



Midlothian
A Great Place to Grow



Citizens' Panel Results 2022

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Introduction

The Community Planning Partnership is made up of a wide range of partners, organisations, third sector representatives and members of our community. This report sets out the results from our most recent Citizens' Panel with the views of the local community.

We are currently planning how we will work together to make Midlothian a better place to live, work, grow up in and visit. Over the next four years we will focus on ensuring:

- Individuals and communities have improved health and learning outcomes
- No child or household need live in poverty
- Significant progress is made towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030

It is vital we listen, debate and agree actions based on our views and those of local people of all ages. The results of the Citizens' Panel presented in this report will be taken together with results from the youth platform's Hackathon and the Community Planning Conference in November. Both days were spent discussing how we can work in partnership to help our communities face the challenges of today – including rising food, fuel and living costs and considering the challenges of climate change. They helped us focus our shared priorities and actions.

The Citizens' Panel gave members of the community the opportunity to comment on our ideas for how we will achieve our vision.

We focused on seven main areas, allowing people to say how important they felt our actions were as well as space to put forward their own ideas.

The questionnaire and report focused on:

- Our shared set of values
- Midlothian will be healthier
- Midlothian will be safer
- Midlothian will have increased skills and capacity
- Midlothian will be greener
- Midlothian will be wealthier and fairer
- Midlothian will be better connected

I would like to thank everyone who took time to share their views.

**Annette Lang, Group Manager
(Community Planning)**

Key Points

People commented on a number of actions for each area. We have listed the actions people thought were the most important for each area below:

Our shared values:

People thought the most important values were that we should be

- Inclusive and equitable,
- Sustainable
- We should empower communities

Midlothian will be healthier

- Support the health needs of a growing and ageing population
- Provide support to vulnerable people
- Improve mental wellness and support

Midlothian will be safer

- Early Intervention approaches to promote desistance from harmful behaviour and enhance community safety
- Increase local community based youth work
- Young people feel safer, living and learning and growing up in Midlothian by listening to their voice, giving them influence and co-creating a range of youth services

Midlothian will have increased skills and capacity

- Increase the number of people with literacy and numeracy qualifications
- Increase the number of people who are able to use technology
- Increase the number of people with qualifications

Midlothian will be greener

- communities will be better connected with good transportation + active travel links
- Improve greener travel options
- Reduce carbon emissions from business and homes

Midlothian will be wealthier and fairer

- Reduce the number of people who struggle to pay for food and fuel
- Ensure fair work for people
- Increase the number of businesses offering good fair work opportunities

Response Rates

Members of the Panel represent the local population. This report details the findings from the questionnaire carried out by Lowland Market Research.

Response Rates

The questionnaire was posted out to the total of c1,000 Panel members in October 2022. 565 panel members returned completed questionnaires - a response rate of 57%.

Sampling Accuracy

All sample surveys are subject to a degree of random error. It has become customary to provide an indication of the error margin by calculating the 95% confidence intervals for a simple random sample of the same size. The magnitude of the error depends on the number of completed questionnaires and the results percentage.

Confidence Intervals (95% Confidence Level) for Total Sample & Sample Sub-Groups

	Count	50% Response +/-
Male	268	+/-5.99%
Female	297	+/-5.69%
18 to 24 years	69	+/-11.80%
25 to 44 years	167	+/-7.58%
45 to 64 years	186	+/-7.19%
65 to 74 years	67	+/-11.97%
75+ years	78	+/-11.10%
Owner occupied	360	+/-5.16%
Rented	129	+/-8.63%

Our Vision & Values

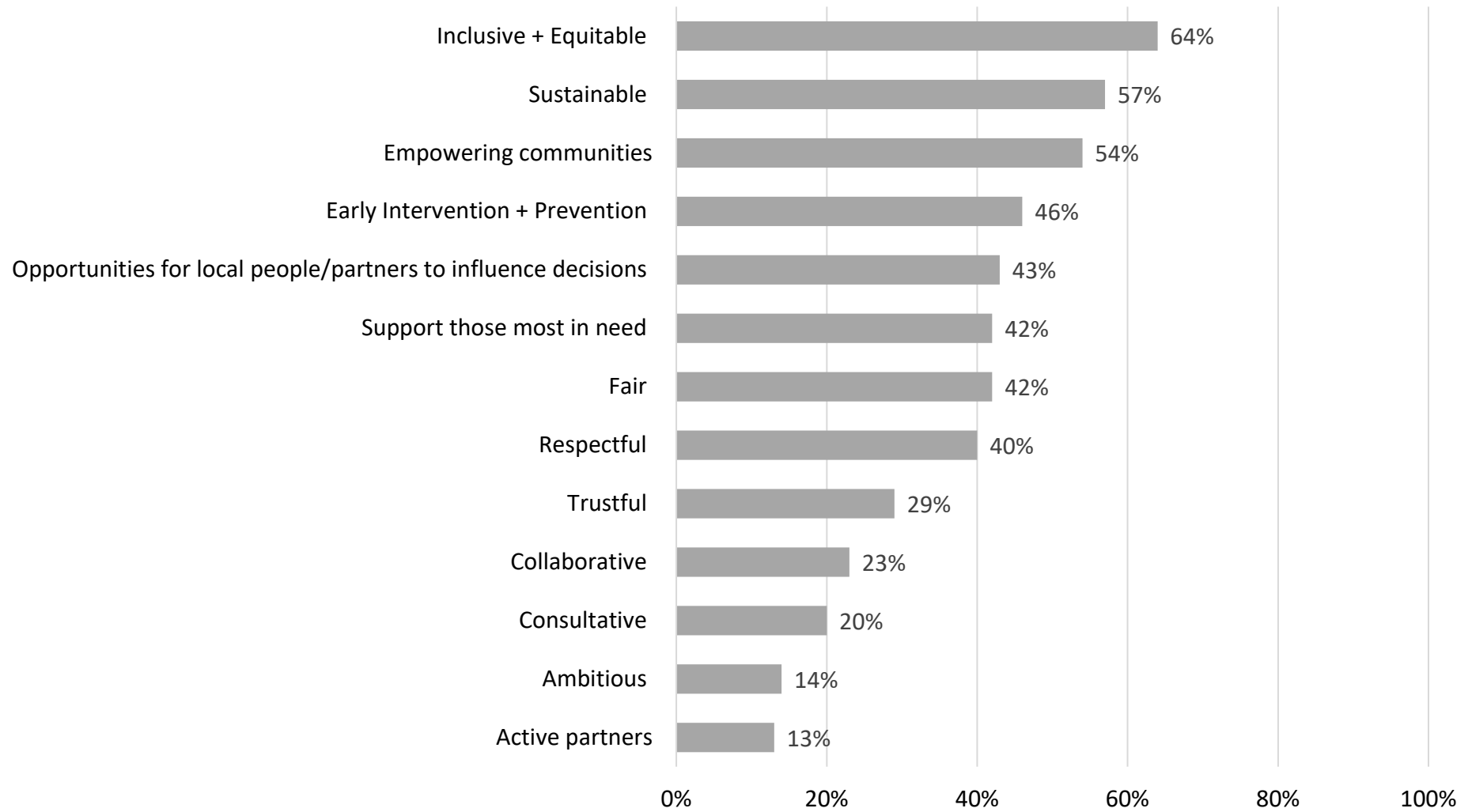
By working together as a Community Planning Partnership, individuals and communities will be able to lead healthier, safer, greener and successful lives by 2030. No child or household need live in poverty. Midlothian will be a Great Green Place to Grow by achieving our net zero carbon ambitions.

