Working Towards a Thriving & Greener Future

Midlothian Community Planning Partnership Conference 2022

8th November 2022
Newbattle Abbey College

Post Conference Feedback:

- Workshop Ideas, Action and Commitments

- Evaluation & Recommendations

Contents

Executive Summary of Workshops

The purpose of the conference was to highlight key information and identify actions for the Single Midlothian Plan 2023-2027. The conference was well attended with over 70 present on the day. During the event there were two breakout sessions, the first on our suggested shared priorities and the second on the cost of living crisis.

Workshop 1 – Shared Priorities

Midlothian is wealthier

Currently we have strong partnership working with different sectors and services and are able to provide funding to those in need. In the future it is hoped that there will be quicker access to funding, a streamlined approach to access services and improved engagement with users. Larger businesses will choose Midlothian for their location, creating high value jobs in the area. Some short term actions to focus on are having positive peer groups, increased events and collaborative meetings, increased visibility of services and quicker distribution of funding. Suggestions on medium to long term actions include identify and improve gaps in financial support, reduce duplication across services, breaking the generational poverty cycle and increased access to credit union support.

Midlothian will have increased skills and capacity

Responses believed currently we have good opportunities for girls in sport and a large proportion of young people are moving into positive destinations after leaving school. There are good training and volunteering opportunities, and also opportunities for those returning to work. Midlothian's communities would like a future in skills and capacity will have innovation, arts and learning hubs, increased connectivity and schemes to help the creation of jobs in new sectors. Actions to help us get to this future include training alongside work including apprenticeships tailored to skills gaps and promoting alternative paths to further education.

Midlothian will be safer

Some areas we are currently doing well are documenting risk, prevention, partnership working and joint referral system. We would like Midlothian's future to have short term funding to allow staff and practitioners to practise what they learn, collaboration with 3rd sector to identify resources for each person and minimal wait lists for services. Some suggested actions to focus on are early intervention and prevention, greater community involvement in planning, better data usage to help identify gaps and needs, and better involvement for men in prevention of violence against women.

Midlothian will be greener

Some of the areas we are currently doing well in is having good communication, education, targets and green spaces to help with the climate emergency. In the future we would like

Midlothian to have more sustainable housing and street lighting, increased recycling, a move towards green transport, and an emphasis on active travel. There will be more outdoor spaces where we take pride in our environment and we utilise spaces for biodiversity. Suggested actions to focus on are reducing plastic usage in schools, having sustainable 20 minute neighbourhoods, and empowering communities to take action through small projects. Improving community awareness on the climate emergency through training, providing information and support, and including young people in decision making are other recommendations.

Midlothian will be healthier

Cross partnership working on wellbeing, policies, and community health are some of the areas we are working well in. There is lots of green space, cycle paths and well run sports clubs and leisure centres, important to community health and wellbeing. In the future it is hoped that technology will be better utilised to help communities live well and care will be provided closer to home. Health inequalities will be reduced and people with complex disabilities will feel safe in their communities. To get there it is suggested that we better engage with people, equipping them with information and skills to understand their health. Appropriate funding is sourced and directed to areas that most needed it and training is provided to all sectors on positive mental wellbeing.

Midlothian will be better connected through infrastructure and active travel

Currently we have great walks and cycleways and offer free bike repairs to promote active travel. There is also free travel for young people and doing active consultations with communities to make our roads safer, e.g. 20 mph speed limit. When asked how you want Midlothian's future to look in regards to infrastructure and active travel, some responses were communities would be better linked through cycle paths, public transport and EV infrastructure, such as electric bikes. Free public transport and WIFI within Midlothian would be available to all and leisure services would be more accessible. Some shared actions are to make disused railway lines walking and cycling routes and to have better promotion and signage of these. Connect with communities on planning, consultations and funding to ensure joined up approaches.

Midlothian will be fairer

We are currently doing joint, partnership working with a focus on early intervention and prevention well. There is a broad range of services available in Midlothian and local communities and young people are supported and listened to. In the future responses would like to see Midlothian having improved and flexible access to services, infrastructure, and community voices being heard and acted on. Responses would also like to see more spaces and tailored courses on life skills for young people. To get there we need to see better joint working, including more community engagement, and have a dignity first approach from services.

Workshop 2 – Cost of Living

Responses indicated that the most important areas of focus are improving digital infrastructure to get messages to those currently unreachable, maintaining support services to those in need, investing in climate emergency measures including insulation and renewable energies, and education and training.

Suggested shared actions for the next 4 years included local credit unions, more recycling shops or free furniture recycling programmes, measures to help heat homes and combat food prices, for example a food network similar to "Too Good To Go".

Some immediate actions could be having drop in days for community's to express what they need and targeted food and energy support. Actions around childcare and the cost of the school day across all sectors, including early years.

Medium term actions could include concentrated support to create local social enterprises and local discount schemes to encourage local spend. A co-ordinated approach to funding and service and community based spaces for youth.

Suggested long term actions included building capacity for 20 minute neighbourhoods, community led projects for climate change, fairer employment and income maximisation in health and education settings.

Introduction

The Midlothian Community Planning Partnership Conference 2022 focused on ways we can work together with our communities to improve outcomes over the next four years. It gave attendees a chance to reflect on what is working well, what we need to retain and what we need to improve on.

The Community Planning Board would like to take this opportunity to reiterate their thanks to the cross-partnership group who organised and hosted the conference. Much work goes on behind the scenes to give partners the opportunity to participate in a conference.

Our Vision 2022-23

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.

Workshop 1 – Shared Priorities

Midlothian is wealthier

What are we currently doing well?

