

**QUESTION NO 22**

**By Councillor Mowat for answer by  
the Convener of the Transport and  
Environment Committee at a meeting  
of the Council on 30 June 2022**

- Question** (1) On p14 of the City of Edinburgh Council and Sustrans Walking and Cycling Index 2021, it says
- “...neighbourhoods of at least 40 dwellings per hectare...are or can become 20-minute neighbourhoods. Lower density neighbourhoods have too few people to make much local business or public transport viable.”*
- a) Does the convener agree with this definition?
- b) Is this the definition used in the City Plan 2030?

**Answer** (1)

- Question** (2) If lower density neighbourhoods have too few people to make much local business or public transport viable, it is discriminatory to force restrictions to motor vehicles outside people’s homes in lower density neighbourhoods?

**Answer** (2)

- Question** (3) In the Walking and Cycling Index, respondents were asked: *“Q20 To what extent do you support or oppose the creation of 20-minute neighbourhoods? These are neighbourhoods where it is easy for people to meet most of their everyday needs in a short, convenient and pleasant 20 minute return walk. For example having local shops, schools, green space and public transport options within a 10 minute walk (or 20 minute round trip) of your home.”*

78% of respondents supported this.

Before answering this question, were respondents given a clear definition that a 20 minute neighbourhood requires at least 40 dwellings per hectare?

**Answer** (3)

- Question** (4) In the foreword to the report on p2, it says *“Living locally has*

*benefits for our citizens' wellbeing....the multiple benefits of a local living approach are why ensuring residents live in and can access 20-minute neighbourhoods is such an important threat that must run through the city's response to the climate crisis."*

What evidence is there that residents experience greater wellbeing when living in neighbourhoods of high density housing with a minimum of 40 dwellings per hectare, as opposed to neighbourhoods with lower density housing?

**Answer**

**(4)**