffic statistics. Access to emergency vehicles is still available Potential for recycling bins as to standard all-purpose bins
Reduce need to travel and promote sustainable forms of transport	Positive – aim of the project as a whole.
Improve the physical environment e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • housing quality • public space • access to and quality of green space 	Positively for public space and access to and quality of green space, as public space improvements are a part of the project, and the project aims to better link major green spaces in central Edinburgh (Princes St gardens and The Meadows) by active modes of travel. No impacts on housing quality as project does not propose residential development.
Economic	
Maximise income and /or reduce income inequality	Neutral However, may maximise individual income by reducing the need to use private car
Help young people into positive destinations	Positive (access to open space, school, university)
Support local business	Positive (designs will be conscious of business requirements and operations)
Help people to access jobs (both paid and unpaid)	Positive – improved accessibility and safety via walking and safety Negative – impact on use of private car to workplace
Improve literacy and numeracy	Neutral - note improved access public library

Objectives	Positive/negative impacts
Improve working conditions, including equal pay	Neutral
Improve local employment opportunities	Neutral - improved accessibility and safety via walking and safety
Improve quality of and access to services	Positive - improved accessibility and safety via walking and safety

3. As a group agree:

- **A summary of the impacts identified**
- **Is further evidence needed to understand these impacts and make any recommendations? If so complete an interim report and agree a timescale to complete a final report.**
- **What recommendations should you make to mitigate negative impacts and enhance positive impacts?**

This checklist has now been completed and the findings provide the basis for the summary report (Section 4).

Section 4 Integrated Impact Assessment

Summary Report Template

Each of the numbered sections below must be completed

Interim report	X	Final report	
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(Tick as appropriate)

1. Title of plan, policy or strategy being assessed

City of Edinburgh Council - Community Links PLUS – Meadows to George Street Project – Creating a Place for People

2. What will change as a result of this proposal?

Internal council staff and departments, external stakeholders, and local residents will be familiar with the project and have been consulted with. Concept designs and visualisations will have been prepared, and a set of agreed project objectives have been agreed, providing City of Edinburgh Council with the deliverables that are required to progress the project to the next stage. Ultimately, this Community Links Plus project will improve conditions on-route for people travelling on foot and by bike, and for those with mobility difficulties.

3. Briefly describe public involvement in this proposal to date and planned

A substantial programme of engagement was carried out during the development of the Community Links PLUS Stage 3 funding bid in 2017. This programme included:

- A focus group with people of varying occupations, ages and genders who frequent the area regularly travelling by different modes gathering insight into their travel choices and barriers to more walking and cycling.
- Ongoing meetings held with The University of Edinburgh as they continue to support the scheme, working with staff and the student population to support sustainable travel in the University and in the city.

Stage 1 Initial Community and Stakeholder Engagement 2018, held from June-October 2018, included:

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- Stakeholder workshop;
- Business drop-in session;
- Community representative drop-in session;
- A Placecheck tool of the study corridor accessible to anyone online and advertised widely;
- Public engagement stalls on-route on June 21st and July 21st ;
- An on-route visitor snap survey; and
- Selected one-to-ones, including with Edinburgh Access Panel.

A report of Stage 1 Engagement has been produced and is available.

Stage 2 Concept Design Consultation 2019, held from May - July 2019, included:

- Stakeholder Workshop;
- Consultation promotion via leafleting, social media postings, lamppost wraps, railing banners;
- A dedicated project website;
- Online survey;
- Business 'walk the route';
- George Heriot's school visit;
- Public engagement stalls on-route on Middle Meadow Walk, Candlemaker Row, The Mound and Princes Street which displayed concept designs and provided feedback forms;
- Concept designs on display at the Central Library and The National Museum of Scotland; and
- Community Council engagement.

A report of Stage 2 Consultation has been produced.

4. Date of IIA

Integrated Impact Assessment drafted at MGS Delivery Group meeting on 1st August 2018. Updated subsequently at end of Stage 1 in October 2018.

IIA updated again following Stage 2 in September 2019. To be updated again at end of Stage 3.

5. Who was present at the IIA? Identify facilitator, Lead Officer, report writer and any partnership representative present and main stakeholder (e.g. NHS, Council)

Stage 1

Name	Job Title	Date of IIA training	Email
Deborah Paton	AECOM Associate Director, Transport Planning (project leader)		deborah.paton@aecom.com
Anna McRobbie	AECOM Transport Planning Graduate Consultant		anna.mcrobbe@aecom.com
Martyn Lings	CEC Active Travel Officer		martyn.lings@edinburgh.gov.uk
Kevin Gauld	CEC Active Travel Project Manager		kevin.gauld@edinburgh.gov.uk
Chiquita Elvin	CLP Project Coordinator		chiquita.elvin@sustrans.org.uk
Alasdair Anderson	Sustrans Project Team		alsdair.anderson@sustrans.org.uk
Howard Jones	CLP Project Officer		howard.jones2@sustrans.org.uk
Ben Palmer	OPEN Director		ben.palmer@op-en.co.uk

Stage 2

Name	Job Title	Date of IIA training	Email
Paul Matthews	Principal Engineer		Paul.Matthews@aecom.com
Anna McRobbie	AECOM Transport Planning Graduate Consultant		anna.mcrobbe@aecom.com
Chiquita Elvin	CLP Project Coordinator		chiquita.elvin@sustrans.org.uk
Howard Jones	CLP Project Officer		howard.jones2@sustrans.org.uk

6. Evidence available at the time of the IIA

Evidence	Available?	Comments: what does the evidence tell you?
Data on populations in need	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) contains detailed information on the population of Edinburgh, locality needs and health and social inequalities. Future trends insights indicate that: Poverty rates are likely to remain high in the next few years; There will be an increase in the size of the population – this in itself will lead to an increase in the number of people needing support, even if prevalence rates and economic factors stay the same; There will be more older people – again leading to an increase in the numbers of people needing support. • Census 2011 data – review found here • Office for National Statistics • CEC Profile • SIMD A review of the latest Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD 2016) indicates that the immediate areas surrounding the Meadows are amongst the least deprived – review found here • Population Statistics Database Service • Local NHS Service
Data on service uptake/access	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census 2011 data There is a very low percentage of people that travel to work via car. Both train and

Evidence	Available?	Comments: what does the evidence tell you?
		<p>bus percentages are much higher than the Scottish averages with walking double the Scottish average in the study area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Transport Statistics • Scottish Household Survey • Office for Rail Regulation Patronage Statistics Edinburgh Waverley 16/17 Entries & Exits – 22582342 • Transport Scotland
Data on equality outcomes		Scottish Government
Research/literature evidence		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Government's National Performance Framework • Scottish National Transport Strategy • Strategic Transport Projects Review • Cycling Action Plan for Scotland • National Walking Strategy • National Planning Framework 3 • SEStran Regional Transport Strategy • South East Scotland Strategic Development Plan • CEC Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 • CEC Local Development Plan • CEC Economic Development Strategy • CEC Active Travel Action Plan • CEC Public and Accessible Transport

Evidence	Available?	Comments: what does the evidence tell you?
		Action Plan
Public/patient/client experience information		Gathered during Stage 1 Engagement and Stage 2 Consultation– all reported in Stage 1 and Stage 2 report, varied views and experiences.
Evidence of inclusive engagement of service users and involvement findings		Gathered during Stage 1 Engagement and Stage 2 Consultation– all reported in Stage 1 and Stage 2 report, varied views and experiences.
Evidence of unmet need		Gathered during Stage 1 Engagement and Stage 2 Consultation– all reported in Stage 1 and Stage 2 report, varied views and experiences.
Good practice guidelines		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh Street Design Guidance • Good practice guidelines Scotland's transport future – Guidance on local transport strategies. 2005. <p>It should be noted that this guidance is somewhat dated, whilst we follow the core elements, we have supplemented with accepted best practice and our own experience.</p>
Environmental data		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEC Air Quality Action Plan
Risk from cumulative impacts		
Other (please specify)		
Additional evidence required		<p>Suggestions/Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider design options on Forrest Road/Forrest Hill to enhance perception of safety/security • Consider targeted engagement with

Evidence	Available?	Comments: what does the evidence tell you?
		<p>potentially vulnerable groups on the design of Forrest Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted engagement with ethnic minorities who have been underrepresented in the engagement to-date • Continued engagement with churches along the route (Augustine / St Giles') to better understand/consider church operations • Consider targeted engagement with potentially affected church users who are of a particular religious belief

7. In summary, what impacts were identified and which groups will they affect?

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights	Affected Populations
<p>Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term reduction in health issues related to low physical activity levels for all active travel users, due to anticipated modal shift to active travel. • Safer routes for pedestrians would benefit those travelling on foot. • Safer cycling routes, due to better / dedicated infrastructure, making cycling more accessible to less experienced cyclists, and those without expensive specialist equipment. This is positive for people in general, but is likely to improve accessibility for groups who are less likely to cycle, such as women, as well as people from more deprived areas. • Long-term reduction in pollution-related health issues due to anticipated modal shift. • Improved connections to local educational institutions. • Improved connections to local workplaces. • Improved connections to local retail destinations. • Improved connections to local green-spaces. • Anticipated increase in use of outdoor spaces due to improvements to existing public spaces as a result of place-making measures. • Improved wellbeing for employees of local businesses due to anticipated 	<p>All, particularly those from marginalised or disadvantaged groups or communities, or affected by a particular condition or disability.</p>

<p>increase in use of outdoor space for breaks, as a result of place-making improvements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in traffic, due to anticipated modal shift to active travel, resulting in shorter and less stressful journeys for remaining motor vehicle users. This is likely to have a positive impact on those who are reliant on motor vehicles due to reduced mobility. <p>Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finite road space means careful consideration of allocation of space to pedestrians, people on bikes and people who rely on taxis and buses on the corridor. May have to be compromise on certain elements at particular pinch points e.g. Bank St, North Bank St. Removal of southbound bus stop on the Mound increases distance between bus stops on the route in excess of standard 400m. Floating bus stops are also an unfamiliar concept which may hinder travel. Safety/security concerns walking along pedestrianised areas (Forrest Road) alone / after dark. Potential impacts on the access and operations for those with blue badge parking. 	
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<p>Environment and Sustainability</p> <p>Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term reduction in pollution from traffic due to anticipated modal shift. Development of green-spaces through placemaking. Improved area aesthetic and reduction in noise pollution, due to anticipated reduction in traffic. <p>Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some areas of green-space may be constructed upon to accommodate new infrastructure. Short term impacts on wider road networks and corridors due to traffic dispersion as a result of the proposed changes. 	<p>Affected Populations</p> <p>All</p>
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<p>Economic</p> <p>Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access to workplaces, providing employers with a larger pool of potential employees. 	<p>Affected Populations</p> <p>All</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in vehicle operating costs for individuals, due to anticipated modal shift. • Research has shown that efforts to attract more pedestrians and cyclists has a positive economic impact on businesses, with people on foot potentially spending more than those travelling by car (in terms of town centres⁵). • Reduction in long-term health costs for the NHS due to improvements in health prospects as a result of anticipated reduced pollution and increased average physical activity. • Anticipated improvement in employee health, as a result of anticipated reduced pollution and increased average physical activity is likely to reduce absenteeism. • Improved access to workplaces from areas within the 5% most deprived areas in Scotland, as recorded in the 2016 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, potentially reducing unemployment. <p>Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction of new infrastructure would necessitate additional maintenance costs. 	
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8. Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors and how will equality, human rights including children’s rights , environmental and sustainability issues be addressed?

This project provides the Council with the deliverables that are required to progress the project to the next stage. At subsequent stages, there will be elements and actions noted that will be partly outsourced to contractors who will assist City of Edinburgh Council in its delivery. On those occasions, the Council’s Procurement Policy will be followed.

9. Consider how you will communicate information about this policy/ service change to children and young people and those affected by sensory impairment, speech impairment, low level literacy or numeracy, learning difficulties or English as a second language? Please provide a summary of the communications plan.

Any communication associated with this project will include the opportunity to have it translated or to be communicated in other formats. Consultation with local schools is also been undertaken in Stage 2. YoungScot have been engaged with in Stage 1, and a representative of the 2050 Climate Group associated with YoungScot participated in the Stage 1 stakeholder workshop for this project.

⁵ Living Streets, The Pedestrian Pound, <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/who-we-are/reports-and-research>

The Communications Plan has considered the full spectrum of stakeholders, including internal Council departments and staff, and external decision makers, influencers, partners and stakeholders including local residents, employees, staff

and students of local education institutions and those with mobility or sensory impairments. Both traditional media and social media will be used to convey messages throughout, ensuring that the message is received by as large an audience as possible.

We will continue to actively engage with young people with existing contacts in local schools as the project moves forward.

10. Does the policy concern agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use? If yes, an SEA should be completed, and the impacts identified in the IIA should be included in this.

Yes – transport and tourism. However, SEA is not thought appropriate for this level of intervention, as this is a detailed engineering intervention as opposed to a strategy or policy.

11. Additional Information and Evidence Required

If further evidence is required, please note how it will be gathered. If appropriate, mark this report as interim and submit updated final report once further evidence has been gathered.

- Consider targeted engagement with potentially vulnerable groups on the design of Forrest Road
- Targeted engagement with ethnic minorities who have been underrepresented in the engagement to-date
- Continued engagement with churches along the route (Augustine / St Giles') to better understand/consider church operations
- Consider targeted engagement with potentially affected church users who are of a particular religious belief

12. Recommendations (these should be drawn from 6 – 11 above)

Interim stage recommendations as of October 2018 (end of Stage 1 Engagement):

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- Include a specific focus on engagement with children in Stage 2, by working with schools and using contacts with schools established in Stage 1.
- Sustrans to gather up to date data on pedestrian volumes in Stage 2.
- AECOM to undertake accident analysis (STATS19 data) in Stage 2.
- Continue to engage directly with Edinburgh Access Panel, and consider additional engagement with Age Scotland, RNIB and other organisations representing those with additional mobility needs (though have attempted to engage with several orgs in Stage 1 and no reply, except for Edinburgh Access Panel and Age Scotland).
- Flyer residents in Stage 2 to ensure all are aware of the project and emerging concepts – residents assumed to have picked up on project during general public engagement in Stage 1.
- Continue to engage directly with businesses in Stage 2 as per Stage 1.
- Lack of engagement and evidence of need as yet from homeless community, and from those involved in the criminal justice system (several Law Courts on-route) – need to try to address this in Stage 2.
- University of Edinburgh as an organisation is engaged with the study but EUSA did not respond in Stage 1, so need a more effective way of engaging with university and college students in Stage 2.
- Continue to engage with Churches on route to understand travel and access needs of congregations – initiated in Stage 1 and more underway in Stage 2.

Interim stage recommendations as of July 2019 (end of Stage 2 Engagement):

- A lack of engagement and evidence remains of the needs from homeless community, and from those involved in the criminal justice system (several Law Courts on-route) – need to try to address this.
- Consider design options on Forrest Road/Forrest Hill to enhance perception of safety/security
- Consider targeted engagement with potentially vulnerable groups on the design of Forrest Road
- Targeted engagement with ethnic minorities who have been underrepresented in the engagement to-date
- Continued engagement with churches along the route (Augustine / St Giles') to better understand/consider church operations
- Consider targeted engagement with potentially affected church users who are of a particular religious belief
- Further engage with businesses along the route to better understand loading/parking impacts.
- Further engage with stakeholder and local residents to understand what placemaking/landscaping options are favourable.

13. Specific to this IIA only, what actions have been, or will be, undertaken and by when? Please complete: Note actions highlighted are from most recent revision.

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and contact details)	Deadline for progressing	Review date	Complete
Include a specific focus on engagement with children in Stage 2, by working with schools and using contacts with schools established in Stage 1.	AECOM (Deborah Paton)	By end March 2019	Jan 30 th 2019	Yes
Sustrans to gather up to date data on pedestrian volumes in Stage 2.	Sustrans (Chiquita Elvin)	By end November 2018	Jan 30 th 2019	Yes
AECOM to undertake accident analysis (STATS19 data) in Stage 2.	AECOM (Paul Matthews)	By end November 2018	Jan 30 th 2019	Yes
Continue to engage directly with Edinburgh Access Panel, and consider additional engagement with Age Scotland, RNIB and other organisations representing those with additional mobility needs (though have attempted to engage with several orgs in Stage 1 and no reply, except for Edinburgh Access Panel and Age Scotland).	AECOM (Deborah Paton)	By end March 2019	Jan 30 th 2019	Yes
Flyer residents in Stage 2 to ensure all are aware of the	CEC (Kevin)	By end	Jan 30 th	Yes

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and contact details)	Deadline for progressing	Review date	Complete
project and emerging concepts – residents assumed to have picked up on project during general public engagement in Stage 1.	Gauld)	March 2019	2019	
Continue to engage directly with businesses in Stage 2 as per Stage 1.	AECOM (Deborah Paton)	By end March 2019	Jan 30 th 2019	Yes
Lack of engagement and evidence of need as yet from homeless community, and from those involved in the criminal justice system (several Law Courts on-route) – need to try to address this in Stage 2.	AECOM (Deborah Paton)	By end March 2019	Stage 1: Jan 30 th 2019 Stage 2: Jan 30 th 2020	No
University of Edinburgh as an organisation is engaged with the study but EUSA did not respond in Stage 1, so need a more effective way of engaging with university and college students in Stage 2.	AECOM (Deborah Paton)	By end March 2019	Jan 30 th 2019	Yes
Consider wider traffic network and environmental impacts as a result of the proposals.	AECOM (Paul Matthews)	By end Dec 2019	Jan 30 th 2020	
Continue to engage directly with businesses in Stage 3 to understand impacts of	AECOM (Paul Matthews)	By end Dec 2019	Jan 30 th 2020	

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and contact details)	Deadline for progressing	Review date	Complete
proposals.				
Continue to engage directly with local residents and stakeholders regarding decisions on placemaking/landscaping.	AECOM (Paul Matthews)	By end Dec 2019	Jan 30 th 2020	
Consider design options on Forrest Road/Forrest Hill to enhance perception of safety/security. Engage with potentially vulnerable groups to gather information.	AECOM (Paul Matthews)	By end Dec 2019	Jan 30 th 2020	
Lack of engagement and evidence of need as yet from most ethnic minorities, and from those involved in the criminal justice system (several Law Courts on-route) – need to try to address this in Stage 3.	AECOM (Paul Matthews)	By end Dec 2019	Jan 30 th 2020	
Engage with church users to gather evidence of potential impact project will have on attendance of church operations	AECOM (Paul Matthews)	By end Dec 2019	Jan 30 th 2020	

14. How will you monitor how this policy, plan or strategy affects different groups, including people with protected characteristics?

By revisiting this IIA assessment during the next Stage 4: **Preliminary Design** to ensure that anticipated impacts have been addressed and mitigated in design.

15. Sign off by Head of Service/ Project Lead

Name

Date

16. Publication

Send completed IIA for publication on the relevant website for your organisation. See Section 5 for contacts.

INTERIM DRAFT

Section 5 Contacts

- **East Lothian Council**

Please send a completed copy of the IIA to equalities@eastlothian.gov.uk and it will be published on the Council website shortly afterwards. Copies of previous assessments are available via http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/751/equality_diversity_and_citizenship/835/equality_and_diversity

- **Midlothian Council**

Please send a completed copy of the IIA to zoe.graham@midlothian.gov.uk and it will be published on the Council website shortly afterwards. Copies of previous assessments are available via http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/downloads/751/equality_and_diversity

- **NHS Lothian**

Completed IIAs should be forwarded to impactassessments@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk to be published on the NHS Lothian website and available for auditing purposes. Copies of previous impact assessments are available on the NHS Lothian website under Equality and Diversity.

- **The City of Edinburgh Council**

Completed impact assessments should be forwarded to Strategyandbusinessplanning@edinburgh.gov.uk to be published on the Council website.

- **City of Edinburgh Health and Social Care**

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to Sarah Bryson at sarah.bryson@edinburgh.gov.uk

- **Edinburgh Integration Joint Board**

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to Sarah Bryson at sarah.bryson@edinburgh.gov.uk

- **West Lothian Council**

Complete impact assessments should be forwarded to the Equalities Officer.

Leadership Advisory Panel

10.00am, Tuesday, 31 March 2020

Edinburgh City Centre Transformation: George Street and First New Town: Project Update

Executive/routine	Routine
Wards	11 – City Centre
Council Commitments	16 , 17 , 18 , 19 , 27 , 39

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Panel:
 - 1.1.1 notes the continuing work to progress the final agreement terms with Sustrans Scotland;
 - 1.1.2 notes that the Council is currently procuring the required technical design support enabling the next stage of design to be expedited;
 - 1.1.3 notes that a detailed project delivery plan for the remainder of the project will be reported to Transport and Environment Committee at the earliest possible opportunity; and
 - 1.1.4 the findings and outcomes of the next series of project consultation and engagement will consequently inform a production of the final design recommendation. This will form the basis of a report to Transport and Environment Committee.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

Contact: Ewan Kennedy - Service Manager - Strategic Transport Planning.

E-mail: ewan.kennedy@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3575

Edinburgh City Centre Transformation: George Street and First New Town: Project Update

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Following formal notification that the Council was awarded multi-year funding from Sustrans Scotland for the George Street and First New Town (GNT) project, this report updates the Panel on the development of the project and notifies the Panel of the preparatory works underway and next steps required to progress GNT as a capital funded project.

3. Background

- 3.1 Edinburgh is a leading global capital city with world-renowned quality. The First New Town, of which George Street forms its core, carries significant and unique value, and as a legacy, has exerted a major influence on the development of urban architecture and town planning throughout Europe. The George Street of today retains a high degree of authenticity and is conversed through UNESCO World Heritage Site status.
- 3.2 George Street is a hive of activity and a place to work, visit and live. It bequeaths status as arguably the city's premier shopping street and supports a substantial high-quality hospitality offer. The area also serves as a prime location for business and plays a considerable role in Edinburgh's economic vibrancy.
- 3.3 Although of exceptional architectural quality, many of the city's New Town streets and special places are too often dominated by flowing traffic and vehicular parking. A series of people focused and placemaking studies (including Gehl Architects – Public Spaces Public Life Study) commissioned by the Council recognised Edinburgh cannot be complacent if it is to protect and improve the special quality of the city centre.
- 3.4 In response, the Council during 2014 and 2015 trialled new layout and operating arrangements on George Street to strengthen appeal as a civic space and promote economic benefit. Independently run surveys were conducted throughout the trial period, and evidenced strong public appetite for long term operational change and improvement to the street. Subsequent to the trial, initial design principles were

developed for George Street with the input of local stakeholders. These were approved at [Transport and Environment Committee in June 2016](#), and form the basis of current design development work.

- 3.5 As reported to [Transport and Environment Committee in October 2017](#), Committee agreed to the development of a 'blueprint' layout for the GNT area. Consequently, multi-disciplinary design consultants (WYG Ltd) were commissioned to support the Council in the development of a 'blueprint' capable of withstanding future operational change whilst preserving the street's authentic character.
- 3.6 Edinburgh is commonly ranked as one of the most liveable cities in the world and the city centre is home to around 26,000 residents. Ensuring residents and wider citizens have the opportunity to influence and shape the future of the city is essential to achieving a robust and long-lasting design and operational aspirations for the GNT study area. Following a long programme of consultation, project design objectives and their considerations were developed for GNT area and have since been [published online](#). Structured around these agreed design objectives, further extensive consultation subsequently informed the development of initial core concepts; which elicited broad public support. Outcomes of the consultation and the emerging concept design fundamentals were reported to [Transport and Environment Committee on 16 May 2019](#). Concepts included:
- 3.6.1 Wider pavements on both sides of George Street along the entire street, increasing circulation space and accessibility for all pedestrians. This is primarily achieved by the reduction in space dedicated to motorised vehicles (eg overall reduction in carriageway width and the removal of parking bays). Wider pavements and narrower road space means pedestrian crossing in all directions is improved and is to be further prioritised through supporting measures (specifically, and most importantly, pedestrian arrangements at all junctions are to be safer and more convenient).
- 3.6.2 Café style spill-out and seating areas adjacent to building-lines, adding street vibrancy and animation, will have appropriate limits ensuring adequate pavement widths are maintained for unimpeded pedestrian movement.
- 3.6.3 Introduction of 'parklets' (or dwell zones) will include areas of seating, providing much needed opportunities for rest and relaxation in a safe and comfortable street environment.
- 3.6.4 A two-way cycleway on George Street that connects into wider strategic cycling network, (specifically the committed City Centre West East Link and Meadows to George Street schemes). The design detail of how the two-way cycleway will be segregated from both pedestrian areas and vehicles is to be developed with stakeholders at the next stage of design.
- 3.6.5 The removal of general 'Pay & Display' parking bays from George Street obtained general support from a wide range of consultees. The principle to reallocate space in favour of non-motorised purposes is already established for the city centre and the Final City Centre Transformation Strategy (CCT),

as agreed at [Transport and Environment Committee on 12 September 2019](#), highlights the removal of on-street parking in the Edinburgh's historic core as necessary, to rebalance for high quality public realm. Furthermore, the approved St James Centre's [Outline Planning Approval](#) report in 2008, noted the significant increase in off-street parking created an opportunity to reduce on-street parking in the surrounding city centre.

- 3.7 At a strategic level, the approved CCT Strategy, unified existing city centre projects, including GNT, into a singular holistic delivery plan. The CCT Strategy identifies key quiet zones in the city centre where people will have priority, with vehicles given access as 'guests'. George Street is identified as one of these areas, where significant public realm improvements and pedestrian priority will be delivered. GNT is one of the earlier programmed projects within the CCT delivery plan, and once implemented, the scheme will make a significant contribution towards realising the vision of transforming the city centre as a revitalised, more vibrant and people focused place.
- 3.8 Furthermore, and more recently, [Transport and Environment Committee on 16 January 2020](#) approved the City Mobility Plan (CMP) - Draft for Consultation. The CMP strategy frames a bold, ambitious and rapid change agenda (underpinned by a target to be net carbon zero by 2030) and sets out a basis for significant tram, bus network and active travel interventions to improve mobility and address key challenges. The strategy will mean car and heavy bus dominated traffic within the city centre will be replaced by walking, cycling infrastructure and lighter, and by smaller cleaner passenger vehicles for those who with mobility constraints would find this approach too challenging. The CMP strategy, out for consultation, aims to ensure that Edinburgh will remain as a leading global city by improving places for people to live, work, visit and enjoy.
- 3.9 Specific CMP proposals target a significant redesign of the bus network by 2025, based on the 'to not through' principle, and by 2030 the city centre is to be largely car free. The next stages of the GNT project will align with CMP consultation findings (along with any subsequent commitments as they emerge) and will explore any opportunities that offer the potential to maximise the GNT area as a people focused place. Any emerging opportunities will be explored alongside significant consultation with stakeholders with updates to Transport and Environment Committee being reported in due course.

4. Main report

- 4.1 In July 2019 the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity announced that George Street would be one of five projects in Scotland to be awarded multi-year funding, through the [Sustrans Places for Everyone programme](#). The award provides funding for the continued development, and subsequent delivery, of the public realm improvements on George Street.

- 4.2 The formal notification that the Council was granted multi-year funding from Sustrans Scotland serves as a significant project milestone and progresses the scheme into a new phase of considerable development.
- 4.3 Furthermore, the newly secured funding critically enables the project to accelerate the next phases of project development and as a result (and in line with good practise) preparatory work is underway to revise and develop more appropriate project governance, management and procurement arrangements; in order to boost production and expedite the project's overall delivery.
- 4.4 The Council and Sustrans Scotland continue to make progress with the final funding arrangements, associated legal terms and overall delivery programme agreements.

Consultancy Procurement Plan

- 4.5 The further development and ultimate delivery of the GNT project cannot be fully resourced in-house by the Council (for both capacity and capability considerations). Therefore, an exercise to competitively procure the necessary technical consultancy support that will assist the Council in developing the next stages of the project is currently underway. The tender evaluation criterion will place an emphasis on quality with additional measures ensuring that best value is also achieved. The Council's Commercial and Procurement Service have indicated that the most appropriate route available in securing the required consultancy support would via the Scotland Excel Engineering and Technical Consultancy Services Framework Agreement 06-16. This Framework Agreement also ensures that consultancy rates will remain competitive.
- 4.6 The conclusion of the competitive procurement tasks associated with securing this new commission, resulting in the appointment of the preferred consultant, is expected early in the first quarter of the next financial year.

Development of an Operational plan

- 4.7 Once appointed, the new consultant will be commissioned to further develop and subsequently execute, in partnership with and to the satisfaction of the Council and Sustrans Scotland (the client team), a detailed project delivery plan (PDP) for the remainder of the project; including the construction phases. A key outcome of the PDP is to achieve an early promotion of the required statutory consents, and the consequent management of processes associated with securing the necessary powers under which the scheme can be constructed (of which the associated Traffic Regulation and Road Orders are most critical of all).
- 4.8 Key to obtaining the required statutory consents, will be the further development and conclusion of a final design proposal and accompanying Operational Plan. A number of operational changes will be required to support the delivery of the project and to ensure that design outputs are maximised. Building on all relevant work undertaken previously, once appointed, the technical consultant will be required to deliver an exemplar, innovative and creative Operational Plan supporting the interdependent final design proposal. The Operational Plan is a crucial component of the project, as it proposes (in detail) the future arrangements for loading,

servicing and vehicle access in the area. Furthermore, the fundamental principles of an Operational Plan to be explored (delivering pedestrian priority, possibly through set periods of the day where the streets operate without non-essential vehicle access but permitting limited bus services or blue badge access where appropriate) were reported to [Transport and Environment Committee on 16 May 2019](#).

- 4.9 Furthermore, as reported to [Transport and Environment Committee on 5 October 2017](#) the final design must deliver a robust proposal that is not only deliverable and operationally sound in the short term but also capable of responding to wider operational change in the future, through a recalibration, and without triggering a significant redesign requirement.

Public Consultation and Engagement

- 4.10 Ensuring citizens have the opportunity to influence and shape the future of the city centre is essential and substantial consultation and engagement is key in the further development and production of a final design and Operational Plan for GNT. The development of the project (from its inception through its journey of the 18-month trial layout and creation of design principles, design objectives and initial concepts) has been underpinned by its exemplar and extensive approach to consultation and engagement. The 'Places for Everyone' funding award, enables further investment in the consultation and engagement programme as a core part of the next stage of the project.
- 4.11 The next series of consultation and engagement will be brought forward in the context of the existing project, target CCT outcomes and take cognisance of emerging CMP consultation outputs.
- 4.12 The findings and outcomes of the next series of GNT consultation and engagement will form the basis of a report to Transport and Environment Committee and will subsequently inform the production of the final design and Operational Plan recommendation for the area.
- 4.13 A detailed consultation and engagement programme for the remainder of the project is to be agreed with the consultant on their appointment and will be made available to Transport and Environment Committee as part of the PDP.

Project Management and Governance

- 4.14 As highlighted in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2, the formal notification that the Council was granted multi-year funding progresses the scheme into a new phase of development. This funding critically enables the project to accelerate the next phases of project, and as a result, preparatory work is underway to revise and develop project governance and management arrangements.
- 4.15 Whilst the delivery of the project will be aligned with the wider CCT delivery plan and will be managed and synchronised through the Council's City Centre Programme Delivery Board (which is the coordinating body for all major city centre projects, such as, City Centre West East Link and Meadows to George Street

schemes), the acceleration of programme and sensitivities and level of stakeholder engagement to deliver this significant capital project, now requires a dedicated project management delivery resource within the Council. As a funding partner in the delivery of the GNT project, Sustrans Scotland have similarly allocated dedicated officers from within their organisation to resource their project obligations.

4.16 The Council project management delivery team proposed will comprise of:

4.16.1 a part-time project client (already in post);

4.16.2 a full-time senior project manager (already in post); and

4.16.3 a full-time project manager - with core stakeholder liaison and communications duties (to be secured).

4.17 The preparatory recruitment processes to secure the required project management personnel, specifically the project manager with dedicated stakeholder liaison and communications duties, are underway and being expedited. Council staffing costs associated with the next stages of the project will be 100% funded from the Places for Everyone programme.

Project Design Progress update

4.18 Since receiving the formal notification of the award for funding, the Council (working with Sustrans Scotland) has prioritised preparatory tasks to secure the bolstering of resources to boost productivity during the next stages of the project; which is vital in achieving the overall accelerated delivery of the scheme. However, critical project development workstreams are still being maintained in parallel. These include:

4.18.1 Stakeholder workshops, specifically focused on progressing unresolved issues, (issues which were reported to [May 2019 Transport and Environment Committee](#)) were delivered in July and November 2019. Both workshops were positive and constructive in progressing project design considerations. Outcomes of the workshops included:

4.18.1.1 introduction of Dwell Zones;

4.18.1.2 repurposing of the proposed introduction of Plazas spaces mid-block;

4.18.1.3 options for the James Clerk Maxwell Statue, including relocation; and;

4.18.1.4 co-ordination of Street Greenery, proposal is to contain greenery with designated areas.

4.18.2 Further consideration will be given to each of above elements, each with input from appropriate stakeholders who may be affected, during the next stages of the project. A summary of the stakeholder workshops is appended to this report.

4.18.3 A Heritage Statement has been developed for the GNT design area and establishes a baseline description of the areas heritage 'assets' and less

tangible elements that, together, contribute to First New Town's recognised 'Outstanding Universal Value' (OUV). The full version of the Heritage Statement was made available [online](#) and has been widely circulated amongst stakeholder groups. Furthermore, the Statement will underpin a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) process and ensure a full understanding of any potential impacts on the area's OUV and identify how any potential impacts might be mitigated or managed. The HIA is to be developed during the next stage of the project.

- 4.18.4 Business and resident engagement sessions were undertaken with support from Essential Edinburgh (EE) and George Street Association (GSA). Invites were issued on an area-wide basis (including Hanover Street, Frederick Street, Castle Street, Rose Street, Rose Street Lanes and Thistle Street) and the sessions took place over a six-week period between October and November 2019. Structured 'deep dive' sessions updated businesses and residents on the proposed design concepts, discussing the operational elements (such as parking, servicing and loading) and how this may impact their daily life, business and access. A collective picture of parking/loading/servicing requirements has been gathered and subsequently helped shape an emerging Operational Statement of the area. Highlight findings of the business and resident sessions, are appended to this report, and include:
- 4.18.4.1 opinions from disparate types of businesses were overwhelmingly positive and feedback was consistent when discussing the rejuvenation of the street;
 - 4.18.4.2 more analysis is required with regards to loading provisions, particularly any part-time loading bays situated on the carriageway (south side of the street only);
 - 4.18.4.3 any servicing window will need to consider businesses that do not open until 10am;
 - 4.18.4.4 notes that a pressure on loading facilities during the late morning period may occur; and
 - 4.18.4.5 consideration should be given to the inclusion of any servicing and loading restrictions covering the entire First New Town area to avoid knock-on impacts and increased usage in neighbouring streets.
- 4.18.5 The Draft Operational Statement for GNT (appended to this report) establishes existing baseline conditions and provides a description of current servicing, loading and operational patterns. Once completed, the Final Operational Statement will assist in assessing potential operational and access impacts and further work will identify how any potential impacts might be mitigated or managed. The Operational Statement (and subsequent operational impact assessment to be undertaken) will underpin

the development and conclusion of the final Operational Plan during the next stage of the project.

Awards

- 4.19 The GNT project has been nominated for two national awards.
 - 4.19.1 In June 2019, at the Association for Consultancy and Engineering national awards, the George Street project successfully won the first-place award in the Strategic Planning and Placemaking Champion category.
 - 4.19.2 In October 2019, at the Healthy Streets national awards (where projects are selected for placing people at the centre of decisions on street design, access, active travel choices, safety, improved air quality and liveability) the George Street project was awarded first-place in the Healthy Streets Proposal of the Year category.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The immediate next steps of the GNT project is to complete the competitive procurement process securing the necessary technical consultancy support that enables the next stages of design and development to commence as soon as feasibility achievable. Progress on the procurement exercise will be reported to the next meeting of Transport and Environment Committee.
- 5.2 Establish a fully dedicated Council project management and delivery team as previously outlined in paragraph 4.16.
- 5.3 On the appointment of the technical consultants, and in partnership with the client team, develop and agree a detailed project delivery plan (PDP) as outlined in paragraph 4.7. The PDP will be reported to Transport and Environment Committee at the earliest opportunity.
- 5.4 A key action of the PDP will be the execution of further consultation and engagement. An important component of the consultation and engagement programme is to raise the public profile of the scheme through a marketing strategy (which will include the development of the project's branding and webpage similar to the dedicated webpage for Meadows to George Street scheme in terms of style, function and context).
- 5.5 Early promotion of the required statutory consents (and the consequent management of the associated process). Most critical of which are Traffic Regulation and Redetermination Orders which provide the necessary powers to construct the final scheme (promotion of these Orders is expected in January 2021).
- 5.6 A high level notional project timeline for the GNT project is appended to this report. An early task for the incoming technical consultant, will be to undertake a full and detailed review of the programme, with a view of accelerating delivery where possible. The production of a detailed and robust programme, will be developed in

close liaison with Sustrans Scotland and Transport Scotland, and will be reported to Transport and Environment Committee as part of the PDP. The programme will continue to be monitored and regularly refined as more detail emerges, but it is expected that construction would be delivered in several continuous phases. The construction phases will be coordinated with the delivery of adjacent projects and is being managed and synchronized through the City Centre Programme Delivery Board.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The GNT project will make a strong early contribution to the way the First New Town function and represents a significant and positive capital investment in the city during a period of rapid population expansion and change.
- 6.2 George Street footways and carriageways are currently in a generally poor condition and somewhat distract from the special quality of the surrounding built environment. Therefore, the implementation of the capital funded scheme, will not only address the current unattractive condition of the streetscape but it will also reduce the short and medium term burden on Council budgets associated with maintaining road infrastructure assets in the design area.
- 6.3 As reported to [Transport and Environment Committee on 12 September 2019](#), the George Street and First New Town Design Project will receive a multi-year funding of up to £20 million through Sustrans Scotland Places for Everyone programme; with 100% of the design and preconstruction costs being funded by the programme.
- 6.4 It is anticipated that multi-disciplinary consultancy fees for this next stage of the project will total c£500K (excluding VAT) and will be 100% funded from the Sustrans Scotland Places for Everyone programme. The exact cost of consultancy fees associated with the delivery of the next stage will be confirmed after the competitive tender process has concluded, with the final tender value being reported to Finance and Resources Committee in due course.
- 6.5 However, after this immediate next stage of the project (Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stage 3 - Developed Design), further consultancy support will be necessary for the completion of RIBA Stage 4 (Technical Design). Consultancy support for RIBA Stage 4 could total a further cost in the region of £450K. The project team, in liaison with Commercial and Procurement Service, will consider opportunities to include the delivery of RIBA Stage 4 as an option within the Stage 3 consultancy contract. RIBA Stage 4 will also be 100% funded from the Places for Everyone programme.
- 6.6 The required consultancy support will be secured through the Scotland Excel Engineering and Technical Consultancy Services Framework Agreement 06-16, which runs from 18 March 2017 to 17 March 2021. This Framework Agreement has been adopted by the City of Edinburgh Council in 2017 (CT2216). This Framework Agreement also ensures that consultancy rates remain competitive.

- 6.7 On completion of the competitive tender processes, a report to Finance and Resources Committee, as required by Council Standing Orders, will seek approval to appoint the preferred bidder.
- 6.8 Council staff costs associated with the project management team dedicated to the GNT project will be 100% funded from the Sustrans Scotland Places for Everyone programme (as agreed in principle with Sustrans Scotland and to be confirmed through the terms of the final Legal Agreement currently being developed).

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The input of stakeholders, including local residents and groups, businesses, interest groups, people with protected characteristics and the general public, has been gathered at each stage of the development of the project. The project seeks to ensure that the First New Town streets maximise their exceptionally high quality and are accessible to all.
- 7.2 The principle of reallocating space away from cars to create more pedestrian space, allows for more versatile, accessible, welcoming and prioritised walking environments.
- 7.3 This reallocation of space will also provide an opportunity to introduce seating, resting and relaxation places within a safe and accessible street environment.
- 7.4 The current high quality public realm concepts proposed are entirely consistent with the core principles of the CCT strategy. The ambition of the project will not only make George Street safer, more accessible and welcoming for pedestrians, it will also create an attractive place for business and residents to operate and live in.
- 7.5 An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process is underway (and will be maintained throughout the design process) and a copy is available [online](#). This identifies a majority of positive impacts for people with protected characteristics, and notes where some potential negative impacts require further detailed development.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [George Street and First New Town Project Update](#) – Business Bulletin to 11 October 2019 Transport and Environment Committee.
- 8.2 [George Street and First New Town Project Update](#) - Business Bulletin to 12 September 2019 Transport and Environment Committee.
- 8.3 [George Street and First New Town – Consultation and Design Development Update](#) Report to 16 May 2019 Transport and Environment Committee
- 8.4 [George Street and First New Town Design Project Update](#) Report to 5 October 2017 Transport and Environment Committee.
- 8.5 [George Street Experimental Traffic Regulation Order, Concluding Report and Design Principles](#) report to 7 June 2016 Transport and Environment Committee.

8.6 [Project Objectives and Design Considerations.](#)

8.7 [Edinburgh Revisited Public Spaces Public Life Study 2010](#) - Gehl Architects

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – Business Session Summary

9.2 Appendix 2 – Workshops Executive Summary

9.3 Appendix 3 – Draft Operational Statement

9.4 Appendix 4 – Notational Project Timeline

George Street and First New Town

Business and Resident Consultation Summary

1. Introduction

The led project consultant, WYG Ltd, undertook a series of business and resident engagement sessions across October and November of 2019 in support of the development and refinement of the George Street and First New Town (GNT) Public Realm Design study.

The engagement sessions were undertaken in small groups with a one-to-one interview style. These were held at the McRoberts Suite of The Royal Society of Edinburgh building on George Street. The event was advertised via an invitation flyer distributed to local business and residents and a number of emails bulletins issued by Essential Edinburgh (EE) and The George Street Association (GSA) giving details of the project, scheduling information and a contact email address. Flyers were delivered to each residence and business within the area by CEC staff, WYG Ltd, Sustrans Scotland and members of GSA. Due to an initially poor uptake in RSVPs received, it was agreed to undertake a second more focused leaflet distribution to support event attendance. A further review of RSVPs resulted in CEC also issuing a letter invitation to local businesses not yet signed up with support via emails also issued from GSA and EE to their respective members.

The overall event's purpose was to assist in refining the emerging Operational Statement which supports the development of the George Street redesign by introducing businesses and residents to the proposed design and holding a facilitated discussion on operational elements such as parking, servicing and loading and how this may impact their business and/or general access.

The proposed consultation approach was intended to provide a 'deep dive' with considerable effort made to provide numerous opportunities with the design team to meet face to face with businesses and discuss their concerns and clarify any misconceptions surrounding the design or its intended operation.

As part of the conversation business representatives were asked to discuss their typical daily operation and servicing requirements such as delivery frequency and scheduling. This feedback and collective picture of parking/loading/servicing requirements is to be used to shape future design measures such as the size, number and duration of loading restrictions and the detail of proposed Traffic Regulation Orders which will determine loading, waiting and access restrictions for the area. The above elements require much further consideration at the next stages of project.

2. Methodology and Scheduling

The engagement sessions were conducted in an informal manner using an open discussion style with consultees who had responded to the flyer or email invitation after arranging to attend their preferred time slot with WYG. It is noted that despite adopting a RSVP booking approach, some sessions were attended by consultees who had not provided prior notification, and mop-up sessions were also conducted for those who missed or were not available to make any of the proposed slots below.

The session timetable was developed to cater for each street within the study area, this supported three full days of consultation available for businesses on the east and west of George Street and two days associated with business on Rose Street, Hanover Street and Other Streets (Castle Street, Frederick Street, Thistle Street, Hill Street and Young Street). The session timetable is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 – Session Timetable (as distributed in GNT Flyer 7th-18th October 2019)

GEORGE STREET {EAST}				
(Fredrick Street Junction to St Andrew Square Junction)				
DATE	TIME			
Monday 21st October	9:00-10:30	11:00-12:30	13:00-14:30	15:00-16:30
Tuesday 5th November	9:00-10:30	11:00-12:30	13:00-14:30	15:00-16:30
Wednesday 13th November	9:00-10:30	11:00-12:30	13:00-14:30	15:00-16:30
GEORGE STREET {WEST}				
(Charlotte Square Junction to Fredrick Street Junction)				
DATE	TIME			
Tuesday 22nd October	9:00-10:30	11:00-12:30	13:00-14:30	15:00-16:30
Monday 28th October	9:00-10:30	11:00-12:30	13:00-14:30	15:00-16:30
Wednesday 6th November	9:00-10:30	11:00-12:30	13:00-14:30	15:00-16:30
ROSE STREET				
DATE	TIME			
Tuesday 29th October	9:00-10:30	11:00-12:30	13:00-14:30	15:00-16:30
Monday 4th November	9:00-10:30	11:00-12:30	13:00-14:30	15:00-16:30
HANOVER STREET				
(Links with the Meadows to George Street Streets for People Project)				
DATE	TIME			
Wednesday 23rd October	9:00-10:30	11:00-12:30	13:00-14:30	15:00-16:30
Monday 11th November	9:00-10:30	11:00-12:30	13:00-14:30	15:00-16:30
ALL OTHER STREETS				
(Castle Street, Frederick Street, Thistle Street, Young Street)				
DATE	TIME			
Wednesday 30th October	9:00-10:30	11:00-12:30	13:00-14:30	15:00-16:30
Tuesday 12th November	9:00-10:30	11:00-12:30	13:00-14:30	15:00-16:30

Residents and Business were coordinated to form small groups (no more than 6 people) per session. Often members of EE and GSA arranged to attend the same session giving some commonality to the discussions. During each session, 2 members of the WYG team were present to give an overview of the design and discuss proposed future operations. Each session lasted between 1 and 2 hours.

Whilst the format of the events was similar for each session, the scope of discussion varied significantly, this allowed greater focus on the elements of the design that were specifically relevant to each business or resident.

Following low initial attendance for the first three days of consultation, a letter was issued by CEC to all businesses and residents to advise them of the remaining event and opportunity to meet. To maximise the number of sessions available, the session timetable for the remaining events was modified as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2 – Revised Session Timetable (as distributed in CEC Letter 25th October 2019)

Date	Session 1 9:00 – 10:00	Session 2 13:00 – 14:30	Session 3 15:00 – 16:30
Mon 4 Nov 2019	Spaces Available	Spaces Available	Spaces Available
Tues 5 Nov 2019	Spaces Available		
Wed 6 Nov 2019	Spaces Available	Spaces Available	Spaces Available
Mon 11 Nov 2019	Spaces Available	Spaces Available	Spaces Available
Tues 12 Nov 2019		Spaces Available	Spaces Available
Wed 13 Nov 2019			Spaces Available

Initially 1,500 invitation flyers were distributed across the study area between 7 to 11 of October 2019, these were distributed to all streets within the study area. WYG in communication with members of CEC maintained a detailed area-based register of businesses and residences of the First New Town Area. This was updated as the flyer-drop took place.

A further 1,000 flyers were distributed between 18 to 25 of October 2019. This also included redistributing flyers to a number of key business places on George Street and Hanover Street.

A total of 83 RSVPs was received, with an expected attendance of 90 people across all sessions. 62 people attended, with 28 (31%) failing to attend. In these instances, email updates were sent to these businesses to inform them of the remaining sessions to provide an opportunity to confirm an alternative session and a number of further unscheduled sessions did take place.

Across all sessions a total of 39 separate businesses and 4 residents met to discuss the design. To understand each attendees perspective on the project, each organisation or resident was categorised into Tables 1 and 2 as below. From Tables 1 and 2 it can be seen that the sessions were primarily attended by office-based businesses and retailers predominantly from George Street.

Table 1: Business Locations

George Street	23
Hanover Street	2
Frederick Street	3
Rose Street	5
Others (Castle Street, Thistle Street, Hill Street)	10

Table 2: Business Use

Office based Business	11
Events based Business (including Church)	6
Retailer	16
Food & Beverage	6
Residents	4

3. Consultation Feedback

Consultation feedback on the proposed design gathered for all consultee groups and collated to assess the common points of agreement, conflict or suggestions for improvement within the scheme has been summarised into key point below;

General Comments

- Across the sessions, around 50% of consultees had no prior knowledge of the George Street and First New Town Design or the overarching City Centre Transformation Study.
- Of those consultees who were aware of the GNT scheme knowledge of the design and associated key elements was generally limited, other than those who are members off organisations such as Essential Edinburgh (EE) or the George Street Association (GSA).
- Based on the current design, consultee opinions were overwhelmingly positive when discussing the potential to rejuvenate the street although there were concerns relating to the construction period and likely disruption.
- Some felt the pressure of the St James Centre Development on their business and thought that some form of change in the types of business operating on George Street would be an inevitable result.

Vehicle Access

- The potential for a ban on general traffic access during peak pedestrian times was frequently discussed and often raised by consultees as something to implement going forward. There were mixed opinions on the feasibility of this restriction. Most understood that traffic on George Street is largely attributed to the levels of parking available, by removing parking, background traffic levels would likely reduce hence some believed that this remove the necessity for a ban on general traffic.
- Some consultees requested full pedestrianisation of the street, suggesting allowing only buses, loading vehicles and blue badge holders to turn from side streets into George Street.
- Coherence of signs and how restrictions would be managed was a concern for some consultees, they understood that the design aimed to be as cohesive with the environment as possible.

- Concerns were raised by residents and businesses of the streets/lanes north of George Street that traffic flows could increase within these streets due to the shift in focus of general parking and any access/loading restrictions on George Street.

Parking

- The vast majority of consultees were supportive of the removal of general parking. They thought it was a way to make the space more attractive, tackle air quality issues and give more space to pedestrians.
- Food and beverage business noted that the availability of parking is becoming less important due to drink/drive legislation and the desire to promote non car-based travel as alcohol sales are an important margin area.
- There was a general feeling that the existing charging/enforcement regime does not currently provide a sufficient barrier to parking inappropriately and obtaining a parking ticket.
- Most were open to the idea of changing pay and display times, the possibility of 7-day charging and providing shared use parking within the regime. Most thought 2 hours maximum stay would be appropriate, some boutique retail owners and patrons of places of worship (includes churches on George Street) felt a minimum of 3 hours was required to support their operation.
- Most business owners and operators were concerned about the level of provision elsewhere in the First New Town Area and the potential ramifications of the 1,800 proposed spaces of the new St James Centre opening 2020. Some thought the removal of parking would detract people from shopping on the street particularly during winter months.
- Some consultees were concerned about the accessibility of the area, in particular business patrons may not want to park in areas like Queen Street and beyond to then walk uphill for from their car to shop or eat etc.
- Consultees often asked for permitting systems to be reconsidered in future. Most felt there is an excessive presence of trader's vehicles in the area, although some felt that this was essential to allow refurbishment of buildings and queried how this activity would be managed in future.
- Residents noted that evening parking and Sunday parking is an issue, vehicles often park inappropriately in resident spaces and in ways which contravene the current restrictions. Some residents suggested increasing Pay and Display times to around 07:00-07:30pm in future to accommodate residents returning in the evening.
- Most consultees were in favour of including more blue-badge parking within the design particularly St Andrew's and St George's West church who have previously asked for additional blue badge provision in the vicinity of the church.
- Residents noted that should the First New Town move towards more residential based development whether changes to the wider parking zones should be considered with one resident noting that shared use bays were unattractive due to high turnover of bays and potential damage to resident vehicles.

Loading and Servicing

General

- The majority of businesses consulted have little or no control on their loading and servicing activities and are reliant on 3rd party logistics or key supplier (brewery/major food distributor). There is a mix of vehicle types although generally deliveries are provided through medium sized (7.5t vehicles) although some

business's (are served by larger HGV's) with waste collection also being undertaken by larger vehicles.

- The majority of businesses consulted accept the concept of managed servicing and deliveries through loading windows as being beneficial to the environment of the city centre although are particularly concerned about additional costs that may be levied on their business by 3rd party logistics or key suppliers.
- There was generally no pattern associated with the timings of deliveries although some businesses are restricted by business hours (after 10am).
- There are concerns that the introduction of loading windows may result in capacity constraints on the proposed loading areas which could lead to inappropriate loading activity and whether how this would be managed/enforced.
- There are concerns that the introduction of loading windows may result in additional vehicle movements relating to servicing activity in the Rose St / Hill St lanes and these areas should be considered in any restrictions.
- There was a concern that the on-carriageway part-time bays proposal (serving the south side of the street) would have limited use for business deliveries due to time restrictions.
- From the consultees which attended, it is clear that each business in the area has unique requirements with the frequency and size of vehicle used varying significantly from business to business.
- Most business operators were in favour of the idea of scheduled/managed servicing and deliveries and other methods to reduce the number of large vehicles regularly operating in the area particularly in relation to the number of competing waste collection operators.
- Only one example of business coordination in terms of loading and servicing was noted, businesses around the junction of Castle Street/George Street are already arranging communal waste collection (glass and mixed recyclables etc).

Retail

- In relation to retail, business the majority of operators are served by 3rd party logistics providers with a mixture of front and rear servicing depending on the availability of access. There are a number of retailers where front servicing is the only viable option due to a lack of rear access and there is no distinct pattern of access across the project area.
- Two George Street retail businesses confirmed that loading activity is undertaken overnight by the companies own vehicles. It is likely that this pattern is repeated by other national retailers on the street who do not rely on 3rd party logistics providers.
- There was an understanding that due to the cycleway, on-street loading along the southern kerb line would need to be heavily restricted. There was limited attendance by businesses on the south-side of George Street that would be directly impacted by these bays. The proposed operation of these bays would impact deliveries after 10am although not overnight. Smaller deliveries could be serviced from the northern carriageway.
- In terms of delivery frequency, larger national/chain retailers tend to rely on a single delivery per week although this rises during peak periods. Smaller retailers are reliant on more frequent ad-hoc daily deliveries from 3rd party logistics providers.
- A number of retailers also operate a click-and-collect or online delivery service which rely on 3rd party logistics pick-up and drop-off and this forms a key part of their business.

- Of the retailers served by 3rd party logistics providers, there seemed to be little control over the time of deliveries and a concern regarding the cost implications associated with a servicing window. It was explained that large 3rd party logistics providers would easily adapt to servicing windows through planning of vehicle allocations and delivery schedules.
- Businesses that trade in high value items were also concerned about the positioning of loading facilities relative to their business.
- Specific concerns were raised in relation to the lack of loading bays on Hanover Street and whether specific loading provision can be made on Rose Street.

Food and Beverage

- Food and beverage businesses also varied in the frequency and timing of deliveries with larger businesses again relying on lower frequency larger deliveries with smaller businesses more reliant on daily deliveries from smaller suppliers.
- A number of businesses are reliant on small specialist suppliers (such as fish deliveries) of which they have little control on arrival due to the distance from the supplier.
- Food and beverage businesses are more likely to take servicing from the rear than other types of retail although they are also more likely to receive deliveries in the late morning and would be impacted by a daytime servicing restriction due to the need to provide staff in the morning period.

Other

- Businesses that accommodate events and conferences were concerned about how restrictions would impact on specific delivery activities such as hot food lunchtime deliveries.
- Offices are generally serviced by 3rd party couriers a varying frequencies and times of day
- There were concerns regarding loading and servicing associated with emergency building maintenance and how this would be impacted by a servicing window.
- A specific query was raised on Rose Street by a logistics company, who rely on all day access to Rose Street lane for ongoing deliveries throughout the day.
- A specific query was raised by St Andrew's and St George's West Church regarding the need for parking for funeral/wedding parties with 4-6 vehicles and the need to park these outside the church for periods around 1 hour.

Events

- Most working in events, Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh Book Festival etc accepted the design provided a restriction to the available space for events. The need to provide emergency access would constrain this further although the potential use of the cycleway for dual emergency access should be considered.
- The Book Festival felt they could adjust their operation to suit the design although Assembly Festival raised concerns that the size of area would restrict operations to a smaller scale focussed on food and beverage offering.
- Assembly Festival queried whether it would be feasible to move the cycleway to the northern carriageway during the Fringe in order to prevent conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists.
- The Book Festival asked for embedded facilities to be considered within the next stage of the design. They noted that external power supplies are one of the largest

spatial constraints for their operation and they have undertaken a detailed appraisal of facilities requirements which could be shared.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 Due to the limited attendance by retail/food and beverage businesses on the south side of George Street (3) and usage of front loading it is unclear whether the proposed on-street bays will adequately serve the needs of business particularly those with larger deliveries. Based on the issues associated with businesses located on the south side of the street, further engagement is required in this area to fully understand business need. Consideration should also be given to the operational times of loading bays and whether there may be flexibility to extend any proposed operational period.
- 4.2 It is likely that any servicing window will need to take account of business's that currently do not open until 10am (It is unclear how many businesses this includes within the First New Town area) and the likely pressure on loading facilities during the late morning period. Consideration should be given to the available capacity of loading bays and timing of any servicing window to accommodate this.
- 4.3 The timing of any servicing window will also need to take account of the late afternoon courier pick-up activity that has been raised during previously consultations.
- 4.4 Further consideration should be given to the availability of servicing facilities on Hanover Street / adjacent sections of Rose Street once the Meadows to George Street cycle design has been finalised.
- 4.5 Consideration should be given to the inclusion of any servicing and loading restrictions covering the full First New Town area to avoid knock-on impacts and increased usage of the lanes for loading/servicing activity.
- 4.6 Specific consideration is required in relation to the essential operational needs of St Andrew's and St George's West Church in order to accommodate funerals.
- 4.7 Considerable further engagement with local stakeholders, both residents and businesses, will form as a core part of the next stages of the project.

George Street and First New Town – Stakeholder Workshops

Executive Summary

1. Stakeholder Workshops

- 1.1 Stakeholder workshops, specifically focused on progressing unresolved design concept issues, were delivered in July and November 2019. Attendees at the workshops were invited from a broad range of bodies and interested parties including Edinburgh World Heritage, New Town and Broughton Community Council and the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Both workshops were delivered and led by the project consultants (WYG Ltd and LDA Design) and were positive and constructive in progressing project design considerations.
- 1.2 A range of key project concept and principles were discussed at the workshops which included:
- introduction of Dwell Zones;
 - repurposing of the proposed introduction of Plazas spaces mid-block;
 - options for the James Clerk Maxwell Statue, including relocation; and
 - coordination of Street Greenery.
- 1.3 The first Workshop, held on 25 July 2019 at the City Chambers, was delivered and led by the project consultant (WYG Ltd). A broad range of stakeholders were in attendance including:-
- Spokes
 - Living Streets
 - Historic Environment Scotland
 - Edinburgh World Heritage Trust
 - The Cockburn Association
 - New Town and Broughton Community Council
 - Essential Edinburgh
 - Edinburgh Archaeological Association
 - Heriot Watt University
 - Police Scotland
 - Royal Society of Edinburgh
 - George Street Association
 - Landscape Institute Scotland
 - Sustrans

- 1.4 The main purpose of the session was to present and debate a range of options and concepts relating to key project design challenges. Each topic matter was presented and introduced by the consultants and followed by a facilitated discussion to elicit constructive feedback from the broad range of attendees.
- 1.5 The facilitated discussion and feedback gathered at the first workshop helped progress and refine options on each topic matter presented. The outputs of the first workshop, and the resulting sifting and refinement of options, helped inform the basis of a follow-up and second Workshop held at the City Chambers on 7 November 2019.
- 1.6 This second Workshop was again led by the project consultants (WYG Ltd and LDA design).
- 1.7 For consistency purposes, the same stakeholders that attended the first workshop were re-invited to the second session and a high turnout rate was similarly achieved.
- 1.8 The second workshop followed a similar format to the first, enabling the project design team to present a refinement of the main design issues from the initial workshop. This stimulated deeper and more focused debate and discussion, and elicited informed feedback on each matter presented.
- 1.9 The outcomes of the two workshops delivered will help inform the further development work to be undertaken during the next stages of the project (to commence once the new project consultant has been appointed – in Spring 2020) and will ultimately assist in the production of a final design layout for George Street.
- 1.10 Minutes from both workshops have been circulated to attendees.
- 1.11 A summary of the key decisions and considerations made in respect of the Workshops are highlighted below;

General Street Block Design

- General discussion around the level of vehicle use expected on George Street following the implementation of the new design. Multiple factors will see vehicle volumes drop (such as; vehicles that currently circulate looking for Pay and Display parking on George Street will disappear as result of a much reduced parking offer, and on a city level, delivery of City Centre Transformation Strategy will bring forward rapid change to the way people access and move around the city centre in a more sustainable way, which is likely to deliver car free streets and restriction on general traffic where appropriate).
- Loading restrictions will be established and operating proposals for loading, servicing and access is currently being developed through structured “deep dive” sessions with local business and residents delivered by WYG Ltd with support from the George Street Association and Essential Edinburgh.
- A review of events and their function within the Street will be undertaken as it is not possible to curate a design that could provide total flexibility and accommodate all scale of events.

- Future decision required on scale of public events on the street and operation of these.
- The introduction of proposed Plaza spaces mid-block providing a focal point outside key buildings, such as the Assembly Rooms, did not receive wide support, and therefore, the repurposing or the entire removal of the Plaza concept is to be reviewed during the next stages of the project.
- Waste management strategy for the street, exploring technologies and opportunities such as single suppliers, will be considered and reviewed in consultation with local businesses/residents to see if they are appropriate for George Street.

Cycleway Segregation

- The rationale behind the cycling proposition as currently developed was presented along with the various types of segregation on offer. Exact design details, including vertical segregation, will be considered and explored further during detailed design stages.
- Segregated cycleway will be located on the south side of the street, with dedicated recessed loading bays on the north. Part-time on carriageway loading bays, adjacent to the cycleway (with appropriate segregation and support measures to be determined during the detailed design stages to follow) are being considered to meet service demands of business located on the south side of the street.
- Final decisions on loading bay locations will form part of a loading restrictions review and will be further informed by the business and resident deep dive sessions.
- The principle that there will be segregation between the cycleway and the footway was agreed. Appropriate levels of segregation and the detail in which it will be achieved is to be investigated further as part of the next stages of the project but ultimately the segregation will align with Edinburgh Street Design Guidance and aim to be consistent with neighbouring city centre cycling schemes.
- Given the UNESCO status and special historic qualities and importance of George Street, materials proposed on the footway should be similar in pallet to the cycleway, possibly the same material with different sizes being used to differentiate between the areas.

Counter Terrorism Measures

- Government guidance requires the assessment of appropriate measures to protect the public in busy and/or high risk city centre public spaces. The assessment determining whether there will be a requirement for hostile vehicle measures will form part of the next stages of the project and if measures are deemed to be required, they will be an integral element of the redesign (potentially in a future proofing form) rather than being added as an afterthought later on in the process.
- Any permanent static measures will compliment and be sculpturally sympathetic to the New Town neoclassical style e.g. square not circular and it was agreed that every effort should be made to minimise any required hostile vehicle measure impacting on the overall character of the street.

- Consensus is to provide measures within the design to restrict entry to each block individually, with the restriction measures located at the ends of each block (acting as a plug) rather than providing measures throughout the entire length of the four blocks, lining each footway adjacent to carriageway.

Junction Layout

- The three central junctions on George Street have to accommodate a selection of statues, public transport, general traffic, pedestrians and cyclists. However, each junction has differing dynamics. This means that different solutions for each junction to reflect a change in demands and operational requirements could be appropriate i.e. Hanover Street is very different in function to Castle Street.
- The proposal to potentially convert Frederick Street junction to offer enhancements to cycling and pedestrian facilities was discussed. Further technical evaluation of this junction in detail is required.
- Ensure that CCWEL and Meadows to George Street schemes will be fully integrated within the final agreed junction design.

Street Greening

- Dwell zones will be introduced at key points on each block and will each measure approximately 20 metres long x 4 metres wide and they are only proposed to be introduced where appropriate.
- The form of the zones proposed mirror the symmetry of the street.
- Group stressed that maintenance is important. For the dwell zones to be welcoming, attractive and well used, they must be pristine at all times.
- The zones are considered individually in each block to reflect the differing dynamic with each section of the street, but a rhythmic pattern reference between across blocks should be further considered.
- Size/scale/function/form and content of dwell zones was generally agreed within the group, however, appropriate levels and types of greenery and materials to be used within each dwell zone is to be investigated further.
- Consideration should also be given to the design of the dwell zones and how the design could be made less generic and more GNT specific.
- The proposal to introduce some greenery on the south side of the street, offering increased symmetry, was in response to comments made at the July workshop and will be further developed and consulted during the next stages.

James Clerk Maxwell Statue

- A range of options were presented in respect of the evaluation of the statue's location (to support the design concept) and elicited broad consensus for a proposal to move the statue to a position towards St Andrew Square (adjacent to gardens entrance) yet retaining its strong anchor with George Street.
- The Royal Society of Edinburgh (who commissioned the statue) are supportive of the overall concept and content with the proposal to relocate the statue to a new position closer to St Andrew Square, although they queried who would be liable for the costs associated with any move. CEC confirmed that all costs related to a potential repositioning would be covered by the project.

- There was general acceptability of the relocation proposal to strengthen symmetry and address an inconsistency issue between the position of this statue and its relationship with the other three statues on George Street (which can be viewed from the Old Town and form part of the iconic skyline). In addition, the design team will investigate the statue's orientation and interface with the gardens as part of the proposed relocation and continue to work extremely closely with the RSE, and others as appropriate, on this matter.
- There was some concern over the location of the cycle lane at St Andrews Square and an interface with the stepped entrance to the gardens, both will be reviewed during the next stages of the project.

2. Stakeholder Workshops and Consultation - Next steps

- 2.1 Ensuring citizens have the opportunity to influence and shape the future of the city centre is essential and therefore further substantial consultation and engagement is key in the development and production of a final design for George Street.
- 2.2 These two workshops have been key in moving forward design considerations. However, before final design decisions can be made, much further development and engagement is still required. Continued debate and consideration in respect of the above key elements, with input from appropriate stakeholders, will be a core part of the next stages of the project.
- 2.3 A detailed consultation and engagement programme for the remainder of the project is to be agreed with the new consultant on their appointment, but it is likely to include, at the very least, a third Workshop building on the feedback and outputs of the previous two workshops. This third workshop will also provide the opportunity to discuss with key stakeholder any new design matters and challenges.
- 2.4 The next series of consultation and engagement will also be brought forward in the context of the existing project, target City Centre Transformation outcomes and take cognisance of new and emerging local/national policies and strategies, including those related to the Climate Emergency and the Council's City Mobility Plan (and other relevant Council consultation outcomes).

The City of Edinburgh Council

George Street and First New Town, Edinburgh

Operational Statement

09th September 2019

Prepared on behalf of WYG Environment Planning Transport Limited.

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Document control

Document:	Operational Statement	
Project:	George Street and First New Town Edinburgh	
Client:	The City of Edinburgh Council	
Job Number:	A104035-6	
File Origin:		
Revision:	Draft issue	
Date:	9 th September 2019	
Prepared by	Checked by	Approved By
Andrew Combe	Jordan Dunn	Mark Rinkus
Description of Revision		
Revision:	Draft Issue 1	
Date:	6 th February 2020	
Prepared by	Checked by	Approved By
Mark Rinkus	Jordan Dunn	Mark Rinkus
Description of Revision	Minor updates following December 2019 Business and Residents engagement.	
Revision:	Draft Issue 2	
Date:	12 th March 2020	
Prepared by	Checked by	Approved By
Jordan Dunn	Mark Rinkus	Mark Rinkus
Description of Revision	Review and revision following conclusion of unresolved design issues.	

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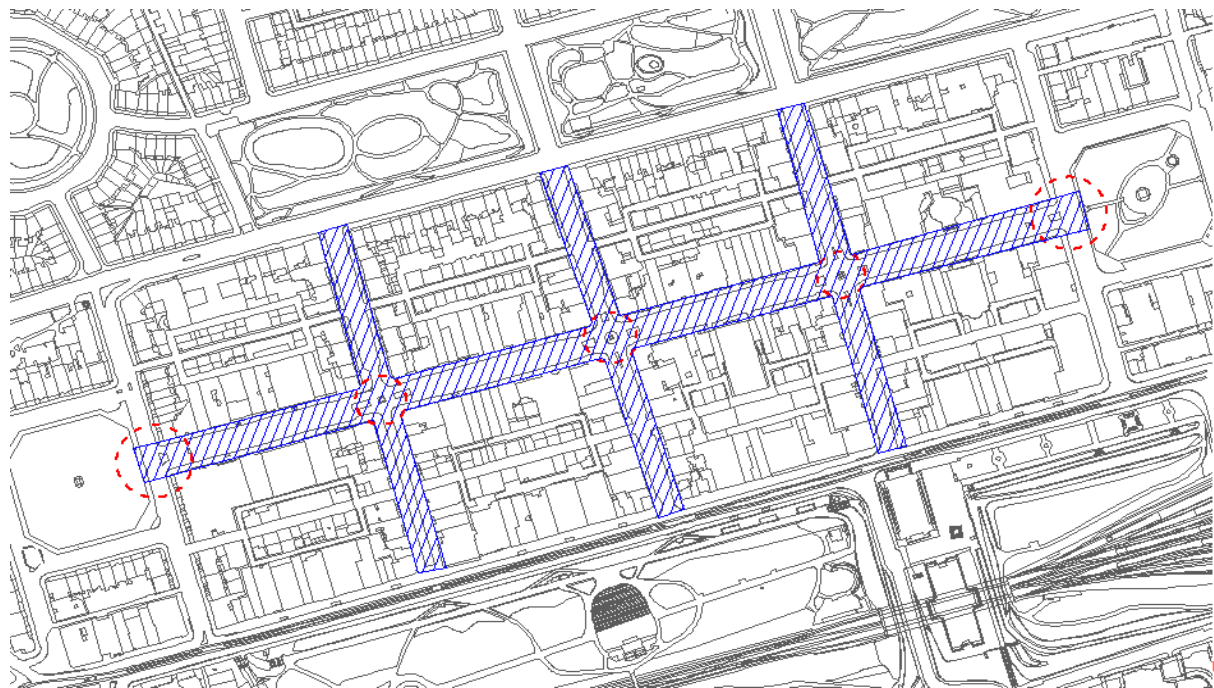
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Draft - Working Copy

1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction

The purpose of this George Street and First New Town (GNT) Operational Statement (OS) is to support the concept design proposal for improvements to the quality and operation of Edinburgh's First New Town as part of the GNT Preliminary Design Study. This reports purpose is to provide a summary of current (baseline) operation for all modes of travel which currently operate within the study area. This report should be read in conjunction with the GNT Operational Plan which sets out the future intended operation of the study area for all travel modes and the GNT Operational Impact Assessment which sets out a comparison of current and future (proposed) operation along with mitigation measures were these are considered practicable to implement.



George Street and First New Town Study Area

The design as part of the wider City Centre Transformation (CCT), aims to create a vibrant area with a world class street environment that is safe for all users. It will enhance its use for pedestrians while prioritising active travel for everyone creating a welcoming space and 'destination' that encourages 'trips to' and 'not through'.

The study area is currently dominated by vehicle traffic to which the majority of road space is allocated. This results in a conflict of use between various non-motorised user groups where the road space allocation does not represent existing travel demand. This design presents a significant opportunity to enhance a world-renowned vibrant street environment that will be welcoming for all users: one which significantly enhances its use for pedestrians while prioritising active travel and accessibility for all through the removal of 'non-essential' motorised traffic.

City Centre Transformation (CCT) and role of George Street

The Central Edinburgh Transformation Project (CCT) is intended to radically reform the future operation of the City Centre, improving access for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport through examination of future requirements of the City Centre. The study aims to place issues such as congestion, air quality and street clutter at the highest priority, trying to 'unlock the potential of historic streets and promoting innovative and ambitious change to support the cities climate adaptation ambitions. The GNT Design is a key design which will contribute towards delivering the CCT, Mobility Plan strategic vision and low carbon agenda.

The current GNT concept design builds on over a decade of historic design conversations and interrelated studies, cumulating in a set of study design principles agreed in 2016. The design was first presented to the public in November 2018 has been developed during 2019 into a Preliminary through a programme of continuous consultation and engagement with local residents, transport operators and local stakeholder groups.

2. Baseline Operational Conditions

2.1 Introduction

This chapter provides details of the existing conditions within the study area, current access arrangements, pedestrian constraints, cycling routes and behaviours, public transport, loading and servicing arrangements, parking.

2.2 Study Area

The George Street and New Town study area is split into a series of interconnected streets. These are recognised to each have their own characteristics, aesthetic and travel dynamics. Individually, each street forms a key part of the overall study area.

George Street currently serves as a key strategic route within the First New Town for passenger car and bus travel. The route is well trafficked, this often results in delays at junctions and increases journey times. The entire study area is subject to a 20mph city centre speed zone restriction.

There are a number of traffic restrictions in place in the study area. On George Street to the east, left turning movements to St Andrews Square are not permitted; while to the west no right turns entering George Street from Charlotte Square are not permitted and exiting right turns to Charlotte Square are not permitted. Similarly, traffic travelling on Frederick street cannot turn onto Hill Street or Thistle Street, this forms four distinct one-way sections. Traffic on Young Street/Hill Street/Thistle Street wishing to exit the study area is effectively filtered towards North Charlotte Street, Frederick Street and North St David's Street.

The GNT study area form a critical intersection for motorised travel within the city centre with a number of primary road routes intersecting within the area. The area is bound to the south by Princess Street which is currently prioritised for use by bus and tram travel. To the north, Queen Street now acts as a primary traffic distributor for vehicles wishing to travel east / west across the city centre. Within the centre of the study area, Hanover Street forms a key part of the north / south route linking driver to the mound and beyond.

In terms of use, the GNT study area forms a key retail, commercial, business and residential part of the city adding to the night-time and weekend economy of the city. The study area is never 'quiet' being used for significant portions of the year to host events including the fringe and Christmas markets.

George Street

George Street currently supports a wide range of uses including retail, office, restaurant/leisure whilst also being a residential street and a key route within in the city centre travel network that supports pedestrian and cycle travel. It is an important destination in terms of experiencing the City and has critical economic, cultural, historical and functional roles that shape Edinburgh's national and international profile.

The streetscape is characterised by its statues and historic vistas although is also dominated by vehicle-based transport due to the provision of parking within the centre of the street and kerbside. Footway widths and quality vary by location, with street furniture clutter and other physical barriers which limit pedestrian accessibility in certain areas.

A variety of junction and crossing styles are also present, at busier junctions such as St Andrews Square, Hanover Street and at Charlotte Square, traffic signals with advanced cycle stop lines and multi-stage pedestrian crossings are provided. Where traffic volumes are lower such as at the Fredrick Street and Castle Street junctions, zebra crossings are provided, affording greater priority to pedestrians.



Existing layout of George Street with centrally located parking

Castle Street/North Castle Street

Castle Street is fully pedestrianised allowing flexibility for pedestrians and cyclists, this space also provides a functional public realm space used for local markets and events. It offers a pedestrian route linking George Street to Princes Street and Rose Street. North Castle Street is provided with a carriageway of approximately 7.7m with permit holder only parking incorporated on either side. To the north, the road forms a signalised T-junction with Queen Street.

Frederick Street

Frederick Street serves as one of two north/south through routes for traffic within the study area, linking George Street to Princes Street and Queen Street although general traffic is prohibited from accessing Princess Street from Frederick Street. The street is a key bus corridor with stops located in both the northern and southern sections.

Hanover Street

Hanover Street serves as the other arterial road travelling north to south, it also links Princes Street to Queen Street and serves as the study area's link to Edinburgh's Old Town via The Mound and the Royal Mile. The current layout is dominated by vehicle infrastructure and on-street markings. A number of bus bays and their shelters are present, these compress the road itself to a single carriageway constricting flows. Bus shelters and other on-street clutter causes disruption for pedestrians.

Hanover Street connects with George Street at a 4-way signalised crossing, island refuges are provided for pedestrians while advanced cycle stop lines are used on all approaches to junctions. Traveling north at the junction the road expands to a 4-lane carriageway linking to Queen Street.

St Andrew's Square

St Andrew Square is located at the East End of George Street, it is characterised by its public garden and the Melville monument at its centre. Following the investment to upgrade in the square, the gardens re-opened with two new entrances at the south-west and northeast corners with curved footpaths linking the new entrances and newly created public realm space. These significantly improved the attractiveness and pedestrian utilisation of the area. St Andrews Street, to the east of the square is also provided with a stop on the Edinburgh Tram link.

At present George Street links to the square at a 3-way signalised priority junction to the east of the study area, two stage pedestrian crossings are present on the north and west arms while advanced cycle stop lines are used to guide cyclists.

Charlotte Square

Charlotte Square another focal point in the study area, located at the west end of The First New Town. In its current layout and organisation, Charlotte Square is 'overwhelmed by street furniture', car parking and other road infrastructure. The layout is generally confusing and has poor connectivity for pedestrians. Aside from the footways, there is very little public space available, most of the area is dedicated to roads.

Similar to St Andrews Square, George Street links to Charlotte square at a 3-way signalised priority junction. Two stage pedestrian crossings are present on the north and east arms while advanced cycle stop lines are used to guide cyclists.

2.3 Pedestrians

Overview

General Pedestrians

Infrastructure provision for people walking within the GNT study area is of varying quality with a variety of constraints observed throughout. These include delays due to limited green time at key junctions or 'pinch points' at areas of high pedestrian activity where street clutter or physical constraints combined with limited road space to funnel pedestrians and cyclists together.

Along George Street multi-stage crossings at junctions result in less than desirable waiting times for pedestrians, this often results in pedestrian choosing to exhibit unsafe crossing behaviour such as crossing between temporarily stopped traffic or while signals stages are at 'red'. In particular at the intersection of George Street and Hanover Street and close to St Andrews Square, large areas of streetscape utilised by road infrastructure, this then 'pushes' pedestrians further away from their desire lines.

The three main junctions located within Castle Street, Frederick Street and Hanover Street all experience high levels of pedestrian footfall throughout the day, with the daily peak times observed to generally be between 12pm-2pm. Within each George Street block, diagonal desire lines are observed and tend to be located from the north to south and west to east footways. Pedestrians have also been observed to walk 'outside' of protective railings as part of a 'short cut'.

At the interchanges with Princes Street, Castle Street, Frederick Street and Hanover Street, footfall is observed to be at its greatest. On these streets' limited footway widths combined with high pedestrian demand generally leads to congestion. There are a diverse number of desire lines in this area, there are also significant east-west movements towards Rose Street; where pedestrians are observed to cross whenever an opportunity to do so is presented and without using the provided signalised crossings.

Within the current layout of the street there are no areas which actively encourage pedestrians to dwell within the space. Restaurants and other businesses on George Street are allocated 2m of footway space to accommodate seating though this is not typically accessible to all users and not enforced or managed. There is limited provision for pedestrians such as local amenities, water dispensers and seating (not offered by local business).



Examples of George Street footways and their condition

A number of physical obstacles are observed within the study area which serve as barriers to pedestrian movement. Planters, street furniture at business frontages, phone boxes and bus-stops effectively reduce the width of footways creating 'pinch points' which further restrict pedestrian flow. As shown (photos inset), the quality of the existing footway surfaces is also of variable quality. Limited effective maintenance of the surface has left this in a general state of disrepair and includes a mismatch of surface finishes. This creates a sense of incoherence and forms an uneven footway surface which further reduces accessibility, especially for those with mobility impairments or those less mobile. The figure below provides a summary of the existing materials used and quality of footways across the study area.



Facilitating 'Desire Lines'

Tracing studies undertaken as part of the Here + Now, George Street Public Life Street Assessment undertaken in 2018 show the interaction between pedestrians and the existing junction layouts along George Street and linkages to the First New Town (inset image), each line represents the path chosen by pedestrians as they travelled. In particular, the placement of the guard railings and pedestrian refuge island at the crossing of George Street/Hanover Street creates a barrier to movement. Due to a restriction in available walking space throughout the area many pedestrians (particularly to the south where footfall is highest) were forced to the edges of the footway or chose to walk temporarily on the road. The diagonal scattering of these lines also shows the east-west desire lines which are not being accommodated within the current layout.

A summary of pedestrian congregation points and physical on-street barriers is shown in the images overleaf.

Impaired Mobility and Vulnerable Users

It is also important within any public space design to accommodate the requirements of those with impaired mobility, such as wheelchair users or those with a physical or sensory impairment and other protected characteristics such as age or pregnancy/maternity. Generally, wheelchair users tend to have difficulties in negotiating changes in level while visually impaired/blind people need audible and touch-based information with level and well-maintained footways.

As part of the baseline investigation of the area, a series of user video surveys were prepared to assist in understanding the challenges experienced by these user groups in comparison to other users; this included able bodied pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchair users and users with pushchairs. The video survey allowed identification of the barriers to movement at crossings and footways in the area. From review it was identified that a lack of space for non-motorised users to queue at junctions and within the crossing central islands was a concern. The limited footway width combined with street clutter and high pedestrian demand created challenges for some users, introducing the potential for indirect discrimination.

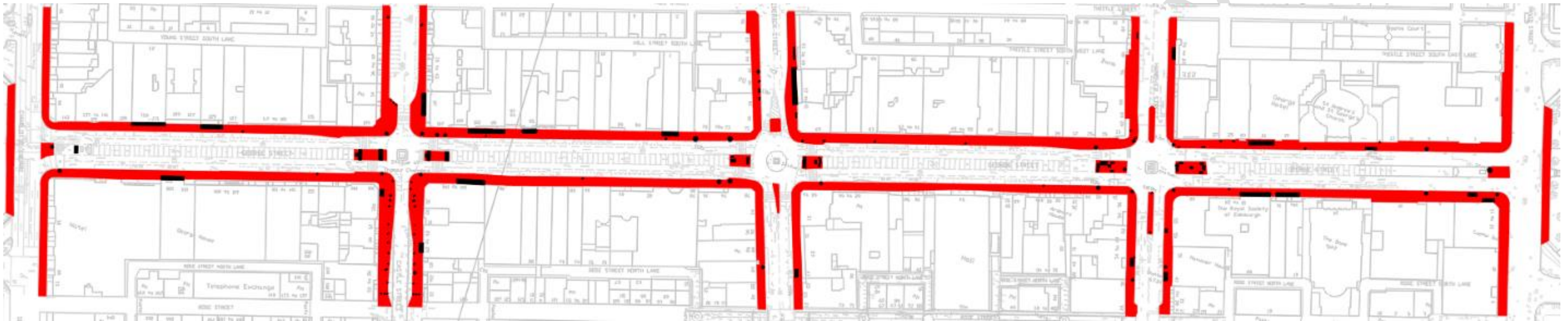
In terms of street infrastructure within the study area, dropped kerbs are provided to support crossing activity at junctions although these are noted to be located a short distance away from crossings. This arrangement providing additional and unnecessary challenge to a blind or partial sighted person. Tactile materials used throughout the streetscape are a similar grey colour to the surrounding footway paving slabs, this could also be visibly confusing for someone with a sight impairment. Use of a contrasting colour such as red or yellow is used in order to be more visually conspicuous although the historic and cultural significance of the study area does and will affect the choice of colour and material palate.

The following figures provide a visual summary of desire lines observed through the Here + Now Study in relation to the physical constraints and key congregation points.



Pedestrian desire line tracing at the junction of George Street / Hanover Street. Here + Now 2017

Summary of Physical Constraints



Summary of Pedestrian Congregation points



Opportunities

The GNT Design provides a fantastic opportunity to readdress road space provision to reduce car dominance and promote active travel for non-motorised users' pedestrians.

Considering the requirements of pedestrians, the design should ideally include:

Provide more coherent crossing facilities: all five junctions linking George Street and the side streets of the first new town employ multi-stage crossing incorporating the use of refuge islands, this promotes increased priority for vehicles and results in pedestrians having to divert from their desire lines and wait for traffic signals to provide an opportunity to cross. By widening the existing footways and readdressing pedestrian priority, it would be possible to reduce crossing widths and create more opportunities to cross which would better align with the desire lines.

Decluttering the existing layout: There are frequent constraints such as waste bins, phone boxes or outdoor private seating used by restaurants and bars which serve to further reduce the effective width of footways. The design should seek to rationalise the number and location of existing street furniture or allocate within designated areas to reduce obstacles and assist in navigation of the space.

Creating public seating and dwell zones: There are no public seating or spaces presented to support pedestrians wishing to dwell within the study area. Functionally the environment of the GNT study area serves to transfer pedestrians to their destination rather than become its own attractive destination.

Creating footways assessable to all users: A variety of materials are used throughout the area; this is the result of wear and tear and ineffective maintenance. Footway widths and levels are inconsistent along George Street, this creates a less accessible environment for all users. Those with wheelchairs and other mobility impairments are known to struggle when attempting to cross at junctions. Creating a consistent level and wide footway would significantly increase accessibility and reduce the risk of indirect discrimination that exists within the current layout.

Enhance pedestrian experience making facilities and vistas more accessible: Seeking to support the unique asset of the GNT architecture, the provision of spaces to dwell combined with reprioritisation of space away from cars and parking would support GNT as a destination and not a through route.

Reduce traffic and support the safety of pedestrians throughout the area: The layout of George Street and the First New Town is dominated by wide carriageway and central reservation car parking and as a result caters more towards vehicle travel than sustainable modes like walking or cycling. This creates an environment which has a number of high conflict areas with pedestrians and cyclists. It is noted that in the last 5 years over 62% of all road traffic incidents in the First New Town involved a pedestrian or cyclist. A majority of vehicles traveling in and out of the area are linked to the ability to park, by removing non-essential parking and non-essential vehicles would considerably reduce levels of background traffic and decrease the risk collisions whilst also supporting views of the building and historical assets, enhancing the street as a destination whilst encouraging increased dwell times.

Key Considerations

Maintaining access for essential traffic and public transport: The First New Town serves as an important location for transport across all modes. While it is important to focus on reprioritising the streetscape to be more accessible to active travel users, George Street and Hanover Street currently serve as two of the main through routes for traffic in Edinburgh City Centre. Vehicle access of some level should be retained, and bus routing maintained through the area to allow connectivity to all modes of transport.

Safely facilitating movement along all pedestrian desire lines: The George Street Public Life Street Assessment highlights that there is significant unmet demand for pedestrians to cross north-south along George Street and east-west on Frederick Street and Hanover Street. This is largely down to the excessive carriageway widths required to cross the carriageway forcing pedestrians to queue before safety proceeding. By reducing carriageway widths and removing barriers such as guard railings, crossings in the area would better facilitate pedestrian movements.

Ensuring facilities are appropriate to cater for the needs of all user groups: People with young children, people carrying heavy shopping or luggage and older people can all benefit from good design of the pedestrian and transport environment. Proportionally Edinburgh also has the 2nd highest number of people living with a long-term condition or disability of all council areas in Scotland. Footways, crossings and junctions within the area should be accessible to all users with limited mobility or other forms of impairment.

Implications of events in the area: Commonly as part of The Fringe Festival, Christmas Market and sporting events sections of George Street between Charlotte Street-Castle Street and Castle Street-Frederick Street, traffic access is often restricted using through barrier control. This allows these areas to become fully pedestrianised and temporarily promotes increased pedestrian movement. The decision to limit the number, scale and location of events within the GNT area will depend upon The City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) although the design should continue to support flexibility and adaptability and support all user requirements.

Challenges

Maintaining a unique and historic setting within Edinburgh's First New Town: George Street is the home to historically significant Georgian Era architecture and vistas a part of UNESCO World Heritage Site. Each of the 5 main junctions along George Street also feature statues as their prominent focal features. Place-setting and maintaining this image is of critical importance, how the surrounding environment interacts with the urban realm will require careful consideration.

Linking the First New Town (FNT) to the other key attractors in Edinburgh City Centre: George Street and the First New Town is one of many attractions within the City Centre, to promote pedestrian accessibility to the area and generally increase activity it is necessary to consider the connections to Princes Street and other key destinations nearby. Footways within the study area should provide quality connections to existing facilities and provide continuous links from east-west and north-south.

Future proofing, accommodating growth in pedestrian demand: The First New Town, and much of Edinburgh, struggles to accommodate the peak periods of pedestrian demand during the summer months. The design will require to accommodate higher levels of footfall across the area in order to prevent the risk of discrimination or conflicts with other road users which exist within the existing layout.

2.4 Cyclists

National Cycle Network

There are currently two National Cycle Routes (NCRs) within the study area NCR 75 utilises George Street via Melville Street and Charlotte Square before continuing south towards The Mound and NCR 76 traveling west from Leith via Broughton Road and an off-road route through King George Park. It connects to the First New Town using the carriageway and footway to the northeast of St Andrews Square (see image overleaf).

Core Path Network and local routes

George Street and much of the First New Town including Hanover Street, Rose Street and St Andrews Square are also part of the core path network. These link to the dominant travel routes such as Princes Street, North Bridge and King George IV Bridge in the area to form a continuous network of predominantly road-based routes for cyclists around the city centre. Edinburgh City Council are obligated under the Land Reform Act to appropriately maintain and provide non-motorised access to these routes and ensure users of all abilities can safely navigate them.

These routes vary from busy main roads (with and without cycle lanes) to quieter traffic restricted streets. The First New Town also serves the important purpose of linking to other key local cycle links including the Union Canal, The Meadows, Leith Walk and Easter Road.

Cycle Facilities

In terms of infrastructure for cyclists, the study area does not currently include any segregated cycle lanes or facilities which manage the conflicts between cyclists and motorists. Cyclists are expected to travel along the carriageway, which can potentially discourage less confident cyclists. 1-1.5m wide advisory cycle lanes are provided on the north and south side of George Street between St Andrews Square and Castle Street aiding cycling in both east and west directions. The five central junctions on George Street with Charlotte Street, Castle Street, Frederick Street, Hanover Street and St Andrews Square are provided with advanced cycle stop lines and feeder lanes on all approaches, granting enhanced road safety for cyclists when waiting to emerge.

Cycle Parking in the First New Town

22 cycle parking spaces are provided throughout the area. 20 of these are placed within the central islands located on George Street adjacent to parking bays and pedestrian crossings (see inset image). These are concentrated between Frederick Street and Hanover Street, linking closely with the dominant north-south routes.

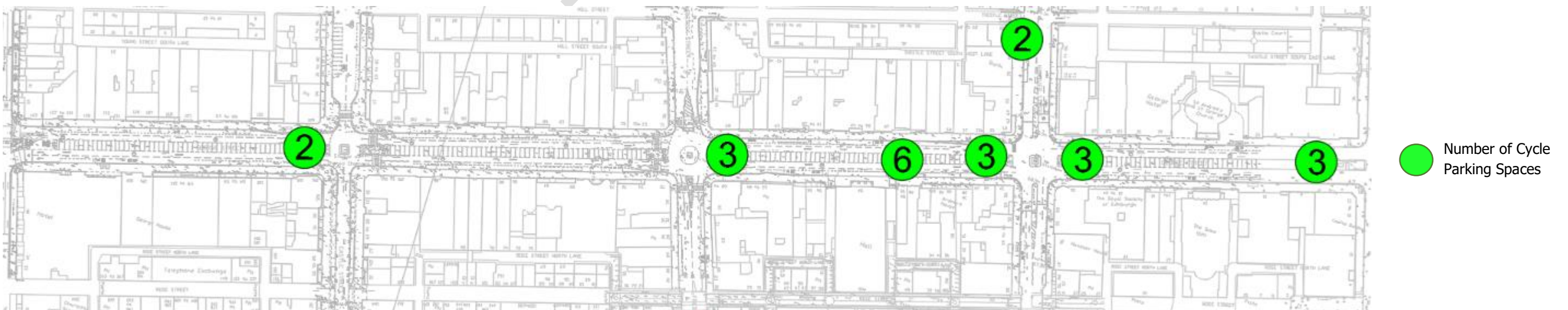
A number of barriers to cycling are observed to be present within the study area, particularly:

- **A lack of dedicated infrastructure:** Cycle facilities within the First New Town are primarily provided on the carriageway in the form of advisory and mandatory cycle lanes with advanced cycle stop lines commonly provided at junctions. Whilst this is adequate for confident road cyclists, this is unlikely to attract less confident cyclists.
- **Managing Traffic Conflicts and Promoting Road Safety:** George Street and the First New Town experiences vehicle congestion during much of the day, with this comes the increased risk of collisions with motorists or larger vehicles.
- **Poorly Maintained Carriageway Surfacing:** The carriageway quality and surfacing varies by location, frequent maintenance in the area has led to a poor-quality uneven surface with many flaws.
- **Challenging Approach Gradients:** Accessing George Street from north south requires traversing extended uphill gradients.
- **Unattractive Cycling Environment:** The current dis-continuous infrastructure provision combined with the volume of pedestrians and car dominance of the GNT area does not support the route as attractive to cycle, especially for those less able or confident.

CCWEL AND MEADOWS TO GEORGE STREET

Edinburgh's City Centre West to East Link (CCWEL) proposes a segregated cycle route between Roseburn and York Place. The scheme aims to vastly improve cycling and walking infrastructure through the city centre and see a behaviour shift in terms of transport choices, improving air quality as a result. In addition, a segregated cycle route between George Street and Edinburgh will help to "create a capital fit for the future". The Meadows to George Street route covers Hanover Street, The Mound, Bank Street, George IV Bridge, Candlemaker Row, Forrest Road, Bristol Place and Teviot Place. Plans include wider pavements, new public spaces and pedestrian priority on Forrest Road and Candlemaker Row. The proposals demonstrate the kind of accessible, people focussed city that Edinburgh want to develop.

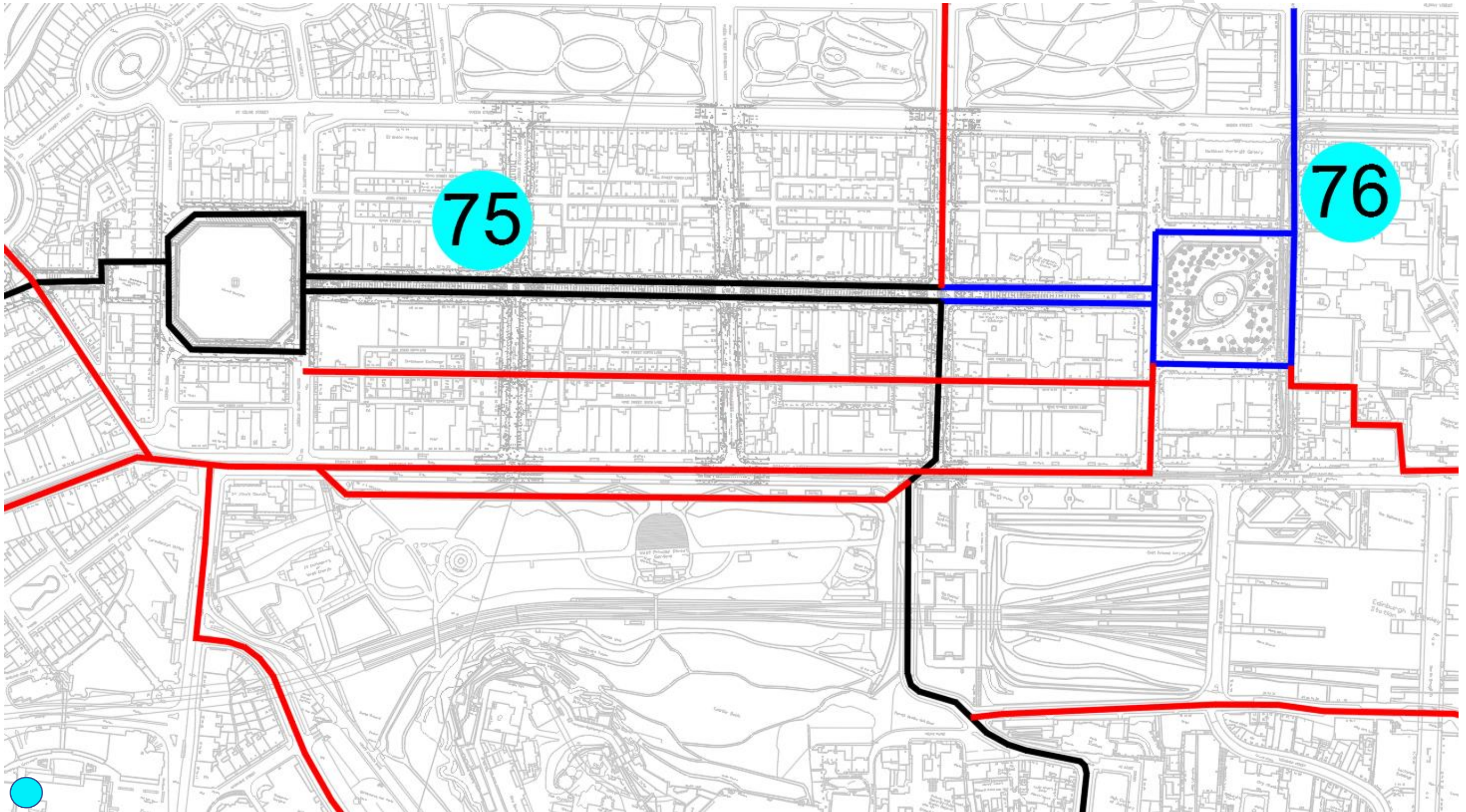
Both routes will connect with the GNT design whilst the resulting indirect impacts of relocated traffic flows, servicing and delivery impacts will require careful and collaborative consideration. As such should be included within the GNT design to provide a coherent and attractive cycling network within the heart of the city.



Core Paths and National Cycle Routes

National Cycle Route number

Core Path Network Routes



Opportunities

Promoting George Street as a 'quiet route' through the First New Town: Princes Street currently serves as the primary east-west route travelling through the centre of Edinburgh. For cyclists this requires travelling on-road merging with other vehicles including buses, taxis and trams as part of the flow of regular traffic. This comes with the inherent increase in conflicts at junctions and increased perception of risk for riders. By limiting the traffic capacity on George Street and providing a segregated cycling facility, the journey time and safety benefit would likely attract existing less experienced cyclists to use this route and encourage other road users to consider changing travel mode.

Increasing the attractiveness of cycling: From recent surveys undertaken by Sustrans for the City of Edinburgh, 54% of households have regular access to a bicycle though only 20% of residents cycle regularly, currently 7.5% of commuter journeys are made by bicycle. There is significant untapped potential to encourage cycling as a viable mode of transport for commuters and recreational trips. Providing high quality segregated cycle facilities would increase the attractiveness of cycling and reduce the dependence of vehicle-based travel whilst meeting the environmental and health challenges of the city.

Improving the coherence and safety of George Street and the GNT for cyclists: The existing levels of vehicle congestion and carriageway-based cycle facilities in the area currently attract only confident cyclists. There is sufficient space within the streetscape to narrow the existing carriageway to provide segregated facilities for cyclists, this would increase the attractiveness of George Street in particular as an east-west link through the heart of Edinburgh City Centre and remove conflicts with both vehicles and pedestrians. As noted above, 62% of all road traffic collisions involved pedestrians and cyclists, this is close to 3 times the national average. There is also therefore a considerable safety benefit to providing a cycle lane or other dedicated facility.

Key Considerations

Linking the proposed cycle facility to other cycle routes nearby: National Cycle Routes 75 and 76 use George Street between Charlotte Square, St Andrews Square and Hanover Street. These will be required to link to adjacent routes forming part of the Core Path network and the cities strategic cycle route plan.

Ensuring facilities cater to cyclists of all abilities: As recommended by best practice, any potential cycle scheme should provide facilities which could be independently navigated by cyclists of all abilities and experience, including children and those less confident when riding. This would be achieved by providing an appropriately wide and well signed route with a coherent approach to junctions and managing conflicts with other road users.

Implications of events in the area: As discussed previously a variety of annual events occur within the area resulting in temporary road closures. Access to cycle facilities should ideally be retained during these periods in order to promote cycling and walking as primary travel modes within the city centre.

Provide public health benefits through cycling: By constructing dedicated cycling infrastructure this is likely to encourage more people to switch travel mode to travel to their place of work or study by bicycle. This comes with the benefit improved cardiovascular fitness and decreased risk of obesity.

Environmental benefit of sustainable travel: More than half of all journeys nationally are estimated to be under 5km, though almost one third (33%) of these are made using passenger cars. By switching travel mode to bicycle this reduces the emissions associated with passenger car use. Cycling serves as a low cost, zero-carbon transport option which can positively contribute to tackling climate change and city environmental targets.

Challenges

Providing an appropriate level of segregation between pedestrians, cyclists and motorists: The existing streetscape is confined for cyclists, there are few opportunities to travel on fully segregated facilities in the area. The current routes traveling on the carriageway are less also attractive to those less confident cyclists. In order to encourage all levels cyclists to use facilities in the area an appropriate level of segregation (such as a

kerb high dividing strip or stepped height-type facility) should be provided. This involves reallocation of space in terms of the carriageway and footways, a balanced approach to redeveloping the streetscape is required in order to make the area attractive to all forms of transport.

Linking to other committed cycle schemes within Edinburgh City Centre: A part of the City Centre Transformation (CCT) and Edinburgh City Vision 2050 there are a number of ongoing cycle and active travel schemes in Edinburgh within the next 5-10 years. Facilities which form part of the GNT Study will be required to directly link infrastructure proposed as part of the Meadows to George Street Study and CCWEL (City Centre West-East Link) Study.

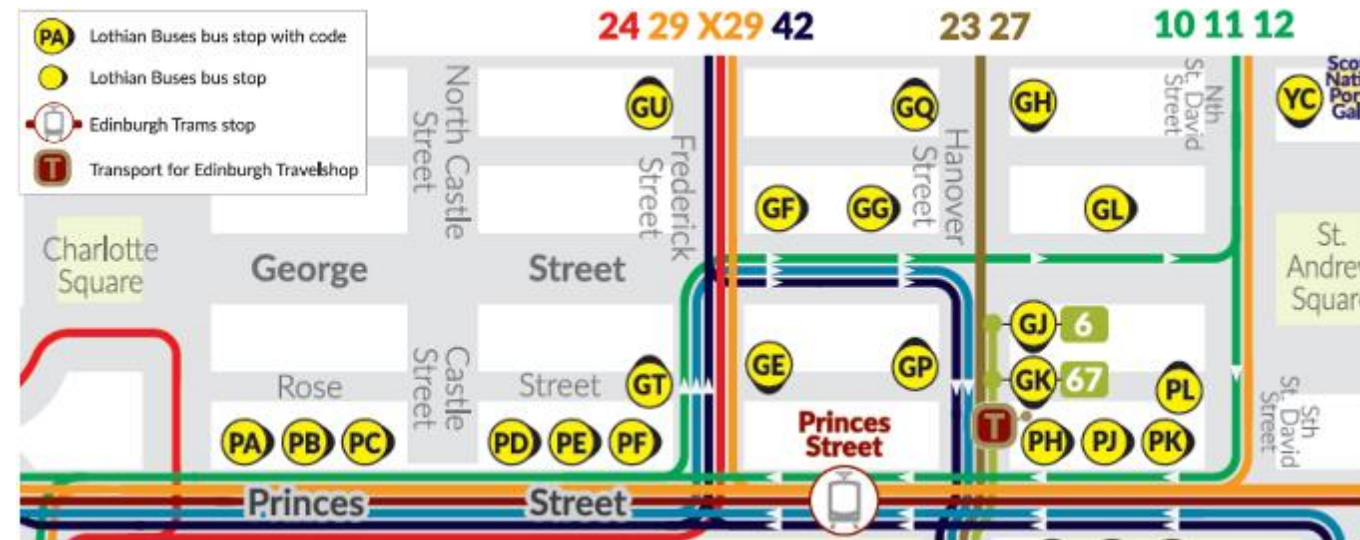


Advisory cycle lanes on George Street

2.5 Buses

The study area is well served by series of bus stops in the City Centre. There are 13 stops within the study area and a considerable number which are also located with a short walking distance. Bus stops on George Street, because of restricted carriageway widths, utilise road markings and the flag and pole style; while on Frederick Street and Hanover Street are provide with seated bus shelters.

Due to the positioning of stops on Frederick Street and Hanover Street much of the available width of footways is utilised by patrons waiting for a bus and the physical bus shelters. This introduces 'blockages' on the footway and limits pedestrian movement travelling north-south between George Street and Princes Street.



Lothian Bus Service Routing, Princes Street-George Street

In August of 2018, City of Edinburgh Council put forward plans to rationalise bus stop positions within the City Centre, with the goal of reducing the occasions that buses slow traffic and trying to achieve an optimum distance of 400m between stops. Within the First New Town bus stops the existing stops are densely concentrated to the east side of George Street while only coach drop-off facilities are provided to the west between Charlotte Square and Frederick Street.