- Partnership working works well for established services
- Strong 3rd Sector support / CWB
- Closer working in Council services
- Bringing partners together for days like the Community Partnership Conference today
- Funding to those in need - business and individual

What do you want Midlothian's future to look like?

- Appropriate funding/criteria and quicker access to funding
- Entice larger business to create high value jobs/locate in Midlothian
- Streamlined services to shorten the journey for service users
- No stereotyping, no stigma, no judgement
- Connected across all sectors (third, private and public)
- Address in work poverty (raised as important area to address as increasing)
- Improved engagement with service users to overcome and manage expectations
- Move from benefit support to work experience/self-employment – Social Enterprise
- Focus on Community Wealth Building

How do you propose we get there? What could be some of the actions we focus on?

- Mapping and prioritising across the county - MT
- Identify and improve gaps in timescales for financial support - MT
- Identify and reduce duplication across services - MT
- Positive peer groups - realistic role models, increasing motivation/hope - ST
- Increased events and collaborative meetings - ST
- Targeted, tailored support to groups ie elderly, in work, young people - ST
- Breaking the generational poverty cycle – education/social enterprise - LT
- Increased visibility of services - ST
- Increased visibility of employment opportunities ie job boards - ST
- Increased access to Credit Union support – supportive to non-workers - LT
- Better prepare long term unemployed for work - ST
- Quicker distribution of funding and ensure holistic approach as part of funding model - ST
- Promote the hidden benefits of being in work – ST

Midlothian will have increased skills and capacity

What are we currently doing well?

- Opportunities for girls in sport, promoting development of skills and confidence
- Business gateway – support for people starting their own businesses
- Involving youth in planning
- 2 colleges; 6 good secondary schools; university research campus; lifelong learning service
- Education attainment has improved over the years
- Large number of young people moving into positive destinations after leaving school
- Support available for training, employability skills
- Businesses offering apprenticeships
- Community hospital
- Large local government organisation
- Strong engagement with partners, e.g. DWP, SDS and Midlothian Employability
- Digital centre for excellence
- Utilised connecting Scotland resources to support access & peer support
- Connect on-line (VM) to support skills development
- Opportunities for people returning to work, i.e. training and volunteering
- Newbattle – school of excellence
- Beeslack – engineering/science
- Youth training – pave for kids who struggle in the classrooms
- Promoting work based learning opportunities to young people – this style of learning suits some individuals more
- High number of young people undertaking foundation apprenticeships while still in school
- Links getting better with schools
- Attractiveness of a career in care, health
- Good teachers at schools
- Volunteering opportunities for younger people
- Good sporting facilities
- Good at putting up houses
- Good access to green spaces
- Careers in health and social care improving
- Good variety of pathways for young people
- Good access to Edinburgh
- Good that so many young people find employment from school

What do you want Midlothian's future to look like?

- We want the same positive outcomes and opportunities for people in all our communities
- Job creation scheme for new sectors – green technology, renewables
- We need innovative learning hubs – make all learning opportunities accessible to all wanting to upskill
- Set up learning hubs that aren't schools that encourage intergenerational learning at all levels
- Inspiring centre for arts and innovation
- Encourage everyone to participate in the survey on the vision for the future of the Education System in Scotland – secondary schools have a mixed mind-set on the curriculum and this is an opportunity to challenge
- Put the focus on the learners
- Improve connectivity across the county (better transport links for Midlothian to allow equal access to opportunities)
- How do we utilise the local Edinburgh College better for local students – offer a greater variety of courses at the Midlothian campus
- Consider the gender segregation across all career paths and employment outcomes and to get girls and women into non-traditional areas
- Make the most of community based learning in the arts and sport and leisure to develop skills and leadership
- Scottish Mining Museum – Hub for "The Carbon Story"
- Centre for alternative technology
- Speakers from all industries in schools, hubs, colleges
- Career variety and alternative path promotion in schools (going straight in to employment appears to be portrayed as a negative), promote choice as a positive in terms of career path. There are alternatives, long term education is not for everyone (examples of how people got where they are, different paths)
- Promote value of apprenticeships
- Attract creativity/business mind set – raise awareness in schools for avenues available
- Training alongside work
- Raise awareness of centres of excellence – what does it actually mean and are there opportunities for all or just school students?
- Promote creativity, innovation, making it find, soft skills/employability
- Are the foundation apprenticeships tailored to the skills gaps in Midlothian?
- Change the perceptions of FAs and MAs
- Lothian Care Academy – is this in operation and is it linked to local learning opportunities and the LEP? Make it clear the potential for this to be a route to nursing and social working as well as care at home.

- Childcare doesn't meet the needs of parents – what can be done to make this flexible if employers can't be flexible?
- Encourage more local businesses
- Focus on leadership and soft skills

Midlothian will be safer

What are we currently doing well?

- Education approach
- Risk prevention document
- Waste amnesty
- Partnership working
- Joint referral system
- Third sector involvement – access to training PPO

What do you want Midlothian's future to look like?

- No wrong door
- Agencies to be able to sign post
- Staff and practitioners being able to practise what they learn – short term funding of services impacts on this
- Stable function for 3rd sector agencies – providing many services locally
- 3rd sector – greater collaboration to identify the most effective resources for the person
- Supporting vulnerable groups
- Services have minimal waiting lists or support available whilst waiting for main service/intervention

How do you propose we get there? What could be some of the actions we focus on?

- How we use data
- Involve men in prevention of VAWG
- Greater transparency of housing in Midlothian
- Early intervention and prevention
- Share more good stories
- Gender sectioned data
- Community involvement in planning day
- Residents/service users involved in service delivering and design
- White ribbon campaign
- More lived experience
- Connections to a community is more than just shops etc. Can I travel to services? What is available nearby
- Better data to identify gaps and needs
- Services – have they been involved in planning etc for the new town. Build communication from the start.