As a partnership it is very important that we work with and for our communities and do this from a shared set of values. We asked the respondents of the Citizens' Panel for their thoughts on our shared values and for their suggestions.

The top three values that people agreed on were that we should be **inclusive and equitable, sustainable and that we should empower communities**. Other suggestions included:

- Proactive
- Reliable
- Sense of individual responsibility
- Transparency
- Being HONEST with folk in both good and bad situations. Following through on promises.
- ecologically conscious
- As residents within Midlothian. We feel powerless and completely disregarded. When it comes to development. Business companies moving to the area. Proportionate balance of lifestyle is completely out of kilter. No one seems to have or have had any foresight into how these things would affect existing residents and communities.
- I volunteer regularly and I found, particularly during covid where our community created a plan and structure to deliver services to our most vulnerable extremely quickly and were coordinating the delivery of shopping, prescriptions and meals to people for weeks before the council got their act together, when the council started to take over the attitude of some council officers was extremely patronising and unnecessarily rude. There was an air of volunteers being stupid and incapable because we weren't being paid for it. Some council officers need to realise that many volunteers have much more experience from working in the private sector than they do where the expectations for delivery are also much higher than the council and just because they may be volunteers or retired does not mean they are not capable
- In the past such collaboration has ended as nothing more than a talking shop with the Midlothian representatives placing every possible difficulties.

What people told us about our ideas for a shared set of values

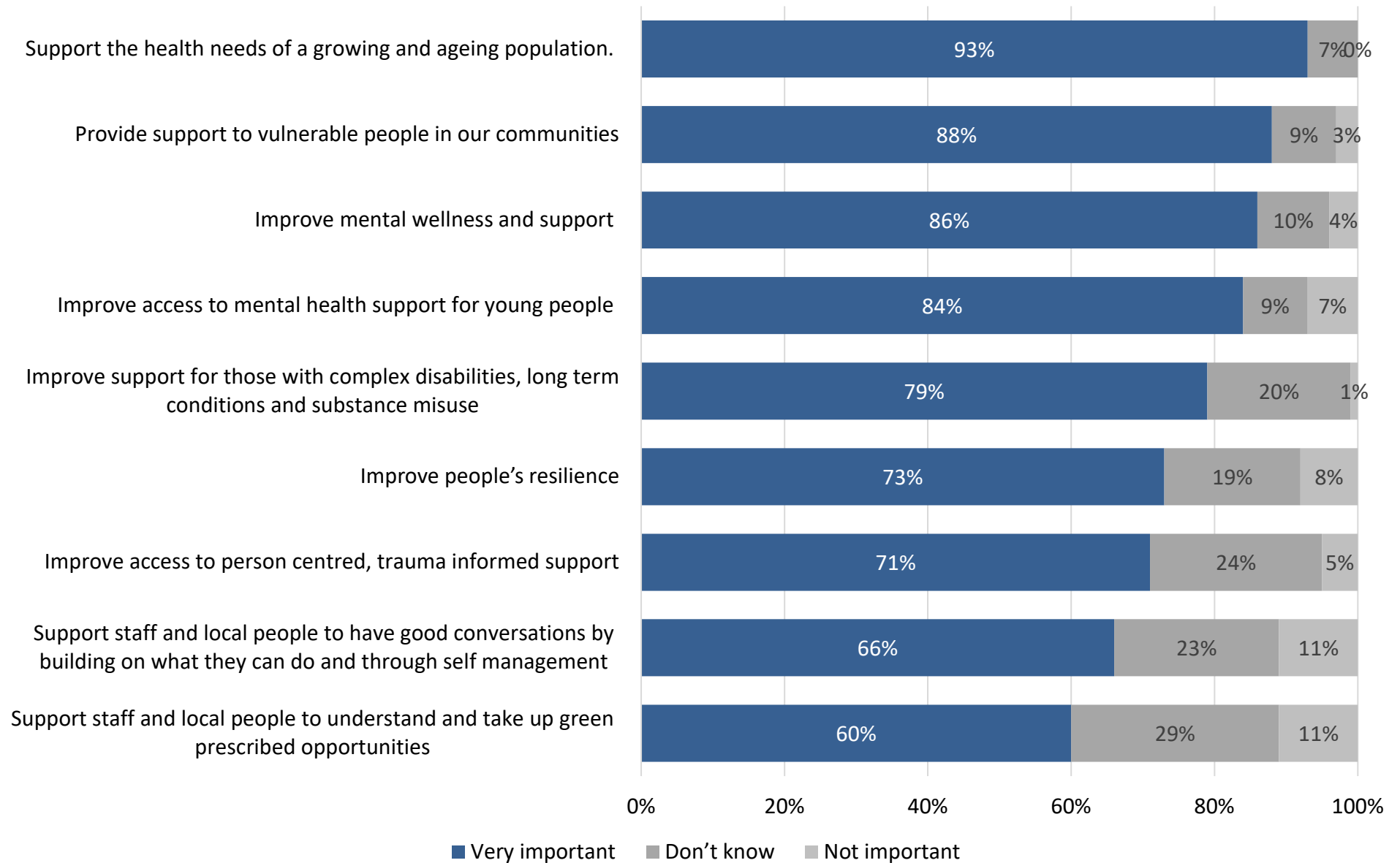


Midlothian will be Healthier

(Thematic lead: Adult Health & Social Care)



What people told us about our ideas to make Midlothian Healthier



Other suggestions

Support for Mental Health

- Mental wellness comes from stability in the community life and also pushing the individual's limits in REAL life. Being there to support when things do go according to plan but encouraging to go again. NOT giving up. (which appears to be the ethos of today.) NOT mollycoddling individuals so they cannot learn to cope with the real world.
- There is a distinct lack of outreach projects for those with mental health needs. I have suffered with Generalised anxiety disorder for most of my adult life but since moving to Midlothian some 6 years ago I have found little support for my condition.
- This is very much linked to the topic of declining green space. In terms of resilience I found many people who had been suffering mental health issues benefited from volunteering and helping others during Covid lockdown and it would be good to engage volunteers in their own communities to help others. Big businesses could help by encouraging employees to volunteer as part of their annual work appraisal and the groups that people volunteer for could provide the required sign off to evidence this
- To support older people with dementia, mental health issues develop services

Overstretched services/support

- If we felt more connected as a community, then the supports systems would come from the people around. I.e Teachers with less pupils in a class, could give more time to a vulnerable child. GPs with less patients could offer the right support. We need to build relationships around us. Spent a long time in the western isles. People live remotely from one another and yet the community bonds are strong and healthy. We live jam packed with one another down here. And yet don't know most of our neighbours. Hardly any spaces that we can use to hold events that would encourage community bonding.
- develop more asset-based community development strategies
- Trained volunteers (people maybe retired) who may have these above skills to help out the community within Midlothian ?
- Increase access to GP's, enable people to have reasonably prompt access to basic hip operations etc. that will increase resilience and independence. So many "vulnerable" people due to lack of access to services. This is what will make Midlothian healthier.
- You can also make sure that when council gives permission for extra housing they do plan for establish new or expanding current health and education facilities. Currently it takes ages to get an appointment with a GP unless you are dying. Not to mention overcrowded schools.