Bus Service	Service Name	Frequency During Peak times	Bus Volume per hour (bi-directional)
6	Hanover Street- Holyrood	30 minutes	4
10	Western Harbour – Torphin	10 minutes	12
11	Ocean Terminal – Hyvots Bank	15 minutes	8
16	Silverknowes - Colinton	12 minutes	10
24	West Granton – Royal Infirmary	20 minutes	6
27	Silverknowes – Hunters Tryst	10 minutes	12
29	Silverknowes – Gorebridge	15 minutes	8
41	Cramond – King’s Buildings	15 minutes	8
42	Craigleith – Kings Road	30 minutes	4
43 / X43	Queensferry - Edinburgh	20 minutes	6
Total (per hour)			78

Emergency Planning and Diversions Access

George Street and its role as a diversionary route: George Street currently provides the ability to be utilised by public transport operators as diversionary bus route for services normally operating along Princess Street due to the parallel positioning of both streets and existing connectivity between the streets from the squares at the eastern and western ends and through the interconnecting streets (Frederick/Hanover). George Street is currently utilised as an emergency diversionary route for Princess Street bus services during periods of major road works or unplanned closures such as emergency road works, police incidents, road traffic accidents or disruption to the tram network. George Street is also utilised as a planned diversionary bus route on during the summer festival fireworks concert and Hogmanay celebrations.

Opportunities

Redesigning existing bus stops and provision: Bus stops on George Street are not currently provided with seating or shelters while stops on Frederick Street and Hanover Street are provided with shelters which form constraints on the footway. The design of bus stops could be revised to allow greater pedestrian permeability through reduction in footprint.

Providing bus stops at more visible locations with more appropriate spacing: In line with proposed rationalisation across the city, locations of bus stops within the study area could be provided at more regular intervals on-street allowing greater accessibility for all users.

Reduce the constraints caused by pedestrians alighting on footways: Particularly on Frederick Street and Hanover Street pedestrians alighting for buses significantly reduce the effective width of footways. Those waiting around bus shelters can cause congestion for other pedestrians and cyclists often forcing others to step into the carriageway to pass.

Providing additional footway width promoting increased accessibility: Widening the existing footways will provide greater space to accommodate all non-motorised related activities and reprioritise the user hierarchy within the design to support non-motorised users.

Key Considerations

Public transport developments in Edinburgh: The existing Edinburgh City tram links currently terminate at Edinburgh Airport and York Place. Proposals from March 2019 were approved to construct a further extension to Ocean Terminal and the Port of Leith, this is anticipated to be completed by 2023. Bus stops locations and their service provision will likely be revised over time to accommodate the increased frequency of trams.

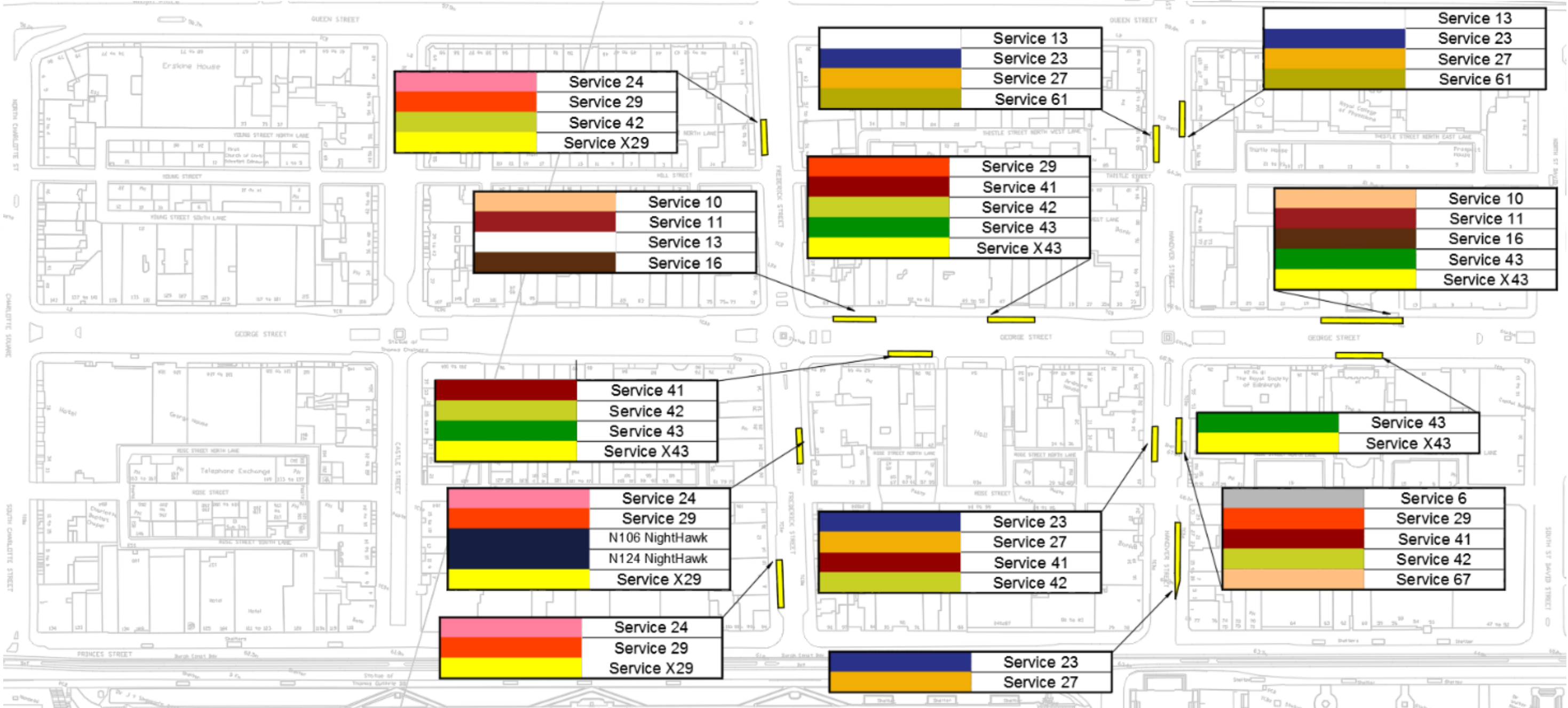
Impact of tram movements: Existing bus services within the first new town particularly those routing along Princes Street are affected by tram movements. With the development of the tram route towards the Port of Leith this will likely increase the frequency and volume of tram movements in the area, reducing the reliability of other transport modes including buses.

Maintaining George Street as a key bus route: Currently George Street is supported by the bus operators and the City Council to continue to function as a key bus route until the completion of the proposed tram extension or bus route re-organisation allows a number of bus services to be reduced through re-distribution to Princes Street. Policy proposals introduced in 2020 will examine the role of buses within the city centre and may result in a level of priority to retain George Street as a bus route.

Challenges

Known capacity issues on Princes Street: Princess Street currently has numerous bus stops on either side of the carriageway which serve a variety of frequent services routing east and west to destinations throughout the

City. Based on the existing routes and frequency of services, particularly during the peak AM and PM hours of operation between 07:00-10:00 and 16:00-18:00 there are significant delays to buses and poor journey time reliability.



Bus Bay Locations and Bus Services

Draft

2.6 Tourist Buses

In addition to the frequent Lothian Buses services discussed above the GNT area is also served by a series of hop on – hop off sightseeing bus tours along several routes to all major tourist attractions in the City such as Edinburgh Castle, National Museum of Scotland and Holyrood Palace. There are currently four bus tour routes which travel within the study area, these are;

City Sightseeing Tour

- **Summary:** A route focus on the main routes in Edinburgh’s Old Town including Princes Street, The Grassmarket and Royal Mile.
- **Route through the First New Town:** The bus enters the First New Town from the east side of Princes Street turning north along St David Street travelling west along Queen Street before turning south and exiting south via The Mound.
- **Frequency:** Spring/Summer timetable Every 10 minutes 09:00-17:20, 20 minutes 17:20-19:00
Autumn/Winter timetable Every 20 minutes 09:00-18:00

Edinburgh Tour

- **Summary:** Visits attractions around the First New Town and Old Town areas including Holyrood Palace, The Scottish Parliament and Dynamic Earth.
- **Route through the First New Town:** Beginning close to Waverley Train Station on the mound, this bus routes north along Hanover Street turning west along George Street. Continues clockwise around Charlotte Square before travelling east along Queen Street and returning south on Hanover Street.
- **Frequency:** Spring/Summer timetable Every 10 minutes 09:00-17:30
Autumn/Winter timetable Every 20 minutes 09:10-16:50

Majestic Tour

- **Summary:** A tour focused on visiting the Royal Yacht Britannia and the Royal Mile.
- **Route through the First New Town:** This route also enters the First New Town via the east side of Princes Street from Waverley Bridge, travelling north on Frederick Street and Hanover Street exiting via Queen Street Gardens East.
- **Frequency:** Spring/Summer timetable Every 15 minutes 09:05-17:50
Autumn/Winter timetable Every 30 minutes 09:05-17:05

Three Bridges Tour

- **Summary:** Route which travels out of Edinburgh City Centre towards the Forth rail and road bridges.
- **Route through the First New Town:** Departs from Princes Street continuing west.
- **Frequency:** Spring/Summer timetable Every 60 minutes 10:05-17:50

Usage and frequency

From these tours only the City Sightseeing Tour and Edinburgh Tour stop within the study area, utilising the existing bus stop on the east (southbound) side of Hanover Street. All other services route through the First New Town within stopping.

Peak tourism activity in Edinburgh City Centre is known to occur during the month of August while The Edinburgh Fringe Festival takes place. During this time there is a significant increase in pedestrian activity and increased desirability of bus tourism. In addition to the 78 Lothian Bus services, a total of 34 tourist buses per hour also travel through the study area.

Tour	Max Frequency (Summer Peak)	Bus Volume per hour (bi-directional)
City Sightseeing Tour	10 minutes	12
Edinburgh Tour	10 minutes	12
Majestic Tour	15 minutes	8
Three Bridges Tour	60 mins	2
Total (per hour)		34

Opportunities

Create a desirable attraction for future tourism: In improving the First New Town it is possible to create a world-class space which itself becomes a tourist attraction and a place to visit, this then would also promote the use of tourist buses and encourage operators to use George Street as part of the four existing routes.

Allowing tourist buses to stop at locations on George Street in Future: Only an existing stop on Hanover Street is noted to be used by tourist buses, with the proposal to relocate bus stops it is also possible to allow these services to stop at locations on George Street promoting access to local businesses, bars and restaurants.

Key Considerations

Implications of increased bus movements within the First New Town: As the city continues to develop and new policies emerge to reduce non-motorised travel within the city, the role of buses within George Street is uncertain. The design should support access by all user groups affording adaptability in the future to accommodate future policy changes.

Challenges

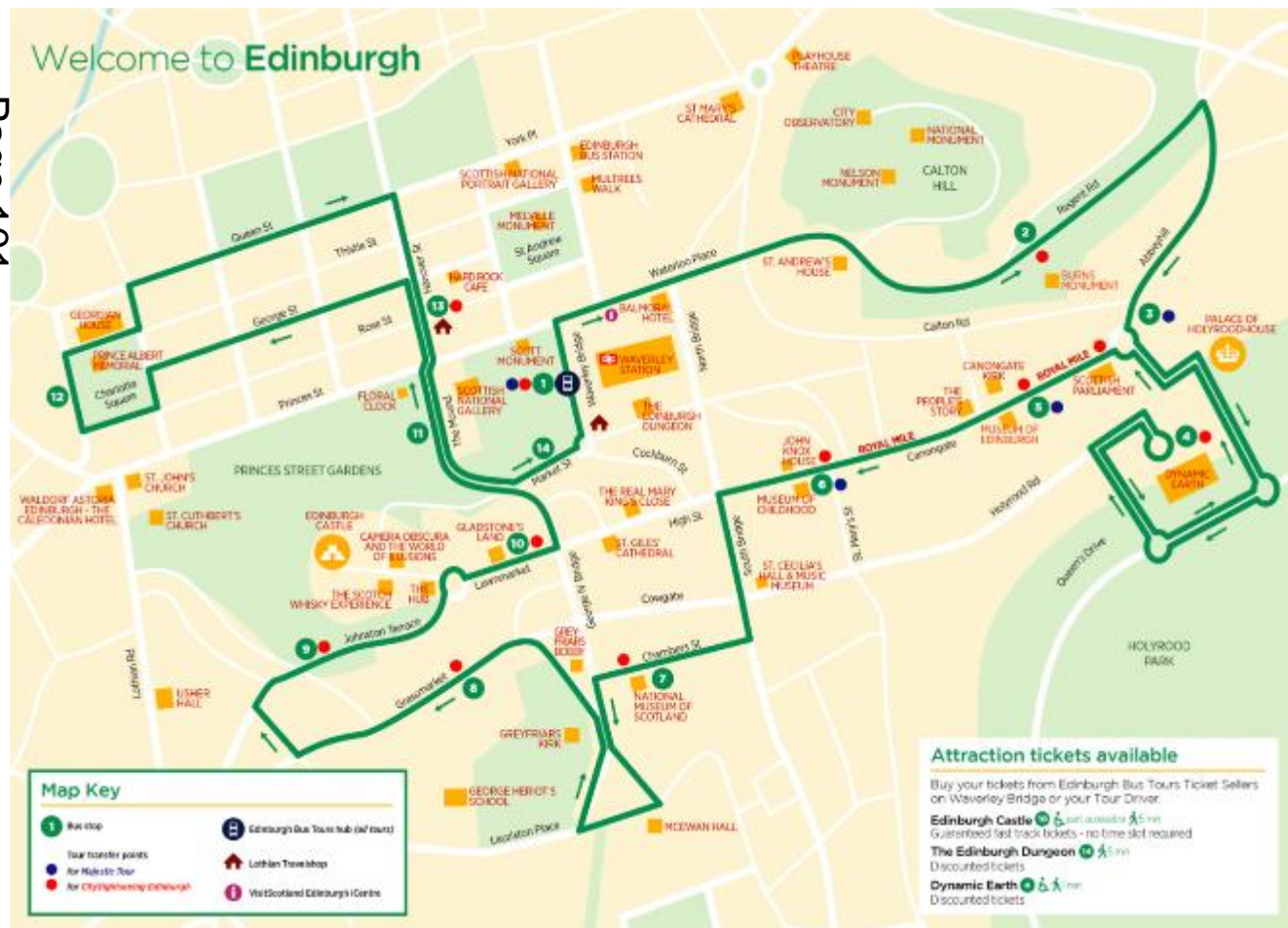
Providing a road layout and junctions which supports the movements of buses and large vehicles: In future junctions which better meet the requirements of pedestrians and active travel users are desired, this will likely result in a reallocation of spaces within the streetscape reducing the width of the carriageway, optimising footway capacity and reducing crossing widths. Careful consideration will be required regarding the configuration and geometry of the 4-way intersections linking George Street and Castle Street, Frederick Street and Hanover Street. Large vehicles including buses and heavy goods vehicles should be easily navigate the area without conflicting with other motorists or non-motorised users.



Edinburgh City Sightseeing Tour bus



Edinburgh City Sightseeing Tour, Edinburgh Tour bus routes



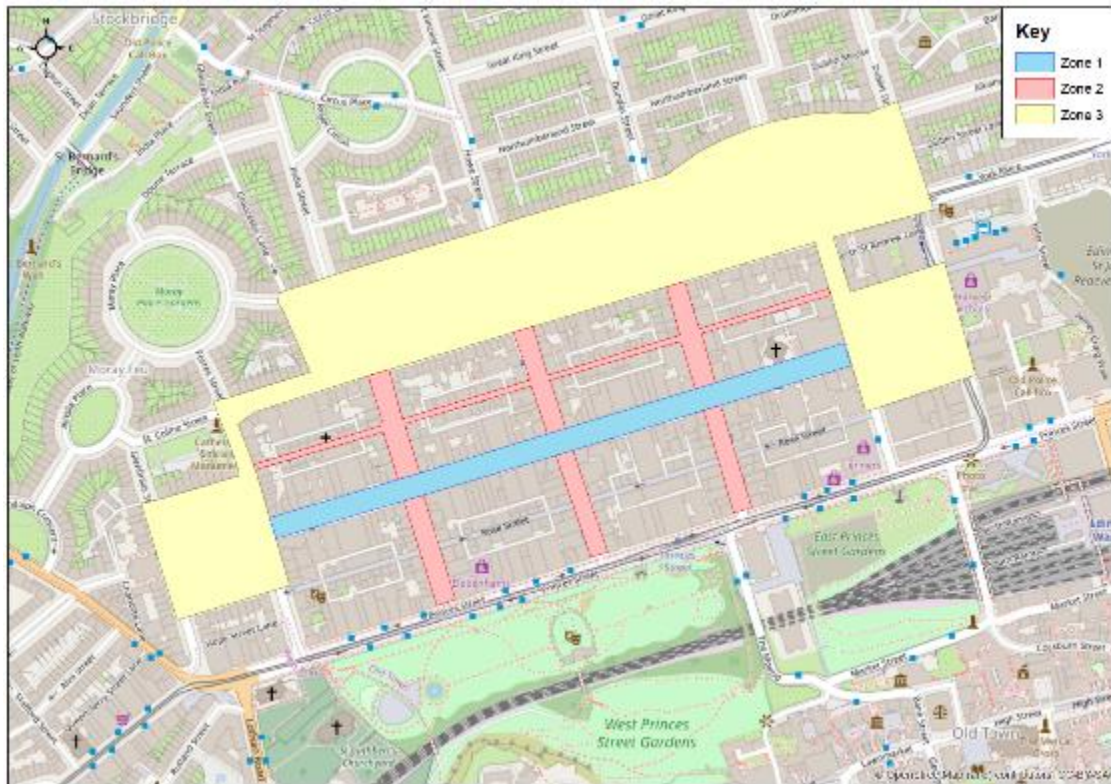
Majestic Tour bus route

2.7 Parking

To understand parking with the First New Town parking surveys, including roadside interviews, were conducted in March of 2019. This considered one weekday and one weekend day (Tuesday 5th and Saturday 2nd March) in order to benchmark current parking behaviours, trip origins and destinations and demand for specific types of parking.

There were three zones considered:

- Zone 1:** George Street;
- Zone 2:** First New Town Side Streets (Castle Street/North Castle Street, Frederick Street, Hanover Street and Thistle Street); and
- Zone 3:** Wider First New Town Areas (St Andrews Square, Charlotte Square, Queen Street, Heriot Row, Abercrombie Place and Dublin Street).



Parking Capacities

Zone 1 George Street

Type of Provision	Number of Spaces
Pay & Display bays	127
Permit Holders only	39
Loading & Servicing Only	31
Taxi Rank	23
Blue Badge Holders	18
Motorcycles	14
Car Club	1
Total	253

Zone 2 – FNT Side Streets

Type of Provision	Number of Spaces
Pay & Display bay	81
Permit Holders only	68
Taxi Rank	14
Blue Badge Holders	8
Loading & Servicing Only	7
Car Club	3
Motorcycles	1
Total	182

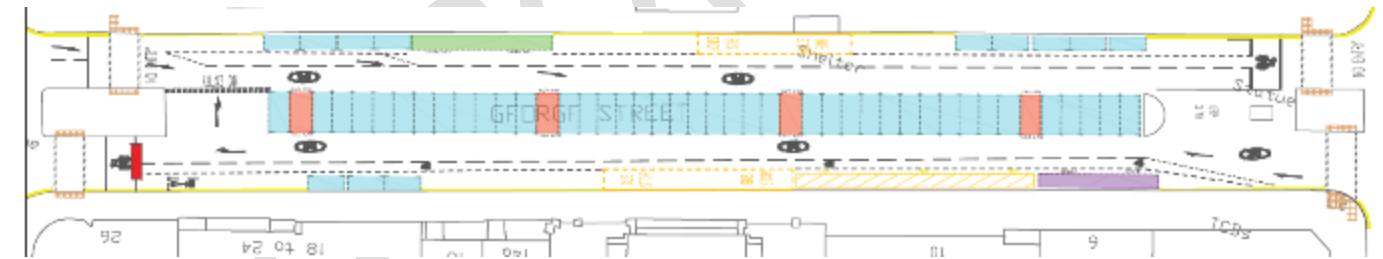
Zone 3 – Wider FNT Areas

Type of Provision	Number of Spaces
Pay & Display bay	381
Permit Holders only	232
Taxi Rank	6
Blue Badge Holders	7
Loading & Servicing Only	2
Car Club	6
Motorcycles	2
Total	636

Parking Configuration across the Study Area

George Street

Parking on George Street is varied, it is most known centrally located row of parking which dominates the existing streetscape. This is provided for the full extent of street while parking is also provided along much of the north and south side of the carriageway. Bus Stops, taxi ranks, servicing and loading bays, motorcycle bays and blue badge holder spaces are also provided at regular intervals.



Examples of parking on George Street between Frederick Street and Hanover Street

Castle Street / North Castle Street

The southern half of Castle Street is pedestrianised, vehicle access is restricted all times while loading is permitted from 11:00pm to 10:30am. Parking is present on both sides continuing north on Castle Street and North Castle Street. This includes pay and display, resident permits holder bays, a taxi rank and two blue badge holder bays.

Frederick Street

Frederick Street has low levels of parking, small areas allocated for permit holder parking are provided to the north and south of the street while a loading bay and blue badge holders spaces are provided close to the junction with George Street. A large taxi rank is also present to the south. Frederick Street is one of the main through routes for buses in the First New Town, there are currently three stops which serve a number of local and regional bus services.

Hanover Street

Hanover Street serves as the dominant route for vehicle traffic traveling north-south through the First New Town. As such, functionally it has the lowest levels of parking seen within the study area. Parking is limited to two blue badge holder spaces close to the junction with George Street. Single and double yellow to denote parking restrictions. Five bus stops also provide access to a number of bus services; these are concentrated to the south on both sides of the carriageway close to the junctions with George Street and Rose Street.

Parking Demand

Designated On-street Bays

On-street Pay & Display and permit holder parking is provided in three configurations across the study area, aligned (90 degree) parking bays, parallel parking bays and echelon (45 degree) parking bays. In Parking Zones 1 and 2 in which the GNT Study considers, 208 pay and display spaces and 109 permit holder bays are provided. Parking restrictions are enforced from 8:30 to 18:00, with a maximum stay of 3 hours. This ensures a high turnover of vehicles during the day and discourages commuter parking. The area is served by a total of 34 Pay & Display ticket machines and are managed by CEC officers as part of DECRIM system. Heat Maps of all forms of parking in the area are shown in **Appendix A**.

Street Name	Pay & Display Parking Spaces	Permit Holder Spaces	Total
George Street, Section 1 (Charlotte Square – Castle Street)	35	12	47
George Street, Section 2 (Castle Street – Frederick Street)	48	6	54
George Street, Section 3 (Frederick Street – Hanover Street)	20	16	36
George Street, Section 4 (Charlotte Square – Frederick Street)	24	4	28
Castle Street / North Castle Street	29	26	55
Frederick Street	0	13	13
Hanover Street	0	0	0
Total	156	77	233

Pay and Display Parking

57% of all motorists parking in the study area, approximately 1300 vehicles per day, used pay and display facilities. This type of parking is most prominently provided within aligned parking bays located within the central refuges and along the kerbside of George Street. The daily peak period of demand for this type of parking was observed between 10:30-14:30 on weekdays and 14:30-17:30 during weekends. During these times pay and display bays see a maximum of 97% and 75% occupancy respectively. Average duration of stay across weekday and weekend surveys was seen to be 1.75 hours and 1.4 hours.

In terms of maximum demand for pay and display parking, spaces located on George Street between Frederick Street and Hanover Street see the highest volumes. Spaces between Castle Street and Frederick Street were seen to most frequently turnover at a rate of over 7 times per space per day.

Permit Holder Parking

15% of all motorists parking in the study area, approximately 330 vehicles per day, used permit holder facilities. This type of parking is provided within the central refuge of George Street and along the kerbside of Castle Street and Frederick Street. The daily peak period of demand for this type of parking was observed between 11:30-14:30

on weekdays and 16:30-19:30 during weekends. During these times pay and display bays see a maximum of 112% and 93% occupancy respectively. This shows that there are significant pressures across the area in terms of availability of spaces, this is known to result in congestion for vehicle traffic. From site observations, motorists are observed parking close together in order to maximise the available parking capacity often encroaching to other types of facility such bus bays, taxi ranks or blue badge holder spaces. Average duration of stay across weekday and weekend surveys was seen to be 2.5 hours and 1.75 hours.

In terms of maximum demand for permit holder parking, spaces located on George Street between Charlotte Square and Castle Street saw the highest volumes. These also were observed to most frequently turnover at a rate of 5-6 times per space per day.

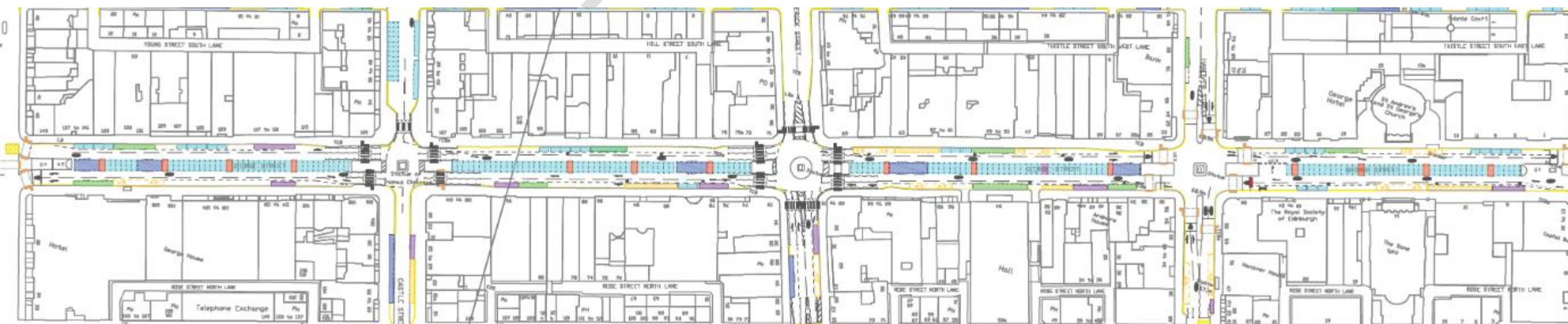
Blue Badge Provision

There are currently 26 spaces provided in the study area provided for blue badge holders. Along George Street in particular, these are located close to the north and south footways rather than the central refuge parking areas, reducing walking distances for mobility impaired users. Blue badge holder provision on Castle Street, Frederick Street and Hanover Street are concentrated towards junctions with George Street again allowing greater convenience when trying access facilities in the area.

Street Name	Blue Badge Provision
George Street, Section 1 (Charlotte Square – Castle Street)	6
George Street, Section 2 (Castle Street – Frederick Street)	4
George Street, Section 3 (Frederick Street – Hanover Street)	4
George Street, Section 4 (Charlotte Square – Frederick Street)	4
Castle Street / North Castle Street	3
Frederick Street	4
Hanover Street	1
Total	26

A total of 101 and 72 blue badge holders were seen across the study area during the course of the Tuesday and Saturday survey days. The peak periods of blue badge parking demand occurred between 09:30-11:30 and 10:30-12:30 on weekdays and weekends respectively where a maximum of 18 blue badge holders were observed. From this it can be said that peak demand is 69% of the available capacity.

The areas which had the greatest demand during the weekday survey were on the south side of George Street between Charlotte Square and Frederick Street and around the junction of George Street and Frederick Street. Similarly, during the weekend survey blue badge parking on south side of George Street close to the junctions with Castle Street, Frederick Street and Hanover Street saw the greatest demand. Average duration of stay for blue badge holders parking during the weekday survey was 2.5 hours and 2 hours during the weekend survey.



Inappropriate and Nuisance Parking

Frequent examples of inappropriate parking within blue badge holder spaces were also observed, this was noted to be worst on George Street where a maximum of 8 spaces (between the hours of 10:30-11:30 and 13:30-14:30) were occupied by other types of motorists. This has a significant impact in terms of the availability and capacity of these facilities and meant blue badge holders often chose to park within other types of parking facilities such as a pay & display or permit holder only spaces. Throughout the surveys only 25% of blue badge holders parking on George Street and 17% within the wider First New Town area parked within an allocated blue badge holder bay.

Motorcycle Parking

Across Edinburgh City Centre 'Solo Motorcycle only' spaces are provided for free. Motorcyclists also can choose to park within a Pay & Display bay after purchasing a ticket in a similar way to other vehicles or within resident permit holder bays. There are currently 14 motorcycle bays evenly distributed along George Street. These are commonly seen to hold multiple motorcycles. During the parking surveys of the area a low demand for motorcycles was observed, with most parking on George Street between Castle Street and Frederick Street within resident permit holder bays for the duration of both survey days.

Cycle Parking

There are currently 22 Sheffield style cycle racks with the study area, these are all placed at locations within the central median along George Street and Hanover Street. From site observations, it is common for the each of these stands accommodate multiple bicycles, pedestrian guard railings adjacent to junctions are also used as informal cycle parking in much of the area.



Mixed Parking types within the central reserve of George Street



Instances of inappropriate parking over double yellow line markings on Frederick Street

Parking Occupancy (By Street) Tuesday 5th March 2019

Street Name	Capacity	Peak Hourly Demand	Peak %	Average Demand	Average %
Castle Street	17	25	149%	16	93%
N Castle Street	46	48	104%	41	88%
Frederick Street	25	28	113%	20	80%
George Street	253	263	104%	186	73%
St Andrew Square	44	43	97%	32	72%
Queen Street	47	47	100%	33	70%
Hill Street	21	20	95%	15	69%
Thistle Street	47	39	83%	31	66%
Young Street	17	16	94%	11	66%
Hanover Street	9	14	149%	5	56%
Charlotte Square	85	72	85%	46	54%
Wemyss Place	43	30	70%	22	51%
Abercrombie Place	98	58	59%	46	47%
Heriot Row	194	101	52%	87	45%
Queen Street Gardens East	24	19	79%	10	43%
Dublin Street	77	37	48%	33	43%
Queen Street Gardens West	24	18	75%	8	34%
Albyn Place	0	1	100%	0	-
North Charlotte Street	0	0	-	0	-
North St David Street	0	1	100%	0	-

During the weekday survey George Street and other streets within the centre of the First New Town experienced a peak demand greater than their current capacity. During the peak period of parking demand for all types of parking, 10:30-14:30, most streets were observed to be over capacity. Castle Street in particular was observed to have demand approx. 49% greater than its capacity during this time. This indicates that there is significant demand on this street at this time which may lead to limited availability of spaces. Considering streets from wider First New Town areas such as Heriot Row and Queen Street Gardens a short distance from George Street there is availability of parking spaces throughout the day.

Parking Occupancy (By Street) Saturday 2nd March 2019

Street Name	Capacity	Peak Hourly Demand	Peak %	Average Demand	Average %
Queen Street	47	52	111%	34	73%
N Castle Street	46	40	87%	33	72%
Frederick Street	25	25	100%	18	71%
Castle Street	17	16	94%	11	67%
George Street	253	232	92%	166	66%
St Andrew Square	44	44	100%	28	63%
Hill Street	21	17	81%	13	62%
Thistle Street	47	38	81%	28	60%
Abercrombie Place	98	70	71%	58	59%
Queen Street Gardens West	24	25	104%	11	48%
Charlotte Square	85	62	73%	40	47%
Heriot Row	194	112	58%	91	47%
Hanover Street	9	12	133%	4	42%
Queen Street Gardens East	24	18	75%	10	41%
Dublin Street	77	36	47%	31	40%
Wemyss Place	43	19	44%	15	35%
Young Street	117	13	11%	10	8%
Albyn Place	0	0	-	0	-
North Charlotte Street	0	0	-	0	-
North St David Street	0	0	-	0	-

A number of streets over the course of the weekend day survey also seen a peak parking demand greater than their current capacity. The peak period of demand across all types of parking for this day was observed to be 13:30-17:30. During this time George Street and several other streets are see demand approaching or exceeding their capacity, again indicating there is little availability of spaces and parking is frequently turning over during this period. Similar to the results of the weekday survey, streets from the wider First New Town shows there is constant availability of spaces throughout the day.

Parking Interview Surveys – Why do people park in the First New Town?

Over 800 interview surveys were conducted across the two survey days, these gained valuable insight into the reasons to park in the area and how these vary between weekday and weekend use. Full analysis of the interview survey results is given in **Appendix B**.

Purpose of Visit

The First New Town serves as both a high-end retail hub, centre for employment and place to visit, this demand is reflected in the vehicles parking in the area. During the weekday survey the 45% of interviewees said that the purpose of their trip into the area was because of work/business, whilst 60% of those during the weekend said they were visiting the area to shop on George Street. The following tables provide a summary of weekday and weekend responses to this question.

Tuesday 5th March 2019

Purpose of Visit	No. of Respondents	%
Work / Employers business	186	45%
Shopping	94	23%
Personal Business	69	17%
Recreation & Leisure	57	14%
Place of Residence	5	1%
Total	411	100%

Saturday 2nd March 2019

Purpose of Visit	No. of Respondents	%
Shopping	232	60%
Recreation & Leisure	60	15%
Personal Business	51	13%
Work / Employers business	43	11%
Place of residence	3	1%
Total	389	100%

Reasons to Park in the First New Town

The reason for choosing to park within the area was also captured as part of the interview surveys. During the weekday survey, 39% of people said, 'Closeness to their final destination' and 25% said the 'availability of spaces' was the main reasons to park in the area. This indicates that those parking in the area are largely driven by the convenience of the current number of spaces. Notably 24% of people part of the weekend survey said The FNT was their first choice of parking location in Edinburgh City Centre. During the survey there was significant spare parking capacity noted elsewhere in the wider areas of the FNT such as Heriot Row or Dublin Street.

Opportunities

Reduce non-essential parking in order to reduce vehicle trips in the area: Traffic activity on George Street is linked to the attractiveness of retail stores, restaurants and their resulting demand for parking throughout the day. By removing parking spaces vehicles would be required to look within the adjacent streets of the FNT or multi storey car park provision before walking to their end destination, in the process rerouting traffic and significantly reducing congestion.

Electric Vehicle charging Points: There are currently no spaces which accommodate electric vehicles in the study area. It is noted that CEC are in the process of reviewing the City's future demand for electric vehicles and have put forward proposals to include charging stations across the City Centre. In line with the results of this review EV charging stations could be provided within the area.

Key Considerations

Providing an appropriate level of parking provision: The maximum observed demand for blue badge provision on George Street throughout the day was noted to be 15 vehicles while the current capacity for blue badge spaces is 18 vehicles. In future parking provision could be reduced to accommodate the parking requirements of essential users such as residents, blue badge holders and taxis. This provision could then be

provided within areas which see the greatest locational requirements (adjacent to storefronts or restaurants etc) in order to increase the accessibility of facilities throughout the area.

Providing upgrades to cycle parking capacity: Introducing cycle facilities to the area is likely to greatly increase the volume of cyclists within the FNT. As a result, the area will have greater demand for cycle parking. Increasing footway widths will enable cycle parking to be located throughout the study area.

Reducing the dependence of vehicle-based travel: City Centre Transformation (CCT) along with the City Mobility Plan seek to reduce dependency on car based travel to and within the city centre through the promotion of alternative modes of travel. Within the design there is an opportunity to incorporate these aims through rebalancing road space to reduce the need for non-essential motorised users to access the area and promote space for non-motorised travel modes.

Challenges

Implications of reducing parking capacity: As noted above there is a total of 253 total parking spaces currently on George Street and 182 spaces provided throughout the nearby side streets of the First New Town. Upgrading walking and cycling facilities in the area would require the removal of much of the non-essential (pay & display, permit holder only) spaces.

2.8 Loading, Servicing and Access

Servicing and loading currently undertaken within the study area are carried out both to the front and rear of premises on-street throughout the study area. Light and heavy goods vehicle business questionnaire surveys have been undertaken to understand the individual requirements in terms servicing/delivery frequency and maximum vehicle sizes. Servicing is primarily undertaken using a mixture of designated loading bays and single yellow road markings. There are loading restrictions enforced between 08:00-09:15 and 16:30-18:30 which restrict the use of single yellow lines across the area.

The figure overleaf shows the current location of yellow lines and designated loading bays.

Business Survey Questionnaire

To understand the servicing and loading requirements of the area a business survey questionnaire was undertaken throughout April of 2019. This was designed to determine the types of vehicles used, typical loading arrangements and frequency of deliveries and servicing across the many business types present on George Street. The survey was open to online responses and postal responses for 3 weeks, from 12/04/19 to 03/05/19. The survey received responses from a variety of business types such as clothing and boutique stores, bars/restaurants and other office-based businesses.

Servicing Vehicle	%	Servicing Frequency	%	Servicing Arrangements	%
Van or Light goods vehicle	43%	Multiple (>3) times per day	50%	On-Street (not using a loading bay)	71%
Box van or ordinary goods vehicle	29%	1-2 times per day	29%	On-Street Loading Bays	21%
Small van or car	21%	Once per week	7%	Pay and Display Parking / Other	8%
Articulated Lorry or HGV	7%	Occasionally	7%		



Example of Loading and Servicing using a designated loading bay on George Street

Servicing capacity

Servicing on-street can be legally performed during the day using kerbside loading bays and for short periods using single yellow line markings. Across the study area there are currently 9 loading bays with a capacity of 25 vehicles and 400 metres of single yellow lines (maximum capacity 57 vehicles which can be used for up to 30 minutes between the hours of 9:15-16:30).

Opportunities

Introducing a daily servicing and loading window, reducing congestion caused by larger vehicles during peak times: Due to the existing configuration of junctions and width of the carriageway allocated for parking considerable delays are experienced for all users when a high volume of large vehicles is present. By concentrating servicing and loading to only a period during the day through the implementation of a loading window would reduce the likelihood of conflicts with pedestrians, cyclists and other motorists (particularly buses).

Managed Services: A delivery and servicing plan could be constructed for the area to manage and reduce the number of deliveries required daily. This can be used to lower operating costs, improve the reliability of deliveries, decrease environmental impact and improve road safety for other users.

Key Considerations

Locations of servicing and loading facilities: George Street and the FNT is home to a variety of business types such as bars/restaurants, clothing stores and offices. Each of these have unique servicing requirements and locations. The location and types of servicing and loading facility (designated loading bays or loading from the carriageway) should be carefully considered as to meet the needs of all businesses in the area.

Business-specific loading requirements: From the business survey questionnaire it was noted a variety of servicing vehicle types are commonly used within the First New Town. This varies from small passenger cars to articulated heavy goods vehicles. All vehicles types should be able to safely unload as required at any point in the study area as required.

Challenges

Constraints of a servicing and loading window: Some business, particularly those which require fresh food or produce require multiple deliveries throughout the day. Proposing a loading window which restricts deliveries in the area between 10:00am and 12:00pm for example may not be feasible. Proposing too short or too long a window would likely result in heavy congestion introducing conflicts with other road users at junctions.

Meeting the requirements of light and heavy vehicle types: A variety of vehicle types will require access to the area to load and unload. The future layout of the carriageway between George Street and the First New Town should be able to accommodate the largest articulated vehicle which could be expected to service any of the businesses in the area. Junction configurations should be carefully considered.

Loading During Events: A variety of events take place along George Street which often restrict or partially restrict access to one or more 'sections' of the street for extended periods of time, particularly during the Christmas period. With frontage access removed, loading and servicing for businesses within these temporary event spaces are typically serviced using alternative locations such as a rear entrance on Hill Street Lane, Rose Street Lane or Thistle Street Lane. All businesses in the area should be able to be serviced during these times despite events taking place in the area. The distribution and locations of loading areas in future should provide convenience during normal conditions and consistent access during events.



Servicing and Loading Areas

-  Loading and Servicing bays
-  Single Yellow Line Markings (No Loading Mon-Fri 08:00-9:15 & 16:30-18:30)

Draft

2.9 Taxis

Taxi movements serve an important role within Edinburgh City Centre. A total of 7 taxi ranks are located within the study area, these accommodate up to 29 taxis: most also operating on a 24hr basis. As part of the City's Public Transport Priority Plan the Edinburgh City Council intend to carry out an audit of taxi ranks within the City Centre. This will assess their condition, appropriateness of their locations and identify potential new sites. Due to the existing levels of traffic demand, the existing layout of George Street poorly accommodates informal taxi 'pickup' behaviour at the kerbside. Often results in increased queueing and delays for other road users.

Taxi rank number and locations are shown in the following table and the figure overleaf.

Taxi Rank Location	Capacity
Castle Street, east side	5
Frederick Street, east side	4
Hanover Street, west side	3
George Street, south side (between Castle Street and Frederick Street)	5
George Street, north side (between Frederick Street and Hanover Street)	4
George Street, south side (between Frederick Street and Hanover Street)	4
George Street, south side (between Hanover Street and St Andrews Square)	4

Taxi Parking demand

The busiest times observed for taxis in the study area during weekdays and weekends occurred between 12:30-3:30pm where 20-25 taxis were recorded to park on-street, during these times several passenger pickup and drop-offs were also observed. In terms of demand throughout the day, taxis are observed to park within the taxi ranks to the south of Castle Street, Frederick Street and Hanover Street. These are observed to turnover at a rate of approximately 5-6 times per day.

During the surveys it was recorded that around 26% of all taxi parking in the study area parked for extended periods inappropriately. These users chose to park within spaces allocated for blue badge holders, loading/servicing bays and single and double yellow line markings throughout the day. Whilst ad-hoc pickup and drop-off behaviour occurs at key taxi trip attractors in the area such as bars or restaurants, taxi parking on-street in this way results in a reduced availability of key parking facilities and increased pressures on the surrounding roads during peak times.

Opportunities

Rationalisation of taxi facilities: In line with Edinburgh City Public Transport Priority Plan the quality and individual position of each existing taxi rank can be assessed against their demand to establish their requirement going forward. From this, the busiest and most desirable locations could be brought forward as future positions for taxi ranks.

Reducing the effects of inappropriate parking and pickup/drop-off in the area: A large percentage of a taxis (and other motorists which currently park in the area) often park in other types of parking facility, including blue badge holder, resident permit holder only or loading/servicing bays. In future, through the removal of non-essential parking taxis would be required to look elsewhere to appropriately stay for an extended period. Parking at the roadside also restricts the ability of passengers to alight and access taxis when required. Removal of non-essential kerbside parking increases the permeability of taxis throughout the area.

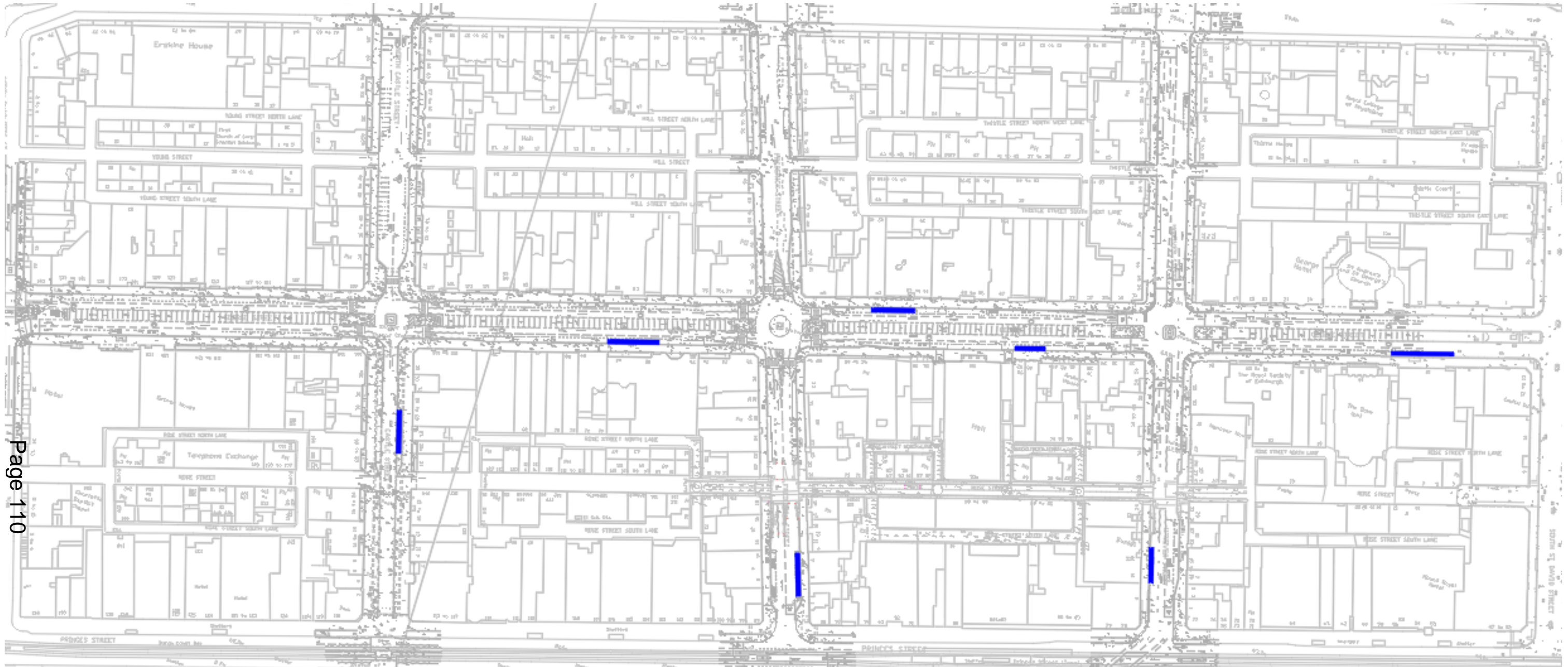
Key Considerations

Providing taxi ranks/spaces proportional to current demand: Taxi ranks on Castle Street, Frederick Street and Hanover Street generally observed the greatest activity in terms of parking demand and movement throughout the survey period. Future provision, the total number of spaces allocated, could be reduced to

appropriately reflect the maximum demand regularly observed ensuring an appropriate number of taxis can park in the area at one time.

Challenges

Taxi distribution and accommodating for events: Events on George Street often result in road closures and redistribution of traffic within the area, this results in increased pressure for taxis to temporarily alight or park. Taxi ranks are currently positioned at regular intervals on George Street and the south of Castle Street, Frederick Street and Hanover Street offering well distributed and readily available taxi facilities. Taxi provision in future will be required to be similarly distributed to enable the best accessibility and limit the impact of events.



Taxi Ranks within the study area

Draft

2.10 Traffic

Traffic Routes and Roads Hierarchy

The roads layout of the study area is split into a grid layout, with George Street forming four distinct 'sections' along a central spine. From George Street the connecting side streets of Castle Street, Frederick and Hanover Street extend north to south linking between Princes Street and Queen Street. These streets are wide single carriageways with bus stops and parking located on both sides. There are also a series of side streets to the north and south of George Street; Hill Street/Hill Street Lane, Rose Street/Rose Street Lane, Thistle Street/Thistle Street Lane and Young Street/Young Street Lane which serve only local traffic and servicing/loading access. Rose Street also has a series of pedestrianised sections which are known to have very high number of pedestrians.

There are three key north/south routes for general traffic in the city centre Charlotte Street, Hannover Street and Leith Street. As Princes Street is closed to general traffic the main east west route is to use Queen Street.

Speed limits and traffic conditions

Edinburgh's City Centre including the FNT became a permanent 20mph traffic zone in 2016. A 2018, CEC study noted there has been a 24% decrease in the rate of road traffic collisions across the City since the implementation of these restrictions, also with a notable reduction in the severity and number of people injured on the road each year.




George Street and the FNT experiences a high level of vehicle demand both associated with traffic travelling through and to the area. This results in traffic conditions which are often congested, with excessive queuing and disruption which permeates to the wider city centre traffic network.



Primary and Secondary Traffic Routes around the First New Town



Existing Traffic Accessibility within the Study Area

-  General Traffic Allowed
-  Access only
-  Pedestrian Zone (Loading only zone)

Draft

Opportunities

Reducing congestion through the removal of parking: Promoting increased accessibility for loading/servicing, residents and blue badge holders: Removing most of the general traffic also has the added benefit of improving the journeys for essential motorist traffic.

Positive impacts to noise pollution and local amenity: Congestion and high volumes of traffic also has a significant impact in terms of the noise pollution and the visual impact within the surrounding streets, people are unlikely to dwell within a distracting environment. Reducing background traffic would improve the experience for pedestrians and cyclists and make the area generally more attractive.

Improvement to road safety: As part of the city's active travel plan and road safety vision, improved safety for pedestrians and cyclists is a key focus for the City of Edinburgh Council going forward. The layout of George Street currently results in several conflicts at junctions and prioritises vehicle travel over pedestrians or cycling. Removing the majority of through traffic, providing segregated cycle facilities and upgrading footway provision would significantly decrease the risk of collisions.

Increase the reliability of public transport: Through removing most of the non-essential traffic the journey times and reliability of bus services which route through the area will greatly increase.

Key Considerations

Improving road safety across all modes of travel: The existing layout is noted to encourage conflicts between vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians, particularly at junctions and locations where pedestrians choose to unsafely cross where facilities are not provided. A reduction in vehicle movements and congestion would promote both increased accessibility and safety for other road users.

Environmental benefits of reducing vehicle journeys: Through CCT and the wider Mobility Plan, CEC are committed to reducing the dependence of car based travel to and through the city centre.

Challenges

Retaining access for Essential Vehicles: One of the key functions of the First New Town is to facilitate vehicle travel routing north-south between Princes Street and Queen Street and enable connections to other major routes around Edinburgh.

Implications of rerouting traffic within Edinburgh City Centre: Traffic essential to the operation of the city centre in the future is likely to route along nearby east-west alternatives such as Queen Street or Heriot Row/Abercrombie Place.

Maintaining accessibility for all vehicle types: The business survey questionnaire highlighted that the largest vehicle which would regularly access George Street was an articulated heavy goods vehicle (HGV). Until such time that CEC implement a restriction on the maximum vehicle size allowed to access the city centre, the design should enable a 16.5m articulated vehicle to navigate through all junctions in the area without conflicting pedestrians, cyclists or other motorists.



Signalised priority junction of George Street-St Andrews Square

2.11 Junctions

Junction Types

Priority Junctions

The road network of the study area is bound to the east and west by signalised junctions with Charlotte Square and St Andrews Square. These junctions are symmetrical as they both operate with three-way signal control and have two lanes on each side of the carriageway. Pedestrian crossings at these junctions rely on the centrally located islands, this requires pedestrian to first cross from the north or south side of George Street before crossing.

Four-way intersections

The junctions of George Street/Castle Street and George Street/Frederick Street are mini roundabouts. On all approaches to these junctions 10m the carriageway is divided into two equal lanes allowing vehicles proceeding left/ahead or turning right to queue separately. Zebra crossings are also provided on each approach to aid the crossings of pedestrians.

The four-way intersection of George Street/Hanover Street is fully signalised in order to manage vehicle / pedestrian demand and reduce conflict between turning vehicles. At this junction advanced cycle stop lines are provided on each approach to aid cyclists.



South facing view from the George Street/Frederick Street junction

Opportunities

Increase pedestrian accessibility and permeability: The existing layout the junctions of George Street with Castle Street, Frederick Street and Hanover Street poorly accommodate pedestrians and the needs of those with mobility or sensory impairments. Crossing often requires dwelling for an extended on central islands before safely continuing onward, particularly at the signalised junction at Hanover Street. Pedestrian barriers restrict movement and force pedestrians to divert from their desire lines. Crossing alignment, crossing types and facilities in future can be redesigned to better fit the needs of all user groups.

Updating traffic signal phasing and staging: The current staging of the George Street/Hanover Street junction signals activate only a single pedestrian crossing at any time, significantly extending pedestrian journey times and waiting times. In future is possible to reconfigure the signal stages to include an 'all pedestrian' phase to allow more optimal movement across junctions.

Key Considerations

Reducing crossing distances and removing multi-stage crossings: Wide crossing distances and the need to wait at pedestrian island crossings is the greatest barrier to pedestrian movement. By increasing footways widths on all approaches to junctions, width of the carriageway and crossing widths can also be optimised reducing the necessary time to cross and allowing greater available space for pedestrians to wait.

Interactions between cyclists and other users: Cyclists are currently expected to cycle on the carriageway as part of the flow of vehicle traffic, advanced cycle stop lines are provided at only the George Street/Hanover Street junction giving cyclists additional priority when traffic signals begin to change. Segregated cycle facilities are preferred along George Street, this requires crossing the three junctions with Castle Street, Frederick Street and Hanover Street. Cyclists at these junctions will have potential for conflicts with vehicles and pedestrians.

Challenges

Ensuring access for all vehicle types: The First New Town serves an important point of interchange of vehicle trips, this involves a variety of vehicle classes including buses, light and heavy goods vehicles. The future junction layouts should be able to accommodate the largest articulated vehicle which could be expected to enter the area. Swept path analysis can be used to determine the turning circle and geometry required to ensure larger vehicles can safely perform all necessary turning movements.

2.12 Events

George Street and the FNT frequently hosts events throughout the year. This includes events such as The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, pop-up food & drink stalls, live broadcasts of sporting events and Christmas and Hogmanay annual celebrations. To accommodate these events a 'section' or multiple sections of George Street are temporarily closed (or restrict access) to vehicles, suspending all forms of parking and fully pedestrianizing the space.

North-south traffic operation on Frederick Street and Hanover Street is maintained during events, pedestrian barriers and fencing are typically deployed close to the existing pedestrian crossings locations to segregate the carriageway and pedestrian areas. The relative size, location and configuration of on-street measures used during events are known to vary significantly. Public toilets and other welfare facilities are typically provided as part of larger events, there are noted to be no current publicly assessable facilities in the area.

Opportunities

Provide public welfare facilities: As mentioned above, there are no public welfare facilities present on George Street or within the FNT. Public toilets and other facilities could be considered at convenient locations to support the needs of all users.

Key Considerations

Maintaining access for cyclists: Consistent with existing events, east-west cycle access is maintained on the carriageway during events. Signage and barriers are used to guide cyclists and manage conflicts with pedestrians. The interaction of cycle facilities and closures associated with events will need to be carefully considered.

Maintaining access for public transport and general traffic: Vehicle access and bus travel is an important requirement within the area even while events are ongoing in the area. Access should be maintained for vehicle trips particularly traveling north-south on Hanover Street, the key north-south route through the area.

Challenges

Providing opportunities to load and unload during events: As determined by the business survey questionnaire there are retail stores, bars and restaurants within the FNT which often require multiple deliveries per day and frequent refuse collection. During events essential loading and servicing should be facilitated in the area, where possible use of rear accesses should be encouraged.



Examples of event pedestrianisation & road closure on George Street Frederick Street to Hanover Street



Draft - Work

George Street and First New Town – Notional Timeline

Executive Summary

High-level milestones reflecting the next key stages in the delivery of the project are set out at the bottom of this appendix. A detailed and finalised programme, which will include an activity schedule, will be produced by the project consultant once appointed. This final overall delivery plan and programme will be developed in close liaison with Sustrans Scotland and Transport Scotland and reported to Transport and Environment Committee as early as possible.

Consultation

On the appointment of the project consultant a comprehensive consultation, communication and engagement strategy will also be developed. This strategy will incorporate further public consultation events at key points in the project where feedback is required (for example; towards the end of the developed design stage and prior to the promotion of the necessary statutory orders).

Statutory Process

Due to the statutory process related to the securing the necessary powers under which the scheme will be built, the promotion of Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) and Redetermination Orders (RSO) are required. The assumption, which is consistent with similar Council projects, is that the associated statutory process is expected to take around 18 months to complete.

Construction

In order to produce a robust delivery plan and achieve a high degree of confidence, a phasing strategy and resulting construction programme will need be coordinated with neighbouring city centre projects and consider a range of matters including local and city-wide factors in much detail. The duration of construction phases will be determined on the consultants detailed review of the programme.

Project Milestones

Stage	Timescale
Appointment of Project Consultants	July 2020
Finalised Project Delivery Plan	August 2020
Finalisation of Design Developed (RIBA Stage 3)	Dec 2020
Promotion of TRO/RSO Statutory Orders	Jan 2021
Finalisation of Technical Drawings (RIBA Stage 4)	Autumn 2021
Contractor Appointment	Spring 2022
Construction Start	Autumn 2022
Construction Completion	TBC*

TBC* Consultant to undertake a full and detailed review of programme. This will be developed in in partnership discussions with Sustrans Scotland and Transport Scotland. See Paragraph 5.6 of main report.

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Leadership Advisory Panel

10.00am, Wednesday, 31 March 2020

Haulage of Waste to Disposal Outlets

Executive/routine Wards	Routine All
Council Commitments	23, 24, 25

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Leadership Advisory Panel is asked to:
- 1.1.1 approve the extension of current contracts with Neil Williams Haulage (NWH) and Enva via a waiver of Contract Standing Orders (CSOs), for the transfer of waste from the Seafield and Bankhead Transfer Stations to disposal outlets and reprocessors. This will allow time for a procurement process to be undertaken and a new contract put in place;
 - 1.1.2 note that the value of this waiver would be in the region of £700,000 over a 10 month period;
 - 1.1.3 note that this extension is expected to deliver estimated savings of £65,000 in comparison to previous haulage costs for the same time period; and
 - 1.1.4 note this will ensure the continuity of service provision until a new contract for haulage of waste can be procured and implemented.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

Lesley Sugden, Contracts Manager, Waste and Cleansing Services.

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Haulage of Waste to Disposal Outlets

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report seeks approval for the extension of current contracts with Neil Williams Haulage (NWH) and Enva via a waiver of Contract Standing Orders (CSOs), for the transfer of waste from the Seafield and Bankhead Transfer Stations to disposal outlets and reprocessors.
- 2.2 The contracts for the receipt, handling and transfer of waste expired in December 2019. A waiver was previously approved via Delegated Authority for the period January – March 2020 to allow time for an options appraisal to be conducted to identify if this function could be delivered in house.
- 2.3 The outcome of this appraisal was to continue to use an external contractor to deliver this function, as such it is necessary to extend the current contracts until such time as a procurement process is undertaken and a new contract put in place.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council has a statutory obligation under Section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to provide a collection and disposal service for domestic waste generated by residents. In addition, the Council has three Community Recycling Centres where residents can deposit recyclable and residual domestic waste.
- 3.2 Contracts for the receipt, handling and transfer of waste were awarded in November 2017 and were due to come to an end 28 December 2019.
- 3.3 Contract extensions, via waiver of CSOs to the value of £210,000 was approved via Delegated Authority for the period January – March 2020 to allow time for an options appraisal to be conducted to identify if this function could be delivered in house.
- 3.4 The outcome of this appraisal was to continue to use an external contractor to deliver this function.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The closure of Powderhall Transfer Station in November 2016 forced the Council's Waste and Cleansing Service to put in arrangements for the receipt, handling and transfer of waste.
- 4.2 Contracts for the Receipt, Handling and Transfer of waste were awarded in November 2017 using a framework of four providers: Biffa, Viridor, NWH and Enva (previously William Tracey Group). The estimated value of the framework (including one-year extension) was £2,982,714.
- 4.3 The contracts ended in December 2019 and a waiver was approved to cover a three-month period (Jan – March 2020) whilst an options appraisal was conducted to ascertain if the haulage of waste using articulated trucks could be delivered by the in-house Waste and Cleansing Service.
- 4.4 The conclusion of the options appraisal was that although the haulage element could be delivered in-house at a comparable rate offered by current providers, the fleet size would be small (estimated at four articulated trucks). The risks in having such a limited fleet size is high as one truck off the road at any one time would result in a 25% reduction in haulage capacity.
- 4.5 The opening of the two new transfer stations at Seafield (June 2019) and Bankhead (November 2019) means that the receipt and handling of waste has come back in house.
- 4.6 There remains a haulage requirement for the transfer of general waste to our Energy from Waste Plant at Millerhill, food waste to Biogen at Millerhill and Dry Mixed Recyclates (DMR) to our contractor Biffa at Broxburn.
- 4.7 All these waste streams are 'bulked' at the transfer stations and transported to the processing plants using articulated trucks.
- 4.8 A price review was conducted with the existing providers in December 2019. Included in the price review were Biffa, NWH, Viridor and Enva. NWH and Enva submitted the lowest haulage costs and could provide greater flexibility for delivering an 'on demand' service due to an extensive fleet size. As such, since December 2019, NWH and Enva have provided all haulage solutions to the City of Edinburgh Council for general and food waste and DMR.
- 4.9 There is now a requirement to extend these contracts further to allow time for a procurement process to be undertaken and a new contract put in place. Revised haulage rates have been agreed with the suppliers and are estimated to deliver a saving of £65,000 in comparison to the similar time period.
- 4.10 The cost of this service is dependent on the level of activity and volume of waste acquired, however the estimated maximum value of these contract extensions for the duration of this waiver of 10 months from 1 April 2020 is £700,000.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 A full procurement exercise will be undertaken to procure a contract for the haulage of waste to disposal outlets, working in partnership with Commercial and Procurement Services, with a view to award and contract start by February 2021.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The cost of the contract extensions (£700,000) will be met from the Service Area's waste disposal revenue budget for financial year 2020/21.
- 6.2 The savings associated with this arrangement are expected to be in the region of £65,000.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The introduction of 'back hauling' loads will reduce the emission from articulated lorries as there will be less particulates emitted resulting in possible improvement in air quality.
- 7.2 There are no equalities impact arising from this contract extension. The risk of successful procurement challenge is considered to be low as the Council has entered into dialogue with haulage providers with the capacity to provide the dynamic requirements of the Council.
- 7.3 By implementing a framework of 'back hauling' there is a reduction in the number of vehicle movements, fuel and mileage covered, resulting in less emissions and reduced carbon impact.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 Report to Finance and Resources Committee, [26 September 2017](#) - Framework Agreement -Reception, Handling and Transfer of Waste

9. Appendices

- 9.1 None.

Leadership Advisory Panel

10.00am, Tuesday, 31 March 2020

Annual Review of Major Events in Parks 2018/2019 and Consultation on Future Events

Executive/routine	
Wards	All
Council Commitments	1, 43, 46

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Leadership Advisory Panel:
- 1.1.1 note the annual review of major events in parks was completed at the end of 2019 and that the findings will form part of the development of the Public Spaces Management Plan; and
 - 1.1.3 agree that the Summer Wheel is not re-procured.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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Annual Review of Major Events in Parks 2018/2019 and Consultation on Future Events

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The annual review of major events in parks from October 2018 to October 2019 has now been completed and the results are appended to this report. The findings will be considered as part of the development of the Public Spaces Management Plan.
- 2.2 This report also requests approval not to procure a summer wheel for Princes Street Gardens in 2020.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto was approved by the Transport and Environment Committee at its meeting of [26 August 2014](#). The Committee requested an annual review of large events held in Edinburgh's parks.
- 3.2 The annual review consultation was published in November 2019 and ran for five weeks. The consultation was extensively publicised to a wide range of stakeholders, including local residents and businesses, Friends of Green Space Groups, elected members, MSPs, event organisers and attendees, as well as internal stakeholders. This year saw a significant increase in responses from the 2017/18 Review, when 75 were received, to the 454 responses received for the 2018/19 Review.
- 3.3 In addition, this year's Review included questions on a proposal to extend the procurement process to two new annual events from 2021 in each of four additional city parks; Calton Hill, Gyle Park, Leith Links and Sighthill Park. These procured events would be in addition to existing community and established events such as Beltane and Dusherra on Calton Hill and the Leith Festival Gala Day and associated fun fair.
- 3.4 There are significant advantages to procuring events. The process enables the Council to define what events it deems appropriate for these locations; introduces market fairness to event choice; provides contractual control over their operation; normally increases income levels significantly; and allows for community benefit to be realised as part of the contract.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The consultation was opened on the 13 November 2019 and ran until 18 December 2019. The 454 respondents can be defined as follows:

Respondent	Number of Responses
Local Resident	209
Local Business	3
Event Attendee	39
Friends of Greenspace Group	3
Event Organiser	3
Other	12
No Answer	185

- 4.2 23 large events held in seven city parks were included as part of this consultation and respondents were given the opportunity to comment on any event that wasn't listed. Events that were held solely within the Ross Bandstand, with no impact on Princes Street Gardens, were not included. The seven parks are:

- 4.2.1 Calton Hill;
- 4.2.2 Inverleith Park;
- 4.2.3 Leith Links;
- 4.2.4 The Meadows;
- 4.2.5 West Princes Street Gardens;
- 4.2.6 East Princes Street Gardens; and
- 4.2.7 Sighthill Park.

- 4.3 The proposal to extend the procurement process to two new annual events in each of four additional city parks covers:

- 4.3.1 Sighthill Park;
- 4.3.2 Calton Hill;
- 4.3.3 Gyle Park; and
- 4.3.4 Leith Links.

- 4.4 Full results of the consultation can be found in Appendix 1.
- 4.5 A complete list of all the comments can be found in Appendix 2.
- 4.6 A complete list of comments regarding events not included in the consultation can be found in Appendix 3.
- 4.7 A list of the comments regarding the proposal to procure additional events can be found in Appendix 4.
- 4.8 The findings and the proposal to procure additional events will be considered as part of the development of the Public Spaces Management Plan.

The Summer Wheel

- 4.9 2019 marked the final year of the contract for the Summer Wheel in East Princes Street Gardens.
- 4.10 There have been concerns about the health of trees in the section of the Gardens where the tree is located. These have been considered and it is considered that the area should not accommodate the use of heavy vehicles or siting of large structures in the future.
- 4.11 Given the upcoming consultation on a Public Spaces Management Plan, it was not felt prudent to extend the contract for the wheel in its current location or to re-locate the wheel elsewhere either in East Princes Street Gardens or any other location in the city. As such, until consultation on the Public Spaces Management Plan has taken place, it is proposed that the contract for the Summer Wheel is not procured.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Comments and suggestions received will be fed back and discussed with event organisers at future planning meetings. Possible mitigating actions will be discussed and, if appropriate, agreed.
- 5.2 The results will be considered as part of the development of the Public Spaces Management Plan.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The generation of income from major events in parks allows the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries service to deliver financial savings targets without reducing maintenance standards.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The consultation was advertised using a number of different platforms and Community Councils and Friends of Green Space Groups were asked to share with anyone they felt would have an interest. The details and link were sent to each

park event consultation list, which includes relevant local organisations and businesses, elected members and community councils.

- 7.2 This report has no significant equalities, health and safety, governance, compliance or regulatory implications.
- 7.3 This report has no significant carbon, adaptation to climate change and sustainable development impacts.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [The Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto](#)

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 - Consultation Results
- 9.2 Appendix 2 – Consultation Feedback Comments
- 9.3 Appendix 3 – Comments Regarding Other Events
- 9.4 Appendix 4 – Comments Regarding Proposed Procurement of Additional Events

Annual Review of Major Events in Parks 2018/19 and Consultation on Future Events: Summary report

This report was created on Monday 03 February 2020 at 09:57.

The consultation ran from 13/11/2019 to 18/12/2019.

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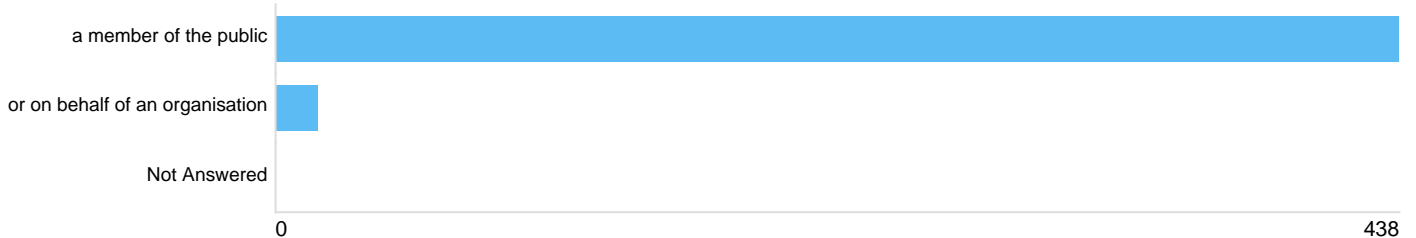
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Where and when did the event take place?	76
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Other event: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event	77
Other event: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event	77
Other event: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event	78
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What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - March / April	82
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What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - August / September	83
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - September / October	84
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - October / November	84
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - November / December	84
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What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - January / February	85
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - February / March	85
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - March / April	85
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What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - May / June	86
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - June / July	86
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - July / August	87
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - August / September	87
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What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - November / December	88
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What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - January / February	88
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - February / March	89
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - March / April	89
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - April / May	89

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - May / June	90
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - June / July	90
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - July / August	90
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - August / September	91
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - September / October	91
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - October / November	91
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - November / December	92
Question 5: What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events on Leith Links?	92
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - January / February	92
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - February / March	92
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - March / April	93
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - April / May	93
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - May / June	93
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - June / July	94
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - July / August	94
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - August / September	94
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - September / October	95
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - October / November	95
What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - November / December	95
Question 6: Do you have any further comments?	96
Other Comments	96
Question 1: Which of the following applies to you?	96
Respondent Type	96
(Please specify)	96

Question 1: Are you completing this survey as:

public/organisation



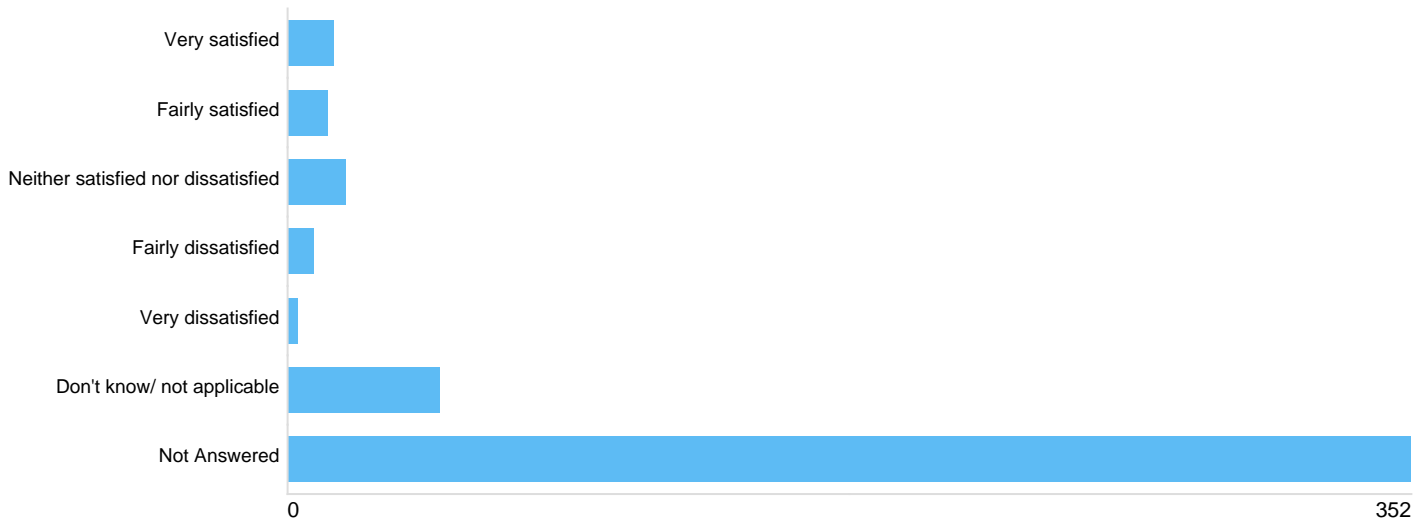
Option	Total	Percent
a member of the public	438	96.48%
or on behalf of an organisation	16	3.52%
Not Answered	0	0%

Which organisation

There were **20** responses to this part of the question.

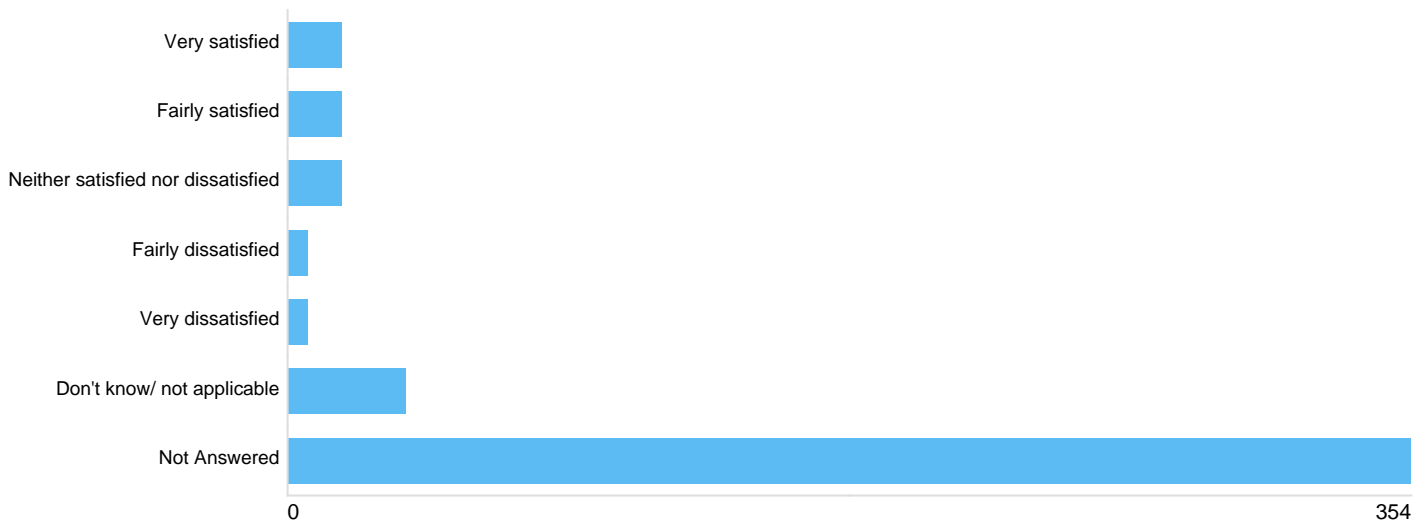
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Dusherra: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



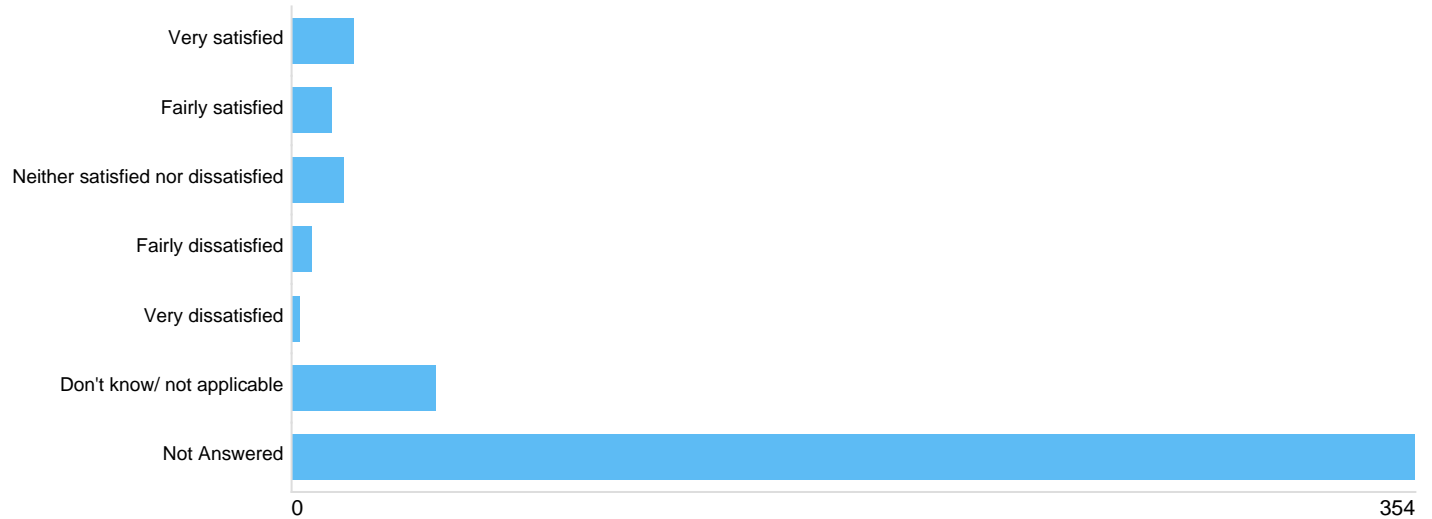
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	14	3.08%
Fairly satisfied	12	2.64%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	18	3.96%
Fairly dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Very dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Don't know/ not applicable	47	10.35%
Not Answered	352	77.53%

Dusherra: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



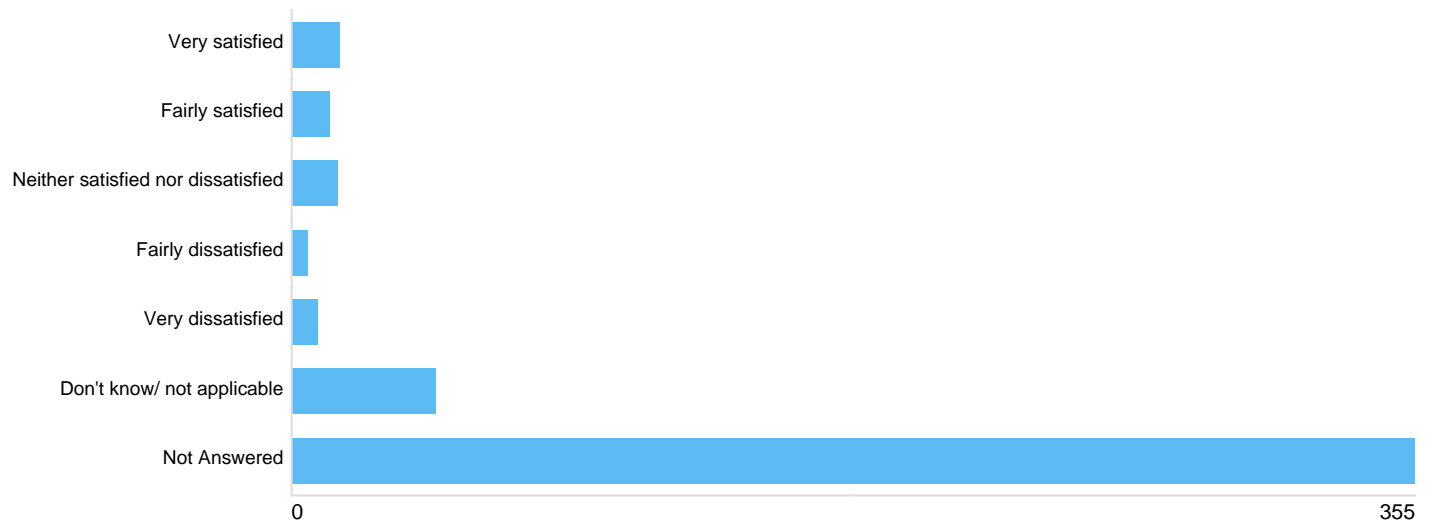
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	17	3.74%
Fairly satisfied	17	3.74%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	17	3.74%
Fairly dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Very dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Don't know/ not applicable	37	8.15%
Not Answered	354	77.97%

Dusherra: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



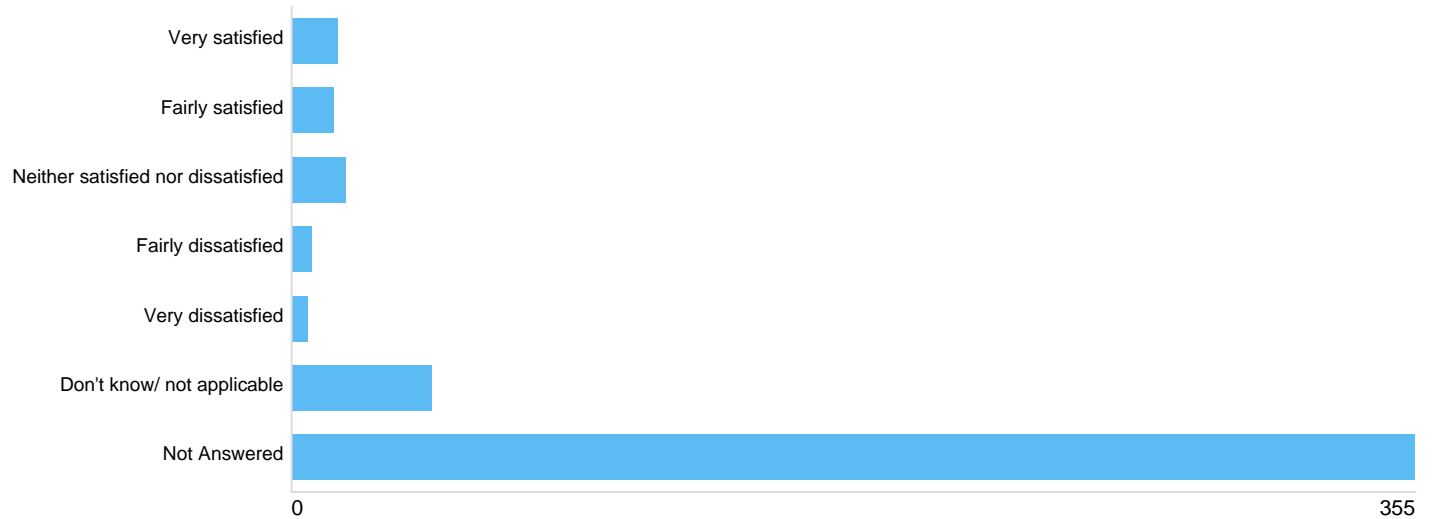
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	19	4.19%
Fairly satisfied	12	2.64%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	16	3.52%
Fairly dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Very dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Don't know/ not applicable	45	9.91%
Not Answered	354	77.97%

Dusherra: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	15	3.30%
Fairly satisfied	12	2.64%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	14	3.08%
Fairly dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Very dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Don't know/ not applicable	45	9.91%
Not Answered	355	78.19%

Dusherra: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	14	3.08%
Fairly satisfied	13	2.86%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	17	3.74%
Fairly dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Very dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Don't know/ not applicable	44	9.69%
Not Answered	355	78.19%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Dusherra: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	3	0.66%
Too long a period of time	16	3.52%
Just about the right amount of time	66	14.54%
Not Answered	369	81.28%

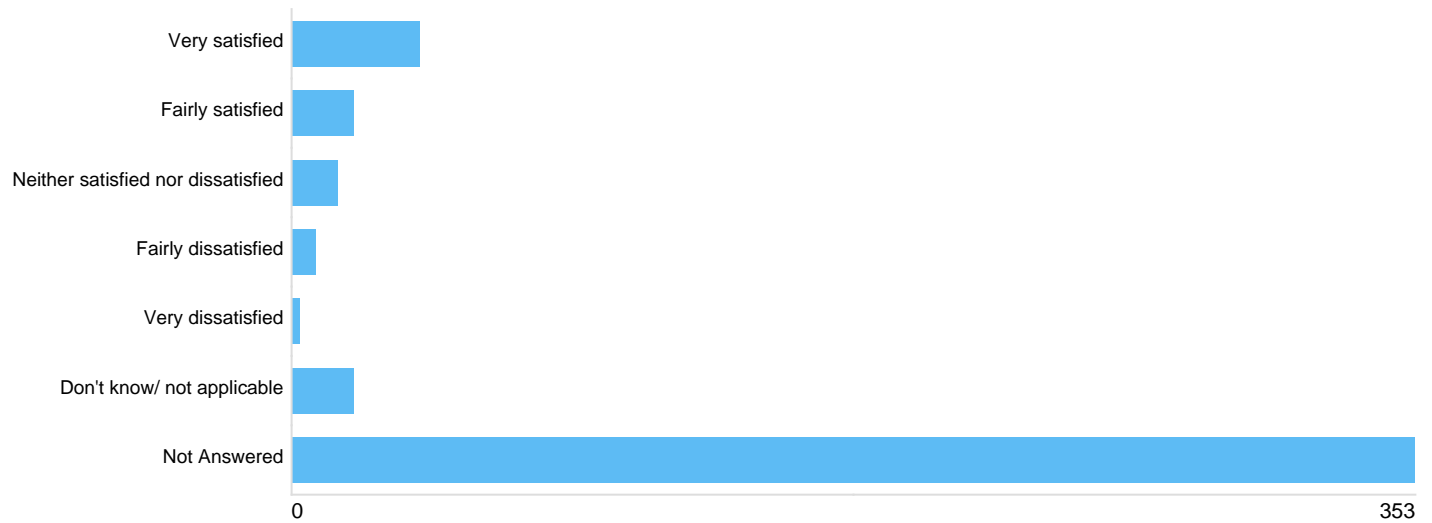
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Dusherra: Any other comments

There were 44 responses to this part of the question.

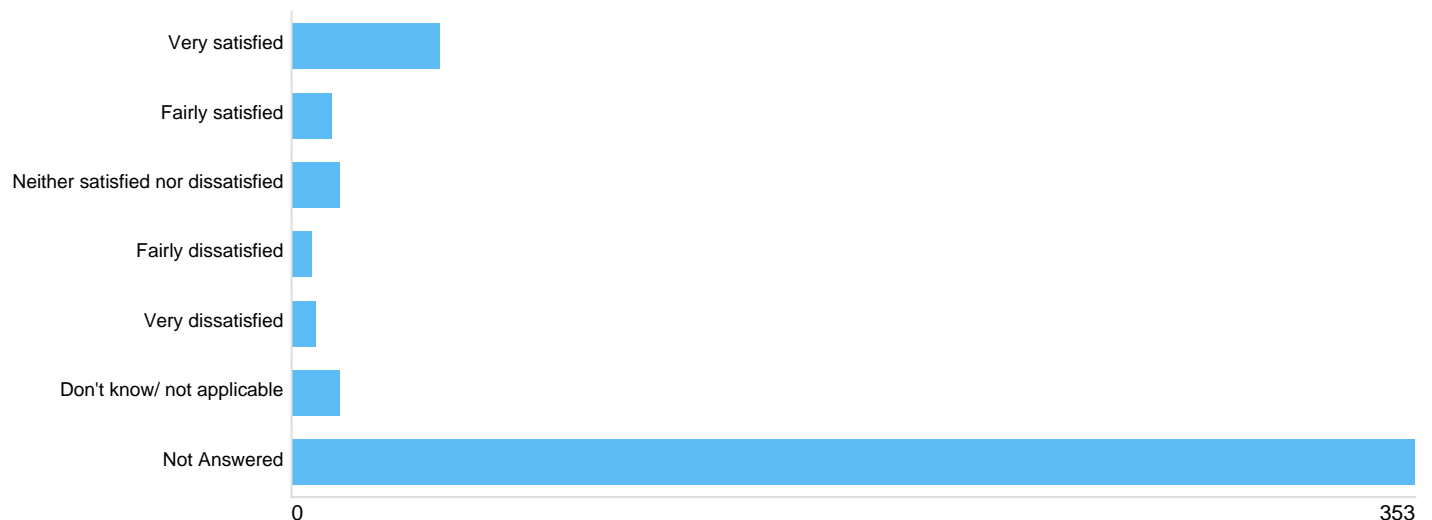
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Samhuinn Fire Festival: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



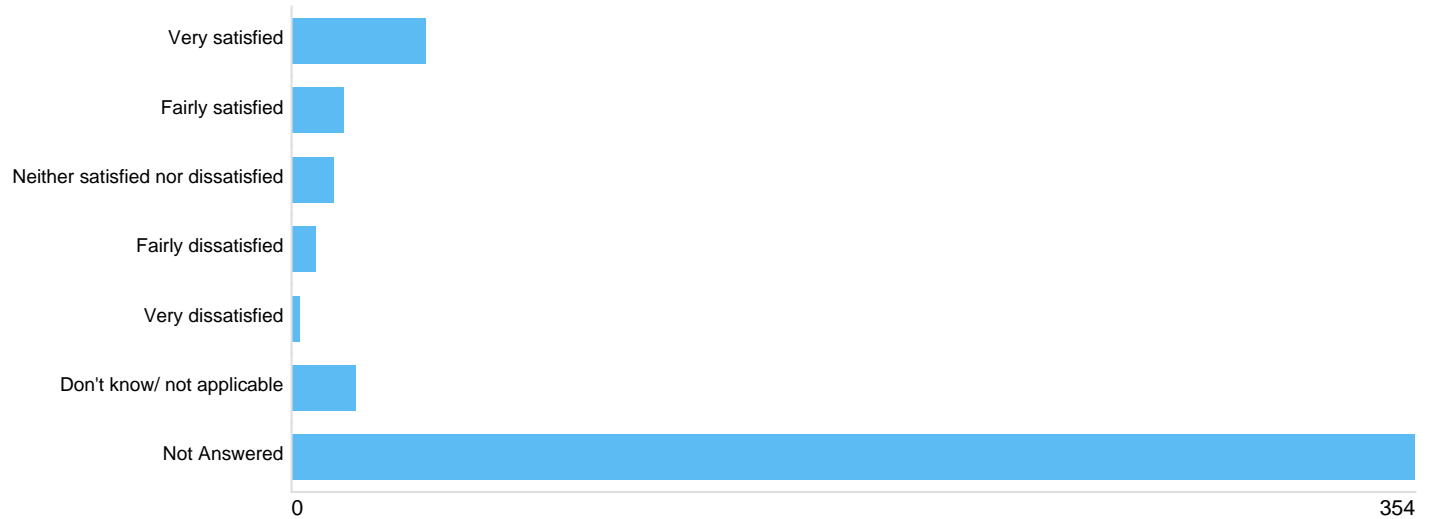
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	40	8.81%
Fairly satisfied	19	4.19%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	14	3.08%
Fairly dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Very dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Don't know/ not applicable	19	4.19%
Not Answered	353	77.75%

Samhuinn Fire Festival: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



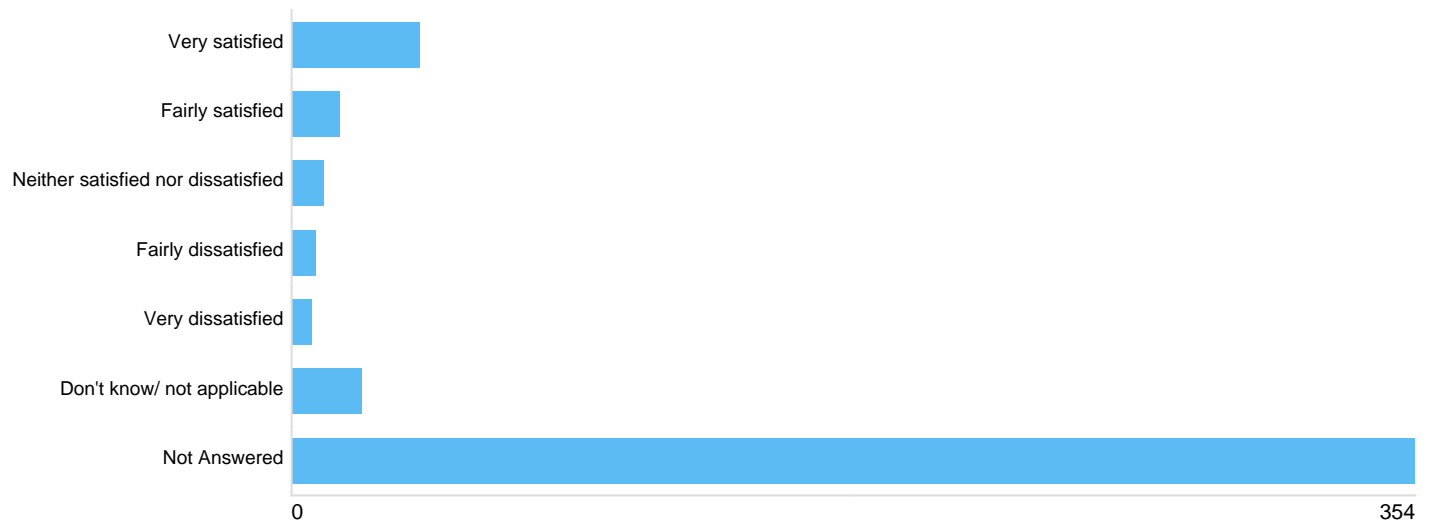
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	46	10.13%
Fairly satisfied	12	2.64%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	15	3.30%
Fairly dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Very dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Don't know/ not applicable	15	3.30%
Not Answered	353	77.75%

Samhuinn Fire Festival: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



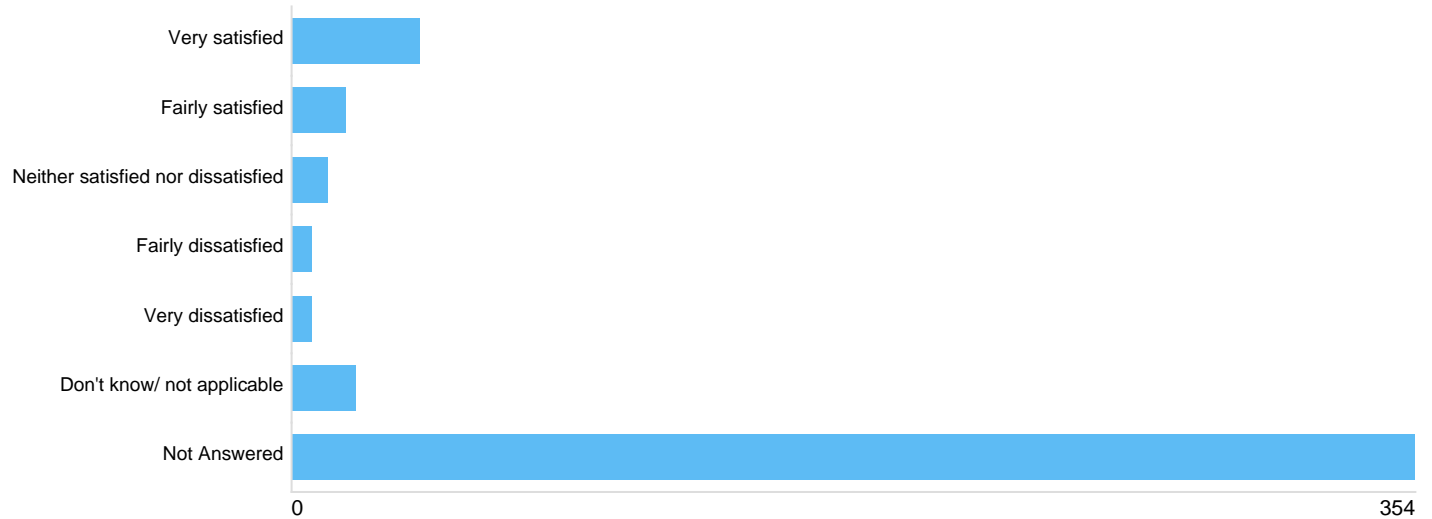
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	42	9.25%
Fairly satisfied	16	3.52%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	13	2.86%
Fairly dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Very dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Don't know/ not applicable	20	4.41%
Not Answered	354	77.97%

Samhuinn Fire Festival: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	40	8.81%
Fairly satisfied	15	3.30%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	10	2.20%
Fairly dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Very dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Don't know/ not applicable	22	4.85%
Not Answered	354	77.97%

Samhuinn Fire Festival: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	40	8.81%
Fairly satisfied	17	3.74%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	11	2.42%
Fairly dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Very dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Don't know/ not applicable	20	4.41%
Not Answered	354	77.97%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Samhuinn Fire Festival: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	7	1.54%
Too long a period of time	18	3.96%
Just about the right amount of time	73	16.08%
Not Answered	356	78.41%

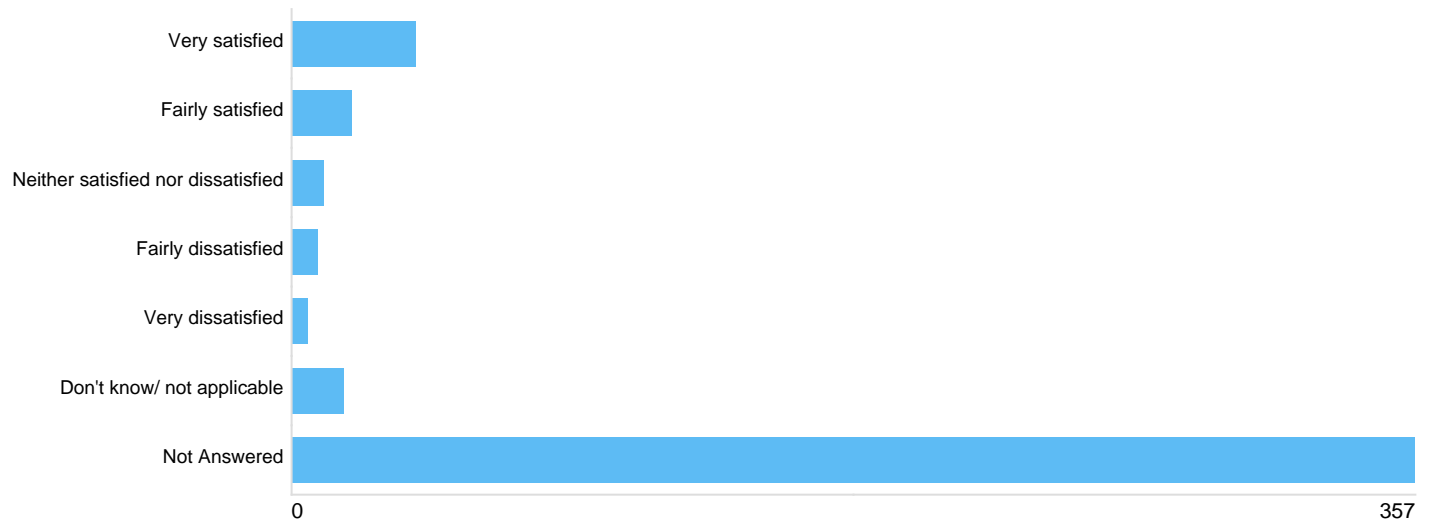
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Samhuinn Fire Festival: Any other comments

There were 61 responses to this part of the question.