Midlothian will be greener

What are we currently doing well?

- Communication – fuel poverty, help available
- Supporting households to save money and carbon through information
- Having a designated cabinet member for climate change
- Educating our young people
- Measuring our environment
- Looking at change
- Net zero targets
- Wee forests with schools
- Green spaces
- Introduction of recycling bins at schools
- Protected woodland (% higher than expected)
- Keeping as many green spaced and tree lines as possible
- Hydrogen production
- Rainbow of colours but more towards green
- Supporting local 'guereilla' groups
- Protecting ancient woodland
- 'Greener' buildings like new schools and houses
- Supporting citizen science
- Litter picking
- Lots of green spaces
- Free bus passes for students
- Action on climate change
- MEL – Shawfair and Dalkeith
- Climate emergency declared
- Working with other councils
- Working with schools and young people to increase knowledge
- Net Zero aims
- Go e-bikes
- Strong set of existing communities
- Great potential to work on how to make growing communities sustainable and greener

What do you want Midlothian's future to look like?

- Recycling as much as possible and continuing to do more separation
- More towards hydrogen vehicles
- Street lighting – LED
- Housing – green builds
- Solar panels on council housing and many on private owned
- Giving a goal to schools to get greener and encourage action on climate change
- Giving young people a voice

- Some good anchor organisations and passionate people
- Good values at the top
- Openness to listen
- Open discussion an net working
- Creation of new learning: environmental, new tech, transportation
- Portfolio and project working in greener skills
- Working in collaboration with manufacturing employers
- Moved to electric vehicles
- Net zero targets achieved
- 20 minute neighbourhoods
- Active travel
- Healthy and active
- More emphasis on health prevention for greener living
- Funding bids based on teams of community groups
- Better connected
- Community-led based renewable energy generation
- Community groups working together
- Sustainable
- Building a community with shops, facilities etc easily available close by
- Active travel increased
- Every household has a garden or allotment
- Young people outside enjoying outdoors
- Focus development and new housing in towns
- Kind and tolerant
- More outdoor learning
- More inclusiveness
- Utilizing spaces for biodiversity
- Cleaner and safer
- Pride in our environment
- Opportunities for all
- Proof of concepts
- Healthy
- Equitable society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive
- More connection between communities including the new buildings/estates being planned/built
- Whole system approach to community planning
- Connected communities with access to green public transport
- Energy self-sufficient
- Education of eco and climate change directed to younger people
- More social enterprises especially based on youth voices
- Things more focused on net zero energy providers e.g. solar panels, hydro
- More community spaces
- Programme of projects bringing local communities and businesses together
- Green energy sufficient

How do you propose we get there? What could be some of the actions we focus on?

- Reduce plastic use in schools
- Listening to young voices
- Shifting investment to a greener economy
- Sustainable communities
- Everything in close proximity
- Build green routes
- Hydrogen or electric self-generation transportation
- Planning supports lowest cost and low carbon lifecycle
- Have projects that anyone can join to progress particular energy tasks
- Government to listen to science of build green infrastructure
- Define and repeat top 5 actions we must all take
- Raising awareness by using real time facts i.e. bringing it home and making people aware how climate change is affecting us in real time
- Understanding that young people's voices are important and can be utilised – it is their future.
- Don't just consult, really engage – use all means to be creative
- Create the Midlothian Food Belt
- Visualise the vision
- Ensure space for growing
- Global co-operation
- Invite young people into decision making, give them a power
- Strong political leadership
- Empowering communities to take action – small steps to changes
- Ensuring links between health and wellbeing and climate impact is known and clear
- Continue to work in partnership
- Have a strong community led climate action network
- Let communities try things out
- Verges and hedgerows managed as the biggest wildlife resource in Midlothian
- Local people to get support to generate their own electricity – community based
- Increased diversity in collaboration
- Actions on improving infrastructure to allow for active travel and sustainable communities
- Help communities with shared food growing
- Providing clear information and support
- Working remotely and using technology to reduce travel needed for work
- Green social prescribing programme
- Funding organisations like Changeworks/CAB to help people with energy crisis
- Improve awareness of what we can do as a community to tackle climate change
- Training in renewable energy

Midlothian will be Healthier

What are we currently doing well?

- Embedding good conversations and the midway across the partnerships
- Increased conversations on how to manage and improve individuals wellbeing
- Lots of green space
- Well run local sports clubs and leisure centres
- Well maintained cycle paths
- More discussion around wellbeing and council policies that support this
- Starting to put patient at centre of their care – good conversations
- We are doing well at trying to embed more good conversations in the provision of health esc.
- Genuine desire to improve community health sometimes does not translate into practice help
- More joined up support
- Dedicated staff who always seem to be fighting for their department
- We are beginning to talk more about the value and importance of the third sector – we're recognising that we may need to invest in this further

What do you want Midlothian's future to look like?