Support for 'healthier lifestyles'

- Support people in eating healthier and drinking less alcohol.
- Try to offer more alternatives to just prescribing pills.
The government in example could create a system where physical activity is supported in example subsidized fitness programs and offer free cooking classes which are budget friendly.

Unsure if priorities were achievable or unsure of wording

- More unachievable nonsense. What a waste of time. Blue sky thinking that will never happen.
- These are great ideals. However to what extent is Midlothian able to truly influence the decisions taken by the senior management in for example the NHS.
- "Green prescribed opportunities" - SPEAK ENGLISH!

- Vulnerable people in our communities is a very broad term. It is undoubtedly right that we want to do the best for everyone, but this priority seems too broad to be meaningful.
- Resilience? What does this imply?
- A single main objective "Support the health needs of a growing and aging population in Midlothian " is sufficient, on the clear understanding that the growing population includes all of us, including both the young and the old.

Other

- Ensure good conversations with all groups in Midlothian by making communication as accessible as possible, using a range of different communication tools and formats.
- Green prescribed opportunities?
Please don't lump together long term disabilities and substance misuse- surely quite different issues

Comments on language:

94% of people agreed with the phrase 'Midlothian will be healthier'

Suggested alternatives to wording

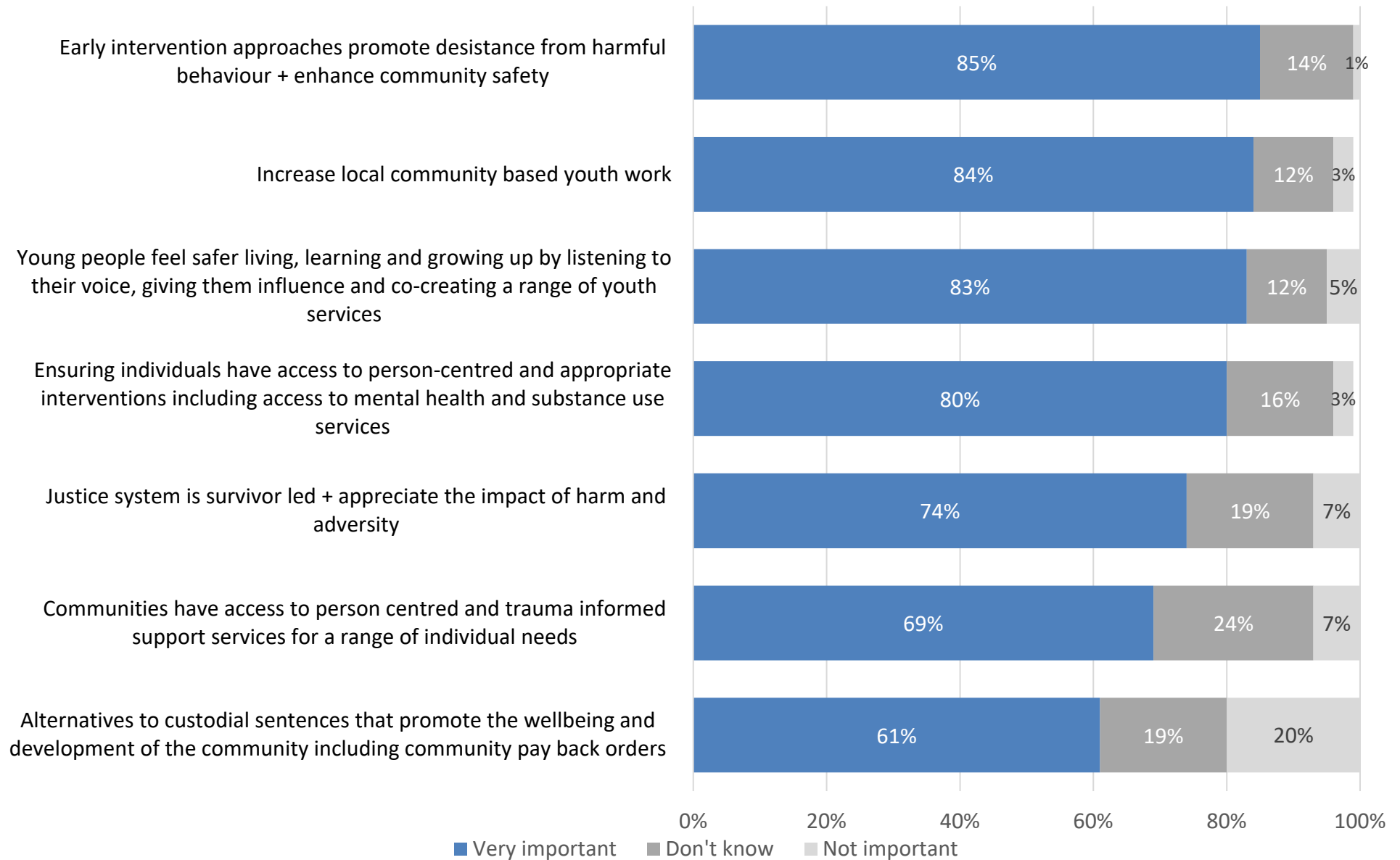
- Midlothian will encourage & support communities to achieve & set realistic healthy changes
- Midlothian will strive to be healthier
- Replace "will" with "aims to"
- Specify meaning and timescale
- Strive to be healthier

Midlothian will be Safer

(Thematic lead: Community Safety)



What people told us about our ideas to make Midlothian Safer



Other suggestions

Police

- Increase police presence and response.
- Increased visibility of police and community police officers
- More visible policing and easier access to police when concerned

Mental Health support

- Increase the amount of available counsellors and youth workers. The waiting list to be seen by a counsellor is by far too long in Britain. This results in too many people suffering from mental health issues.
- Improved access to mental health services, including self-referral. Improved access to substance misuse support and aim for same-day prescribing of ORT

Supporting Young People

- What is the evidence that young people don't feel listened to? Should we try to break down the barriers across the age ranges so that we all have a better understanding of each other's voices
- Youth work is so vital, I have been a volunteer youth worker for almost 20 years and have seen first-hand the cuts to youth services, loss of them completely, why do towns like Penicuik not have a youth centre? Yes they have the leisure centre and a few clubs but young people want variety, a place to muck about with their mates
- Youth are not exclusively the problem, they are a major part of the future Midlothian will create. Giving all the community the ability to influence a safer future should be a key objective.