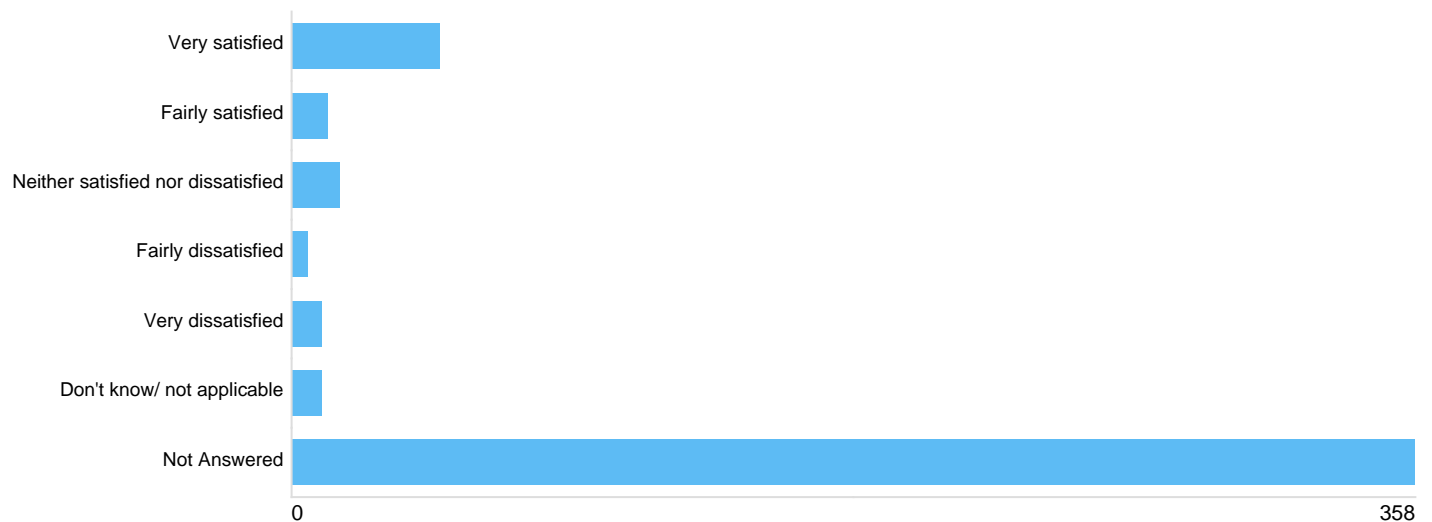
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Beltane: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



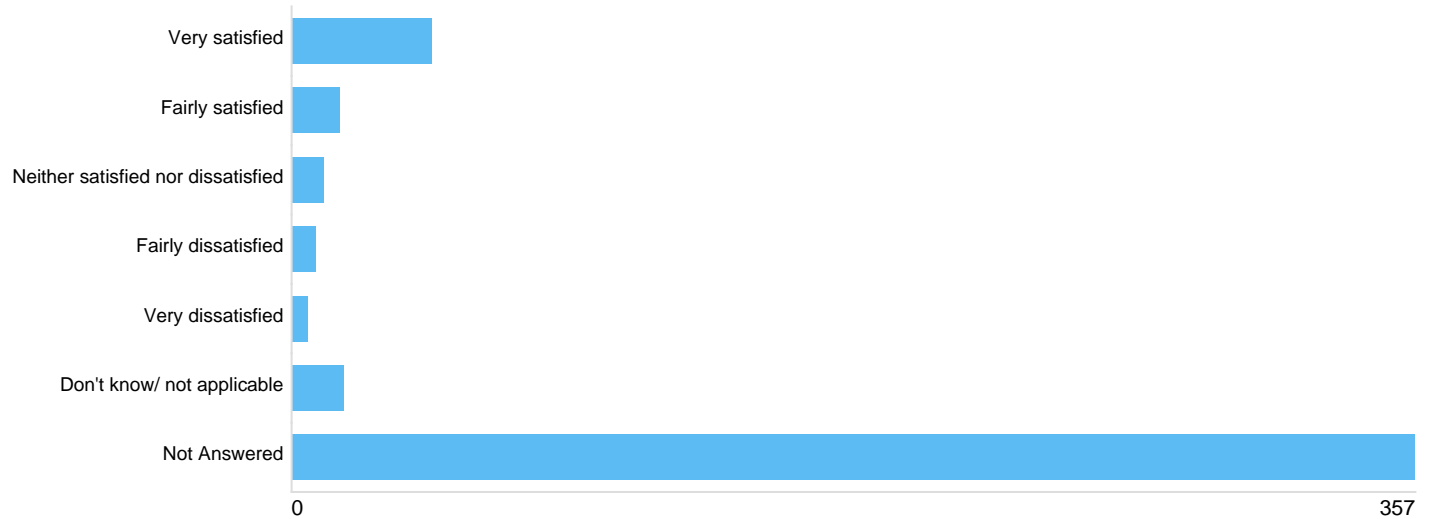
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	39	8.59%
Fairly satisfied	19	4.19%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	10	2.20%
Fairly dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Very dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Don't know/ not applicable	16	3.52%
Not Answered	357	78.63%

Beltane: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



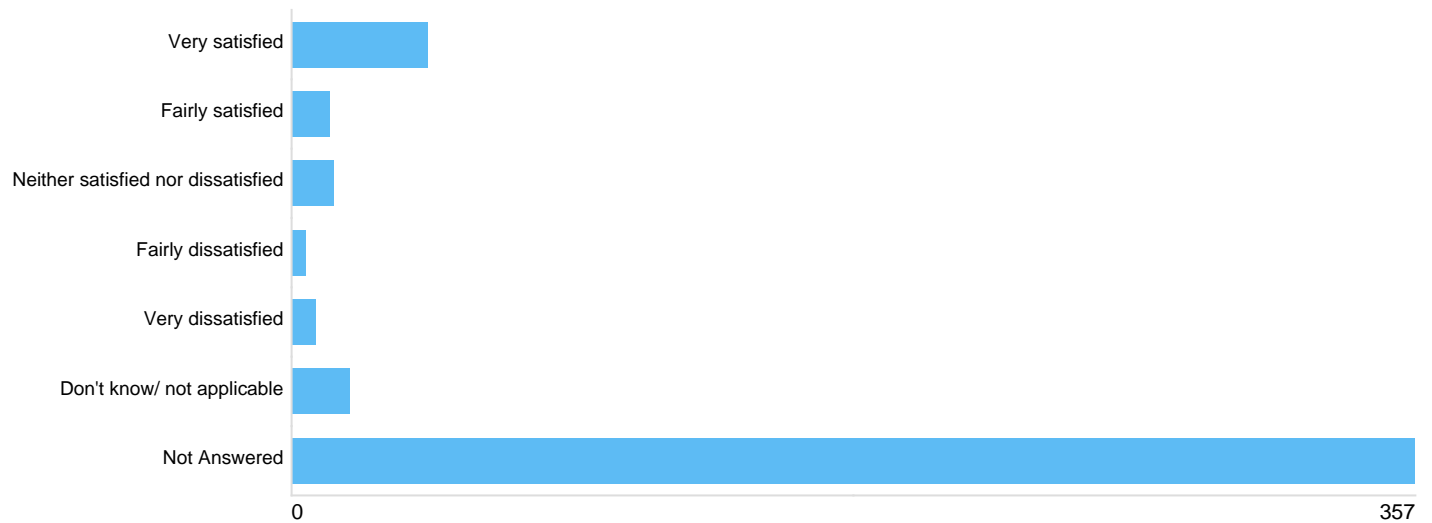
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	47	10.35%
Fairly satisfied	11	2.42%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	15	3.30%
Fairly dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Very dissatisfied	9	1.98%
Don't know/ not applicable	9	1.98%
Not Answered	358	78.85%

Beltane: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



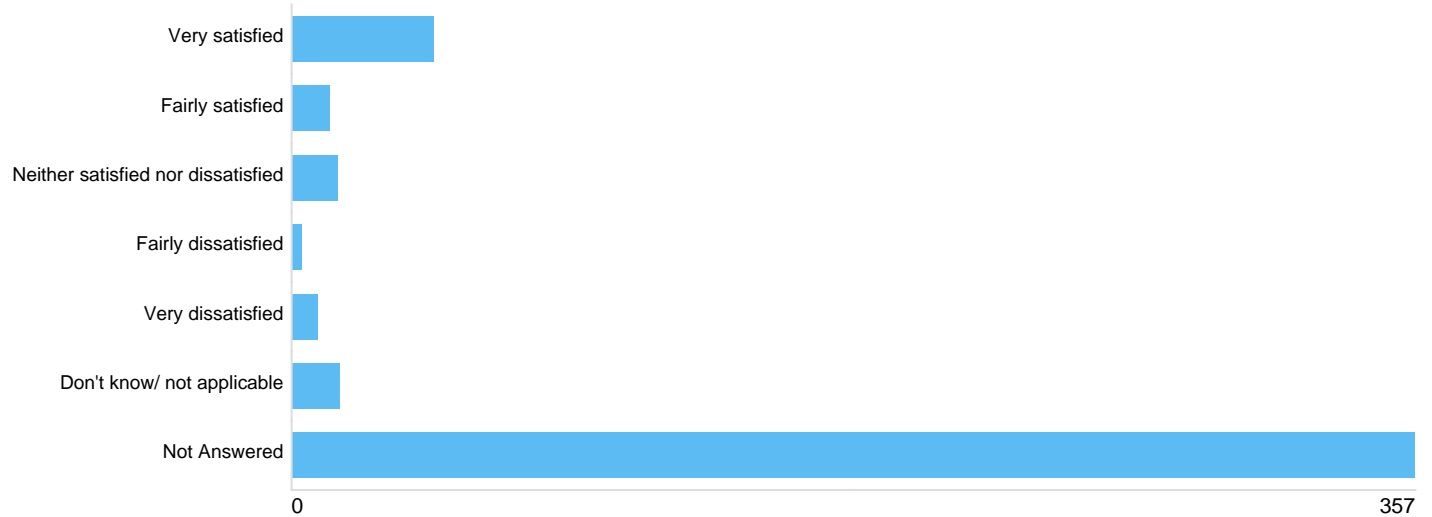
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	44	9.69%
Fairly satisfied	15	3.30%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	10	2.20%
Fairly dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Very dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Don't know/ not applicable	16	3.52%
Not Answered	357	78.63%

Beltane: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	43	9.47%
Fairly satisfied	12	2.64%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	13	2.86%
Fairly dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Very dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Don't know/ not applicable	18	3.96%
Not Answered	357	78.63%

Beltane: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	45	9.91%
Fairly satisfied	12	2.64%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	14	3.08%
Fairly dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Very dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Don't know/ not applicable	15	3.30%
Not Answered	357	78.63%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Beltane: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	8	1.76%
Too long a period of time	16	3.52%
Just about the right amount of time	73	16.08%
Not Answered	357	78.63%

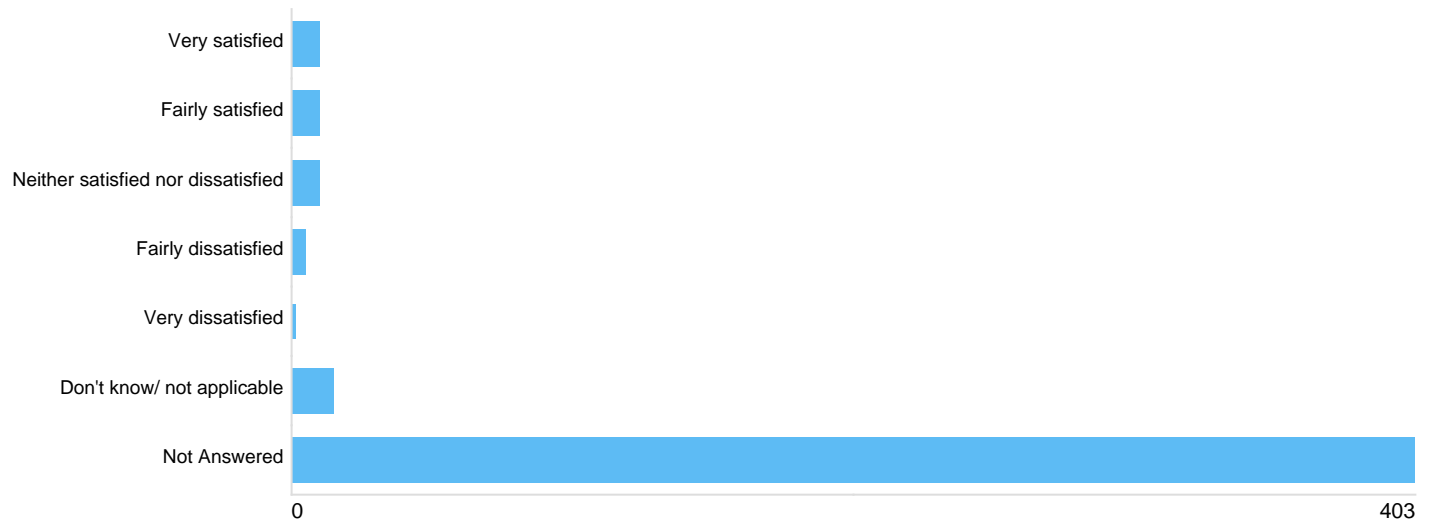
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Beltane: Any other comments

There were **58** responses to this part of the question.

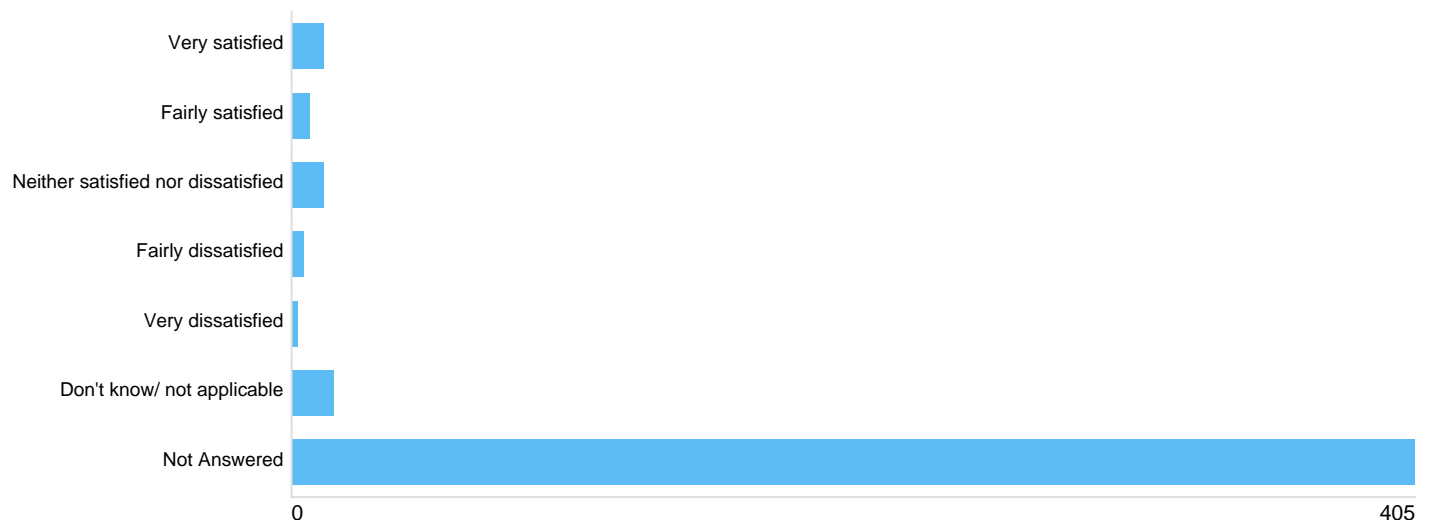
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Edinburgh City 7s: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



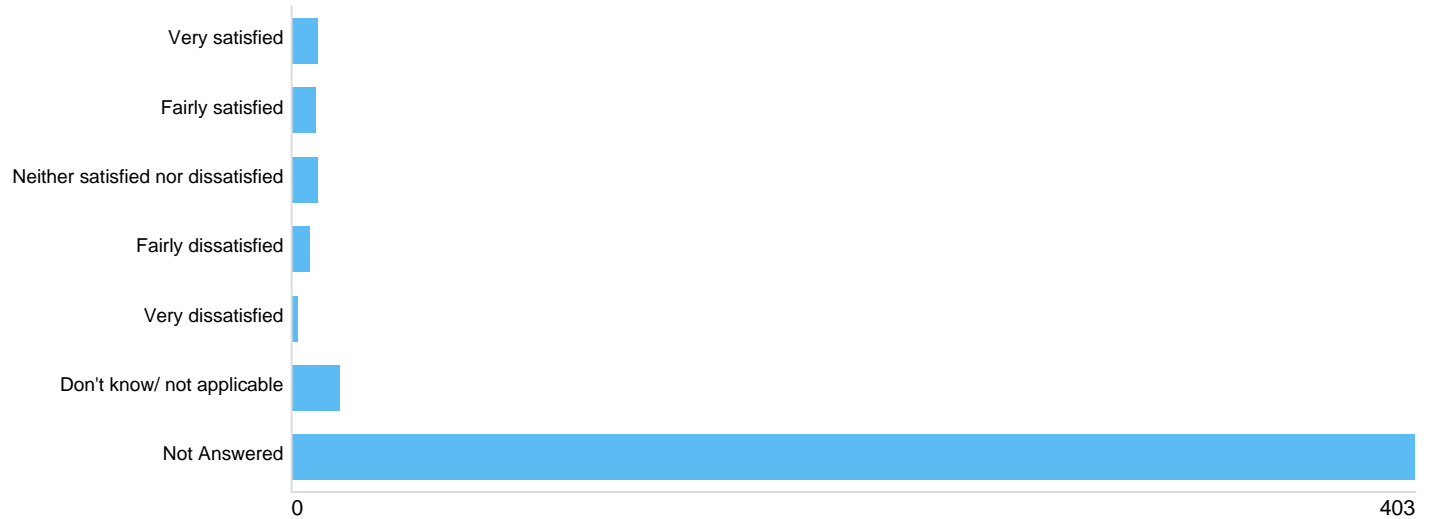
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	10	2.20%
Fairly satisfied	10	2.20%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	10	2.20%
Fairly dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Very dissatisfied	1	0.22%
Don't know/ not applicable	15	3.30%
Not Answered	403	88.77%

Edinburgh City 7s: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



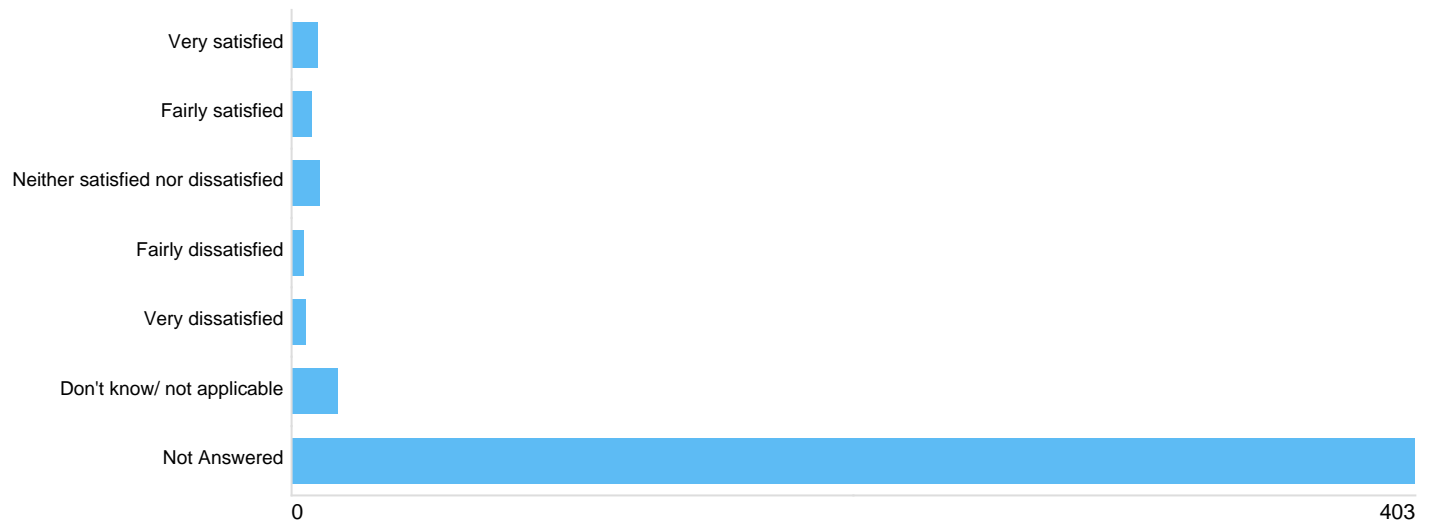
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	11	2.42%
Fairly satisfied	6	1.32%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	11	2.42%
Fairly dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Very dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Don't know/ not applicable	15	3.30%
Not Answered	405	89.21%

Edinburgh City 7s: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



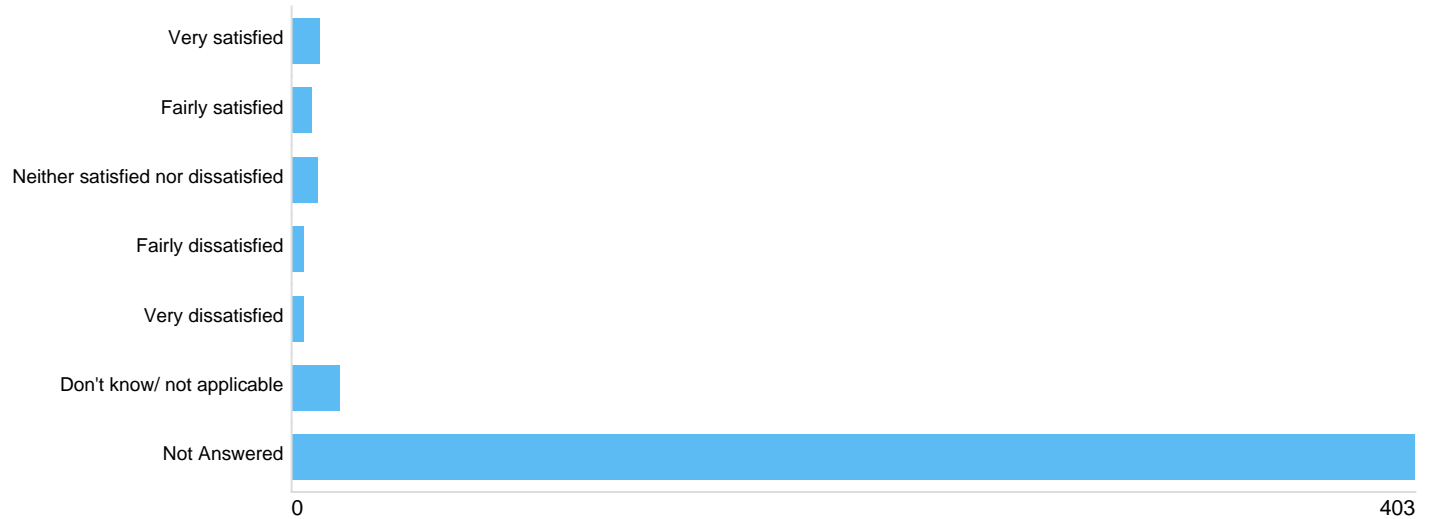
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	9	1.98%
Fairly satisfied	8	1.76%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	9	1.98%
Fairly dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Very dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Don't know/ not applicable	17	3.74%
Not Answered	403	88.77%

Edinburgh City 7s: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	9	1.98%
Fairly satisfied	7	1.54%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	10	2.20%
Fairly dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Very dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Don't know/ not applicable	16	3.52%
Not Answered	403	88.77%

Edinburgh City 7s: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	10	2.20%
Fairly satisfied	7	1.54%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	9	1.98%
Fairly dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Very dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Don't know/ not applicable	17	3.74%
Not Answered	403	88.77%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Edinburgh City 7s: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	0	0%
Too long a period of time	14	3.08%
Just about the right amount of time	33	7.27%
Not Answered	407	89.65%

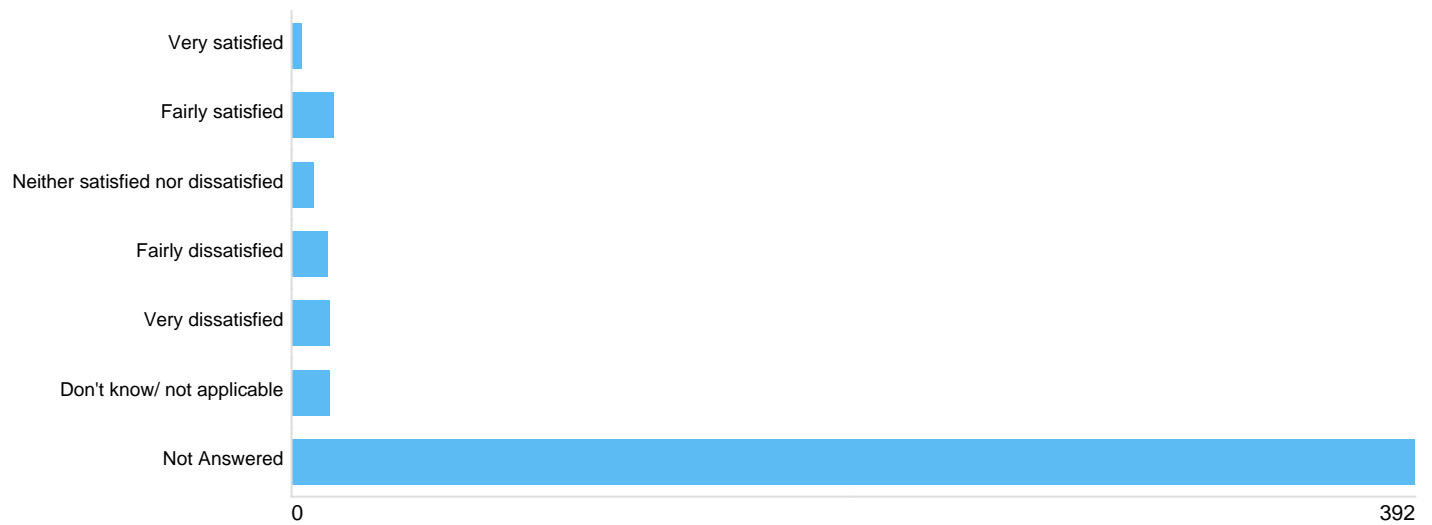
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Edinburgh City 7s: Any other comments

There were **25** responses to this part of the question.

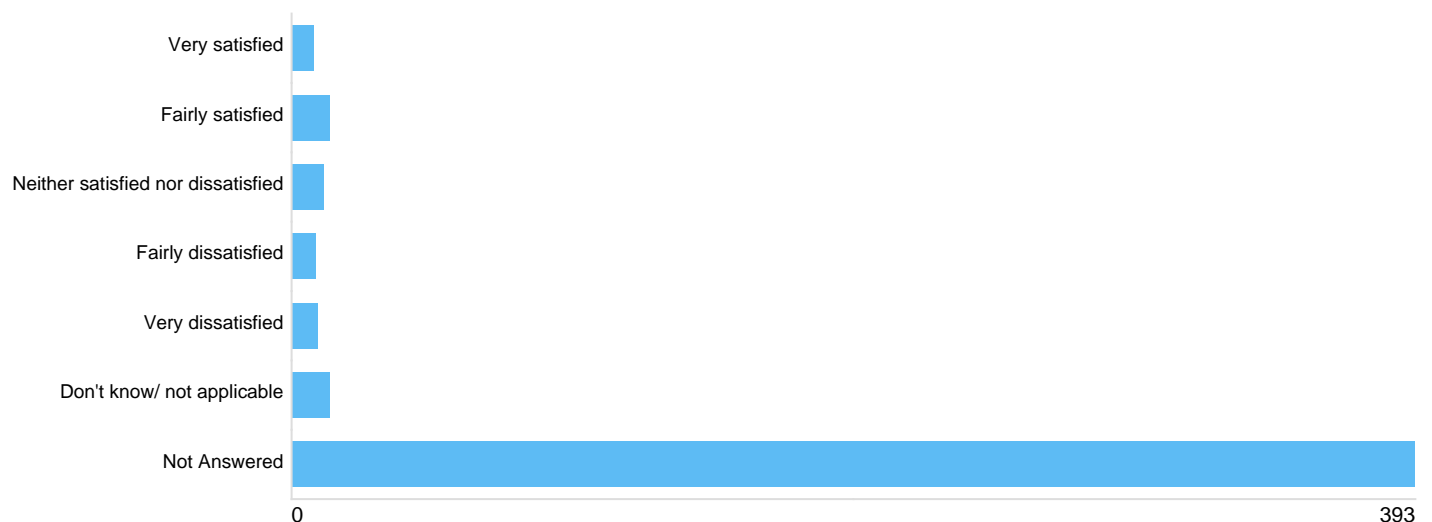
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Foodies: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



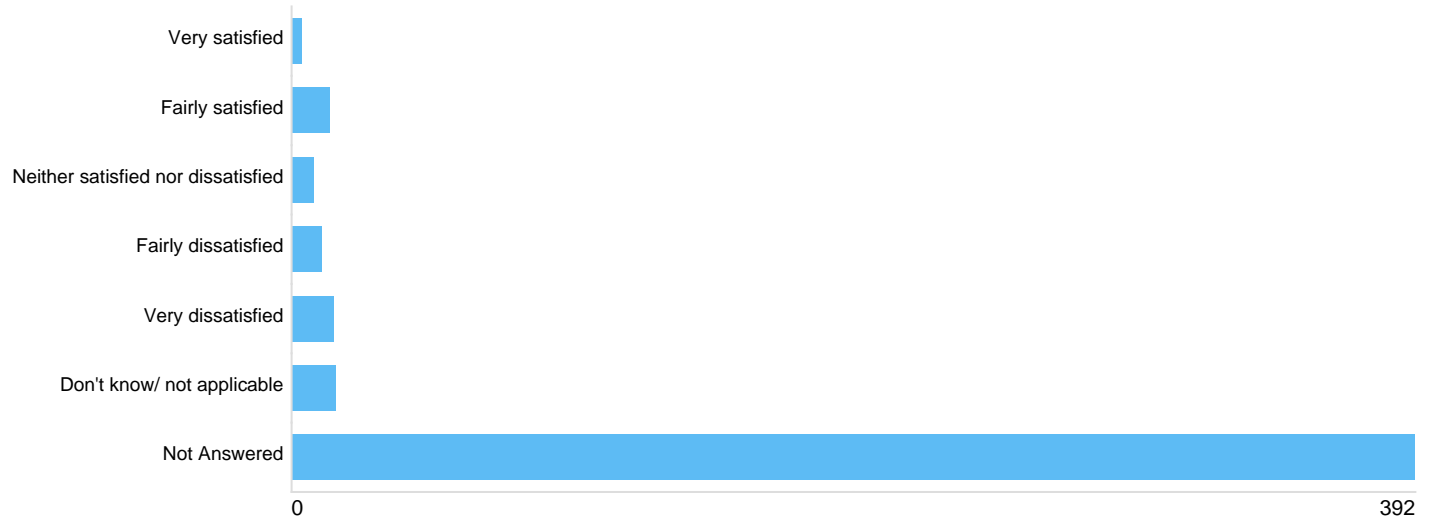
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	3	0.66%
Fairly satisfied	14	3.08%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly dissatisfied	12	2.64%
Very dissatisfied	13	2.86%
Don't know/ not applicable	13	2.86%
Not Answered	392	86.34%

Foodies: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



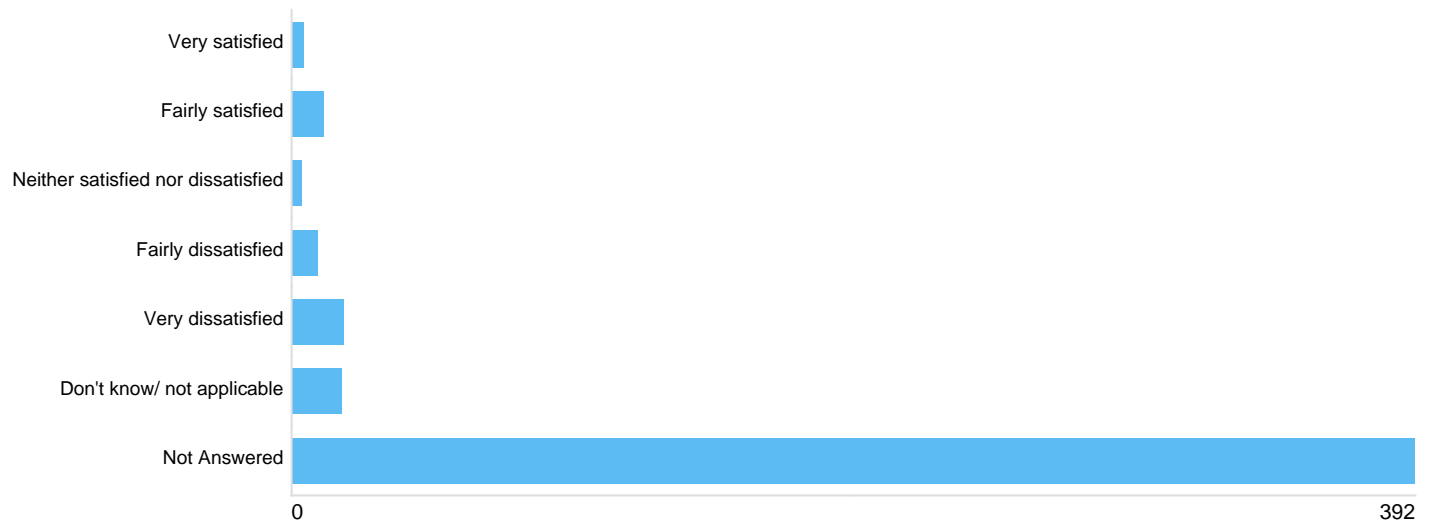
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly satisfied	13	2.86%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	11	2.42%
Fairly dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Very dissatisfied	9	1.98%
Don't know/ not applicable	13	2.86%
Not Answered	393	86.56%

Foodies: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



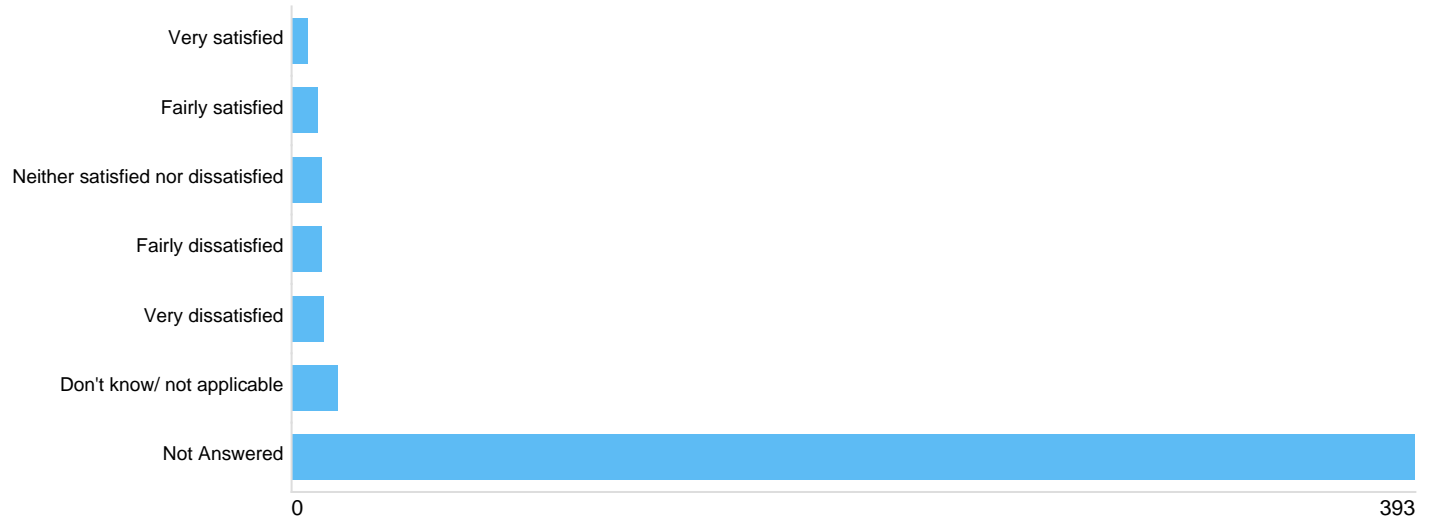
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	3	0.66%
Fairly satisfied	13	2.86%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly dissatisfied	10	2.20%
Very dissatisfied	14	3.08%
Don't know/ not applicable	15	3.30%
Not Answered	392	86.34%

Foodies: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly satisfied	11	2.42%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Fairly dissatisfied	9	1.98%
Very dissatisfied	18	3.96%
Don't know/ not applicable	17	3.74%
Not Answered	392	86.34%

Foodies: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	5	1.10%
Fairly satisfied	9	1.98%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	10	2.20%
Fairly dissatisfied	10	2.20%
Very dissatisfied	11	2.42%
Don't know/ not applicable	16	3.52%
Not Answered	393	86.56%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Foodies: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	2	0.44%
Too long a period of time	22	4.85%
Just about the right amount of time	31	6.83%
Not Answered	399	87.89%

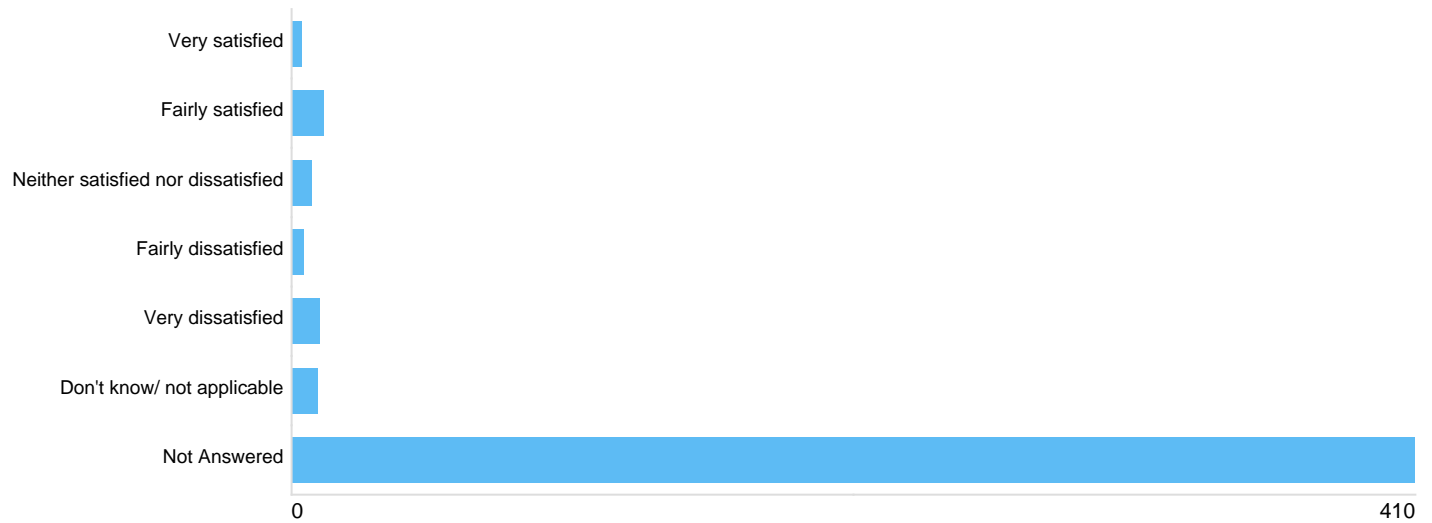
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Foodies: Any other comments

There were **38** responses to this part of the question.

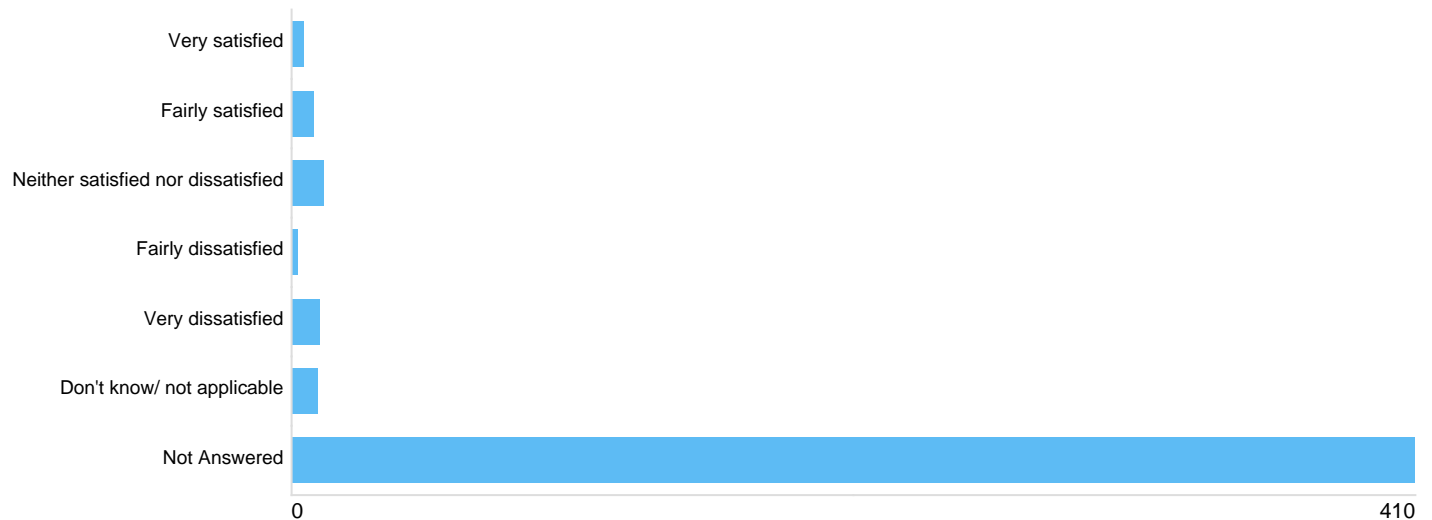
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Festival Fun Fair: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



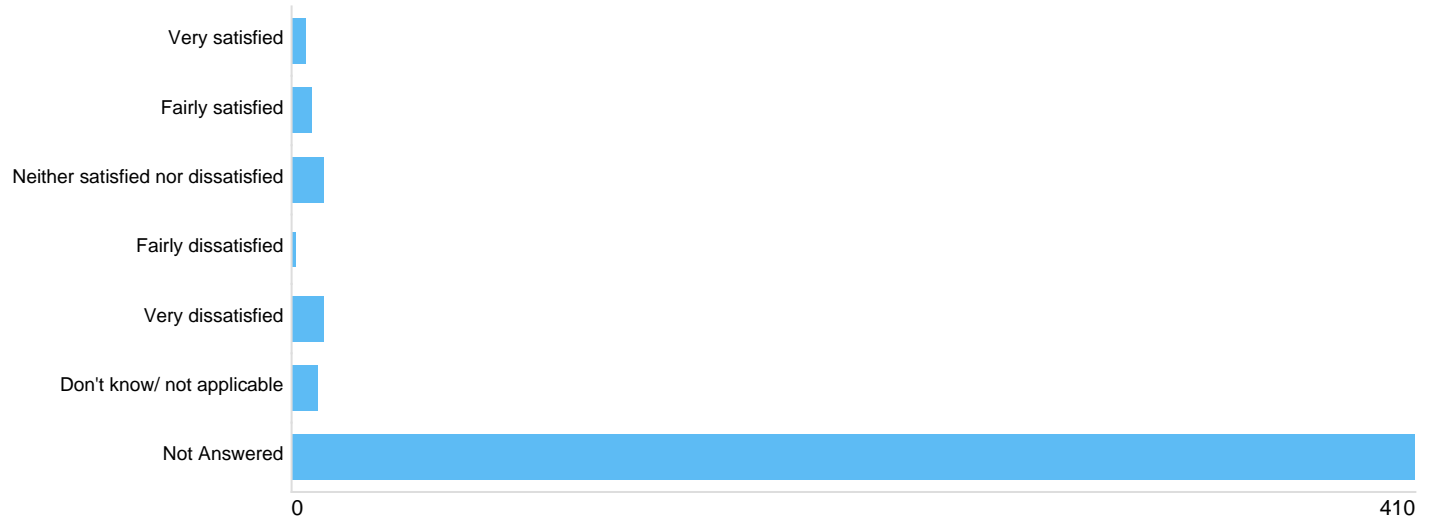
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	3	0.66%
Fairly satisfied	11	2.42%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Very dissatisfied	10	2.20%
Don't know/ not applicable	9	1.98%
Not Answered	410	90.31%

Festival Fun Fair: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



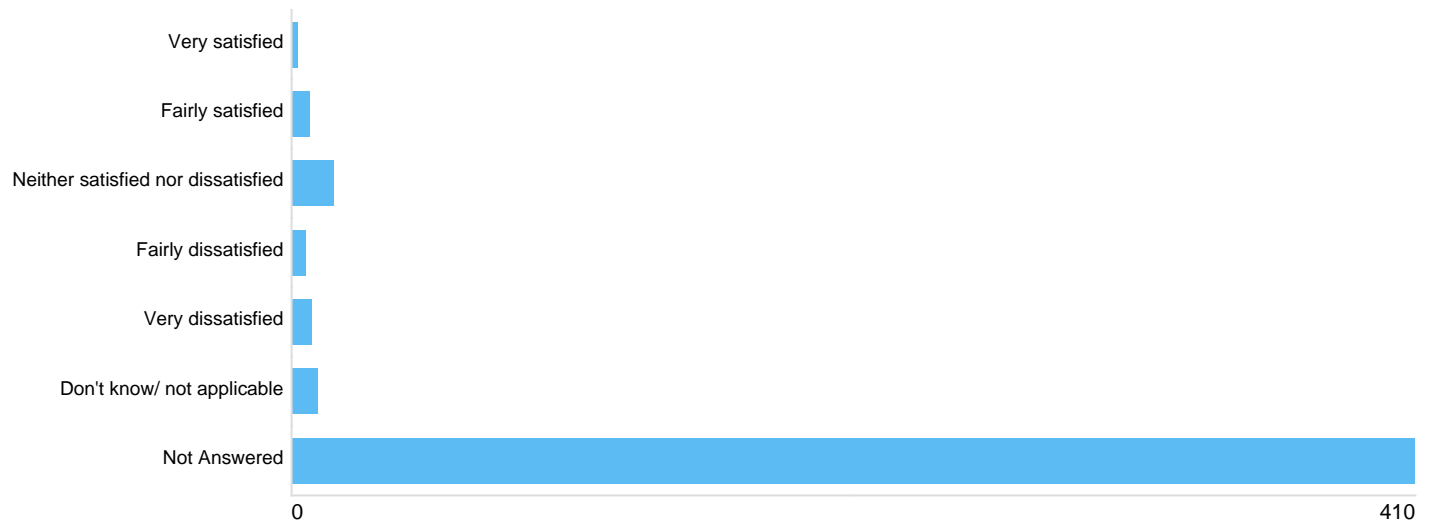
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly satisfied	8	1.76%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	11	2.42%
Fairly dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Very dissatisfied	10	2.20%
Don't know/ not applicable	9	1.98%
Not Answered	410	90.31%

Festival Fun Fair: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



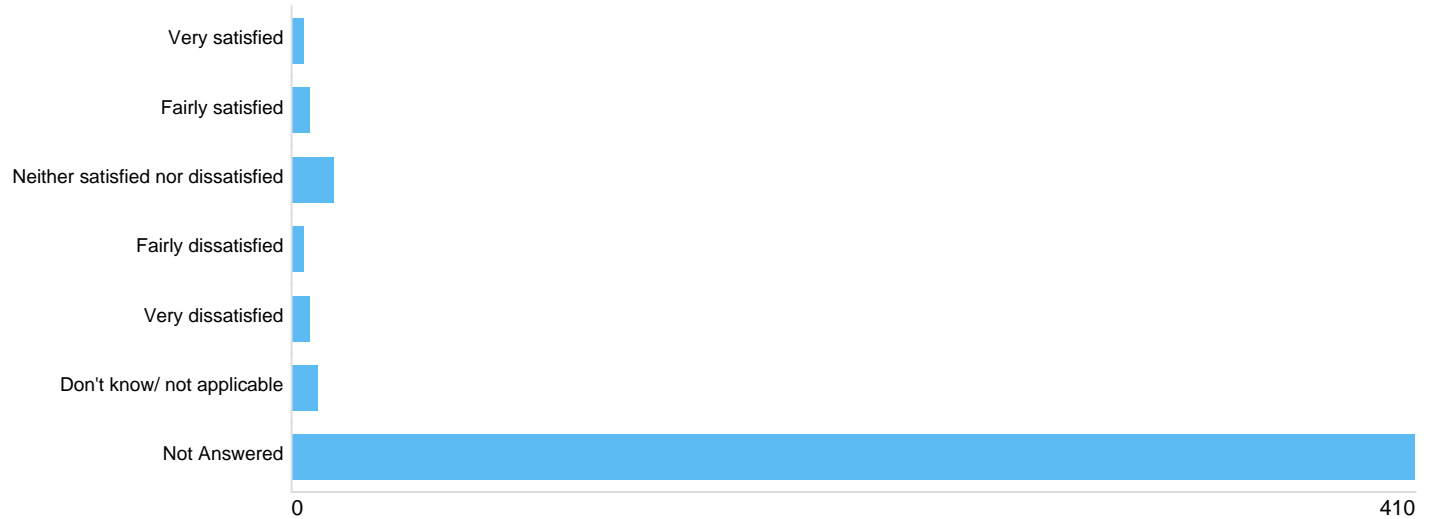
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	5	1.10%
Fairly satisfied	7	1.54%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	11	2.42%
Fairly dissatisfied	1	0.22%
Very dissatisfied	11	2.42%
Don't know/ not applicable	9	1.98%
Not Answered	410	90.31%

Festival Fun Fair: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	2	0.44%
Fairly satisfied	6	1.32%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	15	3.30%
Fairly dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Very dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Don't know/ not applicable	9	1.98%
Not Answered	410	90.31%

Festival Fun Fair: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly satisfied	6	1.32%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	15	3.30%
Fairly dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Very dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Don't know/ not applicable	9	1.98%
Not Answered	410	90.31%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Festival Fun Fair: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	2	0.44%
Too long a period of time	17	3.74%
Just about the right amount of time	22	4.85%
Not Answered	413	90.97%

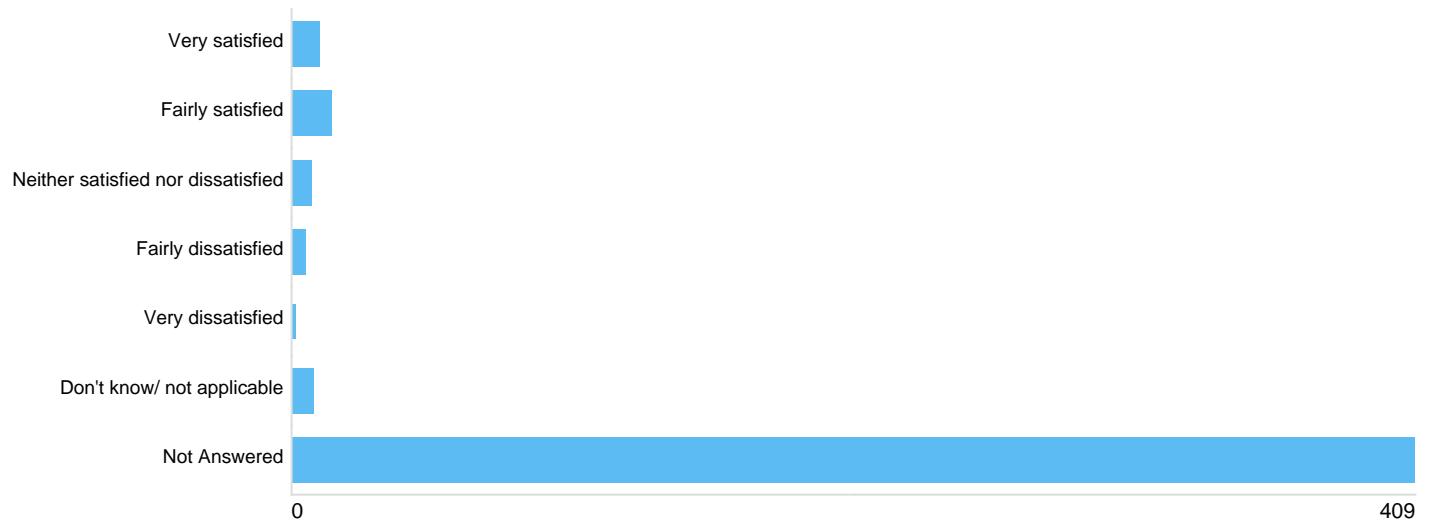
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Festival Fun Fair: Any other comments

There were 23 responses to this part of the question.

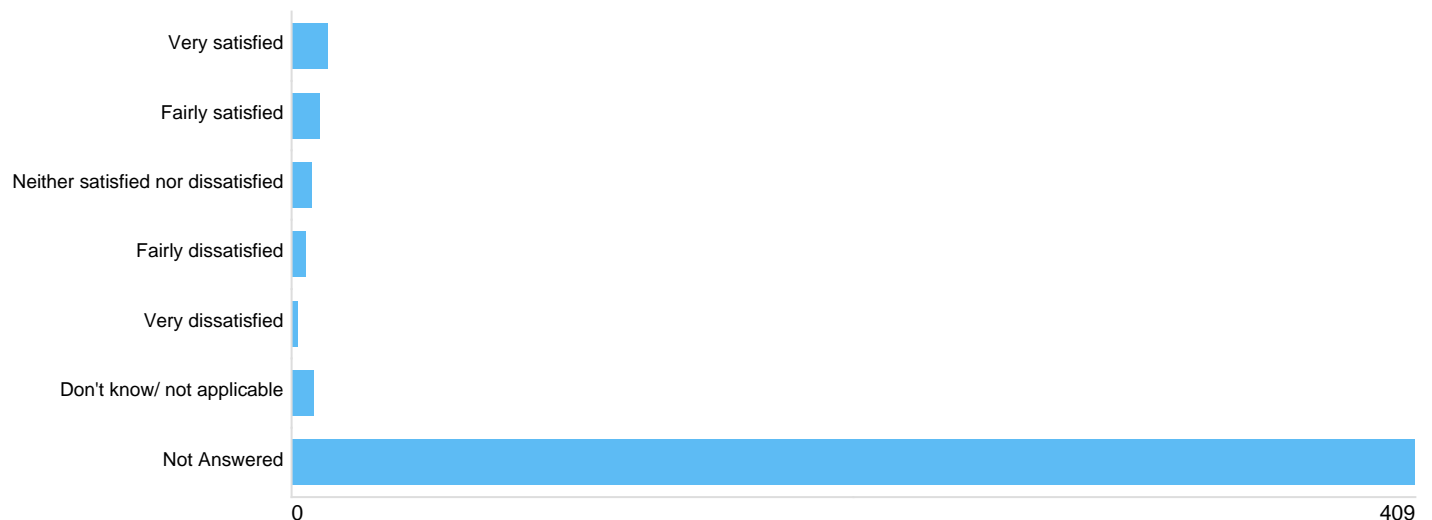
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Festival Gala Day: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



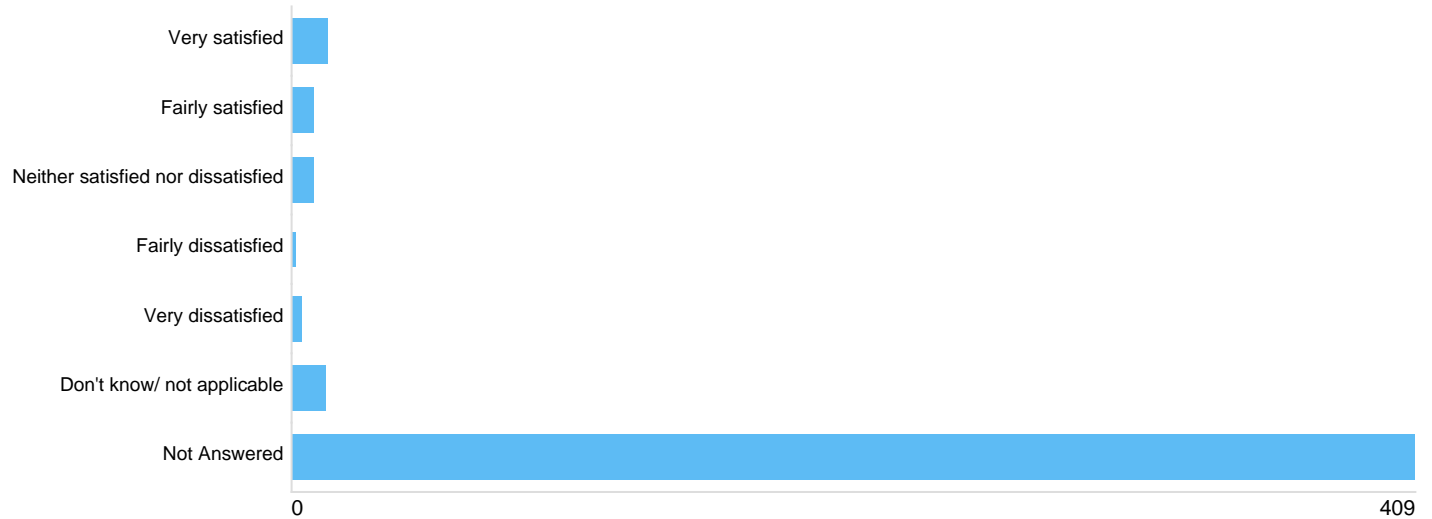
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	10	2.20%
Fairly satisfied	14	3.08%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Very dissatisfied	1	0.22%
Don't know/ not applicable	8	1.76%
Not Answered	409	90.09%

Festival Gala Day: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



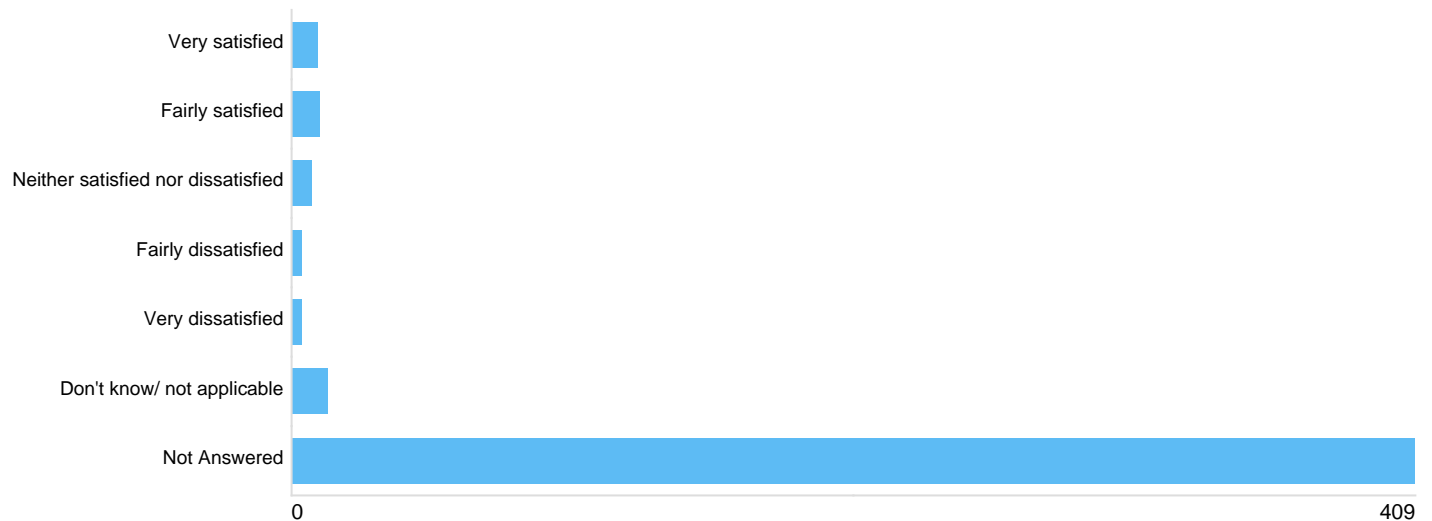
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	13	2.86%
Fairly satisfied	10	2.20%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Very dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Don't know/ not applicable	8	1.76%
Not Answered	409	90.09%

Festival Gala Day: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



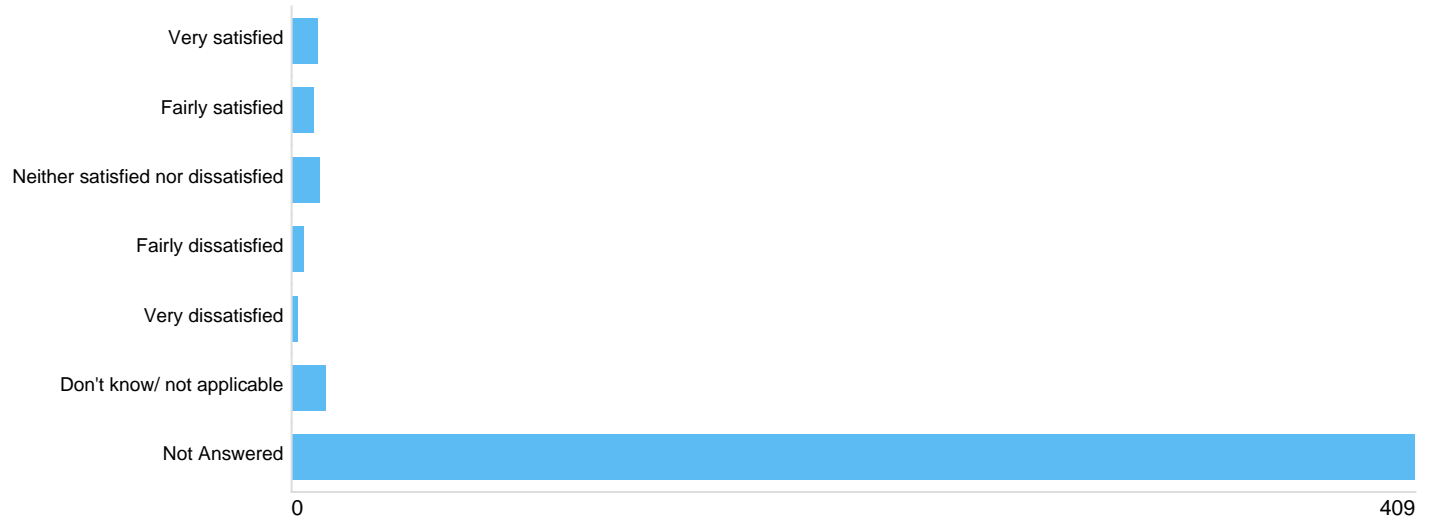
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	13	2.86%
Fairly satisfied	8	1.76%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Fairly dissatisfied	1	0.22%
Very dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Don't know/ not applicable	12	2.64%
Not Answered	409	90.09%

Festival Gala Day: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	9	1.98%
Fairly satisfied	10	2.20%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Very dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Don't know/ not applicable	13	2.86%
Not Answered	409	90.09%

Festival Gala Day: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	9	1.98%
Fairly satisfied	8	1.76%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	10	2.20%
Fairly dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Very dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Don't know/ not applicable	12	2.64%
Not Answered	409	90.09%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Festival Gala Day: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	2	0.44%
Too long a period of time	5	1.10%
Just about the right amount of time	35	7.71%
Not Answered	412	90.75%

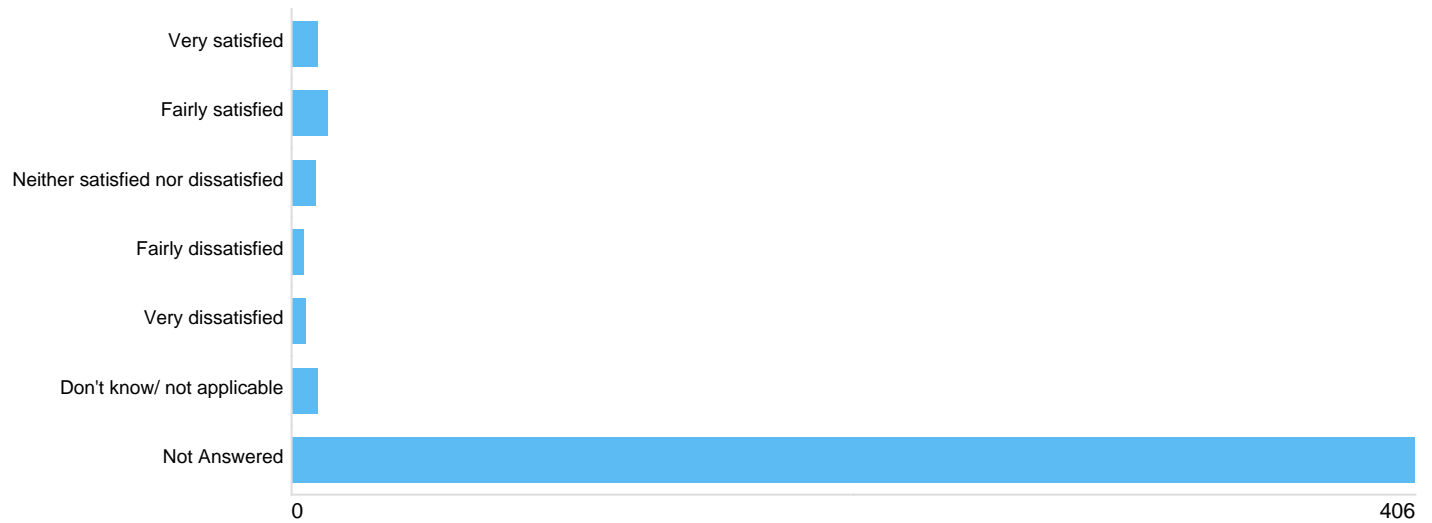
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Festival Gala Day: Any other comments

There were **22** responses to this part of the question.

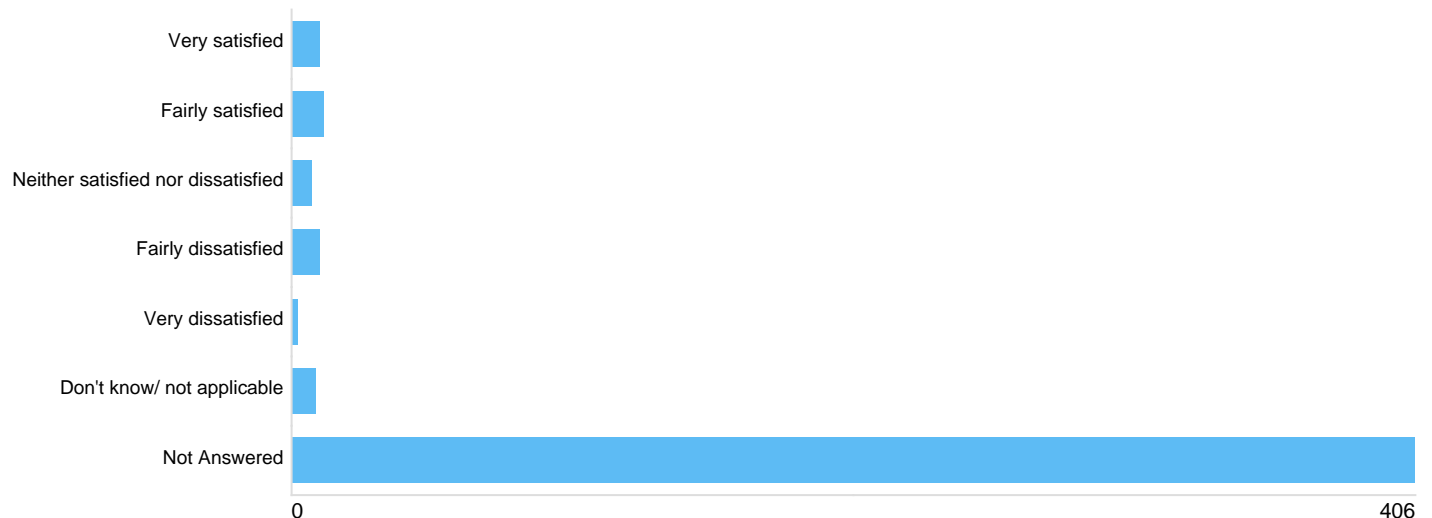
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Mela: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



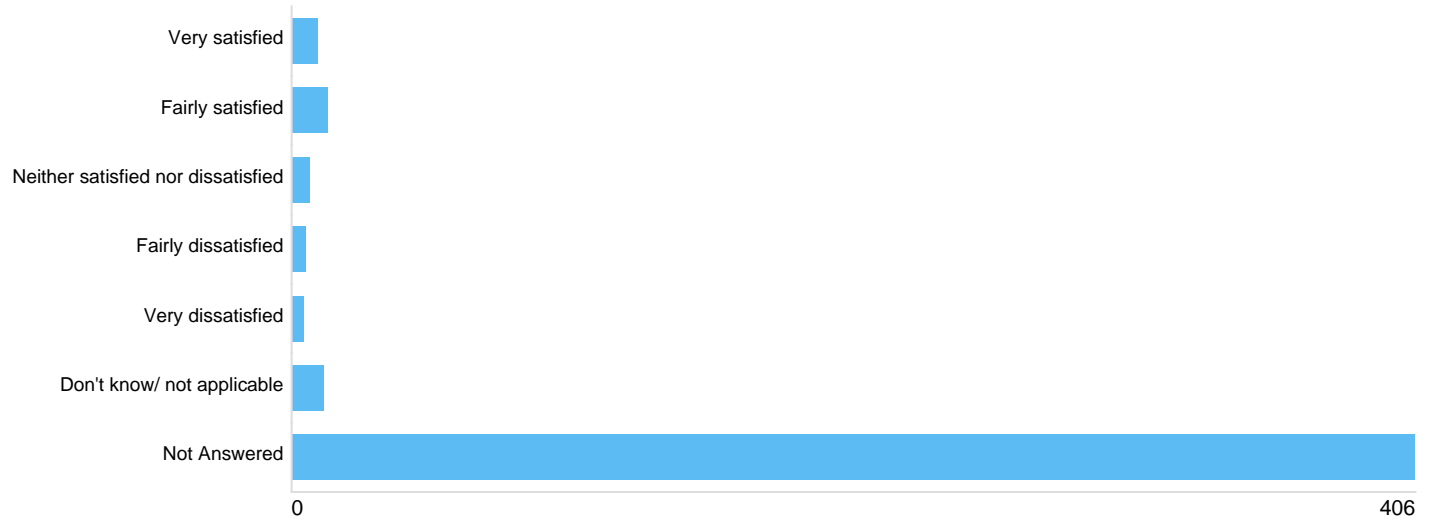
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	9	1.98%
Fairly satisfied	13	2.86%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Fairly dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Very dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Don't know/ not applicable	9	1.98%
Not Answered	406	89.43%

Mela: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



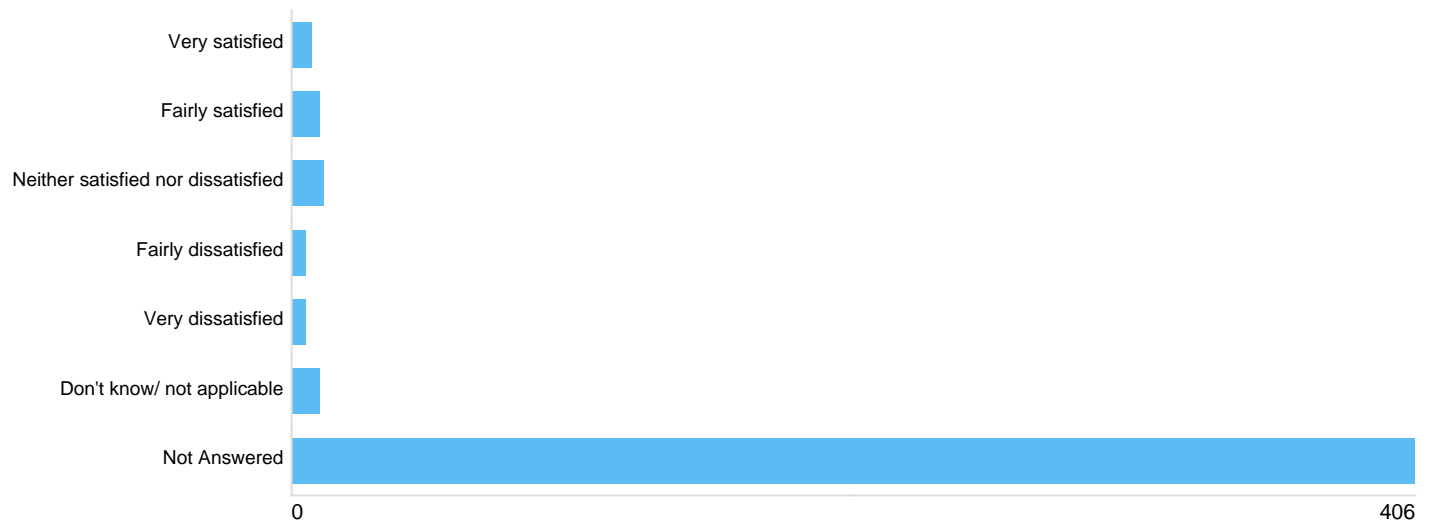
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	10	2.20%
Fairly satisfied	11	2.42%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly dissatisfied	10	2.20%
Very dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Don't know/ not applicable	8	1.76%
Not Answered	406	89.43%

Mela: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



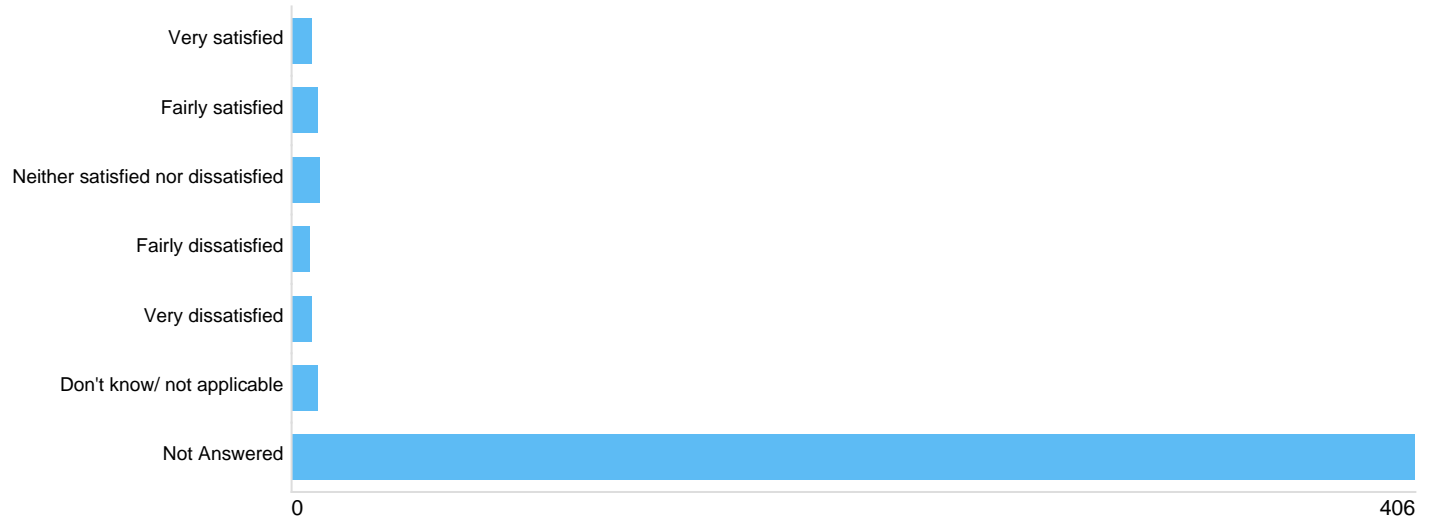
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	9	1.98%
Fairly satisfied	13	2.86%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Fairly dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Very dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Don't know/ not applicable	11	2.42%
Not Answered	406	89.43%

Mela: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly satisfied	10	2.20%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	11	2.42%
Fairly dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Very dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Don't know/ not applicable	10	2.20%
Not Answered	406	89.43%

Mela: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly satisfied	9	1.98%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	10	2.20%
Fairly dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Very dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Don't know/ not applicable	9	1.98%
Not Answered	406	89.43%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Mela: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	2	0.44%
Too long a period of time	10	2.20%
Just about the right amount of time	33	7.27%
Not Answered	409	90.09%

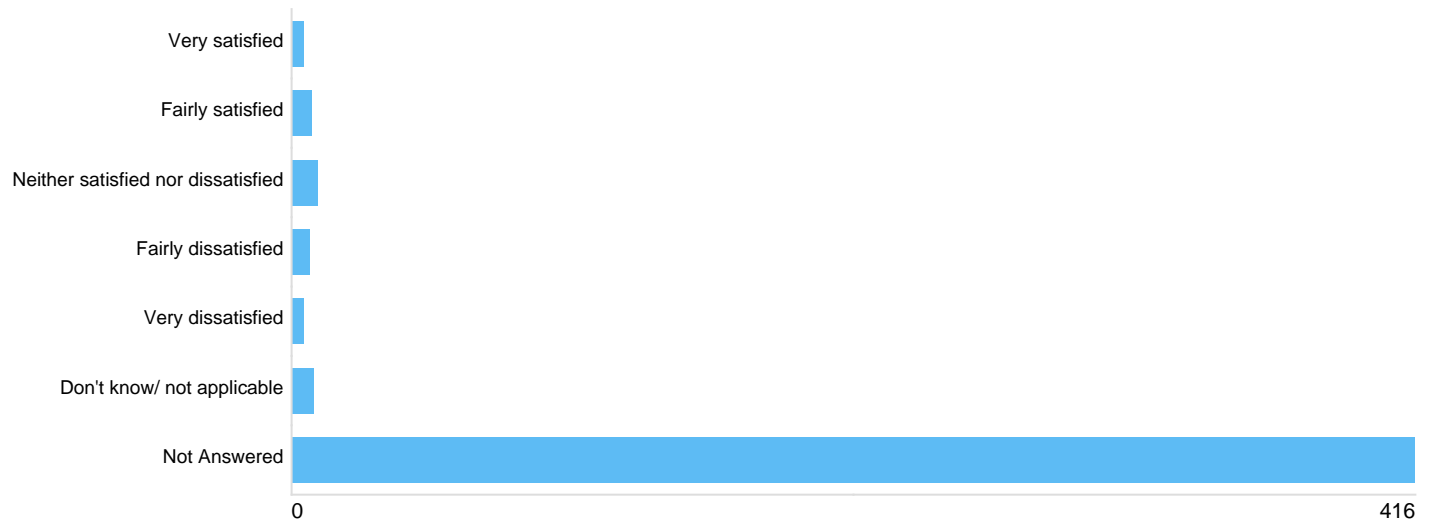
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Mela: Any other comments

There were 27 responses to this part of the question.

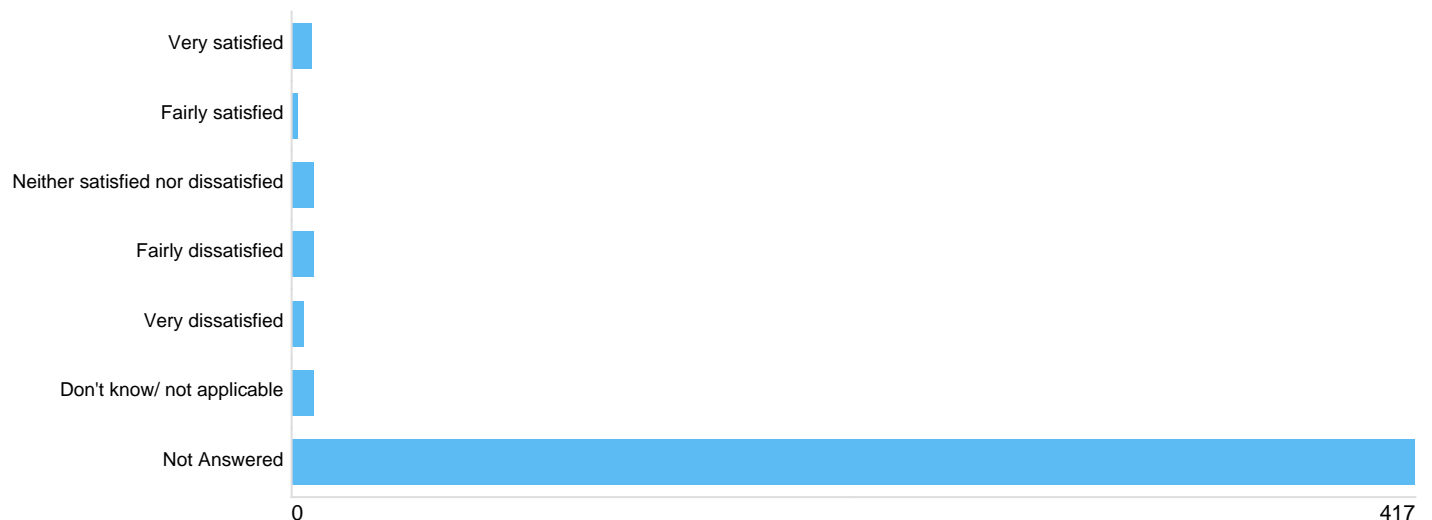
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Gung Ho: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



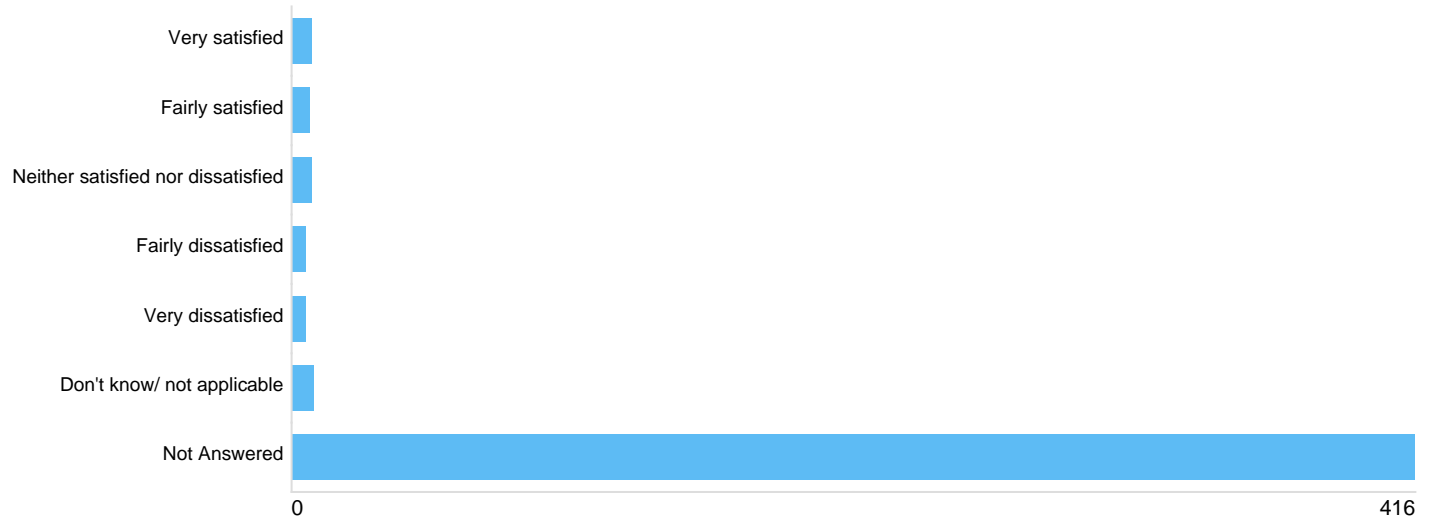
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly satisfied	7	1.54%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	9	1.98%
Fairly dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Very dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Don't know/ not applicable	8	1.76%
Not Answered	416	91.63%

Gung Ho: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



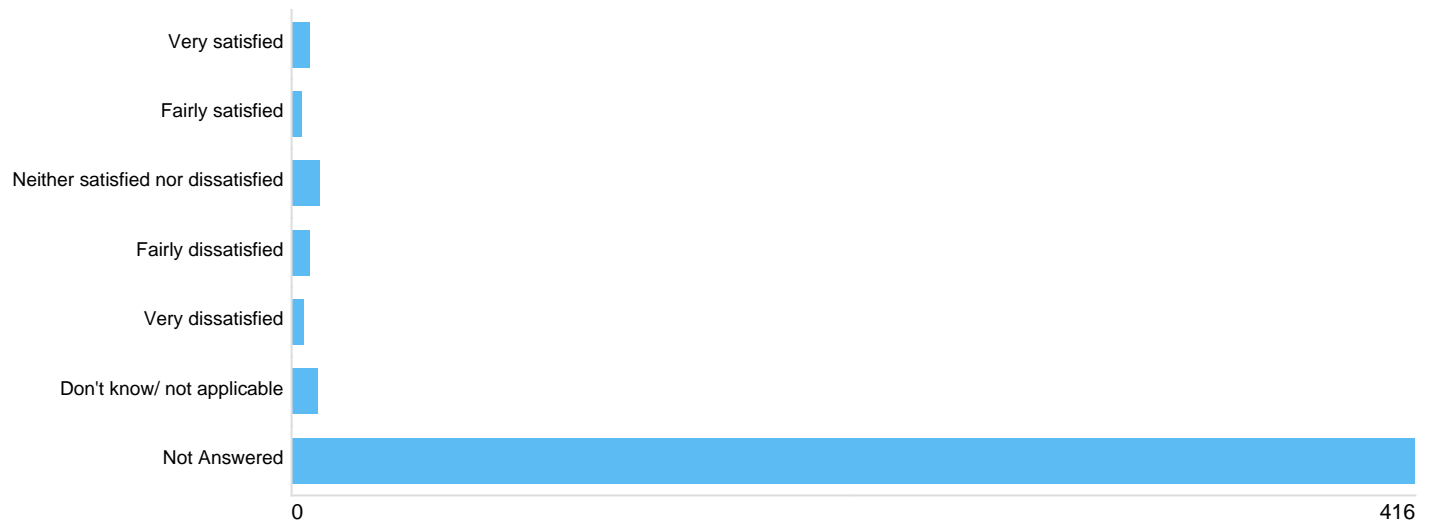
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly satisfied	2	0.44%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Fairly dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Very dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Don't know/ not applicable	8	1.76%
Not Answered	417	91.85%

Gung Ho: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



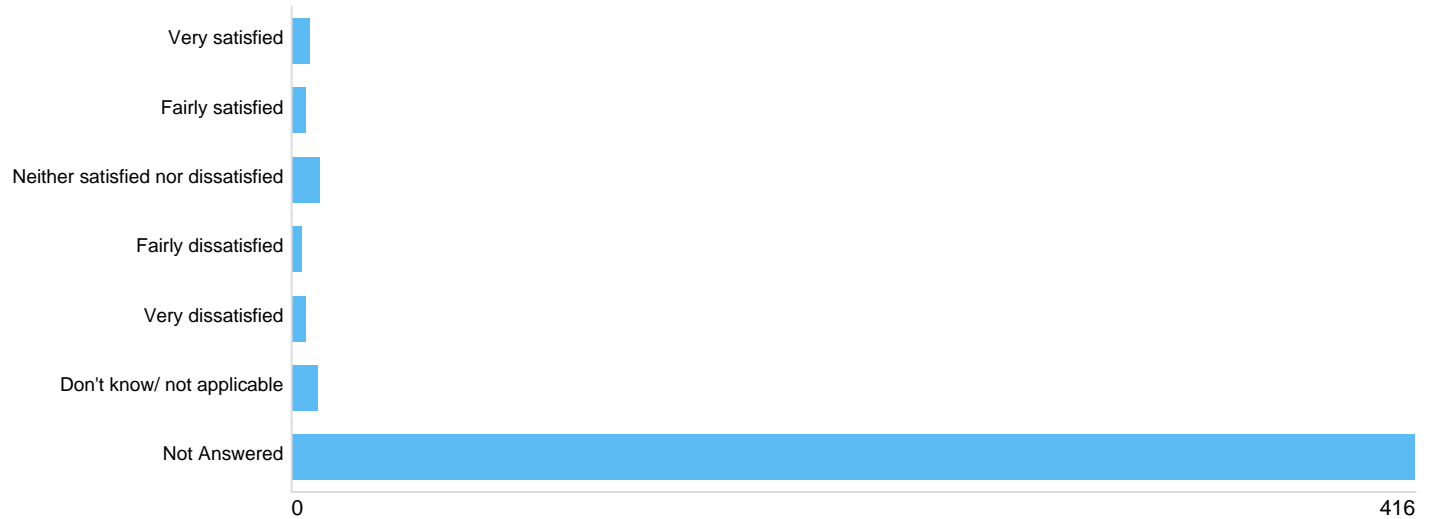
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly satisfied	6	1.32%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Very dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Don't know/ not applicable	8	1.76%
Not Answered	416	91.63%

Gung Ho: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	6	1.32%
Fairly satisfied	3	0.66%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	10	2.20%
Fairly dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Very dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Don't know/ not applicable	9	1.98%
Not Answered	416	91.63%

Gung Ho: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	6	1.32%
Fairly satisfied	5	1.10%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	10	2.20%
Fairly dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Very dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Don't know/ not applicable	9	1.98%
Not Answered	416	91.63%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Gung Ho: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	1	0.22%
Too long a period of time	12	2.64%
Just about the right amount of time	21	4.63%
Not Answered	420	92.51%

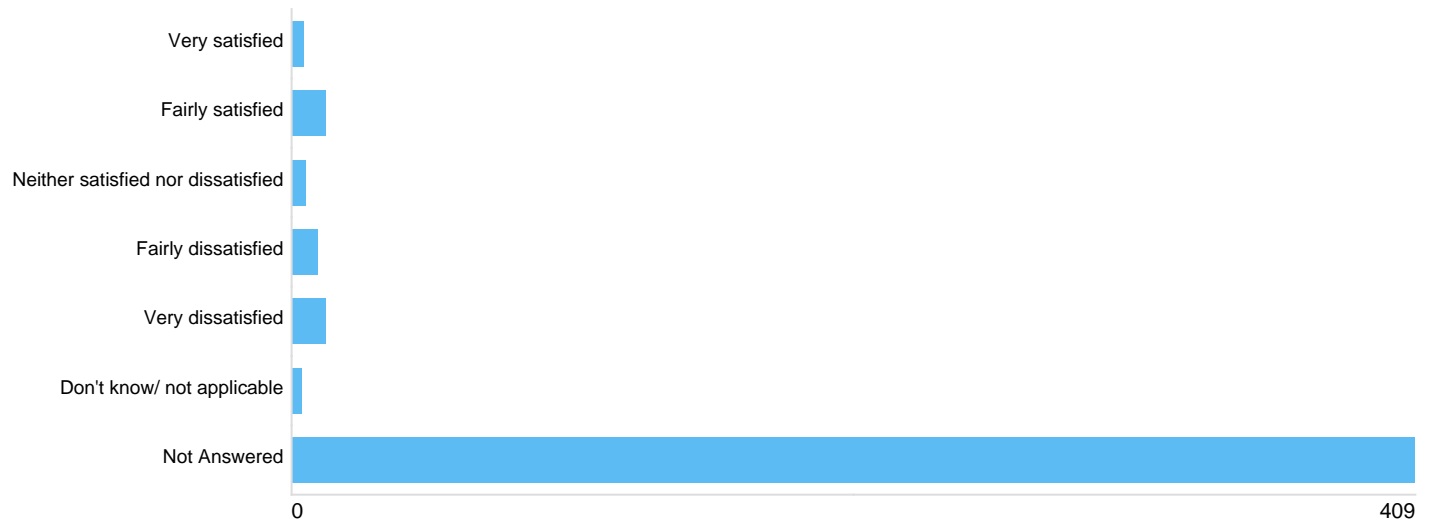
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Gung Ho: Any other comments

There were 16 responses to this part of the question.

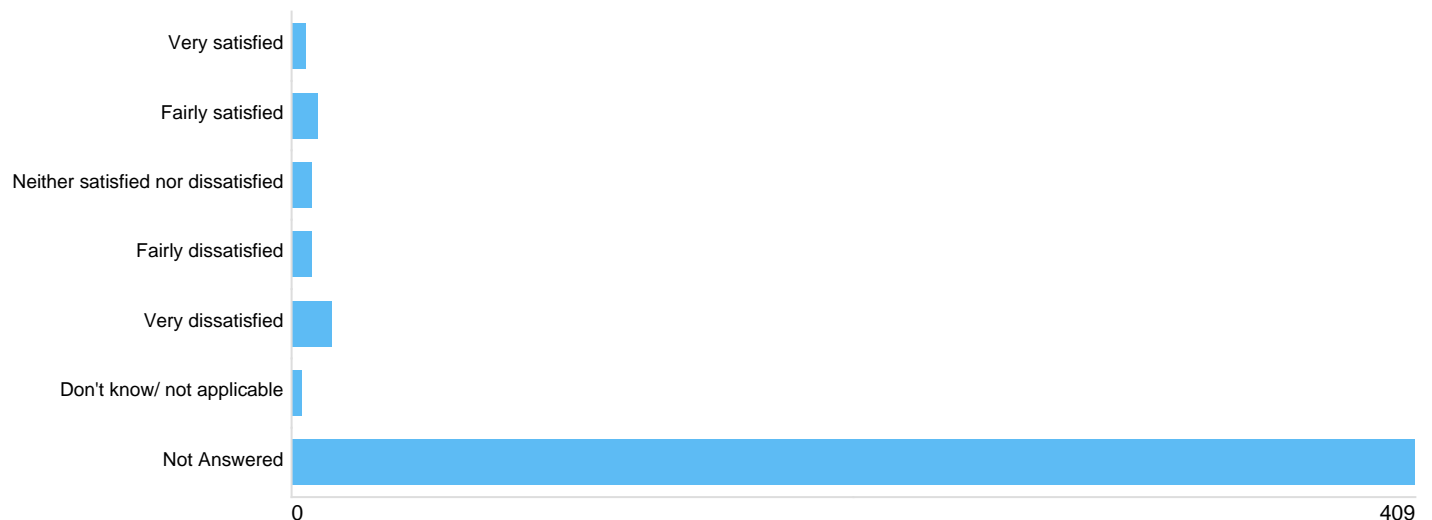
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

The Meadows, Annual Festival Fun Fair: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



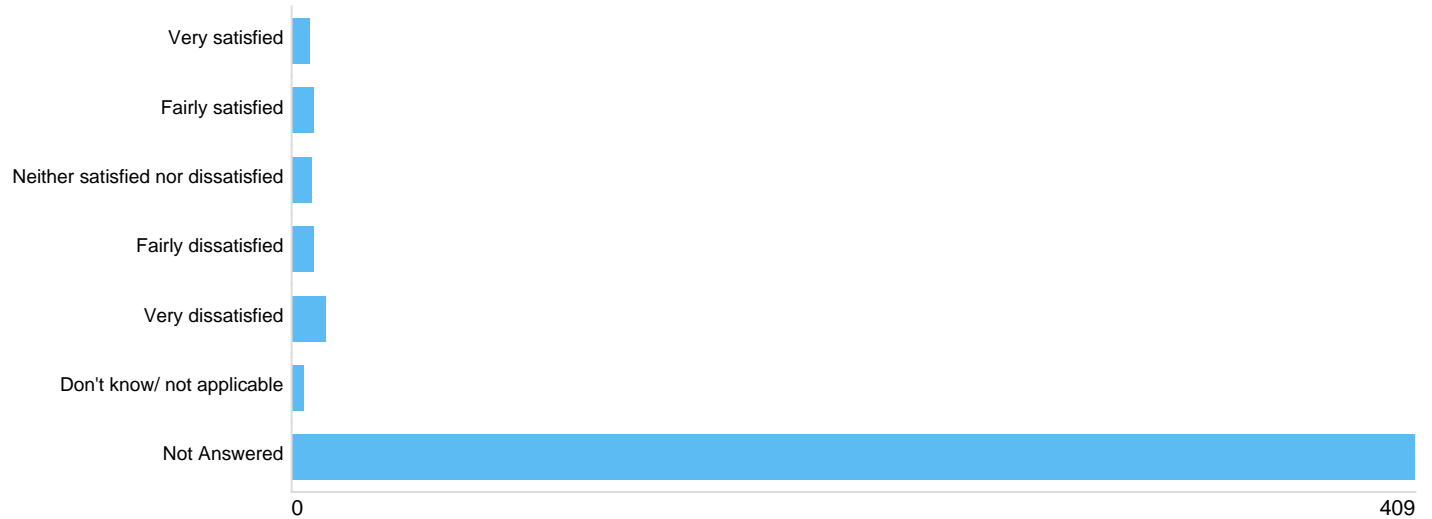
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly satisfied	12	2.64%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Fairly dissatisfied	9	1.98%
Very dissatisfied	12	2.64%
Don't know/ not applicable	3	0.66%
Not Answered	409	90.09%

The Meadows, Annual Festival Fun Fair: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



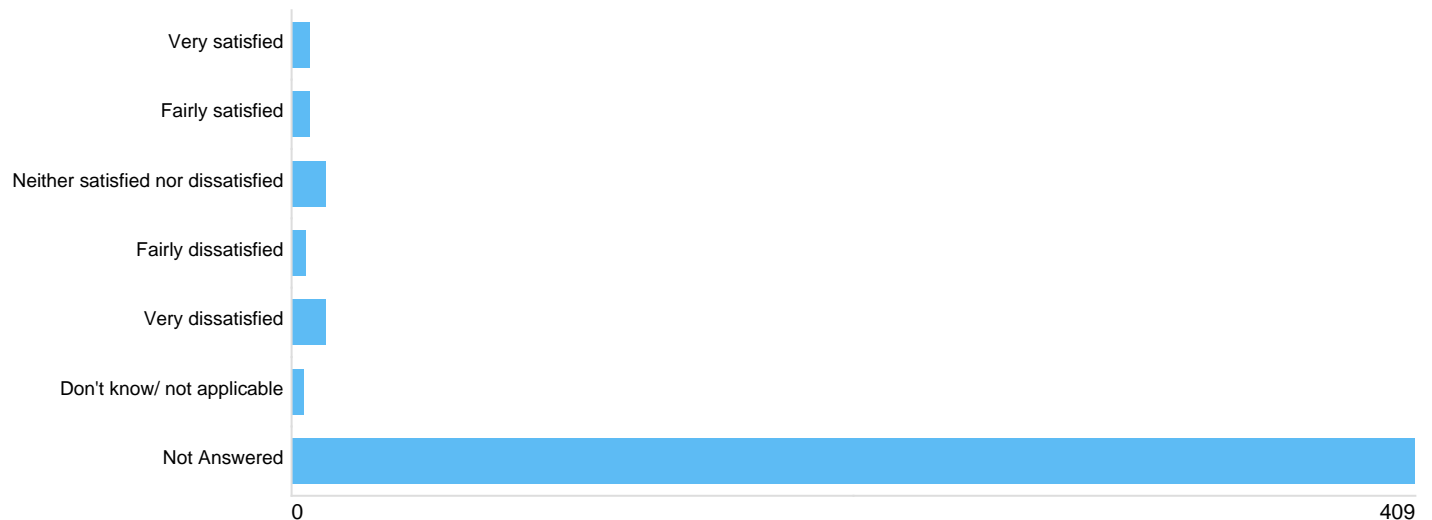
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	5	1.10%
Fairly satisfied	9	1.98%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Very dissatisfied	14	3.08%
Don't know/ not applicable	3	0.66%
Not Answered	409	90.09%

The Meadows, Annual Festival Fun Fair: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



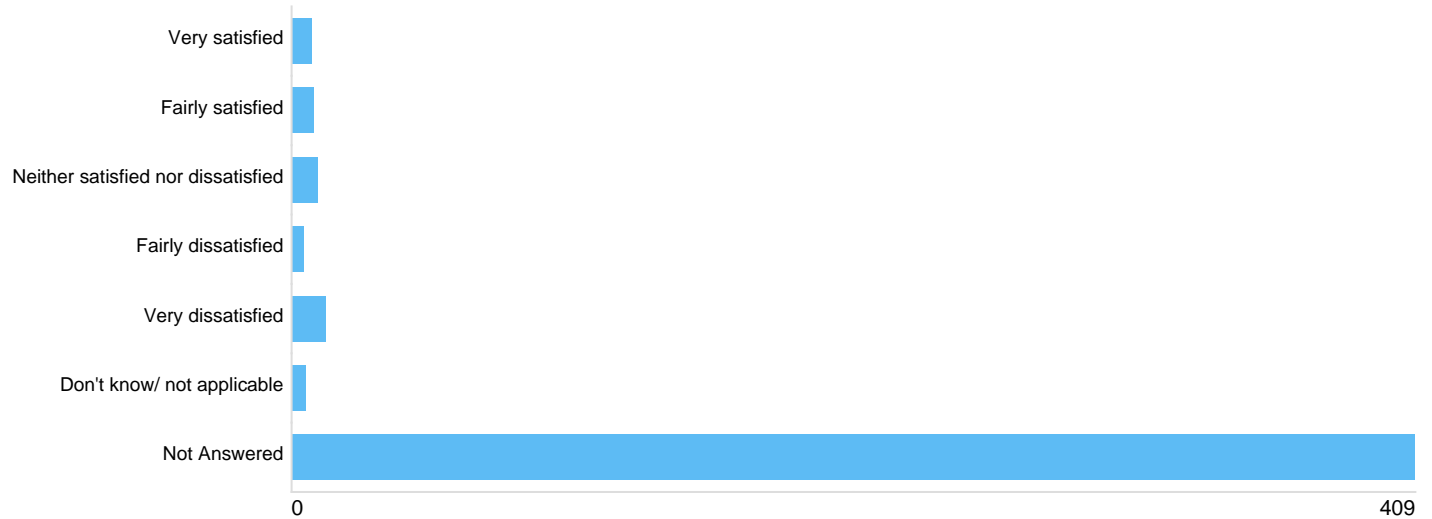
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	6	1.32%
Fairly satisfied	8	1.76%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Very dissatisfied	12	2.64%
Don't know/ not applicable	4	0.88%
Not Answered	409	90.09%

The Meadows, Annual Festival Fun Fair: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	6	1.32%
Fairly satisfied	6	1.32%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	12	2.64%
Fairly dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Very dissatisfied	12	2.64%
Don't know/ not applicable	4	0.88%
Not Answered	409	90.09%

The Meadows, Annual Festival Fun Fair: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly satisfied	8	1.76%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	9	1.98%
Fairly dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Very dissatisfied	12	2.64%
Don't know/ not applicable	5	1.10%
Not Answered	409	90.09%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

The Meadows, Annual Festival Fun Fair: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	3	0.66%
Too long a period of time	22	4.85%
Just about the right amount of time	18	3.96%
Not Answered	411	90.53%

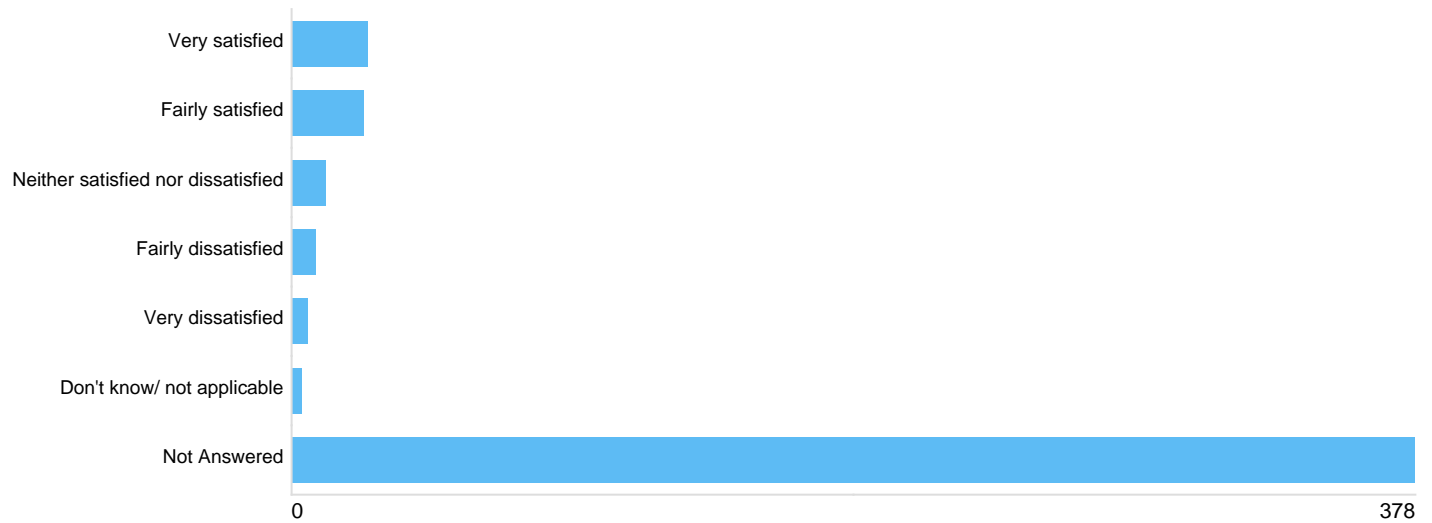
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

The Meadows, Annual Festival Fun Fair: Any other comments

There were 25 responses to this part of the question.