- Healthy food hubs – educate on cooking
- Providing more care for people closer to home
- Utilising technology to enable people to keep well for longer
- Better planned transition to adult life for some Midlothian citizens
- Reduce repetition – telling your story once
- Create active travel infrastructure in old railway paths
- Utilising technology to enable systems to talk to each other
- More youth work. We are cutting youth work and young people have nowhere to go
- More focus on life skills for youth
- Cross community groups for youth
- Build respect for all organisations
- We want to see health inequalities addressed properly to achieve health equity
- People with complex intellectual disability feel safer in their communities
- Support for jobs, employment for people furthest from labour market
- We want to see a HSCP that is cohesive, collaborative in its work culture and not defined by interpersonal politics
- Poverty cause of bad health. Create more quality, well paid jobs. Encourage employers
- Increased supported self-management and engagement with population around health and wellbeing
- Compassionate communities that work together
- Actions based on empathy and brining communities together

- Farm to fork healthy food for all
- More streamlined services with less repetition for patients in having to share their story
- Easy access is primary care
- We want preventative approaches to be invested in much more proactively
- Vocational education for 16 to 18 year olds
- Fairer Midlothian where all children feel safe and secure and are encouraged to access adult support
- Much more support for unpaid carers. No one who is supporting someone should have poorer health because of it
- Better home care – give people more than a 15 minute visit
- Give people consistent help
- We want to see people being well in their communities, with good community infrastructure and HSC provisions

How do you propose we get there? What could be some of the actions we focus on?

- Change the language we are using how/when we engage with people. Equip them with information and skills to better understand their own health
- Healthy eating and cooking classes for all
- Working together, sharing ideas, thinking out the box
- Free, good quality, enough school dinners
- Give all kids full tummies
- Improve access to joint systems. Reduce silo working by seeing the bigger picture
- Have youth cafes
- Have youth workers
- Have street workers
- Measuring progress as a wellbeing economy
- Technology enabled care project work
- Improve cross county links. Keep older people socialising, shopping, help as a preventative health
- Grow cycling destination for Scotland
- By making sure all the appropriate funding is sourced and directed to the areas that really need it
- Integrated food producers, farmers, 3rd sector and business
- Dedicated staff
- A fairer Midlothian where all children feel safe and secure
- Training for all sectors on how to recognise poor mental health and when to act
- More face to face working groups
- Clearer consultations of our young people
- Invest in employability services
- Better liaison with local colleges
- Good communications between services
- Partnerships and engagement with local groups

Midlothian will be better connected through infrastructure and active travel

What are we currently doing well?

- Good relationship with community councils and council staff
- Parking wardens – improve safety in high street
- Flood repair areas
- School free travel
- Good opportunities for communities
- Good information gathering
- 20 minute neighbourhoods
- Investment in machines
- Super cycle paths links towns
- Freeing up parking at primary schools
- Linking out new estates ensuring there are paths and walkways
- Connecting Midlothian residents with other areas e.g. Edinburgh and beyond
- Making our streets and roads safer
- Helping access free bus travel
- Great safe walk and cycleways
- Park lighting – people feel safer
- Training for young people
- Cycle paths
- Bike repair for free
- Safer travel routes
- Free travel
- Active consultation e.g. reduce speed limits
- Midlothian paths and roads group
- Parking wardens – making the people feel safer for people
- Staff recruitment
- Consulting the folk especially online
- Lots of young people using buses
- Promoting the uptake of free bus travel for young people
- Free travel
- Midlothian Traffic Roads and Paths
- Partnership community Midlothian council officers
- '20' speed limit in some places
- Good roads
- Putting up the active 20 mph consultation is an exciting initiative
- Transparency on how budgets are being spent
- Strategic commitment to net zero

What do you want Midlothian's future to look like?

- Links between Edinburgh college campus
- Better links for more traditional paths
- Liaison with Lothian Buses and transport providers
- Cross county A68 route vastly improved
- EV strategy
- Improve hospital visits
- Using public transport as the norm
- Roads department linking with community for priorities for the future
- Making the process of free more accessible
- More enforcing 20 mph out with school hours
- Improve cycle paths – some communities could link via cycle paths
- Consultation on STAG meeting have produced results – so underlines the aspect of trying to get communities on board
- Transport links within Midlothian – connecting local areas and providing access to local facilities
- Open communities
- Free travel important but services need to be there to support this
- Availability of WIFI
- Bike racking provided at access points to the bus routes
- Digital connectivity
- Electric bike scheme Dalkeith and Eskbank
- Listening to communities and stakeholders
- MTRAP Active travel consultation
- Communication between neighbouring authorities
- Links between train stations and bus stops
- New cycle paths in some areas
- Free travel uptake
- Park lighting
- Improve pavements
- Bike parking shelters
- Orbital routes
- Improved parking
- Make learning and leisure services more accessible to local areas
- More organised events to encourage people to explore walking areas
- Ensuring people are not left behind
- Connecting small communities together
- Links to train station
- Connected zero carbon travel ways and 20 minute neighbourhoods

How do you propose we get there? What could be some of the actions we focus on?

- Railway lines changed to walking paths and cycling routes
- Intergenerational support
- Improve links and connections

- Communities to be linked better through public transport including our remote areas
- Public consultations
- Clear plan – fully costed
- Secure funding
- Behaviour change
- Strategic planning of the network and connections
- Better signage of local pathways
- Inter-modal aspirations
- Linking in local transport strategy
- Sharing information between council and community council members
- Continued engagement with local communities
- Active travel routes – could be promoted and more participants
- Right solutions must be accessible
- Digital connectivity
- Allow face to face as a possibility
- Links with city deal
- Stop school buses when young people have free bus pass
- Measures on impact
- Funding
- Planning, consultations, scoping of setting – geographic areas
- Joined up approach to surveys on demand and needs
- Parking strategy
- Road safety
- Roads improvement
- Consultation and police resources traffic calming measures
- Better education

Midlothian will be fairer

What are we currently doing well?