Unsure if priorities were achievable or unsure of wording

- "Person-centred and trauma-informed" - too much jargon!!!
- It is not reasonable to assume that the partners can influence sentencing guidelines within the legal system. The priorities relating to the justice system and community payback can not be directly influenced by the partners.
It is not clear what is meant by 'person-centred trauma-informed support services'
- Survivor-led justice system? No idea how majority will interpret/misinterpret such a statement. An effective justice system requires many components.
- This is laughable and unrealistic. There is zero chance of attaining these goals at a local level.

Other

- In addition, a greater involvement of responsible members of the community. Some professionals seem to be of the opinion that they and they alone can solve problems.
- "Don't Knows" - More respect for others will lead to safer streets. This applies to us all.
"Not Important" -
- development of neighbourhood wellbeing
move away from retributive justice, and invest more in services within custodial services to educate and improve skills of those caught in 'the system'
- Easier access to information with volunteer help perhaps.
- Ensure adequate street lighting to make communities feel safe at night. Remove areas where sections have lighting turned off, which is obvious and presumably to save energy/costs which is not the priority. Safety comes first.
- Increased attention to speeding and road safety measures

- People have groups and activities they can join to feel a sense of belonging and these will be well promoted by a dedicated page on the council's website and updated by making links into each community to know what groups and activities are going on.
- I think it is very important for people to have a sense of pride and respect for their community and to get involved in what's going on there. Self respect and respect for others is needed and not thinking the world revolves around them

Comments on language:

90% of people agreed with the phrase 'Midlothian will be safer'

Suggested alternatives to wording

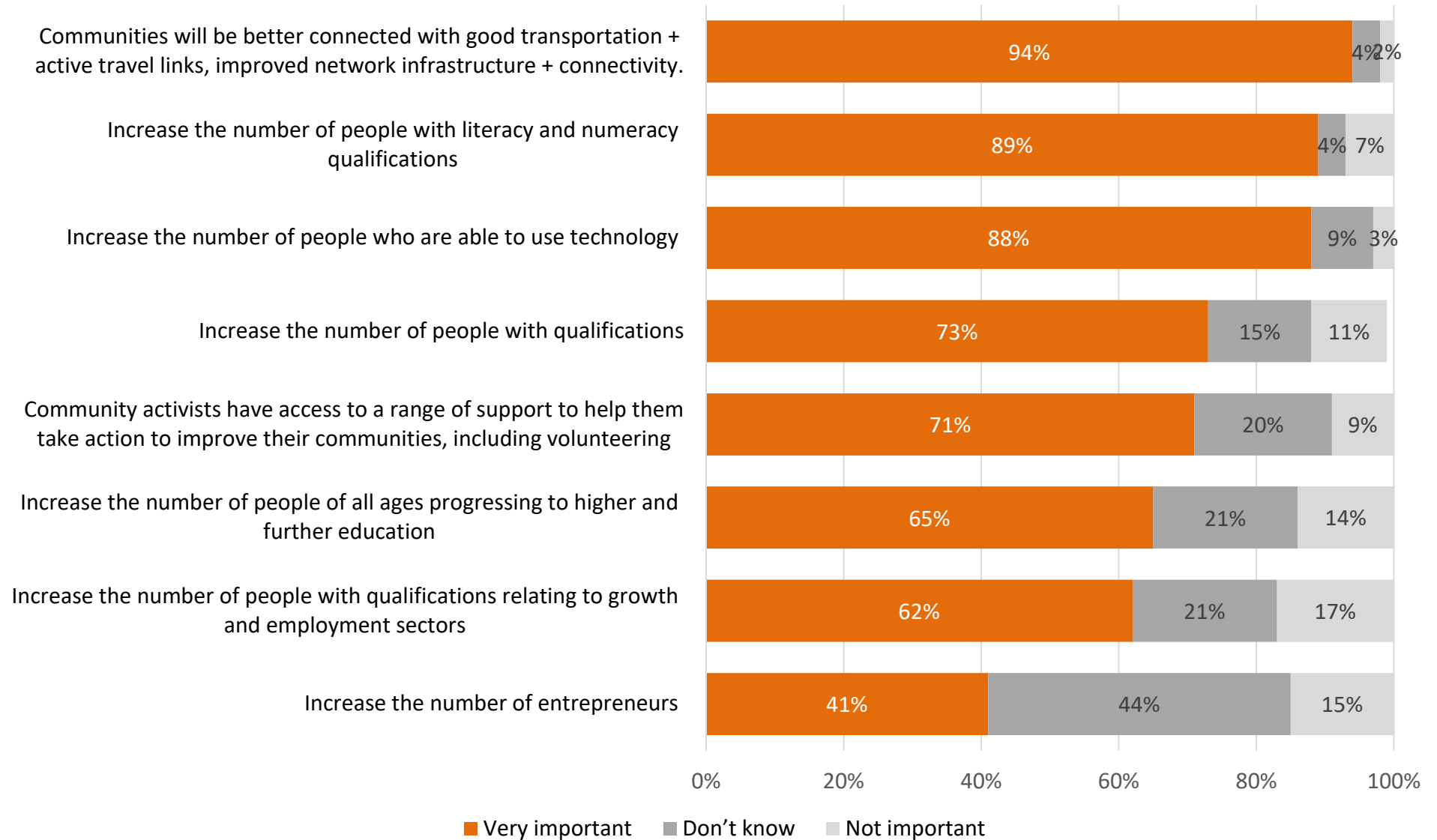
- ..safer for ?
All people in Midlothian
People of colour
Cyclists - more cycle lanes needed, and cycle lanes cleared if debris and plants.
- Can be made safer.
- Midlothian is where people feel valued, happy and safe.
- Midlothian will aim for all members of the community to feel safer & protected
- Midlothian will aim to provide a secure environment
- Midlothian will work to be safer
- No, it won't be safer as there is less police on the streets
- Replace "will" with "aims to"
- Specify what Midlothian will be safer from

Midlothian will have increased skills & capacity

(Thematic lead: Improving Opportunities)