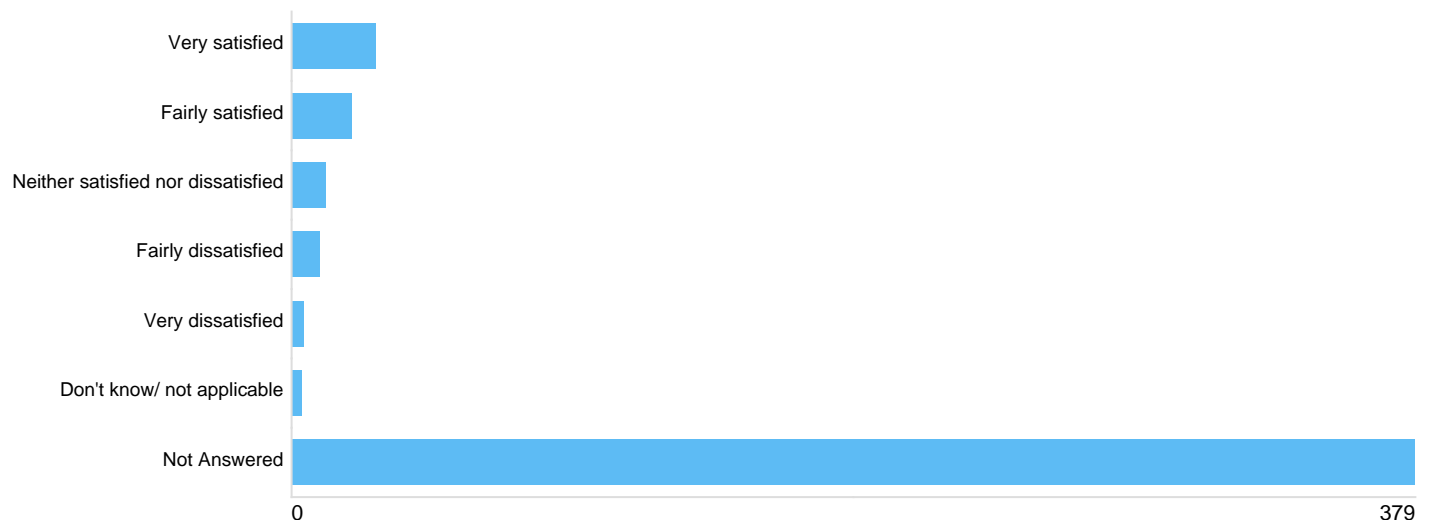
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Meadows Festival: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



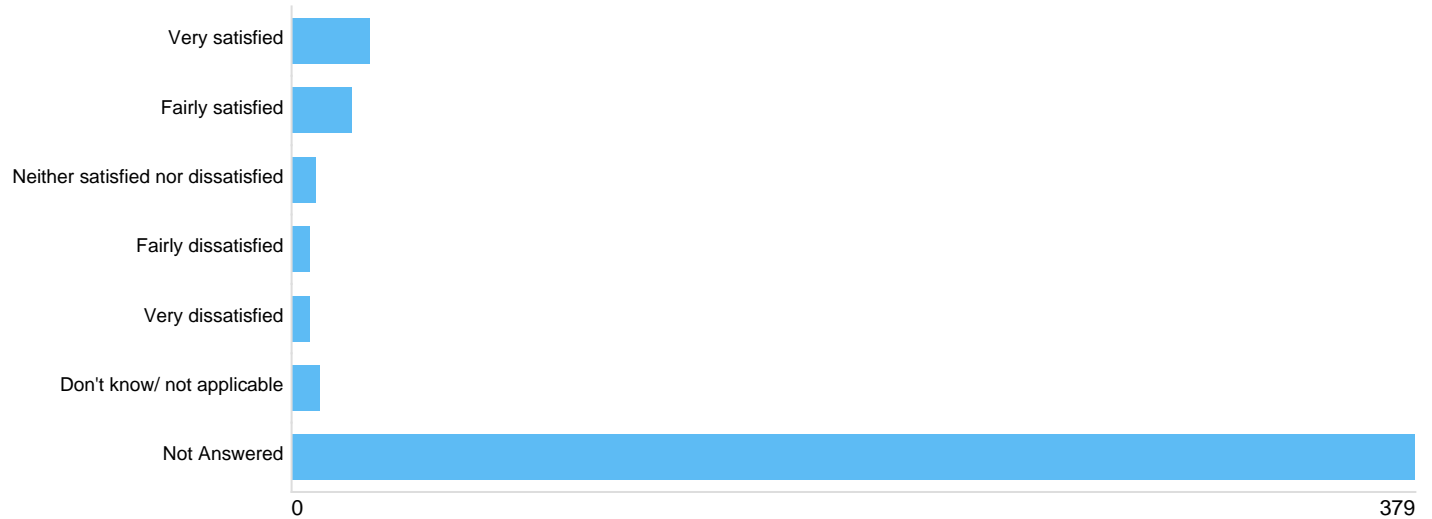
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	25	5.51%
Fairly satisfied	24	5.29%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	11	2.42%
Fairly dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Very dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Don't know/ not applicable	3	0.66%
Not Answered	378	83.26%

Meadows Festival: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



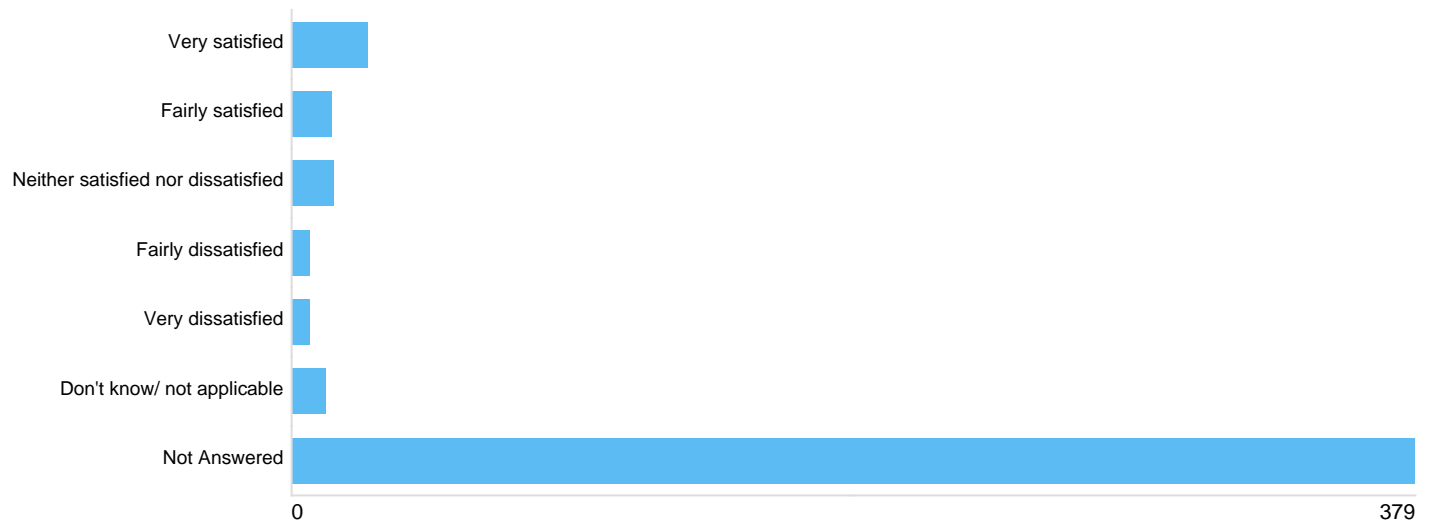
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	28	6.17%
Fairly satisfied	20	4.41%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	11	2.42%
Fairly dissatisfied	9	1.98%
Very dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Don't know/ not applicable	3	0.66%
Not Answered	379	83.48%

Meadows Festival: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



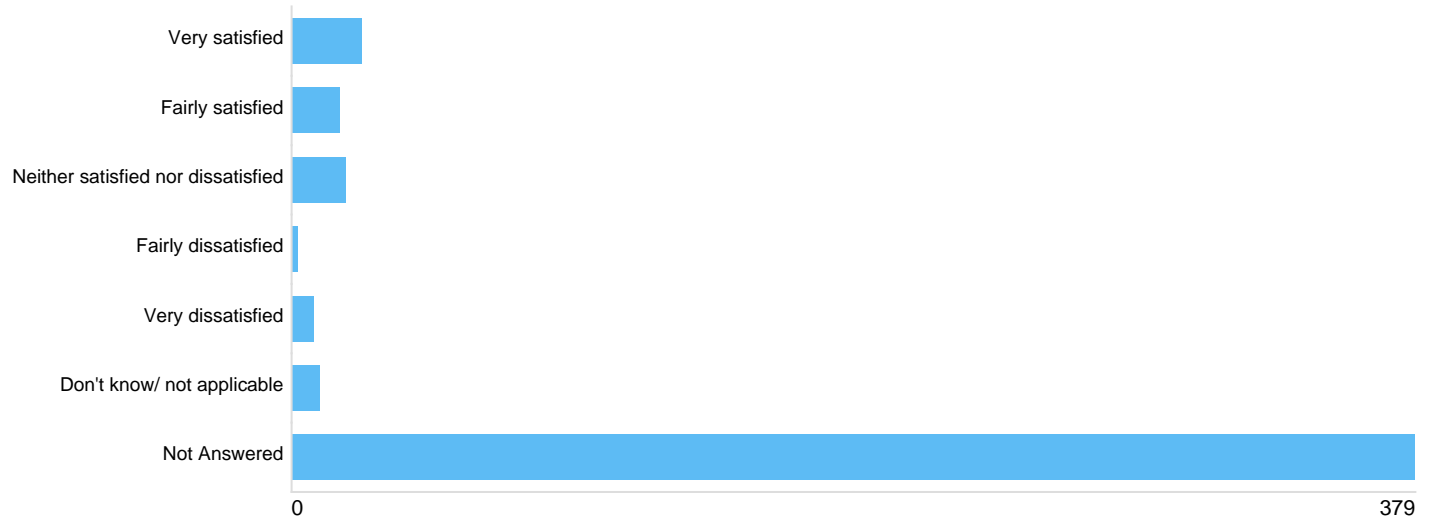
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	26	5.73%
Fairly satisfied	20	4.41%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Fairly dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Very dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Don't know/ not applicable	9	1.98%
Not Answered	379	83.48%

Meadows Festival: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	25	5.51%
Fairly satisfied	13	2.86%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	14	3.08%
Fairly dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Very dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Don't know/ not applicable	11	2.42%
Not Answered	379	83.48%

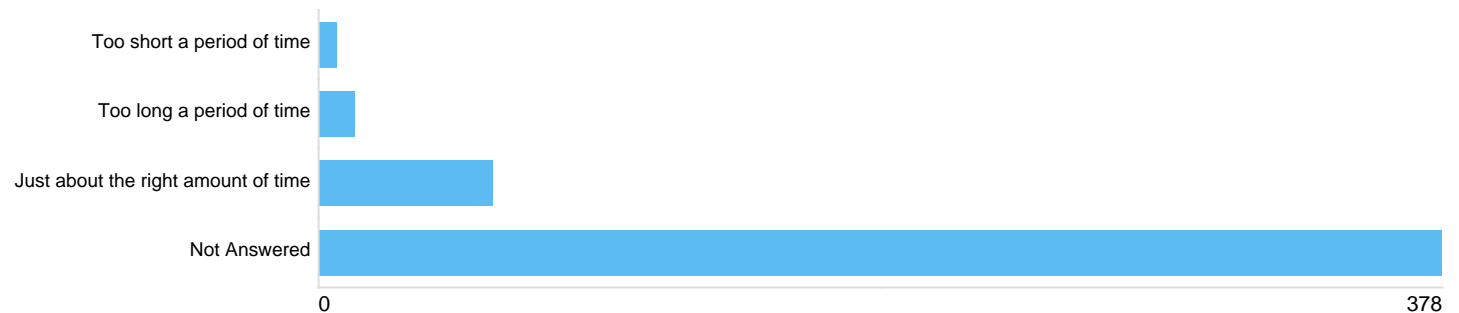
Meadows Festival: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	23	5.07%
Fairly satisfied	16	3.52%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	18	3.96%
Fairly dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Very dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Don't know/ not applicable	9	1.98%
Not Answered	379	83.48%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Meadows Festival: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	6	1.32%
Too long a period of time	12	2.64%
Just about the right amount of time	58	12.78%
Not Answered	378	83.26%

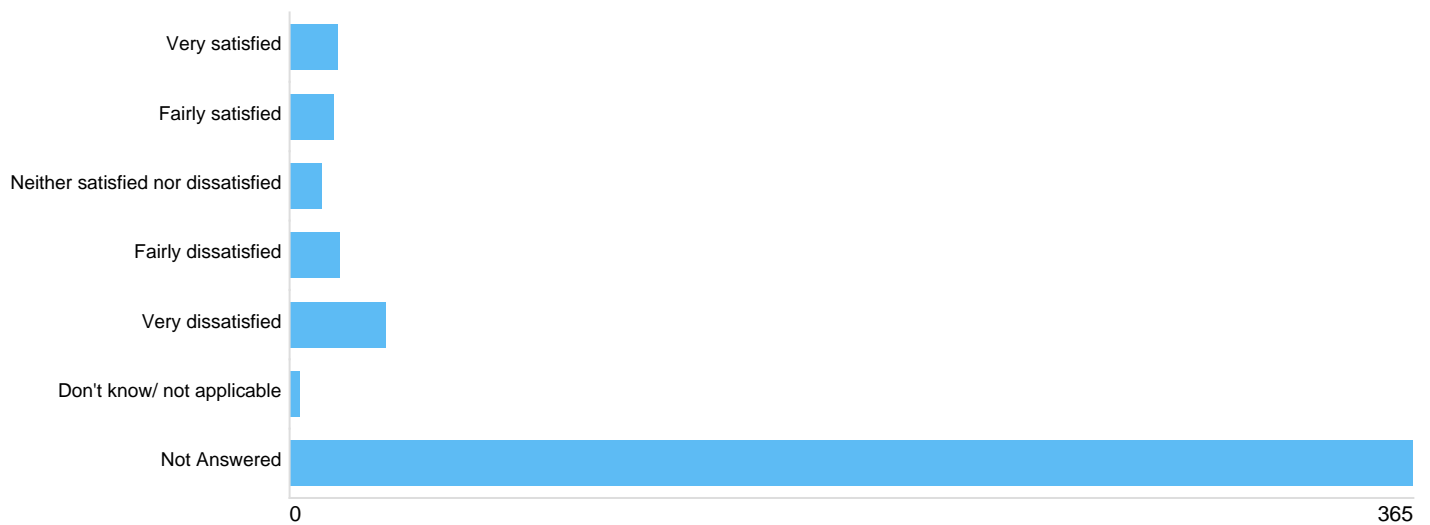
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Meadows Festival: Any other comments

There were 43 responses to this part of the question.

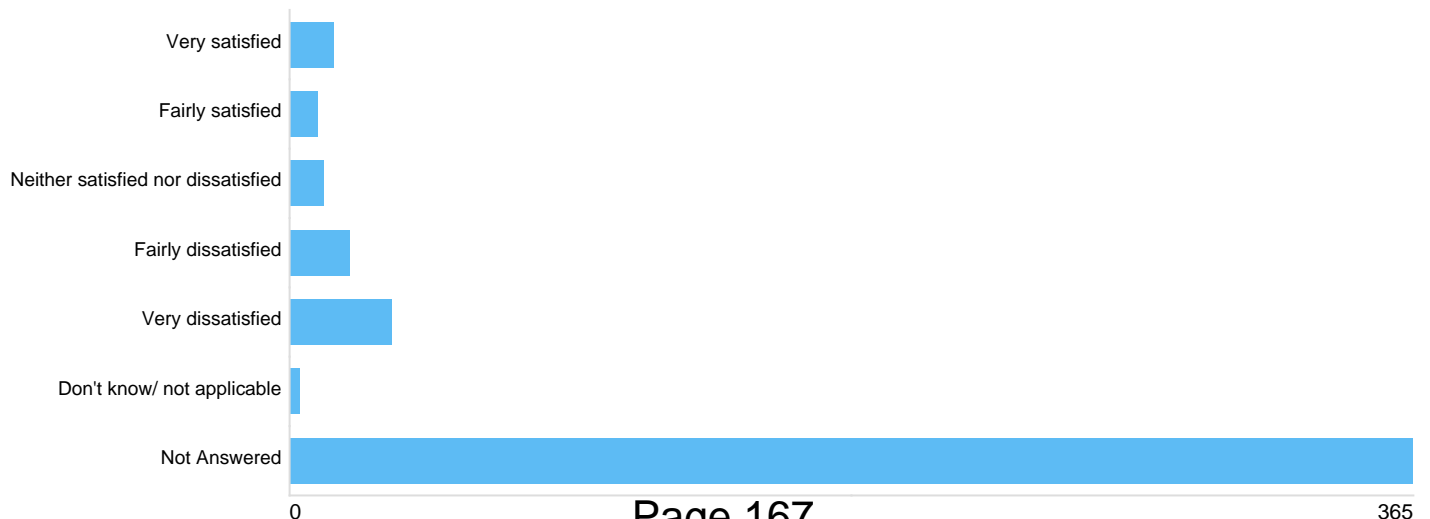
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

The Meadows, Fringe Festival Event, Underbelly Circus Hub: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



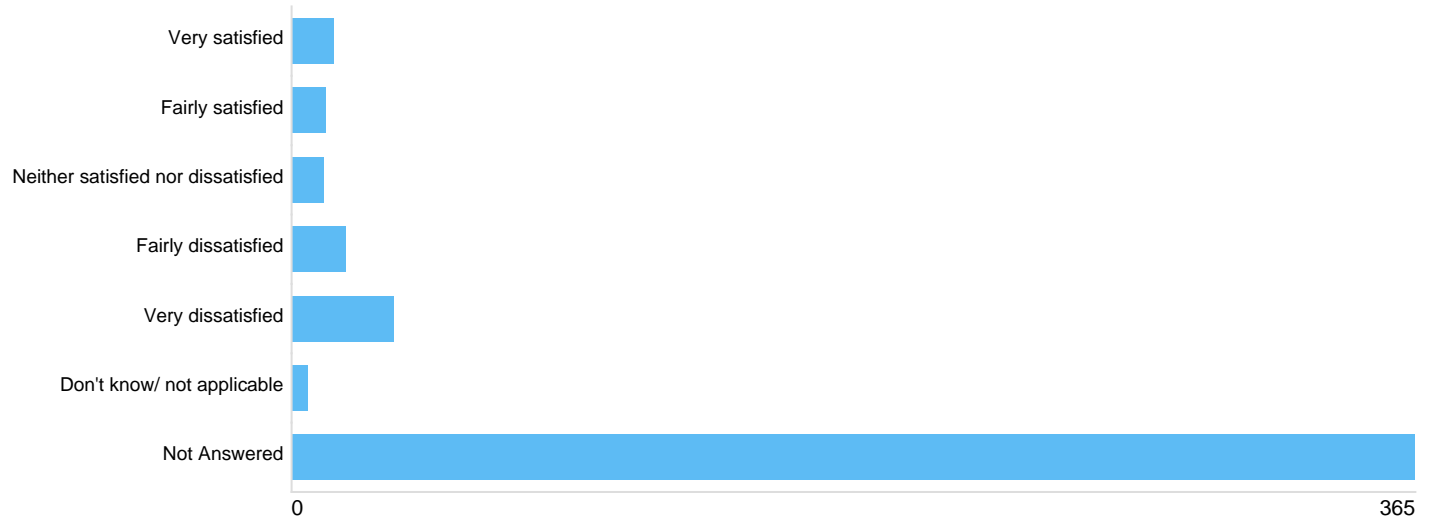
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	15	3.30%
Fairly satisfied	14	3.08%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	10	2.20%
Fairly dissatisfied	16	3.52%
Very dissatisfied	31	6.83%
Don't know/ not applicable	3	0.66%
Not Answered	365	80.40%

The Meadows, Fringe Festival Event, Underbelly Circus Hub: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



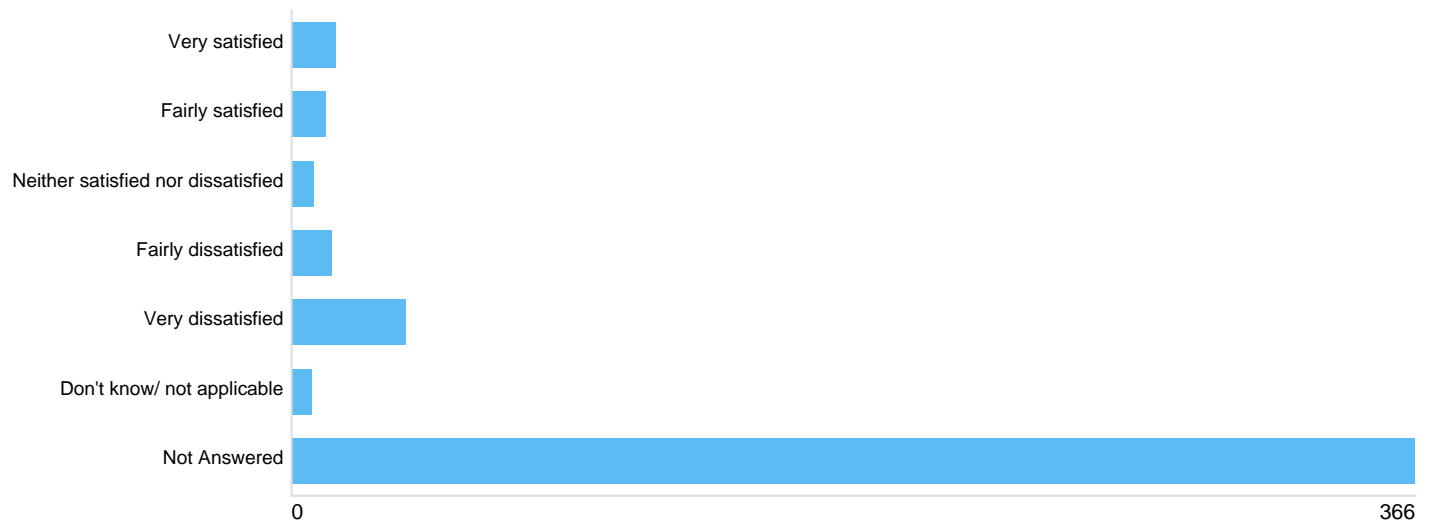
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	14	3.08%
Fairly satisfied	9	1.98%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	11	2.42%
Fairly dissatisfied	19	4.19%
Very dissatisfied	33	7.27%
Don't know/ not applicable	3	0.66%
Not Answered	365	80.40%

The Meadows, Fringe Festival Event, Underbelly Circus Hub: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



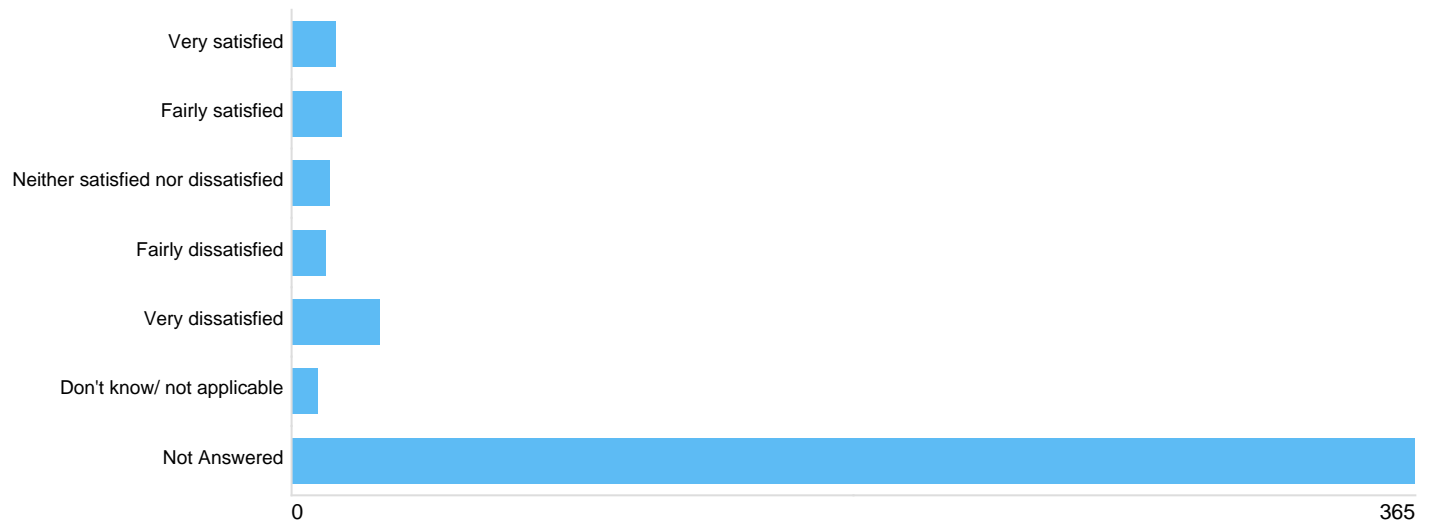
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	13	2.86%
Fairly satisfied	11	2.42%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	10	2.20%
Fairly dissatisfied	17	3.74%
Very dissatisfied	33	7.27%
Don't know/ not applicable	5	1.10%
Not Answered	365	80.40%

The Meadows, Fringe Festival Event, Underbelly Circus Hub: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	14	3.08%
Fairly satisfied	11	2.42%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly dissatisfied	13	2.86%
Very dissatisfied	37	8.15%
Don't know/ not applicable	6	1.32%
Not Answered	366	80.62%

The Meadows, Fringe Festival Event, Underbelly Circus Hub: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	14	3.08%
Fairly satisfied	16	3.52%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	12	2.64%
Fairly dissatisfied	11	2.42%
Very dissatisfied	28	6.17%
Don't know/ not applicable	8	1.76%
Not Answered	365	80.40%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

The Meadows, Fringe Festival Event, Underbelly Circus Hub: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	1	0.22%
Too long a period of time	60	13.22%
Just about the right amount of time	27	5.95%
Not Answered	366	80.62%

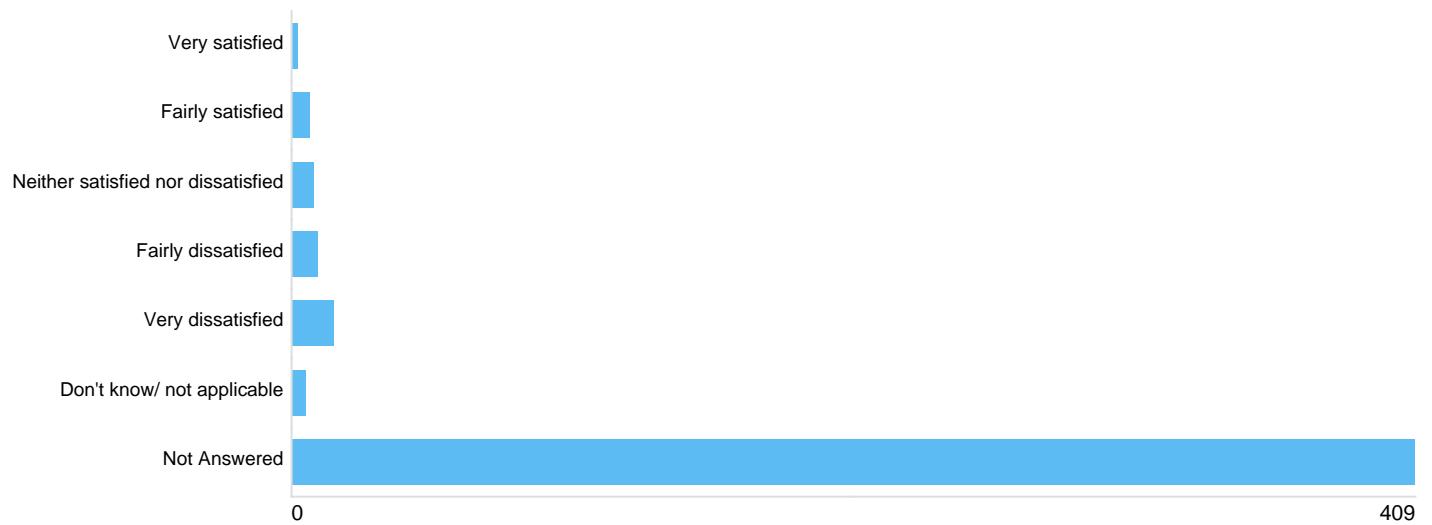
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

The Meadows, Fringe Festival Event, Underbelly Circus Hub: Any other comments

There were **54** responses to this part of the question.

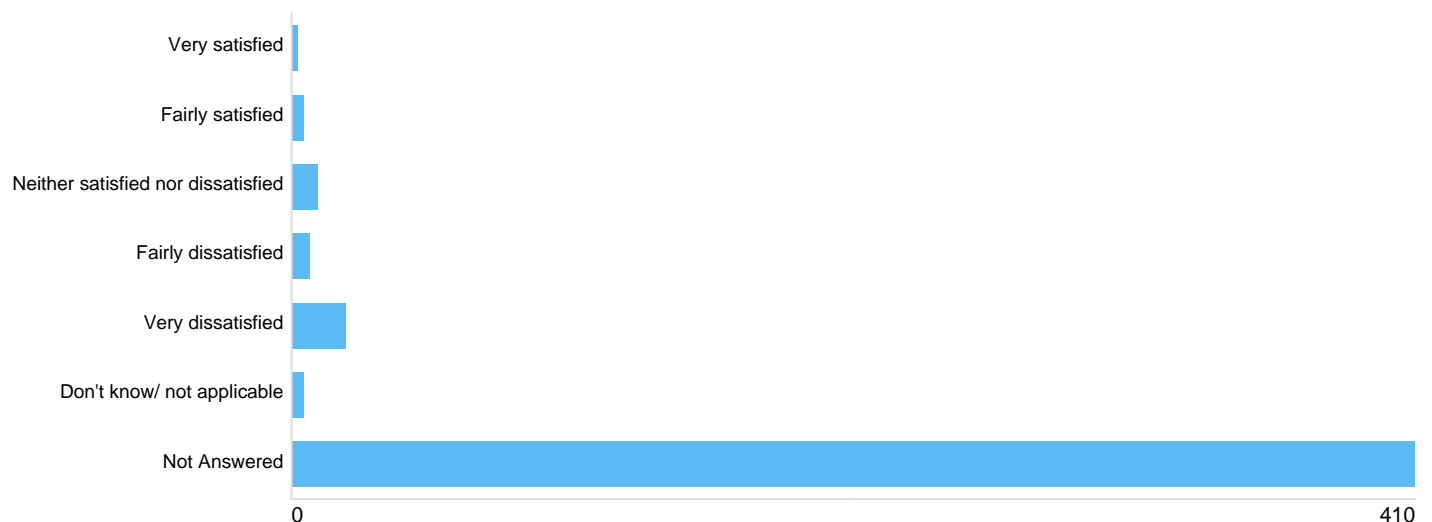
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

The Meadows Fun Fair at the Fringe: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



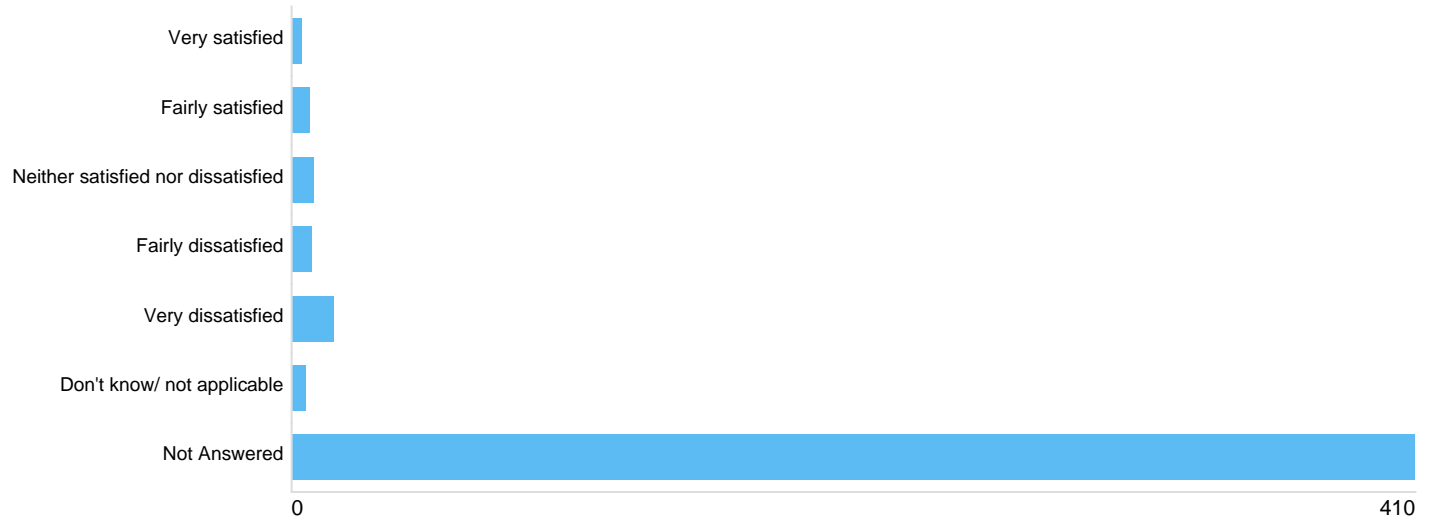
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	2	0.44%
Fairly satisfied	6	1.32%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Fairly dissatisfied	9	1.98%
Very dissatisfied	15	3.30%
Don't know/ not applicable	5	1.10%
Not Answered	409	90.09%

The Meadows Fun Fair at the Fringe: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



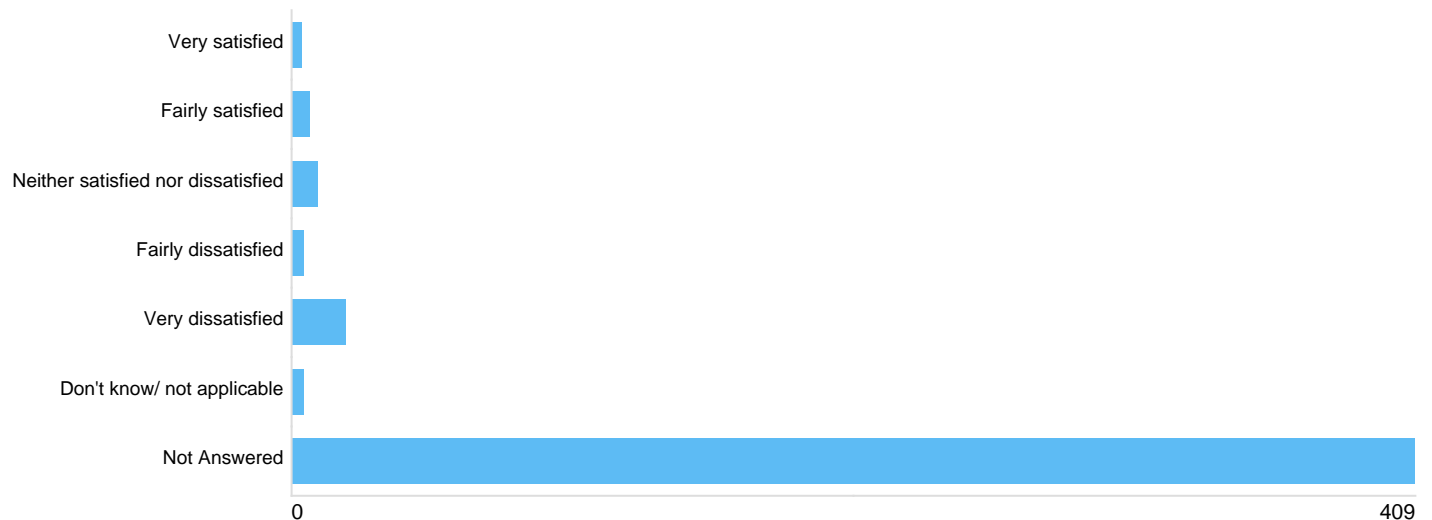
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	2	0.44%
Fairly satisfied	4	0.88%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	9	1.98%
Fairly dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Very dissatisfied	19	4.19%
Don't know/ not applicable	4	0.88%
Not Answered	410	90.31%

The Meadows Fun Fair at the Fringe: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



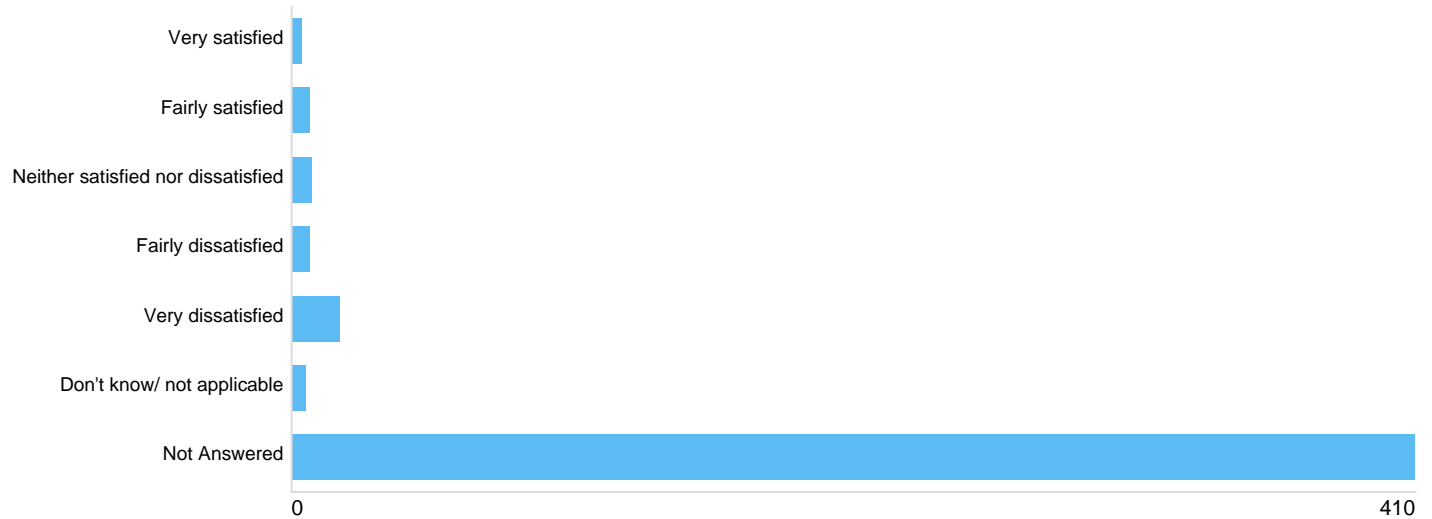
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	3	0.66%
Fairly satisfied	6	1.32%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Fairly dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Very dissatisfied	15	3.30%
Don't know/ not applicable	5	1.10%
Not Answered	410	90.31%

The Meadows Fun Fair at the Fringe: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	3	0.66%
Fairly satisfied	6	1.32%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	9	1.98%
Fairly dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Very dissatisfied	19	4.19%
Don't know/ not applicable	4	0.88%
Not Answered	409	90.09%

The Meadows Fun Fair at the Fringe: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	3	0.66%
Fairly satisfied	6	1.32%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Very dissatisfied	17	3.74%
Don't know/ not applicable	5	1.10%
Not Answered	410	90.31%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

The Meadows Fun Fair at the Fringe: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	1	0.22%
Too long a period of time	26	5.73%
Just about the right amount of time	15	3.30%
Not Answered	412	90.75%

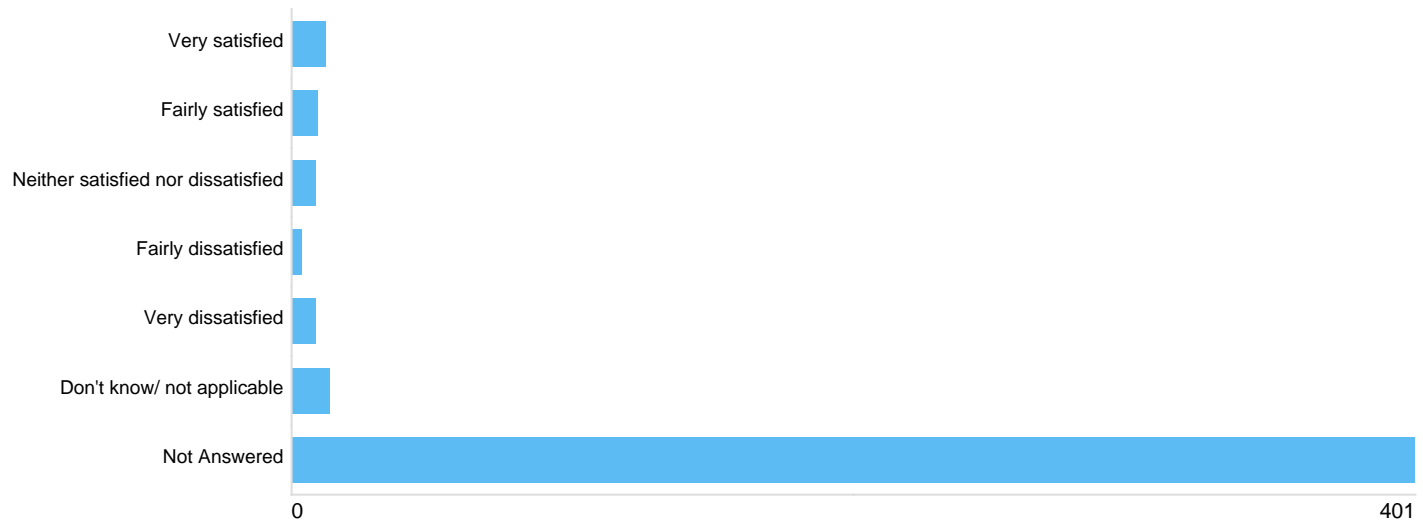
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

The Meadows Fun Fair at the Fringe: Any other comments

There were 26 responses to this part of the question.

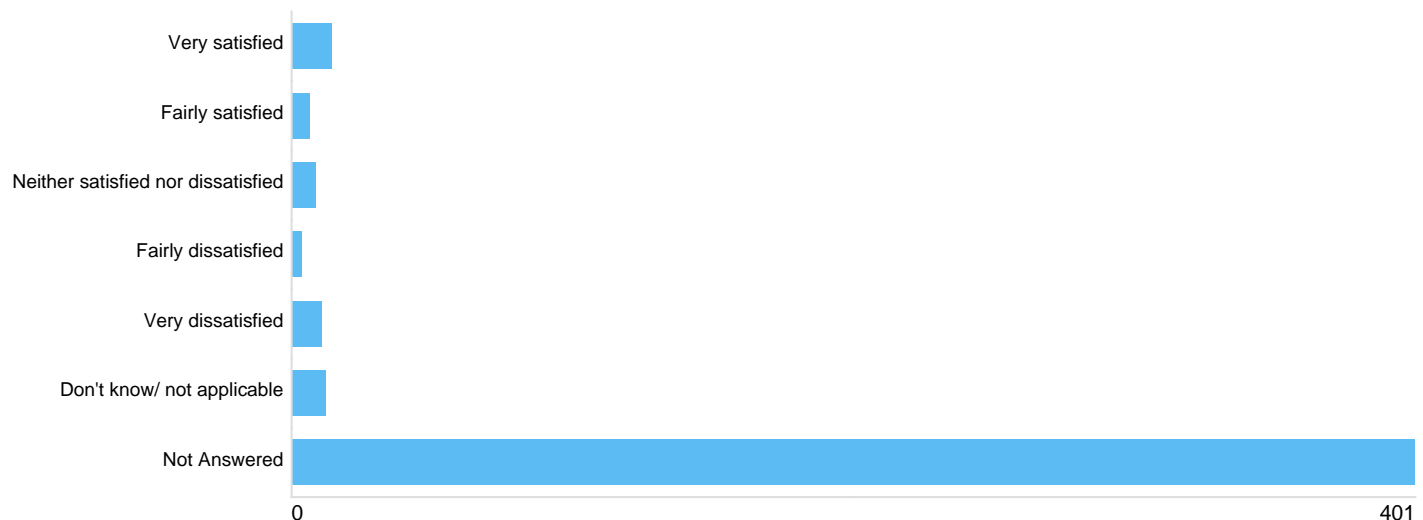
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Sleep in the Park: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



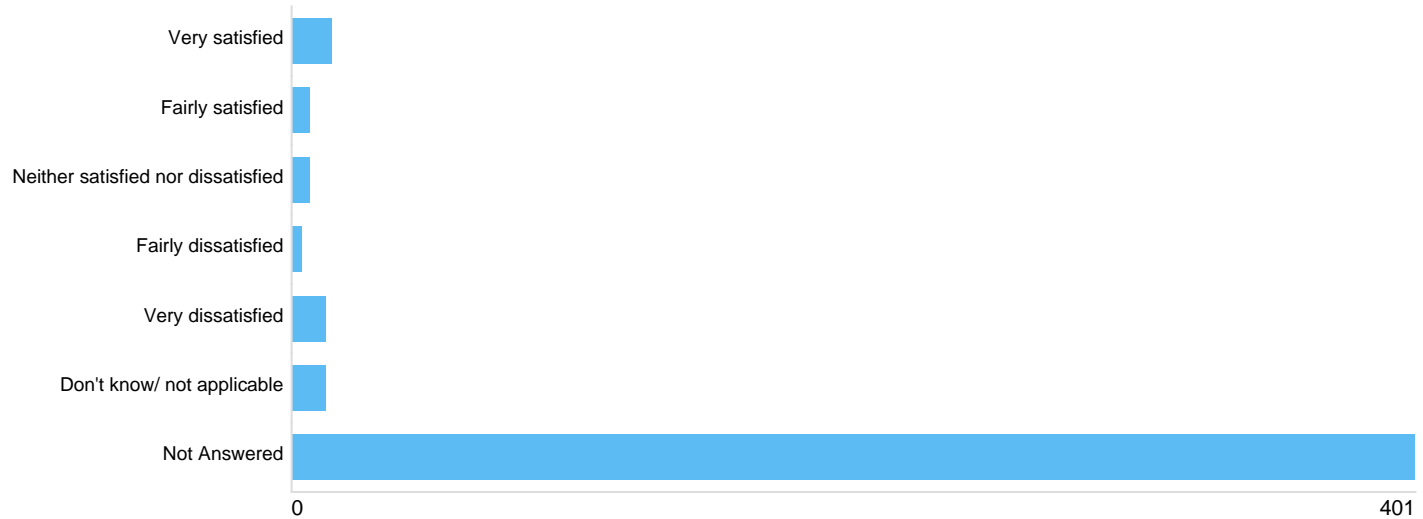
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	12	2.64%
Fairly satisfied	9	1.98%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Fairly dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Very dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Don't know/ not applicable	13	2.86%
Not Answered	401	88.33%

Sleep in the Park: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



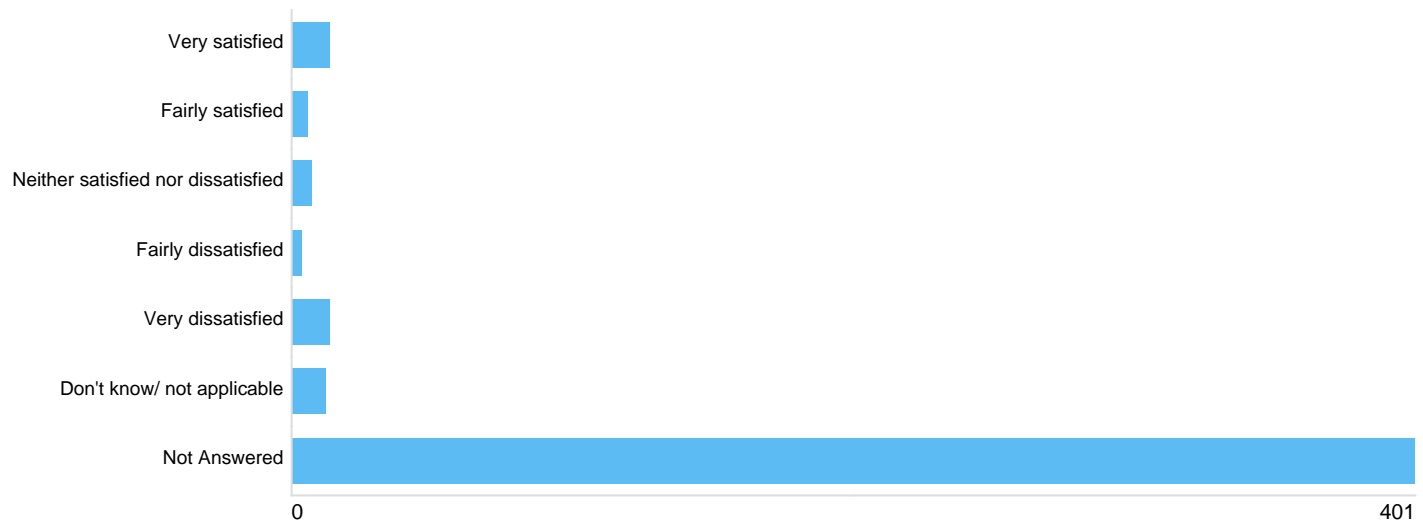
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	14	3.08%
Fairly satisfied	6	1.32%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Fairly dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Very dissatisfied	10	2.20%
Don't know/ not applicable	12	2.64%
Not Answered	401	88.33%

Sleep in the Park: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



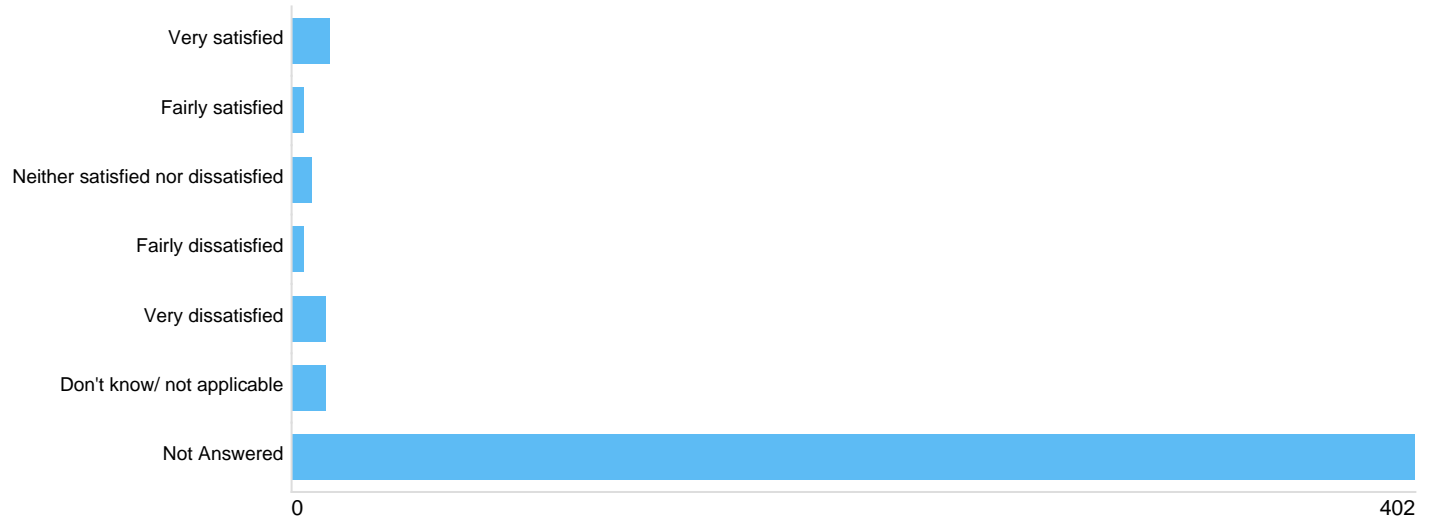
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	14	3.08%
Fairly satisfied	6	1.32%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Fairly dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Very dissatisfied	12	2.64%
Don't know/ not applicable	12	2.64%
Not Answered	401	88.33%

Sleep in the Park: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	13	2.86%
Fairly satisfied	5	1.10%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Very dissatisfied	13	2.86%
Don't know/ not applicable	12	2.64%
Not Answered	401	88.33%

Sleep in the Park: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	13	2.86%
Fairly satisfied	4	0.88%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Very dissatisfied	12	2.64%
Don't know/ not applicable	12	2.64%
Not Answered	402	88.55%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Sleep in the Park: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	2	0.44%
Too long a period of time	17	3.74%
Just about the right amount of time	30	6.61%
Not Answered	405	89.21%

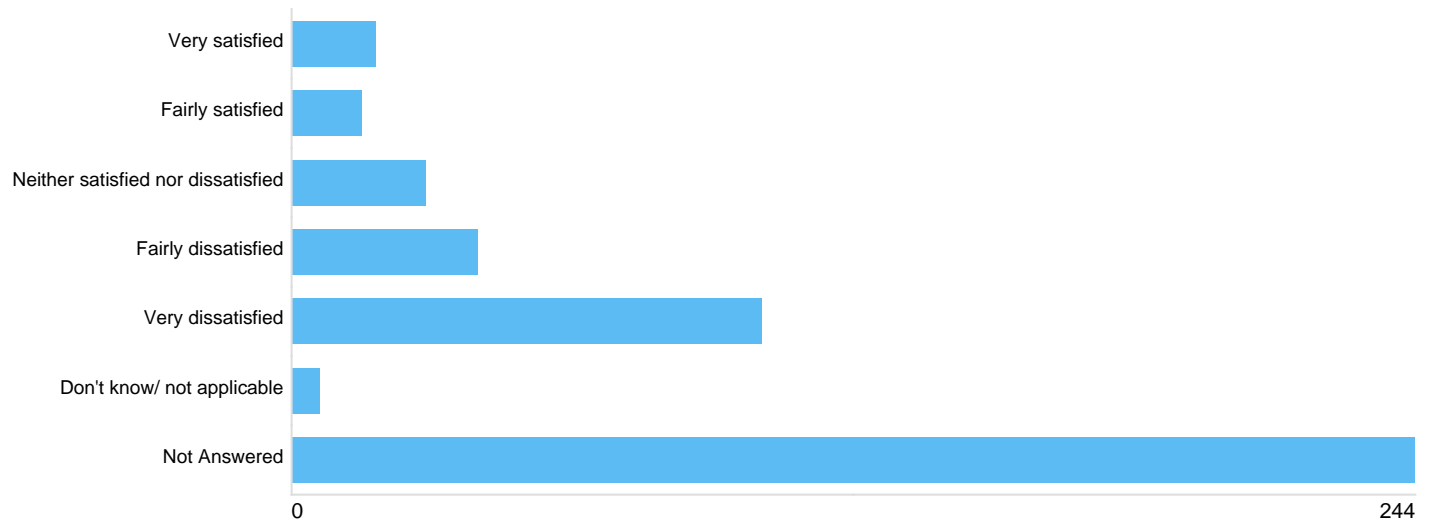
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Sleep in the Park: Any other comments

There were 25 responses to this part of the question.

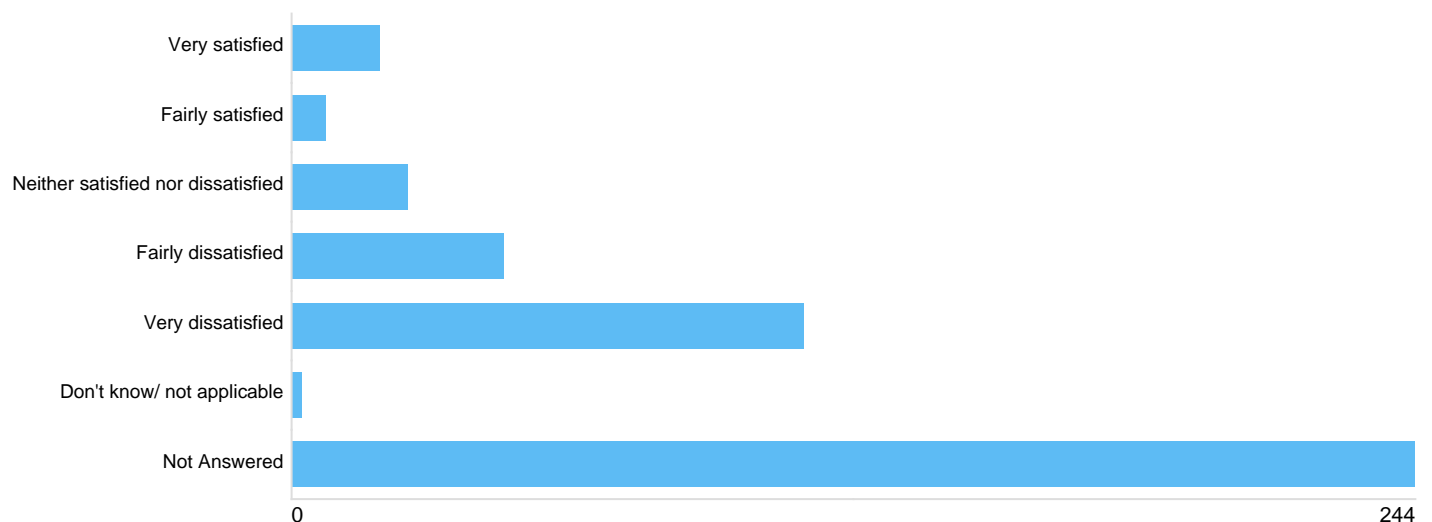
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Christmas Festival: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



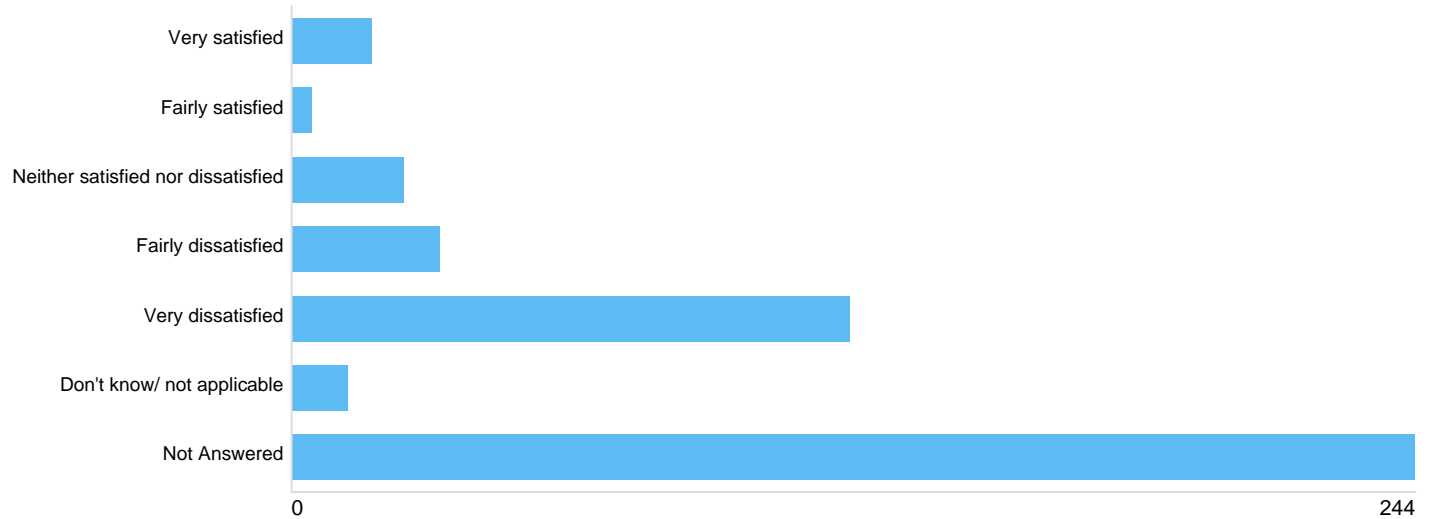
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	18	3.96%
Fairly satisfied	15	3.30%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	29	6.39%
Fairly dissatisfied	40	8.81%
Very dissatisfied	102	22.47%
Don't know/ not applicable	6	1.32%
Not Answered	244	53.74%

Christmas Festival: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



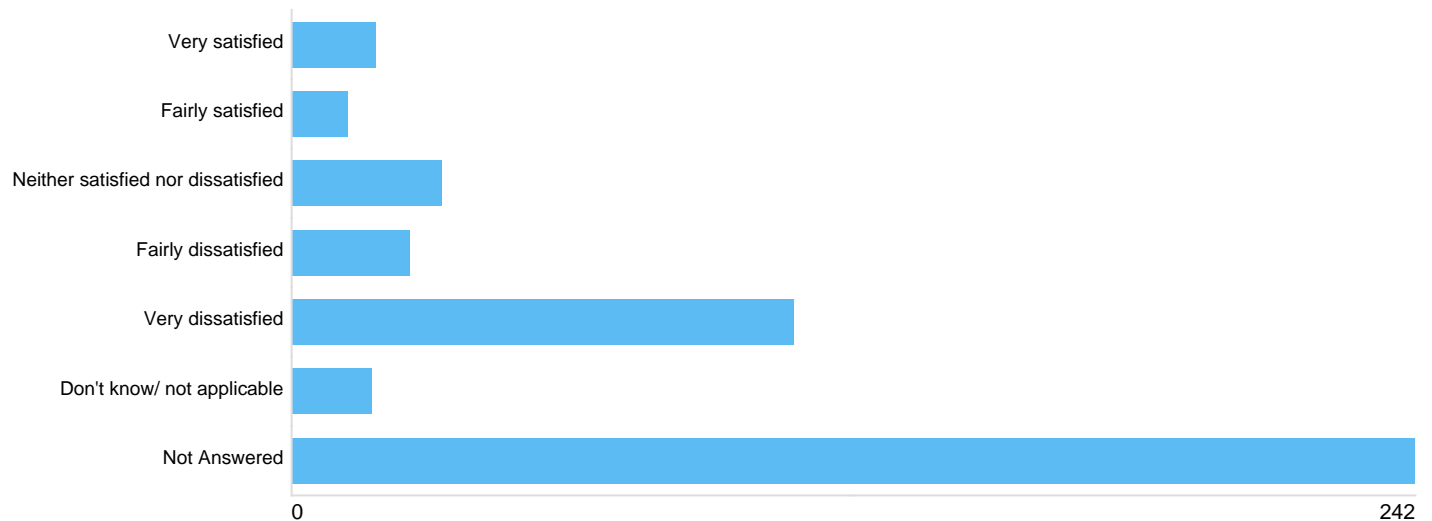
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	19	4.19%
Fairly satisfied	7	1.54%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	25	5.51%
Fairly dissatisfied	46	10.13%
Very dissatisfied	111	24.45%
Don't know/ not applicable	2	0.44%
Not Answered	244	53.74%

Christmas Festival: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



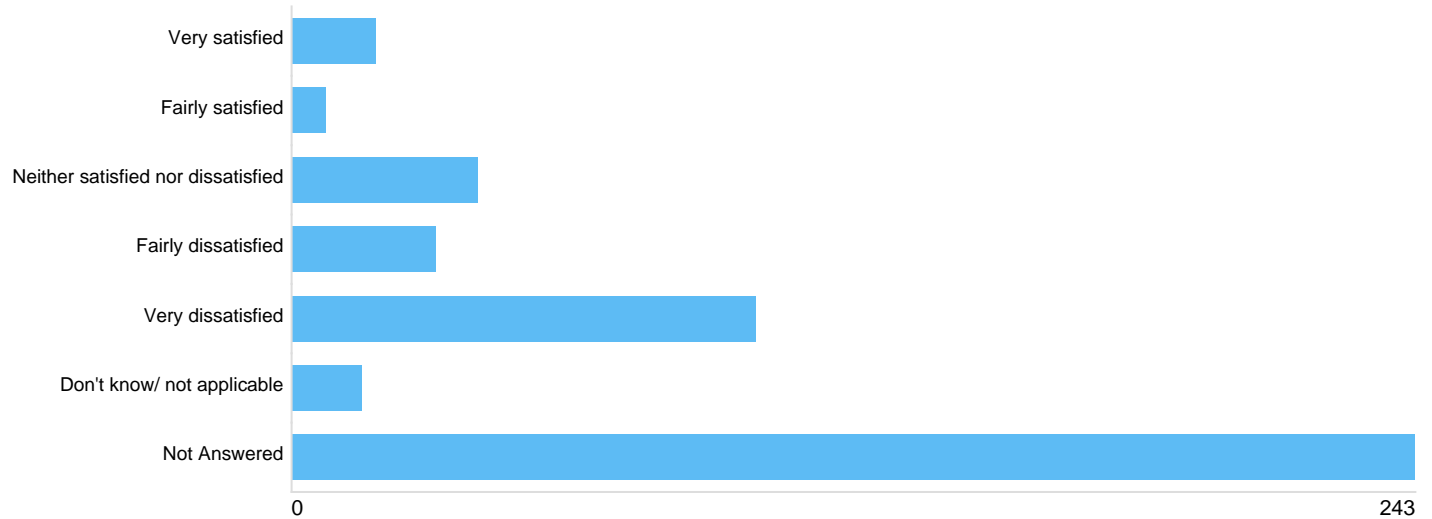
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	17	3.74%
Fairly satisfied	4	0.88%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	24	5.29%
Fairly dissatisfied	32	7.05%
Very dissatisfied	121	26.65%
Don't know/ not applicable	12	2.64%
Not Answered	244	53.74%

Christmas Festival: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	18	3.96%
Fairly satisfied	12	2.64%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	32	7.05%
Fairly dissatisfied	25	5.51%
Very dissatisfied	108	23.79%
Don't know/ not applicable	17	3.74%
Not Answered	242	53.30%

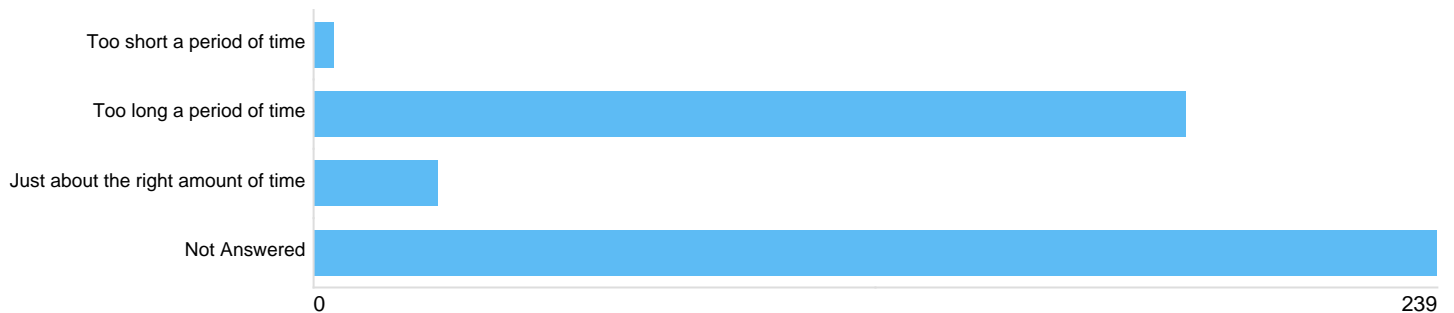
Christmas Festival: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	18	3.96%
Fairly satisfied	7	1.54%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	40	8.81%
Fairly dissatisfied	31	6.83%
Very dissatisfied	100	22.03%
Don't know/ not applicable	15	3.30%
Not Answered	243	53.52%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Christmas Festival: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	4	0.88%
Too long a period of time	185	40.75%
Just about the right amount of time	26	5.73%
Not Answered	239	52.64%

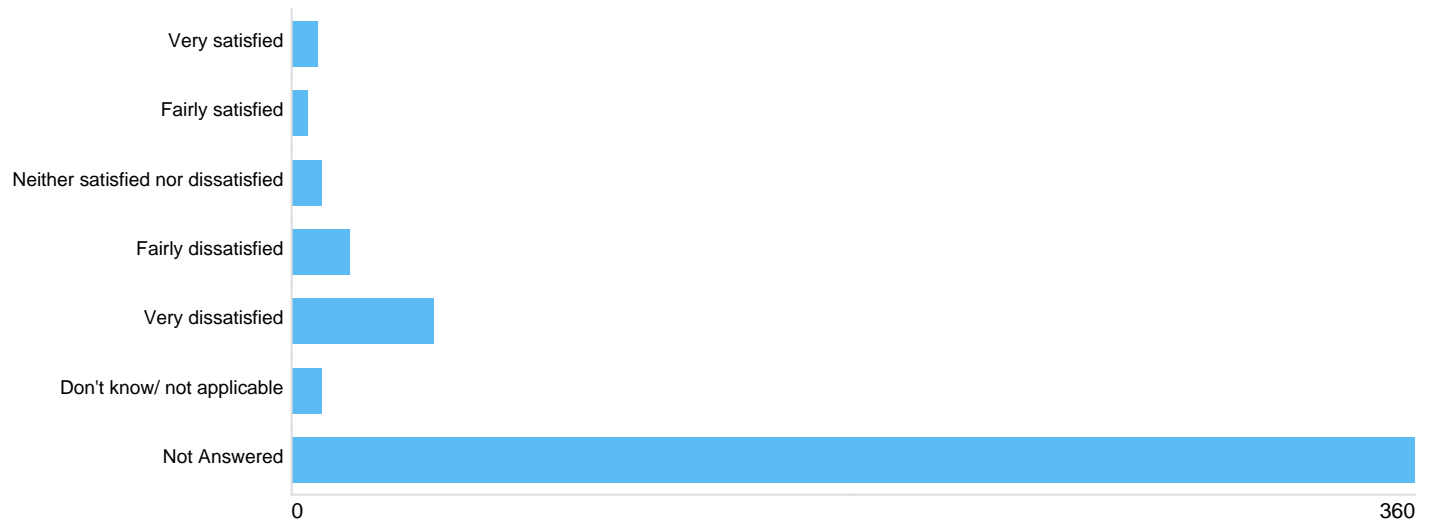
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Christmas Festival: Any other comments

There were 171 responses to this part of the question.

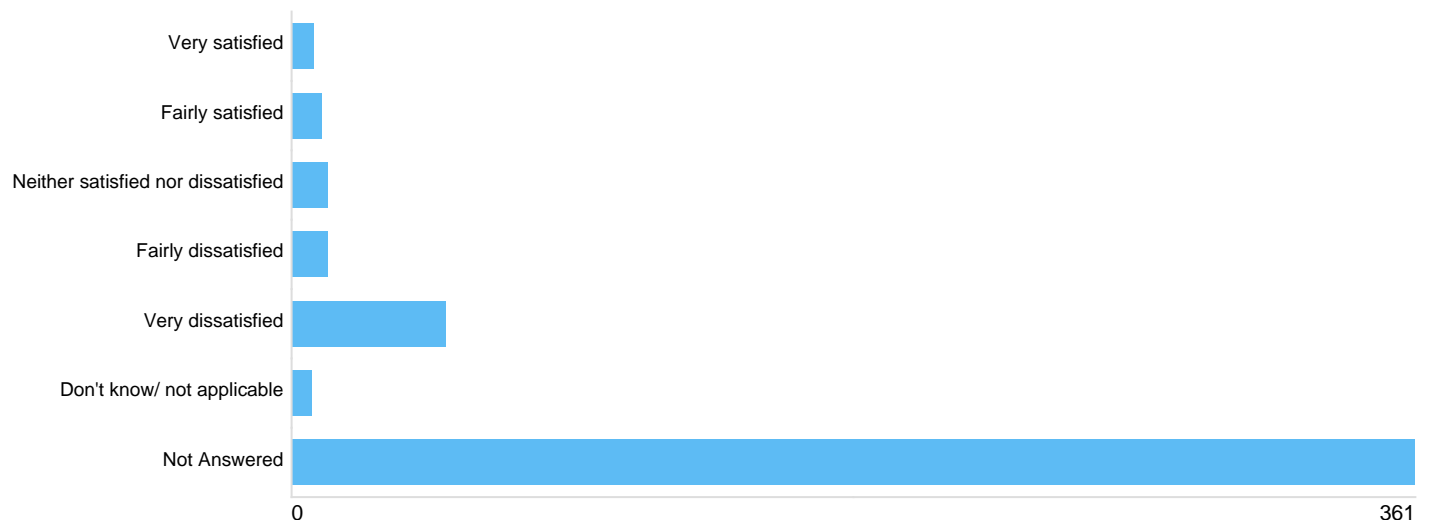
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Hogmanay: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



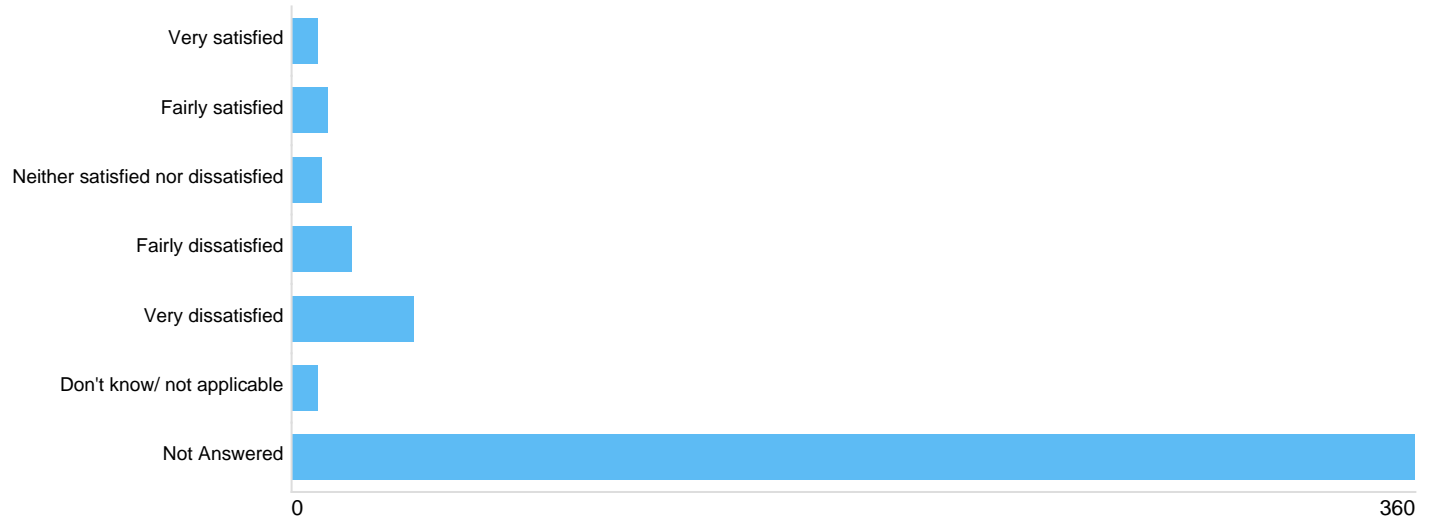
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	8	1.76%
Fairly satisfied	5	1.10%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	9	1.98%
Fairly dissatisfied	18	3.96%
Very dissatisfied	45	9.91%
Don't know/ not applicable	9	1.98%
Not Answered	360	79.30%

Hogmanay: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



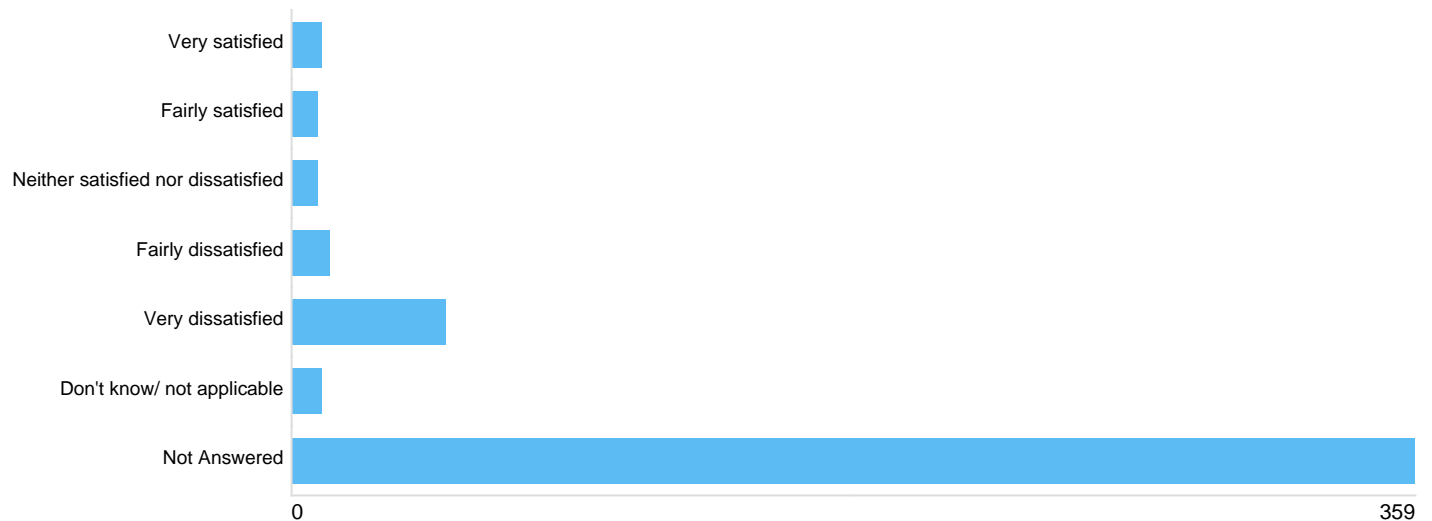
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly satisfied	9	1.98%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	11	2.42%
Fairly dissatisfied	11	2.42%
Very dissatisfied	49	10.79%
Don't know/ not applicable	6	1.32%
Not Answered	361	79.52%

Hogmanay: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



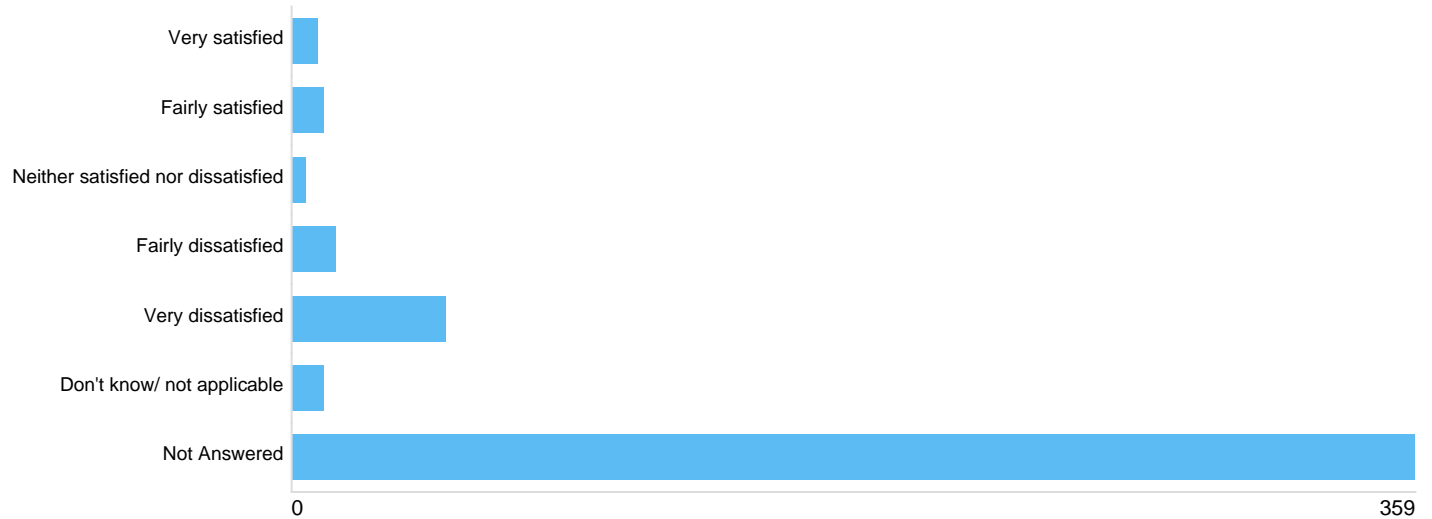
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	8	1.76%
Fairly satisfied	11	2.42%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	9	1.98%
Fairly dissatisfied	19	4.19%
Very dissatisfied	39	8.59%
Don't know/ not applicable	8	1.76%
Not Answered	360	79.30%

Hogmanay: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	9	1.98%
Fairly satisfied	8	1.76%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Fairly dissatisfied	12	2.64%
Very dissatisfied	49	10.79%
Don't know/ not applicable	9	1.98%
Not Answered	359	79.07%

Hogmanay: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	8	1.76%
Fairly satisfied	10	2.20%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly dissatisfied	14	3.08%
Very dissatisfied	49	10.79%
Don't know/ not applicable	10	2.20%
Not Answered	359	79.07%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Hogmanay: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	4	0.88%
Too long a period of time	64	14.10%
Just about the right amount of time	26	5.73%
Not Answered	360	79.30%

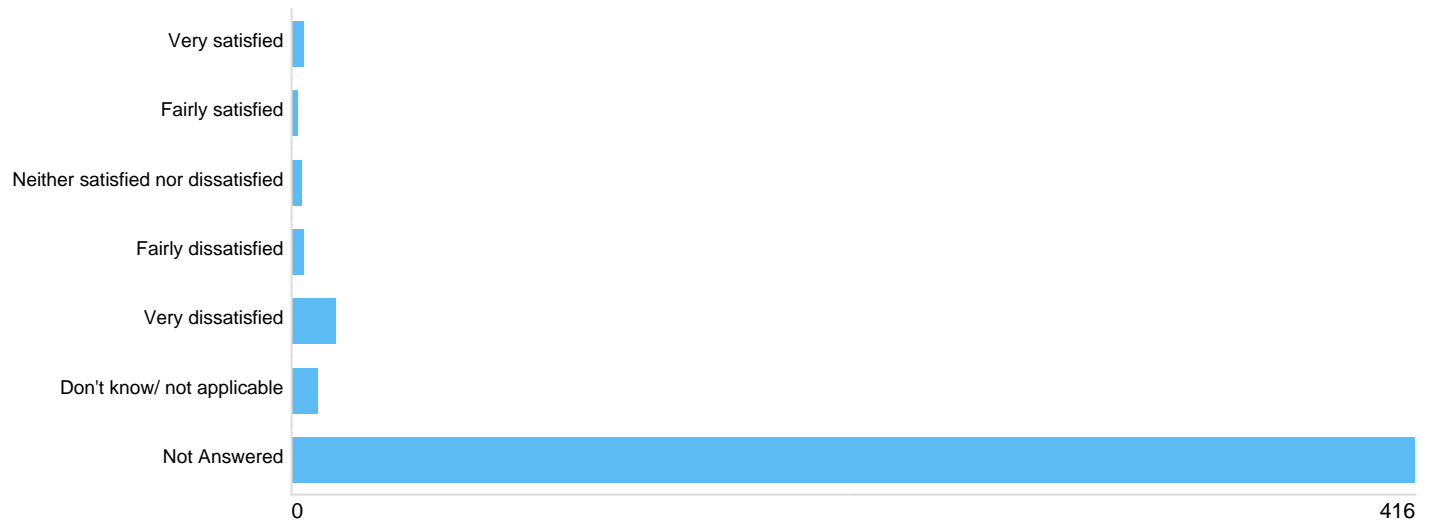
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Hogmanay: Any other comments

There were **62** responses to this part of the question.

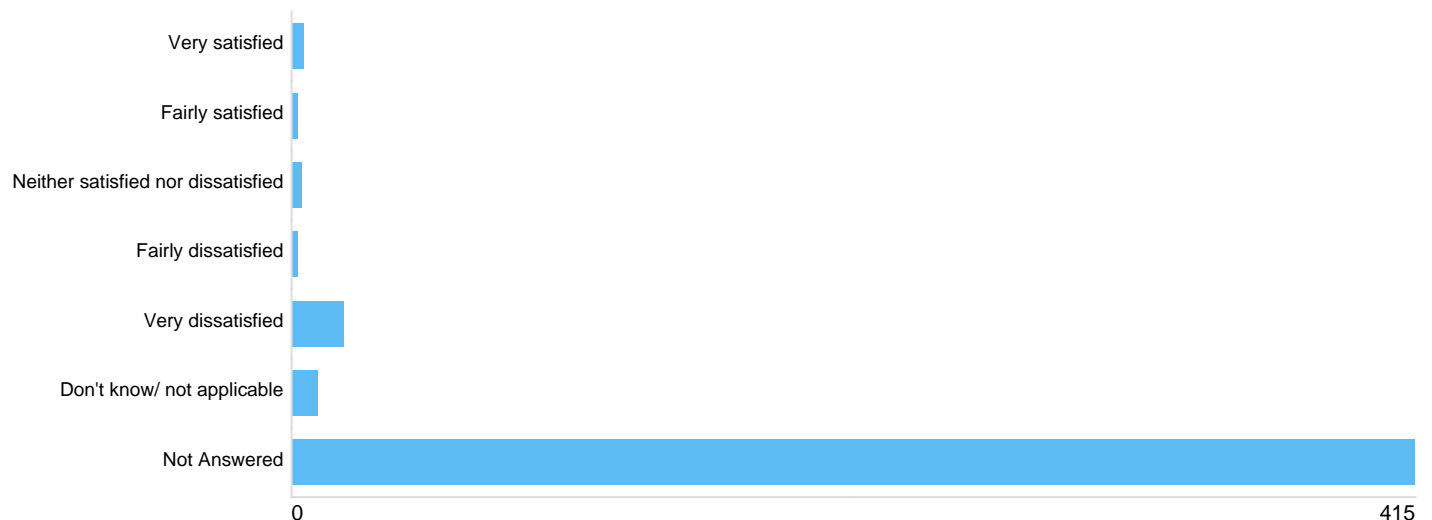
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Heart and Soul: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



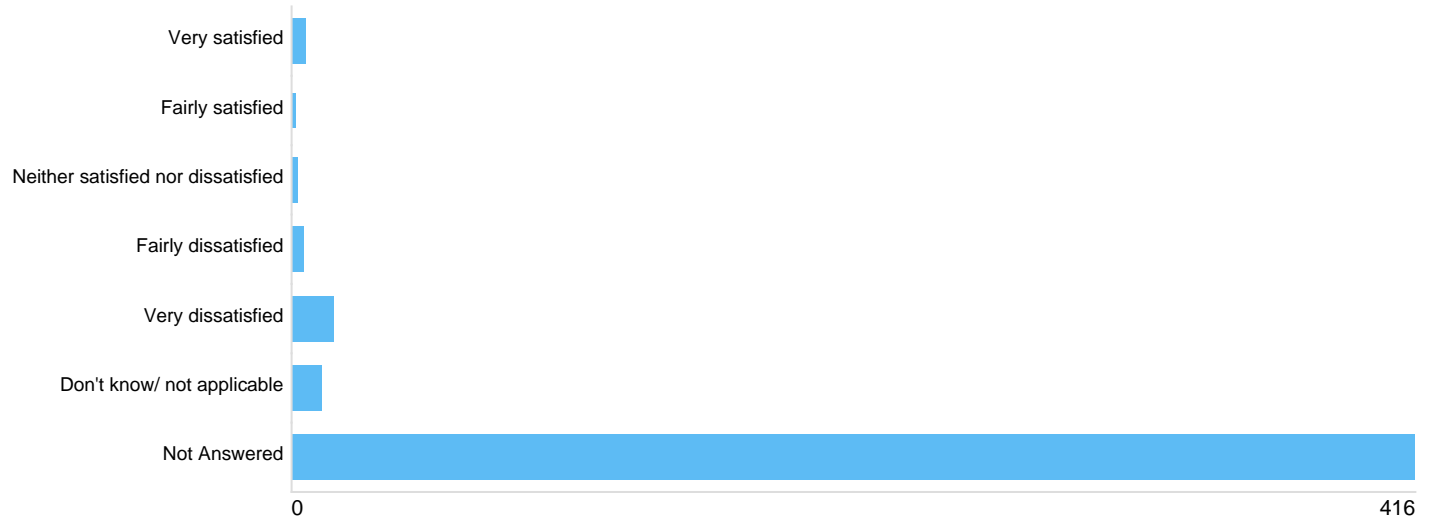
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly satisfied	2	0.44%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Fairly dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Very dissatisfied	16	3.52%
Don't know/ not applicable	9	1.98%
Not Answered	416	91.63%

Heart and Soul: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



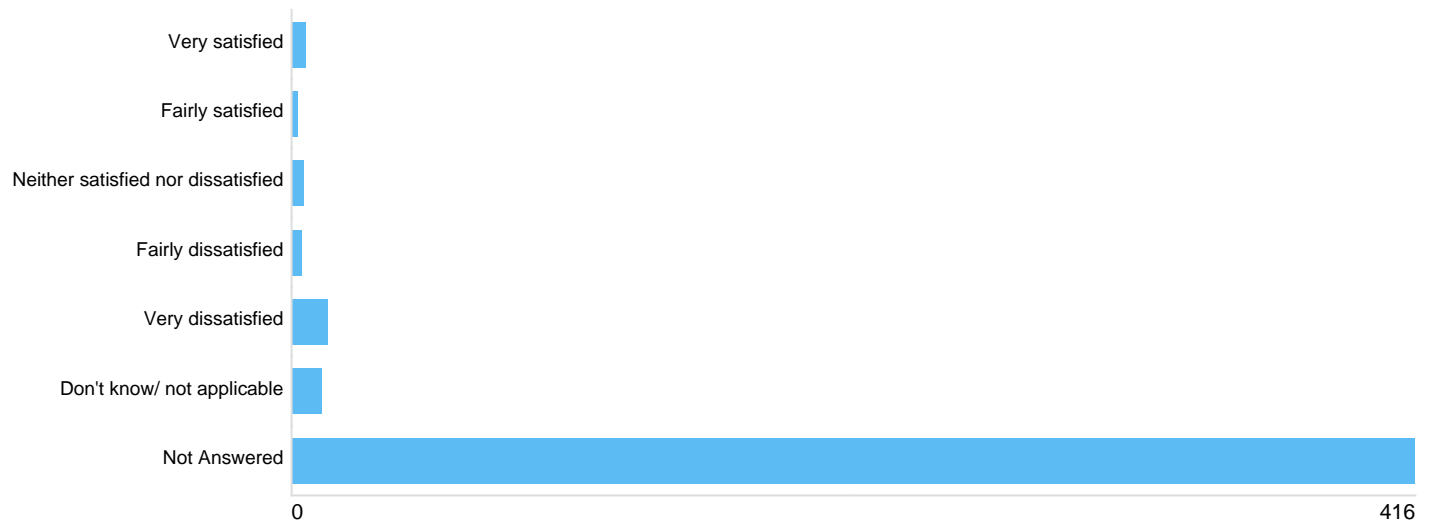
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly satisfied	2	0.44%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Fairly dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Very dissatisfied	19	4.19%
Don't know/ not applicable	9	1.98%
Not Answered	415	91.41%

Heart and Soul: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



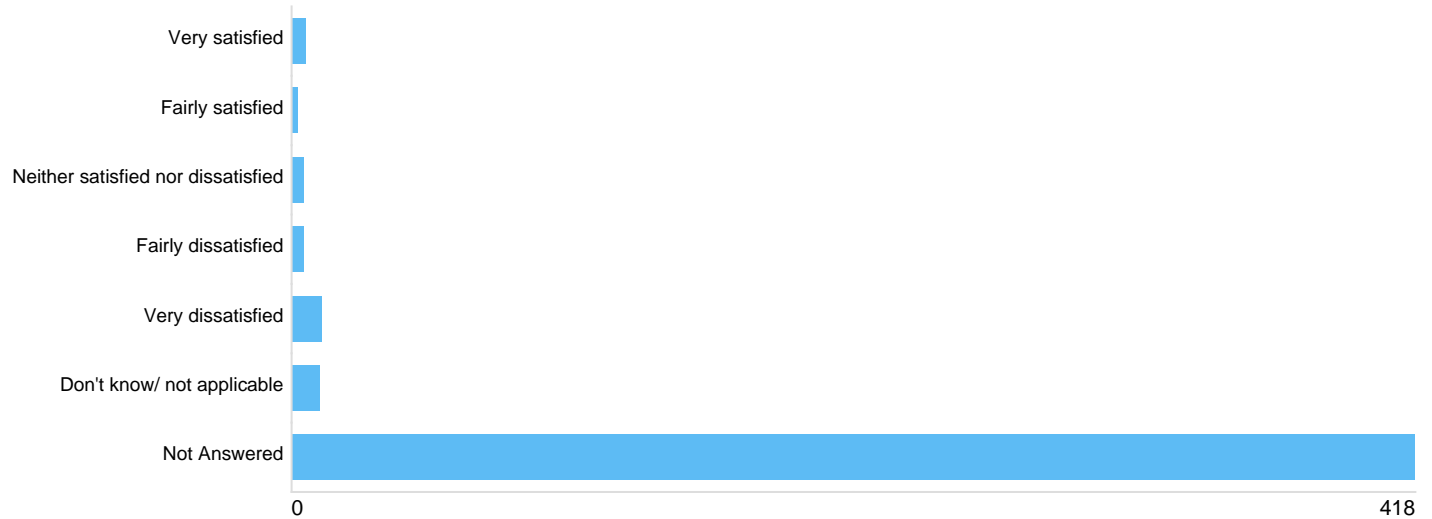
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	5	1.10%
Fairly satisfied	1	0.22%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Fairly dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Very dissatisfied	15	3.30%
Don't know/ not applicable	11	2.42%
Not Answered	416	91.63%

Heart and Soul: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	5	1.10%
Fairly satisfied	2	0.44%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Very dissatisfied	13	2.86%
Don't know/ not applicable	11	2.42%
Not Answered	416	91.63%

Heart and Soul: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	5	1.10%
Fairly satisfied	2	0.44%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Very dissatisfied	11	2.42%
Don't know/ not applicable	10	2.20%
Not Answered	418	92.07%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Heart and Soul: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	1	0.22%
Too long a period of time	20	4.41%
Just about the right amount of time	14	3.08%
Not Answered	419	92.29%

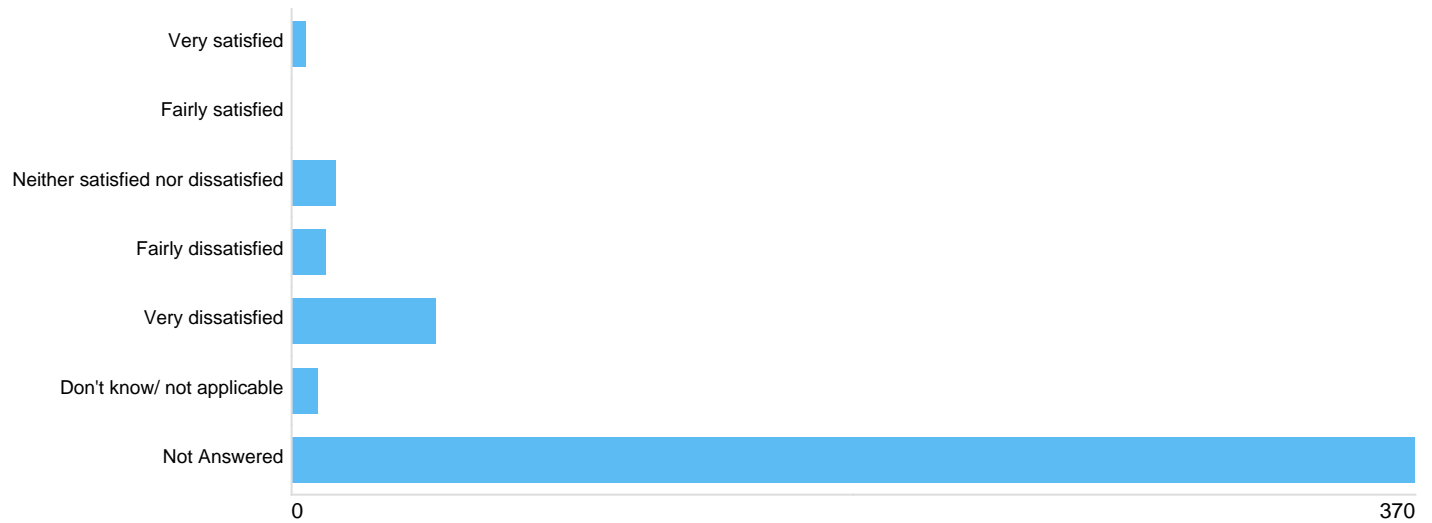
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Heart and Soul: Any other comments

There were 17 responses to this part of the question.

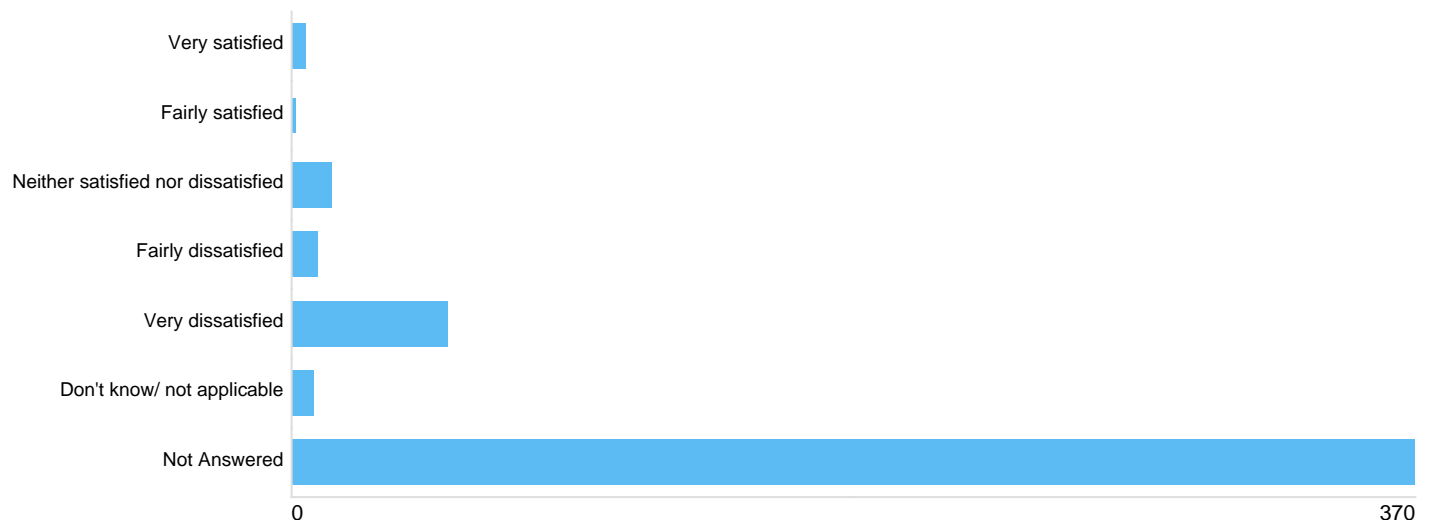
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Summer Festival Wheel: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



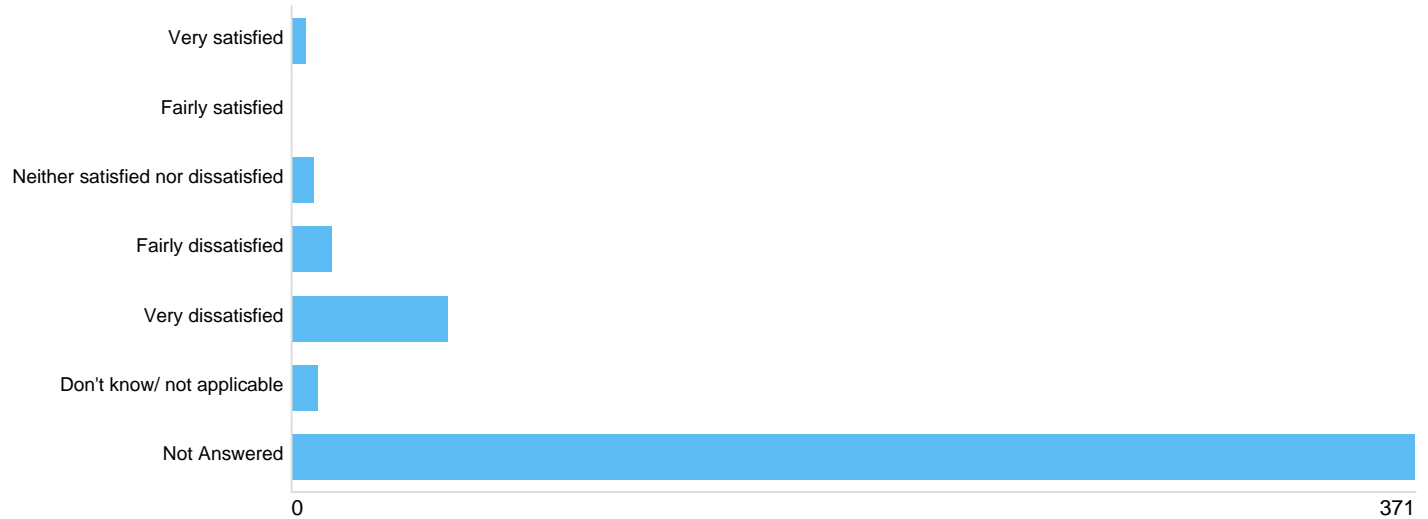
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly satisfied	0	0%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	14	3.08%
Fairly dissatisfied	11	2.42%
Very dissatisfied	47	10.35%
Don't know/ not applicable	8	1.76%
Not Answered	370	81.50%

Summer Festival Wheel: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



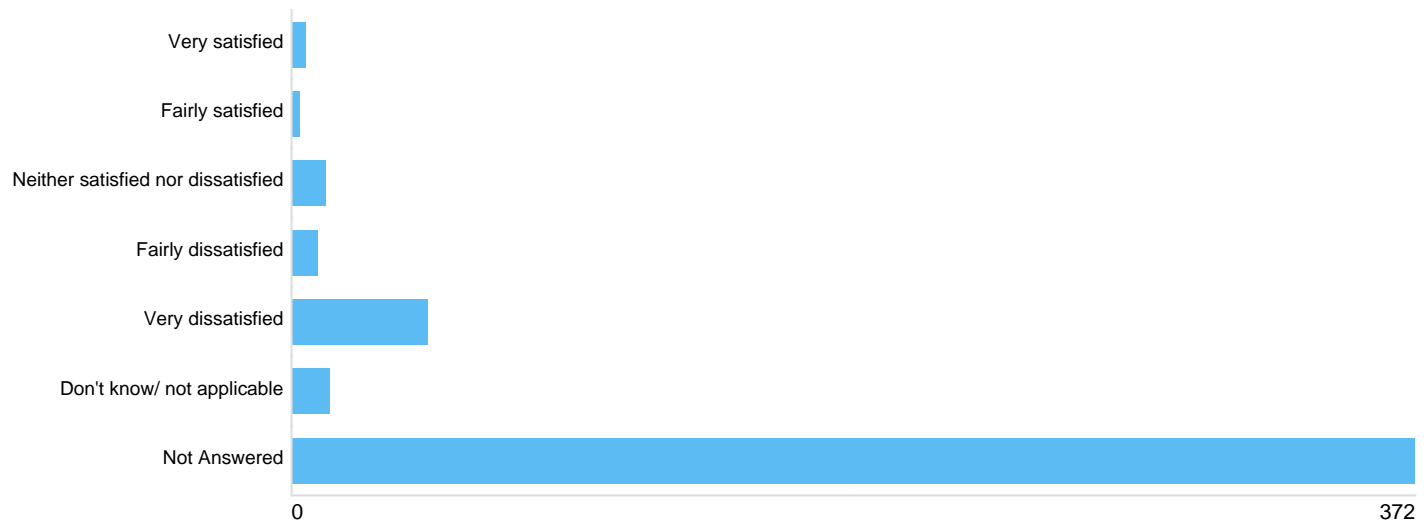
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly satisfied	1	0.22%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	13	2.86%
Fairly dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Very dissatisfied	51	11.23%
Don't know/ not applicable	7	1.54%
Not Answered	370	81.50%

Summer Festival Wheel: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



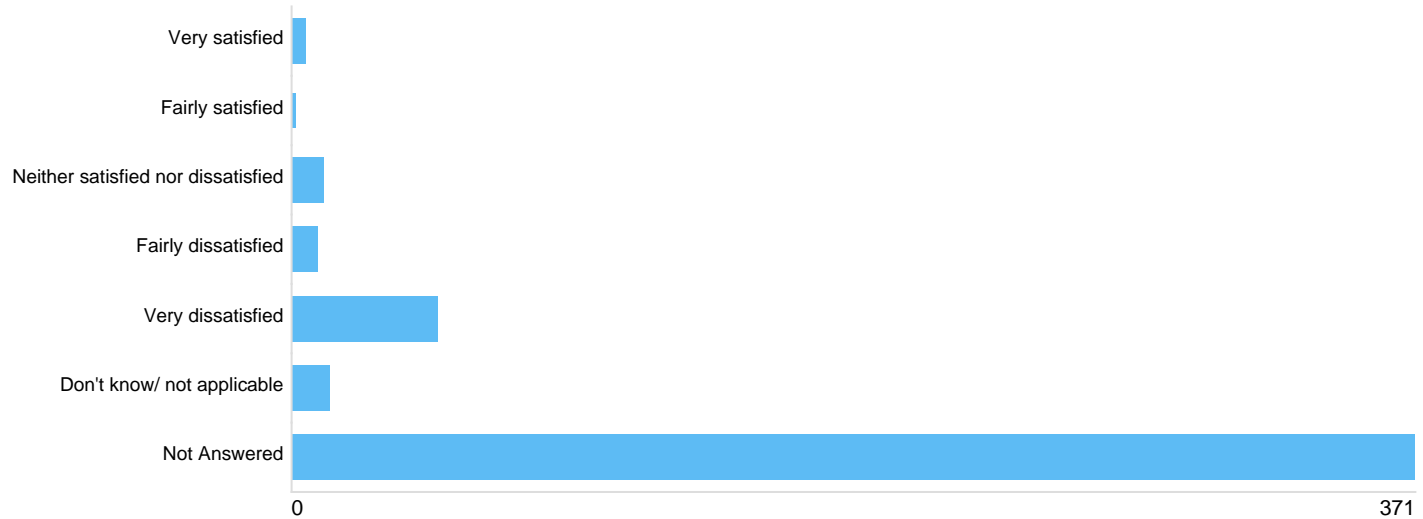
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly satisfied	0	0%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly dissatisfied	13	2.86%
Very dissatisfied	51	11.23%
Don't know/ not applicable	8	1.76%
Not Answered	371	81.72%

Summer Festival Wheel: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly satisfied	2	0.44%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	11	2.42%
Fairly dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Very dissatisfied	45	9.91%
Don't know/ not applicable	12	2.64%
Not Answered	372	81.94%

Summer Festival Wheel: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly satisfied	1	0.22%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	10	2.20%
Fairly dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Very dissatisfied	48	10.57%
Don't know/ not applicable	12	2.64%
Not Answered	371	81.72%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Summer Festival Wheel: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	3	0.66%
Too long a period of time	77	16.96%
Just about the right amount of time	3	0.66%
Not Answered	371	81.72%

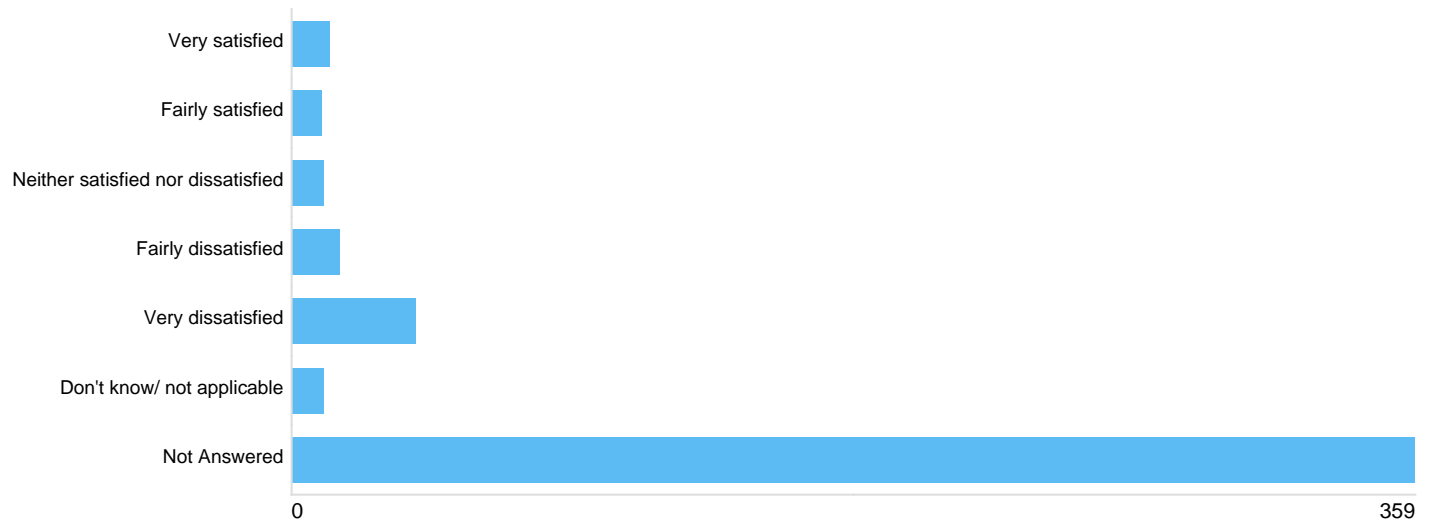
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Summer Festival Wheel: Any other comments

There were 63 responses to this part of the question.