- Joint working – identifying the issues
- Generally work well together
- Focus on early intervention and prevention
- Local residents groups taking on looking after their "patch"
- Green focus – less plastic
- Some great spaces to meet
- Gala days bring people together
- Support, when it is given, is good, but it is not universal
- Free school lunches
- Free period products
- Foodbanks for those who need them
- Sports and leisure facilities in many areas
- Partnership working in Midlothian is good
- Broad range of services available
- Earlier access to MH services
- Communities assets multi strengths
- Stakeholder events
- Real desire to make things better
- Supporting volunteers, vulnerable adults, and young people into work
- People supported to remain in their local communities
- Listening to our communities
- Listening to our young people
- Midlothian is safe

How do you propose we get there? What could be some of the actions we focus on?

- Improving access to services for some vulnerable groups
- People provided with better quality temporary housing
- Get young people into work
- Working together
- Trusting local organisations to deliver
- Giving local people a voice
- Flexible approaches to services
- Evidence based
- Clear, smart and targeted
- Support endeavours that help others in a practical way
- Open kindergartens for all parents and children
- Tackle life skill issues through education and housing through various platforms
- Ensuring a preventative approach is taken to delivery of services
- Make sure we address the topics relevant to the people
- Agree and set the priorities
- Ensure there is adequate resources and funding to deliver objectives

- Ensuring the view of those with lived experience are heard and acted on
- Drop in spaces for young people to get support
- Give our council more powers to borrow and find resources that we own
- Improve our infrastructure
- Trusting, open, honest partnership
- Re-shape services according to the needs of the people we serve, not the organisations that serve them
- Core funding
- Find a way to gather and act on the lived experience voice
- Discussions need to keep going and action taken
- Invest in community spaces
- Create more spaced for young people to get together
- Voices heard and clear actions in response
- Identifying weak areas and bring them up to the same standard as else where
- Ensuring services are accessible In the locations people want it
- Join up funding, strategies with community needs
- Living wage
- Partnership working throughout services
- More communication between all organisations
- Understanding which groups are at most risk of inequality
- People have a dignity first approach from services
- Better joint working which includes more community engagement
- How do we get the right people to engage? Incentives?

Workshop 2 – Cost of Living

In this workshop the focus is on the cost of living crisis that is facing our communities. The Council has set up a Cost of Living Task Force and the CPP has the Strategic Poverty Group to identify interventions to mitigate the impacts of the crisis for Midlothian's communities. It was asked if attendees could get agreement on actions that could be taken by the partnership, even small ones, to support local people during this time. The CPP has also set up a Strategic Poverty Prevention Group to focus on longer term actions and prevention/resilience measures.

What are the most important areas for us to focus on that would make the biggest impact as a CPP, in the short and long term. (as an anchor organisations*, how do we work together to bring in funding, how do we do practical support)

- Providing support to those most in need
- Non-judgemental support, no stigma in seeking support and accessible for all
- Community Wealth Building
- Digital – ensuring everyone has internet access
- Community building opportunities when people (have to) come together for warmth/food – can it be engaging/uplifting to build a sense of connection?
- Consider the gender dimension – what happens within households, who has control of household finance? Intro household power relation (older children bullying parents)
- Sustaining the warm places - what support is there to vulnerable attendees?
- Travel – what about people who can't afford to use public transport and is there suitable public transport available, support to get children and young people to sign up for free bus passes
- Blackouts – if these happen what about older people who rely on landlines, could we provide cheap plug in phones?
- Resilience groups – what is the Midlothian plan for resilience? What is the Red Cross role? What are the expectations of the community? Previous volunteers are now back at work and may be under own economic circumstances and stress.
- Messaging – how do we let people know who to contact, where to go etc.?
- Set up a single point of contact/telephone number
- How do we reach the unreachable? Make sure an integrated impact assessment is carried out to make sure all groups are considered
- Can school hours be extended so that families can come and keep warm and get food?
- Promote the use of the OLIO app
- Have a section at the recycling centres where people can leave "good" waste to be reused by others
- Community owned energy farms

- Got all agencies/organisations to ask the simple question "are you having problems with the cost of living?"
- Insulation of housing
- Investment in renewable energies
- Project – encourage/subsidise renewable energies
- Job creation around renewals
- Ensure the poverty plan is gendered
- Commit to Midlothian becoming a fair/living wage town and include in procurement
- Link in 20 minute neighbourhoods to community wealth building
- Change the stigma/language around poverty
- Make things really local
- Employability programmes
- Training support
- Education classes
- Recruitment events
- Practical skills taught in schools
- Supporting employability
- Address cost of doing business – employers are suffering
- Local procurement strategy – buy local
- Clear communication
- Sharing the wealth of support
- Fighting food poverty – destigmatising food pantries/banks
- Establish social banks to facilitate loans to allow businesses to trade through
- Maintaining peoples access to fundamental services
- Put grants through SLL gift cards
- Meetings with local communities to find out specific needs

What could be the shared actions that the partnership pledge to undertake over the next 4 years?

- Increasing peoples resilience – empowering people
- Strategic leadership to drive change
- Opportunities through community setting may increase awareness of services
- Credit union locally
- MEL – find out what is going on
- Recycling centres – too much is going to centres
- Match MEL with existing energy initiatives
- Food prices – create network similar to "Too good to go" specifically for Midlothian or promote these apps
- Heat homes (insulation)
- Cost of food
- Cost of school day

- Creation of opportunities for people to still have good quality of life through leisure and sport activities

Which ones are immediate actions and which ones are longer term? Please priorities into immediate, short term, and longer term. Consider prevention and actions that build resilience.