What people told us about our ideas to increase people's skills and capacity



Other suggestions

Education/Qualifications/Apprenticeship

- Trades are just, if not more important than furthering education
- Personally I don't think the qualifications matter once you get into the real world after leaving school. I know many people running successful businesses who were not academic at school. The focus needs to be on having belief in yourself and drive and determination to succeed at what you are good at.
- Education is important, qualifying to a standard for employment is more important. Teaching people practical skills rather than academic skills will provide a better balanced workforce better able to take Midlothian forward to wealth and fairness for all. We have a shortage of shop floor engineers / fitter-machinists due to a high reliance on technology. one might ask - Who will make the parts to fit the machines or produce the teams we need it will not be the academics, university graduates, accountants or lawyers. It will be the black hand gang if we are prepared to grow them. THESE will be the backbone of growth in our county.
- Comment - Increasing numeracy and literacy should not be monitored solely by numbers of people gaining qualifications. Evaluating numbers of people who are able to utilise better numeracy and literacy is a much more meaningful measure. Numbers of people with qualifications is not a reliable measure of improvement. There are lots of unemployed university graduates and graduates doing work that does not utilise their qualifications. Suggestion - ensure that young people with support needs are supported to access education, training and employment opportunities that reflect their needs and aspirations.
- I'm not sure of the necessity for formal qualifications esp for adults who may have had bad experiences with school in the past. Better to focus on skills based training and maximising volunteering opps as a route to employment confidence
- Increase use of public libraries for education and learning
- It's not so much about offering higher education but definitely further education. More on the job learning and open learning would be great. We are a big county and it takes so long to get to further education establishments that the travel time alone puts people off.
- Look less at qualifications and more at skills.
- More focus on experience rather qualifications. Practical experience can be gained through volunteering
- Non skilled people who are not able to gain higher and further education I feel would benefit from training that would meet their capabilities and encourage confidence and encourage going forward and boost self confidence.
- Create more apprenticeship opportunities for young people in Midlothian
- Increased availability of apprenticeships and paid internships
- Suggest 'People' rather than 'Community activists'
Skills and experience are more important than qualifications alone. The objective must be to put everyone's skills and experience to good use for the community. An example might be local authority and contractors actively seeking the involvement of "guerrilla gardeners".

Unsure if priorities were achievable or unsure of wording

- Where does capacity come into this?
- None of these goals are within the gift of Midlothian to achieve without being tackled at National level and with vast amounts of funding

- It is difficult to answer all of these questions without understanding the assumed priorities for economic growth and the types of workforce that Midlothian needs.
- None of the above is possible without improving education standards at high school level which appear to be unsatisfactory across the board. There is plenty of talent available but the school environment, due to financial cuts, behavioural issues, or shortage of skilled staff, fails to create the right sort of ethos for learning.

Other

- capacity at neighbourhood level to do things for themselves
skills in local circular economy, local food growing
- We need degrowth, not growth. We need the prosperity of 'having enough'. Climate breakdown is caused by overconsumption, so 'growth' is evil. I know our systems seem to depend on 'growth' but we need to find a way to break out of it. People with discretionary time often give back to their communities. We need people to have 'enough' so they can give back for free and we will all be well.
Increase the number of connections between people able to share their skills and knowledge with people who are seeking to learn
- We need to make people feel pride and worthwhile in whatever job they do. It's not important that someone didn't go to uni. Bin workers, carers, cleaners, all the jobs regarded as non skilled or lower paid. These employees need to feel appreciated by their community. In turn They need to feel responsible for the people they serve and the service they provide. There is very little community connections, our towns have been expanded and coalesce to the point that residents are disparate. If we feel connect to something and someone, then we feel responsible and worthwhile.
- Ensure all ages of the working population have access to jobs that suit them and get paid a fair salary
- Increase the opportunities for small businesses to grow, including provision of the infrastructure that enables the growth
- Use older people who can offer skills & experience to all members of the community
- Digital is fine until the networks go down. Might be better to learn how to hold a real conversation again. Like talking to the neighbours and forming proper communities.

Comments on language:

85% of people agreed with the phrase 'Midlothian have increased skills and capacity'

Suggested alternatives to wording

- Capacity for what though? Not sure what you're saying here
- I don't think this is completely clear.
- Increased skills and opportunities for training and re-training
- Midlothian in general will maximise its skills and capacity
- Midlothian will have a balanced economy, environment, and population.
- Midlothian will have better skills
- Midlothian will have improved skills and infrastructure
- Midlothian will have increased skills and capacity and improved education

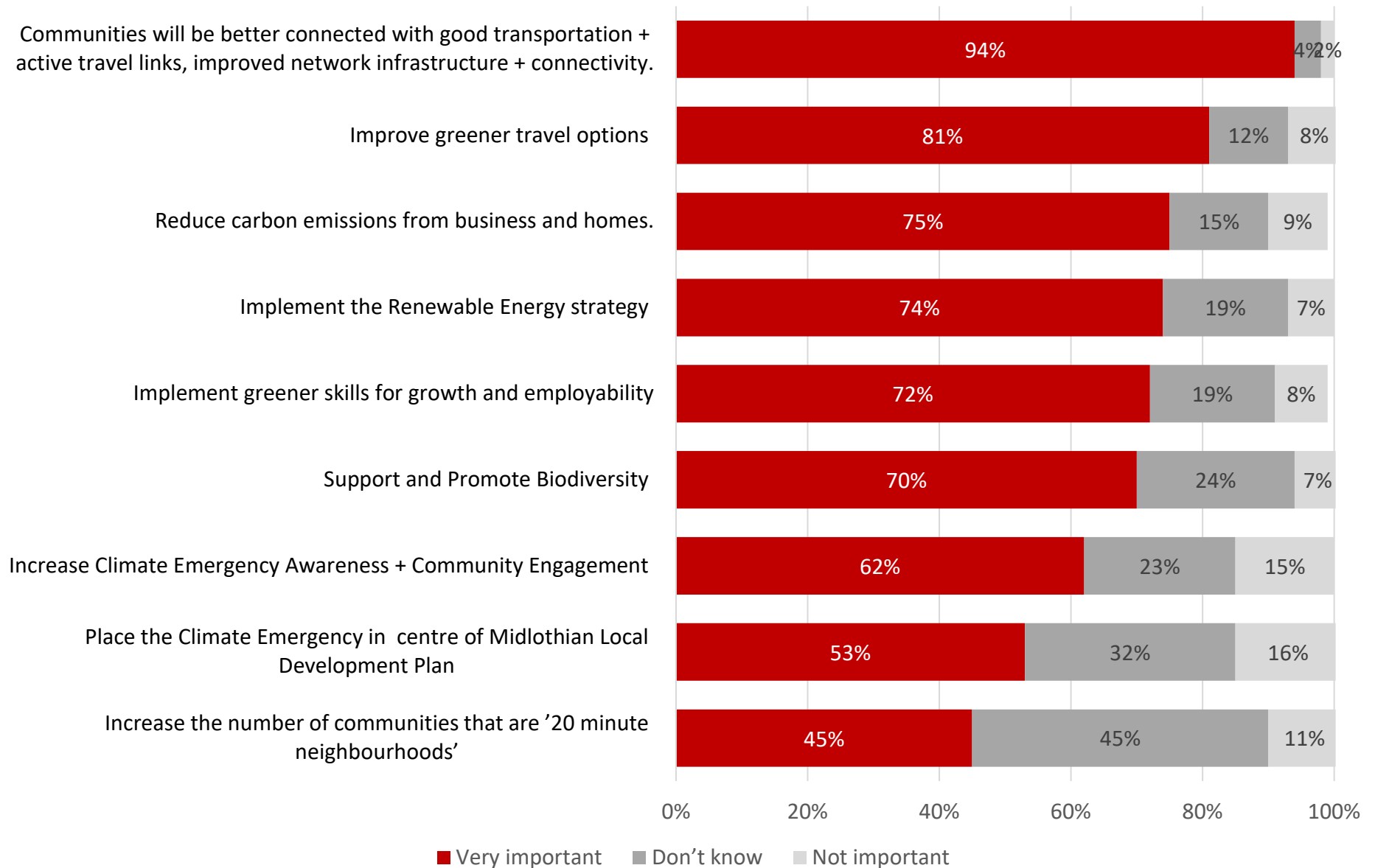
- Midlothian will have increased skills and employability
- Midlothian will have increased skills and employment
- Midlothian will have increased skills and offer more opportunities
- Midlothian will not increase skills and capacity as it's a dormitory area for Edinburgh
- Replace "will" with "aims to"
- Skills and Capacity for what purpose? This needs to be more specific particularly when looking only 4 years ahead.
"Midlothian will have the capacity and skills required to support the development of ...?"
- Where from
- Will develop & encourage skills allowing capacity & growth
- Worse off under the SNP group