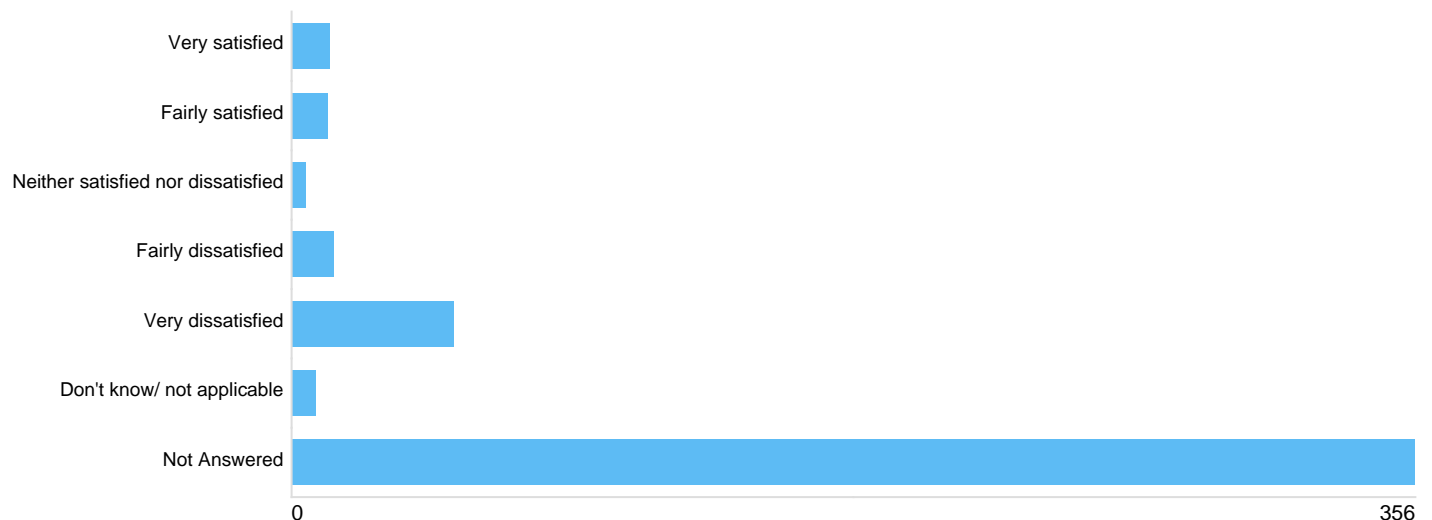
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Summer Sessions: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



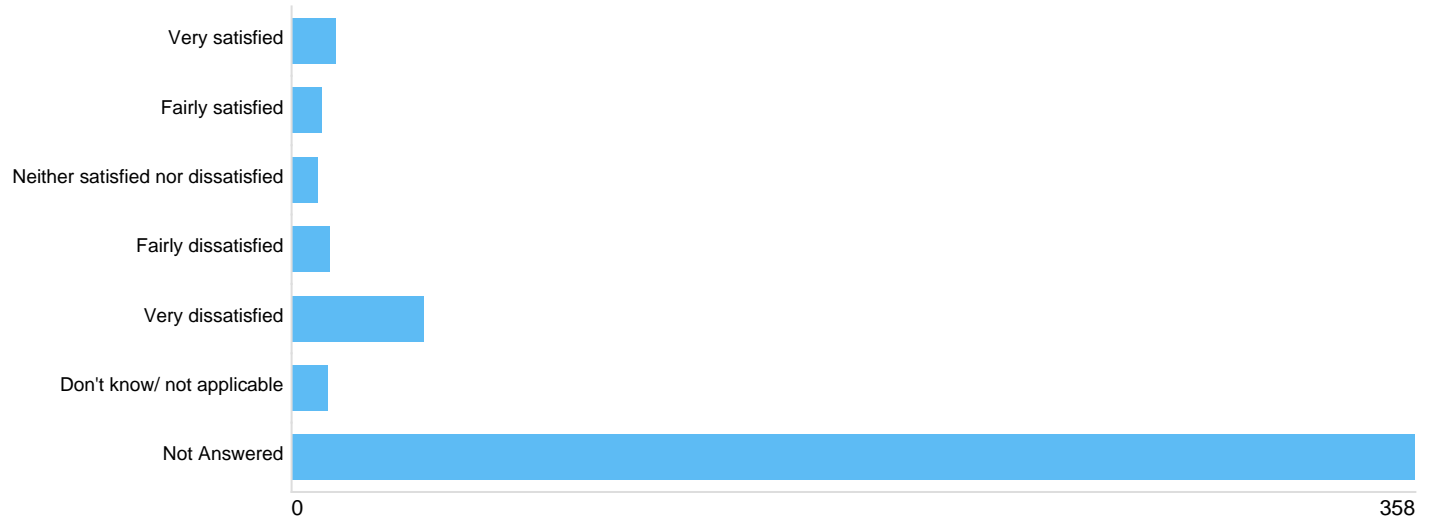
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	12	2.64%
Fairly satisfied	9	1.98%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	10	2.20%
Fairly dissatisfied	15	3.30%
Very dissatisfied	39	8.59%
Don't know/ not applicable	10	2.20%
Not Answered	359	79.07%

Summer Sessions: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



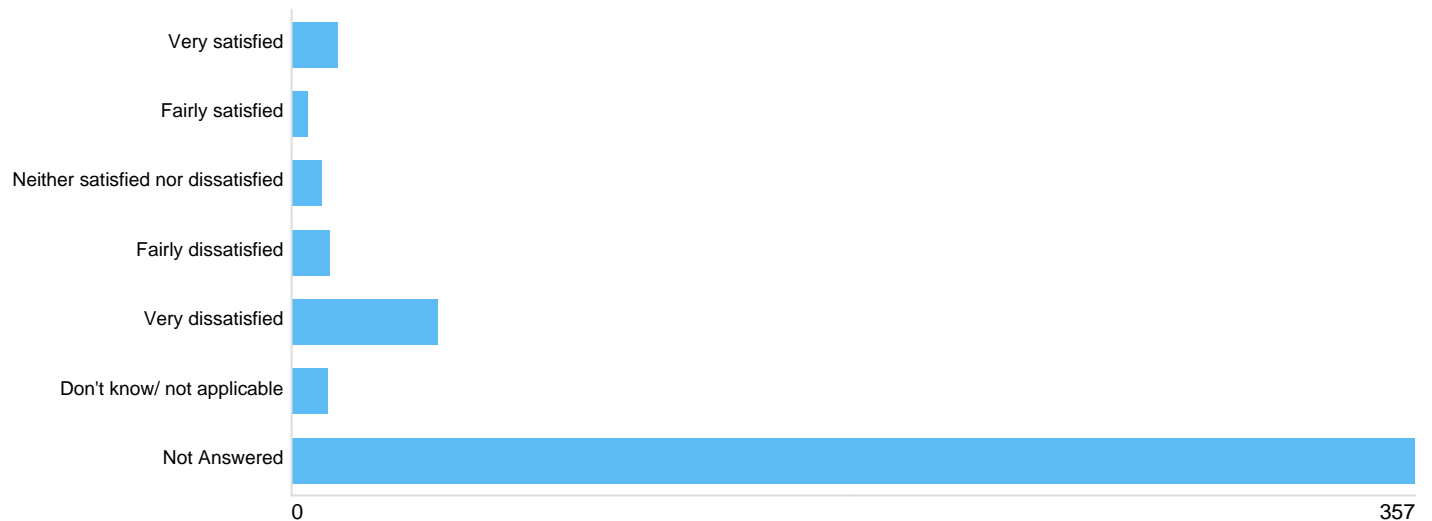
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	12	2.64%
Fairly satisfied	11	2.42%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly dissatisfied	13	2.86%
Very dissatisfied	51	11.23%
Don't know/ not applicable	7	1.54%
Not Answered	356	78.41%

Summer Sessions: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



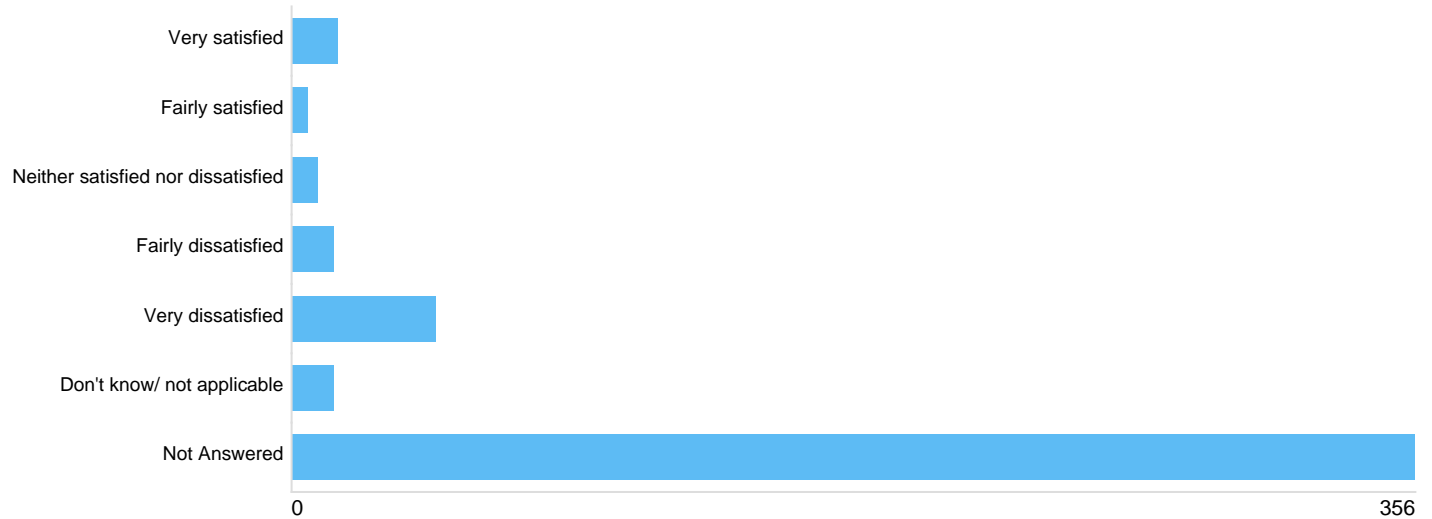
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	14	3.08%
Fairly satisfied	9	1.98%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Fairly dissatisfied	12	2.64%
Very dissatisfied	42	9.25%
Don't know/ not applicable	11	2.42%
Not Answered	358	78.85%

Summer Sessions: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	14	3.08%
Fairly satisfied	5	1.10%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	9	1.98%
Fairly dissatisfied	12	2.64%
Very dissatisfied	46	10.13%
Don't know/ not applicable	11	2.42%
Not Answered	357	78.63%

Summer Sessions: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	14	3.08%
Fairly satisfied	5	1.10%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Fairly dissatisfied	13	2.86%
Very dissatisfied	45	9.91%
Don't know/ not applicable	13	2.86%
Not Answered	356	78.41%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Summer sessions: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	3	0.66%
Too long a period of time	74	16.30%
Just about the right amount of time	21	4.63%
Not Answered	356	78.41%

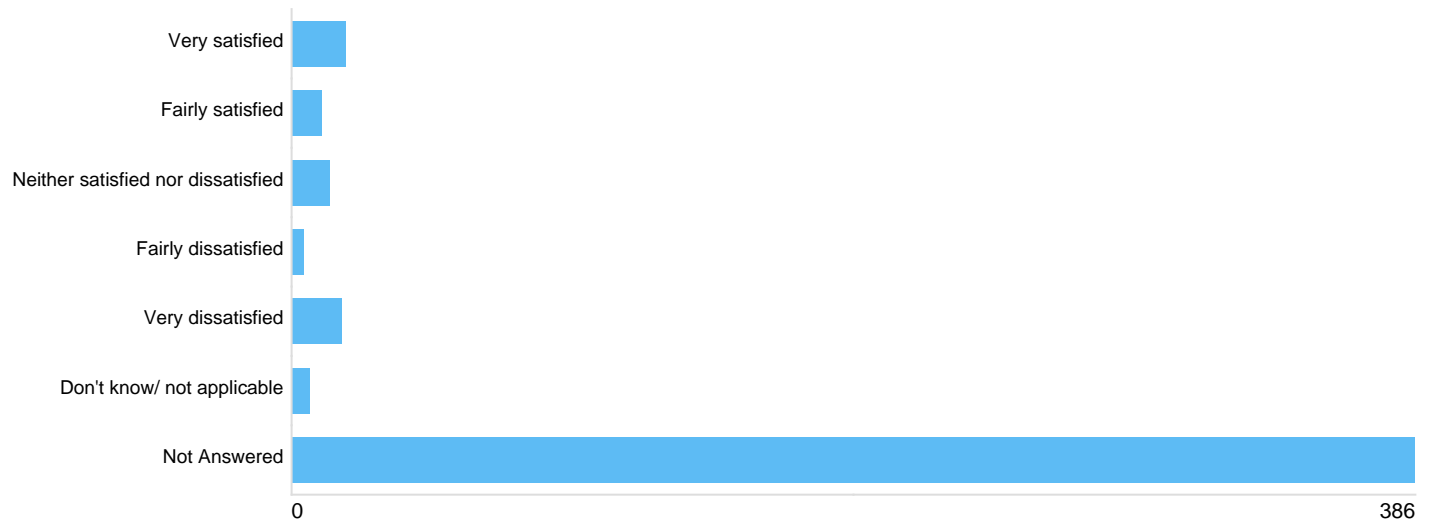
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Summer Sessions: Any other comments

There were 74 responses to this part of the question.

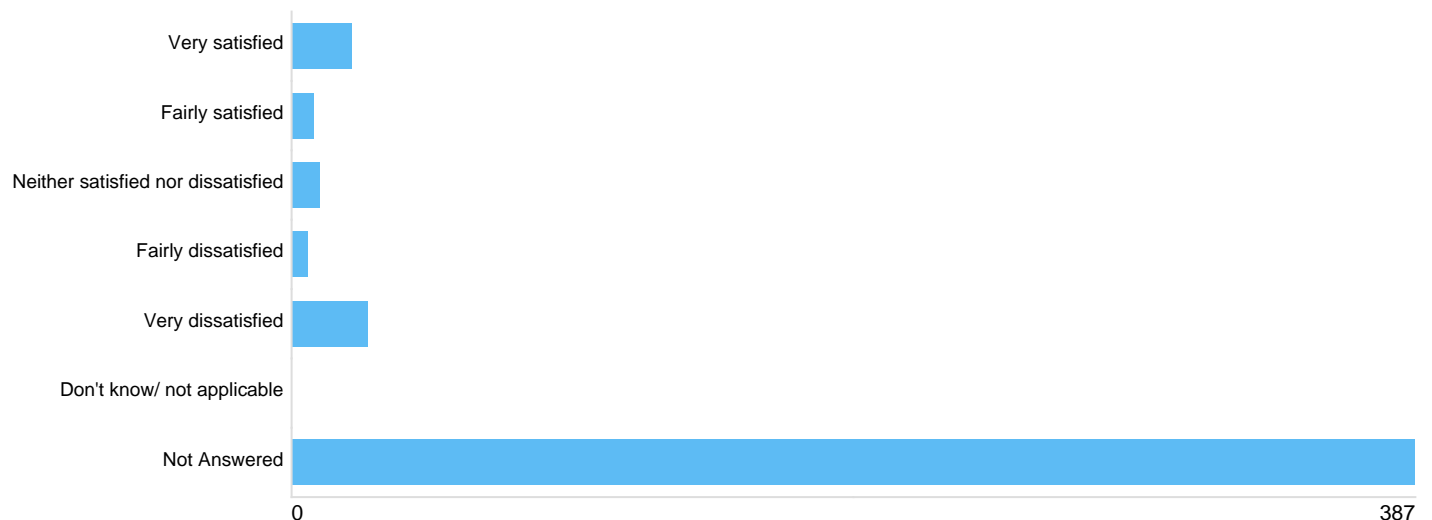
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Virgin Money Fireworks Concert: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



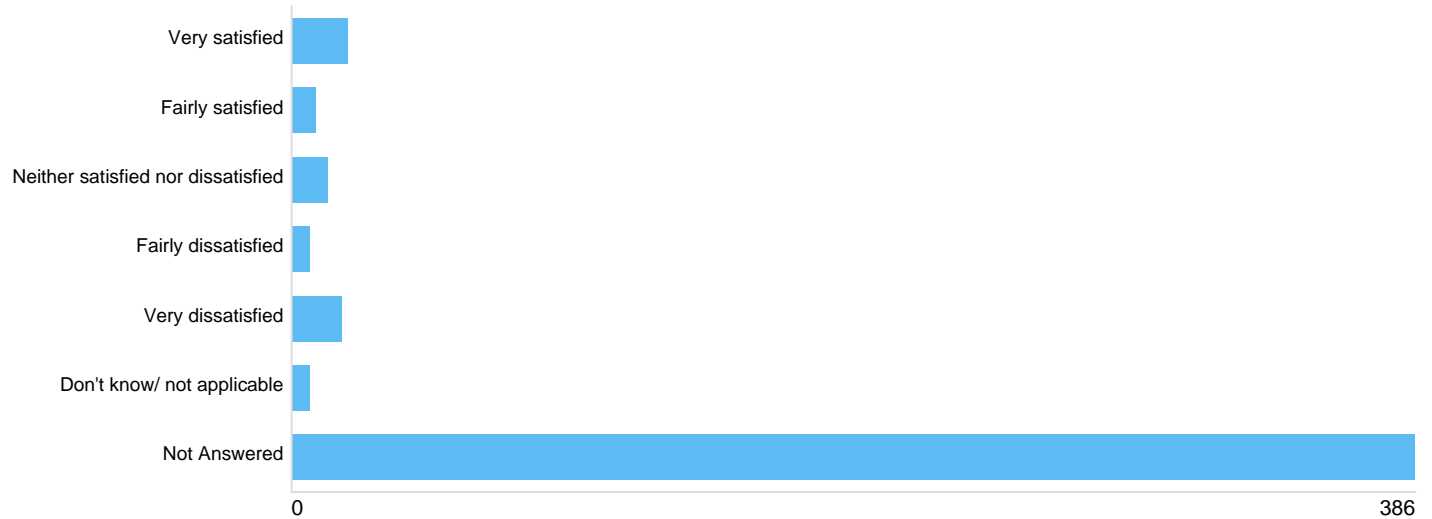
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	18	3.96%
Fairly satisfied	10	2.20%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	13	2.86%
Fairly dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Very dissatisfied	17	3.74%
Don't know/ not applicable	6	1.32%
Not Answered	386	85.02%

Virgin Money Fireworks Concert: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



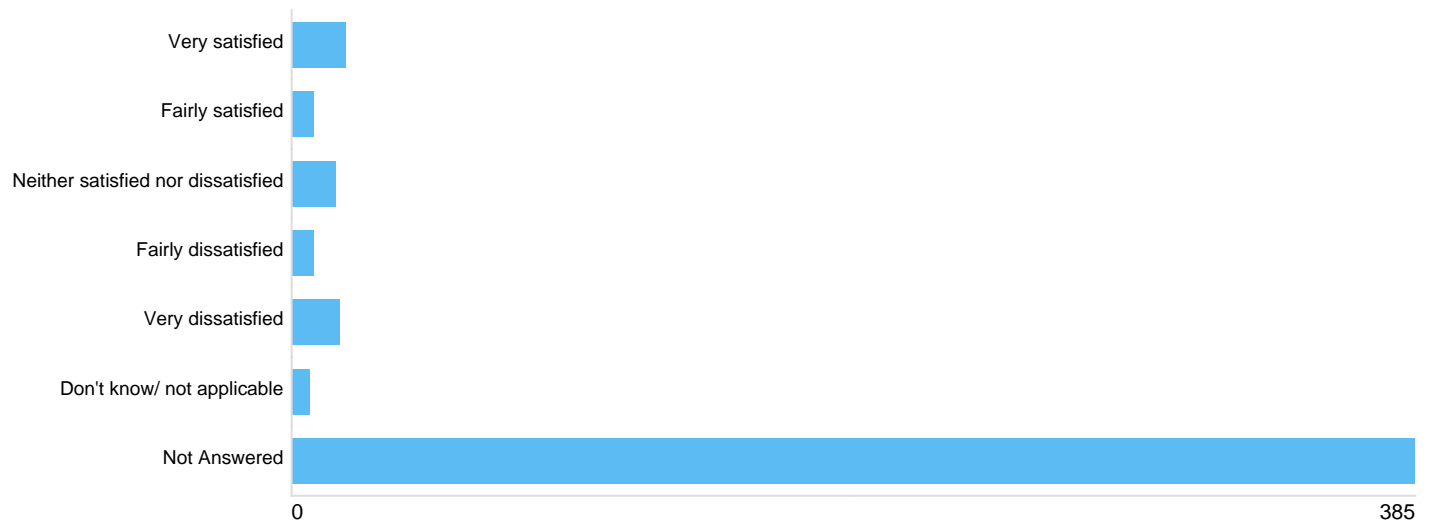
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	20	4.41%
Fairly satisfied	7	1.54%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	9	1.98%
Fairly dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Very dissatisfied	26	5.73%
Don't know/ not applicable	0	0%
Not Answered	387	85.24%

Virgin Money Fireworks Concert: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



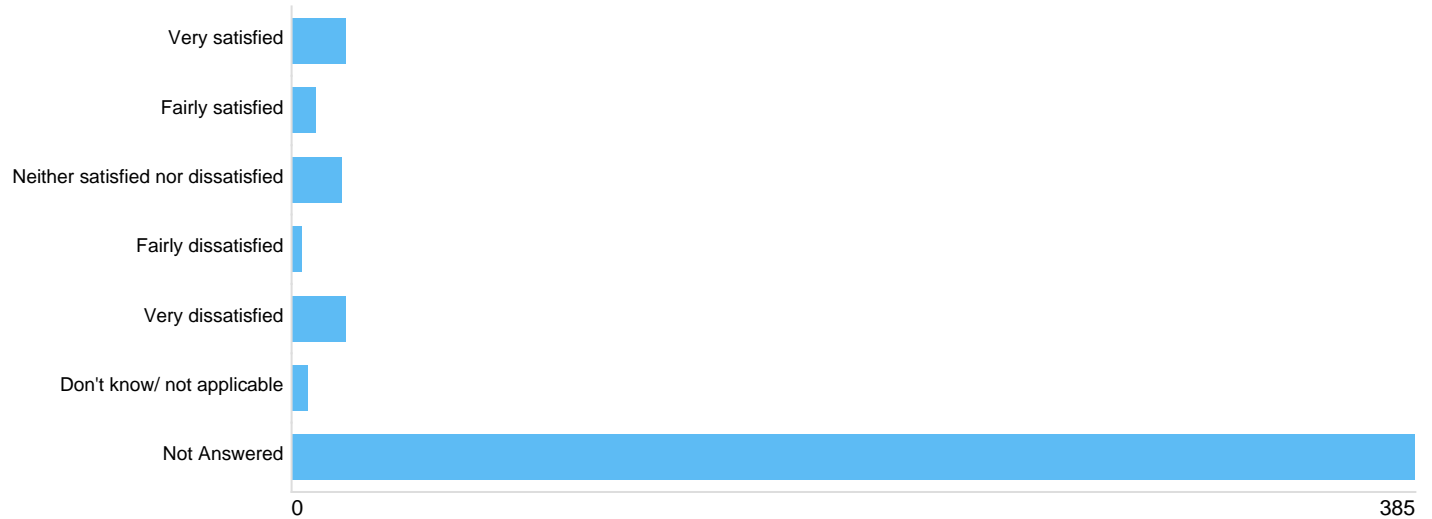
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	19	4.19%
Fairly satisfied	8	1.76%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	12	2.64%
Fairly dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Very dissatisfied	17	3.74%
Don't know/ not applicable	6	1.32%
Not Answered	386	85.02%

Virgin Money Fireworks Concert: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	18	3.96%
Fairly satisfied	7	1.54%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	15	3.30%
Fairly dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Very dissatisfied	16	3.52%
Don't know/ not applicable	6	1.32%
Not Answered	385	84.80%

Virgin Money Fireworks Concert: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	18	3.96%
Fairly satisfied	8	1.76%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	17	3.74%
Fairly dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Very dissatisfied	18	3.96%
Don't know/ not applicable	5	1.10%
Not Answered	385	84.80%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Virgin Money Fireworks Concert: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	2	0.44%
Too long a period of time	25	5.51%
Just about the right amount of time	40	8.81%
Not Answered	387	85.24%

Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Virgin Money Fireworks Concert: Any other comments

There were 36 responses to this part of the question.

Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Fly Open Air Festival: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	154	33.92%
Fairly satisfied	14	3.08%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Fairly dissatisfied	8	1.76%
Very dissatisfied	23	5.07%
Don't know/ not applicable	13	2.86%
Not Answered	240	52.86%

Fly Open Air Festival: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



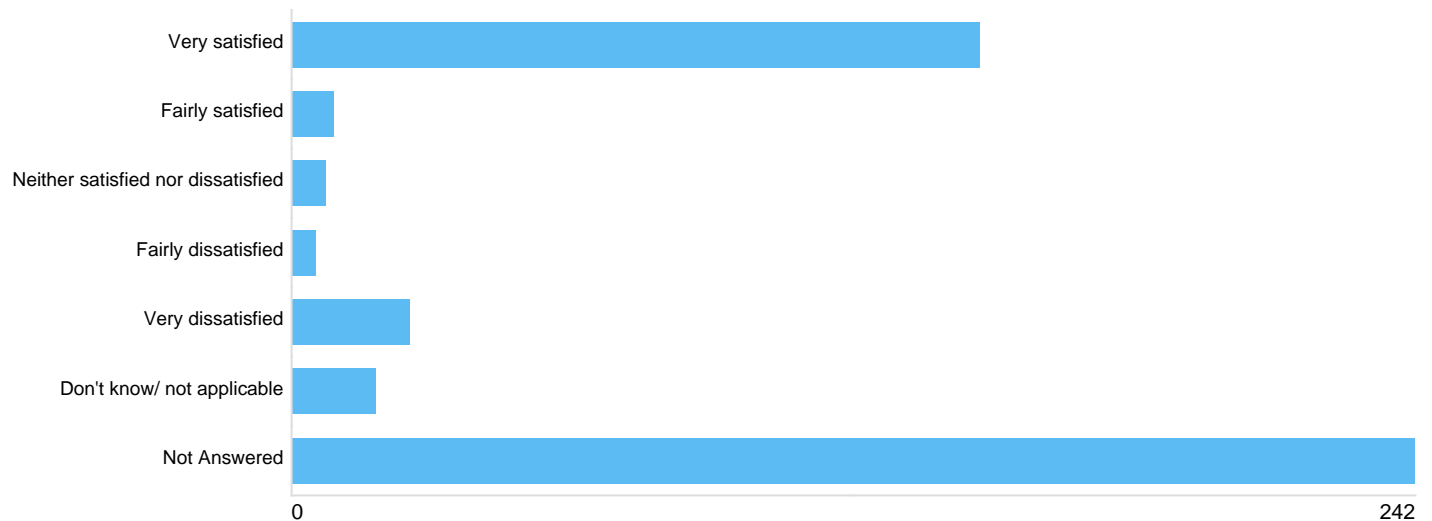
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	156	34.36%
Fairly satisfied	6	1.32%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Very dissatisfied	36	7.93%
Don't know/ not applicable	8	1.76%
Not Answered	241	53.08%

Fly Open Air Festival: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



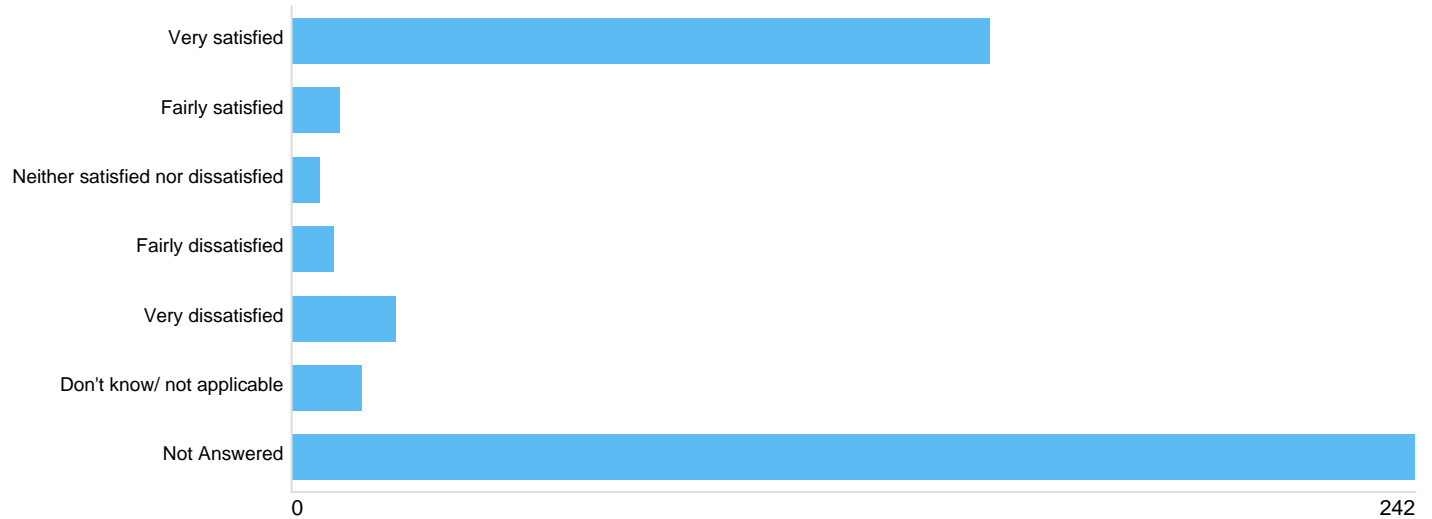
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	152	33.48%
Fairly satisfied	11	2.42%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Fairly dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Very dissatisfied	26	5.73%
Don't know/ not applicable	10	2.20%
Not Answered	245	53.96%

Fly Open Air Festival: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	148	32.60%
Fairly satisfied	9	1.98%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	1.54%
Fairly dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Very dissatisfied	25	5.51%
Don't know/ not applicable	18	3.96%
Not Answered	242	53.30%

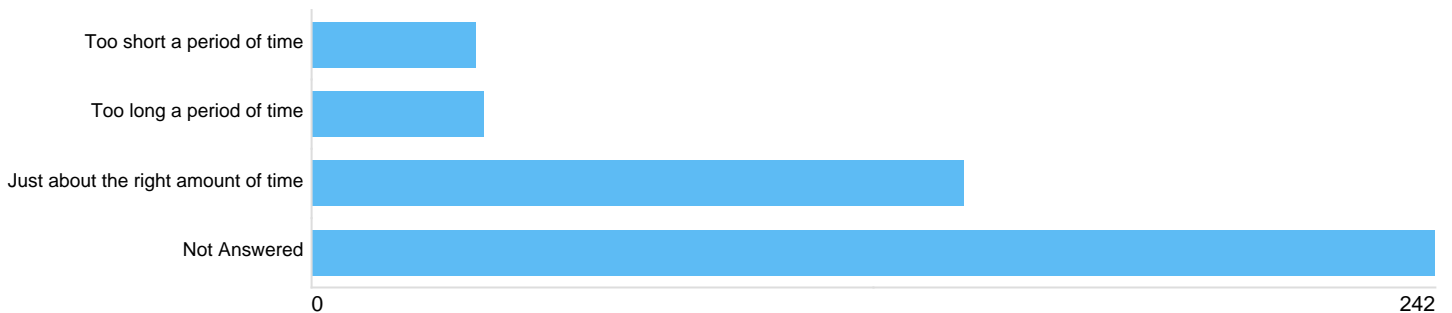
Fly Open Air Festival: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	150	33.04%
Fairly satisfied	10	2.20%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Fairly dissatisfied	9	1.98%
Very dissatisfied	22	4.85%
Don't know/ not applicable	15	3.30%
Not Answered	242	53.30%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Fly Open Air Festival: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	35	7.71%
Too long a period of time	37	8.15%
Just about the right amount of time	140	30.84%
Not Answered	242	53.30%

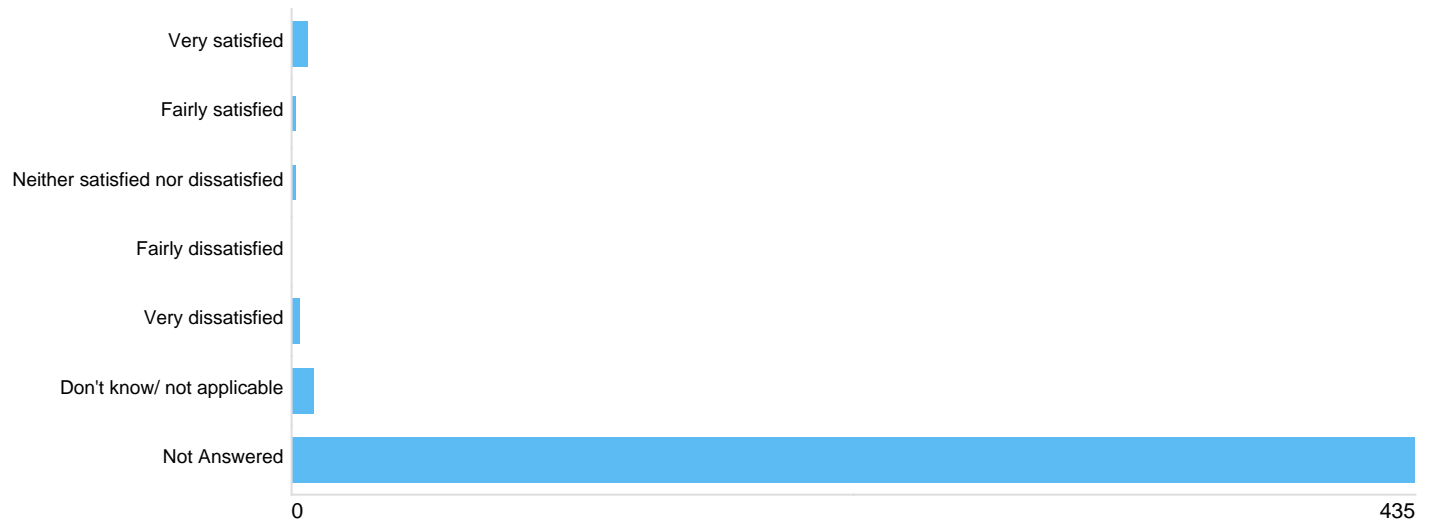
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Fly Open Air Festival: Any other comments

There were 135 responses to this part of the question.

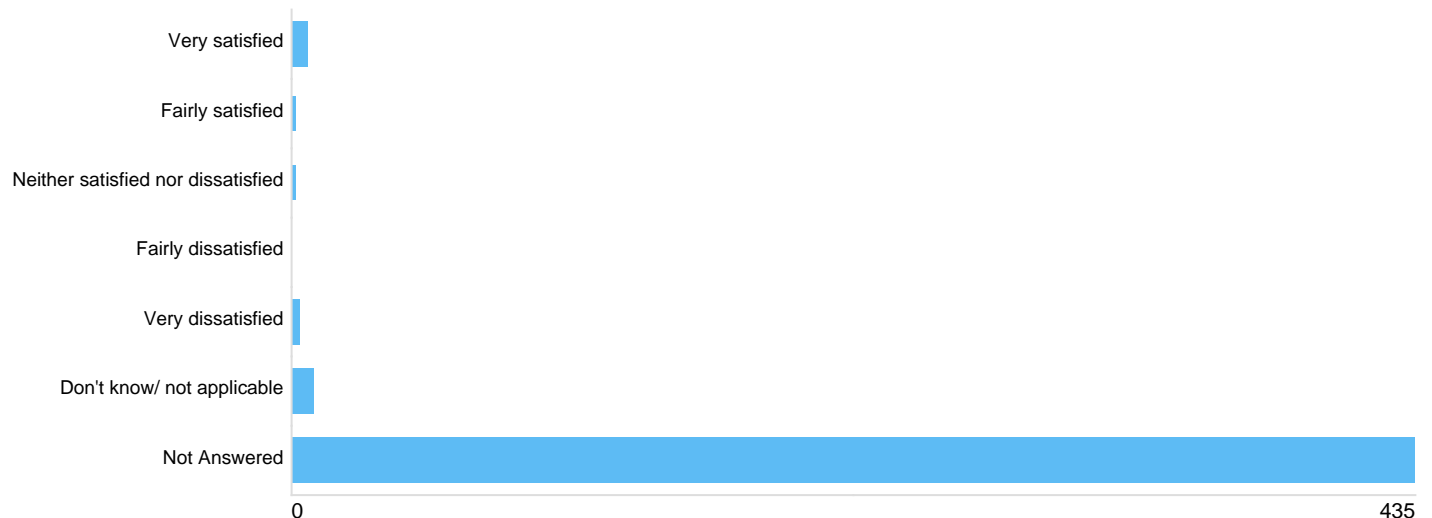
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Gandey's Circus: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



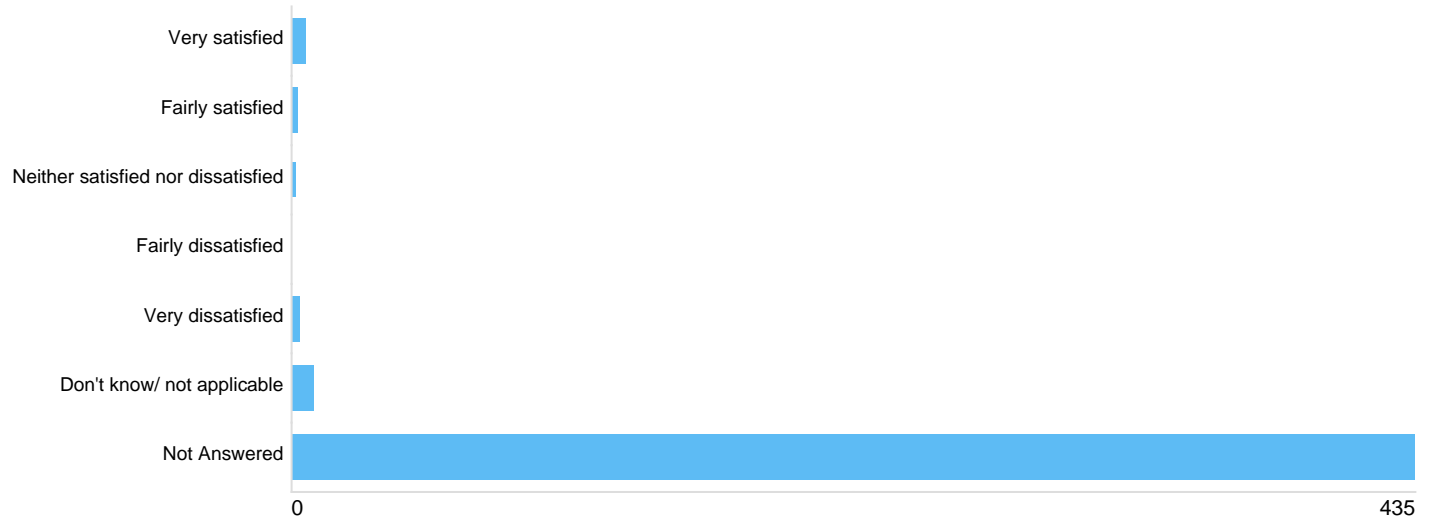
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	6	1.32%
Fairly satisfied	1	0.22%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	1	0.22%
Fairly dissatisfied	0	0%
Very dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Don't know/ not applicable	8	1.76%
Not Answered	435	95.81%

Gandey's Circus: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



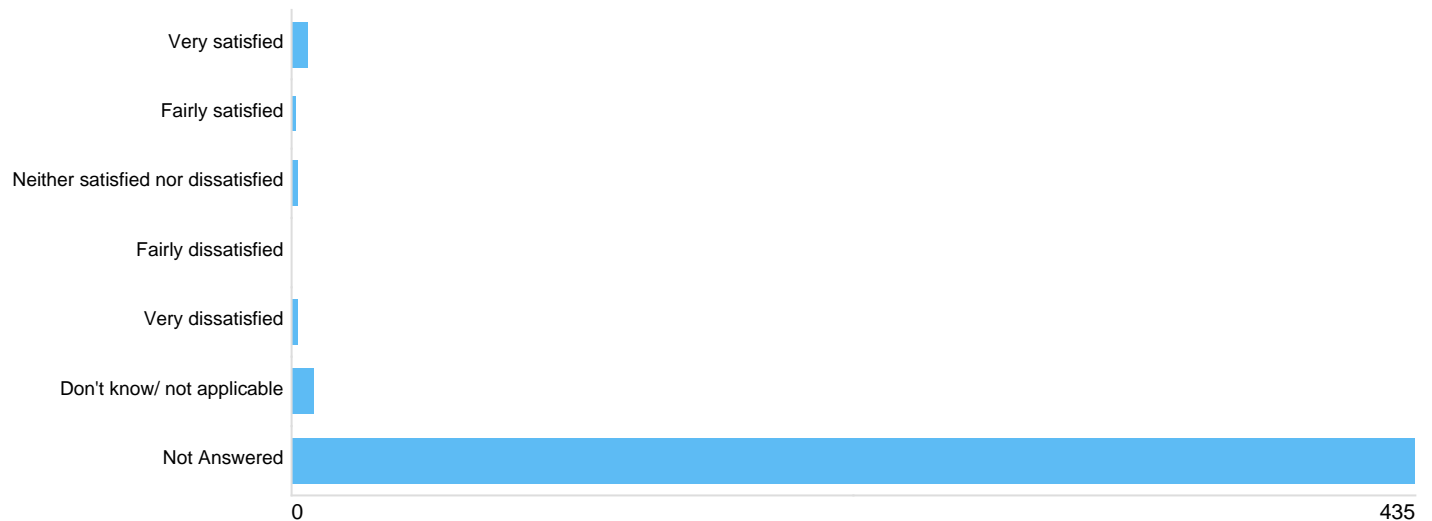
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	6	1.32%
Fairly satisfied	1	0.22%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	1	0.22%
Fairly dissatisfied	0	0%
Very dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Don't know/ not applicable	8	1.76%
Not Answered	435	95.81%

Gandey's Circus: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



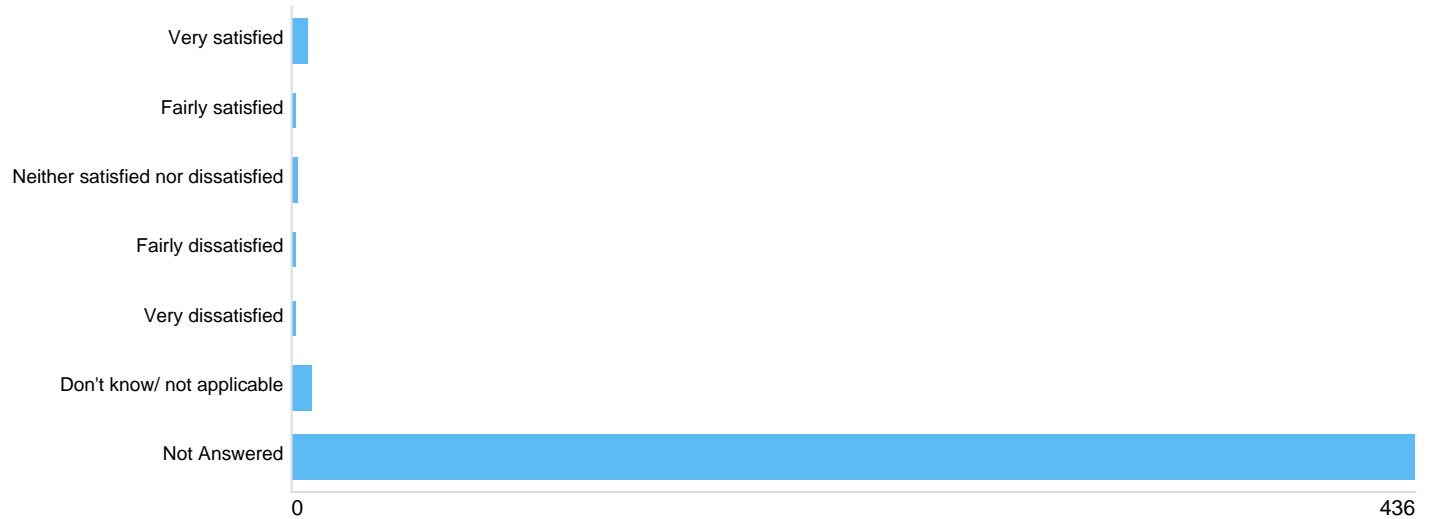
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	5	1.10%
Fairly satisfied	2	0.44%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	1	0.22%
Fairly dissatisfied	0	0%
Very dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Don't know/ not applicable	8	1.76%
Not Answered	435	95.81%

Gandey's Circus: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	6	1.32%
Fairly satisfied	1	0.22%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Fairly dissatisfied	0	0%
Very dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Don't know/ not applicable	8	1.76%
Not Answered	435	95.81%

Gandey's Circus: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	6	1.32%
Fairly satisfied	1	0.22%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Fairly dissatisfied	1	0.22%
Very dissatisfied	1	0.22%
Don't know/ not applicable	7	1.54%
Not Answered	436	96.04%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Gandey's Circus: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	3	0.66%
Too long a period of time	5	1.10%
Just about the right amount of time	8	1.76%
Not Answered	438	96.48%

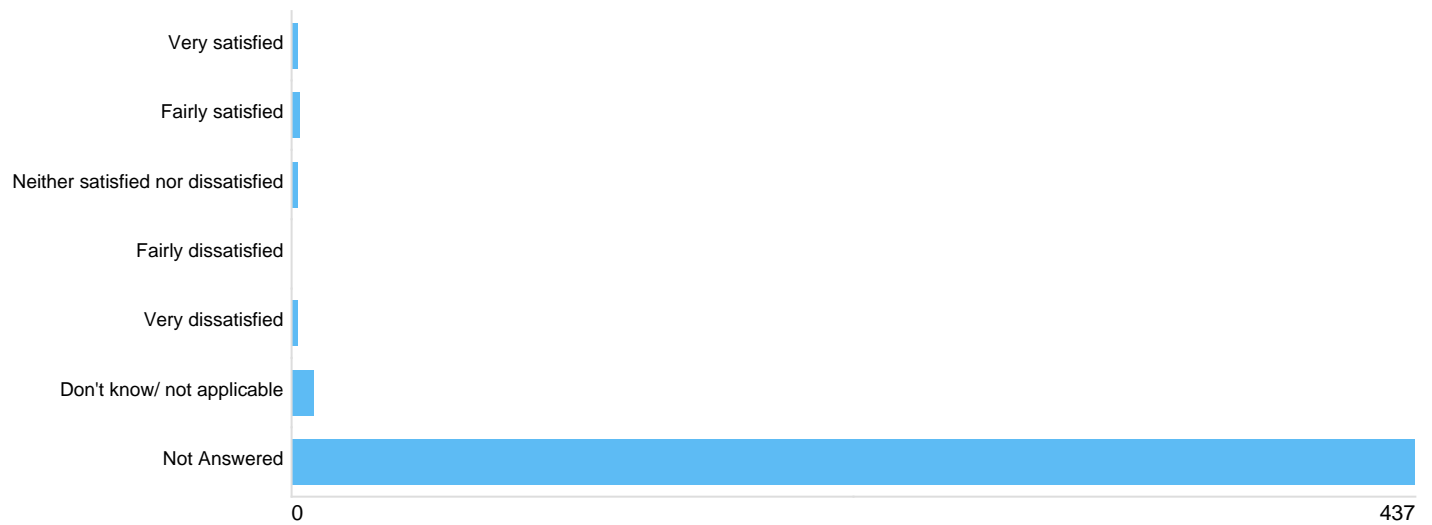
Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Gandey's Circus: Any other comments

There were 6 responses to this part of the question.

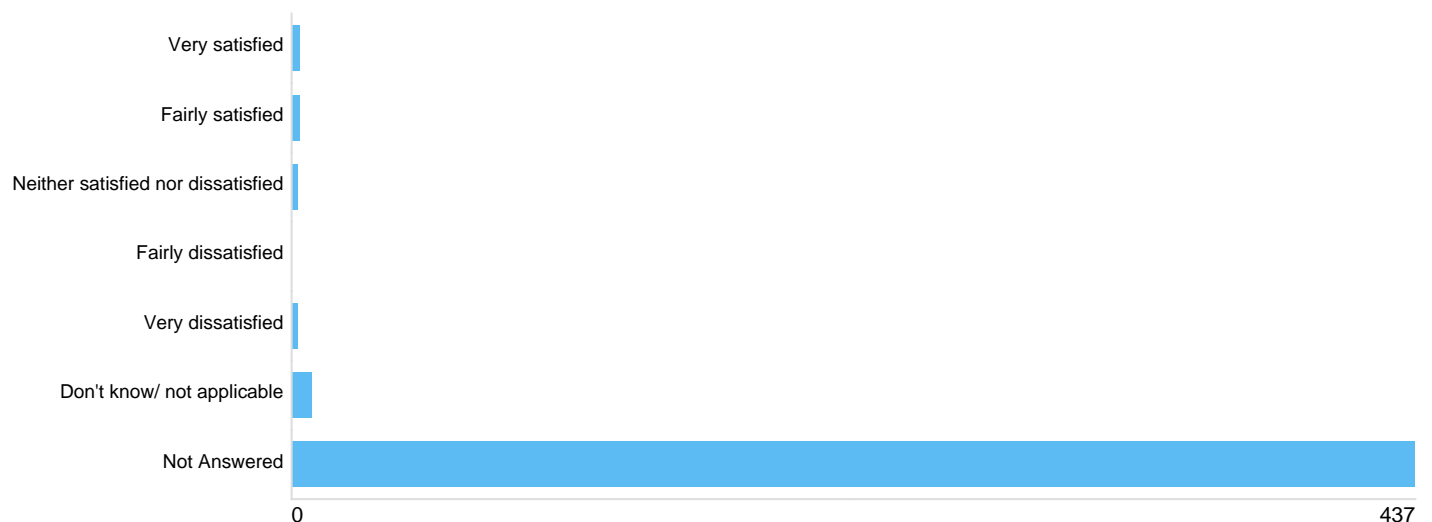
Question 1: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Colour Bomb Carnival: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



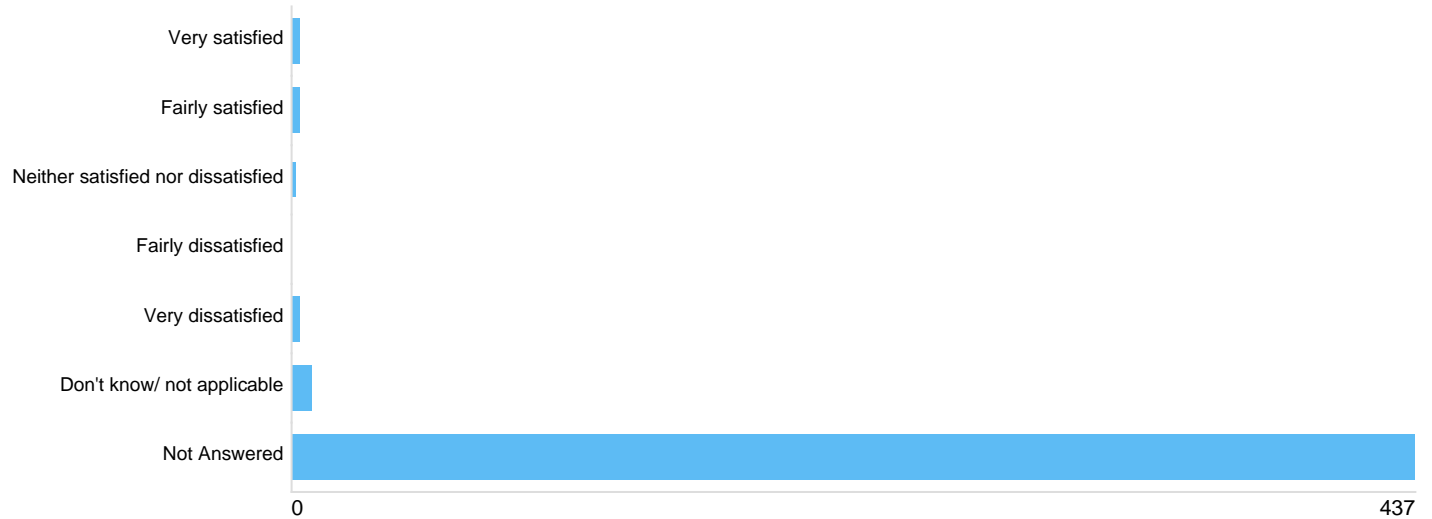
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	2	0.44%
Fairly satisfied	3	0.66%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Fairly dissatisfied	0	0%
Very dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Don't know/ not applicable	8	1.76%
Not Answered	437	96.26%

Colour Bomb Carnival: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



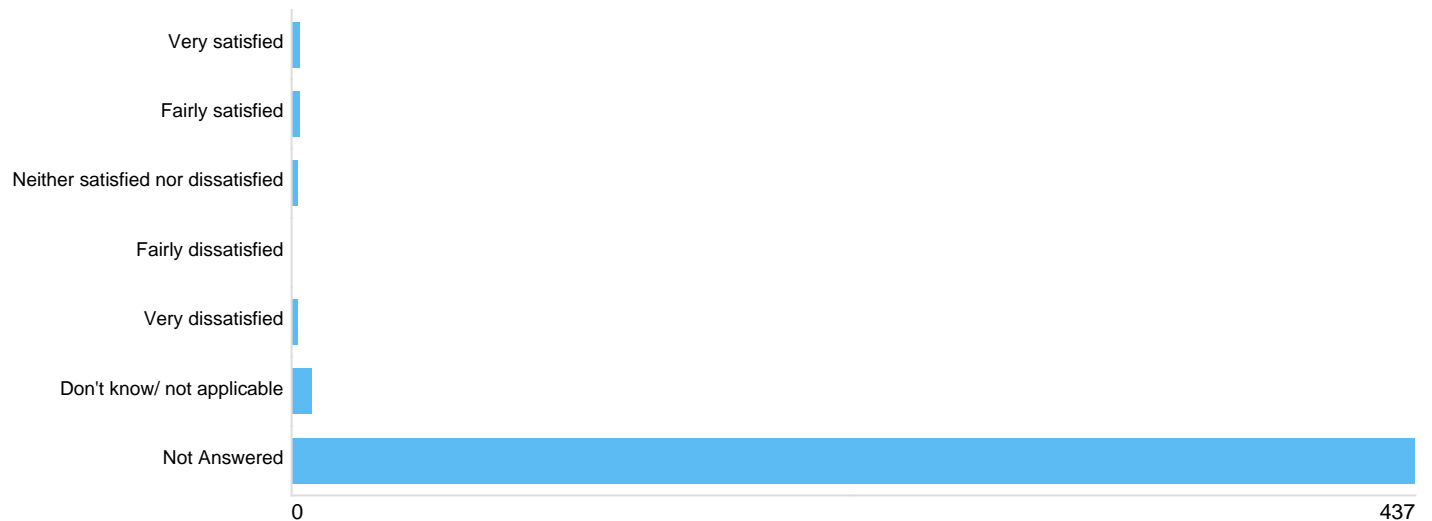
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	3	0.66%
Fairly satisfied	3	0.66%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Fairly dissatisfied	0	0%
Very dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Don't know/ not applicable	7	1.54%
Not Answered	437	96.26%

Colour Bomb Carnival: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



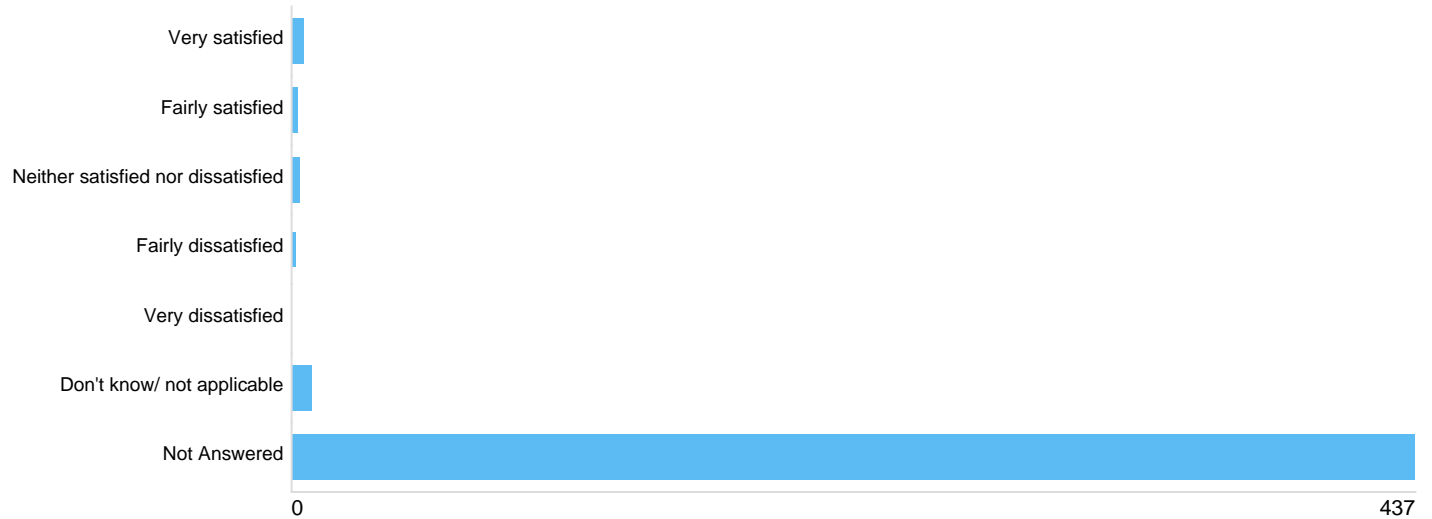
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	3	0.66%
Fairly satisfied	3	0.66%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	1	0.22%
Fairly dissatisfied	0	0%
Very dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Don't know/ not applicable	7	1.54%
Not Answered	437	96.26%

Colour Bomb Carnival: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	3	0.66%
Fairly satisfied	3	0.66%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Fairly dissatisfied	0	0%
Very dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Don't know/ not applicable	7	1.54%
Not Answered	437	96.26%

Colour Bomb Carnival: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly satisfied	2	0.44%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Fairly dissatisfied	1	0.22%
Very dissatisfied	0	0%
Don't know/ not applicable	7	1.54%
Not Answered	437	96.26%

Question 2: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Colour Bomb Carnival: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	1	0.22%
Too long a period of time	4	0.88%
Just about the right amount of time	10	2.20%
Not Answered	439	96.70%

Question 3: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Colour Bomb Carnival: Any other comments

There were **8** responses to this part of the question.

Question 1: What event would you like to comment on?

What event would you like to comment on?

There were **38** responses to this part of the question.

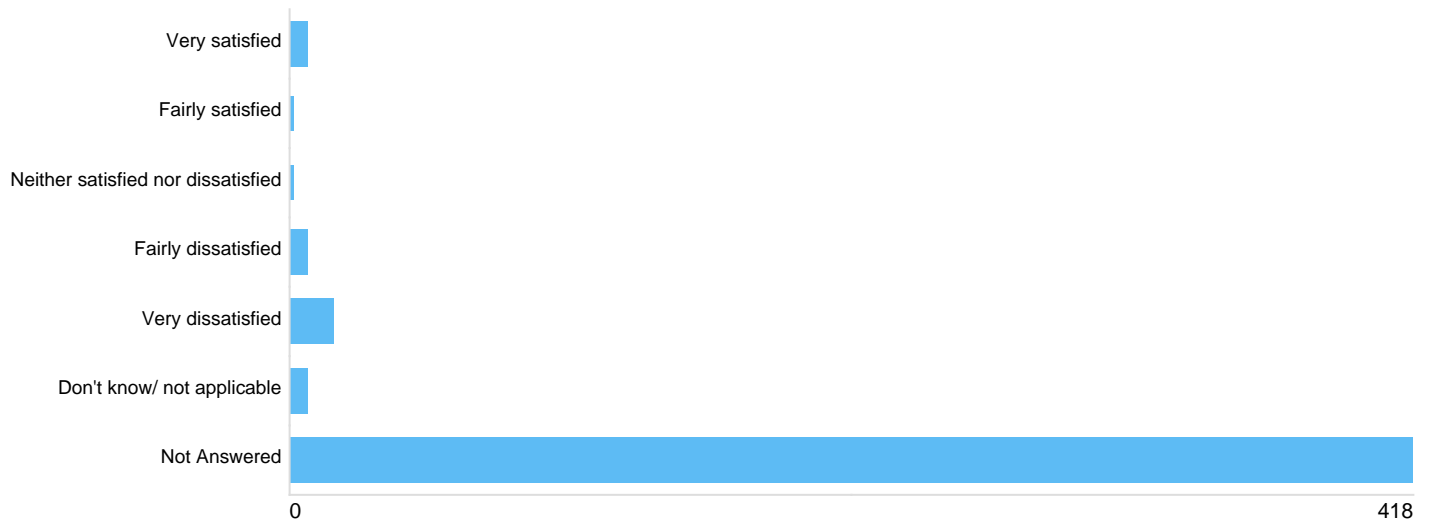
Question 2: Where and when did the event take place?

Where and when did the event take place?

There were **39** responses to this part of the question.

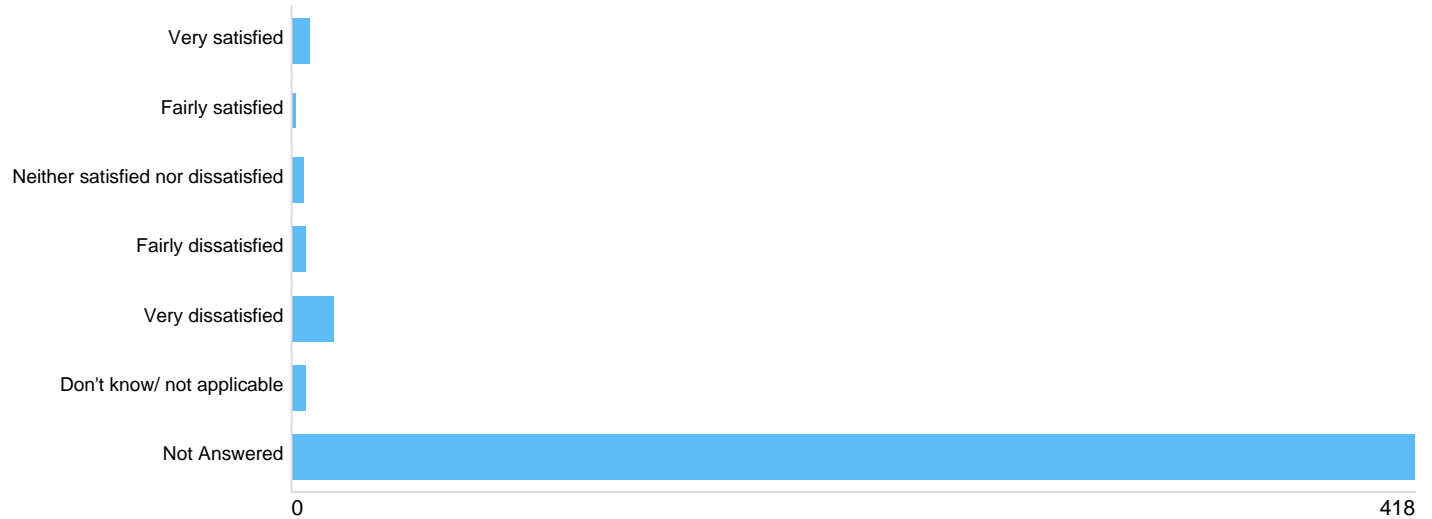
Question 3: How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with:

Other event: Satisfaction level - The cleanliness/ litter levels on the site during the event



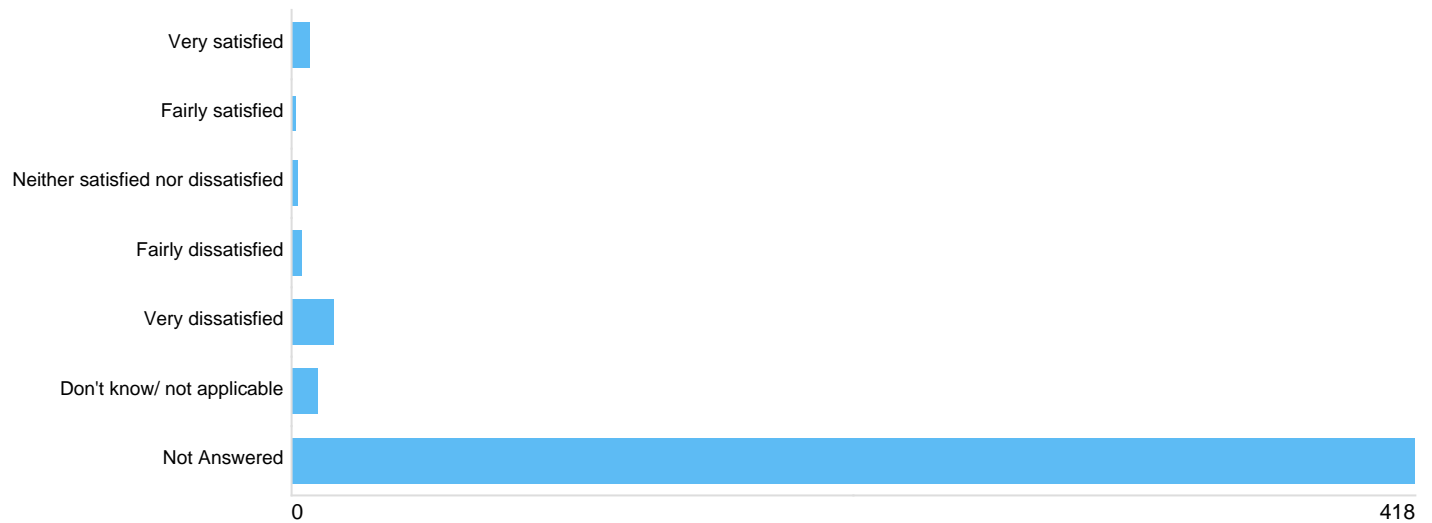
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	6	1.32%
Fairly satisfied	1	0.22%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	1	0.22%
Fairly dissatisfied	6	1.32%
Very dissatisfied	16	3.52%
Don't know/ not applicable	6	1.32%
Not Answered	418	92.07%

Other event: Satisfaction level - Noise levels generated by the event



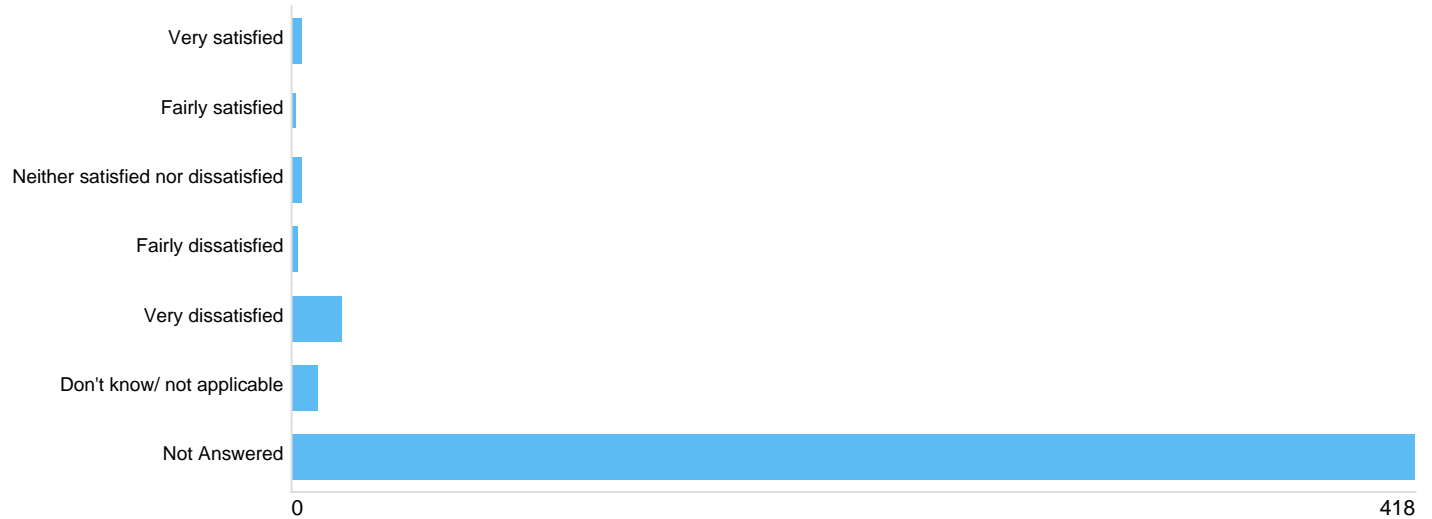
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	6	1.32%
Fairly satisfied	1	0.22%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly dissatisfied	5	1.10%
Very dissatisfied	15	3.30%
Don't know/ not applicable	5	1.10%
Not Answered	418	92.07%

Other event: Satisfaction level - Clearing up after the event



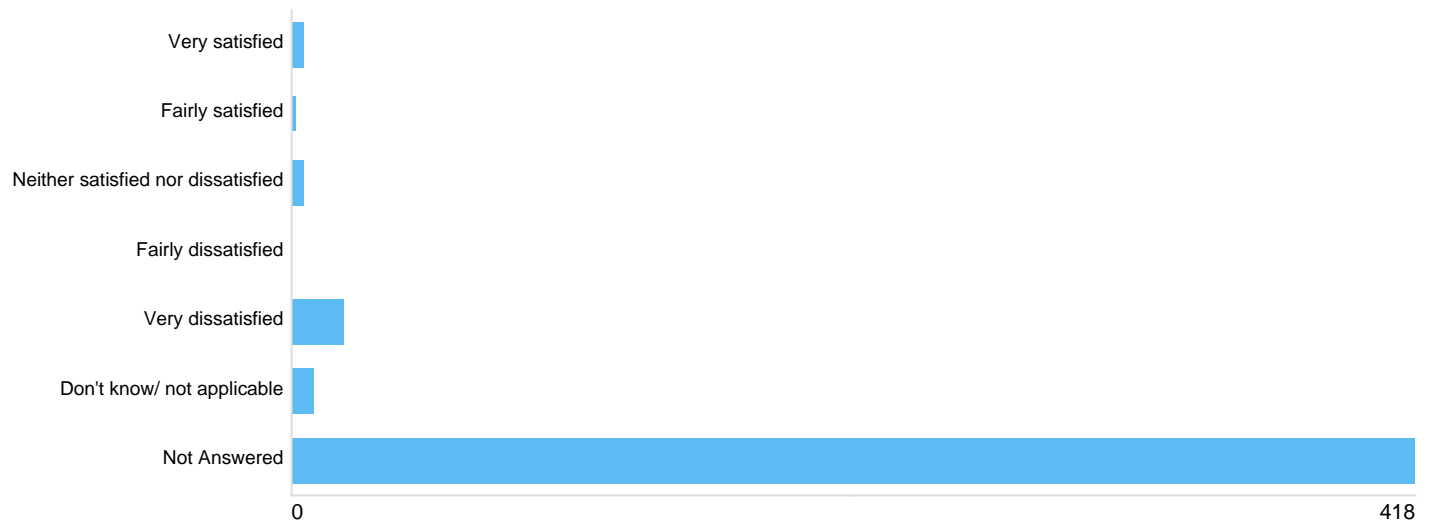
Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	6	1.32%
Fairly satisfied	1	0.22%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Fairly dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Very dissatisfied	15	3.30%
Don't know/ not applicable	9	1.98%
Not Answered	418	92.07%

Other event: Satisfaction level - Management of vehicle movement during the build up and breakdown of the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	3	0.66%
Fairly satisfied	1	0.22%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3	0.66%
Fairly dissatisfied	2	0.44%
Very dissatisfied	18	3.96%
Don't know/ not applicable	9	1.98%
Not Answered	418	92.07%

Other event: Satisfaction level - Management of traffic around the site during the event



Option	Total	Percent
Very satisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly satisfied	1	0.22%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	4	0.88%
Fairly dissatisfied	0	0%
Very dissatisfied	19	4.19%
Don't know/ not applicable	8	1.76%
Not Answered	418	92.07%

Question 4: Do you feel the event was on site for:

Other event: Length of event



Option	Total	Percent
Too short a period of time	2	0.44%
Too long a period of time	22	4.85%
Just about the right amount of time	12	2.64%
Not Answered	418	92.07%

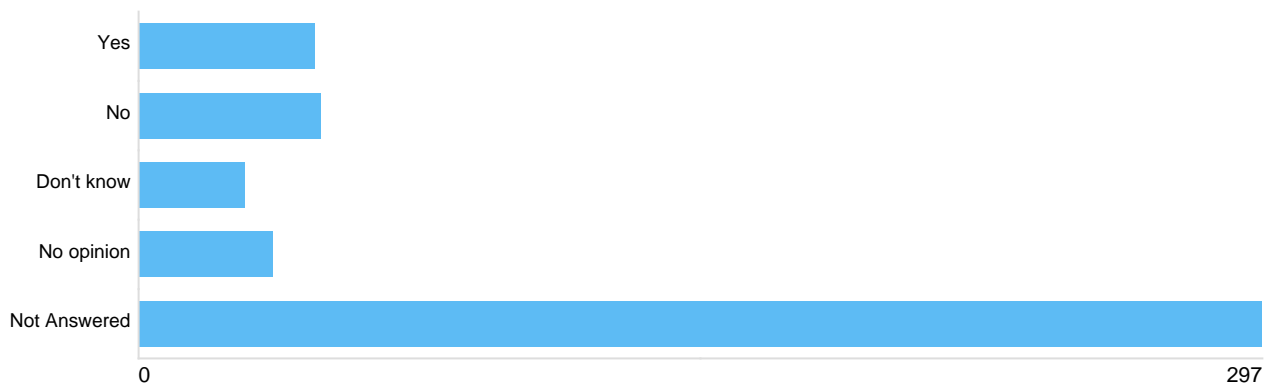
Question 5: Do you have any other comments on the event?

Other event: Any other comments

There were 33 responses to this part of the question.

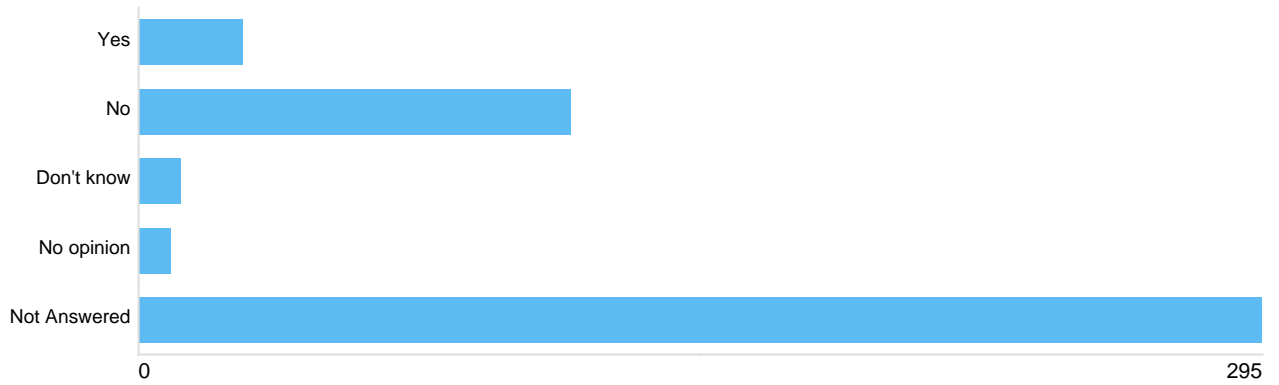
Question 1: Would you be in favour of the procurement of two events at the following parks?

Would you be in favour of procuring two events at the following parks? - Sighthill Park



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	46	10.13%
No	48	10.57%
Don't know	28	6.17%
No opinion	35	7.71%
Not Answered	297	65.42%

Would you be in favour of procuring two events at the following parks? - Calton Hill



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	27	5.95%
No	113	24.89%
Don't know	11	2.42%
No opinion	8	1.76%
Not Answered	295	64.98%

Would you be in favour of procuring two events at the following parks? - Gyle Park



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	44	9.69%
No	48	10.57%
Don't know	34	7.49%
No opinion	31	6.83%
Not Answered	297	65.42%

Would you be in favour of procuring two events at the following parks? - Leith Links



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	53	11.67%
No	69	15.20%
Don't know	21	4.63%
No opinion	16	3.52%
Not Answered	295	64.98%

Question 2: What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in Sighthill Park?

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - January / February



Option	Total	Percent
First event	9	1.98%
Second event	1	0.22%
Do not hold an event	54	11.89%
Not Answered	390	85.90%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - February / March



Option	Total	Percent
First event	4	0.88%
Second event	3	0.66%
Do not hold an event	54	11.89%
Not Answered	393	86.56%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - March / April



Option	Total	Percent
First event	12	2.64%
Second event	1	0.22%
Do not hold an event	54	11.89%
Not Answered	387	85.24%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - April / May



Option	Total	Percent
First event	19	4.19%
Second event	1	0.22%
Do not hold an event	51	11.23%
Not Answered	383	84.36%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - May / June



Option	Total	Percent
First event	15	3.30%
Second event	3	0.66%
Do not hold an event	53	11.67%
Not Answered	383	84.36%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - June / July



Option	Total	Percent
First event	15	3.30%
Second event	6	1.32%
Do not hold an event	52	11.45%
Not Answered	381	83.92%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - July / August



Option	Total	Percent
First event	11	2.42%
Second event	8	1.76%
Do not hold an event	55	12.11%
Not Answered	380	83.70%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - August / September



Option	Total	Percent
First event	9	1.98%
Second event	8	1.76%
Do not hold an event	54	11.89%
Not Answered	383	84.36%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - September / October



Option	Total	Percent
First event	5	1.10%
Second event	7	1.54%
Do not hold an event	53	11.67%
Not Answered	389	85.68%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - October / November



Option	Total	Percent
First event	3	0.66%
Second event	3	0.66%
Do not hold an event	53	11.67%
Not Answered	395	87.00%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - November / December



Option	Total	Percent
First event	3	0.66%
Second event	6	1.32%
Do not hold an event	53	11.67%
Not Answered	392	86.34%

Question 3: What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events on Calton Hill (these proposed events will be in addition to and not replace the existing Beltane and Dusherra Festivals)

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - January / February



Option	Total	Percent
First event	13	2.86%
Second event	2	0.44%
Do not hold an event	79	17.40%
Not Answered	360	79.30%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - February / March



Option	Total	Percent
First event	5	1.10%
Second event	4	0.88%
Do not hold an event	82	18.06%
Not Answered	363	79.96%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - March / April



Option	Total	Percent
First event	7	1.54%
Second event	2	0.44%
Do not hold an event	90	19.82%
Not Answered	355	78.19%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - April / May



Option	Total	Percent
First event	13	2.86%
Second event	3	0.66%
Do not hold an event	86	18.94%
Not Answered	352	77.53%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - May / June



Option	Total	Percent
First event	10	2.20%
Second event	2	0.44%
Do not hold an event	84	18.50%
Not Answered	358	78.85%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - June / July



Option	Total	Percent
First event	10	2.20%
Second event	6	1.32%
Do not hold an event	80	17.62%
Not Answered	358	78.85%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - July / August



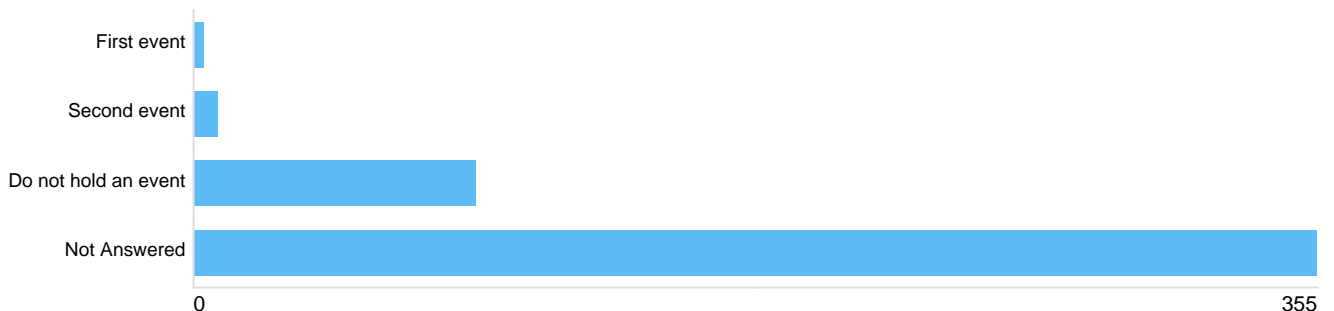
Option	Total	Percent
First event	10	2.20%
Second event	5	1.10%
Do not hold an event	84	18.50%
Not Answered	355	78.19%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - August / September



Option	Total	Percent
First event	6	1.32%
Second event	8	1.76%
Do not hold an event	89	19.60%
Not Answered	351	77.31%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - September / October



Option	Total	Percent
First event	3	0.66%
Second event	7	1.54%
Do not hold an event	89	19.60%
Not Answered	355	78.19%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - October / November



Option	Total	Percent
First event	4	0.88%
Second event	6	1.32%
Do not hold an event	88	19.38%
Not Answered	356	78.41%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - November / December



Option	Total	Percent
First event	5	1.10%
Second event	5	1.10%
Do not hold an event	81	17.84%
Not Answered	363	79.96%

Question 4: What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in Gyle Park?

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - January / February



Option	Total	Percent
First event	7	1.54%
Second event	1	0.22%
Do not hold an event	55	12.11%
Not Answered	391	86.12%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - February / March



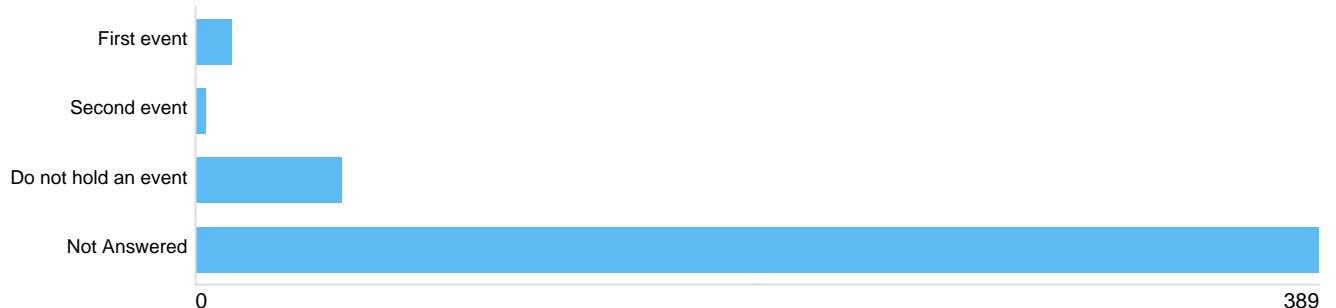
Option	Total	Percent
First event	7	1.54%
Second event	3	0.66%
Do not hold an event	51	11.23%
Not Answered	393	86.56%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - March / April



Option	Total	Percent
First event	11	2.42%
Second event	0	0%
Do not hold an event	50	11.01%
Not Answered	393	86.56%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - April / May



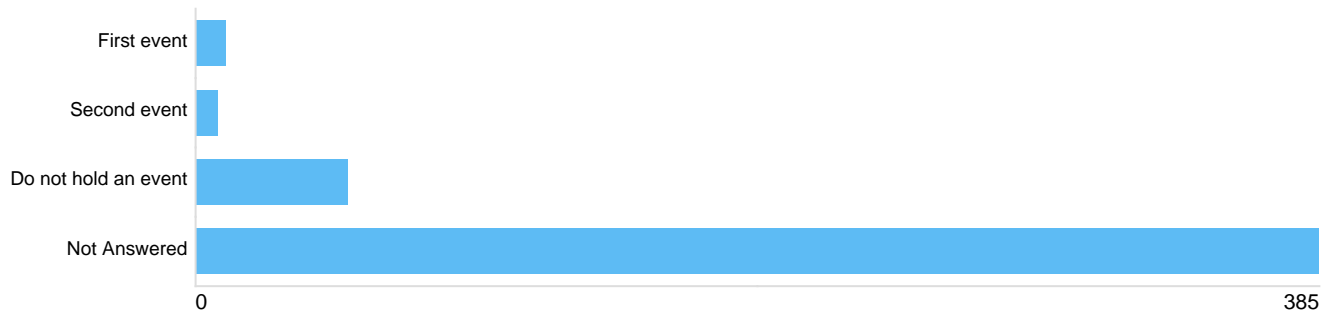
Option	Total	Percent
First event	12	2.64%
Second event	3	0.66%
Do not hold an event	50	11.01%
Not Answered	389	85.68%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - May / June



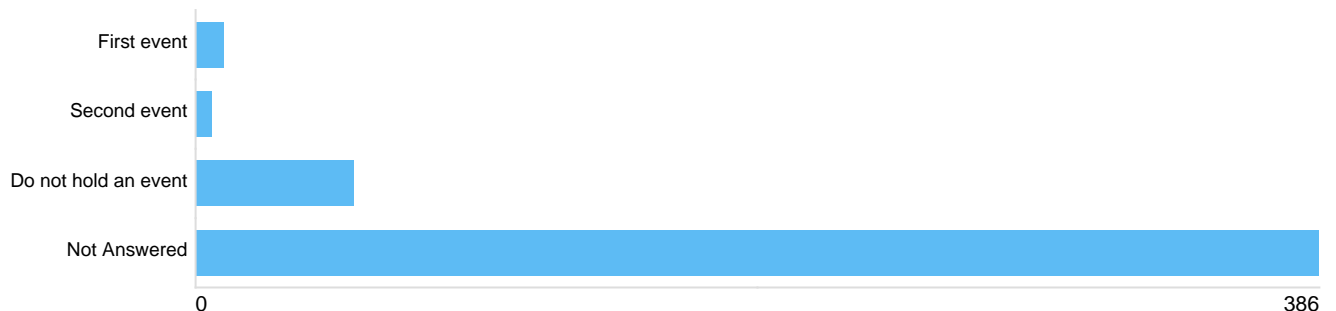
Option	Total	Percent
First event	10	2.20%
Second event	5	1.10%
Do not hold an event	50	11.01%
Not Answered	389	85.68%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - June / July



Option	Total	Percent
First event	10	2.20%
Second event	7	1.54%
Do not hold an event	52	11.45%
Not Answered	385	84.80%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - July / August



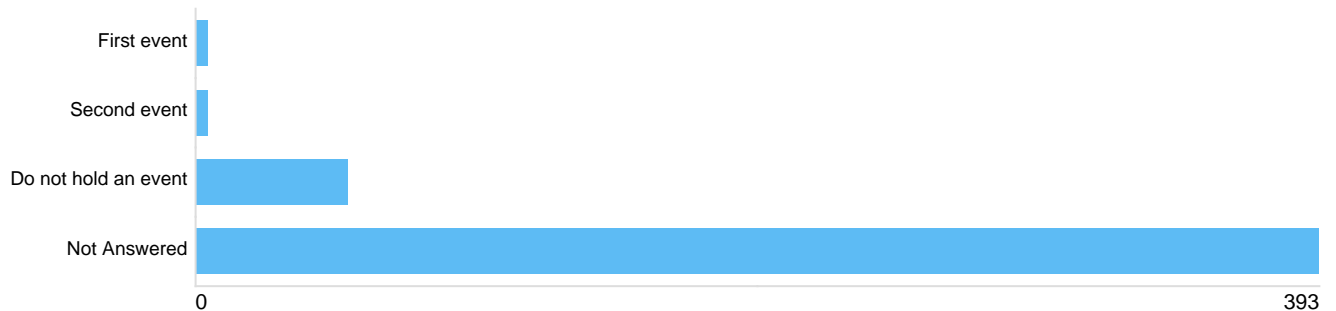
Option	Total	Percent
First event	9	1.98%
Second event	5	1.10%
Do not hold an event	54	11.89%
Not Answered	386	85.02%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - August / September



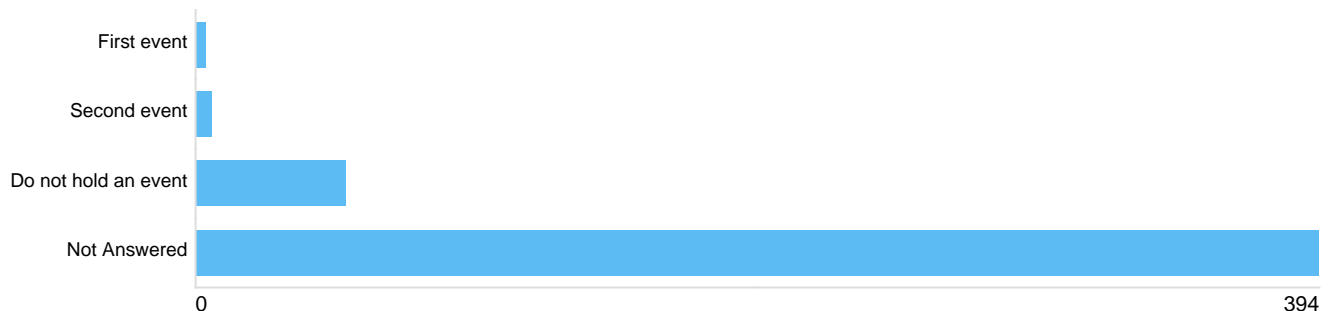
Option	Total	Percent
First event	7	1.54%
Second event	5	1.10%
Do not hold an event	54	11.89%
Not Answered	388	85.46%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - September / October



Option	Total	Percent
First event	4	0.88%
Second event	4	0.88%
Do not hold an event	53	11.67%
Not Answered	393	86.56%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - October / November



Option	Total	Percent
First event	3	0.66%
Second event	5	1.10%
Do not hold an event	52	11.45%
Not Answered	394	86.78%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - November / December



Option	Total	Percent
First event	3	0.66%
Second event	5	1.10%
Do not hold an event	52	11.45%
Not Answered	394	86.78%

Question 5: What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events on Leith Links?

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - January / February



Option	Total	Percent
First event	11	2.42%
Second event	2	0.44%
Do not hold an event	63	13.88%
Not Answered	378	83.26%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - February / March



Option	Total	Percent
First event	6	1.32%
Second event	2	0.44%
Do not hold an event	62	13.66%
Not Answered	384	84.58%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - March / April



Option	Total	Percent
First event	7	1.54%
Second event	1	0.22%
Do not hold an event	62	13.66%
Not Answered	384	84.58%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - April / May



Option	Total	Percent
First event	15	3.30%
Second event	1	0.22%
Do not hold an event	58	12.78%
Not Answered	380	83.70%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - May / June



Option	Total	Percent
First event	18	3.96%
Second event	1	0.22%
Do not hold an event	59	13.00%
Not Answered	376	82.82%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - June / July



Option	Total	Percent
First event	18	3.96%
Second event	4	0.88%
Do not hold an event	62	13.66%
Not Answered	370	81.50%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - July / August



Option	Total	Percent
First event	16	3.52%
Second event	9	1.98%
Do not hold an event	61	13.44%
Not Answered	368	81.06%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - August / September



Option	Total	Percent
First event	12	2.64%
Second event	6	1.32%
Do not hold an event	64	14.10%
Not Answered	372	81.94%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - September / October



Option	Total	Percent
First event	7	1.54%
Second event	6	1.32%
Do not hold an event	60	13.22%
Not Answered	381	83.92%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - October / November



Option	Total	Percent
First event	6	1.32%
Second event	4	0.88%
Do not hold an event	61	13.44%
Not Answered	383	84.36%

What time of year do you think is appropriate to hold each of the events in [park name]? - November / December



Option	Total	Percent
First event	6	1.32%
Second event	5	1.10%
Do not hold an event	61	13.44%
Not Answered	382	84.14%

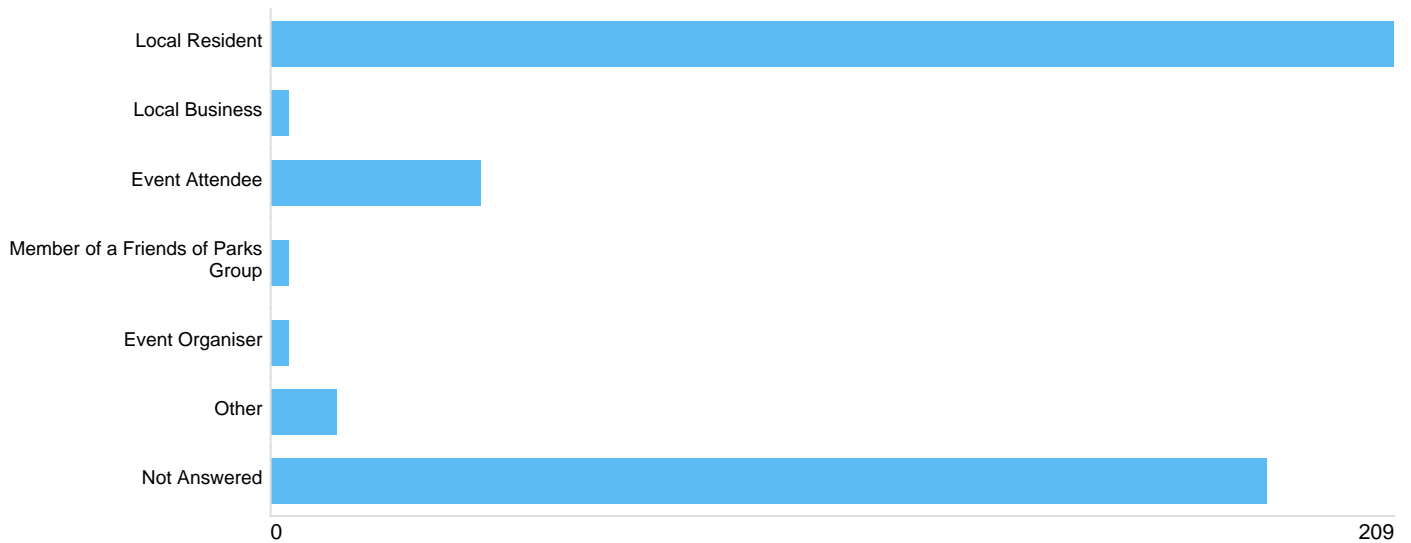
Question 6: Do you have any further comments?

Other Comments

There were **118** responses to this part of the question.

Question 1: Which of the following applies to you?

Respondent Type



Option	Total	Percent
Local Resident	209	46.04%
Local Business	3	0.66%
Event Attendee	39	8.59%
Member of a Friends of Parks Group	3	0.66%
Event Organiser	3	0.66%
Other	12	2.64%
Not Answered	185	40.75%

(Please specify)

There were **27** responses to this part of the question.

Additional Comments:
The following comments were submitted as part of the consultation and opinions expressed are solely the respondents own.
Dusherra, Calton Hill
I think too many green spaces are monetised/hijacked for "events". Please stop.
Fireworks should be banned because of distress to animals
Firework detritus and bonfire mess was better this year than last
I visited the hill the day before Dusherra and thought the effigies were well fenced off for public safety and interesting to look at. This is how I found out about it to attend the event itself and I thought it was amazing. So unique and a great cultural event for our city. Music and food options were great.
Fireworks should be banned in the city. These events should not be allowed in public gardens.
Regardless of event, noise pollution after dark is a HUGE problem in Edinburgh. Fireworks do not have to be supersonic. Subsonic (noiseless) explosives are available for events like all of these yet the Council voted *against* their use in the centre of the city some time ago. That's ridiculous. If the option for silent fireworks exists in the urban centre then it should be used.
I wish the council would stop creating surveys that don't allow respondents to address the issues that matter to them. While litter, noise and traffic are important issues, the most worrying factor is restriction of public access to public good land, particularly where this restriction favours private profit.
One of the best festivals in Edinburgh with very welcoming people;
lighting levels on the hill aren't adequate
In principle I am not in favour of large scale organised events on Calton Hill because of the adverse environmental impact and the damage caused to land and trees by large numbers of support vehicles and people
Why are fireworks required and, if so, why are these not adequately communicated to residents and silent fireworks used?
I saw council litter pickers up on the hill after the event but there was a vast amount of leftover rubbish still there. There is no clear speed limit on the bank up to the hill. Cars tend to go too quickly on the road. There needs to be more info for local residents for the event and the noise and length of the fireworks. The noise was incredible. I love fireworks but some forewarning is needed.
I don't think you should be holding events on our national monuments
In general, I think there should not be more events. I think the Meadows should be used for the Festival and Princes St gardens for the Festival & Hogmanay.
Longer the better, allows it to be more inclusive in the daytime for others to wander in and discover.
A good community event
I liked this event.
It involved the local community and still kept the hill open for others to enjoy the space.

It's great that the Scottish India Arts Forum (SIAF) is able to celebrate their flagship event, Dusherra, in such a prominent location and for free. However, a concern would be its growth and expansion, which although a sign of success may also result in unsustainable numbers of participants that are then limited by charging a fee, and so go the (wrong) way of the Beltane Fire Festival.

The event is noisy, but usually finishes fairly early. It seemed to go on later this year - I hope it won't extend beyond about 10 o'clock.

As a local resident living in proximity to Calton Hill, I find this and other events held at Calton Hill perennially noisy. They invariably include music, drums and fireworks, and due to the terrain, the noise travels a considerable distance. The noise has woken and unduly disturbed me in the past; the events continue past their advertised time for conclusion; and I have needed to contact the Council noise control service on multiple occasions. Some of these events, such as Beltane, have continued until 1.30am when I have needed to attend work for important meetings the following day. This has diminished my capacity to perform effectively at work and I am sure others in the vicinity will have endured similar experiences. While I don't have children or pets, many of my neighbours have commented on the negative effect of the noise on both. All in all, Calton Hill is an unsuitable events venue due to the terrain, lack of lighting, limited access/egress, restrictions to public access and proximity to housing.

Samhuinn Fire Festival, Calton Hill
See previous answer. The old informal small scale gathering was OK. Making it an "event" just ramps up the pressure on green space and surrounding areas. Stop.
With all events too many fireworks causing distress to animals
Leaves barely a trace
Bfs are great keepers of the park
Maybe start earlier since lots of Children attend. Have even an earlier Childrens bit in the afternoon say 4pm so after school if a week day
Not Answered
Even understanding that Calton Hill Park is a more controllable space, I would like to see the Samhuinn festival return to the city centre as a street event in some form.
Very important event, keeps links with history.
I think that this event is very important for community and local people (it is not aimed at tourists like a lot of other events)
The Samhuinn/Beltane Fire Festivals are exceptional, unique, and should be protected and encouraged by Edinburgh Council where possible.
With regard specifically to this one, Samhuinn 2018, it was the first time it was performed at Calton Hill rather than Royal Mile. I think transitioning to here was done the best way it could have gone. It unexpectedly sold out so it was quite busy and hard to navigate at times, as well as being dark in places, but the organisation signboards all of this on their website and on the ticket booking site.
For crowd control I do think having tickets and keeping it on Calton Hill is better than on the Royal Mile, where I witnessed very very difficult levels of crowd attendance. Above all though I do get the impression from the Beltane organisation website that they work their absolute hardest to make the event as easy and responsible as possible.
All of these questions assume they should be held where they are. Open, green spaces and gardens should be off limits.
25 years ago this event was for locals. Low key and sustainable. Now another money making opportunity.
Regardless of event, noise pollution after dark is a HUGE problem in Edinburgh. Fireworks to not have to supersonic. Subsonic (noiseless) explosives are available for events like all of these yet the Council voted *against* their use in the centre of the city some time ago. That's ridiculous. If the option for silent fireworks exists in the urban centre then it should be used.
I'm not personally aware of any of these issues being a problem.
It was not clear that a charge of £20 approx was being levied just to walk in the public park that night

	The event it is one of the longest running community arts productions in Edinburgh, and it's a real unique treasure to have in our city.
	Good event
	A well organised event.
	This event is inclusive and unobtrusive and a fantastic part of the cities festivities which is not part of the commercialism which many other events focus on
	An excellent non-commercial cultural event, exactly what public space should be used for
	This is a great festival which genuinely draws on the history, culture, and traditions of Edinburgh, making it a beautiful event with true purpose. The polar opposite, then, of the Christmas Market/Festival.
	In principle I am not in favour of large scale organised events on Calton Hill because of the adverse environmental impact and the damage caused to land and trees by large numbers of support vehicles and people
	This is a good example of a cultural event being done properly.
	I especially do not think that CEC should be holding fire festivals on our national monument, It is a conservation space & should not be used under any circumstances
Page 227	The length of que and awareness to what was happening by those guiding people were very poor. I was directed to the wrong que and had to stand an wait 3 hours even though was one of the first to arrive.
	Those helping need to be better prepared.
	Lots of people on the roads and needs to ha e an agew restrictions, as partially naked people running around. I don't think children at the age of 8 should be allowed. I think they were misinformed. This showed alot of horned and "evil" dressed people, also not great for kids.
	Too msny events generally. I think Calton Hill could be used for 1 weekend in Nov for fireworks
	An excellent event, I enjoy it every year! Fantastic community group.
	A very fun and culturally significant event. It is important to keep these events running especially when they provide the event on a voluntary basis as a cultural and art outlet.
	A great event that involves the local community and international visitors, as well as being meaningful to many people.
	Excellent grassroots event
	Disgraceful.
	Great to see this on Calton Hill

The festival is integral to the cultural life of this city. Curtailing it in any way would be a travesty, and it is - if anything - too thoroughly regulated as it is. Some of us remember the days when it occurred free of charge, without Council permission. It was better then, in some ways. Council oversight all too often seems closely connected with corporate greed. Every year Edinburgh Hogmanay and the Christmas market get bigger, but local festivals get squeezed into smaller or more tightly regulated venues. Whose city is this, anyway? Does it belong to London-based corporations and the tourists to whom they pander, or to those who live and work here? Sometimes, I feel like the Council has already made up its mind on that issue, and not in favour of 'the little man', but, if anyone's still listening, here's my opinion: local festivals forever, and for free! Give the corporations nothing.

Edinburgh has built an international reputation as a home for unique arts and cultural events. Many of these events have their origins as community-led or non-profit creations. For locals and visitors, these events aren't just a fun activity but personally meaningful and important. They create a sense of community and identity, and a lasting bond with the city of Edinburgh. The excessive corporatisation of events like the Fringe and the Christmas market, and the commercialisation of this event culture, damages our city's authenticity and weakens Edinburgh's long-term reputation.

As such, community created events must have priority and clear protections from any disruption from commercial events.

Edinburgh's parks belong to the Edinburgh's people and are used for relaxing, playing sport and exercise amongst many other activities. Access to green spaces within urban areas has well-demonstrated social, economic and health benefits, especially for those of us who are most disadvantaged.

I am concerned that this consultation, which could have a direct effect on many Edinburgh residents lives, has not been made widely available to those most affected. It should have been.

As such, I am against the proposal to open more of our parks for procurement of commercial events.

This event runs well and has been going for 25 years in the city of Edinburgh so it should be protected from any additional procurement happening on the hill.

This is a great event that is run by a brilliant volunteer community and should be protected before any corporate applications for the hill are submitted.

I was part of the volunteer Tech crew to build and derig the event.

Samhuinn has taken place in Edinburgh for many years, usually on the Royal Mile. It attracts huge crowds and was moved to Calton Hill because of new restrictions on the Mile and traffic/crowding problems when it was held elsewhere (eg Princes St).

In my view, Calton Hill is a good venue for the event, but it is not ideal for what is primarily street theatre. This is a good compromise given the difficulties of hosting this event elsewhere. Samhuinn is community-run event put on almost entirely by volunteers who get the opportunity to learn and share new skills and belong to a genuine community; as such, I feel it should have priority over commercial enterprises on Calton Hill if that is considered to be the best venue for it.

A very well run event that treats the public space with great respect. I rarely see the hill with less rubbish than it has right after this festival, they clean the space up better than anyone!

I've come to Samhuinn for about 5 years now.

This was the second year on the hill.

With this and with the sister celebration Beltane there's a real sense of occasion and anticipation tied to the presentation and the changing season.

I've met loads of people who have travelled from other countries just to experience this

It only ties up the hill for a few hours and is gone again.

In general the reclaiming of Calton Hill by the Beltane Fire Society to celebrate ancient festivals celebrating winter (and summer) and showcasing the musical, acrobatic and theatre skills of its members is an accomplishment that has reached its peak in terms of size and sustainability.

Just don't let it go on too late...

Great community volunteer event. Brings people to the city for a combination of spectacle, ritual, and tradition.