Immediate / short term actions

- Identify and understand the target groups i.e. young people, in work poor, elderly and vulnerable
- Recognising impact of crisis (Government)
- Drop in days for each community – ask what they need
- Communicate what financial support are available – older people have less access to internet
- Look at how we communicate with all members of our communities
- Benefits – those that are unclaimed
- Funeral costs
- Childcare
- Young people in 1st jobs
- Community warm hubs
- More understanding of benefits – key messages shared
- Use of language
- Reduce stigma to ask for help
- Food banks short term – is this sustainable?
- Warm hubs – free soup/heating
- Food pantry not food banks
- Uniform in school
- Protecting vulnerable groups from being targeted
- Creation of safe and warm spaces in communities
- Direct targeting of vulnerable groups – referral for support & sharing information
- Buying locally
- Group–on approach to buying for the right thing
- Home energy assessments
- Cost of school day
- Heating
- Food growing in local areas
- Cost of school day across all sectors including early years through to high school
- Shared gardens
- Shared allotments
- Food and fuel costs
- Cost of living
- Mapping of income maximisation organisations

- Provision of small grants to cover food, electricity, etc
- Targeted food/energy support for those presenting in crisis
- Heat and food

Medium term

- Free Midlothian wide internet to access information – jobs, benefits, social capital
- Local discount scheme for anchor orgs to encourage local spend
- Person focussed approach, all politics aside
- All anchor orgs co-ordinated approach
- Collaboration on procurement of services, based on need, referred by trusted partners
- Co-ordinated funding approach
- Businesses to have welfare funds – zero contracts, no sick pay, limited protection
- More access to culture spaces
- 20 minute neighbourhoods
- Provide concentrated support to create some local social enterprises
- Collective ownership over food access including growing, cooking and transport
- Ensure there are pathways in our statutory services to income maximisation services – accessible to all
- Lobby for more benefits and funding
- People coming together – share learning, teach cooking skills
- Free furniture recycling programme
- Community based spaces for youth services

Long term

- Universal service (Hubs) 24/7 to include crisis service when services are closed (with peer support / volunteers?)
- Business organisations
- Timebanks
- Insist on including a carbon price
- Energy efficiency in homes
- Fairer employment
- Income maximisation in health and education settings
- Community planning partners to release and for community social enterprise to help with Midlothian Food Belt
- Include gardening in curriculum
- Building capacity for 20 minute neighbourhoods
- Food growing strategy/map and co-ordination for better local access
- Sustainability
- Fair work
- Community led projects engaging with the environment/climate

- Real living wage
- Teaching budgeting and finance in schools
- Community empowerment
- Commitment to progress a real living wage
- Locally embedded employment support

Evaluation

The evaluation questions below were sent via email using survey monkey to the attendees following the conference. In total there were 30 responses to the evaluation questions.

Q1. The presentation by Midlothian Youth Platform on the Hackathon results was what I expected

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Neither agree nor disagree	33
Agree	53
Strongly Agree	13