Midlothian is Greener

(Thematic lead: Sustainable Growth)



What people told us about our ideas to make Midlothian Greener



Other suggestions

Housing & Green spaces

- Carbon emissions should be reduced across council housing stock and the building estates of the partners. It is unlikely that the partners can directly influence private owned and rented households.
- Far too many green spaces where biodiversity exists are being ploughed up and developed for housing. We need to keep green spaces and house builders who are building developments need to be committed to linking new estates with existing core paths and green spaces as well as existing community spaces and not creating satellite communities in these estates
- I think Midlothian needs to increase community led green projects. Google "Granton community gardeners" they are an organisation based in North Edinburgh that adopted pieces of land the council had neglected for years. This would work in Midlothian and on the tail of it save money as the council wouldn't have to maintain vacant grass plots.
- Increased community green spaces
More environmental education opportunities in local communities (e.g. ranger talks/walks)
- Too much "green" space is being sacrificed to housing developments spreading across some of Midlothian's prime agricultural land - often poorly insulated and uninspiring housing at that. All new housing, in fact all new structures, should have solar panels and ground source heating etc. but this doesn't happen. Becoming net zero is wishful thinking. Midlothian's aspirations are therefore somewhat hypocritical.
- Litter reduces the attractiveness and appeal of using green spaces. Increase bins and litter picking.
- Within small communities, there is currently no access to essential services. Midlothian are granting planning permission on prime agricultural land, with no regard for the sustainability of large developments on small communities that already don't have the necessary local amenities within walking distance, thereby Midlothian Council are driving up emissions as the influx of people will come with at least 1 car per household.

Transport

- Active travel routes should be segregated to ensure the safety and protection of older people, children and young people, and people living with disabilities.
Complete a Midlothian wide survey to ascertain where people are travelling from and to (work, school etc). Base this on postcodes. Too many cars travelling from Penicuik to South Edinburgh or to Edinburgh Park as there are no viable / adequate public transport links.
- Again given the city deal and the overall plan for Edinburgh + Lothians grow it will be good to plan ahead on how the population will commute mainly to workplaces.
- Better road networks, the volume of houses being built with each house on the size having at least 2 vehicles. Traffic is busy all day now not just in early morning, after work.
- cycle paths away from roads is paramount
As is safe cycling from town to town, village to village
cycle lane on A7 essential
- do not build more roads. Invest in safe and segregated cycle ways, in secure cycle storage, in on street EV charging points.
- Ideal as these suggestions maybe the major problem is the rapid expansion of new housing developments with out complementary infrastructure. The most obvious is the severe

congestion on roads giving access to the Edinburgh City Bypass and Edinburgh.

Important to have better connections with smaller towns and villages using minibuses perhaps.

- Increased bus services between Midlothian towns and all areas of Edinburgh.
- Midlothian road network will be better maintained
Rural roads will not be neglected
Cycle lanes will be made safer
- Midlothian will have transport links that are affordable to all and which minimise damage to both the local environment and to the health of our communities.
- Midlothian's biodiversity will be prioritised over making new concrete active travel pathways
- Please increase the bus services and improve them. For around two years now in my neighbourhood there is no direct bus to Edinburgh. Although a train station exist this involves from our neighbourhood a 20 - 30 minute walk which is not manageable by many older or physically impaired people. They also took away a bus stop which was there for the last 30 years close to us completely. This resulted in some elderly neighbours who can not walk to the next nearest bus stop, currently doing their weekly shop in the nearby corner shop which offers no fresh vegetable or fruits. It currently is an absolute disgrace within the postcode EH22 4SH.
- Reinstate the No 15 bus from Penicuik via Morningside. This was a vital link for many people. It now takes at least twice the time to get to Morningside from Penicuik for work.
- Stop just throwing up houses without proper facilities and transport links.
- The river Esk valley will remain a challenge to connectivity. The 196 route is a great east-west corridor for active travel but north-south is much more difficult.
Develop the Go e-bike network (goebike.uk)! 1 station only (at Edinburgh college in Eskabank) mean the service is of almost no use which is a great shame.
- The road capacity is overwhelmed. Make it obligatory that the road infrastructure is assessed before granting planning consent for new housing developments.
- Transport is important to the community for those people who can't drive . To enable them to still do the day to day job , or meet up with friends.
- Travel between communities in Midlothian has always been awful. I started work in 1986 and was told to start work in their branch in Bonnyrigg. from my employers viewpoint, sitting in an office in Edinburgh, Gorebridge was only 2 miles from Bonnyrigg but i had to get 2 buses, one to Dalkeith and one to Bonnyrigg until I finally learned to drive and was able to afford a car. Its still not much better. I don't understand why there aren't regular buses connecting people directly with other areas in Midlothian which can help them gain employment in some of the larger retail parks but for anyone living in Gorebridge and travelling to Straiton its a nightmare journey in my opinion. I've also often wondered why park and ride facilities only offer transport to Edinburgh City and not to some of the retail parks and major employment sites at the Gyle and Gogarburn. The 000's of people who need to travel by car along the entire length of the Bypass daily could be significantly reduced if there were regular buses travelling in an express lane along the Bypass daily but 2 lanes on that road are not sufficient . So many people from East Lothian could also benefit from this approach
- Why is there no direct but from Penicuik to the Royal infirmary. It takes me longer to get to the infirmary than it does to get the X62 to borders general.