In case we are not asked no extra events please drumming particularly gets into our house in Regent Terrace

As a local resident living in proximity to Calton Hill, I find this and other events held at Calton Hill perennially noisy. They invariably include music, drums and fireworks, and due to the terrain, the noise travels a considerable distance. The noise has woken and unduly disturbed me in the past; the events continue past their advertised time for conclusion; and I have needed to contact the Council noise control service on multiple occasions. Some of these events, such as Beltane, have continued until 1.30am when I have needed to attend work for important meetings the following day. This has diminished my capacity to perform effectively at work and I am sure others in the vicinity will have endured similar experiences. While I don't have children or pets, many of my neighbours have commented on the negative effect of the noise on both. All in all, Calton Hill is an unsuitable events venue due to the terrain, lack of lighting, limited access/egress, restrictions to public access and proximity to housing.

It was one day/night. I'm not sure it could be on site for any other period of time

Beltane, Calton Hill	
	Too many "events", "festivals" and same mash up of green spaces, noise and cost. Please stop.
	Fireworks cause distress to animals
	Feels like a really important part of being part of a tradition and a community in Edinburgh I've never come across anywhere else
	Its a great event run by dedicated volunteers.
	As with the other have a child friendly bit starting earlier around 4pm if weekday of afternoon if weekend
	The experience is much improved with the end of the construction work at the Observatory gallery, although a pile of construction waste and scrap metal seems to have been left on site near one of the paths. Is that safe in a public park?
	Edinburgh would not be the same with out this event
	Also very important event with historical links.
	I think that this event is very important for community and local people (it is not aimed at tourists like a lot of other events)
	Because it's been going on for 30 years, I think the Beltane Festival is one of the most interesting festivals in the whole UK. I've been in Edinburgh for 5 years and I feel lucky to be able to attend it and witness the stuff they put on. I know all the performers are volunteers but they really perform on a near professional level. It's something you just don't get anywhere else in the world and is really becoming well known overseas. I met several people in the audience who had travelled from the USA because there's literally nothing like it. It really should be encouraged and supported by the council as it makes the city of Edinburgh stand out from the rest of Scotland and the UK. It's run by a charity so I understand it doesn't really make profit for the Council but I think it's much more worthwhile to invest in compared to just a market or something run strictly for profit. If people are so willing to invest their time and money in getting such a festival off the ground then the Council should support them in it. The fact that every year it gets several thousand people to buy tickets shows how important it is to the people in Edinburgh and visitors to the city.
	I understand the drumming can be loud but on their website it does give a drum curfew time and I thought they did keep to it. Their website is pretty well laid out with all the information needed for the event, like it being dark and busy. I also went to Calton Hill in the morning before the event and thought it was still quite easy to get to the key parts of Calton Hill to enjoy the views etc (except the National Monument which was fenced off).
	25 years ago this event was special. Now another excuse to make money and just for the tourists. No place anymore in public land.
	Regardless of event, noise pollution after dark is a HUGE problem in Edinburgh. Fireworks to not have to supersonic. Subsonic (noiseless) explosives are available for events like all of these yet the Council voted *against* their use in the centre of the city some time ago. That's ridiculous. If the option for silent fireworks exists in the urban centre then it should be used.

	<p>The fire festival events were started in 1988 as a revival of what used to be a traditional celebration. The council has turned this into a commercialised event with restricted access, which is totally contrary to the original intent. Many of these questions are not applicable to an event on Calton Hill, since traffic isn't an issue and it's not a residential area. The same applies to other parks included in this survey. There is no one-size-fits-all set of questions for the parks in this survey.</p>
	<p>Not sure how these events get to charge people to walk in the park</p>
	<p>Love it and it is getting better every year. I used to love it when there were no barricades or entrance fees but I suppose with safety in mind they are required.</p>
	<p>As with the Samhuinn festival, this is a long running community organised event that does massive amounts to bring together people in Edinburgh, and entertain an international audience.</p>
	<p>Well organised event.</p>
	<p>A fantastic event which celebrates our history and people. They do everything as carefully and thought-through as possible and are not for profit.</p>
	<p>Excellent</p>
	<p>Good example of cultural event done properly.</p>
	<p>As said no events on Calton hill</p>
Page 231	<p>A fire festival in May as well as one in Autumn is too many</p>
	<p>Another event that is meaningful to the local community and international visitors. Edinburgh is renowned internationally for its Beltane Fire Festival.</p>
	<p>This is a hugely important cultural event for Edinburgh that brings in thousands of revenue from tourists travelling from all over the globe for this unique event. It has been a highlight of the year for 30 years and I look forward to seeing how the event grows</p>
	<p>Established and important festival bringing together the people of Edinburgh (in particular young people) and visitors from around the world.</p>
	<p>Terrible event.</p>
	<p>Exciting and unique Edinburgh event, and a great addition to the festival year</p>
	<p>This event is indispensable, and an important part of the city's festival calendar. Stop regulating it so much! It was more fun and accessible when it was free.</p>

Edinburgh has built an international reputation as a home for unique arts and cultural events. Many of these events have their origins as community-led or non-profit creations. For locals and visitors, these events aren't just a fun activity but personally meaningful and important. They create a sense of community and identity, and a lasting bond with the city of Edinburgh. The excessive corporatisation of events like the Fringe and the Christmas market, and the commercialisation of this event culture, damages our city's authenticity and weakens Edinburgh's long-term reputation.

As such, community created events must have priority and clear protections from any disruption from commercial events.

Edinburgh's parks belong to the Edinburgh's people and are used for relaxing, playing sport and exercise amongst many other activities. Access to green spaces within urban areas has well-demonstrated social, economic and health benefits, especially for those of us who are most disadvantaged.

I am concerned that this consultation, which could have a direct effect on many Edinburgh residents lives, has not been made widely available to those most affected. It should have been.

As such, I am against the proposal to open more of our parks for procurement of commercial events.

This event runs well and has been going for over 30 years in the city of Edinburgh so it should be protected from any additional procurement happening on the hill.

A great festival run by a great charity, it should have priority of the hill over some of the more corporate looking to move in considering they have been performing this festival for over 30 years, especially considering the council has not always been supportive of the arts and third sector ventures.

I was a volunteer performer during the Beltane Fire Festival.

Beltane has taken place on Calton Hill for over 3 decades, with just a single 1-year gap. It is a unique event attracting a huge international audience and hundreds of volunteers and has a lasting bond with the city and the hill.

In my view, Calton Hill is an excellent venue for the event, which has grown up around the venue and has a strong connection to it. Beltane is community-run event put on almost entirely by volunteers who get the opportunity to learn and share new skills and belong to a genuine community; as such, I feel it should have priority over commercial enterprises on Calton Hill.

As with the Samhuinn festival the organisers treat the hill very well. They seem to take more ownership of the space, leaving it nicer for residents after, than any other event in the city. Any thoughts on getting them to run other events through the year? Could help people learn to look after the green spaces around them that they leave in a right mess.

Long running favourite event

One off events of this type seem OK to me, as they do not exclude the public from a public area for an extended period of time.

I've come to Beltane for about 5 years now.

With this and with the sister celebration Samhuinn there's a real sense of occasion and anticipation tied to the presentation and the changing season.

I've met loads of people who have travelled from other countries just to experience this

It only ties up the hill for a few hours and is gone again.

In general the reclaiming of Calton Hill by the Beltane Fire Society to celebrate ancient festivals celebrating (winter and) summer and showcasing the musical, acrobatic and theatre skills of its members is an accomplishment that has reached its peak in terms of size and sustainability.

I am not keen on this event being held so close to where I live.

Great community volunteer event. Brings people to the city for a combination of spectacle, ritual, and tradition.

Tedious drumming

As a local resident living in proximity to Calton Hill, I find this and other events held at Calton Hill perennially noisy. They invariably include music, drums and fireworks, and due to the terrain, the noise travels a considerable distance. The noise has woken and unduly disturbed me in the past; the events continue past their advertised time for conclusion; and I have needed to contact the Council noise control service on multiple occasions. Some of these events, such as Beltane, have continued until 1.30am when I have needed to attend work for important meetings the following day. This has diminished my capacity to perform effectively at work and I am sure others in the vicinity will have endured similar experiences. While I don't have children or pets, many of my neighbours have commented on the negative effect of the noise on both. All in all, Calton Hill is an unsuitable events venue due to the terrain, lack of lighting, limited access/egress, restrictions to public access and proximity to housing.

As with Samhuinn, it's just one day/night. I'm not sure any other period would be appropriate, or necessary.

Edinburgh City 7s, Inverleith Park

Please see previous answers. Just leave it alone. It is a park. Green, pleasant and tranquil. Stuff like this should be in sports stadia or Ingliston.

Why ask these questions when nothing will change? No public space or park should be used for these events. Local COMMUNITY events only. Free time come and no money being made.

I'm not qualified to comment on this, as I haven't attended it and don't live nearby. You should have taken this into account in the wording of question 2.

Don't know anything about this event and why it is being mentioned in the response I am trying to make

such events on public park should be free to access.

Event seems messy and poorly laid out. In some years amplified music has been clearly audible in Stockbridge

Parking issues with events of this nature.

I only think events organised by locals should be allowed...

Dog mess everywhere when they finished.

Question 2 above needs a don't know option for respondents unfamiliar with this event

It's great that a two-day festival of sport appears to be gender balanced even if somewhat elitist, and so strikes someone not from the locale to wonder why it's not sited in the sports fields of nearby private schools like Fettes College?

However, encouraging people to take part in sports for the fun of it in a family-friendly and inclusive public park space and to make a success of it, is to be congratulated. It's not clear what the benefits to the local community are, but presumably they outweigh any inconvenience? That balance must be key to allowing large scale events to take place in any public park.

Should not be closing areas of this park for private paid use. This park is used by residents and visitors of Edinburgh for health, wellbeing and relaxation. Why are you restricting use in summer months when children and adults should be able to use tennis courts, basketball, table tennis, football and rugby pitches, playground, exercise zones whenever they wish and in peace. As a council you say you want to encourage this, really?

I think money as always comes before residents and I feel strongly that this has to stop.

No more events in this park.

Foodies Festival, Inverleith Park

Set up and take down and festival itself takes too much time away from use of the park by families and others. As a family we use the park all the time and the amount of noise, crowds and traffic while an event is on means we have to stay away.

I think too many green spaces are monetised/hijacked for "events". Too many "events", "festivals" and same mash up of green spaces, noise and cost. Please stop.

Difficult to access for disabled car users

fun time

Keep to the Assembly Rooms....oh, but wait. CEC commercialised this too. Money making waste of time

Keep out of our green spaces.

A good summer event

I live directly opposite Inverleith Park - this event did not even bother to get the correct permissions to operate and should NOT have been allowed to proceed.

The disruption to the public park was unacceptable. Noise was very loud and could be heard in my flat. The state of the ground after the event was poor. Took people away from local shop and into other businesses

It has changed over the years and seems to be less food and more drink!

I can't comment on the practicalities, as I've never attended this event. However, I'm totally opposed to paid-for events taking place on common good land.

I believe this event didn't have the licence it required

Inverleith Park is a Victorian municipal park with no infrastructure to host commercial events such as this. If the Council wishes to benefit from income generated by such events it requires to invest in appropriate infrastructure such as power, drainage, designated vehicle access points, appropriate surfaces, etc, etc to avoid progressive and accumulative damage to the environment to the detriment of the 365 day a year, Council Tax paying citizens. A Tourist Tax should be implemented immediately.

Having private events in public spaces is fine in principle, but this was a particularly muddy event, so it would be helpful to have greater transparency and communication about who pays for the environmental upkeep and how the funding raised for the event is going to be re-invested into the community.

Don't know anything about this event and why it is being mentioned in the response I am trying to make

This really wrecks the grass - Inverleith shouldn't be used for events like these.

This is a good event, just the right size and a lovely family atmosphere.

Potential restrictions of public access was a disgrace

Tremendous damage to the grass afterwards.

This has become a money making event with less and less artisan stalls and more food stalls and non local producers!

The toilet facilities were terrible this year too.

too many private events on a public park. It should stay a public space.
Takes up far too much space for too long
I believe that the organisers of this event did not apply for the Order required to restrict public access to the area of the park.
Same objections as for the question above. Limited public transport options for access, leading to increased private vehicle numbers and adverse environmental impact
This is an example of a commercial event done poorly given the damage done, lack of adequate infrastructure and issues around fencing off common good land. It needs to be relocated to a suitable location.
Smelly and disgusting. Rude people.
The event seems mainly a vehicle for corporate freebies: few pay the (extortionate) full entry fee. It is very doubtful what it adds to the public amenity, and it makes a mess of the park.
Again, don't know option required
This event's become very expensive to attend as well as very large and now spread over three days. If the local community find it acceptable and if the financial payback justifies the inconvenience and exclusion from what is otherwise a free public park then that should be a matter for local residents and the local community council to decide.
Again why is widely used park by residents of families of all ages restricted in use for a private company to make money from? This is also in the summer when it is at its busiest, crazy decision when council claim to care about peoples wellbeing and improving peoples health I despair as to how these decision are made.
Really is time council put residents needs before the lure of money. Enough is enough. Stop using this park for private paid events.
Not a suitable event to have in a public park. Green space does not require being filled with entertainment. Fencing off areas of public green space is prohibitive to the public's access to their public spaces.
Trucks and lorries using the path avenue during set up and dismantle was noisy and invasive. The grass was left churned up.

Festival Fun Fair, Leith Links

I think too many green spaces are monetised/hijacked for "events". Please stop.

Doesn't add any value to local residents daily lives.

The noise levels are unacceptable and the event looks untidy and unattractive.

This event is a disgrace and there's no place for it. Pity and wildlife that manage to live anywhere in Edinburgh. This event is shocking.

I put up with it as part of the community gala event

Again, question 2 should have a 'don't know' option. Provided access to any such fair is free, even if patrons have to pay for rides/games, I don't mind them.

Far too much antisocial behaviour, underage drinking, blatant drug use (marijuana) by children and parents!

What a waste of an event. The damage to the grass, trees etc. litter and vomit everywhere and weeks after I was still removing glass from the grass. I even found used condoms! I felt intimidated by the audience.

This is a public park and the council should not be at liberty to decide who can use it, and who not, and have it fenced off. Edinburgh Council should start recognising that Leith Links is for, most people, the only green space in the vicinity... Hold it on a hard surface!

it's good that walking paths across the links are kept open during the fair. I think it's good for the locals - it's just a few days and linked to Leith Festival which is aimed for people in Leith.

Tacky event !

How is access to be managed for the next two years when major roads in Leith are closed for tram works?

Unsuitable for the location due to the damage done and lack of adequate infrastructure.

Festival of local down and outs.

This is a traditional event that has taken place for many years. It is almost exclusively for the benefit of the local community (Leith) and therefore does not involve a huge influx of traffic and it is mainly patronised by youngsters, who otherwise often feel that they do not have much to do / not much is organised for their benefit. All in all, it is fine.

Again don't know option required

A public park is not a suitable environment for the heavy machinery and equipment associated with setting up and taking down a fairground. This event really needs a hard-standing location and/or a brownfield site like it had when it was sited opposite Ocean Terminal.

Festival Gala Day, Leith Links

Wonderful community event - love it!

I think too many green spaces are monetised/hijacked for "events".Please stop.

This is a tough one due to what this Festival represents. However, it's an out of date event that damages Leith Links. Number of diesel generated stalls should be limited and no animal attractions allowed. Event would be better suited to a short event on a very small section if not forced to move indoors.

I worry about this and future events on Leith Links when coupled with the tram works. This is a community even with great benefit for the community but I feel that offering commercial use of the space during tram works would be folly.

Important to the local community

This is a free event for residents. It's an excellent use of the park, and encourages people out of the busy city centre.

It is a good community event.

Great local event bringing neighbours and local organisations together

Community event - what public space should be used for

Good family day

Wrong location for this sort of event.

Thumbs up for this one!

This is a traditional event and plays a large part in celebrating and sustaining the cohesiveness and vibrancy of the local community in Leith. The Leith Festival Board do an EXCELLENT job of managing the event, including litter and vehicle control, and it is really a model of good practice in terms of community events in parks.

First Class!

As before

As a well-established long-standing local festival it's great that it's still thriving and manages to really bring together what's local to Leith.

The Mela, Leith Links

I think too many green spaces are monetised/hijacked for "events".Please stop.

Too noisy and prevents residents walking in the links without any real benefit.

The Mela is a good thing to visit if the weather is nice. I don't think it was well publicised this year though.

Used to be great, I haven't been for a few years

An important part of our calendar. Glad to see it going from strength to strength.

Too many events in Leith Links and most public gardens in Edinburgh. This event should move indoors.

Not well advertised. New location in the Links is better than a few years previous.

Great community event!

I have reservations about events like this charging for admittance, but I think the Mela is a good event and should be encouraged.

I thought this event was cancelled

What a disgrace this event is. It is certainly not multi-cultural or community orientated, in my opinion, it really doesn't add anything to Leith at all apart from litter and rubbish. It is just a litter and food infested shambles with absolutely no cultural integration. Those that do attend the Mela do not care about Leith at all, wrappers, food, plastic, cans, bottles etc. discarded everywhere and anywhere, I even had to clear up the Leith Links Childrens Orchard a few days after. before I could walk the dog. It certainly doesn't not celebrate Equality, Diversity and Inclusion....! Mela attendants have absolutely no respect for the environment or neighbourhood.

the unique multi-cultural atmosphere created at this community orientated event.

The traffic and parking around the links and surrounding streets was a quite chaotic at times especially at that end of Claremont park. I had to park several streets away. This is fine for a couple of days but wouldn't want it to be much more than that - certainly not a whole month. The music on the Sunday afternoon had quite loud bass and travelled quite far. Again, okay for a one off event lasting a couple of days only. It would wear residents living on the edge of the Links out if on for longer than that. One of the great benefits of living here is it has always provided a peaceful haven away from the hustle and bustle of the city centre, particularly during the summer and Christmas festivals. I'd hate for that to change!

Sad to see this event on such a reduced in scale; it's seems to now exist as a commercial opportunity rather than the great cultural event it once was.

It was located too far away from most bus stops/services perhaps encouraging more people to travel to it by car. Location should be chosen in a way to minimise parking. Parking for residents around Leith Links is challenged by various uses - sport, dog walkers who drive up and park whilst walking dog etc etc. Going forward the proposal to introduce parking controls leaves out one edge of Leith Links along Vanbrugh - to East Hermitage Place and the poor old residents will find it very hard to park when there are major events like this on.

CEC never seems to care about the residents with these things.

The folks at the festival were lovely and cleaned up super quick, even going as far to explain when their litter would be picked up on the local Facebook Group.

Traffic was a mess though. Part of the park needs to be used *for* parking.

Some of us don't have the luxury of getting a bus/bike to work.

Over priced event

Community event = good use of public space, this is a fundamental point.

Public parks should not be closed off for events

Nothing about Leith.

This year's event was atypical in that it was aborted by bad weather, and vital services failed to be provided .e.g toilets om the Saturday. Bad luck - but also a significant degree of poor management and poor communication. In better years, the event has run smoothly and is popular, however there are ongoing problems with traffic and parking locally, and with noise (evening/night) as it is too close to peoples residences. Also there is inadequate control of commercial stallholders who continue to use polystyrene and single use plastic, so the vent is highly unsustainable and toxic, in eco terms. Litter control is poor during the event and final clear up which should be done as soon as the event closes, is consistently left until the next morning (not necessarily very early, either) by which time litter has often blown all over the Links and beyond. Not nearly good enough!

As before

Leith Links seems to have become the Mela's home, and is probably large enough to accommodate it at the same time as people who just want to enjoy the park as a free greenspace, especially compared to Pilrig Park where it has been held in the past.

If the local community find it acceptable and if the financial payback justifies the inconvenience and exclusion from what is otherwise a free public park then that should be a matter for local residents and the local community council to decide.

Rather noisy. Loudspeakers carried a long distance.

Gung Ho, The Meadows
I think too many green spaces are monetised/hijacked for "events".Please stop.
Too many events in the Meadows. It's for the community.
Although this was a disruptive event, it was short-live, well managed, and served a useful community purpose.
With the increased frequency of large events being held on The Meadows the site now doesn't even have time to recover before the next one. Cumulative soil compaction and tree vandalism is having a noted effect.
Can't comment as I didn't attend
Don't think it's the right location for this event, somewhere outside the city boundaries would be better.
Too much loud amplified music; Too many men came to the north railings of the Meadows to urinate, although there were portaloos on other parts of the site.
Far too loud and hot.
Monopolises / Takes over a lot of (too much) public space, much needed by the many locals and visitors
As before

Annual Festival Fun Fair, The Meadows	
	I think too many green spaces are monetised/hijacked for "events".Please stop.
	Don't understand why we need a fair on the Meadows at all.
	It should be there for the weekend of the meadows fest and not linger longer
	Toilets shut before events shut.
	Who makes the money from these events? No place for this.
	With the increased frequency of large events being held on The Meadows the site now doesn't even have time to recover before the next one. Cumulative soil compaction and tree vandalism is having a noted effect.
	Once again a public park has been taken over with tack. The ground has been destroyed
	I should declare an interest, as Keith Taylor is a friend. I'm not aware of any practical problems associated with the funfair.
	The Fun Fair causes remarkably little damage to the grass and this Annual event should be allowed to continue
	Having private events in public spaces is fine in principle, but this was a particularly muddy event, so it would be helpful to have greater transparency and communication about who pays for the environmental upkeep and how the funding raised for the event is going to be re-invested into the community.
	Should not happen at all
	Pricing of rides is very high and is an expensive day out for families.
	No no no, who wants it, it's Edinburgh not Blackpool
	I enjoy the fair sometimes, but would like a ban on diesel generators -- they're smelly, dirty, noisy and a health hazard.
	I don't like to see the park used for this event.
	Although it's fun and nice to have alongside the Festival, it should not be necessary for more than a weekend or 2. Also, the grounds are very disrupted by the heavy vehicles and machinery, and the area is not maintained well and is usually littered when on site.
	Keep this Edinburgh tradition going!
	Too much loud amplified music;
	Too many men came to the north railings of the Meadows to urinate, although there were portaloos on other parts of the site.
	Gypsies.
	They take up a lot of space around the pavilion café that they're not meant to.
	It is too damn loud. Noone needs a dozen different speakers blaring a dozen different songs, each trying to be louder than the others in such a small space. For goodness sake the noise of the fair is too loud on Strathearn Road.

The Meadows Festival	
	Not appropriate use of green space, I think too many green spaces are monetised/hijacked for "events".Please stop.
	Always look forward to it every year, would be nice if they were charged less by the council
	Its one of the best events in the city. It could go on much later, and make the most of the longer evenings. There is something for everyone, run by a team of dedicated volunteers. What community events should be like
	Toilets shut before event finishes
	We look forward to the Meadows Festival, and it's been lovely as it is. We were very worried to hear about a proposed drastic jump in fees charged by the city to the organisers and we worry that dealing with that could force changes that kill the character of our local festival. Please, just let it go on as is?
	look forward to this every year
	I think that this event is very important for community and local people (it is not aimed at tourists like a lot of other events). I saw a lot of local artists/musicians/businesses there and it was great to support them.
	1 day for this event would suffice.
	An example of an event that is actually for the community by the community. CEC need to facilitate more of these type of events.
	This is a genuinely community oriented event, and is well organised.
Page 243	As with the other events at The Meadows, it is a PUBLIC PARK that is oversubscribed for a brief time with the tab for the inevitable cleanup being carried by the public purse. This outstrips the simple dismantling of the event and carries over into repair and maintenance of the park. Damage done to trees, pathways and of course the fields especially, by massive vehicles, structures and people exercising a complete lack of care for the natural aspect of the facility. Disposable barbecues in particular stick the whole park up with their chemical briquettes and permanently damage the grass/fields as they're NEVER put ON something but always on the ground itself. It displays a complete lack of concern for others or the long-term health of the park.
	After any such event the locals have to face the wreckage. With the increased frequency of large events being held on The Meadows the site now doesn't even have time to recover before the next one. Cumulative soil compaction and tree vandalism is having a noted effect.
	Found this years layout less helpful. Kids area half heated and away from main field
	Love the Meadows Festival. Was brought up in Gladstone Terrace and remember the year it first started. It has continued to grow & is even better now.
	Again, I have to declare an interest as I'm the Secretary of the Meadows Festival Association. The festival exists to serve local residents, and it's free. This is the sort of event that should be happening on common good land.

Main problem was overflowing litter bins (and not enough of them). I walk my dog regularly on the Meadows and it is almost impossible to have the dog of the lead due to the amount of discarded food lying around as litter
Love it all-especially when the sun shines.
This is a local event without corporate interest and no Underbelly type corruption/destruction and so it is the type of activity the Council should encourage, in sharp juxtaposition with the hideous abhorrent despoiling of our city by Underbellyevents
The Meadows Festival has been a great place to see local musicians and traders in one place.
This is a good community level event.
Disappointing this year.
Long live the Meadows Festival!
We enjoy the Meadows Festival each year and find it very environmentally aware, and it also provides entertainment for all the family.
These questions are totally myopic (like the council in general), something like the meadows festival is going to be relatively noisy.... so what is the point is asking about it. Noisy community events are fine, you need to ask bigger more fundamental questions about how public parks are being used rather than jobsworth questions about noise
Public parks should not be closed off for events
The poor Meadows gets way too many events these days.
Main problems for local residents - Loud amplified music; Despite the provision of portaloos on parts of the site, far too many men come to the north railings of the Meadows publicly too urinate.
Didn't go
This, while being relatively low key, highlights the problem with cramming events onto greenspace without adequate infrastructure nor any plan on how to manage the associated vehicles (for the event and visitors).
The Edinburgh Festival is an annual event hosted by local people and a credit to our city. I like the fact that it is not over produced and that you can go there and find diversity and different type of stalls and events.
Been lovely when I've gone and didn't notice any disruption around about it, personally.
Very enjoyable. Community led celebration.
Excellent event. More like it please. More often.
Rwallt nice and relaxed event
Could definitely do with better bin provisions, and to just generally be set out and organised in a more sensible way, rather than the current mix of really bunched up and crowded with far too spread out. Otherwise a lovely wee event.
This is a traditional event and is popular not only with locals but also with people from all over the city. It is a community event rather than a commercial event and as such should be supported.

A friendly family oriented event.

This is a wonderful grass-roots local community-led event. Extremely well organised. Very important for community cohesion and local arts opportunities.

It was unfortunate that restrictive licensing led to ugly fencing and restriction of movement, deterring people from buying alcohol from the event bars (which would mean having to stay in one spot) in favour of alcohol from local supermarkets (which could be consumed anywhere) - a pointless and unfortunate loss of income for the festival which encouraged binge drinking of cheaper drinks.

This is the nature of event that we welcome on the Meadows, relatively small scale, on the park for a relatively short duration, well-managed and most importantly, community-focused.

Fringe Festival Event, Underbelly Circus Hub, The Meadows

Mess all over the place the whole time - disgraceful

I think too many green spaces are monetised/hijacked for "events".Please stop.

This event is a huge improvement on the Ladyboys.

There are plenty of permanent venues in Edinburgh for Fringe events. It's about time Edinburgh Council started to put its residents first, visitors second.

Underbelly is destroying Princes street gardens.

The trees are suffering . At this rate there will be no more green spaces left.

Just one big theme park , covering the whole of Edinburgh.

Its just too long a time to occupy a central city park with big tops and bars etc, Spiegel tents. It kills the grass, churns the surfaces and removes an important bit of common ground for a whole summer month.

It has become part of the fringe though I think others should be given the opportunity to take part.

As a resident, I'm a bit fed up of the Fringe. It's great that we can host such an amazing arts festival, but I would like to see more shows/events that are more financially accessible (especially for locals) and I'd like to see the money that the Fringe brings in being invested into making Edinburgh a better place to live the rest of the year.

More provision for bad weather and mud would prevent some of the damage to the grass and make life easier for visitors. It was very muddy this year.

No no no no no. How many events can one park handle? During the festival a quiet place to enjoy the outdoors is more important then this cash cow making more money. Strongly object.

With the meadows being used heavily during this time of year, it would be best to leave it as a park and not part of the festival

This is lengthy, highly disruptive event in that it takes up a big chunk of the Meadows for a prolonged period of time. It damages the aesthetics and usability of the park for a substantial period of the summer. The Festival/Fringe Festival already has access to a huge number of prime venues across the city centre - I see no reason why one of the crown jewels of the city should be compromised in this way.

As with the other events at The Meadows, it is a PUBLIC PARK that is ceded to private capital with the tab for the inevitable cleanup being carried by the public purse. This outstrips the simple dismantling of the event and carries over into repair and maintenance of the park. Damage done to trees, pathways and of course the fields especially, by massive vehicles, structures and people exercising a complete lack of care for the natural aspect of the facility.

After private capital has made their profit at public expense and those from outside the area have had their fun, the locals have to face the wreckage. With the increased frequency of large events being held on The Meadows the site now doesn't even have time to recover before the next one. Cumulative soil compaction and tree vandalism is having a noted effect. And the excavation of the fields is completely unacceptable. Digging huge pits that are never recovered from and leave huge footprints all over the site is massively disfiguring and wholly unnecessary.

Corporate business taking advantage of our city with no consideration to residents!

Stop Underbelly events asap. They are exploiting Edinburgh to the detriment of the health wellbeing and lived experience of its residents.

The Meadows was the Borough Loch, before the owner had it drained and donated it for the benefit of the people of Edinburgh. Consequently the water table is very high, and protracted events like these damage the surface, which never has the chance to recover in just one year. It's also indefensible to turn over common good land for private profit.

There is persistent damage to the grass on the site and excessive compaction after the event . While the damage is not as great as that caused previously by the Ladyboys tent, the grass never fully recovers after the event till the following August. It is clear that the event goes on far too long and the site is used very little the rest of the year due to the poor quality of the grass surface, compared with elsewhere on the Meadows

Can there be more discussion about the dominant role Underbelly has in shaping the city's (events) landscape? They seem to be buying up and running this city like a theme park. How much does the council and, thus, the public get back from this? It appears to be mainly for private gain. That's fine if it was not taking up so much of the public environment.

Leave the Meadows alone

It was very obvious Underbelly had no respect whatsoever for the environment, the local population, or the state of the public ground after they left.
I hope Underbelly are never allowed back

The Circus Hub is just the right size for the meadows, large enough to contain several high quality productions, but in proportion with the size of the meadows.

Should not be permitted again

Find another location for this, possibly further out of town, and allow this space to remain a park.

Enjoyable place to spend time.

Relocate

Overly noisy in residential area. Destroyed large areas of the grass in the park
Traffic management was very poor, cars and vans would frequently drive around without any signage warning pedestrians. There didn't seem to be any organised route for vehicles. Additionally, no speed limit seemed to be in force.
Colourful and well managed.
The only inconvenience was from the silent discos, which aren't exclusive to this site.
It's a public park !!!!! Stop excluding the public !!!!!
too much disturbance
Green spaces shouldn't be used for these kinds of events, better if it was located on a hard surface in an alternative location.
Although this offers a welcome array of events at Festival time, it has somewhat become over inflated now and is less about honouring the Festival acts and more about making money. More and more public space is being taken over, it does not feel inclusive of Edinburgh residents anymore. I feel that I can only enjoy our city centre from mid-January to July. From August to January it becomes inaccessible, the events are overcrowded, overpriced and targeted at tourists rather than Scottish nationals. Edinburgh city centre is at risk of becoming simply a tourist resort, losing it's cultural and national relevance. It often comes top of favourite places to visit/stay short-term (including students) however I think for true residents, Edinburgh's Festival events are crushing the city's symbolic heritage, and making it a quite challenging place to stay, regarding finances, commute and other everyday living options.
Public parks should not be closed off for events
This is the wrong venue for such an event
Lovely site. A bit muddy
Damage, litter and noise pollution. The greenspace was not respected and the event was unsuitable given the lack of adequate infrastructure.
I think Underbelly are a disgrace to this city and should not be given access or use of public spaces. The Meadows during the festival was tacky, and brought shame on the city.
Everyone accepts you can't get round Edinburgh for the festival but there shouldn't be a whole load of other events
While there were fewer actual tents erected on the Meadows this year the noise I could hear in my home at the top of CHALMERS Crescent was significantly louder. It is not reasonable to expect people to put up with this on a daily basis for 4 weeks.
Attracted lots of idiots and foreigners.
Foot traffic poorly planned given the weather, and accessibility
Very loud, particularly for late afternoon/early evening shows close to uni campus during dissections
Given how busy George Square Gardens and Potterow/Teviot have been during the recent Fringe events, the Circus hub has felt like a pleasant retreat that is still part of the events, a space that allows time for a bit of reflection and quiet talk, rather the smoke, noise and crowds in the above places.

<p>Far too loud to be that close to the university library when dissertations are being written. Also too many vehicles driving to various side entrances with no identifying markings. Sudden appearances of private vehicles driving down the cycle path is not very comforting.</p>
<p>It is well managed and they are good at communicating with local groups but no event should be on the meadows for more than 2 weeks.</p>
<p>Far too long, too big, too intrusive. Takes over a public space for private profit. Damage is caused to the grass that takes a long time to recover and meanwhile damages the park for local users. Not acceptable.</p>
<p>The meadows are a park not an entertainment arena. The shows are on for too long especially when you take in set up and dismantling time. How much does this cost the council? Who pays for litter, upkeep and repairing grass etc, Underbelly or Council? Accounts need to be shown to show if city actually benefits from this or if underbelly do? If they wont do this then council need to urgently re negotiate contracts enforcing this. Time to take back control of city parks for residents not private companies.</p>
<p>I'd prefer the hub and bar to be locally run. The current set up is over-priced, unappealing, and inaccessible to anybody not paying for expensive shows. The horrible fencing, floodlit toilets and unimaginative range of drinks mean it's pretty much for tourists only, as with much of the fringe provision.</p>
<p>The Fringe already invades the life of Edinburgh residents to a great degree during the month of August. Why would you invite further disruption and restrict access to the city's green space during this time?</p>
<p>In common with other Community Councils with an interest in the Meadows, some time ago, we agreed a policy that no event should be on the Meadows for more than two weeks. We still fully support this policy. Therefore we obviously consider that the Underbelly Circus Hub is on site for too long. In general, we wish to see minimal use of the Meadows, that significant area of greenspace that falls within the area of Southside Community Council, for events. We believe that greenspaces are there for the use of the community, for walking, dogwalking, exercising, relaxing, etc. This enjoyment of greenspace is curtailed by events, and all the ancillary stuff that comes with events, trailing accessways, fenced off living areas, etc, to the frustration of communities who wish free access to their parks.</p>

Fun Fair at the Fringe, The Meadows

I think too many green spaces are monetised/hijacked for "events". Please stop.

This event fails to keep up with changing trends in noise and pollution practice. The diesel generators are polluting (clouds of exhaust), the microphone and loudspeaker use is intrusive. The base lines of the music are too loud. Thump thump thump is very wearing.

This event is out of place and should be relocated in an industrial area with a hard standing.

Vans driving on meadows throughout the day, churning up the grass. Pikeys invade meadows some how linked to the fringe. Either integrate it into the fringe circus hub, or dont permit it.

As a resident, I'm a bit fed up of the Fringe. It's great that we can host such an amazing arts festival, but I would like to see more shows/events that are more financially accessible (especially for locals) and I'd like to see the money that the Fringe brings in being invested into making Edinburgh a better place to live the rest of the year.

No place for this. Preserve our open spaces.

In combination with other events around the Fringe, this seriously damaged the aesthetics and usability of the meadows for a prolonged period.

Any mass Fringe event on the meadows is unacceptable. It serves only those profiting from it at the expense of the (publicly funded) park and regular users. See other replies to events on The Meadows.

Rubbish event, poor management of the ground and cuts off public space.

I haven't attended this for years, so I can't comment.

Just no. The Festival is supposed to be an Arts festival not a playground for the millions of visitors who pack into a city that can barely cope.

Unlike the Underbelly site, this event causes remarkably little damage to the grass

Should not be permitted

Over commercialisation of this event with far too much emphasis on alcohol.

No it's a public park and that's how it should be used

Keep these types of events off our green spaces, a hard surface location away from the city centre would be best.

I feel the Fringe festival has completely grown to disrespect the local residents. It's economically inaccessible for me and it is a burden on my day-to-day life.

Too much loud amplified music.

Didn't go

It is very noisy. People seem to be living on the site. There are way too many vehicles involved and parked on the grass for long periods. Generators run, which are noisy and dirty. they use the public litter bins instead of paying for their own appropriate disposal of waste. It has become monstrous in size.

What a horrible waste of one of our best social spaces during the height of the summer. So inconvenient for people local people who would usually use the space for other purposes. Adds nothing culturally to the city. Expensive, noisy, and soulless with ugly fencing. Could not something more imaginative and creative happen instead?

The Meadows is meant to be a public park, for the benefit of residents of the city. When there's a massive funfair and various other 'attractions' that are there without any notable benefit to residents, then that purpose is no longer longer fulfilled.

We would have some concerns with the management of the Meadows Fun Fair at the Fringe. We raised concerns with the management of this event over their widespread illegal fly-posting of this event throughout the area. To their credit, they removed the illegal fly-posting once it had been pointed out to them but they should have been managing their promotional activities more effectively in the first place. Restrictions on the number of vehicles allowed on the Meadows as part of the event licence appear to be flouted/not enforced by the Council. We are also concerned by the waste management practices of event managers on the Meadows. Whilst event operators are required to put in place procedures for the management of waste resulting from their operations, we feel that operators routinely dump waste in the communal bins, which are intended for the waste of Meadows visitors, not the organisers of commercial events. There is significant pressure on waste management resources on the Meadows during the busy summer months, with overflowing bins being a common problem; the fact that these are caused/exacerbated by commercial event operators is frustrating to say the least.

As a general observation, we feel that the Council should require all events to significantly reduce or stop the use of single-use plastics, as a matter of policy.

Sleep in the Park, West Princes Street Gardens	
	Homelessness is terrible. But think this event has/is "fashionable", patronising and won't change things. Building more homes not hotels would be of greater benefit.
	Can we please just have Princes Street Gardens as parks for everyone to enjoy?
	Good opportunity to support the homeless
	This seems like a positive event that raises money for a good cause. More should be done about homelessness in Edinburgh.
	A worthwhile event in many respects. Suggest scaling it down and have it hosted on the streets, Rose Street for instance.
	A great cause, a shame we have to raise money for this kind of thing but fantastic that people want to get involved a try to eradicate homelessness.
	This is a great event for a great cause. The council should support more events like this rather than for-profit ones that don't help the social welfare of the city's citizens
	Inappropriate use of the Gardens
	PSH should be used as a park for the public and not for private events even if said events are for charity
Page 252	Princes Street Gardens is one of the most important spaces in the city and events should be restricted to an absolute minimum; it's a park not an events venue. Go somewhere else to play at being homeless.
	A fantastic philanthropic event for Edinburgh folk to take part in, far more appealing for the gardens to be utilised for events like these rather than constant money making ventures which are often not so inclusive of residents.
	I don't feel that it created the right effect . More events should be done to support homelessness. This was a pr stunt
	This is a wonderful event for an important cause, and the kind of use I am very happy seeing Princes Street Gardens being put to.
	It was really tough!
	Good cause and event that was held without issue in the gardens.
	Weather was too kind.
	Shouldn't be happening.
	Very happy with this event in our city
	Although sympathetic to the cause of fundraising for homeless people, it is not clear if this now global event isn't just an opportunity for virtue signalling by mainly large corporates, who could be doing, together with the Scottish Government, a whole lot more house-building, especially in council housing, to alleviate this very serious human rights problem in Scotland.
	It is also beyond ironic that a corporate fundraiser for homelessness should take place in a public park whose gates are locked every evening to prevent people from spending the night in it.
	This is an event which is slightly more appropriate. Money being raised for good cause and profits not going to private companies.

Christmas Festival, East Princes Street Gardens

The installation of bars and eateries on top of Waverley Mall meant the pavements and bus stops beside it were constantly crowded and it was very difficult to navigate, even as an able bodied person.

It seems many stall holders have been priced out.

The stalls are repetitive.

The food is overpriced for the quality.

It became impossible to walk through the gardens as a route to work; this means the already crowded pavements become more so.

The original Christmas and new year events were fine. A week before Christmas, the week between and a week after. The gardens weren't ruined by then funfair, the stalls etc and everyone retained access. It now looks tacky, takes up too much time, makes it impossible to get round town and makes city centre living horrible to deal with.

Not everyone likes Christmas - restricting it to just a few weeks helps that for parents like me who can't afford to spend money every time we visit the city centre and keeps it smaller.

All markets should feature local produce and centre local artists and businesses as otherwise this is simply taking away from local business.

Not Answered

Huge levels of disruption for an event that had very little to offer - not even remotely interesting as there were so many near-identical stalls selling stuff made in China. Huge impact on soil compaction and vegetation in the gardens. Find hard standing areas like Festival Square, Bristo Square, and surrounding areas, like they do in other cities.

This event has been excessive and over-commercialised for several years. I'm disappointed to see that it's even bigger this year with severe impact on public amenity and enjoyment of the gardens. Although the grass is eventually reinstated, the mudbath left behind long after the event is a grim and depressing sight - an absolute eyesore in what should be a special and beautiful place. I am particularly concerned about the remaining trees being damaged by ground compaction. The fact the the event organisers say they arrange decompaction after the event indicates that this is a problem for the weeks when the event is in situ which has to be detrimental to the health of the trees.

The worst possible use of this green space. Current fiasco of "shed and scaffold" festival is worst yet. One thing made original low key stuff tolerable. The ice-rink. Whole thing should be on hard standing out of centre. Or binned.

It's not just about the noise it's also about the number of people attending. There are far too many people at this event and in/around the stalls. I'd suggest that its ticketed (at a cost given that the city has costs to help in managing the event) so that numbers are limited and that a proportion of those tickets should be made available (at no cost) to residents of Edinburgh.

The 2018-19 "Christmas market" in the EPSG was: 1 much too large; 2 full of items similar to those available from permanent shops and restaurants nearby, to the significant and long-term disadvantage of retail, which continues to struggle in the city centre (this also reduces the income to the city through business taxes); 3 very noisy for pedestrians not going in the market; 4 too full of people, making nearby pavements effectively unusable for movement and in danger of people spilling out into the streets and vehicles; 5 covering some of the stumps of the trees cut down to facilitate disabled access to the Galleries - the council denied in advance that this would not be the case.

I have no general objections to the German Christmas market on the paved area east of the Galleries as long as it is German and does not cannibalise the existing permanent retail businesses in the city centre.

Inappropriate to use the gardens for these events

This event is too big, goes on too long and deprives Edinburgh residents (ie council tax payers) of the use of common land for almost three months. It's a disgrace the way that Underbelly are allowed to wreck our city every year.

The extending of the market on to platforms over the gardens is wholly unacceptable, the public's use of the park has been greatly affected, it is an eyesore and just another crass and greedy way to make more money for Underbelly events and other non-Edinburgh companies coming to the city to set up shop for the period to make as much cash as they can before taking it away, out of the city with them. Please scale these events down, Edinburgh is a beautiful, historic city - we should be highlighting the beauty of the authentic heritage assets and experiences on our doorstep, and not building ridiculous two-bit Disneylands - fake, overpriced and ugly. Edinburgh is beautiful, if you let it be.

The Xmas market was v buddy last year. It is good to see that the council is closing Waverley bridge to ease pedestrian congestion this year. I also don't believe that the majority of residents hate it like all the social media moaners would have you believe

Takes up the gardens for a very long period, both when running and during set up/take down, and renders the green space a muddy mess for so long afterwards.

Tackier than Blackpool. It's just not Scottish and doesn't make sense in Edinburgh to have a German market. Scotland has so much authenticity to sell, and yet this prepacked shed city rocks up and sells any crap available from any other UK city centre Xmas market. Needs to do better.

It seems quite large and damages the garden for far too long afterwards. I don't think the items on sale are very good, just cheap looking hats and lots of overpriced alcohol. Some local/Scottish content would be great

I feel exploited when attending this event, and it takes up too much of the Garden, as well as blocking off a large part.

It is difficult to move around that area of town when this festival is on.

Too big. Takes up too much space. Too crowded. Too many stalls all selling the same goods.

The Christmas market is full of the same tat every year. I would love to see this turned into a market for unique local artists and businesses to sell their wares instead. That way, it will really be EDINBURGH'S Christmas market.

At times the site can be very busy and difficult for people to get around. Either make more space (probably not an option) or have some form of control at busy times might be useful? Visited previous years but would not consider it if busy nowadays.
It is the building of the event which appears to dominate the area for longer than the event takes place
It's an excellent showcase for Edinburgh and puts the city in the international stage.
A disgrace. Commercialised and an embarrassment. Move to Castle Terrace Carpark for 2 weeks max with Scottish traders.
Generally poor quality of what was on offer.
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The event is too large and goes on too long.2. The crowds around the area, in the streets and spilling out into the roadways, were dangerous. Crowding inside the area was so bad that it's a wonder there wasn't a crush.3, I was disgusted by the overnight destruction of trees, supposedly necessary for the construction of a ramp to the National Galleries of Scotland. The timing of this, immediately before the construction of platforms for the Christmas Market, plus the lack of information or proper consultation beforehand, points to it having been done for commercial purposes.4. I now read that the event did not have planning permission last year.5. The size, scale, and building on the 2019 event - without planning permission - are a disgrace
Obviously there has been a lot of coverage on this event recently, which has prompted me to comment on last winter's event. Essentially, the disruption for old town residents is huge and there is next to no benefit for us local residents. Enough is enough and there needs to be a shift away from pleasing corporate interlopers at the expense of ordinary Edinburgh people.
Damages the trees, ruins the grass for months, takes the park out of use for nearly 5 months. All overly commercial and nothing related to scottish merchandise. Should be local vendors on a hard surface lot and not in the park
East Princes Street Gardens is not an appropriate venue for this type of event . The market is too large and unpleasant, the damage to the garden is extensive and the impact on the city is negative in my opinion. It offers nothing to residents of Edinburgh.
Dangerous levels of people. Takes over the 'park' for too long. Repetitive stalls selling tat. Tourists over residents. Looks now as if the trees have been removed to make more way for commercial activities such as this fair. Shame on you edinburgh council. Memorial benches dumped aside for the markets. Safety levels under question. Shocking in our city centre 'green space'. By all means offer a Christmas market like in Europe but this has become ridiculous.
Awful tacky image of our city. Excessive crowds, not well managed -- sometimes quite frightening. Previously when Unique Events ran it, there was at least some cultural elements to balance up the commercial side, whereas Underbelly don't provide any of this, just rake in the cash. Chris Wood in Scotsman interview: "Christmas is a commercial event" -- says it all. Given Underbelly's track record on everything from disrespecting memorial benches and contravening CEC's policies on planning, licensing, building standards and modern slavery (unpaid volunteers), and their failure to provide transparent accounts (surely CEC don't just hand out £800,000 cash without wanting to see a business plan? If they do, Director of Finance needs to be questioned) -- they are a totally unsuitable organisation to partner CEC.

This is a wholly inappropriate site for this trashy, loud event which discredits Edinburgh. It should be held somewhere suitably for this kind of Blackpool funfair, on a hard surface somewhere away from the historic centre of Edinburgh. Ingliston would probably be OK for this — or not hold it at all.

Over priced repeated stalls in the wrong place in Edinburgh ruining the gardens, the only sanctuary in the city centre

We cannot use our city

The sight lines to views are interrupted.

It is too intrusive

It is too big

It needs to move.

move it

The event is now far, far bigger than any that Edinburgh needs at this time.

I very much feel that the event is just about tourists and making money and it is no longer serving the local community of Edinburgh, who generally avoid it.

This event should NEVER be set up in the gardens ever again..! I will not be attending this site while it is in the gardens. The fact that a permit for the scaffolding structure was neither requested, obtained or received for such a prominent (publicly owned) part of the city is a disgrace.

I found the atmosphere at this event to be fairly stressful due to the general noise and disruption and the sense of stallholders who were only interested in extracting money from me; in general I felt it spoiled the festive atmosphere in the city centre - it made it feel tacky and exploitative.

I loathe this use of Princes Street Gardens. It should not be dominating this breathing space in the heart of the city. If people want a Christmas Market, let it showcase the crafts produced in and around the Lothians, not a load of tat. This does not reflect well on our city. Fences should not be erected. I am actually angered by this.

It's got far too big and stinks of sausage

Absolutely disgusted at the desecration of these beautiful gardens, turning a beautiful part of Princes Street into a cheap Blackpool type tacky City not to mention the noise and overcrowding, money making overpriced racket. What is also disgusting ...why in Edinburgh do we have a German Market??? Whoever is responsible within the Edinburgh Council for allowing this multi-million pound Christmas festival and have ridden roughshod over the rules and regulations should be brought to account. Definitely no residents of Edinburgh gain from this...instead we are faced with mounting charges for removing garden rubbish, pot holes all over this City etc. etc. not to mention the massive overcrowding of our City where trying to travel home from work or indeed anytime is deplorable, buses stuck and massive hold ups...THIS COUNCIL IS NO LONGER IS INTERESTED IN THE RESIDENT'S OF THIS CITY AND PUT TOURISTS AT TOP OF THEIR LIST....AND DON'T GET ME STARTED AT THE FIREWORKS WHICH WE AND THE POOR WILDLIFE HAVE TO ENDURE (I SINCERELY HOPE WE DO NOT HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THE HOGMANY FIREWORKS OF 2018 WHICH WENT OFF EVERY HOUR from 6PM UNTIL MIDNIGHT AND THEN ...WELL WE ALL KNOW ...TAKE A LEAF OUT OF AMSTERDAM AND LET'S HAVE SILENT FIREWORKS !!!!! BUT I AND MANY, MANY MORE WILL BE VOTING THIS CURRENT COUNCIL OUT !!!!!!! TOTALLY DISGUSTED

Over crowded, overpriced and far far to big. No room to wander and see stalls properly. The state of the gardens afterwards and the time it takes to put right is a disgrace. I also object strongly to be prevented by strong arm security men from walking in gardens in the mornings before the stalls open. The council have sold Edinburgh's soul to Underbelly.

Tourist come to Edinburgh for the beauty of the City not all the tat that is now imputed during the "Festivals"

Totally disgusting.

On every level.

The massive display of greed and hubris goes against not only the alleged meaning of Christmas but also the freedoms, rights and wishes of the public who are the financiers and users of the park. Barriers, fences, limited access. garish, environmentally inappropriate structures and displays, lack of planning permission, law-breaking by organisers and those profiting. ALL at the expense of Edinburgh Residents who have the right to full access to these public facilities at any normal time. Or should.

Handing private companies VAST sums of public money to put on such events from which THEY profit at public expense/MASSIVE inconvenience is entirely unacceptable.

Under no circumstances should any events be allowed in Princes Street Gardens that are not universal access and within civilised timescales, with maximum consideration to locally living Edinburgh Residents and pedestrians in the surrounding area. No amplified concerts. No fireworks. No shock & awe for the sake of it.

Private companies should NEVER under any circumstances be permitted onsite to profit from exclusion of the citizenry. The VAST corporate vandalism that has befallen Princes Street Gardens over the past few years is unchecked, disfiguring and constantly evident. The site is nothing more than an exclusionary corporate building site with the full collusion of a morally bankrupt council.

This event was operating with planning permission and should not have been allowed to proceed.

You are the custodian of the public spaces of our capital city, NOT the owner. Stop selling public spaces for private profit.

Shocking lack of respect for not only the gardens but the residents. The park belongs to us and we are excluded from them for too long. Also the money spent in the stalls isn't going to local business or the council and so they are taking advantage and profiting for our city aand putting absolutely nothing back.

The event is too long in weeks and too large for the size of the gardens. The garden grass and trees never get a chance to recover after the event before summer arrives.

The gardens should not be used for multi day events. They need to be a green sanctuary.

It takes much to long to clean up and repair the damage caused.

It was too crowded & everything was over priced. It would be much better if it was locally produced Scottish items for sale & Scottish food.

Wrecking our gardens for several months to profit private companies. And I hope not council officials?

Stop this event. I hate it.
The Christmas market is getting a lot of bad press at the moment but I thoroughly enjoy it as I suspect the majority do too. I just wanted to say it's a great event for the city and I think if it ever moved it would have a big impact on Christmas in Edinburgh.
Edinburgh's Christmas used to be brilliant. Proper German market, good quality food and drinks. Then Underbelly took it over, plonked the shipping container (Bothy) in it, and it became unmanageable. Same stalls every 7/8 huts, overflowing bins, poor quality booze, poor standards of hygiene (I put a complaint into enviro health about one of their carousel stalls years back), far too many people to make it either fun or enjoyable. The one year they had the couple of mulled wine stalls and outdoor heaters and seats....bring that back! Also the fencing needs to be removed. Just because people aren't in the market area doesn't mean that people shouldn't be allowed to see into the gardens.
It's utter guff - and simply the worst Christmas market in Europe, utterly trite, inauthentic and just overpriced mince.
This event epitomises the very essence of why we are in a climate emergency. It also puts a spotlight on the hypocrisy of the council and it's true understanding of the changes it has to make. Facilitation of mass consumption for the benefit of a few delivered through excessive resource and energy use leaving masses of waste and a damaged heart of our city. You must lead and change.
Where to begin? Another example of a free public good turned over to private profit, and taking custom away from local traders.
Yes. I would propose that the solution to all the problems with this site's use as a market is right in front of your eyes..
Why not create a market space, on Market Street, in front of the Council Offices..the solution could not be more obvious..
MarkwtStreetMarket.blogspot.com
Again, too much crammed in to such a small space and too many people crammed in as well! Strains transport. Makes commuting to and from work a nightmare! If it wasn't bad enough having to put up with it for all of the summer we then have this! Consider the implications and frustration for thousands of local people whom live, work and pay council tax to live in a city where they are quite literally unable to break in to the city centre to enjoy events because of the amount of tourism!!!
Christmas fun is no longer fun for residents of the city. Buses take ages to get along Princes St, pavements are so busy that you often have to use the road to get around. Its become far too much and whilst I understand the income generation, I think we should either cut back significantly or stop it altogether. I mean, do we really need all the smelly food stalls and the massive bar made from containers? Not to mention the huge amount of trees being sacrificed (& I am only speaking about the Christmas trees...) The city centre is being spoilt at what should be a beautiful time of year...

The Christmas market is on for too long, it should start at the start of December. It ruins the gardens and they're just recovering when the big wheel is put up again for the festival and the ground is ruined again, it's a vicious circle. The amount of people attending is too many and if you're a normal resident trying to go about your business it becomes frustrating. It was lovely when it first started but since Underbelly took over it's become a victim of its own success and should be scaled back with more of a mix of stalls

I feel, especially this year, that it takes up too much of the Gardens
If left to Underbelly they will take over the whole East Gardens,
Not everyone wants to go to the Market, but would like to sit in the Gardens, as it's seats are on the same level as the pavement making it much easier for those who have problems that make West Gardens more difficult to access.
It also takes too long to replace the turf and get the Gardens back to normal, then it's time for the Big Wheel to go up again for the Summer .
Apart from the Citizens not getting use of the Gardens during these events, how much does this all cost to keep repairing and the damage to the Gardens.
It's time this event was moved to a bigger Venue, we have plenty open Green spaces in Edinburgh .
It's time the people of Edinburgh came first, after all we are the ones who keep our Beautiful City going year in year out

Princes Street Gardens is a Victorian municipal park with no infrastructure to host commercial events such as this. If the Council wishes to benefit from income generated by such events it requires to invest in appropriate infrastructure such as power, drainage, designated vehicle access points, appropriate surfaces, etc, etc to avoid progressive and accumulative damage to the environment to the detriment of the 365 day a year, Council Tax paying, park using citizens. A Tourist Tax should be implemented immediately.

This event needs to be moved out of the city centre, potentially to the meadows or Holyrood Park, or Inhluston. It's too cramped and claustrophobic in its current setting

Shambles of an event. And in entirely the wrong location. Please stop pimping the City in this way.

I despise this event. It does nothing to enhance the profile of our city. The goods on sale are generic and do not reflect the wealth of creative talent in Edinburgh and Lothians. It is far too large for one of the people's parks. The Council needs to get this under control. Many of us are angry about Underbelly being allowed to do pretty well what they want. Massive uglification of a space beside our National Gallery. Shameful lack of care from elected representatives in particular.

This event is a mess. It's not safe, crowded, and doesn't benefit the residents of the city - it benefits private companies. It's generic too, doesn't represent the uniqueness of Edinburgh, so has very little meaning aside from commercialisation. We can do better.

Outrageous level of damage to gardens leaving them unusable for months and some areas out of bounds until the next event damaged the same area.

	<p>Place is like a mud bath for months. It's consumerism gone mad. Scale back and relocate to George street, an area already covered in concrete. I'd visit it there.</p>
	<p>Continued trashing of the gardens and restricted access to citizens of Edinburgh has to stop. Edinburgh CC should be ashamed of its money grabbing approach.</p>
	<p>Princes Street gardens are for residents and visitors to enjoy peacefully, taking a seat and enjoying the views and not for Disneyland like tat and rides you need a 2nd mortgage to take your family on!! Stop this now</p>
	<p>It has become too large and is not in keeping with our beautiful city</p>
	<p>It's too big and the gardens look awful once it's finished. Too many stalls are repeated. It's garish and spoils the look of our city with its beautiful backdrop. It should be much smaller and less obtrusive.</p>
	<p>East Princes Street Gardens is being turned into a Disneyland. It goes on for far too long both in the summer and in the winter. The big wheel seems to be there all the time these days. The park is being trashed and the Council seems not to be paying attention to planning requirements. This park belongs to the people of Edinburgh, not the Council!</p>
	<p>This was far too long, and causes a huge amount of congestion. It's also really tacky and sadly seems mainly targeted at tourists rather than having something special for Christmas for locals.</p>
	<p>I don't really like Xmas so should probably not be allowed to comment.</p>
	<p>It just seems a shame for the gardens-the grass has just begun to settle when it is destroyed again.</p>
	<p>Maybe the stalls could be in George Street?Keep most traffic out of town.</p>
	<p>Since when did Christmas become a fun fair. The traditional German markets, ice rink, carousel etc with a few outside bars and eating areas were great. It's becoming ridiculous when locals (who pay the tax for upkeep of these areas) have to queue just to walk through somewhere in their own neighbourhood!</p>
	<p>Stop this event. After this year's debacle it needs to move and be scaled down. Unsafe. Trees abused. Requires road closures due to safety issues. No planning approval. Leaves the gardens unaccessible. Denies access to the gardens from Oct to May. Awful mess left over. Move it or stop it.</p>
	<p>Keep the market in the gardens - it adds to the atmosphere at Christmas and brings tourists to our city, supporting local business. It is central to Edinburgh's Christmas</p>
	<p>This event was the ultimate in cheap tat, at exorbitant prices, unhealthy food and drink in the extreme, and the very opposite to sustainability or acting to prevent Climate Change.</p>
	<p>I know no local citizen who welcomed it, and very many elderly Council tax payers told me it added to the need for them to totally avoid the city centre for fear of injury from crowds and revellers.</p>
	<p>The damage to the ground, a public space for recreation and recuperation, was hurtful to the mind and the eye for months later- but this event showed again how little regard Council planners and officials hold for their Council tax payers</p>

Common goods ground being destroyed by illegal construction of xmas tatfest. We want our gardens back. Get rid of this yearly monstrosity.

East Princes Street Gardens was left in a very poor state following this event. I firmly believe that residents of Edinburgh are tired of the increasing commercialisation of this event. Clearly planning permission was not in place for the event either last year or this and so proper planning control and enforcement of conditions cannot take place. The disrespect for memorial benches which were thrown to one side last year and this is completely unacceptable. The event should be moved to a more appropriate location such as The Meadows or Inverleith Park and should be subject to proper planning control.

Its very obtrusive. It impacts public transport, limits access to a public space and offers very poor value for people who visit, while having a negative effect on people who are passing.

Also, it blocks out some of the views people travel to Edinburgh to see

This has been turned into a simple money/profit making event and should be scaled down or moved entirely

Major intrusion into place of tranquillity - seems to take up more space every year, and reinstatement of grass takes longer. It is a garden!

An extremely tacky event completely inappropriate for a location that impacts a world heritage site. Simply an opportunity to push low quality merchandise and burgers. Brings the city down and undermines it's standing as a cultural centre.

Very poor ,repeative stalls and same products from the previous years.This is Scotland and more should to done to encourage Scottish products . It's quite shocking actually .Things like ceramics faisle jumpers paintings ,jewellery and of course whisky .People come from all over the world for Scottish experience.

Find another location for this, possibly further out ot town, and allow this space to remain a park. This has become a hideous ontrusion in the city centre.

Too crowded to be enjoyable. System of queuing to purchase tickets for rides then queuing again to access rides very frustrating especially when you are with children who see a ride at one end of the garden - you have to battle through the crowds to get to the ticket office, queue for over half an hour to then battle back through the crowds to join another queue. Not what you want to be doing on a freezing winters day. Surely there is a better way to manage this?

Wholly inappropriate location for something which does nothing to enhance Edinburgh's reputation. Edinburgh can and should expect far higher quality than this.

The corruption behind this event is utterly disgraceful. To have got away without planning permission for two years is unforgivable. Give back the bribes that you took ,send this event packing, and give the Gardens back to the people of Edinburgh.

Begun almost as soon as the festival ended, hoardings up because god forbid anyone not paying entry can see the Castle, everything for sale, everything advertised, trees down, memorial benches thrown in a corner. Where to begin? Too much, too soon, for too long. Edinburgh was always an attraction, but your avarice in turning it into a theme park will drive people away in the quest for ever more money from £5 chips and £6 warm wine. Stop trying to make Christmas Fringe 2.0. A few stalls on the mound was lovely, this is mental.

The Christmas Market should be relocated to elsewhere in Edinburgh where it will not have a negative impact on public park space. Both East and West Princes Street Gardens should be used as a public park space and not rented out to private firms. The Christmas Market itself is a complete eyesore and cheapens our capital in the eyes of tourists. Not to mention it blocks so-called 'protected views' of the old town.

This event should not be in a public place that taxpayers pay for and a private company profit from.

This has become a soulless cashgrab and needs to be scaled down with more opportunities for local handcrafted merchandise.

Too much tat squashed in together. Everything too expensive, No notice of biodiversity, climate change, damage to public park.

I disagree strongly with this event being held in Princes Street gardens. The intrusive nature of this tacky market does nothing to enhance the natural beauty of this area. Any wild life that may once have been encouraged to thrive in East Princes Street gardens will suffer as a result of this blatant commercial event which does not serve our city in reputation or appearance. Disgusted to see the historical wooden benches treated like junk and heaped in a corner.

The park is enjoyed by far more people when this event is running during the winter months

The commercialisation of Edinburgh's public spaces is deeply depressing.

PSG should not host such events, it should be for the people of Edinburgh to enjoy as it was intended as a park

sort of mini fringe: tacky product sold at incredibly high prices while creating too much disturbance in the city center.

The Council needs to start to understand that it has a duty to manage the city for its residents. Time and time again it just lets businesses do what they want to do with no consideration for the trashing of our common land and inconvenience to the public. The use of Princes Street Gardens in this manner is an utter disgrace.

Yet another event for monied tourists that are given priority over the diverse and working class Edinburgh citizens. A joke

I really resent the commercial takeover of public spaces such as this. I preferred the trees.

To exploit a world heritage site like this is just horrible; please stop wrecking our park. Just go away and don't come back. If you really have to then a hard surface location perhaps in Granton might be okay.

This event completely detracts from the City. It is neither authentic or good quality and causes many problems. It is very difficult to see how it adds any value at all and takes a public space out of use for months.

Need more toilets and signs to show you where the toilets are. A proper Entrance and exit. Gets very congested at busy times and you can hardly move around the Market site due too the Number of people. Food and drink stalls in one separte area with Seats and tables . So u can actually eat your food and drink.

Awful event, started off pleasant enough, however it has now grown to catastrophic size and numbers and I know the stall fees so it seems a rip off to many. Although this offers a welcome array of events at Festival time, it has somewhat become over inflated now and is less about honouring the Festival acts and more about making money. More and more public space is being taken over, it does not feel inclusive of Edinburgh residents anymore. I feel that I can only enjoy our city centre from mid-January to July. From August to January it becomes inaccessible, the events are overcrowded, overpriced and targeted at tourists rather than Scottish nationals. Edinburgh city centre is at risk of becoming simply a tourist resort, losing it's cultural and national relevance. It often comes top of favourite places to visit/stay short-term (including students) however I think for true residents, Edinburgh's Festival events are crushing the city's symbolic heritage, and making it a quite challenging place to stay, regarding finances, commute and other everyday living options.

Move this commercial monstrosity to a more sensible location, like the Meadows or George Street. The gardens look ghastly after it leaves and Princes Street is a disaster while its here. It's also far too long - Christmas doesn't start in mid November! Give us a break.

Too many people crowded in one small area. The city is becoming unbearable at this time of year. No wonder people go shopping in Glasgow instead.

The event should be scaled back or the location moved to west princes Street. Also the parking restrictions around the park while construction is underway do not help an already busy area

I love our city at Christmas time, we visit the markets/bars etc at least 4/5 times in the run up to the festive period. We have met lots of people from all over the world who say Edinburgh is one of the best! Well done to all involved.

This is an awful event. It's too big and too crowded - I have avoided the whole area during the weeks this thing is on. This event has essentially made the city center a no-go area for me. I really don't like it and I think it should be either downsized or spread more evenly across the city, including the fringes.

Underbelly is a disgrace. They cannot and should not be trusted to run events in the City of Edinburgh. No planning permission, taking over the entirety of the Eastern gardens, the disrespectful way they treated the memorial benches, the length of time it takes to re-turf the gardens after being deprived of light after the festival, the damage to the trees that haven't been removed in EPSG (and all of the mature specimens that were removed!), etc., etc., etc., I cannot bear living in the city centre after more than a decade of living here and am looking to move out of Edinburgh entirely because of the nonstop gaudy tourist traps and the loss of any coherent neighbourhood feeling now that there are so many Air BnBs. If you don't think that these things are related, you are wrong.

It makes the city more vibrant at this time of year!

The planning process was not followed properly meaning that local people had no opportunity to inform or respond to the decision to extend the markets for 2019.

The Christmas markets are getting too big and too many stalls are selling the same things. It would be much nicer to have smaller markets leaving Princes Street Gardens clearer.

A shocking use of a public gardens
It is no longer a family venue for christmas as it was in the past. There are too many people and the stalls are no longer selling the quality of goods sold in previous years. it used to be either quality christmas stalls or craft owners selling their own products
The upheaval to the residents of Edinburgh is inconvenient and intrusive
It's a complete insult to what the event used to be. There's no character or independent imported market. It serves only underbelly and is far too overpriced and over populated
Build takes too long Break down takes too long Event starts too early you get sick of it by Xmas Staff lovely but traffic management terrible !! Overpriced stalls
The giant ferris wheel is an eye-sore, towering above our buildings, belittling princes street with tat. Please please get rid of it.
You MUST ensure that they have building permission BEFORE the building starts!
Starts earlier every year, grows bigger. Several stalls selling same stuff. No local produce. Environmentally very damaging. Spoil the view of the gardens and old town. Does not benefit local restaurants and small local shops .
It is too large an event for the centre of the city. The scale of the Christmas Village now dwarfs the beautiful architecture and setting of the city. All view of the Gardens is completely lost How can visitors even see historical Edinburgh? The smell of cooking pervades the whole site and can be most off putting as well as generating a large amount of litter.
It's taken up way too much nice public space that is normally calm, open, and relaxing. The event lasts much too long and has gotten too large.
Events which last so long that the grass is destroyed so that the park is not just spoiled during the event, but also for the long recovery period should be moved to areas with hard surfacing and not held on grass
Too big and intrusive. Damages the fabric of the gardens and the walkways. Huge rides must be at the limit of the tolerance of the infrastructure. Obstructs and causes losses nd inconvenience to the National Gallery and RSA. Youth focused. Off putting for local residents and Princes St pavements are a nightmare, especially at bus stops. insufficient circulation space for number of visitors. Move to another larger site with flat land ?
No longer a German market with select items and a picturesque feel. Lost it's soul and looks a mess.

<p>The Christmas Market got too big, it's time to de-scale. It is not possible to enjoy it any more and besides we are losing the gardens for way too long when everything is being set up. I would like to see less stands, less lights, more space between the stands, market opened over shorter period of time. This city shouldn't be just for tourists.</p>
<p>Far too much. Needs to be reduced in overall size. Crowded and feeling unsafe inside the area.</p>
<p>Christmas does not start in the middle of November, to allow a commercial organisation to commandeer a crucial public space for such a long period of time with seemingly no consideration of the traffic and congestion issues (both foot and motorised) is absolutely insane. The council needs to have a good hard look at itself and what it thinks public space is for</p>
<p>It felt unsafe at times due to the overcrowding, pedestrians being forced to step down on to roads, and cars becoming frustrated with traffic leading to aggressive driving. There was quite a lot of repetition in the types of stalls/merchandise. It's extremely disappointing how long the gardens are closed for following the event to reinstate the grass etc, and looks particularly depressing for much of January and February. I would be interested to know more about the carbon footprint of the event overall, both the exhibitors themselves and in how people travel to the event.</p>
<p>This event is the prime example of the process of commercialisation and festivalisation which have made Edinburgh a significantly less enjoyable place to live in recent years. The private enclosure of public space is completely unacceptable - large swathes of Princes Street Gardens were rendered unusable for the general public for far too long. The scale and tackiness of the Christmas 'Festival' is also completely at odds with conservation concerns, both for green space - especially the removal of trees and the huge recovery time for the Gardens after the event - and for Edinburgh's status as a World Heritage Site. Underbelly's flagrant disregard for the civic wellbeing of Edinburgh is appalling, and contribute to the sense that Edinburgh is not a place to live but a place to visit as a tourist (and, increasingly, even that experience has been soured by events like the Christmas Festival due to the works involved and the tackiness of the events themselves).</p> <p>So I am not dismissed as an old NIMBY-type, I am a young professional who has lived in Edinburgh for nine years, loves festivals, and actively participates in cultural events in the city. It is the Christmas 'Festival' specifically as well as the increasingly commercialised Fringe Festival which make me consider moving, something I never wanted to consider as I love this city very much. But Underbelly's endeavours are killing the soul of Edinburgh, and the Christmas Festival is the most egregious example. Shutting the public out of public spaces, prioritising immediate profit over long-term sustainability, damaging the aesthetic of the World Heritage Site, and pricing locals out of the city centre are some of the worst, but far from the only, consequences of this 'Festival' run amok. Underbelly's events currently pose the greatest threat to Edinburgh as a liveable city, a line which we are very, very close to crossing.</p>
<p>Public parks should not be closed off for events</p>
<p>Whilst there are clearly benefits as a city attraction, this is an invasive event that is managed in a disruptive and disrespectful manner. It would be much easier to reconcile if it lasted for a shorter period and the garden was 'put back' faster.</p>

<p>Princes Street Gardens should not be used for events of this nature and scale at such a busy time of year. Most of the Gardens should be left open 0800 to 1800 as an area of peace and quiet for relief from noise and stress of shopping. A small number of food / drink stalls could be accommodated but not of a scale that require crowd control.</p>
<p>At least it had planning permission that time.</p>
<p>This festival has become disproportionately large, and has a massive negative impact upon the Gardens for way too long a period. The environmental impact is colossal too.</p>
<p>It is horrible.</p>
<p>Abroad during this</p>
<p>I am concerned at the damage this event is causing to mature trees in the park due to poor briefing of contractors. The whole area under the tree's crown should be out of bounds, due to risk of damage to roots and soil compaction. Damage resulting from activities like equipment storage and returfing is causing visible dieback on trees in several parks in the cities. Please ensure all contractors are fully briefed and sites are inspected, as mature trees like these are an irreplaceable part of Edinburgh's heritage.</p>
<p>I am concerned that the additional policing requirements of this event take resource away from policing in the rest of the city, as reported to Craigentenny and Restalrig Community Council on 27 November. All events should be required to supply a full complement of security staff from their own budget.</p>
<p>I am concerned that traffic management in the centre of town is inadequate to accommodate such large numbers of pedestrians. This is dangerous and is creating a very poor public realm experience over long periods. Plans to restrict car traffic into the centre, manage buses and taxis better especially around the east end of Princes Street, and allocate more space to pedestrians, should be implemented before next year's festival.</p>
<p>I am happy to see these events take place and their popularity, but their governance needs to be considerably stronger to ensure they are benefiting and not draining the city.</p>
<p>A massive takeover by Underbelly of a public park. It looks, smells and sounds cheap and trashy. Damage to the gardens and trees. No evidence of any real benefit to businesses around Princes Street, and hugely disruptive for Old Town workers and residents. Goes on for far too long. There should be smaller, better quality Christmas markets, showcasing local businesses, located on hard standing areas throughout the City Centre.</p>
<p>Unsuitable for the location. Damage done. Dangerous overcrowding. Lessons not learned.</p>
<p>The gardens are unsuitable for this type of large scale commercial event.</p>

<p>Too big. Too much fast food and drink on sale. Far too commercialised and not in keeping with the city's UNESCO heritage. Too focussed on tourism and ignores the effects on residents.</p>
<p>Find it an utter shame that one of the biggest green spaces available for local wildlife / residents / city workers is put out of action for such a length of time with temporary structures during the festival and for time afterwards whilst the ground is returned as was. That is not sustainable or environmentally friendly. This green space was created to provide rest, views and pleasure for all. Taking it away is not of benefit to peoples wellbeing. In a city links to nature, however small, have been shown time and again to promote more positive mental health and wellbeing. Yet at the winter months you can't even find a park bench to sit on. There must be a need for a xmas market to encourage tourists (although surely a market promoting Scottish business / crafts would be more interesting than a market formula of cheap, mass produced tat that is replicated through winter markets around the world?) but can it not be catered for in temporary structures that impede less on nature and green spaces? With the environmental crisis looming the message you send out to the children of Edinburgh is dreadful.</p>
<p>Underbelly are appalling and should not have access to our public spaces, they are exploiting our city, and Princess Street Gardens has been turned into a tacky hell that is an embarrassment to the city.</p>
<p>Planning permission would have helped... Additionally, residents are given a paltry discount to these already extortionate events. More resident interaction as to how the event is managed would be appreciated. And after my experience so far this year, I think it is time to start talking about ticketing the gardens. I did not see many people buying things because they were being aggressively ushered by stewards and the venue was over capacity. If for one year you could refuse planning permission to Underbelly then I think they would get the message, I imagine this will not happen and this unfairness will continue unabated. Footfall is not an indicator of success.</p>
<p>Too big, too crowded, too expensive.</p>
<p>Takes up too much space, damages the environment, blocks public space for use by local residents (not just for the 6 week extended 'Christmas' period, safety checks not completed adequately and timely, expensive repetitive tat, aimed purely at tourists with big money</p>
<p>Hogmansy should only start Mid Dec. Too much visible funfair. Obscures views of castle for those who come for tradition.</p>
<p>The Xmas festival in East Princes Street gardens is a travesty. This is a public park not a retail opportunity. The festival is far too large, badly managed, unattractive and overcommercialised. I believe there was no planning permission sought or granted for the 18/19 'event'. This alone is worthy of serious investigation.</p>
<p>Inappropriate for WHS and in context of other entertainment events being packed into parks and Old Town, I think the park should be left as a green space for the amenity, health and wellbeing of local Old/New Town residents and visitors to the city centre. Residents effectively forced to negotiated overcrowded pavements next to busy polluting traffic, instead of being able to walk through park.</p>
<p>Should run all the year round. A great day out for all the family.</p>

This event is a disgrace. Where are the local vendors, why is it managed by a single mega-company that mismanages its events and barely pays its workers (Underbelly is a corporate monstrosity), and why - in the name of all things good and decent - were the organizers allowed to strew around memorial benches and cut down decades-old trees? They didn't even have proper PLANNING PERMISSION! To the devil with it, I say. If we can't have a locally owned and operated event that respects the gardens, then it's not worth having an event at all.

This festival seems to get more and more unmanageable each year, especially this year considering all the issues the organisers cause.

The continued commercialisation of Edinburgh Christmas has removed almost any attraction for local residents like myself.

A few years ago, Edinburgh's Christmas was a much smaller event with genuinely independent stallholders selling high-quality merchandise; this is no longer the case since Underbelly took over the running of the event as a purely profit-driven enterprise.

The park belongs to Edinburgh's people and the access to green spaces has many social, economic and health benefits. The presence of this event for such a long time has significantly reduced access to Princes Street Gardens and made the walk along the length of Princes Street - a common pedestrian route between the East and West of the city centre - much less pleasant.

Beating a dead horse, but it's very bland and soulless. Well adapted to be more accessible this year, though with the level of crowds it feels slightly in vain. More local engagement and involvement would make it more of a positive environment. Decent discounts, and the spotlighting of local businesses and crafts people in key areas would generate some much needed good feeling towards the event.

Flooring needs a rethink - doesn't hold up well in wet weather

Hard to move around with the markets on especially a local trying to do some shopping/work in the surrounding area

Although this event gets stick in the press - it is great for our city and great during the festive period. Perhaps needs some areas of cover for when the weather is bad?

Far too big, far too long, far too busy, Overpriced tat. A commercial travesty. Unbecoming for a great city like Edinburgh. It is completely unacceptable to block off public access / enjoyment of the Eastern gardens for such a long time, and to cause such extreme damage to the grass and trees etc. It effectively ruins the gardens for months afterwards as the park takes months to repair / recover. Cut it right back, put it on a hard standing such as Castle Ter. carpark, keep it small, and set up little local Christmas markets in other parts of the city so that everyone can benefit from the spirit of Christmas without overwhelming the public space in the city centre.

Every year this event takes up a larger area of the centre of Edinburgh, and lasts for longer –this year lasting 7 weeks, with another 7 weeks of installation, deinstallation, and park recovery times. At this enormous scale, the council has an urgent responsibility to curate this event, and ensure that it reflects the needs and values of Edinburgh’s residents.

I and many others find the event to be hideously tacky and nakedly profit-oriented, and visually and culturally inappropriate for a UNESCO world heritage site. I’m not a practising Christian, but I also find it extremely inappropriate to be celebrating the Nativity with a huge commercial venture, in the form of a Blackpool-esque funfair with a pricing model that’s unaffordable to many Edinburghers. And to be clear, all of this would be somewhat acceptable if it weren’t on such a disproportionately large scale for a mid-sized city.

The opportunity is there to use at least some of the market stalls to showcase small businesses, local artists and craftspeople, and community organisations. Instead we have an imitation of a local village fair, with mass-produced products and services that are designed to look homemade.

It makes me feel that the centre of Edinburgh isn’t there for me, it’s for the vast businesses like Underbelly that make money off of me, and off of visitors. I feel alienated and pushed out of the city centre that I find so beautiful, and that made me fall in love with Edinburgh 13 years ago.

I haven't been into the event this year, but in the previous three years I found it to be overcrowded, and getting more so. I would like to see a lower density of attractions in the space.

The fact that the event went ahead this year and last year without planning permission is unacceptable. I know from experience that a smaller, community-led event would likely have been cancelled or severely curtailed for far smaller planning violations. I'm aware that Underbelly has cited delays from the council as the reason for the late application, and that it's not clear where the breakdown has occurred. However if this event is to be held at this enormous scale, proactive effort needs to be made by the council to ensure that it safe and properly planned. The Christmas Market is a famous and in-demand event that happens at the same time every year, so if the PAN was not in place in October in time for the consultation period, the council should have already been investigating why.

It’s grown, got tattier, and makes an awful mess. What does all that compaction do to the trees? Not against it per se, but it would be better sited somewhere where it did less damage and didn’t take garden space out of use - maybe Waterloo Place?

It has been found that this event did not have planning permission. This raises serious questions about fitness of both the event promoter and the Council to undertake and supervise this activity.

In answering the question about management off traffic I have answered on the basis of the management of pedestrian traffic. Not only was there significant overcrowding in the event space but it resulted in very heavy congestion of adjacent footpaths. There must be a question about whether the number of people visiting the market exceeded the capacity of the event space and surrounding area.

Significant damage was done to the green space as a result of the construction activity and subsequent use of the space.

The event created significant noise and light pollution over an extended period of time and added to traffic- related and other carbon emission in the city centre

Edxmas in East Princes Street Gardens has become such a dispiriting exploitative event, which has overgrown its location and is f=generally not a feelgood experience for those that visit it in good faith to find themselves ripped off by cheap experiences charged at high prices.

A new winter festival format is needed that doesn't require the large-scale occupation of a public park in the city centre for several months of the year which should perhaps look in future to smaller markets with rides in locales contiguous to the city centre and on hard-standing surfaces, which are for the duration of the festive period.

Two words STOP THIS. Gardens out of use for too long because of set up, 6 week period and then dismantling and repairing damage. Again who benefits from this? Who pays for repairs to gardens, extra litter costs etc? Open accounts from Underbelly have to be provided, is it really beneficial to city and its residents? Gardens are for residents to use not private business to profit from. People visit edinburgh to see these gardens amongst other things, this ruins the whole point of that. Common good land such as these gardens are for benefit of the people of Edinburgh not private companies. Time to stop use of these prestigious gardens for a tatty fairground. Stop using this garden for private profit.

Overall this is a rather sad effort to replicate mainland European Xmas markets. It all looks fairly cheesy and does not add to Edinburgh's appeal. Unless you really make piles of money you should send them elsewhere. Putting these cheap shows and stalls in the middle of our great city is a mistake.

Christmas is not in November. disappointingly unimaginative and corporate.

Surely Edinburgh deserves a locally-led Creative event that encourages local business, local crafts and local arts? Why a German - style market run almost exclusively by companies from out of town?

Poor working conditions and overpriced consumer tat improved only by the increase in vegan options.

The rides are so expensive only the most affluent local residents could even consider taking their family on them!

The constant impact of repetitive events on a green space is detrimental to the environment.

It is not a suitable location to erect a fun fair and market. It should be on hard standing tarmaced surfaces.

The amount of time this space is put of use due to install and takedown is denying the public access to their public green space for a disproportionate amount of time. The weightbearing impact on tree roots of market and big wheel is compacting the tree roots and damaging the trees in the upper level of EPSG. The disrespect for the natural environment is blatant as it has been repeated this year,(19/20) despite a tree charter being in place.

What sustainability studies are being done on the event?

It was overly crowded. Like you'd tried to cram too many things into too small a space.

The damage to the lawn next to the Scott Monunment under the Big Wheel takes months to repair. Is it worth it? It's the same after the summer festivals. If you want a wheel there, go all in and build one permanently. This part-time solution means that we can only enjoy the gardens for half the year.

It is interesting to be asked about this event in December 2019, when we are already in the realms of something completely different operating under the same title. We believe that the Christmas Market in 2019-20 is far too large and skews the entire market place for Christmas in City Centre Edinburgh Although well presented it is a low grade tourist experience with very little value added in experience or economic terms.

Hogmanay, West Princes Street Gardens

The use of volunteers in place of paid staff is unacceptable at a for profit event.

The ticket price is too high for what is offered.

Monetising this space is wrong. Gardens out of action far too long. Amplified events is n/a, many people live and work in vicinity. Ugly fences, scaffolding, generators, litter and vomit is not appropriate use, at any time of year.

Restricting residents access to the city centre from around 6pm is unacceptable. It's our city and does not belong to Underbelly as the promoter of this event. Why should we be impacted in this way, residents should be allowed free and unfettered access on proof of identity and address.

Inappropriate to use the gardens for these events

The Hogmanay event makes getting around Edinburgh incredibly difficult. We don't need a massive concert to celebrate New Year.

Dreadful tacky event not suitable to a world heritage city

Its getting there. It will always need to improve and evolve. Its a must for the events calendar

Very large crowds but part of the celebrations of hogmanay. Too much drink sometimes available and lack of supervision.

An excellent initiative to showcase Edinburgh

Commercialised., Mmoney making event for the tourists. Scale it down to Hogmanay itself with NO fireworks.

Need large set up and take down periods of time. Very loud event.

A shirt event Edinburgh can be proud of. Happy to share our public green spaces for such a prestigious event.

clear up after events -- damaged grass, plants etc takes far too long to replace.

During event -- hoardings to obscure view from Princes St totally unacceptable.

Thuggish security guards who try and (illegally) prevent entry

Blocking views to the castle and views and access to the gardens is a disgrace. If you can't hold events there without doing this, for safety reasons, then you dont have a venue really do you?

cancel it

This causes massive disruption. I got into Edinburgh Airport early afternoon on the 31st, needing to get to Portobello via public transport and was very disappointed at the lack of decent traffic management and the lack of joined up working by various agencies, including Lothian Buses - the lack of information about diverted bus routes and times was infuriating, added to my journey very significantly and was completely avoidable.

This may be shorter than EdXMas, but is surely just as vile as it is concentrated.

Faux, tourist-fleeing Hogmanay shows nothing to what the celebration means. The entire organic spirit of saying goodbye and welcoming the new with hope is ravaged and wholly monetised, vomited up as a purely Jolly Jock Experience (tm) to the detriment of Edinburgh, Scotland and ANYONE who lives in Old Town and the top of New Town.

It is a crime.

The Gardens should be open for everyone to mingle freely and celebrate personally and intimately, without the crass corporate brand management and heavy-handed herding of the public as a *commodity.* There should be sufficient facilities for litter and emergency provision, with VERY carefully limited (and placed) food and drink availability with the emphasis on long term Edinburgh catering providers or better still Council provided facilities. And a close attention paid to detritus management at each site.

Permanent public facilities (toilets) should be manned during the event and increased generally for the entire year to avoid the prevalence of foul Portaloo clusters. Which in themselves are disgusting but also are a vast eyesore and rob any events of even the slightest mystique.

The entire Christmas/Hogmanay experience in Princes Street Gardens should be retained as a PUBLIC focused occasion and NEVER a profit motive for private capital, which has ZERO sense of decorum or charm.

Princes Street Gardens are GARDENS, a once beautiful public park. That is now an open cast pit. Ruined. All by - and in the name of - profit, glitz and glamour. As authentic as a plastic flower left in the gutter.

The council's deliberate mismanagement of this has left a permanent stain on the heart of Edinburgh and ripped the soul from the city. For cash.

You are the custodian of the public spaces of our capital city, NOT the owner. Stop selling public spaces for private profit.

As per the winter Market. Shocking lack of respect for not only the gardens but the residents. The park belongs to us and we are excluded from them for too long. Also the money spent in the stalls isn't going to local business or the council and so they are taking advantage and profiting for our city and putting absolutely nothing back.

Also this is now no longer a representation and celebration of the Scottish tradition of Hogmanay and all that represents for our culture but it is a cash cow for a company that has shown no care to our city or our residents.

The gardens should not be used for multiday events - they need to stay primarily as a green sanctuary.
Why can't a park be a park?
Considering that the council grants taxpayers' money to Underbelly, I would like to see a breakdown of exactly how much financial benefit accrues to us from this disneyland-lite.
Why prep for Hogmanay had to start before we'd even seen Christmas was crazy!
This used to be a great event, but it's been commercialised to the teeth now, and it no longer is a meaningful celebration by the city for the city. It's exclusionary and lacks creativity. We can do better.
The litter generated is always dreadful and doesn't seem to get cleared up very quickly. If the weather has been wet the grass areas become really muddy - more hardstanding would be beneficial.
Just Hogmanay itself is fine.
Having no access to cross Princes Street for locals is a real pain eg having to a very long roundabout route when walking up from New Town/Stockbridge area to see friends who live in the High Street area north of the gardens. As with most events now, it seems to be geared more for the tourists at the expense of locals!
Why are Princes Street Gardens shut for so long in the build up to Hogmanay? in the past, it was possible to enjoy walking through Princes Street Gardens on Christmas Day, now on that day the gardens are shut because of preparations for Hogmanay which is ridiculous.
Completely disruptive to the residents of Edinburgh - another money making scam
This event goes on too long, there is too great an emphasis on the sale of alcohol, and it is too expensive for local residents.
The event is too expensive and I have not attended in the last 10 years because of the poor value for money. Residents are effectively excluded from their own civic space and the values of hogmanay I want to celebrate are not reflected in this commercialised, market driven event.
Unsuitable venue
West Princes Street gardens should be open access to the public year round and not closed for ticket only events. The erecting of high wood panel walls to block the view of the gardens and castle from Princes Street is outrageous and should never happen again.
The streets around the Hogmanay party look as if they haven't been cleaned for years during and after the event. Bus diversions are a huge inconvenience and generally dissuade me from going anywhere near town.
Another major intrusion on these lovely gardens that should not be exploited in this way. The erection of barriers for so called safety but whose purpose is really to prevent non ticket holders from seeing the concert is a prime example as to why this is not a suitable venue! It beggars believe that the beautiful Christmas tree that sits at the mound fell victim to the placing of speakers last year!!
PSG should be used as a park, blocking it off to the public for paid events is unacceptable. People come to Edinburgh for its history and not tacky events such as this. Return the park to the public !

I resent this commercial takeover of the town, and of Hogmanay itself. A beautiful, spontaneous, communal party, a tradition going back hundreds of years, has been stolen by events promoters.
A remarkably well organised event that might actually be improving and doesn't do too much damage.
Awful event, terrible crowd control, overcrowded, not family friendly. Went once and never again. Most folk I know who are residents avoid it like the plague, as I do. Once again targeted at tourists not residents. We can't even enjoy our own city on Hogmanay, OUR tradition! It has somewhat become over inflated now and is less about honouring the tradition and more about making money. More and more public space is being taken over, it does not feel inclusive of Edinburgh residents anymore. I feel that I can only enjoy our city centre from mid-January to July. From August to January it becomes inaccessible, the events are overcrowded, overpriced and targeted at tourists rather than Scottish nationals. Edinburgh city centre is at risk of becoming simply a tourist resort, losing it's cultural and national relevance. It often comes top of favourite places to visit/stay short-term (including students) however I think for true residents, Edinburgh's Festival events are crushing the city's symbolic heritage, and making it a quite challenging place to stay, regarding finances, commute, socialising and other everyday living options.
Nothing about Hogmanay is special or feels particularly Scottish, it just blends in with the ChristmasBlackpool vibe in the centre of town
A dreadful misuse of a public area the belongs to the citizen's of Edinburgh
Not Answered
Its great that the city of Edinburgh is popular for this celebration but every year it seems to be bigger and bigger to the point of disruption
Why should working people suffer and walk for miles to get home . Tacky set up and hideous on George street and castle street
Public parks should not be closed off for events
Princes Street Gardens should not be used for events of this nature and scale at such a busy time of year. Most of the Gardens should be left open 0800 to 1800 as an area of peace and quiet for relief from noise and stress of shopping. If the scale of an event is such that pedestrian movement on the adjacent pavement has to be restricted, or the views of the Castle have to be blocked, then the event should be moved elsewhere.
It's too big, too crowded and has a massive negative impact upon local citizens who are trying to get around the city to go to/from work
Gate opening not co-ordinated properly.
Set up and deconstruction takes too long and reduces Princes Street and nearby New Town to a mass of unsightly barriers and fencing. Event has become too big for the City. Access for City residents and workers is blocked. Complete disregard for conservation and World Heritage status

We must avoid creep of this festival as the impact created continues to increase to the detriment of the location, residents and the experience of visitors. It must be done appropriately for the location with consideration of the damage caused and the lengthy time to restore the gardens to normal over the winter months. Given the scale of the event and closures alternatives should be considered instead of more of the same.

A whole section of the city is effectively out of bounds for residents during preparation and duration of this event. Another over-commercialised event. It needs to be scaled down or else some of the proceeds need to be clearly passed on to local benefits of residents. E.g. funding of better litter management throughout the city

The prostitution of our city to be exploited by Underbelly has stolen the whole significance of Hogmanay in Edinburgh. It has cheated our city of the spontaneity of what is a symbolic time of year to share with people and strangers. It breaks my heart that local people have to pay to traverse through their own streets, and that Underbelly put on tacky events and destroy such an important event. The following day there is rubbish everywhere, bags and bags of strewn and discarded alcoholic beverages, which make walking through the city like some kind of horrid hangover or vomit spew everywhere. Disgusting.

The limited duration of the event mean that it's impact is tolerable. The impact of rigging and cleaning up around the event are not great.

Should be soon.

The Council is always self-righteously yammering about fire safety when it comes to Beltane Fire Society events, and yet - every Hogmanay - any drunk Anglo-American tourist with deep enough pockets gets to march down a crowded street waving a firebrand. Hypocrisy, anyone? Either cancel it, or relax the safety standards on other events. As things stand, it's an egregious example of discrimination by the council against local performers.

The set up period is far too long. They started 2-3weeks out from the event - i appreciate there is christmas beforehand, but surely it doesnt need to take THAT long..?

The build time seems to be very extensive and has blocked access to our office for a few weeks so we feel that it is on for quite a long period of time but aside from that we have not attended the event so cannot comment otherwise.

The event resulted in this public space being unavailable for an extended period.

Again comments regarding traffic management address issues with pedestrian traffic. IN this case as well the use of boarding along Princes Street has adversely affected the enjoyment of the views across the gardens area.

Hogmanay (and the Edinburgh International Festival Fireworks Concert) are the only two major events that should take place in West Princes Street Gardens. There are increasing concerns about what seems to be the increasing length of time that setting up these events now takes, which isn't completely clear enough to be able to properly comment on, but the cordonning off of much of WPSG as of week beginning 9 December 2019 is too long and surely could easily be shortened?

Was a nice event once but noise levels of fireworks too loud. Surely silent ones could be used? Residents would like to be able to sleep and some pets and wildlife are absolutely terrified by the noise. Although event is fairly short why do gardens have restricted access from mid december onwards? Really tired of Edinburgh residents gardens being unavailable to us to use so frequently, the balance has to be reversed. People not profits.

Very little consideration of local residents. The event really isn't pitched at us. Better discounts and involvement for local residents would be appreciated.

I was unable to get a removals van to my own front door on St Mary's St on 30 Dec. With no warning. And no flexibility by stewards.

Too much focus on profit and not enough on local culture and community, once again.

Heart and Soul, West Princes Street Gardens

Monetising this space is wrong. Gardens out of action far too long. Amplified events is n/a, many people live and work in vicinity. Ugly fences, scaffolding, generators, litter and vomit is not appropriate use, at any time of year.

I walked past this and thought, 'aww thats a shame' . It looked and sounded like a drab uninspiring event.

Leave our gardens to be just gardens.

Same comments as for Hogmanay

You are the custodian of the public spaces of our capital city, NOT the owner. Stop selling public spaces for private profit.

Didn't attend so I'm not qualified to comment. Was this a paid-for event?

I really don't think public good land is the appropriate place for events like this. The environmental impact needs to be addressed urgently

Most objections as for previous question. WPSG is a garden and is not suitable for large scale events with amplified music.

HEART & SOUL

Although this event is great it is not a large event and should not be classified as one as it keeps the park fully open at all times and is not ticketed.

We would suggest that it is classed as a small community event which it is and FLY Open Air is classed as a large event :)

This shouldn't be seen as a large event

This one-day event within the Ross Theatre arena without having to have additional screening is the sort of self-contained event that well suits West Princes Street Gardens in moderation.

Summer Festival Wheel, East Princes Street Gardens	
	Tacky fairground spoiling the atmosphere of a tranquil space.
	Not appropriate use of green space
	Inappropriate to use the gardens for these events
	Why? Why on earth do we need a big wheel spoiling the view of the Gardens for three months?
	What to say, its a pointless unnecessary eyesore in your main street. With building sites and bridge maintenance ongoing, Edinburgh shouldn't be making itself purposely ugly. #unescopeleasedontvisittoday
	Leave our gardens to be gardens! They are not yours to monetise.
	This is damaging the roots of those trees that remain in the gardens.
	It goes on for a ridiculous length of time and was hardly gone before another one started being built, in early November, for "Christmas" and the New Year.
	If you want a big wheel, build a permanent one on hard standing in a suitable location and don't ruin our green space. How about that big, barren square on Lothian Road? Or even between the RSA and the Gardens?
	Too close to the tree roots. Unnecessary and gaudy for the city's heritage. Takes away from the historic landscape
	Tacky and unoriginal -- most second-rate cities have a Big Wheel these days. Something new required.
	Completely inappropriate to site this next to the Scott Monument.
	cancel it
	You are the custodian of the public spaces of our capital city, NOT the owner. Stop selling public spaces for private profit.
	Stop using public space to help a corporate company make profits while the event is to the detriment of the residents.
	The wheel kills the grass effectively for half a year meaning it never recovers after summer before Christmas kicks in. The size of the wheel is too large for the nature trees that surround it. Poor site location.
	Stop this event. I hate it.
	This would be more appropriate on Leith Links or Saughton Park rather than in the centre of the nation's capital.
	This event makes commuting via public transport a nightmare for far too long! Adds at least 20 minutes on to either side of your journey, the pavements are congested with people walking on roads! There are too many people crammed in to the city centre during the festival and it isn't safe! The festival needs to be dispersed to other parts of the city to allow for some breathing space for the thousands of people whom work here and are council tax payers who are all too easily forgotten!
	Once again, a pointless exercise. Grass is ruined once again in the year and is just about recovering when the prep for the Christmas village begins. If we must have a wheel in the gardens could it not just stay up? Preferred option is not to have it at all.

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The ground is just recovering from the Christmas market and then the wheel is put up again ruining the ground, it should either be made a permanent fixture or used only at Christmas.
Totally unnecessary attraction unsuited to what should be a public park.
What's a summer festival? Another excuse to ram the area full of attractions.
I'm sure the tourists enjoy it but I don't think we should have the wheel operating outwith the Christmas shenanigans - or, perhaps, we should only have it in summer and not in winter!
See my comments on the Winter Festival use of this park
This wheel never seems to be away from the gardens for long. Makes a mess and destroys the gardens.
We don't need this rubbish in a World Heritage city.
Turns Edinburgh's premier street into a cheap version of Blackpool
I do not believe that this event is appropriate for the site.
Its a very tacky intrusion on one of the world's great urban landscapes. Find another location for this, possibly further out of town, and allow this space to remain a park.
Unsuitable venue
In a word, tacky.
East Princes Street gardens should not be rented out to private firms. That's it.
Just stop it.
The big wheel needs re-thought. The gardens are constantly in a horrible state due to how frequent this thing is up. What's the point on re-turfing the grass if the wheel is back up almost immediately and everything is dug up again?
It's too close to the trees - there is no need to have this up for most of the year. It is not in the right place.
It's a beautiful public park! It shouldn't be used for paid events
Why do we need a wheel that is spending half the year on the same spot, especially in a public GARDEN? make it a permanent feature somewhere else in the city (outside the city center)
Get this type of nasty event out of our city. Horrible event. Edinburgh is a great city being ruined by this type of exploitation.
This event should not have been held in this park during peak visitor season. A different location should have been found. The consequence of the screening off of the gardens from public view and restricting public access presented a very poor image of the city, caused obstructions on the pavement which looked like a temporary construction site restricting pedestrian footpaths.
The wheel is just plain ugly and does not have a place in the beautiful town center - move it to Leith!
surprised that with all the pack in and pack out with the wheels that are put up in the gardens that nobody has tried to just put a permanent installation there, and I hope I've not given anyone a bad idea as a result.
Keep the gardens for the use of the public and not for private events
What is the point !
The wheel is so so ugly, please get rid of it.

<p>This eyesore must have spoiled thousands of visitors photos of Edinburgh's iconic views. It is bad enough having the wheel during the months of November, December and into January, having a wheel in the summer is a big step too far</p>
<p>The wheel is appearing for a longer period every year, and making the Gardens look like a tacky theme park or cheap knockoff of the London Eye - something that makes Edinburgh feel less distinctive and more tacky. I am not opposed to it being there, but only for a single specific time of year. It seems like it may become a permanent feature before long, which would be a symptom of larger problems I discussed in my feedback to the Christmas Festival.</p>
<p>Public parks should not be closed off for events</p>
<p>Princes Street Gardens should not be used for events of this nature and scale at such a busy time of year. Most of the Gardens should be left open as an area of peace and quiet for relief from noise and stress of the Festivals.</p>
<p>It seems to last forever and spoils the enjoyment of the park for ordinary citizens</p>
<p>Horrible. Ruins the character of Edinburgh. Takes away a free space for Edinburgh's citizens.</p>
<p>No go</p>
<p>I am concerned at the damage this event is causing to mature trees in the park due to poor briefing of contractors. The whole area under the tree's crown should be out of bounds, due to risk of damage to roots and soil compaction. Damage resulting from activities like equipment storage and returfing is causing visible dieback on trees in several parks in the cities. Please ensure all contractors are fully briefed and sites are inspected, as mature trees like these are an irreplaceable part of Edinburgh's heritage.</p> <p>I am concerned that the additional policing requirements of this event take resource away from policing in the rest of the city, as reported to Craigentenny and Restalrig Community Council on 27 November. All events should be required to supply a full complement of security staff from their own budget.</p> <p>I am concerned that traffic management in the centre of town is inadequate to accommodate such large numbers of pedestrians. This is dangerous and is creating a very poor public realm experience over long periods. Plans to restrict car traffic into the centre, manage buses and taxis better especially around the east end of Princes Street, and allocate more space to pedestrians, should be implemented before next year's festival.</p> <p>I am happy to see these events take place and their popularity, but their governance needs to be considerably stronger to ensure they are benefiting and not draining the city.</p>
<p>Edinburgh is a World Heritage site, not a fairground.</p>
<p>Blackpool of the North. Tacky, unrequired and results in damage and disruption. Unsuitable for the location.</p>
<p>The wheel should not be there, it over shadows the Scots Monument, it is unoriginal and surely we could do better than replicate London?</p>

Disruption and damage caused to the gardens/commuters through Prince's Street throughout this period is high
Inappropriate for WHS and in context of other entertainment events being packed into parks and Old Town, I think the park should be left as a green space for the amenity, health and wellbeing of local Old/New Town residents and visitors to the city centre.
Very strident and overwhelming.
Have oddly never noticed this but is it required when it's here all winter?
The presence of a "fun fair" in the middle of a UNESCO world heritage site for months on end if not appropriate
East Princes Street Gardens is not the right location for a ferris wheel, which really needs a hard-standing site, which doesn't encroach on the greenspace of a public park.
Profit making, who gets revenue? Doesn't fit in with settings but in scale of what else is allowed in gardens, on its own, I suppose council have achieved what they want as it is almost bearable now.
The constant impact of repetitive events on a green space is detrimental to the environment. It is not a suitable location to erect a big wheel. It should be on hard standing tarmaced surfaces. The amount of time this space is out of use due to install and takedown is denying the public access to their public green space for a disproportionate amount of time. The weightbearing impact on tree roots of big wheel is compacting the tree roots and damaging the trees in the upper level of EPSG. The disrespect for the natural environment is blatant as it has been repeated this year,(19/20) despite a tree charter being in place.
Why do you keep doing this? It doesn't add anything to the city during the festivals (if anything, it detracts). Is it only for profit?

Summer Sessions, West Princes Street Gardens

Lack of access to the gardens around the events is unacceptable - they should be a green space for all to enjoy. The curtains and barriers look horrendous. This is a city centre location which has famous views - if the event can't take place without restricting these then it is in the wrong place and should,be moved.

Impacts negatively on the people who live here

Not appropriate use of green space

Large private concerts are inappropriate in a public park and should not be allowed.

There are many alternative locations around the city that do not close the park to residents. The hoardings were outrageous and should not be seen in the city again.

Inappropriate to use the gardens for these events. Should be held elsewhere.

Why do we need concerts in Princes Street Gardens at all? PLEASE can we have our city back.

See comments re both heart and soul and ferris wheel

A welcome addition to Edinburgh's summer festivals

Where does the money go?

Why are live nation allowed so much profit ?

I strongly object to the closure of WPSG during the time these events run and to the boards and street blockages which obstruct the view of the Castle and force people to walk on the road into the already busy traffic.

Leave our gardens to be gardens! They are not yours to monetise.

West Princes Street Gardens were left in an incredibly poor state at the end of the Summer Sessions.

The black screening and the barriers put up in the street, removing the use of the memorial benches, were a disgrace, spoiling one of Europe's finest streets for tourists and for citizens, for the sake of commercial interests. As a city centre resident for more than 30 years, I felt very badly treated.

Far, FAR too loud an event - breaks recommended decibel levels for residents who have to live within the ward. Closes the gardens at one of the busiest times of year. Sends a message that our parks are for sale and not for residential use. Vehicles drive all over the grass and amongst pedestrians. This event should be moved to a more appropriate location for such noise levels and crowds. It is inappropriate for Princes Street Gardens.