Q2. The presentation by Midlothian Youth Platform on the Hackathon was relevant

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Neither agree nor disagree	13
Agree	60
Strongly Agree	27
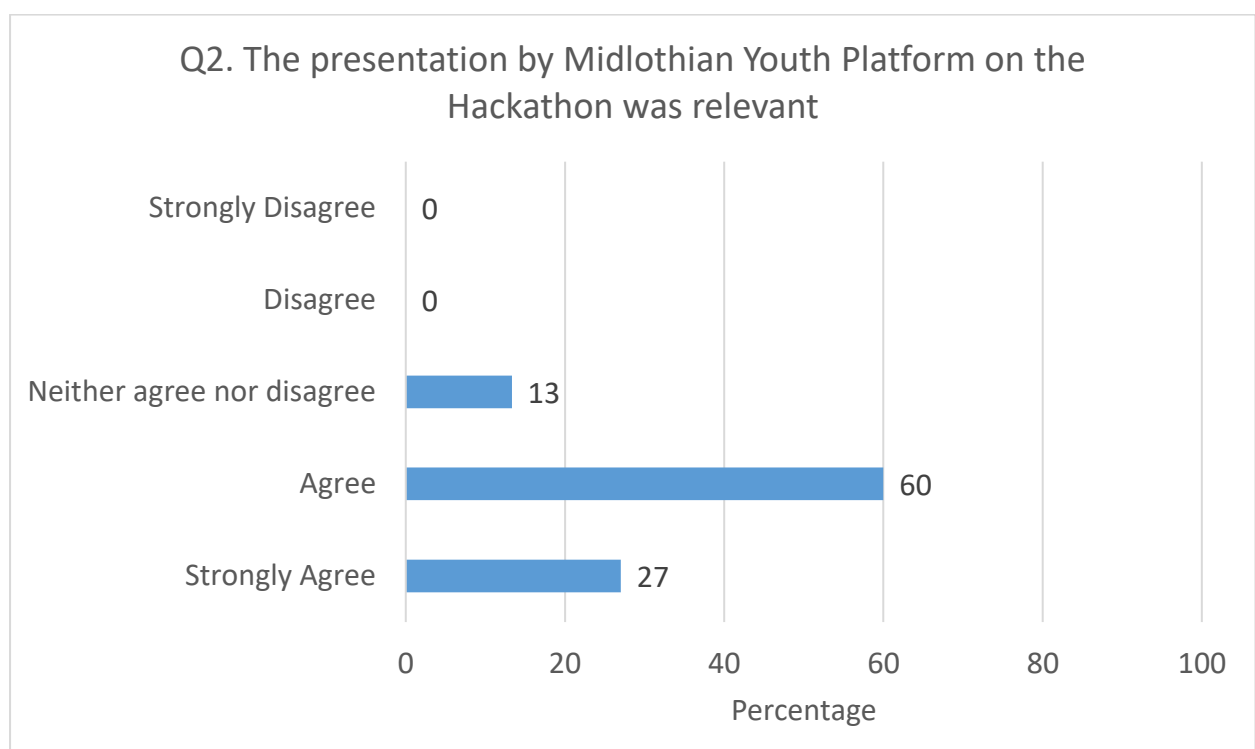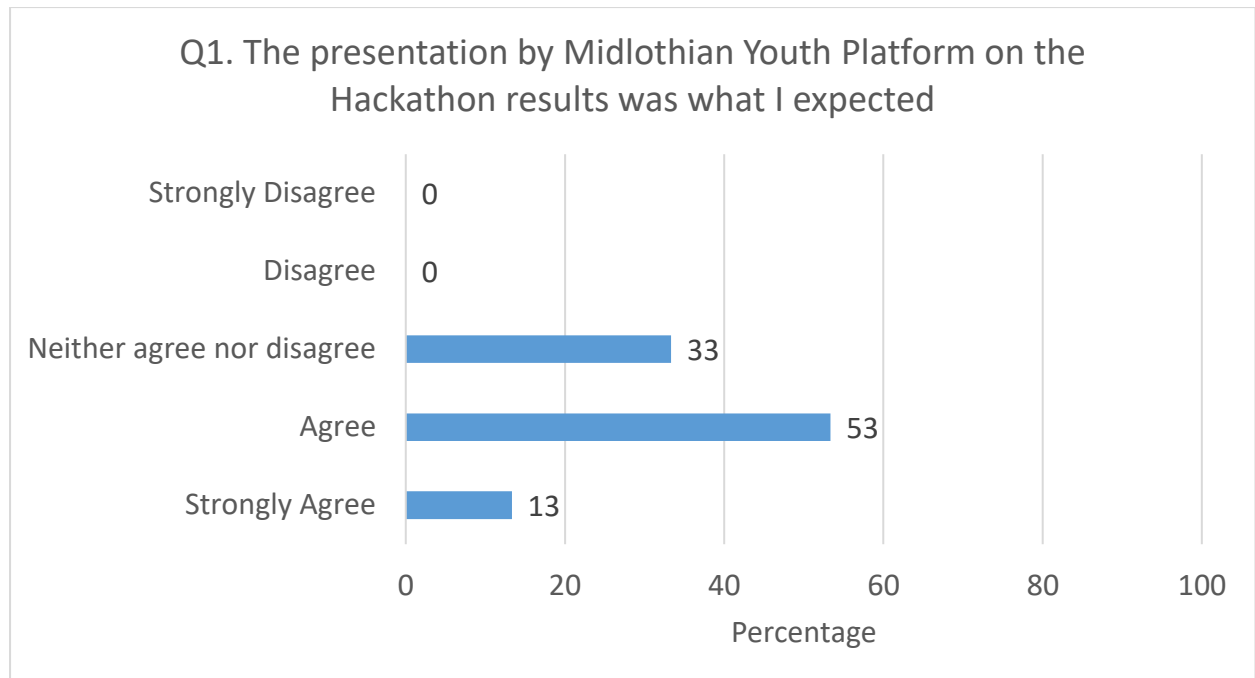
Q3. The presentation by Midlothian Youth Platform contained information that was new and useful to me

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	7
Disagree	7
Neither agree nor disagree	0
Agree	60
Strongly Agree	27

Percentage
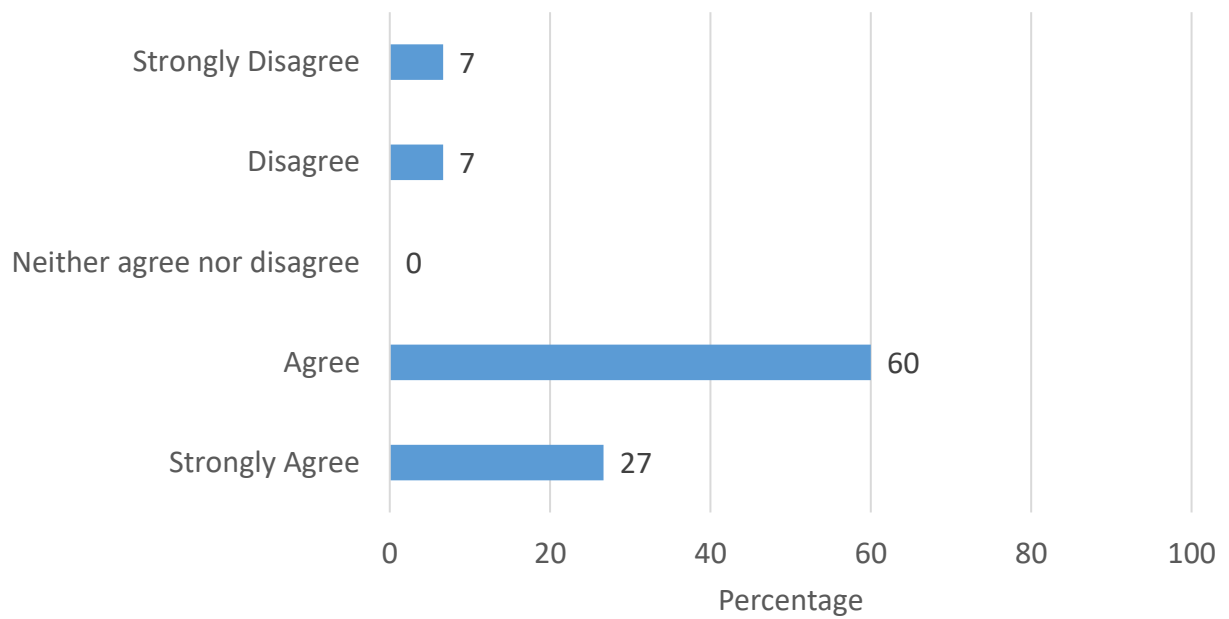
Q4. The presentation on the Citizens Panel was what I expected