Unsure if priorities were achievable or unsure of wording

- You'll never succeed in trying to reduce carbon missions as long as the prices are expensive. To implement them in a home costs a fortune.
- All sounds great but will be very challenging. I don't think it is possible to grow the economy while achieving net zero. Economic growth is correlated to a very large extent to fossil fuel extraction and burning.
- Another set of unacheivable goals.
- '20 minute neighbourhoods'???
- All of these suggestion, seem like it's perhaps to late. Buzzwords like greener bio diversity. We've become so over developed with housing that I don't know how we claw back and achieve greener goals. Or new infrastructure. Feels like it's just too late. Midlothian crammed, constant traffic, no appointments at gps. Schools bursting. Fewer green spaces. I love the sound of these objectives, but I'm sadly sceptical as how our council is going to achieve them.
- Last statement - we need to stop our obsession with growth as it will inevitably lead to compromising the need to maintain sustainability. Remove the words "growth and" from the final option.
- My view is that education is more important than these priorities.
- Not sure what 20 minute neighbourhoods are!
- It would be helpful to know what the Renewable Energy Strategy is to allow for consideration of this priority.
- Go forth and achieve all of this if you can! Would love it.
- Once again, unrealistic and unachievable at local level. Midlothian does not and will not in the foreseeable future be in a position to improve any of these outcomes.
A talking shop of hot air that is wasting time instead of focusing on what can be achieved and what can be funded from the meagre budgets.
- These priorities seem to overlap and could be reduced to two - one on digital connectivity and one on transport connectivity.

Other

- It would be fantastic if different Departments of Midlothian could work together so saving money and giving greater satisfaction to the people at the working face.
- Monitor CO2 emissions and revisit the council's smoke control? There are places where you cannot breath during winter as there is much smoke coming from chimneys, maybe do random checks on what people actually burn in their fireplaces?
- Reduce number of fast food outlets in Midlothian as they appear to account for so much of the discarded litter.
- reduce the need to commute; build local neighbourhood workspaces that large firms will rent out for their workers - reduces isolation cause through working from home, but does not increase commuting.
- Create an working recycling system. In example look at Germany. This system is working efficiently and creates far less waste.
Display more bins overall but also offer a public bin system which offers recycling options. Maybe offer free wild flower seeds for people to plant in their garden to increase bee pollination next spring.

- Develop innovative new ways to help people in communities collectively reduce their climate impact
- Develop the common goods that belong to all

Comments on language:

81% of people agreed with the phrase 'Midlothian will be greener'

Suggested alternatives to wording

- ..greener than - Edinburgh ? it is now ? Specify what greener means.
- It can't be greener as this council on house building is killing off the green belt
- Maybe vs will be
- Midlothian will be carbon negative, carbon neutral, a circular economy, or sustainable
- Midlothian will be cleaner
- Midlothian will be greener and commute far less
- Midlothian will be greener and more sustainable
- Midlothian will be greener and more sustainable
- Midlothian will be greener for all
- Midlothian will be more environmentally friendly
or Midlothian will be more friendly to the environment
- Midlothian will be more sustainable
- Midlothian will be more sustainable
- Midlothian will be reduce our impact on the environment.
- Midlothian will protect and enhance biodiversity
- Midlothian will strive to be greener
- More sustainable.
- Replace "will" with "aims to"
- Will protect our natural environment

86% of people agreed with the phrase 'Midlothian will be better connected through infrastructure and active travel'

Suggested alternatives to wording

- Active travel should be, reduce car useage.
- But how do we achieve these things? For me these things sound ideal but in reality are so out of reach
- I disagree totally with this statement. There have been no significant changes to infrastructure In the last 20 years. How can this be promised?
- Improved before "infrastructure"
- Midlothian will be better connected through infrastructure
- Midlothian will be better connected through infrastructure, connected greenways and segregated active travel routes
- Midlothian will be better connected through investment in public transport and active travel.
- Midlothian will be better connected through public facilities and active travel.

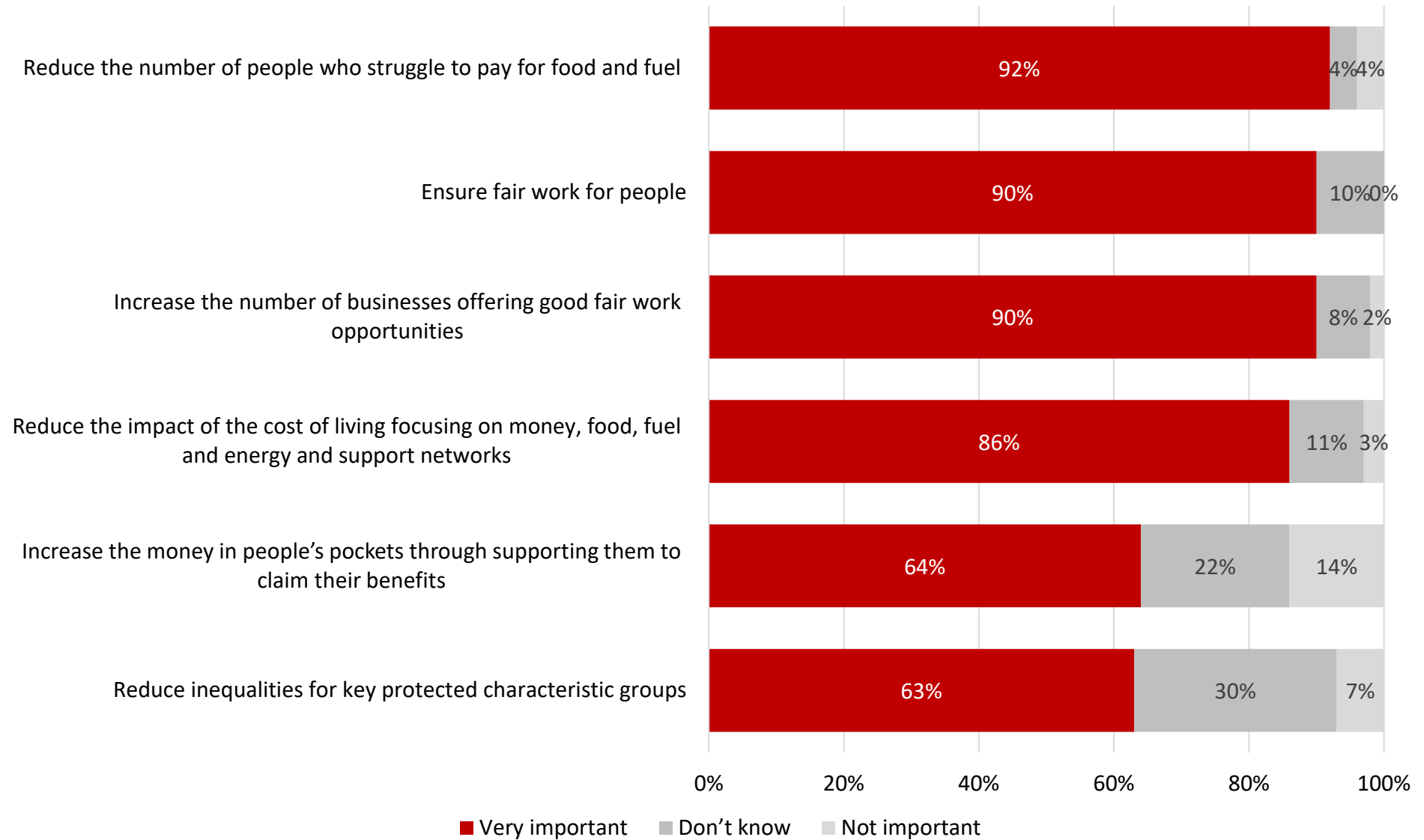
- Midlothian will have transport links that are affordable to all, and which will minimise damage both to the local environment and to the health of our local communities.
- No, it can't as the bottle necks in Edinburgh cause problems in Midlothian
- Replace "will" with "aims to"
Laughable goal as Midlothian has no serious plans or funding to bring sufficient changes to meet even aspiration.
- What is active travel?
- What is active travel?