Noise levels excessive. Why, when Env't Health officers asked them to turn the sound down and they just cranked it up again as soon as they'd gone, why was the concert not just shut down there and then? Threatening security staff trying illegally to stop entry into the gardens even during the set-up time when no bands playing. Hoardings along Princes Street (which organisers then tried to blame on "police requirements" -- police have since advised that there was no such thing.

Park was inaccessible for long periods. Sound levels were too high as recorded both by Environmental Health officers and monitors outside the gardens. This event has nothing to do with the festival. We need this space for recreation and relaxation during the crowded period of the festival. It should not be closed for a commercial event.

cancel it
This is an event which I feel has been allowed to take over West Princes Street Gardens during the summer, and the company show little regard to the members of the public who wish to use the space, particularly when the weather is good. So much of the gardens are fenced off to the public in the day time, which is a big shame.
It is amazing getting the opportunity to see these kinds of artists in Edinburgh. The setting of Ross Bandstand makes the nights more special, whatever the weather.
More than any other, this series of events was tremendously upsetting. I pay my council tax and work full time. Often the summer is the only opportunity I have to enjoy the gardens for any length of time and I felt these events completely destroyed that opportunity. For the times the garden was open, it was completely take over with event infrastructure and concert staff driving heavy noisy vehicles around; generators were going, cabling etc was highly visible and the other infrastructure in place was tatty (was it sackcloth around fencing?!). The memorial benches were relocated higgledy-piggledy back on the grass (not terribly accessible for people with mobility issues) and ruined the ability to sit and (for example) just look at the Ross Fountain. It feels like a violation of a precious space - such as the memorial to the baby ashes scandal victims - and a completely unsuitable venue for large-scale concerts of this nature.
You are the custodian of the public spaces of our capital city, NOT the owner. Stop selling public spaces for private profit.
Noise was heard throughout the whole city and once again public space which belongs to the residents of the city was blocked off to them!
The general public should not be shut out of WPSG. Absolutely diabolical.
Make more use of the gardens for events like this. They encourage people to come to Edinburgh and I thoroughly enjoyed the two gigs I went to.
Really disappointed that this event and others now restrict movement through the park with no notice until you get to the gate ie the one on castle terrace. That's avoidable.
These are an utter disgrace: if the commercial partners want these to be exclusive then don't hold them in what should be an open public space.
Paid-for events that expect barriers to be erected on the city's most iconic street are totally indefensible.
Shame the hoardings have to come out again. If concerts and gigs are being held in public places then it's just one of those things that others can feasibly stand on Princes St to watch!
It was managed atrociously, putting a curtain or temporary wall up so people couldn't see and barriers up so people couldn't sit on benches, I felt for old or infirm people waiting for a bus who couldn't get a proper seat (bus stop seats aren't great). The amount of people walking on that side of Princes Street with the barriers in place forced pedestrians onto the road. Concerts shouldn't be held in the gardens unless they're free
Blocking the railings along Princes St during this event is not going to win you any friends

The commercialisation of this park is unacceptable - preventing people from entering parts of the park and putting up screens to stop people seeing the park should not be done. This is our park, it should not be used for exclusive private money-making events.

Denies access to the gardens. The curtains used to block off the view made for an unsafe situation. Pedestrians forced out near the road.

These events bring some of the best bands to the city and only have a minor impact on the gardens - don't let a few small minded people wreck things for the majority

It is outrageous that these events mean that Princes Steet Gardens (our main city centre green space) are shut off to the general public. This not only means that people (residents and visitors) can't enjoy the gardens but it has knock on effects of overcrowding on nearby pavements which is made worse by the barriers put up to stop people looking over the fence into the gardens.

Caused traffic issues for public transport.

Unhappy that a public park was habded over to a commercial body meaning large parts of the public park were unavailable for locals and visitors to enjoy

The hoarding were terrible and restricted views of one of Edinburghs most famous landmarks

Horrible event due to the way that a hideous wall/curtain had to be put up along Prince's St. Only free events should be allowed here.

Event not suited to this venue and should be relocated

The closing off of public space for private profit is atrocious., and the Impact of closing of and putting barriers on princess street is an outrag

Abhorrent capitalisation of a unique Edinburgh resource. Impeded viewing of the castle is an awful solution to a problem we shouldn't be having as the concerts shouldn't be occurring there

Appalling event when the tattoo is going on. Barriers are a nonsense - this is a public park.

Princes St gardens should be for the benefit of the people of Edinburgh, rather than for commercial exploitation. I have no problem with paid for concerts in Edinburgh, but not in public places, particularly when there are other venues, such as the Castle.

It should be open to all, or none. If there are safety concerns opening this event up to all, then it should be scrapped entirely. The park is for the use of all at all times.

The park is a public park and it should not be screened off or used for paid events

Again, these events are fun, however the whole issue of blocking of the park and turning it into an eyesore is awful. Although this offers a welcome array of events at Festival time, it has somewhat become over inflated now and is less about honouring the Festival acts and more about making money. More and more public space is being taken over, it does not feel inclusive of Edinburgh residents anymore. I feel that I can only enjoy our city centre from mid-January to July. From August to January it becomes inaccessible, the events are overcrowded, overpriced and targeted at tourists rather than Scottish nationals. Edinburgh city centre is at risk of becoming simply a tourist resort, losing it's cultural and national relevance. It often comes top of favourite places to visit/stay short-term (including students) however I think for true residents, Edinburgh's Festival events are crushing the city's symbolic heritage, and making it a quite challenging place to stay, regarding finances, commute and other everyday living options.

absolutely atrociously mismanaged, booking acts that are too loud and restricting use and enjoyment of a PUBLIC SPACE for PRIVATE PROFIT.

Loosing the access to the gardens from Kings Stables Road is unacceptable

Hideous set up around the gardens . Why attract more people in the busiest season when it's already hard to get around the city !! Pain for local workers . Also disrupt views over the gardens? Lots of other venues in city that can do concerts

Public parks should not be closed off for events

these events create a noise clash with the Tattoo. I have personal experience of not being able to hear the lone piper at the Tattoo without the noise of a concert in the background. this should be co-ordinated and managed.

Princes Street Gardens should not be used for events of this nature and scale at such a busy time of year. Most of the Gardens should be left open as an area of peace and quiet for relief from noise and stress of the Festivals.

This is not an appropriate venue

Didn't attempt

I am concerned at the damage this event is causing to mature trees in the park due to poor briefing of contractors. The whole area under the tree's crown should be out of bounds, due to risk of damage to roots and soil compaction. Damage resulting from activities like equipment storage and returfing is causing visible dieback on trees in several parks in the cities. Please ensure all contractors are fully briefed and sites are inspected, as mature trees like these are an irreplaceable part of Edinburgh's heritage.

I am concerned that the additional policing requirements of this event take resource away from policing in the rest of the city, as reported to Craigentiny and Restalrig Community Council on 27 November. All events should be required to supply a full complement of security staff from their own budget.

I am concerned that traffic management in the centre of town is inadequate to accommodate such large numbers of pedestrians. This is dangerous and is creating a very poor public realm experience over long periods. Plans to restrict car traffic into the centre, manage buses and taxis better especially around the east end of Princes Street, and allocate more space to pedestrians, should be implemented before next year's festival.

I am happy to see these events take place and their popularity, but their governance needs to be considerably stronger to ensure they are benefiting and not draining the city.

WPSG is simply not an appropriate venue for events like this. Access to the gardens is restricted before and after each event. How can it be considered acceptable to erect 6ft barriers or black plastic curtains to block views of the gardens in the middle of a World Heritage site?

This was ridiculously considered to be one major event when it was clearly not. This is the worst example of the council asking the public for their view on commercial events only to immediately disregard it for a commercial "event".

I fundamentally disagree with cramming a series of major events into the gardens over August. The city centre is already overcapacity and this just exacerbates the situation and robs residents and tourists of any area of quiet in the midst of a congested city.

This is before we consider the damage, litter, noise/light pollution and closures.

It is a series of events that are not suitable for the location as they are too large for the gardens. If additional infrastructure is required and an event spills out with the bandstand area then it is too big.

It created a dangerous situation of overcrowding on the Mound and Princes Street with people forced onto road creating conflict with transport.

How this was allowed to go ahead when these issues were obvious and how it was allowed to continue when they occurred is a damning indictment of the council and its approach to commercial events and residents. Sadly it has continued.

This is before we even consider the issue of trying to "curtain" off the gardens...

Parks and green spaces should be for all residents, they should not be closed off for profit and hidden behind a fence. If there is a need for a music venue then let's create one with easier access and good transport. Edinburgh's green spaces are on the decline to the detriment of the people who live here full-time. Living in a city is hectic and energetic, it is the opportunity to recalibrate in parks that has always made Edinburgh a positive place to live. The message you are sending that parks are for profit and locals aren't allowed in to sit to enjoy the space year round is not one that makes most locals comfortable.

It's a common good public park, if promoters want a music venue tell them to go and build one and not steal public assets and prevent locals from using their park. Absolutely livid about the way both PSG are being exploited by CEC.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that there are not many people who think that Summer Sessions is a necessary event during the increasingly crowded Fringe. There is growing concern for the care being shown to Princes St gardens.

This was the one where they blocked off the pavement and erected barriers inside the fence on Princes Street? I don't like that - it is blocking the people of Edinburgh off from their gardens, and makes the opposite pavement more crowded.

West Princes Street gardens is a public park not an entertainment venue. If it is essential to hold outdoor gigs in the summer Ingleston is a much better option - or hold them indoors, the Playhouse is underused at this time of year . That way there will be no problems with the weather, security, ruining the world class view from Princes Street to to the Castle, interfering with people's ability to pass along the pavement, and vehicles and equipment contesting the park for the busiest fortnight of the year.

Inappropriate for WHS and in context of other entertainment events being packed into parks and Old Town, I think the park should be left as a green space for the amenity, health and wellbeing of local Old/New Town residents and visitors to the city centre. Noise is cumulative and this adds to all the other noise sources that are being promoted in the Old Town, simultaneously.

It's great to see big names at the bandstand, However, we feel this event is what created all of the issues with over commercialisation of our parks due to the sheer amount of time that runs - a whole month during the the fringe.

The month of August is possibly only 1 of only 3 months in the summer in which our city experiences good weather and where people can actually go and sit in the park and enjoy it's beauty. When this major city centre park is closed for a month when the weather is good and the fringe is on - when the city is already bursting at the seams with tourists - we were therefore not surprised to see backlash due to this.

We think it would be much better suited outside the city or on for a maximum of 2 weeks build/break and event days so there is not one full month of disruption.

The large headline acts that play this event mean people would travel to wherever it is held.

Aside from this, there was also a lot of damage to the grass after Summer Sessions which led to parts of the park being fenced off for months afterwards - this also affected FLY Open Air as our event had to use different areas than usual.

I object to a public space being taken over for commercial use and private profit on such an intensive basis, thus excluding access to the gardens by the citizens of Edinburgh and visitors. One or to 'special' concerts in August might be OK, but the current schedule is too long and too intense. Particularly objectionable is the 'blocking off' of the gardens and the castle view to citizens on Princes Street.

This event runs for a whole month during the fringe - the one time in the year when tourists come from all around the world wanting to spend time in the good weather in the Gardens looking at the surroundings and views of the Castle. I think this is the root of the problem of over commercialisation of the parks as this would cause the most complaints.

This happens at the height of the Festival and the tourist season. It blocks iconic views, takes out of use part of the park where people could otherwise hang out, eat their sandwiches, have a stroll, adds unwelcome noise, and squeezes pedestrians into narrow spaces round St John's, sometimes frighteningly.

Great event all round

The benefits of this event in terms of income it generates and to whom in terms of the local authority, the local community as well as the common good fund is unclear and should be made publicly available.

Otherwise, the fact that it requires the extensive screening off of the Ross Theatre by unsightly barriers suggests that this extended series of concerts is not located in the right place.

West Princes Street Gardens is primarily a public park, with limited albeit designated space for events, which if respected should still also allow free access to the public.

Yes this is outrageous. Screening of gardens, garden access closed, noise levels excessive, dangerous crowding in streets and roads surrounding gardens, congestion and residents unable to get on with their daily lives. Gardens are not a concert venue. Again why are private companies benefitting from common good land? How can 6-8 concerts be classed as one event, it goes on for weeks? Think council were told by public in last survey we wanted numbers cut back, but you go ahead anyway, why?? It really is time to listen to us, we pay council tax and vote councillors in to represent our views, not private business. What do city and residents get from this apart from unorganised chaos? Do we get enough income from concerts to warrant all this disruption? Open book analysis would be useful here to prove if we actually benefit because costs to us are too great I believe. Greed is killing this city, if you can't afford trams etc don't do it, stop selling assets such as parks off to private companies please, enough is enough. Gardens should not be used for this.

The blocking of views around these events have been an embarrassment and insult to the community.

Why block off the view from Princes Street? It almost seems like you're more in favour of promoting the interests of paying customers than you are Edinburgh residents.

Virgin Money Fireworks Concert, West Princes Street Gardens	
	Routes closed off too early
	Monetising this space is wrong. Gardens out of action far too long. Amplified events is n/a, many people live and work in vicinity. Ugly fences, scaffolding, generators, litter and vomit is not appropriate use, at any time of year.
	Noise generated by such events causes distress to my pet dog, do not see the value they bring (none to residents and very little to their target (or only) audience of tourists)
	Fireworks cause distress to animals and should be banned. Edinburgh should be for the people who live here and not the tourists
	Its great
	I love the fireworks, what would the end of the festival without fireworks.
	Fireworks should be banned
	The whole area / streets is well managed and allows for easy and departure from the gardens.
	This is a key event in the annual calendar for Edinburgh residents and festival visitors alike. The unique setting in West Princes Street Gardens with Edinburgh Castle as the Fireworks firing position is beautiful and helps make this a world class event.
	For years this event has been a great spectacle for residents and tourists alike.
	It's a great event that seems to be professionally organised
	Leave our gardens to be gardens! They are not yours to monetise. Too many events. Fireworks should be banned.
	Good one night event
	It's time noisy fireworks were banned totally. Silent fireworks are just as spectacular, and less damaging to the environment and less distressing.
	Pure exploitation. Absolutely no benefits for any resident... if anything locals avoid it!
	Keep your hands off our public parks and gardens!
	I know of multiple times more Council tax payers who want to see an end to fireworks in all forms, than those very few I know who like them. Surely the Council has to wake up to the terror these give to so many animals and birds- the creatures that die as a result of bolting in terror into traffic, or slipping a lead and racing away to be lost. There seems to be no consideration whatsoever to those veterans of past wars or conflicts who suffer with PTSD at the sound of apparent gunfire(fireworks noise). Having had to deal with one who had slit his throat in despair at the noise during a previous episode, I will never stop speaking out against this event
	Try silent fireworks in the future please.
	Fireworks take place too late in the evening on a school night for the majority of Edinburgh families to enjoy.
	The public park should not be blocked off or used for paid events

Completely inaccessible for families with smaller children. Overcrowded and unnecessary fireworks noise. Please invest in silent fireworks - the public wants this, many residents have pets that are affected by this, it's inhumane.
Not special in any way compared to how it used to feel; saturation of events means some of the longstanding events of the Festival have lost their appeal; also I am beginning to have concerns about the structural damage the amount of fireworks and loud music is beginning to have on Castle Rock and the buildings around the Nor Loch
Public parks should not be closed off for events
Fantastic event. Attend every year, one of Edinburgh's highlights
As a one off event it is acceptable, if numbers are properly managed and access to the gardens is not restricted before and after the event.
I am not opposed to a limited number of events that are appropriate and sympathetic to the surroundings. This is a large event but managed correctly and is for a short time period.
Communication regarding entry to the site needs to be greatly improved. More delineation as to where certain levels of ticket will gain you entry and at what time would be useful for attendees.
Noise and disruption is acceptable because the event is over and done with in a relatively short time period.
Couldn't see the fireworks.
This event is fantastic and we loved attending but it was very poorly managed with only one small bar / food stall that did not accept card payments when there was around 10,000 people there.
The use of the gardens for this event was connected to other events resulting in an extended period of time that this public space was not available
The Edinburgh International Festival Fireworks Concert (and Hogmanay) are the only two major events that should take place in West Princes Street Gardens. There are increasing concerns about what seems to be the increasing length of time that setting up these events now takes, which isn't completely clear enough to be able to properly comment on, but the cordoning off of much of WPSG for more than a week either side of the event is surely unnecessary?
Again was a nice idea once. Now extremely noisy, residents, pets and wildlife would appreciate silent fireworks, can be done I'm sure. Extremely expensive to attend, prices out a lot of Edinburgh residents who you supposedly want to be there.
This is an event that is for the Edinburgh community and works as such. It should be aimed to maintain this.

Fly Open Air Festival, West Princes Street Gardens

Monetising this space is wrong. Gardens out of action far too long. Amplified events is n/a, many people live and work in vicinity. Ugly fences, scaffolding, generators, litter and vomit is not appropriate use, at any time of year.

Too noisy and exclusive inappropriate event for a city centre

The boards/curtain around the gardens are totally unacceptable, blocking the benches on princes street too. It's a public space and shouldn't be closed to the public, especially on the warm long nights during the summer.

A great event for the city to host

Another closure of WPSG with a huge amount of noise, after it was announced that this event wouldn't run.

Leave our gardens to be gardens! They are not yours to monetise. Too many back to back events. Move them to Murrayfield.

Too many commercial, ticketed events taking away the amenity of the Gardens from residents and visitors.

Noise levels unacceptable.

Residents who were affected were not consulted about this.

Two whole days of noise and disruption.

Appalling noise levels despite that they were supposed to be monitored (by who?) And on for far too long every day. Poor handling of pedestrian flows adjacent in Princes Street. Hoardings blocking the view of the Castle totally unacceptable.

Part of a bigger malaise which is the creeping commercialisation of the gardens, trying to turn them into a commercial venue.

10 hour music sessions are too long. This event generates considerable noise pollution. Low frequency bass used by this kind of techno rave may be low decibel but it carries long distances and disturbs residents. This kind of event should be in an enclosed space such as Usher Hall. It should not be imposed on the general population.

This should not be held in WPSG!

Keep your hands off our public parks and gardens!

I could hear this from Canonmills! Far far too loud, and really irritating after having put up with the festival

This event resulted in excessive noise and will almost certainly have had a negative effect on the city centre, discouraging people to visit and shop. The event also removes access to and enjoyment of one of Edinburgh's most important central public spaces. It is a good example of the administration's disregard for the importance of public open space and the privatisation of our parks.

Unsuitable venue and appalling noise.

No concerts of that scale should be occurring at the bandstand

It's a public park it should not be blocked off or used for paid events

I am so fed up with the way that the beautiful Gardens - public good land and at one time a lovely peaceful oasis - has been turned by stealth into a commercialised events space. It's all about money these days.

Same objections as for most other privately-run ticketed events, with amplified music, in a public city centre garden and World Heritage site

Utterly unsuitable for the location. Damage, noise /light pollution and litter. Top path was closed which split the garden in two and prevented accessibility. This is a perfect example of commerical event creep in that it was too large for the bandstand area which resulted in additional infrastructure and damage to the surrounding garden and closures. Not acceptable.
don't agree with the park being used for events, its a park.
Awful for local residents
Inappropriate for WHS and in context of other entertainment events being packed into parks and Old Town, I think the park should be left as a green space for the amenity, health and wellbeing of local Old/New Town residents and visitors to the city centre.
Fantastic event and I can't wait to go back. The setting and the type of music were perfect. I'll be coming back to Edinburgh again specifically for this festival, if only for longer
Have attended several times and had a brilliant experience each time. One of the best managed outdoor music events in the city.
Brilliant Event for young people in the city
Love this event. Great for the city and youth music culture. It's variety to the space and gives us 2-3 days of actual use out of the gardens to have a good time.
The best setting for such an event in the UK. A jewel in Edinburgh's crown as the best city in the U.K. for the arts
This was an excellently run event and shows a positive attitude and inclusiveness by Edinburgh city council that all generations can enjoy events in the city. 5/5.
It's great for young people to have events for them too in the centre of the city. Each Fly event gets better as they continue to hone their approach for maximum enjoyment For those attending to see the latest homegrown talent coupled with artists music fans would usually need to travel to see and minimum disruption
Amazing event that brings together a large group of young people
One of the best weekends of my life and easily the best FLY yet, I'm so glad the council elected to allow the weekend to go ahead and I hope it stays for a very long time 🍷
No effect really felt, music was off by mid night and the crowd seemed to disperse into city unnoticed. Pleased to see Edinburgh being showcased as a arts/music hub. Weekend events like this should happen more often!
Excellent event, please continue to run.
All round fantastic event. Well organised, and amazing to be in the heart of such a fantastic city.
A fantastic event for the city.
Really good to have an event like this that attracts and includes young people in the city.
Fantastic event enjoyed by young people from all over Scotland and beyond. Electronic music deserves to be celebrated and reserves the right to be held in the gardens.
Fantastic festival - looking forward to future ones.

Great event that brings something different to the centre of town.
An industry leading event in Scotland.
I do not have anything else to say
FLY Open Festival was a great opportunity for Edinburgh to show their diversity in music and allow younger people the chance to enjoy the Gardens. I have been to many of the FLY Open Air festivals now and I am very grateful for the organisers and the city for taking notice of the demand for these events and putting on such fantastic weekends throughout the years.
An incredible event to have in the city centre. It's organised well and it's a fantastic inclusive event that I recommend to all
FLY is one of the worlds premier music event brands and calling its home under Edinburgh castle is a privilege to our city and puts our creative industry firmly on the world map
Great for the community
An excellent & well run event that is worth visiting edinburgh. Cannot wait for the next one.
Love it every year
Lovely setting
Such a great event
A great event for the young people of Scotland.
Fantastic event.

FLY Open Air is an amazing event for young people in Edinburgh. It champions cutting edge music and youth culture in the heart of our city.

This year the event came under threat and as such 7,000 people signed a petition within 48 hours to keep FLY in the gardens, this campaign also gathered huge support from local & national press too.

Princes Street Gardens west is the ideal location for this show due to the natural bowl shape that the bandstand sits within, this helps mitigate noise issues as the sound is almost contained. This, coupled with the fact that there is barely any residential properties on princes street led to the music event only heralding one single noise complaint across the whole weekend which actually came from Ravelston and has since been disregarded.

The event attracts international acts to the city as well I as a platform for local talent to shine as every year the headline slot is played by someone from Edinburgh.

The local tourism economy also benefits greatly from the festival with 52% of FLY's this year coming from outside of Scotland - this generated a further £9.5million into the local tourist economy and help created 520 event jobs across the weekend for local young people. Every single bar back being a university student.

This year the event also raised over £10,000 for various charities ranging from The British Heart Foundation to Friends of The Burdiehouse park. 2020 will see our charity of choice being The Lord Provost's One City Trust.

FLY EVENTS LTD the promoter of the event are a young local company also who have an average age of 22 and employ 5 full time staff in their office based in The Watchtower which sits inside west princes street gardens too :)

Best event hosted in Edinburgh

I think this event is absolutely brilliant for the city and is ran and managed excellently.

Was a really good weekend where artists from all over the world, as well as Scotland's best we're able to perform for Scottish young people and celebrate electronic music in an extremely safe environment under the stunning setting of the Castle

Great management, safe, looked after local area.

Very well organised and ran event with great staff and a wonderful atmosphere

As a resident in the West End who was not attending the festival it was great to see people of all ages enjoying themselves and bringing vibrancy to Princes Street over the weekend. Made the long walk from the West End of Princes Street to the Apple store a lot faster with beats to walk along to!

Great event!

it's a great event for young people and music in the city
I thought it was very well organised, a great event for the youth & music culture in Edinburgh. It is also a great use of a space within the city that is normally reserved for events targeted at an older demographic, the younger residents of this city deserve to use the space too.
This event is one of Edinburgh's best! Brings a huge load of talent to the city and is a great event for the music community
Brilliant festival, brings lots of talent to the city
Great event in the capital of Scotland. Showcases some of the best and upcoming Scottish talent as well as international artists. Exactly what we currently need given the lack of festivals and also cuts down on travel out with the city itself.
Bring back t in the park
Great event. Extremely well organised and carried out. Feel very safe and everyone's just having a good time :)
An excellent event for all ages in Edinburgh but gives the younger generation an event that means something to them.
Often tickets are purchased through hard earned extra jobs and savings.
Amazing
one of the most well organised events I've ever been too!
The event is amazing, it brings all ages together in a central safe place to enjoy class music !! It does not go on until too late therefore no disturbance is caused
This event brings so much life to the band stands every September. This city needs a diverse range of people and ages attending its events which is why FLY needs to stay. This event has put Edinburgh on the map for dance music events and the council and Edinburgh's residents should be proud to support such an event.
Please continue this for the youth culture of Edinburgh as you seem to only care about tourism and the older generation.
Very well run event. A forward thinking and cosmopolitan city such as Edinburgh should do everything it can to develop a good working relationship with Fly. Performing arts are incredibly important to Edinburgh and a partnership with Fly would be beneficial to every local artistic stakeholder.
Top drawer event. Needs to stay.
Excellent event and great for youth culture
Fantastic event. Brilliantly ran. Well done to all involved.
Amazing! Best event in Edinburgh :)
Brilliant event that talks to the city and is for the city.
Fantastic couple of days, what an amazing location to enjoy such good music with stellar company in the crowd - a v friendly festival atmosphere & crowd
Fly open air must stay
Best event in edinburgh!

Such an amazing event!!
I'm in my mid-40s and I will tell you that Edinburgh needs events like this. There is a huge demand and cultural benefit from it, for young people and those not so young. Long may it, or electronic music events like it, continue.
Great event that brings diversity to Edinburgh.
A joyous event happening when nothing much else is going on, the park was full of happy people.
It's a fantastic event run by really great people - I hope this goes on for years to come as it really adds to Edinburgh's cultural scene.
Great dance event and cannot wait to attend next year.
The event promotes excessive alcohol and drug use age in the middle of Edinburgh. It is not the image we should be portraying.
Fantastic event.
Should be a two day festival with camping
Well organised event. I personally feel that there was an attack on it due to it being more of a youthful crowd rather than an older crowd. There was no complaints during the summer for the various festivals held there, including the 10 consecutive days or so of the Edinburgh summer sessions, which I was also a part of working. The event brings a large, respectful crowd to Edinburgh and on a personal level, it is a fantastic location, compared to Hopetoun House or places such as the Royal Highland Centre, which is a pain to get to. I hope to see the autumn event there for many years to come.
Very well run event bringing vibrancy and diversity to the city centre as well as supporting a home grown business which in turn supports local artists.
excellent event
Great event, bringing a new excitement to the city
This is an important part of the 2020 event calendar. It plays a vital role in the community and has profound cultural benefits to the City of Edinburgh.
A very professionally run and organised event that Edinburgh should be proud to host.
Great event that should be kept running year on year
Best event of the year!
Fantastic event that celebrates real music and musical culture.
Fantastic event, serves the needs of the local population as well as bringing in revenue from tourism. I attended the 2019 event and thought it was a great advert for Edinburgh.
One of the best ways to experience Edinburgh. Dancing and being in the heart of the city, should be promoted to people of all ages.
Such a great event and let's youth express themselves listening to some of the best artists around and also supports many local and Scottish artists!!

Best weekend of my life !
Always an extremely friendly and good natured weekend, with good music intertwined with spectacular scenery. Shows Edinburgh as a diverse, youthful and modern city accepting of all types of culture.
A good event for youth culture in not only the city but Scotland as a nation.
Great festival. Friendly staff, felt really safe. Well organised and respectfully run.
This is the only event I attended and I was very impressed by the organisation
Very well organised event.
It's a great event that promotes a safe area where youth can enjoy Scottish talents and engage with peers of the same interests socially.
A fantastic event that fully engages students and young professionals into the world of dance music. It genuinely puts Edinburgh and Scotland on the map for dance music and cultural events, and for many rivals Glasgow in their bank holiday events
A great festival for youth culture in Edinburgh - brings so many from all over the world. For so long Glasgow was considered to be the place to go in Scotland for youth culture and music whereas now FLY Open Air has really put Edinburgh on the map. The outstanding support gathered from the petition fighting against the potential threat to this festival ending should be enough to show the appreciation for this event in our city. This event should be able to grow and become a large event.
The youth of Edinburgh need fly open air!
Great event. Hopefully many more to come.
Absolutely brilliant event, brings lots of tourism to Edinburgh centre!
Best event in Edinburgh ive been to! Was ran efficiently and location was superb.
I love how music brings people together. Just look at the public looking down at the festival from princes street. All ages watching and smiling.
Great event to bring unique artists to the city & cater for a younger audience.
This relatively new event further encroaches on greenspace that should be freely accessible to visitors and residents as a city centre public gardens. Again it is unclear exactly what the payback is to the local authority and the local community, let alone how much money it raises for the common good fund? Therefore assessing its overall impact is difficult to determine.
Its previous location within the grounds of Hopetoun House seems a much better venue, and so it is unclear why it is necessary to support yet more commercialisation of the city's public parks and gardens, especially ones that are obviously too small to accommodate large crowds and the associated infrastructure required?
Very well organised
Taking away this festival would have huge impact on young people and it is way less intrusive than the summer sessions so would be completely unfair also

Brilliant event , great music and brilliant people. Amazing to see such a star studded lineup in the heart of the city
Beyond the best event in Edinburgh by far. The set up, and the line up is amazing.
Fantastic event which really brings youth culture to the city. There is a severe lack of events of this type in Edinburgh.
Well run and non disruptive. Great for the community.

Gandeys Circus, Sighthill Park

No elephants or bearded ladies.

Colour Bomb Carnival, Sighthill Park

My daughter really enjoyed it, great for kids and fairly reasonably priced.

This is a great event for all the children in the local area.

Very bright.

Is there an event not listed that you would like to comment on?	Where and when did the event take place?	Do you have any other comments on the event?
Filming of "Fast and Furious 9"	All over city, a few weeks ago.	It should never have been allowed. Monetising the streets is not the way forward. Appalling abuse of city by Council and "Film Scotland" et al.
Edinburgh Festival generally	August	The festival continues to grow and grow, and Edinburgh simply no longer has the infrastructure to cope. Residential accomodation has become hard to come by since buy-to-let's are buying everything up to put on Airbnb. I've been priced out of Edinburgh, and have gotten so sick of the constant congestion and distribution caused by the festival and the various other events, which seem now, to spill in to each other, that I've moved away from the city. I used to love Edinburgh, and lived here for 12 years, but as the years went by, I became jaded by the uncontrollable influx of tourists and the seemingly unstoppable growth of tacky 'pop up' event arenas, for tacky bars and overpriced food outlets, and everything else that seems to come along with it. Edinburgh is beyond capacity, and you are letting it's residents down.
	Princes street gardens west	
Jazz and Blues Festival (2018)	July 2018, parade starts at the street outside the Old College and proceeds down past the gallery and along Princes Street to the Princes St Gardens	The parade is very long and all groups taking part were considerate and did their best to run smoothly. Obviously there is disruption to Princes St traffic but i think it was handled well. Once it moves to the Gardens it's a really nice event showcasing the volunteer/professional dance and drumming groups
End Polio Now Display and Poppy Memorial Display	Polio - 20th October - 27th Oct 2019 In front of the Walter Scott Monument Poppy - 27th October - 12th November 2019 - East and West lawns at the Walter Scott Monumaent	Rotary's End Polio Now brings great awareness that the horrible virus is still lurking in the world and only a plane ride away. It also brought very favourable comments from the local and international public. Poppy field - A very fitting tribute to those who gave their life for others and was shown on the National News highlighted the beauty of Edinburgh.
Edinburgh Christmas Market 2019	EPSG Nov19-Jan 20	I think CEC is well aware of reasons for objections to this event.It is a horrendous blot on the landscape and a gross misuse of a public space.
Summer Fiesta,	5-7 July 2019, West Princes Street Gardens	Two performances a day. I am shocked this was left out of the consultation. It was one of the SEVEN major events in West Princes Street Gardens.
Christmas 2019/200	now	This is a shambolic, over extended event spoiling the Edinburgh City Centre vista. Health and safety issues Lack of process and permissions. It needs relocated and reduced in scale. You can't see Edinburgh's east end skyline.

<p>EDINBURGH'S CHRISTMAS NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019</p>	<p>You are the custodian of the public spaces of our capital city, NOT the owner. Stop selling public spaces for private profit.</p> <p>You are continually allowing one private operator to close off public spaces, and flout planning and safety requirements.</p> <p>The event this year has destroyed a key public space, butchering trees, and is clearly in no way safe.</p> <p>How on earth are these cowboys constantly operating without planning permission? If any Edinburgh resident (with our council tax paying for the upkeep of these spaces) tried to construct this type of shoddy structure in this space, we would be arrested.</p> <p>You have continued to fail the people of this city, you need to listen to residents.</p> <p>You are failing in your most key public duty, to preserve the public spaces of our city.</p> <p>This is a shameful attempt to profiteer and plunder from the public purse, whilst giving nothing back to residents, who are expected to continue to pay huge council tax bills, whilst you restrict their access to their public spaces.</p> <p>You should be deeply ashamed of your failings. I sincerely hope that 2020 sees you held to account properly for years of reprehensible conduct towards the residents of Edinburgh.</p>	<p>This event should not be going ahead at all.</p> <p>Stop selling Edinburgh to Underbelly.</p>
<p>Edinburgh Christmas/Hogmanay 2019/2020</p>	<p>West Princes St. Gardens</p>	<p>Not an appropriate venue for the scale of this event. No planning permission? Disgraceful. This land is for the common good. NOT for profit. Shameful use of public space. Councillors responsible for the complete mismanagement should be held accountable. Why not promote local businesses?</p>
<p>East Princes Street Gardens 2019/20</p>	<p>Now and as above.</p>	<p>It is a disgrace that our beautiful gardens are turned into Butlins for two months and wrecked for a further 4 months while they recover from the vandalism. Please follow the example of Standard Life in St Andrew's Square and desist. Ingleston is the venue for this sort of nonsense.</p>
<p>Christmas Festival</p>	<p>East Princes Street Gardens (December 2019- January 2020)</p>	<p>I hate the funfair. It makes going to the city centre extremely stressful and we are all bored with the German Market stalls. It just extends the tourist tat already available on Princes Street. Underbelly are responsible for flouting Planning legislation to create this event. They should be banned from now on. They have underperformed on their project management skills and even though the latest snagging issues have been reported as solved prior to opening I do not have confidence in them and I am worried about health and safety.</p>

Royal mile June to September	The royal mile is taken over by street performers and leaflet handlers for the fringe every year - the people handing out leaflets are aggressive in their tactics and in fact one was seen putting his hand in an old lady's bag this year!! Whether or not he was intending to steal he caused great fear and alarm to an old lady! The royal mile is too busy, there is no room for pedestrians to move safely due to the sheer mass. The gates at the top and bottom make this even worse. Locals and workers in this area don't dare come out when it's busy due to the sheer abundance of people and tour groups. Rubbish left everywhere, traffic backed up for hundreds of meters - mainly buses which are so full that people cannot get on! Disperse the festival and let locals who contribute have a bit of freedom for one rather than prioritising the festival	
The fringe	August 2019	There really should be attempts to spread the fringe further across the city, the centre of town becomes a complete bottleneck. I enjoy the fringe but there must be more opportunities to spread the venues around
The Tattoo	Whole of August	The buses park everywhere, the fireworks are excessive and although it's lovely to have Sunday night off, it would be lovely to have a few more week nights without the fireworks and congestion.
Princes St Gardens Xmas events Nov Dec 2019	Now onwards	Edinburgh has never looked worse, nor more unhealthy food sold in such a small area. It is hard to think that it could get worse than in previous years but Underbelly and the City Council have surpassed themselves in doing this and destroying the best of Edinburgh No point whatsoever in Council hypocrisy of supporting any cancer or health charity when almost every second stall at this event is selling food such as processed meat sausages and burgers which are classed by WHO as carcinogens- to be so openly promoting this food beside children and young people's funfair events in prime city centre sites seems almost criminal
2019 Edinburgh Christmas	2019 Princes Street Gardens. My issue is with the disgusting abuse of the gardens by Underbelly and the disrespectful treatment of memorial benches.	I will be avoiding it this year for safety reasons. Seriously not impressed!
Fringe Festival	Everywhere, around August.	Like the Christmas market, this needs scaled back and is on for too long causing disruption to residents. Streets often a mess due to flyers being dumped everywhere.
Lady Boys of Bangkok / La Clique Cabaret (August & September 2020)	There's an application for this to take place on Leith Links. I feel that shorter day/weekend events such as the proposed Gung Ho! event are fine for Leith Links but this event is on for a whole month and will cause significant traffic (people and vehicles), parking problems, noise (from three shows a day on some days and a very late show which will generate noise from people leaving the show). Unlike at The Meadows, residents live right on the edge of the Links and this will disturb us. During the Festival, the Links has always been a quiet haven to escape back to from the crowds of tourists in the city centre. Please let us keep this.	
Diwali	West Princes Street Gardens	
Christmas event	Royal Mile, this year.	Dangerously overcrowded event in a very unsuitable space. This event shouldn't be repeated on the Royal Mile.
Fringe Festival use of the High Street and Royal Mile inc Summertime Streets closures related to that	August. High Street and royal mile	The fringe use of High Street and parts of the Royal Mile for busking resulting in a huge amount of rubbish, street clutter and road closures and diversion of local buses should stop. This activity should be moved to a different area which will assist the Royal Mile and Old Town to retain some local residents rather than the inexorable decline of occupancy by permanent residents and to allow visitors to enjoy and see the old town features without being assailed by silent disco crowds and buskers. It might also help to declutter the space and improve the quality of the retail and food offer.
Sanhuinn fire festival 2019	Calton hill, October 2019	Way too many people for the size of the acts. People could barely see anything so things got way too crowded around the acts. Was an embarrassment to the city as so many people left early due to not having seen a single thing.
Xmas on George Street	George st	Stop putting tacky things on George street. Why not support by decorating the street with Xmas lights? It's a high street and it will support businesses as people will visit

The running events	Edinburgh Marathing Festival, Edinburgh Mens 10K, The Seven Hills Race, The Meadows Marathon etc	Really enjoyable.
Edinburgh Book Festival	Charlotte Square Gardens and Queen Street	I suspect that this is outside the powers of the Council, but if the Council were able to get this event relocated to a more suitable site that would be good. Charlotte Square is one of the finest jewels of the World Heritage Centre crown. While the Book Festival is on (and during the erection and removal of the tents) the square looks like a refugee camp and the damage to the grass leaves it looking like a ploughed field for months afterwards.
Meadows Climate Change Festival	Meadows, 6 July	Really enjoyed this event - it felt like an asset to natural spaces in the city, rather than an 'add-on' which didn't harmonise with green space. Best of positive outdoor events, rather than an event which just happens to take place outside.
Friends events	I'm involved in a Friends group and it would be good if there was more support for events and activities outside the 'usual suspects', including support for smaller community based activities that involve looking after or improving parks. Support for more concerts and other activities outside the city centre would be excellent too.	There are a lot of people volunteering out there that could be more effectively mobilised to help improve all of our parks.
Christmas Market 2019	Princes Street Gardens and the Mound	Far too big. No event should be allowed to proceed without Planning Permission - the Council should be making an example of the promoters rather than saying "just apply after the event has closed and we'll let you off".
Christmas Festival	Now in the gardens at Princes Street.	
Events in general	<p>By consulting on individual events in this disaggregated manner it is impossible for residents, community organisation or civic groups to raise questions or issues on events in the round.</p> <p>There is clearly a considerable level of community concern about events in the city's park - particularly larger-scale, longer duration event which are not primarily community-focused.</p> <p>Residents, community organisation or civic groups need to be given timely and pertinent information regarding the underlying rationale and criteria for the number, nature and cumulate impact of events in the city's parks. Without this it is impossible to make more than cursory comments concerning individual events in specific parks a one point in time.</p> <p>An up-to-date and transparent strategy or selecting events and selecting venues for these events is required. Engagement with the local users of the city's parks and a resident-focused consultation on such a strategy will contribute more to the sustainable use of the city's parks as event spaces than superficial annual reviews about individual events.</p>	
Christmas Market, East Princes St Gardens	November-December 2019.	The hoardings that back onto Princes St are dreadful, cutting off the views for pedestrians and making the market seem an enclosed, claustrophobic, and overcrowded, unwelcoming space. The similar building out of the entrance structure also blocks the view from the National Gallery cafe, and is similarly uninviting. The destruction of the trees, the deprivation of access to a quiet, non-commercial, reflective space in the city centre for the length of time it has taken to build, be in situ and remove, and then the consequent need to restore the greenery is appalling.
All	Edinburgh	The number and scale of events we hold is a real point of pride for our city. Edinburgh is rightly famous as a destination city that does so much to showcase the sheer variety of talent and enthusiasm in Scottish culture. I hope that recent negative press coverage won't overshadow the positivity of an engagement exercise such as this. Listening, and addressing any small grievances, and we overlooked points from these events, is a great way forwards. Well done to everyone who helps make all these events possible. You do fantastic work, and help keep Edinburgh as such a brilliant place to live and work.
Fly Open Air	Princess Street Gardens Sept 2019 Hopetoun House May 2019	Excellent well organised event. Good supervision while on site. Management and staff very helpful before during and after event and ensured all involved were able to get home in a safe efficient manner.

SUMMER FIESTA	THE ROSS BANDSTAND - PRINCES STREET GARDENS - JUNE 2019	Summer Sessions already exists within the park with actual headline bands playing whereas this event was cover bands - it was poorly attended, poorly promoted and frankly I felt a wasted event as it did not add value to the city. Nothing against the organisers but feel this would be better in a small town not the capital city under the castle.
Overall Comments on Events in the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links	The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links - various	<p>The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links play an intrinsic role in the Marchmont and Sciennes community. While these areas technically sit outwith our geographic boundary, there can be little doubt that they both have a huge impact in the daily lives of local residents, in terms of local green space, as a key route to the city centre, and as the venue for a range of events from regular use for school and other sports through to major procured events.</p> <p>For context, it is important to note that The Marchmont, Meadows and Bruntsfield Conservation Area includes the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links and the immediately surrounding streets, and that the Meadows is protected by a range of legislation stemming from the Edinburgh Improvement Act of 1827, as well as its designation as a Millennium Park.</p> <p>Residents are rightly proud of this space, and want to see it used to its best potential, maintained to a high standard, and a good balance struck between appropriate events and local quality of life.</p> <p>We also recognise that at 58 acres, the Meadows is the city's largest green space, and is an important amenity not just for residents of our community, but for the city and indeed the wider country and beyond. First and foremost, the Meadows is an open space for fresh air and leisure, and this is what makes it so vital to the city. But we also know that many of the events that take place there also serve a significant wider purpose, and we recognise that an important balance between these two functions needs to be maintained. We are therefore pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to this consultation.</p> <p>We do not claim to represent every view in our community in this regard; while some residents may wish to see events scaled back or prevented, we believe that, with the right level of community engagement, a good balance can be maintained, and we would welcome further opportunities to play our role in this engagement. We would particularly like to see the links between commercial events and park investment and infrastructure made more explicit and stronger, and we explore this further below.</p> <p>Experience of Recent Events Overall, our experience of large events in recent years has been positive. The volume and duration of events in the</p>
Events on the Calton Hill	<p>The proposal to increase use of Calton Hill would cause considerable disruption to the Church sited at the foot of the hill on Royal Terrace. There are already significant security issues as a result of our location and increased footfall on the Hill would certainly compound the problem.</p> <p>Due consideration and control of events would be required and ideally sufficient notice to allow consultation. The Terrace is already over parked and further events would add to this already unmanageable problem.</p>	
Events on the Calton Hill	<p>I would like to record that the Christmas/ New Year festivities in Princes Street cause a traffic noise problem. Regent Road has become an ad hoc coach park. Coaches park in particularly large numbers at Christmas. Engines are left running to heat coaches (no facilities for drivers) and the constant throb of diesel engines even gets through double glazing. Given the concerns about diesel pollution I would have thought the Council would wish to control this breach of by-law by greater supervision of the parking arrangements.</p>	

Do you have any further comments on the proposal to procure events in Leith Links, Gyle Park, Saughton Park or Calton Hill	
Stop ruining the city's green spaces. These are crucial for the environment and for the well-being of residents and should not be commercialised.	
It all depends on whether normal life is made more difficult and routes are affected by the preparation, during and clearing up after the events. Edinburgh Council seems to forget that people live here and need to get about. Having events is good for the city in many ways but the people who live here should be considered more and in a better way. This shows most in the events which have been happening in Princes Street Gardens where access is affected hugely, noise levels go up, parking is dreadful and there's more mess. Just think of the Christmas market for example especially this year.	
This is a very poorly designed part of the consultation. It's very difficult to answer the questions with the limited information provided. For example, would community events have to compete with commercial events in the procurement process or are they separate? If they're separate, then I would say don't hold procured events at times when community events currently take place. However as community events are generally only single days or weekends, it may not be necessary to rule out two whole months as in the questions above - e.g. Edinburgh Mela is in late August but wouldn't necessarily preclude having any other events (e.g. festival / fringe shows) in Leith Links during August / Sept. I will only answer with regards to Leith Links as I don't know the other parks and am not a part of the local communities who will be best placed to offer a response to questions about the use of THEIR local greenspaces. Regarding Leith Links, I think there should be no more than two or three big events in the park each year, one of which must be Leith Gala Day. I'm concerned that the procured approach will favour commercial exploitation of the greenspace to the detriment of local community events (Gala Day and Mela) and therefore cannot support this proposal on the basis of the limited information provided. Finally, as a general and overarching principle, I feel that the Council needs to recognise that the communities of Edinburgh don't owe event organisers anything. Quite the opposite. They're commercial operators and we shouldn't have to be responsible for offering more 'security' for their profit-making endeavours. Investment in parks maintenance and improvement is the Council's responsibility and funding for this should not be conditional on communities agreeing to suffer unacceptable noise, disturbance, mud and loss of amenity for the benefit of commercial operators.	
Please just stop turning parks into "event land". Built heritage, indoor space, history and the beauty of city are why people visit and live here. Calm down and desist. Or it will be ruined.	
There should be never be commercial events that charge any entry fee or close the parks to the public. There has been no justification/business plan from the City Council for commercializing our parks. The annual cost of running the parks is less than 1/8 of the subsidy to Underbelly's winter activities in 2019-20. The parks should remain parks at all times, open at no cost to the public; if residents agree, portions of parks could be made available on very restricted occasions (agreed through full consultation with residents) to hold small, free, community-oriented events.	
Much better to let people in other areas have access to events locally to them rather than all events being in the centre of the city	
Public parks were made available to the people to enjoy the peace and quiet.	
They were not meant to be a place for commercial gain.	
The recent controversy of extending Waverley market , East Princes Street, shows how people do not want further commercialisation of their green/ quiet spaces.	
Unfortunately there is absolutely no infrastructure to hold any events in the Gyle Park. At the weekend it's already dangerous with vehicles parked off road / double parked and ignoring regulations. If there was room it would be different but you cannot put on services there as you would be putting others in danger, both the pedestrians and road users	
Ban all fireworks as they cause distress. Parks should be peaceful places all the year round	
There's already too much public space used for commercial events. There should be a preference that the spaces be used only for genuine local community events.	
The problems of the procured events program results in huge community hostility. The event organisers who run events in parks want to continue operating their events. When council steps in and takes over all authenticity is lost, Edinburgh is becoming too much like dismaland already without making it worse!	
Public parks should be for public use not commercial events	
There are some existing major events on Calton Hill, namely Beltane, Fringe Fireworks Dusherra, Samhuinn, and the Torchlight Procession. It's important that any proposed additional events don't conflict directly with these ones, but also that adding events to the calendar doesn't add accumulating stress to the neighbours that may in turn sour them to the existing festivals. The existing balance should not be broken in the search for council revenue.	
I am generally for more events, as long as they benefit local communities (not just tourists or big businesses) and do not exploit anyone, and do not clash with pre-existing events.	
In particular to Calton Hill, part of its charm is the ability to freely walk around and see the views, the National Monument, the Nelson tower etc. I don't think the terrain or beauty of Calton Hill lends itself well to the gigantic professional rigging that companies such as Underbelly build. With events such as Dusherra and Beltane/Samhuinn there is increasing responsibility taken by these groups to rig the smallest possible staging and remove them with the least disruption to the public. These events are vital and unique in their contribution to the culture of Edinburgh, and offer a spectacular audience experience to the residents of the city as well as visitors. In the case of Beltane/Samhuinn Fire Festivals, these are becoming famous overseas and receive hundreds if not thousands of visitors even from outside the UK. It would be heartbreaking to squeeze out these volunteer led festivals to chase profit by large event companies. These events are unique to Edinburgh and should be protected and encouraged.	
The type of event may well dictate the timing but otherwise late spring or summer would tend to be best. And maybe better to have some events out of the city centre at Sighthill Park and Gyle Park when the Fringe Festival is on in town.	
As a resident I really love the fact that Edinburgh has so many events and festivals throughout the year and would endorse more provided they not adversely affect neighbours and are open to all.	
These are parks not event spaces. People use them for recreation and exercise and to enjoy being in a green space. Leave them alone!	
Move all events indoors or to Murrayfield.	
No more events on Calton Hill	
I don't think there is a preferred time to hold events.	
Holding commercial events on Leith Links during tram works is a bad idea. Traffic in the area already bedlam for past few months.	
This is our green space - preserve it for community events and stop wringing money out of it for tourists please.	

<p>You say that "Procuring an event gives the Council more control over the type of event that is hosted in a park". However, so far the Council's track record on "managing" events is dismal -- noise, disruption, lack of consultation with neighbouring residents etc. Parks and open spaces have an essential psychological and well-being function of providing quiet relief from the bustle and noise of cities; they are NOT additional commercial event spaces. CEC's officials and members need to remember who elects them -- residents, not commercial interests or sleazy pop impresarios.</p>
<p>Small traditional events (like Beltane) are OK on Calton Hill. Events should not harm the environment, which is already much neglected on Calton Hill. Events should not use the National Monument or other historic buildings or monuments on Calton Hill.</p>
<p>Calton Hill is already well visited and much loved as a space for the public. I really feel that the relative space and tranquillity that is to be found here, in the centre of the city, should be preserved. I do not in any sense trust the current iteration of the Council, elected official or unelected, to manage any events to the public benefit.</p>
<p>They have demonstrated this persistently over recent years and are continuing to do so TODAY with added gusto. There is no apology, no recanting, no sense at all within the Council that any of these things that they do require honest explanation. Emphasis on the 'honest.'</p>
<p>So I stress "Do Not Hold Events" for everything until the concerns of the Edinburgh Residents in each area are treated as paramount and profit motives for private capital are not considered at all.</p>
<p>You state above "...as well as generating vital revenue for the Council allowing investment in the improvement of parks."</p>
<p>This is a HUGE insult. One simply has to look at the state of Princes Street Gardens and The Meadows to see the havoc wreaked upon them by men with money and large machines. How dare you foist that falsehood upon those actually THERE in real time, seeing and hearing the vandalism of unrestricted, unregulated late-capitalism upon OUR parks.</p>
<p>How DARE you? Stop selling Edinburgh's public spaces.</p>
<p>Events in Leith need to encourage community, not bring people in to treat the area poorly or assume that as its Leith its 'rough' and so ASB/litter won't matter or impact. We lack green spaces just to spend time and don't want it full of events that charge or exclude</p>
<p>Stop these applications. The City of Edinburgh cant take it. We have too many events and too many tourists. It is not environmentally ethical or sustainable to continuously expand these activities.</p>
<p>Any procured events need to ensure that awful fencing blocking people's views isn't used, that trees are protected, and turf is relaid ASAP.</p>
<p>Wellbeing is a priority of the Scottish Government and should be of the city council too - green spaces give locals (and visitors) a place to breathe, increasingly closing parts for commercial gain (and not for the citizens) seriously undermines and damages this. A strict limitation of use must be enforced: and that means one concert, not one series of concerts.</p>
<p>This is difficult to answer, since you haven't defined 'procured' events. Are they free to enter? Should parks that exist for the enjoyment and recreation of residents be used for private profit, restricting access? Please stop using every available park or open space for 'events'. Calton Hill is iconic and should be left alone while other parks are where local people walk dogs, play football, gi running etc...not to be used for some additional money making venture.</p>
<p>The priority is to ensure that the grass in the park is not damaged as this reduces the use of the Park by the local community after the event</p>
<p>This is a really daft question and is almost impossible to answer without knowing the events that would be put on. And what about other parks like Harrison park, at Margarets park, bruntsfield - can't these be considered? It's time to use more parks for events instead of clogging up the city centre</p>
<p>Please stop pimping our City. Stop selling access to public parks to private businesses which then leaves areas out of bounds to people wishing to enjoy the parks.</p>
<p>There are too many events in our public parks causing damage to trees, grass and ecosystem and these need to be scaled back. Don't add any more city based events</p>
<p>These are public parks and the council should be stopped to try to find ways of making revenue from our public parks. Public parks need protecting from local authorities exploitation.</p>
<p>It is not just the event, it is everything else impacting it... setting up weeks in advance and clearing ups weeks later (as well long periods of closure to allow grass a chance to recover), the impact of transport, the noise, the environment (degradation of the ground, less birds, impact on trees, pollution etc.).</p>
<p>Any private event should be moved to private land.</p>
<p>Edinburgh Parks are a great asset to Edinburgh , we should be looking after it. Once it is gone - it's gone. Keep your hands off our public parks and gardens!</p>
<p>Glasgow Rd would struggle to cope with traffic from events at Gyle Park and the access road is very small, with parking limited. I think Calton Hill is bald and eroded enough.</p>
<p>All the Beltane events are brilliant but that's probably enough. The council's mishandling of Underbelly and events such as the Book Festival damage to Charlotte Square Gardens, and the recent selling off cheap to Virgiin Hotels, desecration of other iconic public -areas has made me lose all faith of Council handling of events such as these</p>
<p>Previous questions are so random. Need to know what the proposed events are before deciding appropriate venues.</p>
<p>The further expansion of park privatisation for events should be halted until the serious problems with lack of planning control and damage to Princes Street Gardens has been properly resolved. Loss of public access to parks in order to hold private events is becoming a major problem and is contrary to the right of residents to take responsible access and enjoy our parks.</p>
<p>Edinburgh Council is showing itself to be incapable of managing events sustainably or in a way that respects the World Heritage status of our city. If events are to be held in local parks then they should be organised by the local communities or by people such as the Beltane Society</p>
<p>Greater consideration should be given to the impact to people who are not attending these events, such as how traffic would be affected</p>

re any proposed event at Gyle Park -
there is only one, narrow, road giving access to the park. there is very little car parking spaces, the park is surrounded on three and a half sides by private housing. All the above point to the Gyle Park as not being suitable for a commercial event.
Strongly oppose holding any further events in any parks around the city. Small scale, low impact tents and stalls are one thing, but the industrial scale events that take place all year round in the few green spaces in the city are quite another.
Whilst I'm against adding events to new locations, I would support the relocation of existing events to these other areas of the city to extend the participation of the local community.
These are public parks! Unless they are community events just leave them alone. Think biodiversity, climate change and people - not money!
The introduction to this section suggests that you would have control over the event. How can we believe you when you allowed Underbelly to put up the Xmas market in an expanded site without even the need for planning permission?
Your introduction also suggests that there would be community benefits as a quid pro quo for allowing events to happen in the various parks. However the community benefits you suggest (eg discounted tickets) seem pretty token. The community benefits would need to be much more substantial before I could support events in local parks.
I don't think Leith Links should become a park for procured events. it is in a residential area surrounded by homes and parking is already an issue. The park should be used for events for local people to encourage greater community involvement and inclusion and I'd like to see more event like the Leith Gala day.
I was shocked to see the state Calton Hill is in the last time I went up there, having not visited for several years. The grass is all worn away and it looks a mess. I think it's a good venue for future events but more needs to be done to control the footfall and where people walk so it looks better. It's a disgrace at the moment!
Why is holyrood park not considered?
Can we please just have our parks as parks.
What is a procured event? It "gives the Council more control over the type of event that is hosted in a park" compared to what?
If, as I suspect, this means leasing the parks for commercial events, I am very strongly against this. The question appears to be deliberately confusing – lots of fluffy stuff about benefits without saying in plain language what it is.
This is a completely ridiculous and meaningless survey - the answer to questions about when events should be held depends what the events are, what their size and nature is, where in the park they are planned to be located , what use any fees will be put to and whether the community benefits directly or not and whether there is any community say so in decisions. Suggest you discuss this with relevant community councils and consider, in the case of Caltin Hill the impact of exclusive use events on visitors sight seeing as well as local residents dog walking etc.
Hosting events is good in providing revenue for the city, as long as the events provide something of use, or joy, to the residents. I do think that often these events can be too large, too expensive and run on too long, also causing damage to parkland. Although this offers a welcome array of events at Festival time, it has somewhat become over inflated now and is less about honouring the Festival acts and more about making money. More and more public space is being taken over, it does not feel inclusive of Edinburgh residents anymore. I feel that I can only enjoy our city centre from mid-January to July. From August to January it becomes inaccessible, the events are overcrowded, overpriced and targeted at tourists rather than Scottish nationals. Edinburgh city centre is at risk of becoming simply a tourist resort, losing it's cultural and national relevance. It often comes top of favourite places to visit/stay short-term (including students) however I think for true residents, Edinburgh's Festival events are crushing the city's symbolic heritage, and making it a quite challenging place to stay, regarding finances, commute and other everyday living options.
I think there are far too many events in Edinburgh now, from April there is a nonstop mess of events designed to milk money out of punters and nobody gives a damn about the people who actually live and work in the centre of town. Part of what made Edinburgh a nice place to live was that it was a city that was a living city, where people could feel like their neighbourhood was a community. This has been hollowed out and commodified; it feels like living in a knock-off Disneyland now. It has left me and many others with solastalgia and now there's no going back because the money that can be made is like blood in the water for sharks.
The questions are so loaded and without sufficient contextual information that they are essentially meaningless. What events are being considered? Why these parks? What does donations for new equipment, discounted tickets, improvements to the parks infrastructure etc actually mean and how will we know this will be followed through on?
Far too many events already in the city centre. Public space should not be taken over by private events which are expensive therefore exclude large part of the city population. Proper planning should apply and proper consultation before each events.
It seems a ridiculous idea to hold events in Leith any time during the next three years while the TRAM WORKS are under way. Do I need to expand on this?
Just spread them around the year with no less than 4 months between the events at a given location.
Public parks should not be closed off for events
We do not need additional festivals or events in public spaces in this city!
These are odd questions to ask about a hypothetical event. Not sure I can answer them. It would certainly be good to see more events in a lot more of the city's parks.
Stop taking away our quiet green spaces. Stop selling the city to these private, money-making enterprises.

<p>Based on experience of events in other parks, I am concerned that these events will cause further damage to mature trees due to poor briefing of contractors. The whole area under the tree's crown should be out of bounds, due to risk of damage to roots and soil compaction. Damage resulting from activities like equipment storage and returfing is causing visible dieback on trees in several parks in the cities. Please ensure all contractors are fully briefed and sites are inspected, as mature trees like these are an irreplaceable part of Edinburgh's heritage.</p>
<p>I am concerned that the additional policing requirements of this event take resource away from policing in the rest of the city, as reported to Craightinny and Restalrig Community Council on 27 November. All events should be required to supply a full complement of security staff from their own budget.</p>
<p>I am concerned that traffic management is inadequate to accommodate the large numbers of people involved in these events. This is dangerous and is creating a very poor public realm experience over long periods in parts of the city holding events, including crowded pavements and severe delays to buses. Robust traffic management plans should be in place well before events.</p>
<p>I am happy to see these events take place and their popularity, but their governance needs to be considerably stronger to ensure they are benefiting and not draining the city.</p>
<p>Edinburgh already has almost year round events and the Fringe, Festival and Hogmanay. Give people a break, and leave parks and gardens as places as places for quiet and relaxation. Stop handing control of our public spaces to private businesses that have no respect for the City or its residents.</p>
<p>Until you resolve fundamental issues with engagement with local residents and ensuring events are suitable for the location and existing infrastructure then there should be no expansion. Learn the lessons from what you have done wrong and put the required measures in place first. You have already lost the trust of city centre residents. Expansion risk you doing likewise elsewhere.</p>
<p>If events are to be held in the Public Parks it should be held by members of the public with the support of the council not private independent company's.</p>
<p>I don't approve of public parks being used unless events are managed by local people who pay to maintain and have rights to public spaces.</p>
<p>Stop trying to expand the festival season. The last couple of years have seen increasing problems in managing the festivals that currently happen.</p>
<p>To clarify, I enjoy the festivals. I get involved and I go to the events happening around Edinburgh but they have become saturated and spreading them throughout the year won't have the effect of making current festivals quieter. It will merely spread the problems throughout the year when previously residents, visitors and the city could enjoy a bit of downtime to enjoy the sites.</p>
<p>Edinburgh is not New Orleans. We do not need year round festivals and it certainly does not sit well with the council's much vaunted climate change ambitions. By all means, spread the current festivals to other parks so that neglected areas of the city can benefit a bit more. But if we are having management problems with current events, - and a person who would claim we are not is being disingenuous - then holding more events is not the solution. Our roads, venues and particularly green spaces need time to recover.</p>
<p>I would not be in favour if events in yhe additional parks unless they are welcomed by those livinv in immediate proximity</p>
<p>These are public parks, for the benefit of local communities. They are not profit generating entities for the Council. I would be happier at the prospect of some activity if I felt that the Council could actually manage events properly but the fiasco with the Winter Festival in Princes Street West reinforces to me that this is highly unlikely.</p>
<p>I consider parks to be essential for the amenity, health and well being of the residential community local to them, not an asset to be exploited by the city generally. This consultation does not ask questions on how parks are used generally, where every community may assume that their parks would be exploited if they are pro exploitation of city parks in general. Asking city residents their opinion on the exploitation of individual parks that they rarely or never visit, is a divisive strategy by those seeking to commercially exploit all parks. The consent of local residential communities is essential. This includes the Old Town when exploiting parks in the city centre that impact the lives of city centre residents asymmetrically.</p>
<p>Public parks are for the public. Unless the events are literally one or two evenings they should leave the place for everyone to use. If events do have to happen it'd be nice if it were smaller and more local companies.</p>
<p>Events which have been created by the community should be given priority over commercial events, and be protected from disruption by the latter.</p>
<p>A number of Edinburgh's large events are suffering from excessive corporatisation, and the city suffers as a result.</p>
<p>Provisions would have to be in place for existing festivals to be able to carry out some walkthroughs prior to them hosting their event to ensure the events take place smoothly.</p>
<p>Also, this consultation, which could severely impact local residents, has not been widely distributed to allow them to respond. There should also be provision to ensure the parks are not holding too many events for too long a time as the parks should continue being used as a public green space as this has been shown to show many health and social-emotional benefits.</p>
<p>Edinburgh has built an international reputation as a home for unique arts and cultural events. Many of these events have their origins as community-led or non-profit creations. For locals and visitors, these events aren't just a fun activity but personally meaningful and important. They create a sense of community and identity, and a lasting bond with the city of Edinburgh. The excessive corporatisation of events like the Fringe and the Christmas market, and the commercialisation of this event culture, damages our city's authenticity and weakens Edinburgh's long-term reputation.</p>
<p>As such, community created events must have priority and clear protections from any disruption from commercial events.</p>
<p>Edinburgh's parks belong to the Edinburgh's people and are used for relaxing, playing sport and exercise amongst many other activities. Access to green spaces within urban areas has well-demonstrated social, economic and health benefits, especially for those of us who are most disadvantaged.</p>
<p>I am concerned that this consultation, which could have a direct effect on many Edinburgh residents lives, has not been made widely available to those most affected. It should have been.</p>
<p>As such, I am against the proposal to open more of our parks for procurement of commercial events.</p>
<p>Would love to see some early summer events May/June</p>

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<p>I am against the proposal to open more of our parks for procurement of commercial events. I am concerned that this consultation, which could have a direct effect on many Edinburgh residents lives, has not been made widely available to those most affected. It should have been!</p> <p>Edinburgh has built an international reputation as a home for unique arts and cultural events, with many of these events have their origins as community-led or non-profit creations. They create a sense of community and identity, and a lasting bond with the city of Edinburgh.</p> <p>The excessive corporatisation of events like the Fringe and the Christmas market, and the commercialisation of this event culture, damages our city's authenticity and weakens Edinburgh's long-term reputation. As such, community created events must have priority and clear protections from any disruption from commercial events.</p> <p>Edinburgh's parks belong to the Edinburgh's people and are used for relaxing, playing sport and exercise amongst many other activities. Access to green spaces within urban areas has well-demonstrated social, economic and health benefits, especially for those of us who are most disadvantaged.</p> <p>Too many public spaces are being turned over to tourism and money making. They are public spaces for the public, the public should never be banned from them. The management of public spaces by Edinburgh Council is a disgrace. Noise, litter, banning the public, wrecking gardens, large wooden screens, lack of planning permission. It's a disgrace.</p> <p>it is not appropriate to consider the expansion of event in the city's parks at this time. A notable exception to this would be smaller-scale, short-duration, community-led events.</p> <p>The Council must make clear and transparent its current and forward-looking strategy for events in the city's parks and for the expansion of events in the city's parks.</p> <p>Given the clearly evident community concern about events in the city's parks. A new and community-focused strategy for events in the city's parks is now required. This should be prepared with full and proactive engagement with residents, community groups and civic societies across the city. It should not be led by event promoted or driven by a desire to treat the city's parks and greenspaces a 'cash cows' to the detriment of their community, amenity and ecosystem services value.</p> <p>In view of the city's recently declared 'Climate Emergency', the proposed new strategy for events in the city's parks must be the subject of a full and comprehensive Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p>
<p>since it's not clear what kind of events we're giving opinions on, it's difficult to give meaningful responses</p>

In the interests of local residents, I do not believe it is appropriate to hold an event within a month of the existing non-commercial festivals (eg Beltane and Samhuinn) on the same site. I am a volunteer member of the Beltane Fire Society which organises these community events, which is meaningful and important to me in a way that a commercial event would not be.

I am concerned that this consultation, which could have a direct effect on many Edinburgh residents lives, has not been made widely available to those most affected. It should have been.

Edinburgh has built an international reputation as a home for unique arts and cultural events. Many of these events have their origins as community-led or non-profit creations. For locals and visitors, these events aren't just a fun activity but personally meaningful and important. They create a sense of community and identity, and a lasting bond with the city of Edinburgh. I am concerned for the reputation of the city's events if it becomes simply a home for commercial events riding on the coat-tails of the Fringe.

We would like to hold a different event on Leith Links in October if possible?

The current arrangement, whereby 4 events are held per year on Leith Links, well spaced out to allow the grass to regrow etc. feels about right.
It is unclear whether the proposed two 'procured' events would include the traditionally held events such as funfair, gala day and Mela or would be in addition to them?
Assuming those three events continue as they are now, I'd say one more event would be acceptable - possibly two - BUT ONLY IF THESE ARE OF SHORT DURATION i.e. one day or a weekend.
Festival / Fringe events that occupy the Links for 4-6 weeks across the whole summer are completely unacceptable because - apart from the damage they do to the park and the traffic chaos that may ensue - they basically exclude local residents and members of the community and restrict their access to their own public space. Leith is very densely populated and it needs its parks, we are underprovided with green space per head of population.

One of the beauties of Edinburgh and the events held here, what makes them unique and as a result they have achieved international fame, is the fact that their origins are community based or non-profit events. Spectators know that events such as the ones held by the Beltane Fire Society do not employ professional performers, yet year after year the events are fully booked. Why is that? It is because these events have a unique aura that comes from the heart and soul of each performer, and spectators get from the events as much as the performers themselves! Having been on both sides of the coin, a spectator for years and years and a performer for the last few years, I cannot describe what these events have given to me and the people around me. These events offer a place for a community to exist and grow. Events like these are what makes our city one of a kind. I fear that having more and more commercial events (already we have the Fringe and Christmas market) will put Edinburgh in the list with the rest of the cities that do the same things over and over again. Edinburgh will lose its reputation and character. Thus community based events should be held under the protection of the council and take priority against commercial events. Not only on the day that these events have been taking place for all these years, but also on the run-up of them as the park would not be available to the community to hold practices and walkthroughs. In addition, commercial events such as the Fringe and the Christmas market already affect the people of Edinburgh and their ability to use THEIR parks in the freedom that should be allowed to. Edinburgh's parks should not be sold off to corporations. I am really concerned that this consultation has not been made as widely available as it should have to the people that will be affected by the most. This consultation affects directly and greatly the residents of Edinburgh. In conclusion, I am against to the idea of allowing more of our parks for procurement of commercial events.

(My comments for this question are a combination of my own words, and a statement which I helped draft as a member of Beltane Fire Society):

Edinburgh has built an international reputation as a home for unique arts and cultural events. Many of these events have their origins as community-led or non-profit creations. For locals and visitors, these events aren't just a fun activity but personally meaningful and important. They create a sense of community and identity, and a lasting bond with the city of Edinburgh. The excessive corporatisation of events like the Fringe, Hogmanay, and the Christmas market, and the commercialisation of this event culture, damages our city's authenticity and weakens Edinburgh's long-term reputation.

This sense of community, identity and participation is also what lends these events much of their material socioeconomic benefit. It can improve people's lives immensely to be involved in community activities, and to have a sense of belonging and participation in public celebrations.

In light of all this, community-created events must have priority, and clear protections from any disruption from commercial events.

Specifically in Beltane Fire Society's case: in order to allow Beltane and Samhuinn to continue to happen on Calton hill, there cannot be events present, installing or de-installing, on Calton Hill on the days of or surrounding April 30th and October 31st (the events themselves), or during any Sundays in April and October (when our full-personnel rehearsals take place, which are essential to performing the festivals safely and well). Edinburgh Dussehra in Mid-October already creates a serious complication for Samhuinn, but we accept this inconvenience for the sake of a wonderful festival much like our own.

Additionally any events on Calton Hill in the months of March, April, September or October would cause a disruption for our festivals, as for the whole of those months, especially weekends, volunteer performance and production groups will be visiting Calton Hill to get on-site practice. (Generally this is done in small groups, in a way that is not in turn disruptive to the public).

Edinburgh's parks belong to Edinburgh's people and are used for relaxing, playing sport and exercise amongst many other activities. Access to green spaces within urban areas has well-demonstrated social, economic and health benefits, especially for those of us who are most disadvantaged.

For this reason we absolutely should not have any more events of 5 or more days (including installation or de-rig), especially in Leith, the Meadows, and the city centre, as this represents a significant disruption of public access to parks. I would potentially support having more short events or 1-3 days, especially in the less busy parks at Gyle and Sighthill, if it does not disrupt existing community events, and if local residents were in favour of it.

I am concerned that this consultation, which could have a direct effect on many Edinburgh residents' lives, has not been made widely available to those most affected. It should have been. No one I've spoken to is aware of the consultation being brought to the public's attention outside of this webpage; it was almost complete chance that BFS' team became aware of it. If we were unaware of it, as a team with professional experience in this area and an existential interest in the issue, the vast majority of the rest of the public will have no idea that these major changes to their public parks are being proposed.

<p>Calton Hill is a highly significant area within the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site. This significance was explored at length during the public inquiry into the proposals for a hotel at the Royal High School.</p>
<p>Allied to this significance, Calton Hill is the city's oldest public park, and it is heavily visited every year. EWH has invested in the repair of all the major monuments on the hill over the last ten years as part of a move to improve the hill, and has previously supported repairs to infrastructure and interpretation. The most recent piece of the jigsaw was the completion of a management plan for the hill.</p>
<p>We are concerned that increasing the number of events on the hill will negatively impact its accessibility to the public as well as its significance within the World Heritage Site, and the nature of these impacts should be properly understood before any further events are considered. There is a risk that commercial activities, over time, erode the outstanding universal values of the site and prevent appreciate of what makes Edinburgh special.</p>
<p>Edinburgh needs parkland, for ordinary recreational use, for relief from congestion and noise, and for its greenery. It risks becoming a big circus, sometimes of doubtful quality; and I hate the idea that everything that is common is up for sale.</p>
<p>The current experience of procured events (Xmas market for instance) seems to be one which excludes access for local people to the venues for extended periods of time - weeks rather than days. These events are disruptive and not inclusive. They are not representative of the local community and present an experience which is neither unique nor one of quality.</p>
<p>This consultation is a sham. Without providing more specific information about the procurement plans it is impossible to offer any opinion. What will those two events be? How long will they be expected to occupy the site? What equipment will be required to be set up on site? What atmospheric pollution will be created by the event? What numbers of people will be allowed? What noise levels will be associated with the events? What impact will these events have on access to these public spaces?</p>
<p>With regard to Calton Hill it is a largely wild area with very limited level areas and hardly any lighting with consequent risks to people attending any event particularly in darkness. Any extension of the use of this space for events should take account of the lack of facilities and the Calton Hill Management Plan which seeks to maintain the heritage of this area within a UNESCO World Heritage site.</p>
<p>Firmly believe that it should be up to local residents and their community councils that have the final say on whether or not their local public parks are used for commercial events as well as what these events should be, presumably based on whether or not they chime with local values balanced with how much income they could potentially generate by way of payback to these respective communities.</p>
<p>The structure of this questionnaire is onerous and could have been streamlined to e.g. ask participants whether or not they believe that public parks should be used for events, which kind of events (community vs commercial), and on what basis as well as frequency etc.</p>
<p>Similarly, concerns about events in generakl could have been picked up in the round. For example, events that involve a lot of setting up and taking down and which potentially damage amenity grassland are obviously issues relevant to any event in any public gardens and parks. People's concerns as well as support would have been better gauged had there been a section asking for general comments about the subject in the form of positives and negative, instead of splitting up for each location and each event.</p>
<p>Yes. Stop this commercialisation of our parks. They are there for the use of residents and required to maintain our health wellbeing and indeed our lives. Stop pandering to big business and start to look after residents, that is why you are in the posts you are currently in. Edinburgh has won lots of awards for its green spaces, why are you so willing to throw that away? Council claims to want to be carbon neutral by 2030, putting on events like these. With more footfall, more waste, more generators from these events how will council achieve this? Do council really want to achieve this or is this another soundbite which can not be achieved due to the above? Council will never achieve it as it is actually business which always comes first, not residents or climate only £££££. Sickening really and in the end you are systematically killing the golden goose with these events and we will be left with very few parks to be enjoyed and nobody wishing to visit a run down, dirty city of festival parks! Game over then and how will we all manage then? Scary thought, needs to be addressed now before it's too late.</p>
<p>There are more than enough public events in Edinburgh - the unique charm of the city is often obscured (especially Princes St Gardens) by the stuff going on. People live and work here - that seems often to be ignored in the Council's desire to attract more visitors - does Edinburgh really need more visitors ?</p>
<p>My only concern with any of these events is noise levels on Calton Hill. The existing events are very noisy for local residents, but usually finish at a reasonable time. I'd be opposed to events going on later than about 10pm.</p>
<p>You are trying to gloss over your proposal, cramming even more events into an already crowded calendar. You give no detail of what you propose so how do you expect us to comment? You also give us very little time to do so. Calton Hill is most important to me. What will those two extra events be? How long will they last? What equipment will be needed to be set things up? Is there any pollution involved in the event? Have you an estimate of how many people are expected to attend? How much noise will be made? Will people be banned from using their public space on Calton Hill during the event?</p>
<p>Calton Hill is largely wild hilly grassland. There are few flat areas and practically no lighting when it is dark. It would be very easy for people to trip up in darkness. The Council should bear in mind the lack of facilities as well as the Calton Hill Management Plan which seeks to maintain the heritage of this area within a UNESCO World Heritage site before extending the use of this space for events.</p>
<p>Priority should in all cases be given to local community, culture and tradition, and local businesses - not profit from out of town corporate events that lack any local connection or cultural sensitivity. Edinburgh deserves better.</p>
<p>Noise is the real problem on Calton Hill</p>
<p>This seems to be privatisation of our public spaces. These spaces are being squeezed more and more and should be protected as green spaces. E Community events are good if they genuinely benefit the community they are within, and are accessible and free. what studies have been done and what are the results on events to date in terms of long lasting community involvement , benefit and ecological sustainability. Too much single use plastics are still common place at these events.</p>
<p>I strongly disagree with events being held at Calton Hill, due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsuitability of Calton Hill as an Events venue due to the terrain, lack of lighting, limited access/egress, restrictions to public access and proximity to housing. • Loss of Control - as with other 'procured' events such as those in Princes Street Gardens once there is a multi-year contract in place there is a risk of loss of scrutiny by the Council and opportunity for challenge by the public.
<p>- Deficiencies in the consultation process - it is difficult to express an opinion in the absence of any information beyond the Council's intention to hold two new events per year.</p>
<p>- Unsuitability of Calton Hill as an Events venue due to the terrain, lack of lighting, limited access/egress, restrictions to public access and proximity to housing</p>
<p>- Loss of Control - as with other 'procured' events such as those in Princes Street Gardens once there is a multi-year contract in place there is a risk of loss of scrutiny by the Council and opportunity for challenge by the public.</p>

<p>As I understand it, the procured events you are proposing exist solely for profit, and offer little, if anything, to local residents. I would hate to see such events disrupt long-standing community-build activities that happen on the same site, let alone disrupt the ability of the citizens of Edinburgh to enjoy the city's green spaces unmolested by corporate interests.</p>
<p>Given what has happened with the Christmas market this year, with construction going ahead in spite of a lack of planning permission and ignoring the protests of residents, I'm not sure that the City Council can be trusted to be objective when it comes to putting on for-profit events.</p>
<p>This is a battle for the soul of the City of Edinburgh. Which side of that do you want to be on?</p>
<p>I am in no position to comment on sites other than Calton Hill</p>
<p>it is ridiculously simplistic that you ask the Consultees to answer questions without context.</p>
<p>RRCTMA are in favour of strategically chosen events on Calton Hill, but object to the proposal of Procurement of events. The system in operation at the moment allows for suitable events to take place on this difficult topographical site, with agreement and collaboration between interested stakeholders. The procurement system proposed disenfranchises local residents and negates local objections.</p>
<p>Procurement, as has been fully demonstrated this year with the Underbelly contract for East Princes Street Gardens, leads to large companies taking control and winning contracts when smaller more distinct events would be vastly more appropriate.</p>
<p>This site, as compared to the other park sites listed requires a different level of credential. As it is on a hill, the displacement of noise and light pollution is much increased. It is also designated as a 'wild place' so formal events would be inappropriate.</p>
<p>I would like to record that the Christmas/ New Year festivities in Princes Street cause a traffic noise problem. Regent Road has become an ad hoc coach park. Coaches park in particularly large numbers at Christmas. Engines are left running to heat coaches (no facilities for drivers) and the constant throb of diesel engines even gets through double glazing. Given the concerns about diesel pollution I would have thought the Council would wish to control this breach of by-law by greater supervision of the parking arrangements.</p>

Leadership Advisory Panel

10.00am, Tuesday, 31 March 2020

Culture Service Third Party Grants Funding 2020/21

Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	All
Council Commitments	C46

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Leadership Advisory Panel:
 - 1.1.1 approve the funding recommendations for 2020/21, as listed at Appendix 1;
 - 1.1.2 notes the further development of project funding programmes;
 - 1.1.3 notes the progress of the Strategic Partners and Groupings revenue funding programme;
 - 1.1.4 approves the immediate release of the Strategic Partners and Groupings funding recommended in this report and as described at 4.1 to seek to support the sector in response to the on-going negative impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on our funded partners; and
 - 1.1.5 approves the use of this funding by our Strategic Partners and Groupings towards mitigation activity as a result of the negative impacts of COVID-19.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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Culture Service Third Party Grants Funding 2020/21

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report recommends the third party cultural revenue and project grants programmes for 2020/21. A full listing of the recommendations is included at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The budget recommendations reflect the outcomes of the Third Party Cultural Grants Funding – Review Outcomes, as approved by the Culture and Communities Committee on [18 June 2019](#).
- 2.3 This report acknowledges the current and on-going negative impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the cultural sector in the city, and in recognition of these, recommends the immediate release of funds as set out in this report and at 4.1.
- 2.4 The Council is working in close partnership with Creative Scotland and the Scottish and UK Governments to contribute to, and facilitate where possible, the retention and success of our city's cultural bedrock following the conclusion of the COVID-19 crisis.
- 2.5 Creative Scotland have committed to the continuation of their revenue funding programme and for this resource to be repurposed for resilience and for payments to artists and freelancers across the country.
- 2.6 Similarly, the Scottish Government has agreed that both EXPO (the project funding programme intended to ensure Scotland's culture reaches a wide audience at home and abroad via the country's major festivals) and PLACE (Edinburgh Festivals funding programme – funded by Scottish Government and CEC in partnership with the festivals) resources can likewise be repurposed.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council agreed that all grant programmes should be aligned to meet the Council's strategic planning and administration priorities. The 2014 Review of Grants to Third Parties also set out that co-produced grant programmes should ideally be funded for a period of three years to provide financial stability for recipient organisations.

- 3.2 The update and proposed approach to third party cultural grants review was captured in the reports to Committee of [25 October 2016](#), [14 November 2017](#) and [13 November 2018](#) and [18 June 2019](#).
- 3.3 This report reflects the agreed renewed approach to Third Party Cultural Grants.
- 3.4 As a Council Company, the performance of Capital Theatres Ltd is reported annually to the Culture and Communities Committee and the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee. The next report will be in autumn 2020.
- 3.5 The city is currently experiencing unprecedented negative economic and social pressures as a result of the essential actions being taken to seek to contain the spread of COVID-19. It is therefore recommended that we act wherever we can as part of the shared city agenda to seek to ensure the retention and recovery of our core sectors such as our cultural offer in the city.
- 3.6 The Council can release most of the allocated funds identified in this report to our Strategic Partners and Groupings to support as far as possible these key companies at this exceptionally challenging time.
- 3.7 This funding can be utilised towards mitigation of COVID-19-related impacts for the foreseeable future and until the crisis is concluded.
- 3.8 A core component of the Council's expectations and conditions of grant required of cultural organisations is to evidence that they are well-run, successful companies which have reserves and up-to-date realistic, and regularly updated risk assessment policies.
- 3.9 All of the designated Strategic Partners and Groupings meet these conditions. Obviously, the current crisis is exceptional. The companies are implementing resilience actions and activity, but their on-going programming, income, planning and staffing challenges are without precedent.
- 3.10 Impacts such as box office refunds, booking income losses, related loss of associated business income streams such as cafes and bars, cancelled contracts, related individual artist and practitioner fees being honoured, and staff retention and potential redundancies, amongst much else, are all happening as a result of this crisis.
- 3.11 The need to be fit for purpose when the crisis finally concludes is also a pressing consideration.
- 3.12 It is therefore recommended that the Council leads on actions where it can to contribute to all efforts to mitigate the situation in the meantime, and continues to work with Scottish and UK Government and partner agencies to ensure that existing planned resources are released, and grant funding continues to circulate where possible. To both mitigate impacts as far as possible and seek to retain the existence of our exceptionally important cultural offer for reintroduction in due course.
- 3.13 Other funding programmes will also be progressed, such as the Diversity and Inclusion Fund to ensure that at least some resources are being allocated to smaller

companies and artists and practitioners. Thus, allowing the planning of diverse activities for delivery following the conclusion of the crisis, and contributing to the retention of the cultural vibrancy of the city going forward.

4. Main report

COVID-19

- 4.1 It is proposed to progress all the recommended funding strands as set out in this report. Following usual practice, 70% of grant awards will be released in the first instance. Normally, the balance of funding would be released in Autumn each year. Given the current COVID-19 crisis, the timing of the second payment of funding will be kept under regular review.
- 4.2 The Council is working in close partnership with Creative Scotland and the Scottish and UK Governments to contribute to and facilitate where possible the retention and success of our city's cultural bedrock.

Culture Grants

- 4.3 Proposals are recommended to ensure support for the city's year-round programme of cultural activity and infrastructure, as well as the city's festivals, in line with the [Culture Plan](#), [Thundering Hooves 2.0](#) and the [Council's Commitments](#). In 2014, the Council approved the principle of three-year funding agreements for arts organisations funded by the service.
- 4.4 2019/20 revenue grants programme represented the final year of annual funding status, the final year of the 10% of budget savings recommendations and accommodation of the development of new programmes taking into account the outcomes of the [Third Party Cultural Grants Review](#) and the [Culture Plan](#).
- 4.5 The total proposed cultural grants budget for 2020/21 is £4,689,279. The Review outcome aimed to ensure continued support for the provision of year-round cultural activity and to align with the development of future project grant programmes and initiatives reflecting the Culture Plan priorities and Council Commitments whilst seeking to maintain the fundamental stability of the cultural sector in the city.

Strategic Partners and Groupings

- 4.6 The Strategic Partners and Groupings funding models were agreed at Committee in [June 2019](#).
- 4.7 The Culture Service requested Strategic Partners and Groupings applications on 12 September 2019 with a submission deadline date of 25 October 2019.
- 4.8 Submitted applications were considered by a Panel made up of both Council and external representatives. The Panel membership comprised the Head of Division - Media, Communication and Performing Arts (Queen Margaret University), the Multi-artform Manager (Creative Scotland), Senior Accountant (City of Edinburgh Council (CEC)) and the Culture Strategy Manager (CEC).
- 4.9 The application process was designed and implemented to ensure clear alignment with the previously agreed revenue funding Priorities which are attached for

reference at Appendix 2. Funding and Monitoring Agreements will be finalised following the outcomes of this meeting.

Edinburgh Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards (VACMA) and an Emerging Artists Bursary Scheme Funding Programme

- 4.10 Included in the funding recommendations for 2020/21 is the budget of £19,750 for the Edinburgh VACMA and Emerging Artists Bursary Scheme. This fund is delivered in a match funding partnership with Creative Scotland (CS). Each year the City of Edinburgh Council make an application to CS for match funding to run these programmes. They provide fundamental practice, mentoring and networking development support to individual visual arts, crafts, and performing arts practitioners in the city.
- 4.11 The VACMA scheme awards grants of up to £1,500 to individual artists/makers living or based in Edinburgh towards costs in developing new work.
- 4.12 The Bursary Programme supports two successful applicants per year to develop and progress their creative practice over 12 months with an initial award of £1,500 per applicant, and a project development resource of up to £1,500 in each case. The programme is tailored to the individual artist and includes mentoring which can lead to the development of skills and training, creation of new work, presenting and marketing work.
- 4.13 There are two rounds of the award schemes per annum with deadlines set in October and February. There is an awards panel, with current membership of Visual Arts Officer (Creative Scotland), Director (Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop), a visual artist and curator, a jeweller, and Cultural Development Officer (CEC). There were nine awards allocated in the first round. The second panel meeting took place on 4 March 2020 and awards were made by Monday 9 March 2020.

Partnership with Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (REMT) – Culture Project Fund (Promoting Access)

- 4.14 2019/20 is the final year of the three year culture project grants partnership with the REMT. A total of £97,700 was available in 2019/20 (£47,208 provided by the Council and £50,000 from REMT).
- 4.15 Grants were recommended by a specialist panel featuring arts industry professionals and representatives from the REMT and the Council. The 2019/20 panel members were: Director, Artlink; Director, TRACS, Chief Operating Officer, REMT and Cultural Development Officer, CEC.
- 4.16 A total of 21 grants were awarded in 2019/20 to organisations working in a range of art forms, supporting projects taking place across Edinburgh, with a focus on promoting access for people who experience barriers to engaging with arts and culture. 2019/20 awards are listed at Appendix 3.

Edinburgh Emerging Visual Artists Programme

- 4.17 It is recommended that the budget previously allocated to the REMT partnership project is aligned in 2020/21 to an emerging artists programme to be delivered with

the Edinburgh Art Festival, further consolidating Council support of creative opportunities for visual artists living and working in the city, and also linked to the previously described VACMA and Bursary Funds.

- 4.18 This programme builds on the Council's fundamental partnership role in contributing to facilitating and supporting opportunities for practitioners and artists across all artforms in the city. The development of visual artist opportunities is essential to align this sector with the existing and on-going support of other artforms in Edinburgh. This programme acknowledges that the prospects for emerging visual artists to further develop and exhibit their work require support to establish a reliable ladder of opportunity in Edinburgh.
- 4.19 The Festival works successfully with a uniquely wide range of community organisations, galleries, visual artforms (e.g. sculpture, print, film, digital, light and so on) practitioners and artists year-round across Edinburgh. This recommendation aligns well with artist and practitioner opportunities provided across other artforms captured in the Flexible Fund recommendations and the Strategic Partners and Grouping banding priorities as previously reported and agreed at Committee in June 2019. This programme could also facilitate responsive input to potential opportunities for artists such as the Granton Gasometer lighting project.
- 4.20 2020/21 would be a pilot year, and assessment of the success and impact of the programme would inform next steps.

Partnership Diversity and Inclusion - Work Programme Funding 2020/21

- 4.21 The main intention behind this project is the ambition, in partnership with Creative Scotland, to support Edinburgh's cultural sector to build capacity to better engage with, understand, reflect, represent and respond to the current, and increasing diversity in the city. A Diversity Officer post has been created for a two-year period. The post was implemented in September 2019.
- 4.22 The city currently lacks a collective overview of our diverse communities and therefore an active culture-based programme of shared activity and communication to further this understanding is needed.
- 4.23 The programme will also work with the project being progressed by the Culture Service in partnership with the University of Edinburgh in developing a citywide cultural mapping online resource.
- 4.24 A first update report on the development programme of the Diversity Officer will be presented to June committee.

Flexible Fund Update

- 4.25 As previously reported to Committee in [June 2019](#), a Flexible Fund of £200,000 has been identified as a direct result of the Third Party Cultural Grants Review.
- 4.26 The Funds for 2020/21 have been identified to further reflect the city's Culture Plan to deliver wider access to Council cultural funding opportunities and to continue the Council's core role in ensuring Edinburgh is a city of creative opportunities.

- 4.27 As stated in the Action Plan agreed at Committee (June 2019), the Council is committed to promoting stronger collaboration, developing new partnerships and creating new funding streams for the culture sector in Edinburgh.
- 4.28 Reflecting recommendations of the [Desire Lines Report](#), the Flexible Fund also aims to 'invest in artists' development, and support and sustain the local artistic community' as well as 'support greater partnership working across the arts and culture sector enabling it to flourish year-round.'
- 4.29 The Fund has now been further developed to establish two cultural project fund opportunities, the first in February 2020 for projects developed in financial year 2020/21. The first is the Diversity and Inclusion Fund (February 2020), the second will be the Arts and Health Project Fund (launch currently scheduled for May 2020). The proposed details of the fund will be shared in due course with Committee in advance of the proposed launch date.

Diversity and Inclusion Fund (launched 24 Feb 2020)

- 4.30 In line with Creative Scotland's recognition of 'a major gap in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) led arts in Scotland', the City of Edinburgh Council identified ethnicity as one of the protected characteristics that lead to disadvantage across all service areas, arts and culture being no exception.
- 4.31 Reflecting the findings and recommendations of the City of Edinburgh Council Equality, Diversity and Rights Framework 2017-21: Interim Progress Report, 2017-2019', the Diversity and Inclusion Fund has been developed to 'advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic,' (in that context ethnicity other than Scottish/British White).
- 4.32 Finally, in response to feedback from BAME artists and creatives based in Edinburgh which has highlighted a lack of diversity and representation in mainstream programming and cultural offering, this fund seeks to make inroads into addressing underrepresentation of BAME artists and creatives in our city.
- 4.33 The Diversity and Inclusion Project Fund Guidelines are provided at Appendix 4.

Multi-cultural Event 2020

- 4.34 As reported to Committee in [January 2020](#) as part of the Festivals and Events Core Programme Report recommendations, the Culture Service is seeking to deliver a second year of the successful multi-cultural event first held in 2019. The proposed budget of £43,600 would be made up of a combined contribution of an allocated cultural funding grant of £33,600 and £10,000 from the citywide community events fund 2019/20.

Living Wage

- 4.35 As previously reported to Committee in [November 2017](#), since 2017/18 the Living Wage has been included as a standard requirement in the funding application paperwork and agreement conditions. The data supplied is submitted to the Council's Central Grants Register.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Following the Leadership Advisory Panel consideration and approval, the recommended projects, funding agreements and monitoring programmes will be implemented as described.
- 5.2 Continue to work closely with Creative Scotland, the Scottish and UK Governments and the cultural sector to mitigate where possible the negative impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.
- 5.3 Launch the second Flexible Fund focused on Arts and Health projects in May 2020.
- 5.3 Fulfil Culture Plan objectives:
 - 5.3.1 ensure that everyone has access to world class cultural provision;
 - 5.3.2 encourage the highest standards of creativity and excellence in all aspects of cultural activity;
 - 5.3.3 support greater partnership working in the cultural and creative sectors and maximise resources available to help them thrive all year round;
 - 5.3.4 articulate the positive impact of culture in Edinburgh and promote Edinburgh's cultural success locally, nationally and internationally;
 - 5.3.5 develop and support the infrastructure which sustains Edinburgh's cultural and creative sectors; and
 - 5.3.6 invest in artist and practitioner development, and support and sustain the local artistic community.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The total recurring available budget for the third-party grants programme in 2020/21 is currently £4,689,279. The budget formed part of the Council's 2020/21 budget framework which was approved by Council on [20 February 2020](#). The grant programme has been allocated on a three year in principle funding basis and will be subject to review annually.
- 6.2 The recommended grants programme is set out in Appendix 1.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The Culture Service will continue to consult and co-produce projects, activities, services and funds with providers and service users in line with the remit of the Culture Service.
- 7.2 The Council's funding of third parties through grant aid significantly contributes to the delivery of its Equality Act 2010 duty to seek to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality and foster good relations.

- 7.3 Grants to third parties contribute to the city's Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 objectives and enable the Council to meet Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 Report to Culture and Communities Committee, 18 June 2019 – [Third Party Grants Funding – Review Outcomes](#)
- 8.2 Report to Culture and Communities Committee, 26 March 2019 – [Culture Service Third Party Grants Funding 2019/20](#)
- 8.3 Report to Culture and Communities Committee, 20 March 2018 - [Culture Service Third Party Grants Funding 2018/19](#)
- 8.4 Report to Culture and Sport Committee, 20 March 2017 - [Culture Grants and Service Payments to Organisations 2017/18](#).

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – 2020/21 Cultural Grant Recommendations.
- 9.2 Appendix 2 - Strategic Partners and Groupings Funding Band Priorities.
- 9.3 Appendix 3 - Partnership with Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (REMT) – Culture Project Fund (Promoting Access) - 2019/20 awards.
- 9.4 Appendix 4 - Flexible Fund – Diversity and Inclusion Project Fund Guidelines.

2020/21 CULTURAL GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Strategic Partners

Organisation	Banding (up to)	2019/20 Level of Grant Award	Recommended Level of Grant 2020/21
	£20,000		Year 1 of 3
Edinburgh Art Festival		£9,177	£20,000
Edinburgh Printmakers		£9,999	£20,000
Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop		£12,084	£20,000
Stills Gallery		£16,203	£20,000
	£50,000		
Dance Base		£43,713	£50,000
Edinburgh International Book Festival		£46,154	£50,000
	£75,000		
Edinburgh Festival Fringe		£85,941	£75,000
	£100,000		
Artlink		£88,142	£100,000
Centre for the Moving Image		£102,921	£100,000
Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival		£113,861	£100,000
Imaginate		£73,452	£100,000
	£125,000		
Festivals Edinburgh		£149,179	£125,000
	£150,000		
Edinburgh Science		£151,465	£150,000
North Edinburgh Arts		£140,956	£150,000
	£2,500,000		
Edinburgh International Festival		£2,126,808	£2,026,000
Total		£3,170,055	£3,106,000

Strategic Partners: Groupings

Organisation	Banding (up to)	2019/20 Level of Grant Award	Recommended Level of Grant 2020/21
Literature Grouping:	£100,000		Year 1 of 3
TRACS		£31,200	£41,000
Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature		£29,462	£47,700
Scottish Poetry Library		£4,113	£10,000
Scottish Book Trust		£412	£1,200
Total		£65,187	£99,900
Theatres Grouping:	£1,000,000		
Capital Theatres (Service Payment)		£586,154	£585,130
Royal Lyceum Theatre Company		£328,830	£328,830
Traverse Theatre		£40,447	£40,447
Lung Ha Theatre Company		£15,593	£15,593
Edinburgh Performing Arts Development (EPAD)		£13,000	£30,000
Total		£984,024	£1,000,000

Revenue New Model Partnership Funding

Organisation	Banding (up to)	2019/20 Level of Grant Award	Recommended Level of Grant 2020/21
			Year 1 of 3
Scottish Chamber Orchestra	£50,000	£41,238	£50,000
Queens Hall	£60,000	£84,200	£60,000
Total		£125,438	£110,000

Grant Review Changes 2019/20

Organisation	2019/20 Level of Grant Award	Recommended Level of Grant 2020/21
Collective Gallery	£5,588	£0
Drake Music Scotland	£3,823	£0
Edinburgh International Harp Festival	£1,443	£0
Music in Hospitals and Care Scotland	£850	£0
Puppet Animation Scotland	£8,200	£0
Royal Scottish National Orchestra	£41,238	£0
Waverley Care Arts Project	£10,194	£0
Total	£71,336	£0

Flexible Fund

Flexible Fund 2020/21 Priorities	Total £200,000
Diversity and Inclusion	£100,000
Arts and Health	£100,000

Transition Funding

Organisation	2019/20 Level of Grant Award	Recommended Level of Grant 2020/21
		Year 1 of 1
Scots Fiddle Festival	£4,290	£4,290
Scottish Indian Arts Forum	£4,255	£4,255
Total	£8,545	£8,545

2020/21 Project Funding

Culture Plan Budget	2019/20 Level of Grant	Recommended levels for 2020/21
Culture Plan Development and Implementation Fund	£30,684	£30,684
Edinburgh Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards (partnership programme with Creative Scotland)	£19,750	£19,750
Co-Funded Temporary Diversity Agent for Change Post (partnership with Creative Scotland)	£33,600	£33,600
Edinburgh Emerging Visual Artists Programme – development partnership with EAF	£47,208	£47,208
Multicultural Event (Year 2 of 2)	£33,600	£33,600
Total	£164,842	£164,842

	Total Budget 2019/20	Total Budget 2020/21
Total Culture Budget	£4,589,427	£4,689,287

Third Party Cultural Grants Strategic Partners and Groupings

PRIORITIES

Up to £20,000 Applications should provide, describe and evaluate:

1. describe how your organisation will provide opportunities for Edinburgh residents as arts and creative practitioners.
2. describe how your organisation will provide co-operative and/or partnership programmes of arts production and programming.
3. describe how your organisation will actively engage with, and reflect, the city's diverse population in your programmes of artistic development.

Up to £50,000 Applications should provide, describe and evaluate:

1. describe how your organisation will provide opportunities for Edinburgh residents as arts and creative practitioners.
2. describe how your organisation will provide co-operative and/or partnership programmes of arts production and programming.
3. describe how your organisation will actively engage with, and reflect, the city's diverse population in your programmes of artistic development.
4. describe how your organisation will provide community engagement programmes ensuring direct practitioner experience in their delivery.
5. describe how your organisation will articulate the positive impact of culture in Edinburgh and promote Edinburgh's cultural success locally.

Up to £75,000 Applications should provide, describe and evaluate

1. describe how your organisation will provide opportunities for Edinburgh residents as arts and creative practitioners.
2. describe how your organisation will provide co-operative and/or partnership programmes of arts production and programming.
3. describe how your organisation will actively engage with, and reflect, the city's diverse population in your programmes of artistic development.
4. describe how your organisation will provide community engagement programmes ensuring direct practitioner experience in their delivery.
5. describe how your organisation will articulate the positive impact of culture in Edinburgh and promote Edinburgh's cultural success locally.
6. describe how you will commission new work.

Up to £100,000 Applications should provide, describe and evaluate

1. describe how your organisation will provide opportunities for Edinburgh residents as arts and creative practitioners.

2. describe how your organisation will provide co-operative and/or partnership programmes of arts production and programming.
3. describe how your organisation will actively engage with, and reflect, the city's diverse population in your programmes of artistic development.
4. describe how your organisation will provide community engagement programmes ensuring direct practitioner experience in their delivery.
5. describe how your organisation will articulate the positive impact of culture in Edinburgh and promote Edinburgh's cultural success locally.
6. describe how you will commission new work.
7. describe how your organisation will support and deliver greater partnership working in the cultural and creative sectors and maximise resources available to help them thrive year round.

Up to £125,000 Applications should provide, describe and evaluate

1. describe how your organisation will provide opportunities for Edinburgh residents as arts and creative practitioners.
2. describe how your organisation will provide co-operative and/or partnership programmes of arts production and programming.
3. describe how your organisation will actively engage with, and reflect, the city's diverse population in your programmes of artistic development.
4. describe how your organisation will provide community engagement programmes ensuring direct practitioner experience in their delivery.
5. describe how your organisation will articulate the positive impact of culture in Edinburgh and promote Edinburgh's cultural success locally.
6. describe how you will commission new work.
7. describe how your organisation will support and deliver greater partnership working in the cultural and creative sectors and maximise resources available to help them thrive year round.
8. describe how your organisation will invest in artist and practitioner development, and support and sustain the local artistic community.

Up to £150,000 Applications should provide, describe and evaluate

1. describe how your organisation will provide opportunities for Edinburgh residents as arts and creative practitioners.
2. describe how your organisation will provide co-operative and/or partnership programmes of arts production and programming.
3. describe how your organisation will actively engage with, and reflect, the city's diverse population in your programmes of artistic development.
4. describe how your organisation will provide community engagement programmes ensuring direct practitioner experience in their delivery.

5. describe how your organisation will articulate the positive impact of culture in Edinburgh and promote Edinburgh's cultural success locally.
6. describe how you will commission new work.
7. describe how your organisation will support and deliver greater partnership working in the cultural and creative sectors and maximise resources available to help them thrive year round.
8. describe how your organisation will invest in artist and practitioner development, and support and sustain the local artistic community.
9. describe how your organisation will deliver new work commissioning and development, in particular, working with Edinburgh-based artists and practitioners.
10. describe how your organisation will deliver a national and international programme, profile and reputation.

Up to £1,000,000 Applications should provide, describe and evaluate

1. describe how your grouping will provide opportunities for Edinburgh residents and visitors as arts and creative practitioners.
2. describe how your grouping will provide co-operative and/or partnership programmes of arts production and programming.
3. describe how your grouping will actively engage with, and reflect, the city's diverse population in your programmes of artistic development.
4. describe how your grouping will provide community engagement programmes ensuring direct practitioner experience in their delivery.
5. describe how your grouping will articulate the positive impact of culture in Edinburgh and promote Edinburgh's cultural success, locally, nationally and internationally.
6. describe how your grouping will commission new work.
7. describe how your grouping will support and deliver greater partnership working in the cultural and creative sectors and maximise resources available to help them thrive year round.
8. describe how your grouping will invest in artist and practitioner development, and support and sustain the local artistic community.
9. describe how your grouping will deliver new work commissioning and development opportunities, in particular, working with Edinburgh-based artists and practitioners.
10. describe how your grouping will deliver a national and international programme, profile and reputation.
11. describe how your grouping will focus on excellence in the content, practice and delivery of artistic programmes of benefit to local artists.
12. describe how your grouping will develop and support the infrastructure which sustains Edinburgh's cultural and creative sectors.
13. describe how your grouping will ensure that everyone has access to world class cultural provision.

14. describe how your grouping will encourage the highest standards of creativity and excellence in all aspects of your activity.

