



Business bulletin

Finance and Resources Committee

10:00am, 23 January 2020

Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Finance and Resources Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Convener Cllr Alasdair Rankin</p>  <p>Vice – Convener Cllr Joan Griffiths</p> 	<p>Councillor Gordon Councillor Munn Councillor Bruce Councillor Hutchison Councillor Johnston Councillor Child Councillor Booth Councillor Corbett Councillor Neil Ross</p>	<p>Veronica MacMillan Tel: 0131 529 4283</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>Summary of feedback from young people as part of budget engagement</p> <p>Background</p> <p>As part of budget engagement, three workshops groups were held in Edinburgh secondary schools to discuss priorities for Council spending. These groups used discussion activity tool developed by the Council which was used in all budget discussions in 2019. The full results of budget engagement were reported to the Finance and Resources Committee on 6 Dec 2019.</p> <p>The following is a short summary of the views of young people only, with direct quotes taken from adults aged 16-24 who participated in adult focus groups.</p> <p>Summary</p>	<p>David Porteous, Strategy Manager (Insight)</p> <p>Tel: 0131 529 7127 (37127)</p>

Comparing the spending priorities of young people to all participations in the budget engagement process shows the following:

- Young people made **similar funding** decisions to all participants in relation to: nursery and early years; secondary schools; planning, building, trading standards and environmental wardens; roads, transport and infrastructure; homelessness services; mental health services; and services for people with disabilities.
 - Feedback received as part of the 2050 Edinburgh City Vision engagement highlighted the importance to young people of environmental issues, but also homelessness and the cost of housing. Awareness of housing costs appears to be high even amongst young children.

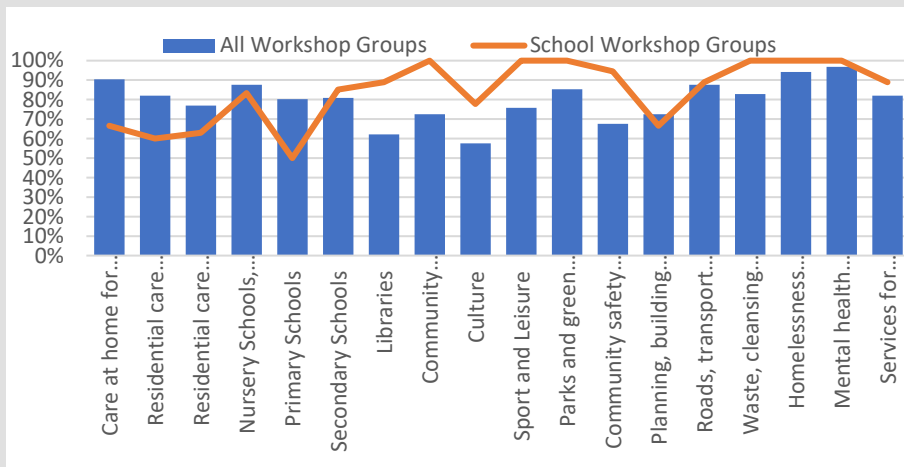
*“Rents, especially in the centre, have gone up so much in the last few years for students, but obviously that means there's fewer and fewer houses for the rest of the population... Now students are being forced to pay £500, £600 for a room in the city centre... a lot of students who come here can afford that, that's fine for them, but it means everyone else is getting pushed farther and farther out... It's not really working for students or the rest of the population” – **adult aged 16-24 in focus group***

- Young people allocated proportionately **higher levels of funding** to: libraries, community learning and development; culture; parks, greenspace and local environment; community safety and CCTV; and waste, cleansing and environmental wardens.
 - Other research has highlighted that younger people in Edinburgh are generally more frequent users of outdoor spaces, value the condition of outdoor spaces more, and are more satisfied with parks maintenance and street cleaning than older residents.
 - Young people are a significant customer group of both libraries and community centres and value these services more than the average Edinburgh resident, who is more likely to use alternative means of accessing books and other services. Use of local libraries also drops off once young people have access to college or university study facilities.

*“In terms of, I guess core use, of like taking out books I rarely do that because I can get everything online anyway nowadays. I have a printer at home, so I really just go there to study... It's just not that important to me” – **adult aged 16-24 in focus group***

- Young people allocated proportionately **less spending** on care services for older people (both in-home and residential care) and residential care for children and child protection services.
 - Adults of all ages in Edinburgh are very concerned about the cost of providing long-term care for elderly relatives, attitudes amongst school age young people are unclear. This may indicate that care costs and care needs are something young people are less aware of.
- Young people also allocated **significantly (30%) less funding** to primary schools. The reason for this large difference and significant underfunding is unclear.

The following figure shows all funding levels against all 18 services and service groupings included in the group discussion exercise. The maximum level of funding possible in the group exercise (100%) is, in all cases, slightly higher than the current level of spending in each area. This provides the potential for participants to request additional funding for any service.



Forthcoming activities