Midlothian is fairer & wealthier

(Thematic lead: Sustainable Growth)



What people told us about our ideas to make Midlothian Wealthier & Fairer



Other suggestions

- Benefit support - this is just one of many ways through which the overall objective can be achieved.
"Don't knows" - These suffer from a lack of clarity on how fairness is to be measured
- Campaign for an increase in raising the minimum wage
- Change the funding package so that money generated in Midlothian stays there.
- Cost of living challenges need government action to address. There are certainly specific actions that can be taken locally (e.g. supporting benefit claims) and these should certainly be our focus. I struggle to see how we can tackle the bigger issues.
I am not comfortable with high level goals like "ensure fair work". we should focus on specific actions to deliver this. "Fair work" is terminology that may not be familiar to many people (I had to look it up) so a focus on education and promotion is important.
- Encourage people who can work to work and reduce benefits.
- Ensure public transport is accessible, safe and affordable for all
- Fair pay for fair work
- Increase people's health and wellbeing.
- Increase the money in people's pockets through supporting them into employment.
- Increasing business is always a good thing but there is such a bad worker shortage would we have the people to fill the jobs created.
- Initiatives for skilled people to volunteer and help the communities and help to upskill those looking for work or just needing support with things like budgeting, reading, writing etc
Mental health support and general well being education
- More focus on working rather than claiming benefits
- More helpful suggestions in "pop-up" centres in local towns.
- Offer more opportunities to encourage those on benefits to get back out to work, rather than claiming and giving them the opportunities and tools to do so.
- With the shortage in work force long term unemployed should be losing benefits unless physically and mentally unable.

Unsure if priorities were achievable or unsure of wording

- Again this sounds great on paper guys, but how do we achieve this?
- The term 'fair work' is open to interpretation/ambiguous.
- None of these are within the gift of Midlothian Council nor does it have funding to achieve these
- Section 2 only echoes the priority to reduce poverty; it isn't a strategy. Section 3 is so broad as to be meaningless except for reference to support networks. I don't know what characteristic groups refer to. Does Midlothian actually have the ability to increase businesses and does it actually allow businesses which don't offer good fair opportunities? The list of priorities is too broad and vague to make a meaningful option choice.
- The plan should set out those outcomes that can be directly delivered by the partners. Unfortunately it is not possible for the partners to ensure fair work for all - this priority could say 'look to assist more businesses in becoming fair work employers'.
- The problem with these points is that some are incredibly vague, and I don't even know what you are actually proposing. I hope you can make your suggestions more concrete for your next survey.
People will be better able to benefit from enjoying a healthy natural environment.

Comments on language:

63% of people agreed with the wording Midlothian will be wealthier and fairer.

Suggested alternatives to wording

- Aim for a fairer distribution of resources
- All of Midlothian will be better off
- Don't really like the word 'wealthier'. With us living in such a divided world now of the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer, it doesn't have good connotations. Would just have 'Midlothian will be fairer'
- Equal opportunities for everyone.
- Healthier and Fairer.
- I would say more prosperous rather than wealthier. To me wealthier focuses purely on money where as prosperous has a focus on strength and being healthy as well as financial
- I'm not sure that wealthier is the right word. Perhaps "better off" is more understandable.
- Include "more inclusive"
- Just wonder why wealthier & fairer are grouped together? - wealthier area doesn't ensure things will be fairer or more equal.
- Making rash statements is misleading.
Midlothian aims to be.....
- Maybe vs will be
- MCPP want to make sure we focus on the right things that will improve the quality of life for people in Midlothian.
- Midlothian residents would be listened too. To achieve proportionate balance for our lifestyle
- Midlothian will be fairer
- Midlothian will be fairer and prosperous
- Midlothian will be fairer and wealthier
- Midlothian will be healthier, wealthier and fairer
- Midlothian will be prosperous and fairer
- Midlothian will be prosperous and fairer
- Midlothian will be prosperous for everyone
- Midlothian will be safer, wealthier, and fairer.
- Midlothian will be wealthier and more equitable. (Fairer is too loose a term to have any real meaning, for wealthier could mean that they get to keep more of 'their' money)
- Midlothian will be welcoming, wealthier and fairer
- Midlothian will encourage development for all with greater accessibility
- Midlothian will strive to become wealthier and fairer for all.
- Midlothian will work towards everyone having enough to live well
- Midlothian would be fairer
- Midlothian would be more prosperous and fairer to all
- Midlothian will have improved wellbeing and equity
- Not sure what fairer means in this context, might need to be a separate priory area?
- Not sure, there is something off putting about 'wealthier, something that isn't quite off set enough by 'fairer'

- Remove right things and just have things.
Plus change biggest differences to the most important differences
- Replace "will" with "aims to"
- Replace wealthier. The word automatically associates with divides. Perhaps Stronger for community) and fairer
- This implies we're not wealthy or fair at the moment. I don't think that's the case. We just want to improve things for all.
- This statement is misleading. The focus is evidently on reducing poverty rather than increasing wealth. The theme title should reflect this.
- Thriving & Fairer
- Under the SNP group we will be worse off
- Where you will want to live, work and play.
- Will be fairer and more equal
- Working for a wealthier and fairer Midlothian for ALL.

COMMUNICATING CLEARLY

We are happy to translate on request and provide information and publications in other formats, including Braille, tape or large print.

如有需要我們樂意提供翻譯本，和其他版本的資訊與刊物，包括盲人點字、錄音帶或大字體。

Zapewnimy tłumaczenie na żądanie oraz dostarczymy informacje i publikacje w innych formatach, w tym Braillem, na kasecie magnetofonowej lub dużym drukiem.

ਅਸੀਂ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਖੁਸ਼ੀ ਨਾਲ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਅਤੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਾਂਗੇ, ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਰੇਲ, ਟੇਪ ਜਾਂ ਵੱਡੀ ਛਪਾਈ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹਨ।

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