Up to £2,500,000 Applications should provide, describe and evaluate

1. describe how your organisation will provide opportunities for Edinburgh residents and visitors as arts and creative practitioners.
2. describe how your organisation will provide co-operative and/or partnership programmes of arts production and programming.
3. describe how your organisation will actively engage with, and reflect ,the city's diverse population in your programmes of artistic development.
4. describe how your organisation will provide community engagement programmes ensuring direct practitioner experience in their delivery.
5. describe how your organisation will articulate the positive impact of culture in Edinburgh and promote Edinburgh's cultural success, locally, nationally and internationally.
6. describe how you will commission new national and international productions.
7. describe how your organisation will support and deliver greater partnership working in the cultural and creative sectors and maximise resources available to help them thrive year round.
8. describe how your organisation will invest in artist and practitioner development, and support and sustain the local artistic community.
9. describe how your organisation will deliver new work commissioning and development opportunities, in particular, working with Edinburgh-based artists and practitioners.
10. describe how your organisation will deliver a significant national and international programme, profile and reputation.
11. describe how your organisation will focus on excellence in the content, practice and delivery of artistic programmes of benefit to local artists.
12. describe how your organisation will develop and support the infrastructure which sustains Edinburgh's cultural and creative sectors.
13. describe how your organisation will ensure that everyone has access to world class cultural provision.
14. describe how your organisation will encourage the highest standards of creativity and excellence in all aspects of the activity.
15. describe how your organisation will demonstrate significant intergovernmental/NGO support for activities in cash or kind – **describe how you measure and evaluate this success.**
16. describe how your organisation will demonstrate significant support from philanthropic sources, Trusts and Foundations - **describe how you measure and evaluate this success.**

CEC/REMT Culture Project Fund 2019/20

	Applicant Name	Project Description	Grant
1	Citadel Arts Group	Telling Stories: Making Plays. Structured workshops where ideas and situations from the Croft an Righ tenants' own stories will be combined into a short drama.	£3,850
2	Collective Gallery	Mayday PLAY! - a long weekend of artist-led adventure play for children and their carers over the Mayday bank holiday focussed on making instruments and sound.	£5,500
3	Creative Electric	Creative Electric's free-for-all: a carefully researched project that targets social groups who currently don't engage fully with the arts due to lack of support, social anxiety and/or financial barriers	£5,350
4	Dirlebane Theatre Company	BOUNCE tour 2020: a theatre clown show for children aged 7 – 10 years old	£3,280
5	Edinburgh Printmakers Limited	2020 Visions: a series of six artist-led printmaking workshops for around eight artists with visual impairments as well as commissioning a descriptive tour script for Castle Mills to improve access for visually impaired audiences and practitioners.	£4,755
6	Grassmarket Projects CIC	Lost Boy Found: a project that seeks to build the confidence, improve the mental well-being and develop the skills of young people in the Edinburgh area aged between 18 to 25 years of age who are currently at risk of offending or have been identified as being at risk of offending in the future	£4,500
7	HD Arts Productions Community Interest Company t/a Hidden Door	Light Gatherer at Hidden Door Festival: a series of workshops and accessible performances built around Edinburgh composer Esther Swift's mesmeric Scottish folk ensemble piece.	£4,876
8	Imaginate	Selkie Was A Sea Witch: A traditional Scottish story, revisited in poetry and choreography, explores what it takes to feel at home in your own skin	£7,280
9	Link Up – c/o Thistle Foundation	Craigmillar Tapestry – Stitches in Time (Phase 2): Using the arts to capture and celebrate the unique heritage and culture of the wider Craigmillar area.	£5,000
10	Live Music Now Scotland	Together in Tune! A series of intergenerational performances by traditional Scottish musicians in care homes	£5,160
11	Oi Musica CIC	'Brass Blast Pianodrome Collaboration' will enable young people from all backgrounds to develop performance and music leadership skills, join workshops and perform at the Edinburgh Festivals.	£5,000
12	Puppet Animation Scotland	Cucinema [working title]: A family-orientated workshop which teaches participants about the basics of animation.	£4,490
13	Starcatchers Productions Ltd	Starcatchers' Satellites - – developing a constellation of positive artist-led creative play for families in Wester Hailes, Broomhouse and Sighthill	£5,000

14	Stills	This Is Us (Here We Are). A creative multi-media project designed by women who have experienced domestic abuse to create an un-magazine.	£4,606
15	Strange Town	Offering free places in Strange Town Youth Theatre and After School Drama Outreach to children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and low-income families.	£4,955
16	Tenterhooks	Tenterhooks will tour MESS, our classroom-based theatre performance for young audiences with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) to SEN schools across Edinburgh.	£4,914
17	THE SOUNDHOUSE ORGANISATION/Edinburgh tradfest	Edinburgh Tradfest – a live music festival celebrating the past, present and future of traditional music from Scotland and around the world.	£7,000
18	TMSA Edinburgh & Lothians Branch	Northern Streams 2020: a celebration of the evolving Scottish and Nordic folk culture	£1,895
19	Travelling Gallery	Travelling Gallery Spring 2020, Edinburgh workshops: artist-led workshops with targeted groups in four Edinburgh venues.	£1,790
20	Traverse Theatre	Strange Tales Vol 2: Stories from Edinburgh: Two residencies for BAME artists to explore adapting traditional stories to develop bold and innovative works in progress.	£4,000 (to support one residency)
21	Yard Heads	The Lightning Plebiscite – collaborative creative drama/ film project about Leith's 1920 amalgamation into Edinburgh, advancing community access to the City's heritage, history and cultural resources	£4,000

TOTAL: £97,201



CULTURE SERVICE - FLEXIBLE FUNDING

APPLICATION GUIDELINES 2020/21

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION FUND:

Promoting BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) representation
in Edinburgh's arts and culture sector

INTRODUCTION

The City of Edinburgh Council has allocated resources to establish two cultural project funding opportunities beginning in February 2020 for projects developed in financial year 2020/21 - Diversity & Inclusion Fund (February 2020) and Arts & Health Fund (May 2020).

This funding has been allocated as a result of the city's Culture Plan to deliver wider access to Council cultural funding opportunities and continues the Council's core role in ensuring Edinburgh is a city of creative opportunities. Our cultural activity and offer continues to be a crucial contribution to the city's success as an exceptional place to live and work.

As stated in the Action Plan agreed at the Culture and Communities Committee Meeting on 18 June 2019, the City of Edinburgh Council committed to promoting *stronger collaboration, developing new partnerships and creating new funding streams* for the culture sector in Edinburgh.

Reflecting recommendations of the Desire Lines Report, the Flexible Fund aims to 'invest in artists' development, and support and sustain the local artistic community' as well as 'support greater partnership working across the arts and culture sector enabling it to flourish year-round.'

In the light of the Creative Scotland's recognition of 'a major gap in BAME-led arts in Scotland', the City of Edinburgh Council identified ethnicity as one of protected characteristics that lead to disadvantage across all service areas, arts and culture being no exception.

In line with the findings and recommendations of the City of Edinburgh Council Equality, Diversity and Rights Framework 2017-21: Interim Progress Report, 2017- 2019', the Diversity & Inclusion Fund has been developed to 'advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic,' (in that context ethnicity other than Scottish/British White).

Finally, in response to feedback from BAME artists and creatives based in Edinburgh which has highlighted a lack of diversity and representation in mainstream programming

and cultural offering, this fund seeks to make inroads into addressing underrepresentation of BAME artists and creatives in our city.

PURPOSE OF SCHEME:

Grants will be awarded to projects that promote greater collaboration between minority ethnic artists/practitioners and Edinburgh-based cultural organisations. Projects should reach, involve, benefit and engage BAME artists/creative practitioners and cultural organisations based in Edinburgh.

The fund is intended to support projects and activities, including professional development, production development and cultural events, that utilise one or multiple art forms, such as visual and performing arts (music, dance, spoken word and theatre), film, digital arts, literature and poetry, to promote greater collaboration between BAME artists and creatives and cultural organisations in Edinburgh.

FUNDS AVAILABLE:

A total budget of £100,000 is available offering six grant awards of up to £5,000; three grants of up to £10,000 and two grant awards of up to £20,000 for projects developed in financial year 2020/21.

Applicants should apply for the exact amount needed for their project and will not automatically be awarded the maximum available and the awards panel reserves the right to offer an amount different to that requested.

DEADLINE: Friday 3 April 2020 (23:59 GMT). Late applications will not be accepted.

Please note successful applicants receiving £10,000 and over will be subject to having their grant split into two payment (70% on receipt of signed funding agreement paperwork and 30% following the submission and approval of an update report on completion of project). You will be advised w/b 27 April if your application has been successful or not by email. Payments to successful applicants are envisaged to be made within 6-8 weeks from the date of notification of grant award.

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Projects involving Edinburgh-based artists and practitioners and taking place within the City of Edinburgh boundary with Edinburgh based partners.
- Partnership working is a City and Culture Plan funding priority therefore applicants will be expected to place an emphasis on this in any submission. This can be both in cash and/or in kind.
- A charitable/not for profit status organisation must be the lead project partner to allow the release of any potential grant award.
- A revenue funded Strategic Partner organisation or Grouping cannot lead on an application or directly receive project grant funding. They can, however, be involved as a partner in any application. For example, a venue may act as host or a company provide in-kind support. A list of CEC Strategic Partner organisations and Groupings can be found in the Related Documents section.
- Only one application per organisation can be considered.
- Please note that the same project cannot be considered for both funds (ie Diversity & Inclusion Fund and the Arts & Health Fund).

The [Culture Plan](#) vision is that “city partners work together to keep culture and creativity at the heart of Edinburgh’s success”. Further information on the vision can be accessed through the [Council’s Business Plan](#).

CRITERIA:

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- an imaginative and/or experimental creative concept;
- confirmed partnerships and quality of project management;
- practical involvement of BAME artists and creative practitioners **and/or** genuine engagement of the city’s (BAME) communities.

PRIORITIES:

1. Demonstrable BAME artist/practitioner involvement;
2. Creative concept; and
3. Partnership working - a City and Culture Plan funding priority.

We will be assessing the likely impact of the project and to what degree it will extend the reach of cultural activity in the city, greater visibility and representation of the BAME arts and culture in particular.

We want to see how you propose to use this funding and what you envisage the direct impact of that funding will be.

Our focus will be on what major difference this funding will make to the project (ie what wouldn’t happen without this support).

EXCLUSIONS:

Applications cannot be considered:

- for projects already started or planned to start before the decision is made, ***unless it is the next stage of a previously completed phase of work;***
- if received after the deadline date; and
- unless there is a suitable management/governance structure in place

Funding cannot support:

- Revenue costs or permanent posts
- Press events or launches
- Equipment items or capital projects
- Projects which primarily take place outside Edinburgh.

Please note that the support offered to BAME artists and creatives by this fund is using positive action to promote equality as reflected in the Equality Act 2010.

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Leadership Advisory Panel

10.00am, Wednesday, 31 March 2020

Neighbourhood Alliance – Grant funding payment

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Leadership Advisory Panel agrees to award £67,200 to the Neighbourhood Alliance (NA) for a further one year period up to 31 March 2021.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

Contact: Elaine Scott, Housing Services Manager

E-mail: Elaine.Scott@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 2277

Neighbourhood Alliance – Grant funding payment

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek authority to award funding to the Neighbourhood Alliance (NA).

3. Background

- 3.1 The NA supports resident involvement in locality-based place making and regeneration in Niddrie and Craigmillar. This includes advocacy work, support to the neighbourhood councils, and a key focus on supporting tenant and resident engagement on placemaking in relation to the new Craigmillar town centre.
- 3.2 On 2 April 2019, the Edinburgh Partnership agreed a new governance framework, which included establishing 13 new Neighbourhood Networks. The Neighbourhood Networks are in place and will play a key role in community planning processes and, through their new remit and membership, provide a way of increasing community influence and involvement across the city. Membership includes community councils and other community groups in the area, such as residents' organisations and parent councils, as well as councillors and voluntary groups. The work of the NA will be aligned with the locality-based model as this work moves forward.

4. Main report

- 4.1 Key actions to take this work forward have been agreed between the Council and the NA and accountability for delivery will be through regular liaison between the NA and the North East Locality Housing Operations Manager.
- 4.2 An improvement plan is in place, which includes a focus on current activity, membership and governance, to ensure specific priority outcomes and a requirement to evidence activity covered by the funding. This is set out in a service level agreement (SLA).
- 4.3 Agreement is sought to fund the NA for a further year, on a maximum standstill budget of £67,200 to support community engagement in the regeneration of

Craigmillar. This will be funded from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and will be subject to performance against the service level agreement.

- 4.4 On the advice of the Democracy, Governance and Resilience Senior Manager this payment would be made as a grant and as the funding level is above the £25,000 threshold, Committee approval is required.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The Housing Operations Manager will continue to work with NA over the duration of this agreement.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 This will be funded from the HRA and will be subject to performance against the service level agreement.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The work of the NA also supports the implementation of the City of Edinburgh Council Tenant Participation Strategy, which was agreed by the [Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee](#) on Monday, 20 January 2020.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 Report to [Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee](#) - Tenant Participation Strategy.

9. Appendices

- 9.1. None.

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Leadership Advisory Panel

10:00am, Tuesday, 31 March 2020

Internal Audit: Internal Audit Charter Annual Update

Item number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	All
Council Commitments	

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 1.1 The Panel reviews and approves the refreshed 2020/21 Internal Audit (“IA”) Charter.
- 1.2 The Convenor of the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee be requested to sign the refreshed charter, in due course, together with the Chief Executive and Chief Internal Auditor, evidencing the commitment of all three key stakeholders to support IA in effective delivery of the annual plan and 2020/21 annual IA opinion.

Lesley Newdall

Chief Internal Auditor

Legal and Risk Division, Resources Directorate

E-mail: lesley.newdall@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3216

Internal Audit: Internal Audit Charter Annual Update

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The purpose of this paper is to present the revised Internal Audit Charter for 2020/21 to the Governance, Risk, and Best Value Committee (GRBV) for approval.
- 2.2 Public Sector Internal Audit Standards PSIAS (the PSIAS) specify that the purpose, authority, and responsibility of Internal Audit (IA) must be formally defined in an Internal Audit Charter (the “Charter”) that is periodically reviewed and presented to senior management (the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT)) and the board (the Governance, Risk, and Best Value Committee) for approval. The Council’s IA charter fulfils this requirement.
- 2.3 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) April 2019 statement on the ‘Role of the Head of Internal Audit (HIA) in Public Service Organisations’ sets out the responsibilities of the HIA and management teams across the public sector to ensure that Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (the PSIAS) are maintained and that both HIAs and their teams operative effectively. The Council’s IA charter also details how these IA and management responsibilities will be delivered.

3. Background

- 3.1 CIPFA is the standard setter for internal audit, governance and financial accounting across the public sector. CIPFA worked collaboratively with the Institute of Internal Auditors (the IIA) to develop a set of PSIAS that are based on the mandatory elements of IIA’s International Professional Practices Framework.
- 3.2 The PSIAS were originally published in April 2013 and last refreshed in April 2017.
- 3.3 In April 2019 CIPFA published a new Statement (the Statement) titled ‘the Role of the Head of Internal Audit (HIA) in Public Service Organisations’ that is aligned with PSIAS 2017 and is explicitly linked to the Core Principles for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing,
- 3.4 The Statement includes five principles that set out not only the responsibilities of the HIA but also those of public sector organisations and their management teams to ensure that PSIAS compliance is maintained and that both HIAs and their teams

operative effectively. The five principles are also supported by 28 leadership team and 23 core HIA responsibilities.

- 3.5 The PSIAS specify (at section 1000) that the purpose, authority, and responsibility of IA must be formally defined in a charter that is periodically reviewed and presented to senior management and the board for approval.
- 3.6 The PSIAS state that the IA Charter must also define the terms 'board' and 'senior management' for the purposes of IA activity; cover arrangements for appropriate resourcing; define the role of IA in any fraud-related work; and include arrangements for avoiding conflicts of interest if IA audit undertakes non-audit activities.
- 3.7 Within the Council, the role of the chief audit executive is fulfilled by the Chief Internal Auditor, the role of senior management is fulfilled by the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT), and the board/non-executive role is undertaken by the GRBV.
- 3.8 The IA charter is presented to both the CLT and GRBV annually for scrutiny and approval.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The Charter specifies the authority, role, scope, and objectives of IA; outlines the IA operational framework; and management responsibilities to support IA with delivery of the annual plan in line with both PSIAS and the CIPFA Statement. The content of the Charter covers the following specific areas:
 - 4.1.1 Executive summary;
 - 4.1.2 Purpose of Internal Audit;
 - 4.1.3 Definitions;
 - 4.1.4 Independence and objectivity (including reporting lines);
 - 4.1.5 Authority;
 - 4.1.6 Objectives and responsibility of Internal Audit;
 - 4.1.7 Professionalism;
 - 4.1.8 Internal Audit plan;
 - 4.1.9 Resourcing;
 - 4.1.10 Management responsibilities;
 - 4.1.11 Follow up;
 - 4.1.12 Internal Audit annual opinion;
 - 4.1.13 Fraud and corruption; and
 - 4.1.14 Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme.
- 4.2 The Charter has been reviewed and appropriate amendments made to refresh it for 2020/21. The refreshed charter includes the following more material changes that should be brought to the Committee's attention.

- 4.2.1 The executive summary (section 1) has been updated to reflect the original development of the PSIAS between CIPFA and the IIA, and the subsequent publication and requirements of the CIPFA Statement.
- 4.2.2 The narrative on reporting (section 12) has been updated to include a table that reflects the content and frequency of IA reports provided to the CLT and GRBV committee, detailing alignment with specific PSIAS reporting requirements.
- 4.2.3 The annual opinion wording (section 13) has been updated to reflect that the annual opinion will now include a statement that confirms whether both IA and management have met their collective responsibilities as specified in the CIPFA Statement published in April 2019.
- 4.2.4 The quality assurance and improvement programme narrative (section 15) has been updated to reflect that the IA quality assurance programme will also evaluate whether IA has met their responsibilities as detailed in the CIPFA Statement.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The charter will be signed as approved by the Chief Internal Auditor; the Chief Executive Officer; and the Convenor of the GRBV and will then be applied by both IA and management to support delivery of the 2020/21 IA plan in line with both the PSIAS and the CIPFA Statement.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There is no direct financial impact arising from this report.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 Approval of the Charter will enable IA to operate within the requirements specified in the PSIAS and the CIPFA Statement.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [Public Sector Internal Audit Standards PSIAS](#)
- 8.2 [CIPFA Statement on the role of the HIA in public sector organisations](#)
- 8.3 [Process for approving changes to the Internal Audit annual plan – item 7.9](#)

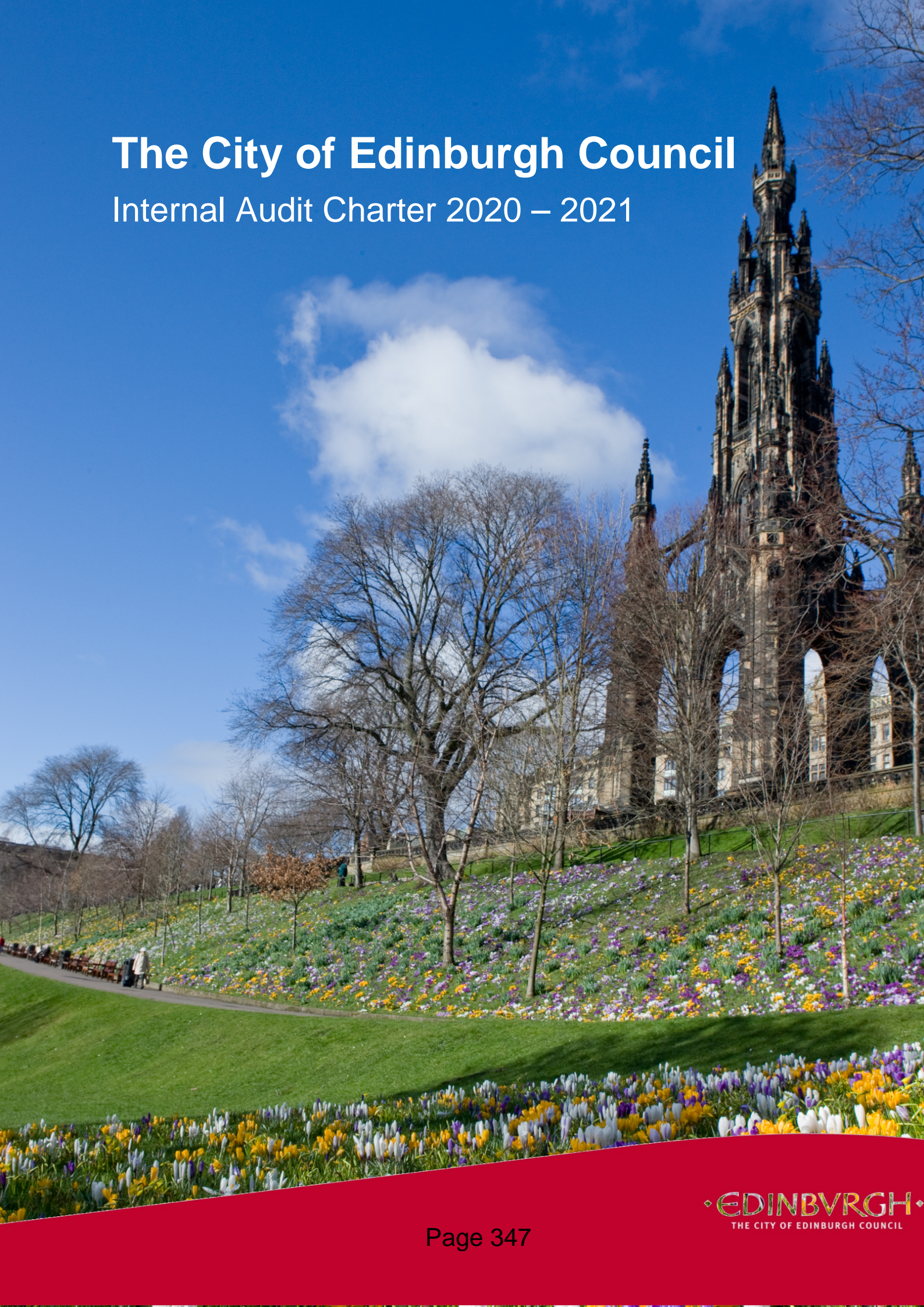
9. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Refreshed Internal Audit Charter 2020-21

Appendix 2 – Internal Audit Journey Map and Key Performance Indicators

The City of Edinburgh Council

Internal Audit Charter 2020 – 2021



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1. Executive Summary

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) is the standard setter for internal audit; governance; and financial accounting across the public sector.

Recognising the need to promote further improvement in the professionalism, quality, consistency and effectiveness of internal audit (IA) across the public sector, CIPFA worked collaboratively with the Institute of Internal Auditors (the IIA) to develop a set of Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (the PSIAS) that are based on the mandatory elements of IIA's International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF).

The original PSIAS were published in April 2013 and last refreshed in April 2017.

The PSIAS are applicable across the whole of the public sector and are intended to ensure sound corporate governance and set out roles and responsibilities for both IA and management to support delivery of IA services.

In April 2019 CIPFA published a new Statement (the Statement) titled 'the Role of the Head of Internal Audit (HIA) in Public Service Organisations' and an associated publication titled 'Leading Internal Audit in the Public Sector: Putting Principles into Practice' that highlights good practices adopted across public sector IA teams.

The Statement is aligned with PSIAS 2017 and is explicitly linked to the Core Principles for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing, helping to demonstrate how the HIA role supports IA effectiveness.

CIPFA confirms in the Statement that the main reasons for its publication are the ongoing challenges faced by HIAs in public services in ensuring that professional standards are consistently maintained, and that their IA teams remain effective, as the organisations that they audit have a direct impact on IA resources, scope and authority.

Whilst HIAs must deliver a professional service to the best of their ability, it is important to recognise that successful audit delivery requires services to work together with the internal audit team and HIA to ensure that the organisation meets the standards required.

The Statement includes five principles that set out not only the responsibilities of the HIA but also those of the organisations and their management teams to ensure that IA professional standards are maintained and that both HIAs and their teams operate effectively. The five principles are also supported by 28 leadership team and 23 core HIA responsibilities.

This Charter sets out the purpose, scope, authority, and responsibility of the City of Edinburgh Council's (the Council) IA function in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and the April 2019 CIPFA Statement

2. Purpose of Internal Audit

The purpose of IA is to provide a high-quality independent audit service to the Council, in accordance with PSIAS, that provides assurance over the risk management frameworks; control environments; and governance frameworks established to manage the Council's key risks and ensure that the Council's strategic and operational objectives can be achieved.

The PSIAS recognise that IA's remit extends to the entire control environment of the organisation and not just to financial controls.

IA assurance is provided by delivering an annual schedule of audit work that independently and objectively assesses the design and effectiveness of the controls established to manage the Council's most significant risks, with the remaining risks covered on a cyclical basis.

The PSIAS notes that IA should also consider providing consultancy services based on their potential to improve management of risks, add value, and improve the organisation's operations.

The IA scope covers all Council activities, and the activities of external parties listed in Appendix 1.

In addition to their primary role, IA will also:

- Support the Chief Executive as the Council's statutory Head of Paid Service in the discharge of their duties;
- Support the Head of Finance as the Council's statutory Chief Finance Officer in undertaking their duties as the 'Section 95 Officer';
- Support the Head of Legal and Risk as the Council's statutory Monitoring Officer in undertaking their duties;
- Advise on the internal control implications of system or process changes within the Council;
- Assist management in their duties to prevent and detect fraud and corruption; and
- Aim to add value to the Council in all its undertakings.

3. Definitions

The PSIAS requires that all public sector IA charters define the terms 'Chief Audit Executive (CAE)', 'Senior Management' and 'Board'

Within the Council, the role of the 'CAE' is fulfilled by the Chief Internal Auditor (CIA), the role of the 'Chief Financial Officer' is fulfilled by the Council's Head of Finance (who is the designated statutory Section 95 Officer), the role of the 'Senior Management' is fulfilled by the Council's Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) and the 'Board' role is undertaken by the Governance, Risk, and Best Value (GRBV) committee.

The Council has adopted the PSIAS definition of internal auditing as follows:

'Internal auditing is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organisation's operations. It helps an organisation establish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance processes.'

The Council has adopted the PSIAS definition of assurance services as follows:

'An objective examination of evidence for the purpose of providing an independent assessment on governance, risk management and control processes for the organisation. Examples may include financial, performance, compliance, system security and due diligence engagements.'

The Council has adopted the PSIAS definition of independence as follows:

'Freedom from conditions that threaten the ability of the internal audit activity to carry out internal audit responsibilities in an unbiased manner.'

The Council has adopted the PSIAS definition of impairment as follows:

'Impairment to organisational independence and individual objectivity may include personal conflict of interest; scope limitations; restrictions on access to records, personnel, and properties; and resource limitations (funding).'

The Council has adopted the PSIAS definition of consulting services as follows:

'Advisory and Auditee related service activities, the nature and scope of which are agreed with the Auditee, that are intended to add value and improve an organisation's governance, risk management and control processes without the internal auditor assuming management responsibility. Examples include counsel, advice, facilitation and training'.

4. Independence and Objectivity

To ensure that IA independence and objectivity is maintained, IA will remain free from interference from anyone within the Council in relation to audit selection, scope, procedures, frequency, timing, and report content.

Additionally, IA will have no operational responsibility or authority over any organisational activities audited to prevent any conflicts of interest. Accordingly, they will not perform operational processes; implement internal controls; develop procedures; install systems; prepare records; will not be permitted to audit any activities for which they have previously been responsible within a period of one year; and will not engage in any other activity that may impair judgment or independence.

Where consulting services are provided, the IA role will be specifically restricted to providing guidance, views, and opinions. To comply with PSIAS independence requirements IA will not be involved in any aspects of operational decisions subsequently taken by management.

PSIAS also requires the CIA to report to a level within the organisation which allows IA to fulfil its responsibilities and ensure that organisational independence is maintained. Within the Council, the CIA reports to the Head of Legal and Risk, the Executive Director of Resources, the Chief Executive, and GRBV.

The CIA will confirm to the GRBV, at least annually, the organisational independence of IA. The CIA will also inform the Convener of the GRBV of any real or potential impairment of organisational independence.

5. Authority

IA derives its authority from full Council and the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT). To ensure that IA objectives are achieved, and their independence maintained with no impairment, and with strict accountability for confidentiality and safeguarding records and information, IA is authorised by the CLT to:

- have full, free, and unrestricted access to any and all of the Council's records, assets, physical properties, and personnel.
- have free and unrestricted access to all Officers, the CLT and GRBV;

- raise findings in relation to any control gaps identified that could expose the Council to significant risk where these are identified outwith the scope of audit reviews included in the IA annual plan.
- review and report on the content of the annual governance attestations prepared by the Council's Chief Executive and the Executive Directors to confirm whether the content in relation to effective management of risk and control across the services delivered by the Council appropriately reflects the outcomes of completed audit work and progress with implementation of agreed management actions.

Additionally, all Officers are required by the CLT to assist Internal Audit in fulfilling its roles and responsibilities.

6. IA Objectives and Responsibilities

IA responsibilities include the requirement to independently review, evaluate and report on the following across all areas of the Council:

- the adequacy and effectiveness of the systems of financial, operational and management control and their operation in practice in relation to the risks facing the Council;
- the extent of compliance with, relevance of, and financial effect of, policies, standards, plans and procedures established by the Council and the extent of compliance with external laws and regulations, including reporting requirements of regulatory bodies;
- the extent to which Council assets and interests are acquired economically, used efficiently, accounted for, and safeguarded from losses of all kinds arising from waste, extravagance, inefficient administration, poor value for money, fraud or other cause, and that adequate business continuity plans exist;
- the suitability, accuracy, reliability and integrity of financial and other management information and the means used to identify measure, classify, and report such information;
- the integrity of processes and systems, including those under development, to ensure that controls offer adequate protection against error, fraud, and loss of all kinds; and that the process aligns with the Council's strategic goals;
- the follow-up action taken to remedy any weaknesses identified by IA review, ensuring that good practice is identified and communicated widely;
- the operation of the Council's corporate governance arrangements; and
- the risk of fraud as part of the audit work performed. Where required, the role of IA is to provide support to the officers appointed to investigate potential fraud cases.

7. Professionalism

Internal auditors must exhibit the highest level of professional objectivity in gathering, evaluating, and communicating information about the activity or process being examined; must make balanced assessments of all the relevant circumstances; and not be unduly influenced by their own or others interests in forming judgments.

To achieve this, IA will ensure that it conducts its work with due professional care and in line with the requirements of the PSIAS or other relevant professional standards.

IA will comply with the PSIAS mandatory guidance, including the Definition of Internal Auditing and the Code of Ethics (the Code). This mandatory guidance is set of principles detailing the fundamental requirements for IA professional practice and evaluating the effectiveness of IA's performance.

The four principles contained within the Code are: Integrity, Objectivity, Confidentiality and Competency.

Additionally, IA will comply with relevant Council policies and procedures and IA's standard operating procedures manual.

The CIA is expected to report on PSIAS compliance in the annual opinion.

8. Internal Audit Plan

Annually, the CIA will submit to the GRBV an IA plan for the following audit year, designed to support provision of an annual evidence based opinion, for their review and approval.

This plan will be developed, based on a prioritisation of the audit universe using a risk-based methodology including input, as a minimum, from Elected Members, the Chief Executive, the Executive Director of Resources, the Head of Legal and Risk (statutory Monitoring Officer), the Head of Finance (statutory section 95 Chief Financial Officer), the Chief Risk Officer, the CLT and the GRBV.

The nature of evolving risks makes it likely that the audit assignments included annual plan may be subject to change.

Consequently, the IA audit plan will be kept under review and any significant deviation from the approved plan (due to emerging risks, fraudulent activity or other factors that result in changes to planned IA or consulting activities) will be approved by both CLT and GRBV in line with the agreed process for approving changes to the annual plan (included at Appendix 2).

The PSIAS also notes that when preparing the annual plan, the CIA should share information, coordinate activities, and consider relying upon the work of other internal and external assurance and consulting service providers to ensure proper coverage and minimise duplication of effort.

Where this approach is adopted, a consistent process for the basis of reliance should be established. Where reliance is placed on the work of others, the CIA remains accountable and responsible for ensuring that there is adequate support for conclusions and opinions reached where reliance has been placed on work performed by other assurance providers.

Consequently, when dealing with an external party, IA will clearly define the respective roles, responsibilities, and other expectations (including restrictions on distribution of results of the engagement and access to engagement records).

IA also reserves the right to raise findings on areas that have not been specifically included in the annual plan where significant or systemic control gaps are evident.

9. Resourcing

The CIPFA Local Government Application note for applying UK Public Sector Internal Auditing Standards states that *'No formula exists that can be applied to determine internal audit coverage needs. However, as a guide, the minimum level of coverage is that required to give an annual evidence based opinion. Local factors within each organisation will determine this minimum level of coverage'*.

Audit Scotland have advised that that they expect a risk based IA plan to be prepared and that they would expect sufficient resources to be in place to accommodate all high-risk items identified.

The Council's IA plan will reflect Audit Scotland's requirements and include budgeted resource requirements for the following year. It will also include a contingency to address unplanned work. Should circumstances arise during the year that suggests that available resource levels will fall or appear to be falling below the level required to deliver the plan, the CIA will communicate the impact of resource limitations and significant interim changes to both the CLT and GRBV.

10. Management Responsibilities

Management will co-operate with IA on assignments and provide access to records, systems and staff as required within a reasonable timeframe following the request.

An IA journey map and key performance indicators (KPIs) have been developed and were approved by both the CLT and GRBV in January 2019. The purpose of the key performance indicators is to ensure that both IA and management support effective and timely delivery of the annual plan (refer Appendix 3).

All audit and consulting assignments will be the subject of formal reports or formal management letters. Draft reports will be shared with management teams for agreement as to the factual accuracy of draft findings raised, and awareness of IA recommendations designed to address the control weaknesses identified.

It is management's responsibility to:

- accept the risk associated with not implementing IA recommendations (with supporting rationale); or
- agree to address the risks identified by adopting an alternative approach to that recommended by IA; or
- accept and fully implement all IA recommendations.

When a draft audit report is delivered, management are required to provide formal responses (agreed management actions) to all IA findings raised and supporting recommendations, including specifying responsibility and anticipated dates for the implementation of these actions, in line with timeframes specified in the KPIs included at Appendix 3.

Management is also responsible for the ensuring that agreed management actions are implemented and effectively sustained.

PSIAS also require the CIA to report to both CLT and GRBV information about management's response to risk that (based on the CIA's judgement) may be unacceptable to the Council. Consequently, any High and Medium rated IA findings where management has accepted the risk will be highlighted in IA GRBV reports.

11. Follow up

IA will follow up and report progress with implementation of agreed management actions to support closure of findings raised on a regular basis and seek to confirm that they have been undertaken within agreed timescales.

IA does not currently apply a 'risk based' follow up approach based on the need to further improve risk and control awareness and embed the risk and control culture across the Council. Consequently, all agreed management actions will be subject to review by IA to confirm that they have been effectively implemented prior to closure. This approach will be reconsidered annually.

The follow up process involves review of evidence provided by management to support implementation of agreed management actions, and reperformance testing to confirm that they have been effectively implemented and sustained.

Additionally, IA may opt to include a 'validation' audit in the annual plan that will challenge and confirm whether historic management actions implemented to address control gaps and mitigate risks have been appropriately sustained and embedded.

12. Reporting

The CIA is also professionally responsible and accountable to GRBV for IA performance, and reports regularly on the progress with, and results of its work to both the CLT and the GRBV, enabling review and scrutiny of the following areas as required by PSIAS:

Report	CLT	GRBV
1. IA Annual Charter	annually	annually
2. IA annual audit plan, including IA capacity and resourcing	annually	annually
3. Plan delivery progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> including achievement of IA and management KPIs) audit outcomes management's acceptance of risk 	quarterly	quarterly
4. Proposed changes to the IA annual plan	as required	as required
5. Open and overdue IA findings and management actions	monthly	Quarterly
6. Annual opinion including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IA independence 	annually	annually

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conformance with Code of Ethics; • conformance with PSIAS and the CIPFA statement 		
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13. Internal Audit Annual Opinion

The PSIAS specify that the CIA must deliver an annual IA opinion and report that can be used by the organisation to inform its annual governance statement.

This opinion is based on the outcomes of the audits included in the annual plan; progress with implementation of agreed management actions to support closure of IA findings; the result of any other IA activities that have identified control gaps that are exposing the Council to risk; and the professional judgement of the CIA

PSIAS specify that the IA annual opinion must:

- conclude on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's framework of governance, risk management and control; and
- include a statement on conformance with the PSIAS and the results of the quality assurance and improvement programme.

The annual opinion will also include a statement that confirms whether both IA and management have met their collective responsibilities as specified in the CIPFA Statement published in April 2019.

Details of the definitions applied by IA when preparing the annual opinion have been refreshed and are included at Appendix 4.

14. Fraud and Corruption

Management are responsible for the prevention and detection of fraud or corruption. IA will assist management in the discharge of this responsibility.

Audit procedures alone cannot guarantee that all fraud or corruption will be detected. IA will however exercise an appropriate level of professional skepticism during audit field work and be alert to risks and exposures that could allow fraud or corruption to occur.

Discovery of any fraud or irregularity that affects the Council's affairs should be reported immediately to the CIA as specified within the Council's Fraud Prevention Policies, Anti-Bribery Policies, and the Employee Code of Conduct, to inform the annual audit opinion and the risk based plan.

15. Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme

IA will maintain a quality assurance and improvement programme that covers all aspects of IA activity. The programme will include an evaluation of IA's compliance with PSIAS and CIPFA statement requirements, and an evaluation of whether internal auditors apply the Code of Ethics. The programme will also assess the efficiency and effectiveness of IA and identifies opportunities for improvement.

The CIA is also responsible also for providing a periodic self-assessment of IA, as regards its consistency with the Audit Charter (purpose, authority, and responsibility) and performance relative to its Plan.

The CIA will communicate to the CLT and the GRBV on IA's quality assurance and improvement programme, including results of ongoing internal assessments and external assessments conducted at least every five years.

16. Approval

This charter is subject to approval by the Chief Executive Officer and the Governance, Risk, and Best Value Committee on an annual basis.

Signed by:

Chief Internal Auditor

Chief Executive, The City of Edinburgh Council

Convener of the Governance, Risk, and Best Value Committee, The City of Edinburgh Council

Content approved by the Governance, Risk, and Best Value Committee

Appendix 1 - External bodies for which the City of Edinburgh Council Internal Audit performs internal audit work

- Edinburgh Integration Joint Board
- Lothian Valuation Joint Board
- South East of Scotland Transport Partnership
- The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (Charities) Limited

Appendix 2 - Process for approving changes to the Internal Audit annual plan

[Item 7.9 Proposed processes for approving changes to the internal audit plan](#)

Appendix 3 - Internal Audit Annual Opinion Definitions

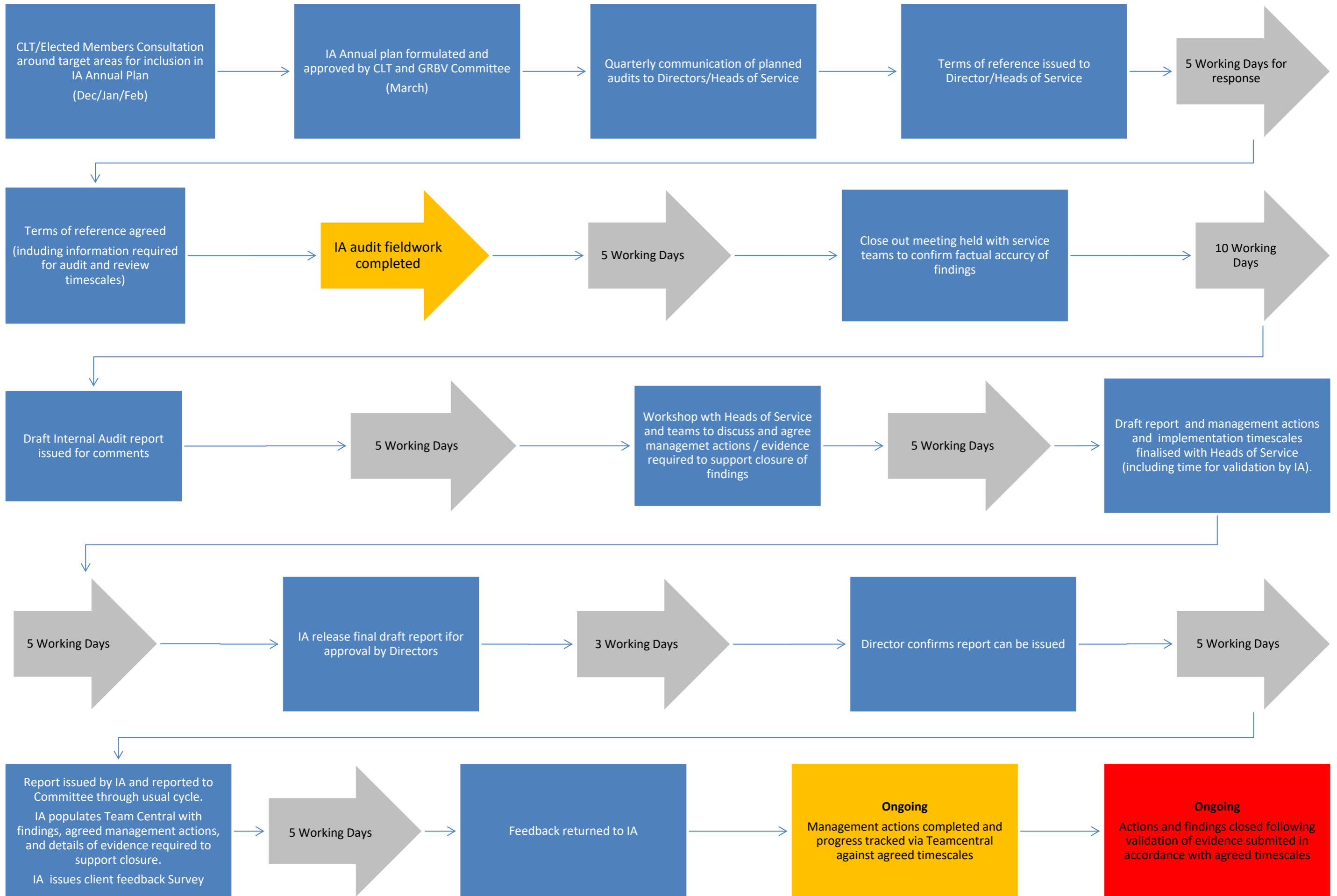
The PSIAS require the provision of an annual Internal Audit opinion, but do not provide any methodology or guidance detailing how the opinion should be defined.

Professional judgement is exercised in determining the appropriate opinion, and it should be noted that in giving an opinion, assurance provided can never be absolute.

We will apply the approach set out below to support our assessment of the annual opinion for the City of Edinburgh Council with effect from 1 April 2019. This involves an assessment against 4 possible opinion types:

<p>1 Effective</p> <p><i>The control environment and governance and risk management frameworks have been adequately designed and are operating effectively, providing assurance that risks are being effectively managed and the Council's objectives should be achieved.</i></p>	<p>2 Some improvement required</p> <p><i>Whilst some control weaknesses were identified, in the design and / or effectiveness of the control environment and / or governance and risk management frameworks, they provide reasonable assurance that risks are being managed, and the Council's objectives should be achieved.</i></p>
<p>3 Significant improvement required</p> <p><i>Significant and / or numerous control weaknesses were identified, in the design and / or effectiveness of the control environment and / or governance and risk management frameworks. Consequently, only limited assurance can be provided that risks are being managed and that the Council's objectives should be achieved.</i></p>	<p>4. Inadequate</p> <p><i>The design and / or operating effectiveness of the control environment and / or governance and risk management frameworks is inadequate, with a number of significant and systemic control weaknesses identified, resulting in substantial risk of operational failure and the strong likelihood that the Council's objectives will not be achieved.</i></p>

Internal Audit Process and Key Performance Indicators



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Leadership Advisory Panel

10.00am, Tuesday, 31 March 2020

Administering Authority Discretions Policy

1. Recommendations

The Leadership Advisory Panel is requested to:

- 1.1 approve the draft revised Administering Authority discretions policy;
- 1.2 note that LPF intends to consult with employers on the revised Pensions Administration Strategy; and
- 1.3 approve the draft revised Pensions Administration Strategy, subject to any further amendment arising from the forthcoming employer consultation being reported to the Panel or Pensions Committee, as appropriate, at its next meeting.

Stephen S. Moir

Executive Director of Resources

Contact: Erin Savage, Pensions Operations & Development Manager, Lothian Pension Fund

E-mail: erin.savage@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 4660

Administering Authority – Discretions Policy

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Lothian Pension Funds' (LPF) Administering Authority discretions policy has been reviewed to update regulatory references following the introduction of the new Local Government Pension Scheme from 1 June 2018. In addition, further changes have been made following customer feedback and to incorporate good practice.

3. Background

Administering Authority Discretions Policy

- 3.1 The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) allows for certain decisions to be made by the administering authority, mainly in relation to operational matters. The current Administering Authority discretions policy was approved by the Pensions Committee in December 2016.
- 3.2 The draft revised discretions policy is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

4. Main Report

Administering Authority Discretions Policy

- 4.1 The Policy has been updated in four key areas:

Updates due to regulatory changes

- 4.2 References to the Scheme Regulations have been updated to reflect the introduction of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) 2018. In addition, Regulation 78 (Payments for persons incapable of managing their affairs) now includes wording clarifying the definition of incapacity – within the meaning of section 1 of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000. Reference to this legislation means that the Fund is no longer required to exercise discretion on whether to pay the person's benefits to another person. As such, a previous discretion has been deleted.
- 4.3 Discretion 32 has been amended to reflect a change of numbering in the Regulations.

Early payment of pensions where the former employer has ceased to be a scheme employer

- 4.4 Wording has been amended to clarify that this discretion applies only to members with deferred benefits who left the Scheme prior to 1 April 2009. Such members

have transitional protection to access benefits between age 50 and 55, however any payments would give rise to a tax charge. As such, payment would require employer consent, or where the former employer has ceased to be a scheme employer, the consent of the administering authority. LPF's general policy is not to grant early payment in these circumstances.

Payment of small pensions

- 4.5 Following customer feedback and as previously agreed by Committee, discretion 43 has been updated to state that while LPF's general policy is to commute small pensions in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 2004, where a member requests otherwise, then a small pension will be paid instead.

Elections to make additional pension contributions (APCs) by lump sums

- 4.6 A new discretion (53) has been added to reduce the risk of money laundering in cases where a member elects to make APCs by lump sum. In cases where lump sum payments are made, the member will be required to complete a source of funds check. If the information provided raises suspicion of money laundering, LPF will refuse the APC application and a suspicious activity report will be submitted to the National Crime Agency.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 There is no direct financial impact aside from potential recovery of costs in the event of employer failure to provide specified information within required timescales.

6. Stakeholder/Regulatory Impact

- 6.1 The Pension Board, comprising employer and member representatives, is integral to the governance of the fund and they are invited to comment on the relevant matters at Committee meetings.
- 6.2 There are no adverse health and safety, governance, compliance or regulatory implications as a result of this report.

7. Background reading/external references

- 7.1 None.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Revised LPF Discretions Policy

Lothian Pension Fund

Pensions Discretions Policy



Appendix 1

This is the Pensions Discretions Policy of the Lothian Pension Fund (“the Fund”). It is prepared and maintained by the LPF group which administers the Fund. This statement was agreed by the Pensions Committee on 25 March 2020.

Lothian Pension Fund’s policy where discretion is applicable is shown in the table below. Where further discretion is required, officers’ overriding priority will be to act in the best the interests of the Fund by taking into account advice (where applicable) and rulings on similar cases from the Pensions Ombudsman.

	Local Government Pension Scheme Administering Authority Discretions/Decisions	Current Policy
1	Whether to agree to an admission agreement with a body applying to be an admission body.	Funding Strategy Statement
2	Agree terms of admission agreement	
3	Whether to agree to an admission agreement with a NHS Scheme employing authority.	
4	Whether to terminate a transferee admission agreement in the event of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • insolvency, winding up or liquidation of the body; • breach of its obligations under the admission agreement; • withdrawal of approval by HMRC to participate in the scheme; and • failure to pay over sums due to the Fund within a reasonable period of being requested to do so. 	
5	Agree method for paying additional pension with employer	
6	Whether to set up a separate admission agreement fund.	
7	Decide on Funding Strategy for inclusion in funding strategy statement for approval by Pensions Committee.	
8	Whether to obtain revision of employer’s contribution rate on termination of an admission agreement where underfunding not met by insurer, bond or indemnity.	
9	Whether to obtain revision of employer’s contribution rate if there are circumstances which make it likely a Scheme employer will become an exiting employer	

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Lothian Pension Fund Administering Authority Discretions Policy

10	Whether any strain on Fund costs be paid up front by employing authorities following redundancy, early retirement, flexible retirement, or the waiver (in whole or in part) of any actuarial reduction on flexible or discretionary retirement.	
11	Agree to bulk transfer payment	
12	<p>Governance compliance statement must state whether the administering authority delegates their function or part of their function in relation to maintaining a pension fund to a committee, a sub committee or an officer of the administering authority and if they do so delegate, state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the frequency of any committee or sub committee meetings • the terms of reference, structure and operational procedures appertaining to the delegation • whether representatives of employing authorities or members are included and, if so whether they have voting rights <p>The statement must also state</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the extent to which a delegation, or the absence of a delegation, complies with guidance from Scottish Ministers and the extent it does not comply, state the reasons for non-compliance and • the terms, structure and operational procedures appertaining to the local Pensions Board 	Annual Governance Compliance Statement
13	Decide frequency of payments to be made over to the Fund by employers and whether to make an administration charge.	Pensions Administration Strategy
14	Decide form and frequency of information to accompany payments to the Fund.	
15	Recover additional costs arising from employing authority's level of performance.	
16	Whether to charge interest on payments by employers which are overdue.	
17	Whether the Fund should appeal against employer decision (or lack of decision).	
18	Specify information to be supplied by employers to enable administration. Authority to discharge its functions.	
19	Whether to have a written pensions administration strategy and if so the matters it should include.	

Lothian Pension Fund Administering Authority Discretions Policy



20	A pension account may be kept in such form as the administering authority considers appropriate	Lothian Pension Fund will decide the form in which pension accounts are kept based on any published advice or best practice and in the most efficient manner that can be devised.
21	Decide, in the absence of an election from the member within 12 months of ceasing a concurrent employment, which ongoing employment benefits from the concurrent employment which has ceased should be aggregated (where there is more than one ongoing employment).	If no option is received Lothian Pension Fund will aggregate the terminated concurrent employment to the active account that is most beneficial to the member.
22	Whether to obtain a satisfactory medical certificate before agreeing to an application to pay Additional Pension Contributions (APCs) or Shared Cost Additional Pension Contributions (SCAPCs).	Members will be required to produce medical evidence in support of an application to purchase additional pension, unless SCAPCs are being paid in respect of lost pension due to short-term absence such as career break, child-related leave or reserve forces leave. Where that evidence incurs costs, these will be met by the member.
23	Whether to accept an application to pay an APC/SCAPC if not satisfied that the member is in reasonably good health.	Where satisfactory medical evidence cannot be obtained in support of the member's application, the request will not be granted.
24	Whether to turn down a request to pay APCs or SCAPCs over a period of time where it would be impractical to allow such a request.	In view of the administration costs involved for both the Fund and the employer, requests to pay APCs or SCAPCs over a period of time to make up lost pension for an absence of less than 10 working days will be refused. Members will still be able to proceed but will be required to make APCs or SCAPCs as a lump sum payment.

Lothian Pension Fund Administering Authority Discretions Policy



25	Whether to charge a member for provision of estimate of additional pension that would be provided by the scheme in return for transfer of in-house AVC funds.	Member is entitled to one free estimate within a 12-month period. If a further estimate is to be provided within a 12-month period, then a charge will be made.
26	Whether to extend the 3-month election period that allows a member on leaving employment (by reasons of redundancy) to capitalise their added years contract.	Lothian Pension Fund will not extend the election time period of three months for capitalisation except where a member was not made aware of this right.
27	Make an election on behalf of deceased member with a certificate of protection of pension benefits.	Lothian Pension Fund will determine the pay figure and make an election on behalf of a deceased person.
28	Allow extension of period within which a scheme member must submit election for benefits or alter the date from which they elect to have pension paid.	Members may make an election for payment of benefits up to three months before their intended retirement date.
29	<p>Can pay death grant due to personal representatives or anyone appearing to be beneficially entitled to the estate without the need for confirmation, grant of probate/letters of administration.</p> <p>Decide to whom a death grant is paid.</p>	<p>As required Lothian Pension Fund will use its absolute discretion in accordance with the regulations and in the first instance consider the member's expression of wish form. Where no valid nomination exists or is considered inappropriate, before deciding to whom the death grant should be paid the fund will gather background information including any valid will. Where a will has been made consideration will be given to the deceased's wishes. Where no valid will exists, payment may be made to obvious beneficiaries i.e. spouse, children, dependant, relative, executors or any other person who makes a valid claim. In cases where a number of potential beneficiaries exist, dependency and intestate law will be considered as a guide to determining claims</p>

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Lothian Pension Fund Administering Authority Discretions Policy



30	Decide to whom any Additional Voluntary Contributions or Shared Cost Additional Pension Contributions monies (including life assurance monies) are to be paid on the death of the member.	Lothian Pension Fund will decide, based on the circumstances of the individual case, who should receive payment of the member's monies, having full regard for the fact that they must be applied for the benefit of the member's nominee, personal representative or any person appearing to have been a relative or dependent of the member.
31	Approve medical advisors used by employers (for ill-health retirement)	Lothian Pension Fund approves and maintains a list of medical advisors.
32	Whether to extend six-month period to lodge a stage 1 Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure appeal.	The "appointed person", as nominated by Lothian Pension Fund in accordance with Scheme Regulation 69(7)(b), under its Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure, may extend the time limit depending on the merits of the case.
33	Date to which benefits shown on annual benefit statements are calculated.	Benefit statements will show benefits calculated as at 31 March for active members. Deferred and pension credit members will show benefits calculated to the most recent pension increase date.
34	Decide policy on abatement of pensions following re-employment.	Lothian Pension Fund will not abate pensions of pensioner members on re-employment (This excludes the abatement of Compensation Pensions where no such discretion exists).
35	Allow transfer of pension rights into the Fund	Transfer in of previous pension rights is restricted to Public Sector Transfer Club (PSTC). Applications must be made within twelve months of joining the pension scheme.

Lothian Pension Fund

Administering Authority Discretions Policy



36	Decide whether deferred beneficiary meets permanent ill-health criteria	Lothian Pension Fund will pay early payment of deferred on health grounds subject to ill-health medical certification.
37	For pre 1 April 2009 deferred members, decide whether to allow access to deferred benefits on compassionate grounds between age 50 and 55, where the former employer has ceased to be a scheme employer.	Lothian Pension Fund will not grant early payment of benefits between age 50 and 55 unless there are exceptional extenuating circumstances.
38	Decide evidence required to determine financial dependence of co-habiting partner on scheme member or financial interdependence of co-habiting partner and scheme member	Lothian Pension Fund will require at least one of the following types of evidence from at least two years prior to the date of death: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joint tenancy agreement/mortgage statement 2. Council tax charges 3. Joint bank account that shows regular utility payments i.e. rent, mortgage, shopping etc 4. Utility bills
39	Decide to treat a child who commences full-time education or vocational training after the date of the member's death as an eligible child after the child attains age 18 until age 23.	At the time of a member's death, a child over age 17 who is in full-time education not having had a break of over one year will be treated as an eligible child.
40	Decide to treat child as being in continuous education or training despite a break.	A break of one year will be disregarded so long as there is a clear intention to return to education or training following the break.
41	Decide to suspend child's pension during a break in education or training.	Lothian Pension Fund will suspend a child's pension during a break in education or training.
42	Decide to treat a child who is disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010 as being an eligible child.	Lothian Pension Fund will rely on medical certification. Where that evidence incurs costs, these will be met by the child's guardian.

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Lothian Pension Fund
Administering Authority Discretions Policy



43	Decide whether to commute a small pension.	While Lothian Pension Fund's general policy is to commute small pensions in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 2004, should a member not wish such and request otherwise, then a small pension will be paid.
44	For members <i>subject to the provisions of earlier regulations</i> , decide whether to commute pension on grounds of serious ill-health	Subject to the member's wishes and medical certification that life expectancy is less than one year, Lothian Pension Fund will commute pension on grounds of serious ill-health.
45	Decide, in the absence of an election from the member, which benefit is to be paid where the member would be entitled under 2 or more regulations in respect of the same period of membership	Lothian Pension Fund will award the benefit that produces the best benefit for the scheme member.
46	Decide valuation day for pension sharing order	The valuation day for pension sharing orders shall be the date of divorce. The implementation date for the pension sharing order will be the last day of the four-month implementation period from the date of decree.
47	How to discharge Pension Credit liability	Lothian Pension Fund will discharge pension credit liabilities by conferring appropriate rights under the Scheme on the ex-spouse or ex-civil partner. The ex-spouse or ex-civil partner may request a transfer of pension rights to another qualifying arrangement.
48	Decide charges to be levied in Pension Sharing cases	Charges are set with reference to the National Association of Pension Funds schedule of charges and are increased in line with the cost of living each year.

Lothian Pension Fund Administering Authority Discretions Policy



49	Agree to pay annual compensation on behalf of employer and recharge payments to employer	Lothian Pension Fund on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council pays compensation on behalf of employers and recharges payments to the employer, subject to any future reviews of the process.
50	Extend the time limit for repayment of a previous refund (16/5/74 to 05/04/1978)	Lothian Pension Fund will extend the time limit indefinitely.
51	Intervals at which instalments of annual compensation are payable (may agree different to LGPS pension date)	Lothian Pension Fund on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council pays annual compensation in line with the LGPS pension date i.e. in arrears on the 15 th of each month, subject to any future reviews of the process.
Other Discretions (not covered under the provisions of the LGPS)		
52	For upheld complaints, consider any financial awards in line with Lothian Pension Fund's Policy relating to compensation for distress or inconvenience.	When considering financial awards, consideration will be given to the levels of compensation awarded by the Pensions Ombudsman for similar cases.
53	Where a member elects to make Additional Pension Contributions (APCs) by lump sum; take steps to reduce risk of money laundering	Lothian Pension Fund will require members to complete a source of funds check in cases where a member elects to make a lump sum APC. If the information provided raises suspicion of money laundering, the application will be refused and a Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) will be submitted to the National Crime Agency

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Leadership Advisory Panel

10.00am, Tuesday, 31 March 2020

Lothian Pension Fund – Administration Strategy

1. Recommendations

The Leadership Advisory Panel is recommended to:

- 1.1 approve the draft revised Pensions Administration Strategy, subject to any further amendment arising from the forthcoming employer consultation being reported to the Committee at its next meeting.

Stephen S. Moir
Executive Director of Resources

Contact: Erin Savage, Pensions Operations & Development Manager, Lothian Pension Fund

E-mail: erin.savage@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 4660

Policies and Strategies

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Lothian Pension Funds' Pensions Administration Strategy (PAS) has been reviewed to allow LPF to charge employers for consistently poor provision of information regarding members leaving and retiring. In addition, an amendment has been made to require admitted employers to sign revised admission agreements where appropriate.
- 2.2 As required under the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations, a consultation exercise will be carried out with LFP's employers following Committee.

3. Background

Pensions Administration Strategy

- 3.1 Following the introduction of the relevant provisions into the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) (Scotland) Regulations 2008, LPF adopted a Pensions Administration Strategy (PAS) effective from 1 April 2010. This was developed in order to:
- deliver a high-quality pension service to Scheme members; and
 - continually develop and improve efficient working arrangements.
- 3.2 The PAS sets out the standards for pension administration against which the fund's performance is assessed. Performance results are reported to employers by way of an annual performance report, with more frequent information provided to larger employers.
- 3.3 The fund is required to keep the PAS under review and consult with employers when making any changes.

4. Main Report

Pensions Administration Strategy

Employer Performance

- 4.1 LPF continues to regularly monitor employer performance against the standards set out in the strategy. These standards were set in consultation with employers in order to:
- comply with over-riding disclosure legislation; and

- deliver a high-quality service to scheme members

4.2 The strategy sets out timescales for provision of information at key points of the member lifecycle as shown below:

Process	Information required	Timescale
Retirement	Completed retiral form and where appropriate also upload: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • signed letter authorising early payment of benefits completed by authorised signatory • previous year's pay information via spreadsheet found on Go Anywhere (if a certificate of protection is held) 	At least 20 working days before the member's date of leaving.
Ill Health Retirement	Completed retiral form and signed ill-health certificate completed by approved IRMP	No later than 5 working days after the member's date of leaving
Early leaver <i>(where the member is age 55 or over please process as a retirement)</i>	Completed early leaver form or cancellation of membership form as appropriate and also upload previous year's pay information if a certificate of protection is held	No later than 20 working days after the member's date of leaving
Death in Service	Completed death in service form and upload a certified copy of death certificate if available	No later than 10 working days after the member's date of death
Queries raised/further information requested by the Fund in dealing with a member's retirement	Any further information as required should be provided using the online secure message form.	No later than 5 working days after request for information has been sent to the employer
Any other queries (except those relating to year end)	Any further information as required, using the online secure message form or other online forms or uploaded documents as applicable.	No later than 10 working days after the query has been sent to the employer

4.3 Performance reports are provided to all employers on an annual basis, with quarterly reporting to the four Councils who provide the greatest volume of data.

- 4.4 Since the strategy was introduced, provision of early leaver and retiral data continues to be well below the expected standard. LPF officers have taken a variety of approaches to improve performance. These have included providing training to payroll/HR staff, presenting performance updates at employer seminars and user groups escalating to senior officers at annual meetings as well as more frequent meetings and monitoring where performance has been particularly poor.
- 4.5 Despite this engagement, provision of information relating to retirements and early leavers continues to be poor, as shown below:

	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020*
Case type	% within target	% within target	% within target
Early leaver	43%	47%	42%
Retirement	41%	39%	38%

**for period 1 April 2019 – 31 December 2019*

This continued poor level of performance has a direct impact on the service the fund provides to members. It is clear such poor performance cannot be perpetuated.

- 4.6 To improve the service to members, therefore, it is proposed that Section 8.2 (Circumstances where indirect costs can be recovered from employers) is amended to add an additional instance where employers may be charged for poor performance.
- 4.7 It is proposed therefore to add the following wording to Section 8.2:

Failure to meet timescales for provision of early leaver information.	Failure to achieve performance level of 75% in target, a £250 charge plus £50 per case out of target. Charges to be levied on an annual basis at LPF's discretion.
Failure to meet timescales for provision of retirement information.	Failure to achieve performance level of 75% in target, a £250 charge plus £50 per case out of target. Charges to be levied on an annual basis at LPF's discretion.

- 4.8 Any charges levied will be communicated in the annual employer performance report. Meetings will be arranged to discuss steps to be taken to ensure improvements. The performance level of 75% will be kept under review: ultimately the desired level of performance is 100% of cases in target.

Admission Agreements

- 4.9 It is also proposed to amend Section 2 (Responsibilities) of Appendix A of the Administration Strategy, the role and responsibilities of the Employer. The following wording will be added under 'General Administration':

'Admitted employers are participating in the Fund by means of an admission agreement. The Fund will keep these agreements under review. To ensure compliance with current legislation and to ensure that the agreements reflect any changes in the employer's name or structure a revised agreement will be issued. The employer is responsible for signing any such revised agreements to maintain membership of the Fund.'

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 There is no direct financial impact aside from potential recovery of costs in the event of employer failure to provide specified information within required timescales.

6. Stakeholder/Regulatory Impact

- 6.1 The Pension Board, comprising employer and member representatives, is integral to the governance of the fund and they will be invited to comment on the relevant matters through virtual engagement.
- 6.2 There are no adverse health and safety, governance, compliance or regulatory implications as a result of this report.

7. Background reading/external references

- 7.1 None.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 None.

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Leadership Advisory Panel

10.00am, Tuesday, 31 March 2020

Temporary Changes to Contract Standing Orders

Item Number	
Executive/Routine	Executive
Wards	All
Council Commitments	2, 3 and 7

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Leadership Advisory Panel approves the following:
- 1.2 The immediate adoption of the proposed temporary amendments to the Contract Standing Orders, as set out in paragraph 4.9 of this report; and,
- 1.3 delegate authority to the Chief Executive to suspend or vary these amendments as and when appropriate to do so to enable the operational effectiveness of the Council during the Covid-19 situation.

Stephen S. Moir

Executive Director of Resources

Iain Strachan, Chief Procurement Officer,

Finance Division, Resources Directorate

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Temporary Amendments to Contract Standing Orders

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Council's Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) provide controls and regulation around all of the Council's purchasing and contract management activity. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, and its unprecedented impact on all aspects of Scottish life, and all operational activity of the Council, this report proposes certain temporary amendments to the CSOs. The proposed changes aim to provide a balance between improved controls and scrutiny of the higher value and more strategic projects at this challenging time, whilst enabling lower value purchases to be subject to a more proportionate purchasing and approval regime.

3. Background

- 3.1 The CSOs provide controls and regulation around all of the Council's purchasing and contract management activity, and place requirements on Directorates to effectively plan and contract manage the resulting contracts.
- 3.2 The CSOs were last reviewed by full Council on 27 June 2019, and link to that report is provided [here](#). The CSOs provide clear roles and responsibilities across the Council, and specific detail on the governance arrangements and approval that are required for contracts to be awarded.
- 3.2 These approval arrangements are set out by value thresholds linked to role, with the approval of the Finance and Resources Committee required for the award of contracts with a value of over £1m for supplies or services, over £2m for works and over £50,000 for consultants. It is noted that the Committee is currently in an extended recess period.
- 3.3 The Council's Commercial and Procurement Service (CPS) supports all procurement and contract management activity across the Council, to ensure the Council's purchasing requirements are met, and the associated internal and external regulatory controls complied with, including the CSOs.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The current COVID-19 outbreak is having an unprecedented impact on all aspects of Scottish life, and all operational activity of the Council. In particular, from a purchasing perspective, all service areas are having to urgently assess what their supply needs are, to enable the Council to deliver core services and deal with a rapidly changing situation. By way of context, the Council has a substantial level of spend with third parties, approximately £635m in 2018/19, this being across a wide range of goods, works and services
- 4.2 COVID-19 is also having a huge global impact, and on 11 March 2020 the World Health Organisation declared the outbreak as a pandemic. This impact is felt not only in public health terms, but also financially, affecting all economies and their financial markets. Collectively, this gives rise to a number of key risks to the Council's supply chain:
- A risk that key suppliers will be unable to fulfil contractual commitments, and deliver what the Council was expecting, be it goods, works or services, which might also in part be due to uncertainties in their own supply chains;
 - A risk that suppliers might seek to invoke “force majeure” clauses, given the nature of the outbreak, and their inability to meet contractual commitments, or only feel able to do so on revised commercial terms;
 - Linked to the above, a risk that key suppliers will have difficulty even continuing to trade; and,
 - A risk that Council officers will be unable to actively manage the delivery and performance of key contracts, at a time when the Council's own workforce is dealing with a number of new and competing demands.
- 4.3 With the rapidly changing environment the Council is now operating within, there is now a need to make urgent purchases that were not previously envisaged. This, together with the wider impact of the outbreak on the Council, its service users and its partners, will result in significant expenditure that the Council was not previously anticipating.
- 4.4 In addition, given the impact of the outbreak, it is likely that a number of ongoing procurement exercises will need to be reviewed, to re-assess timescales and the underlying need for the goods/works/services in question. This will, in turn, likely result in a need for the Council to consider extending or varying existing contracts, which might otherwise have shortly expired.
- 4.5 The CSOs already provide an established method by which the Council can depart from (or waive) its normal procedures for awarding contracts, after having assessed relevant considerations, including the need to secure Best Value. It is expected that the Council will likely need to make increased use of this waiver process in the coming months, and in doing so the Council will have a documented audit trail, with awards being retrospectively reported to Committee. Such waivers will continue to be subject to appropriate scrutiny by Executive Directors.

- 4.6 On 20 March the Scottish Government also issued a guidance note on the application of the procurement regulations during the COVID-19 outbreak, a link to which is included [here](#). Similar guidance was also issued by the Cabinet Office on 18 March, a link to which is included [here](#).
- 4.7 It is to be noted that for regulated procurements (i.e. the purchase of goods and services above £50,000 and works above £2m) Section 33(1)(c) of [The Public Contracts \(Scotland\) Regulations 2015](#) (the 2015 Regulations) enables the direct awards of contracts, without any form of competition, “where (but only if it is strictly necessary) for reasons of extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseen by the contracting authority the time limits for [normal competitive regulated procurement procedures] cannot be complied with”. This legislative exemption can only be applied where the circumstances invoked to justify it are not attributable to the Council. However, it is clearly applicable to the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak and provides a clear legislative justification for direct awards in particular circumstances, subject to the normal considerations, including the need to secure Best Value. The 2015 Regulations contain other provisions that might also assist the Council in ensuring contracts are awarded in a compliant manner during this period of uncertainty.
- 4.8 Given the above, the Council is actively engaging with key suppliers to seek to mitigate the supply chain risk associated with the COVID-19 outbreak. In addition, and in particular to ensure there is senior officer oversight for all material contracting decisions at this time, and a suitable decision-making audit trail, it is also recommended that the Council apply new procedures, effective immediately, in relation to the award of new contracts or variation of existing contracts.
- 4.9 Specifically, it is proposed that the CSOs are temporarily amended, to provide that no new major contractual commitments (which would include proposed contract extensions/variations as well as call-offs under existing Council or National Framework Agreements and the use of Consultants for Pre-Approved Council Projects, as defined in the CSOs) are to be entered into by the Council other than where the same have first been approved by the Chief Executive or the relevant Executive Director, and only following advice having been taken from the Head of Legal and Risk and the Chief Procurement Officer. In this context “major contractual commitments” would be those with a value of over £500,000 whether for supplies, services or works.
- 4.10 If approved, the CSOs would require to be construed in accordance with this report.
- 4.11 It is to be noted that the approval of the Finance and Resources Committee, or consultation with the Leadership Advisory Panel during this extended recess period, would still be required for the award of contracts with a value of over £1m for supplies or services, over £2m for works, over £50,000 for consultants and over £250,000 for a waiver of the CSOs.
- 4.12 The proposed changes are intended to be temporary, and it is also proposed that authority is delegated to the Chief Executive to suspend or vary such changes as and when he considers it necessary to do so.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If adopted, the changes to the CSOs will be cascaded to Council officers by publication on the Orb and internal communication.
- 5.2 A review of all current and planned procurement activity is being undertaken, the outcomes of this will be shared with senior officers to identify how this programme can best be revised to meet the Council's changing needs, and the requirements of the amended CSOs as proposed in this report.
- 5.3 Publishing rights for Council staff on Public Contracts Scotland will be suspended immediately for all staff other than in CPS, to enable a full review by CPS of all current tendering activity, to ensure it aligns to the above-mentioned review, and the requirements of the amended CSOs as proposed in this report.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There are no adverse financial impacts as a result of this report. By maintaining proportionate procurement and contract management controls, it is anticipated their impact will continue to support the delivery of needed Council purchasing, and appropriate financial controls.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The proposed revisions will have little or no impact on the community other than to improve outcomes and help ensure appropriate use of public funds at this time.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 None

9. Appendices

- 9.1 None.

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Leadership Advisory Panel

10.00am, Tuesday, 31 March 2020

Decisions taken under urgency provisions

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To note the decisions taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Lord Provost, under urgency provisions.

Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

Contact: Gavin King, Democracy, Governance and Resilience Senior Manager

E-mail: gavin.king@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 4239

Decisions taken under urgency provisions

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Details are provided of recent decisions taken under urgency provisions by the Chief Executive.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions contains a paragraph at A4.1 that allows in the event of a decision which would normally be made by the Council or a Committee and requires to be made urgently between meetings of the Council or Committee; the Chief Executive or appropriate Executive Director, in consultation with the Convener or Vice-Convener, to take a decision, subject to the matter being reported to the next meeting of the Council or Committee.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The Chief Executive has taken the following decisions, in consultation with the Lord Provost, in the previous week in response to Covid-19 and the disruption to normal Council business:
- 4.1.1 To agree to extend the recess period of the City of Edinburgh Council from Friday 20 March 2020 to Sunday 29 March 2020 inclusive and from Monday 20 April 2020 to Sunday 26 April 2020 inclusive.
 - 4.1.2 To agree to amend Standing Orders as follows:
 - 4.1.2.1 Add a new Standing Order 5.4 – ‘Present at a meeting will include accessing meetings remotely’.
 - 4.1.2.2 Add to end of Standing Order 17.2 – ‘If meetings are held remotely, due to the Covid-19 issue, and are unable to be webcast then all endeavours will be made to record these meetings and make them available to the public’.

5. Next Steps

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Financial impact

6.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

7.1 Not applicable.

8. Background reading/external references

8.1 [Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions](#)

8.2 [Procedural Standing Orders](#)

9. Appendices

To Follow

Appendix – Decisions taken by Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Depute Leader under Delegated Authority

Approved decisions	Date
WFH - Working from Home approach approved and communicated to all staff on 19/03	18/03/2020
Leadership Advisory Panel confirmed to make all urgent committee decisions. Membership includes Leader, Depute Leader and Conservative, Green and Lib Dem group leaders	18/03/2020
Decisions - Chief Executive has operational authority for all Covid-19 decisions in conjunction with Leader and Depute Leader.	18/03/2020
Building Closures - Decision taken to close <u>Usher Hall, Assembly Rooms, Churchill Theatre, Ross Bandstand and museums & galleries</u> until end-April	18/03/2020
Adult education classes suspended with immediate effect	18/03/2020
School Lets suspended with immediate effect.	18/03/2020
School will be closed for 2 weeks and we will provide payment for 2 week term + 2 week Easter break to families who are entitled (£11.25 per head).£45 per family.	19/03/2020
City Chambers partial closure	19/03/2020
Edinburgh Leisure venues to be closed at 10pm tonight	19/03/2020
City Chambers closed to the public and elected members working remotely from 5pm today	19/03/2020
Waverley Court - Closure of Waverley Court reception to the public from tomorrow	19/03/2020
Transport - Edinburgh Trams and Lothian buses announce reduced service (from Sun & Mon, respectively)	19/03/2020
Council tax. Agreement not to chase non-payment and also extend period of recovery	20/03/2020
Recycling - Glass recycling services suspended	20/03/2020
Libraries and Community centres closed	20/03/2020
Council Tax - Council tax payments to be deferred for three months for those struggling to pay	22/03/2020
CRC- Council Resilience Centres to be open Monday 23rd.	22/03/2020

Public Spaces – 3G pitches and Markets (licencing). Further discussion on beaches. Signage to be produce to encourage social distancing. ??	23/03/2020
Key Worker - Police to be changed to Cat 1 Key Worker	23/03/2020
Schools - 23 PPP schools (12 primary, 11 high-school) to open from Wednesday 25th for children of Key workers. Other identified children of key workers (who don't normally attend PPP schools) to attend from Friday – allowing preparations to be made for temporary change of school for these pupils	23/03/2020
Critical Response Centres - Four Critical Response Centres to remain open. Leith location being explored.	24/03/2020
Queensferry Primary to be used as a West of Edinburgh school.	24/03/2020
Pay & Display - Suspension of Pay and Display parking.	24/03/2020
Playparks closed.	24/03/2020
Recycling Centres closed	24/03/2020
Special Uplifts cancelled	24/03/2020
Parking - Beauty Spot car parks closed	24/03/2020
Parking - On-street car parking charging suspended across the city. Offer of support from NSL to redeploy their attendants to other Council services	24/03/2020
Registrars - In line with Scot Gov advice, birth registrations and weddings suspended – as have death registrations , which will move to system of remote registration once introduced nationally	24/03/2020
Building Sites - we are seeking clarity on the closure.	24/03/2020
Trams - Tram to Newhaven construction suspended – communications issued	25/03/2020

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City of Edinburgh Council Leadership Advisory Panel

Communities and Families Grants to Third Parties Programme – Extension of Awards for 2020-21

Item number
Executive/routine
Wards All
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Leadership Advisory Panel is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 Note that the Education Children and Families Committee agreed to extend current grant awards at its meeting on 3rd March.
 - 1.1.2 Note that this extension period will finish on 31st August 2020.
 - 1.1.3 Approve the transfer of award from Gorgie City Farm to Love Learning covering the extension period.

Alistair Gaw

Executive Director of Communities and Families

Contact: David Hoy, Commissioning Officer

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Communities and Families Grants to Third Parties Programme – Extension of Awards for 2020-21

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report contains details of the extension period for current awards as agreed by the Executive Director of Communities and Families, in consultation with the Convenor and Vice-Convenor and the reason for transferring an award to Love Learning.

3. Background

- 3.1 In March 2020 the Education, Children and Families Committee considered a report with award recommendations for a new Grant Programme. The Committee agreed to continue consideration of the report and to extend current grants awards. The motion agreed did not contain a date for these extensions.
- 3.2 In October 2019 Gorgie City Farm went into voluntary liquidation. Love Learning has taken on the site and is seeking the transfer of the remaining award to support activity on the farm.

4. Main report

Extension of awards

- 4.1 The new 3rd Party Grants Programme 2020-23 opened in September 2019 and invited applications from organisations clearly focused on delivering outcomes against one of five identified priorities linked to the Integrated Children's Service Plan. The programme closed for application on 22nd November 2019.
- 4.2 Assessment of applications was undertaken between December 2019 and February 2020 by officers from across Communities and Families. A report containing award recommendations was considered by the Education, Children and Families Committee on 3rd March 2020.
- 4.3 The committee agreed to continue to consider the report and set up a short life working group to consider a number of issues and prepare a further report for the

committee meeting in May. The motion agreed also contained an agreement to extend current awards however this did not stipulate the length of the extension.

- 4.4 In order for organisations to plan services and manage their finances, as well as for officers to send out extension letters and funding agreement to recipient organisations, it is necessary to get an agreed extension period.
- 4.5 Following discussion at the short life working group, the Executive Director of Communities and Families, in consultation with the Convenor and Vice-Convenor, with all-party support, agreed to extend current awards to 31st August 2020 as this gives a minimum of three months' notice to current award holders following any decision by committee in May.

Transfer of award

- 4.6 Gorgie City Farm notified the council in late October 2019 that it was going into voluntary liquidation. Officers have worked with the liquidator to identify a new organisation to take up the tenancy of the Gorgie Farm site and Love learning to occupation of the site in late January 2020.
- 4.7 Council agreed that the fourth quarter instalment of the grant to Gorgie City Farm could be used to facilitate the process of identifying a new bidder from the organisations who had expressed an interest and reopening Gorgie City Farm. Payments have been made to ensure that the liquidator had sufficient funding to pay the costs of keeping animals on site.
- 4.8 Love Learning as the new occupants are proposing to deliver similar activities to those delivered by Gorgie City Farm and it therefore proposed that the award is transferred to Love Learning for the period of the extension (1st April 2020 to 31st August 2020).

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Each grant recipient will be required to complete a funding agreement that details SMART targets to be achieved by the organisation within the funding period. The achievement of these targets will contribute to an identified Strategic Aim within the Integrated Children's Services Plan.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The value for the grant award extensions recommended in appendix 1 is £1,148,252 for the Main Grant Programme and £176,667 for the Youth Work Grant programme.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The funding of activity by third parties through grant aid contributes to the Council's delivery of its Equality Act 2010 duty to seek to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality and foster good relations.
- 7.2 The awarding of grants to third parties enables the Council to meet Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties as well as contributing to the city's Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 objectives

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [2020/23 Communities and Families Grants to Third Parties Programme Report March 2020](#)
- 8.2 [Approved Coalition Motion Grants to Third Party Organisations 2020-2023 3rd-March 2020](#)

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Award Extension Values

Extension of Communities & Families Grants to Third Parties 2020-21

MAIN GRANT AWARDS	VALUE
Broomhouse Centre	6,585
Children 1st - Edinburgh Supporting Families	36,356
CIRCLE - Haven/ISSEP	57,213
Citadel - Families Project	14,375
Citadel Youth Centre - Community Based Youth Work Service	30,833
Clan Childlaw	6,042
Bright Light Counselling	6,516
Craigmillar Books for Babies	3,819
Crossreach - Perinatal Depression Services Lothian	4,792
Dr Bells Family Centre - Community Creche	19,635
Dunedin Canmore - Youth Project	2,782
Edinburgh City Youth Café - 6VT Drop In Services	12,917
Edinburgh Women's Aid - CEDAR Project	16,690
EVOC (East Holiday Programme)	11,458
FABB Scotland	14,665
Family Mediation	13,854
Firsthand - Children with Disabilities Family Support	9,583
Firsthand - Early Years	27,891
Friends of the award	5,742
Love Learning (Award formally made to Gorgie City Farm)	45,506
Home Link - Volunteer	18,516
Home Start - Leith & North East Edinburgh	41,563
Home Start - West & South West	20,060
HOT - Alcohol Support/Emotional Health/Turn Around	57,610

Jack Kane Centre Comm Wing - 208 Youth State	28,150
Kindred	5,376
LGBT - Youth Scotland	11,472
Lothian Association of Youth Clubs	20,874
Lothian Autistic	13,750
Men in Childcare	13,397
Move On - Youth and Community Skills Programme	7,292
Muirhouse Youth Development Group	34,127
Multi-Cultural Family Base - Early Years' Service	25,978
Multi-Cultural Family Base (4 Corner)	11,398
One Parent Families Scotland - Lone Fathers	14,729
Pilmenny Development Project - Youth Work Services	13,441
Pilmenny Youth Centre	9,042
Pilton Community Health Project	9,716
Pilton Youth and Children's Project - Intensive Support	32,544
Place2be	19,412
Project Scotland	10,110
Rock Trust	6,875
Royal Zoological Society - Conservation Kids	13,749
Royston Wardieburn Community Centre - Breakfast Club	10,781
RUTS	4,780
Safe Families for Scotland - Edinburgh	13,750
Saheliya - Children in Mind	7,708
ScoreScotland	15,833
Sikh Sanjog	8,432
SLEEP Scotland	4,664
Smart Play Network - Play Plus Toy Library	4,214

Speech Language Communication Company	8,542
Stepping Stones (North East)	34,764
Strange Town	11,875
Sure Start Edinburgh	19,003
The Big Project	10,625
The Junction - Nested Provision	38,834
The Ripple	42,170
The Yard - Early Years	25,937
The Yard - Main	32,598
Venture Scotland - Journey 2 Change	13,417
Venture Trust - Inspiring Young Futures in Edinburgh	9,188
West Granton Community Trust - The Prentice Centre	18,333
Wester Hailes Youth Agency	14,288
WHALE	12,083
	1,148,252
YOUTH WORK AWARDS	
Canongate Youth	36,129
The BIG Project	2,139
Edinburgh City Youth Café	9,796
Citadel Youth Centre	39,596
Pilton Youth & Children's Project	40,058
West Hailes Youth Agency	20,877
ScoreScotland	14,005
WHALE Arts Agency	14,067
	176,667

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Leadership Advisory Panel

10.00am, Tuesday, 31 March 2020

Planning Contingency Measures

Executive/routine	
Wards	Citywide
Council Commitments	N/A

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Leadership Advisory Panel:
- 1.1.1 notes this report and approves the measures proposed in paragraphs 4.7 – 4.8.1 in relation to decisions normally taken by the Planning Committee and the Development Management Sub-Committee; and
 - 1.1.2 notes the intention to delegate authority to the Chief Planning Officer to make decisions in consultation with the Convenor and or Vice Convenor of Planning Committee and the Development Management Sub Committee.

Paul Lawrence
Executive Director of Place

Contact: David Givan, Planning and Building Standards Service Manager
E-mail: david.givan@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 3679

Planning Contingency Measures

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The situation with Coronavirus continues to develop by the day and we continue to follow the latest advice from the Scottish and UK Governments. This is an unprecedented time and our services will be severely tested.
- 2.2 In the interim it is necessary to consider emergency measures to ensure that the Council is able to meet its statutory obligations in relation to making planning decisions. This report outlines the option open to the Council to ensure smooth transitional period.

3. Background

Planning Committee and Development Management Sub-Committee

- 3.1 The Council acts as Planning Authority under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997.
- 3.2 Planning officials have the ability to progress a range of decisions through the Council's Scheme of Delegation and through what is known as the Statutory Scheme of Delegation.
- 3.3 In the main, delegated powers in respect of planning fall within the Council's overall Scheme of Delegation to officers set out in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 requires planning authorities to draw up a statutory scheme of delegation in respect of local developments. In planning terms, developments now fall within three categories – national developments, major developments and local developments. The statutory scheme in its current form was adopted by the Council, after the required referral to Scottish Ministers in 7 February 2019.
- 3.4 These schemes of delegation allow a range of decisions to be made by the Chief Planning Officer in respect of Planning Policy, Local Development Plan (LDP) Preparation, Planning applications and other applications associated with the planning system (such as listed building consent, advertisements, certificates of

lawful use or development, etc.), Planning Enforcement, Landscape (including trees), Planning Appeals, Legal Agreements, and other matters related to the planning system. Under these schemes of delegation, it is not possible to determine an application or make a planning decision under delegated authority if such a decision would be made the scheme of delegation.

- 3.5 While most decisions on applications are made under delegated authority, there are around 200 per annum which must be made at the Development Management Sub-Committee, because they sit outwith the scope of the Schemes of Delegation. Often this will be because of the numbers of representations in relation to the applications.
- 3.6 If these applications have to be put on hold until a committee decision is made, this could slow development in Edinburgh and reduce the city's resilience in its economy being able to recover from the Coronavirus measures.
- 3.7 Though the risk is relatively low, there is also potential that if applications are not determined within four months for major applications or two months for local applications, developers will exercise their right of appeal for non-determination.
- 3.8 The Planning Local Review Body is made up of Councillors to provide an independent review of decisions on planning applications. It is not possible to delegate its functions.
- 3.9 City of Edinburgh Council has taken the decision to cease committee meetings until, at least, the end of April 2020.
- 3.10 At present the Planning service is functioning, with staff working from home. The performance of the service is continuing to be monitored to ensure impacts from the Coronavirus measures and the Council's response to these are identified and taken account of.

4. Main report

- 4.1 In the coming weeks and possibly months a number of measures will be required to ensure that the Council and the Planning Service is able to maintain some level of business as usual.
- 4.2 It is proposed that, in this period, council officers will operate a risk-based approach and where possible all applications will be determined through delegated authority. Where decisions need to be taken in relation to Planning Policy, the Development Plan, Planning Enforcement, Landscape (including trees), Planning Appeals, Legal Agreements, and other matters related to the planning system it is similarly proposed that decisions will be taken under delegated authority.

- 4.3 It will not be possible to determine a range of applications submitted from 23 March because planning legislation requires a range publicity for them. Depending on the type of application such publicity includes:
- publication of a weekly list of applications submitted and decisions made;
 - advertisements;
 - site notices; and
 - neighbour notification via letters.
- 4.4 In addition, there is a requirement that application details are made available at the Council's principal office (Waverley Court) and public libraries.
- 4.5 Because of coronavirus measures, it is not possible for the publicity associated with applications to be properly carried out. As a result, it will not be possible to determine applications until these have been published, and any resulting representations considered accordingly. In relation to these matters, the Council has contacted the Scottish Government via Heads of Planning Scotland to suggest that these should be addressed by Government to ensure that application processing can continue. Where possible, the Planning Service will seek extension of time to applications to help avoid potential appeals for non-determination.
- 4.6 However, the Planning Service will continue to process planning and related applications which have already been submitted and have had necessary publicity carried out, and will, where possible, continue to make delegated decision on these.
- 4.7 A number of applications will, however, fall outwith the scope of the Schemes of Delegation. In addition, decisions may be needed on other matters such as Planning Policy, the Development Plan, Planning Enforcement, Landscape (including trees), Planning Appeals, Legal Agreements, and other matters related to the planning system. In these circumstances it is proposed to temporary change the Council Scheme of Delegation to Officers to allow the following:
- 4.7.1 "During the period of the where the Council's Leadership Advisory Panel is in operation as a result of Coronavirus measures, in relation to the Chief Planning Officer, the requirement for decisions to be made by Planning Committee or Development Management Sub-Committee shall not apply and instead, decisions which would otherwise be required to be made at either Committee shall be made by the Chief Planning Officer, in consultation with the Convener or Vice-Convener or both the Convener and Vice-Convener of either Committee (as appropriate), and subject any such decision having regard to the public interest and that decision being reported to the next meeting of the Planning Committee or Development Management Sub-Committee."

4.8 In relation to the Statutory Scheme of Delegation for Local Developments this matter is being pursued with Scottish Government. If it necessary to also change this scheme, approval for the following addition to the scheme is sought:

4.8.1 “During the period of the where the Council’s Leadership Advisory Panel is in operation as a result of Coronavirus measures, in relation to the Chief Planning Officer, the requirement for decisions to be made by the Development Management Sub-Committee shall not apply and instead, decisions which would otherwise be required to be at Committee shall be made by the Chief Planning Officer, in consultation with the Convener or Vice-Convener or both the Convener and Vice-Convener the Development Management Sub-Committee, and subject any such decision having regard to the public interest and that decision being reported to the next meeting of the Planning Committee or Development Management Sub-Committee.”

4.9 Such an approach would allow decisions, so far as practical, to continue to be made.

5. Next Steps

5.1 If these changes are accepted, decision making will be made in accordance with these amendments and subject to necessary approval by the Ministers in respect of the Statutory Scheme.

6. Financial impact

6.1 Many of the planning applications that normally require to be determined by Committee are for the largest developments in Edinburgh. These may be relatively at early stages of the design process and if planning decisions can be made as early as possible, it will allow developers to continue their work so that when the coronavirus measures reduce or end, development within the city can more readily continue. This approach therefore helps the resilience of the City’s economy.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

7.1 The contents and recommendations neither contribute to, nor detract from, the delivery of the three Public Sector Equality Duties.

7.2 The contents and recommendations described in the report do not deliver any outcomes relating to the ten areas of rights, nor do they enhance or infringe them.

7.3 There is no environmental impact arising from the contents of this report.

8. Background reading/external references

8.1 None.

9. Appendices

9.1 None.

Leadership Advisory Panel

10.00am, Tuesday, 31 March 2020

Licensing Contingency Measures

Executive/routine	
Wards	Citywide
Council Commitments	N/A

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. It is recommended that the Leadership Advisory Panel approves the measures proposed in paragraph 4.5 in relation to decisions normally taken by the Licensing Sub-Committee and agrees to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place to make decisions in consultation with the Convenor and or Vice Convenor of the Regulatory Committee.

Paul Lawrence
Executive Director of Place

Contact: Andrew Mitchell, Regulatory Services Manager
E-mail: andrew.mitchell@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 4042

Licensing Contingency Measures

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The situation with Coronavirus continues to develop by the day and the Council continues to follow the latest advice from the Scottish and UK Governments. This is an unprecedented time and services will be severely tested.
- 2.2 In the interim it is necessary to consider emergency measures to ensure that the Council is able to meet its statutory obligations in relation to the granting, renewing and issuing of licences. This report outlines the preferred approach to dealing with Licensing applications in the absence of Committee meetings.

3. Background

Licensing Sub-Committee

- 3.1 The Council acts as Licensing Authority for a range of legislation including the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 ('the 1982 Act') and the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').
- 3.2 Under the Council's Scheme of Delegation, Council officers currently have the ability to deal with non-contentious applications, including some which would otherwise be required to be made at committee level - where the application has attracted no objection or unresolved representation from a member of the public or the Chief Constable.
- 3.3 Where it is not practicable for an application to be considered at a scheduled meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee, there is a limited Scheme of Delegation afforded to Council officers subject to consultation with the Convener or Vice-Convener. This allows officers to grant, refuse or add conditions to applications in respect of temporary licences
- 3.4 The majority of civic licence applications under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 have a nine month determination period. House in Multiple Occupation ('HMO') licences have a one year determination period under the Housing Scotland (Act) 2006. Scope for continuation of applications is therefore limited. If a determination date is passed, the outcome is that a licence is granted by

operation of law. It is not recommended that these situations arise as to do so would cause further uncertainty to businesses.

- 3.5 City of Edinburgh Council has ceased all committee meetings until, at least, the end of April 2020. Additionally the staffing resource available to maintain normal services is expected to be limited as the Council will be focusing on maintaining critical services to vulnerable communities as a priority,

4. Main report

- 4.1 In the coming weeks and possibly months, a number of measures will be required to ensure that the Council and the Licensing Service are able to maintain some level of normal operation.
- 4.2 It is proposed that Council officers will take a risk-based approach to dealing with applications, and where possible all will be granted and renewed under delegated authority and the urgency provision within Standing Orders.

Licensing Sub Committee

- 4.3 The Licensing Service will continue to deal with and process renewal and variation applications from existing licence holders. New and temporary licence applications will continue to be accepted but, in the short term, will be held for processing at a future date. Applicants for new and temporary licences will be advised of this on receipt of their application. Applicants for temporary licences for events in the next two or three months will be given an opportunity to withdraw applications.
- 4.4 The vast majority of applications are for renewal, which are typically non-contentious. In the absence of objections or negative comments from consultees, under the current Scheme of Delegation, renewal applications can be granted by Council officers.
- 4.5 Applications which receive adverse comments or attract objections would normally be required to be heard by a committee. In these circumstances it is proposed to temporarily change the Scheme of Delegation to allow the following:
- 4.5.1 “During the period of time for which the Council’s Leadership Advisory Panel is in operation, the requirement for decisions to be made by the Licensing Sub Committee shall not apply. Instead, such decisions shall be made by the Executive Director of Place or appointed deputy, in consultation with the Convener or Vice-Convener and subject to any such decision having regard to the public interest. Such decisions will be reported to the next meeting of the Licensing Sub Committee”.
- 4.6 Consultees may be unable to respond to applications due to an inability to inspect or staffing shortages. As an interim measure it is proposed that a risk-based approach should be adopted. This approach would mean that, where it is not

possible to find resolution to identified issues, applications would be considered under the Scheme of Delegation proposed at paragraph 4.5 and either refused, or granted for a limited period of time, e.g. six months. This does not require an additional delegation.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Applications will continue to be dealt with as set out above at paragraphs 4.1 – 4.4.
- 5.2 Subject to approval of the proposed temporary change to the Scheme of Delegation, Council officers will begin to process applications as set out in paragraph 4.5. A record of these decisions will be retained and reported to the next Committee meeting.
- 5.3 In assessing all applications a number of risk and mitigation factors will need to be addressed whilst implementing the decision.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The Council acts as Licensing Authority for a range of legislation including the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 and the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. The Council's activities as a Licensing Authority are funded directly by income raised from licence application fees. The fees currently charged are approved by full Council as part of the budget process, albeit there a small number of the fees which are not set by the Council as these are fixed or capped by legislation. The fees are designed to fully cost recover the costs of the service. The provision of licensing services is not directly funded from the general revenue fund of the Council. Income in relation to taxi and Private Hire Car licences and separately HMOs is ringfenced, and any surplus is maintained separately. Income from all other types of licence is not ringfenced and any surplus which exists at the end of the financial year is included within the Council's end of year accounts.
- 6.2 Budget considerations for the coming year have already been agreed and built into the financial model for 2020. Any costs from implementing policy changes would have to be contained within the current ring-fenced income generated from licensing fees.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The contents and recommendations in this report neither contribute to, nor detract from, the delivery of the three Public Sector Equality Duties.
- 7.2 The contents and recommendations described in this report do not deliver any outcomes relating to the ten areas of rights, nor do they enhance or infringe them.

7.3 There is no environmental impact arising from the contents of this report.

8. Background reading/external references

8.1 None.

9. Appendices

9.1 None.

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Leadership Advisory Panel

31 March 2020

Service payment to Edinburgh Leisure – 2020/21

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Culture and Communities Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 Approve the service payment of £7,107,661 to Edinburgh Leisure for 2020/21.
 - 1.1.2 Approve a further payment of £165,000 to Edinburgh Leisure towards capital improvements across the Council's sport and leisure facility estate.

Alistair Gaw

Executive Director, Communities & Families

Contact: David Bruce, Senior Education Manager – Lifelong Learning

E-mail: david.bruce2@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3795

Service payment to Edinburgh Leisure – 2020/21

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report contains the details of the proposed Council Service Payment to Edinburgh Leisure following approval of the Council's budget on 20 February 2020 and seeks approval from the Culture and Communities Committee to make that payment.

3. Background

- 3.1 As instructed by Council in 2012 and as reported to Council in 2013, Edinburgh Leisure agreed to operate under new service and funding agreements. These service and funding arrangements remain in place and the Council will work with Edinburgh Leisure to make any adjustments required for 2020/21.

4. Main report

- 4.1 Edinburgh Leisure operates over 50 sports and leisure facilities across the city on behalf of the Council, attracting over 4 million visits each year. The range of facilities include sport and leisure centres, swim centres, golf courses, tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches and pavilions. Edinburgh Leisure also deliver coaching activities, programmes and initiatives for people of all ages and abilities that helps Edinburgh to become an active and healthy city.
- 4.2 In the last year Edinburgh Leisure have assisted with the development of new synthetic pitches at Hunter's Hall Park and progression of the new Meadowbank Sports Centre.
- 4.3 Edinburgh Leisure continues to work with the Council and other partners on a range of projects and developments. The transfer of management of secondary school sports facilities to Edinburgh Leisure is scheduled to be completed shortly with the transfer of leisure operations at Wester Hailes Education Centre set for 1st April 2020.
- 4.4 A report has also gone to Education, Children and Families Committee to seek authority to expand Edinburgh Leisure's role in community access to schools.

Additional areas of responsibility include non-sport lets for secondary schools and primary school lets.

- 4.5 The Council will work with Edinburgh Leisure to agree a revised set of key performance indicators for the service payment for 2020/21. The KPIs will include explicit measures relating to increased income generation and net financial gain for community access to schools.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If approved, payment will be made by the Council following the annual Services and Funding Agreement being signed off by the Executive Director of Communities and Families and the Chief Executive of Edinburgh Leisure before 1st April 2020.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The service payment of £7,107,661 and capital funding of £165,000 is provided for within the approved budget of 2020/21.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 Edinburgh Leisure work closely with a range of stakeholders in all areas of their service delivery and development.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 None

9. Appendices

- 9.1 None

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Leadership Advisory Panel

10am, Tuesday, 31 March 2020

Grants to Third Parties: Third Sector Interface and Equality and Rights Network 2020/21

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Agree to the financial proposals set out at paragraphs 4.2 and 4.9.
- 1.2 Note the further planned work which will inform the approach to third sector support beyond 2020/21 as described in paragraphs 4.5 to 4.7.

Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

Contact: Michele Mulvaney, Strategy Manager (Communities)

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Grants to Third Parties: Third Sector Interface and Equality and Rights Network 2020/21

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report sets out the City of Edinburgh Council's proposed funding for the Third Sector Interface (TSI) and Equalities and Rights Network (EaRN) for 2020/21. The report sets out the further work that will be carried out in the coming financial year to inform approaches to support TSI activity in the longer-term.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Edinburgh Third Sector Interface (TSI) was established in 2009 as part of a Scottish Government initiative to realign Scotland's third sector infrastructure organisations. The aim was to ensure a co-ordinated approach to volunteering, social enterprise development, and the management and influence of third sector organisations.
- 3.2 This report details proposed funding by the City of Edinburgh Council from the Chief Executive's Divisional budget to support Edinburgh's TSI which is delivered in partnership by three organisations: Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC), Volunteer Edinburgh (VE) and Edinburgh Social Enterprise Network (ESEN). Each contributes to the delivery of the TSI objectives through leading work in their specialist area.
- 3.3 The role of the TSI is to deliver volunteering, social enterprise and third sector development and support, together with supporting the participation of the third sector in community planning arrangements in the city. Support in this latter category, includes contribution of sector views through representation on community planning structures, such as the Edinburgh Partnership Board and Locality Community Planning Partnerships, together with support for a range of networks and forums at both city and locality levels. The role is essential in ensuring that partnership working and collaboration with the third sector shapes and contributes to the development and delivery of strategic planning and service delivery.
- 3.4 A reconfigured funding package for the TSI was agreed by the Culture and Communities Committee in January 2019. This report proposes the continuation of

this funding at current levels for 2020/21. This recognises that 2020/21 represents the final year of a five year in principle grant commitment agreed by Council's Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee for EVOC and VE in 2016/17. ESEN has been supported by one-off payments and is not part of the five year framework.

- 3.5 Continued investment in the TSI will allow further work to be carried out during the new financial year to achieve a shared approach to infrastructure support as part of the Edinburgh Partnership review. This activity was noted by Culture and Communities Committee in January 2019. This is in line with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 which places an enhanced duty on public bodies to contribute resources to support and facilitate community planning in the city.
- 3.6 In addition, there is an opportunity, as part of this process, to consider the Council's relationship and financial contribution to TSI activity, with the organisations currently receiving funding from other parts of the Council in addition to the core support from the Chief Executive's Division.
- 3.7 The report also recommends the continuation of funding at the current year's level to the Equality and Rights Network (EaRN), which is managed by VE. In the coming year, and similarly to the TSI funding, there is an opportunity to review the governance and operation of EaRN to strengthen its relationship to the Council in its role as a body for advancing equality, promoting human rights and tackling poverty and inequality in the city.

4. Main report

TSI Funding

- 4.1 EVOC is the city's anchor organisation working to enable a strong, resilient, enterprising and sustainable third sector. VE is the city's anchor organisation for growing volunteering and supporting volunteer-involving organisations. ESEN is the city's main anchor organisation for advancing social enterprise.
- 4.2 Funding for all three organisations is recommended to continue in the new financial year at 2019/20 levels as follows:

Organisation	Award 2020/21
Edinburgh Voluntary Organisation's Council	£53,500
Volunteer Edinburgh	£70,907
Edinburgh Social Enterprise Network	£10,000

- 4.3 The continued investment in these organisations will provide notable benefits, including:

- 4.3.1 Public and third sector relations in the city will continue to be positively progressed;
 - 4.3.2 Third sector strategic input and participation in the Edinburgh Partnership will continue at strategic and local levels;
 - 4.3.3 The Council's strategic route for third sector matters will be enhanced;
 - 4.3.4 Capacity building and development of the sector will be advanced; and
 - 4.3.5 Support to volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations will continue.
- 4.4 Funding at existing levels is recommended to allow further work to be carried out to develop a shared approach to future investment in TSI infrastructure with partners as part of the Edinburgh Partnership review.
 - 4.5 This review of infrastructure support is underway with initial work carried out with the third sector and wider stakeholders. However, more detailed consideration is required to define a sustainable model and the consequent resource requirements. It is planned for the outcome of this activity to be reported to the Edinburgh Partnership Board later in the new financial year.
 - 4.6 Whilst core funding to support TSI activity is provided through the Chief Executive's Division, support is also provided from other sources in the Council. Initial consideration has been given to reviewing this Council funding to achieve a better alignment and targeting of resources.
 - 4.7 Given the inter-dependent nature of the two streams of activity, there is an opportunity in the new financial year to combine the activity into one process. Doing this will ensure a more coherent and joined up approach to the outcomes sought from a future funding model.

EaRN Funding

- 4.8 The aim of EaRN is to enable individuals, groups, organisations and communities of interest to work in partnership with public services to advance equality, promote human rights and tackle poverty and inequality. The EaRN service assists the Council to better deliver equality and rights outcomes and the public sector duties of the Equality Act 2010.
- 4.9 Funding is recommended as follows:
 - 4.9.1 £40,000 to VE for 2020/21 to manage EaRN
- 4.10 Funding to support the work of the network of £5,000 from NHS Lothian is confirmed based on last year's contribution. This will maintain the current total funding level of £45,000.
- 4.11 The continued investment will support the development of the new Equalities Framework required by 2022, together with capacity building and promotional activities on equalities to inform strategic policy, planning and decision making in the city. During 2020/21 there is also an opportunity to review the governance and operation of EaRN to strengthen its role as a body for promoting equality awareness and influencing practice to inform its future relationship with the Council.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Following the Committee report, and subject to approval, letters of award and funding agreements will be put in place with each of the organisations.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The proposed investment as set out in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.9 is contained within available budgets.
- 6.2 Any risks associated with the awards of grant to EVOC, VE, ESEN and for EaRN will be mitigated by grant monitoring and annual assessment and reporting arrangements with these set out in the funding agreement.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 Engagement relating to the above has been the subject of discussion with EVOC, VE and ESEN as part of the annual assessment process.
- 7.2 The proposals will assist the Council to better deliver its equality and rights outcomes and the delivery of the Equality Act 2010 public sector equality duties to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.
- 7.3 The proposals will support and strengthen engagement and capacity building activity with third sector organisations and communities, including groups involved in tackling poverty and inequality and promoting and protecting human rights.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 Culture and Communities Committee January 2019 [Culture and Communities Committee papers January 2019](#)

9. Appendices

None.

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by virtue of paragraph(s) 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A
of the Local Government(Scotland) Act 1973.

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by virtue of paragraph(s) 8, 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A
of the Local Government(Scotland) Act 1973.

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