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Neither agree nor disagree	33
Agree	60
Strongly Agree	7

Percentage
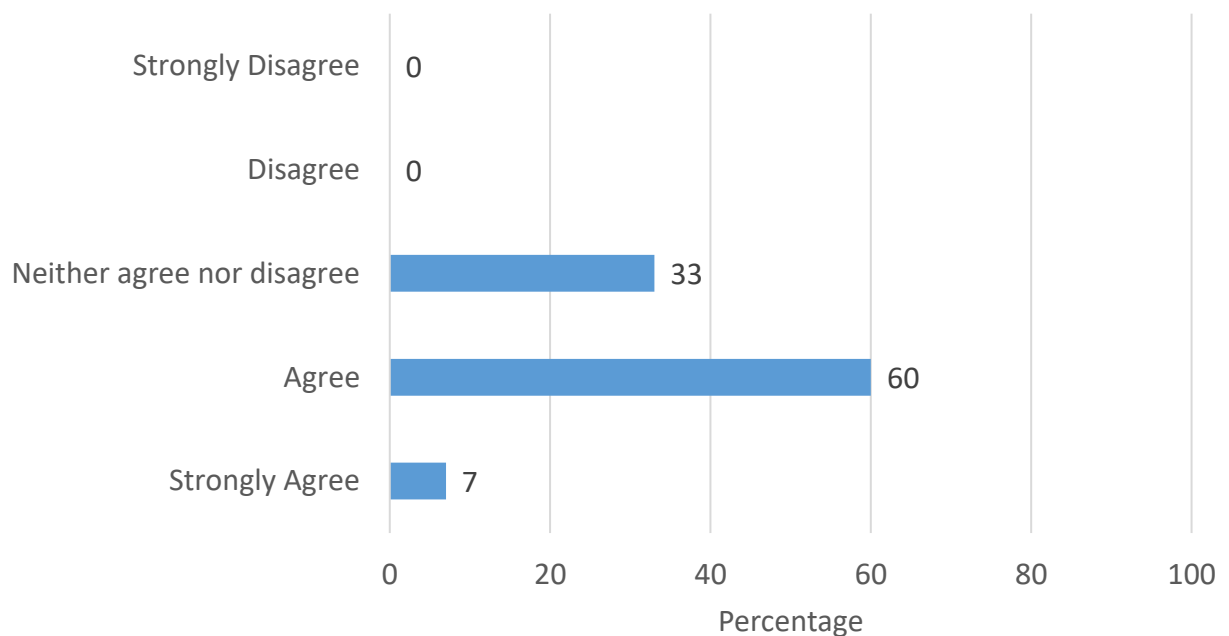
Q5. The presentation on Citizens Panel was relevant

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	6
Neither agree nor disagree	20
Agree	47
Strongly Agree	27

Percentage
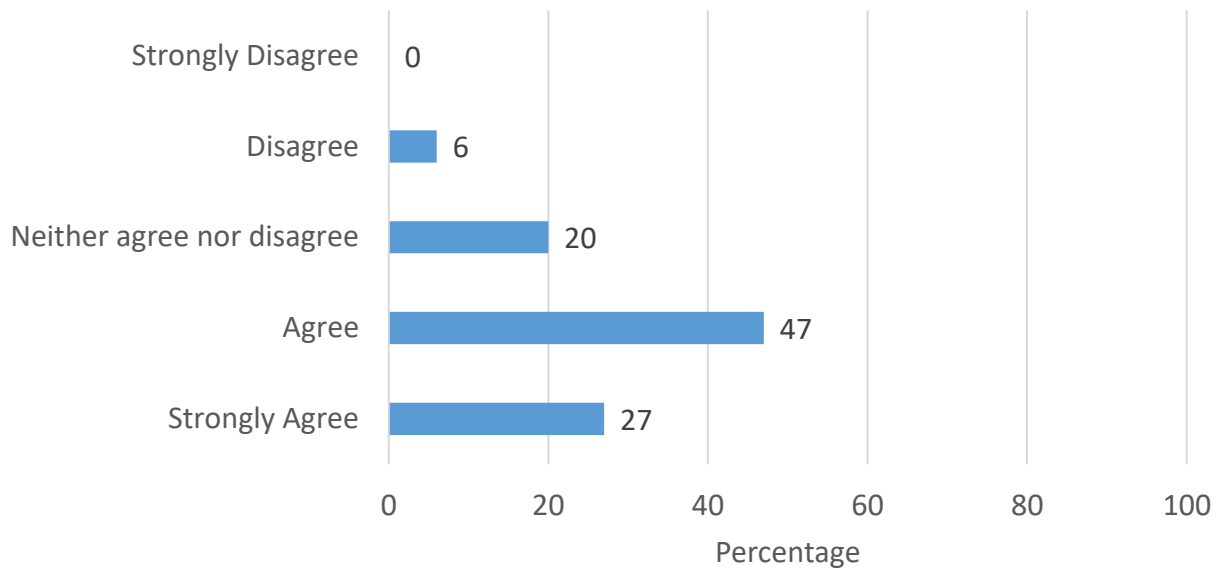
Q6. The Citizens Panel presentation contained information that was new and useful to me

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Neither agree nor disagree	20
Agree	60
Strongly Agree	20

Percentage
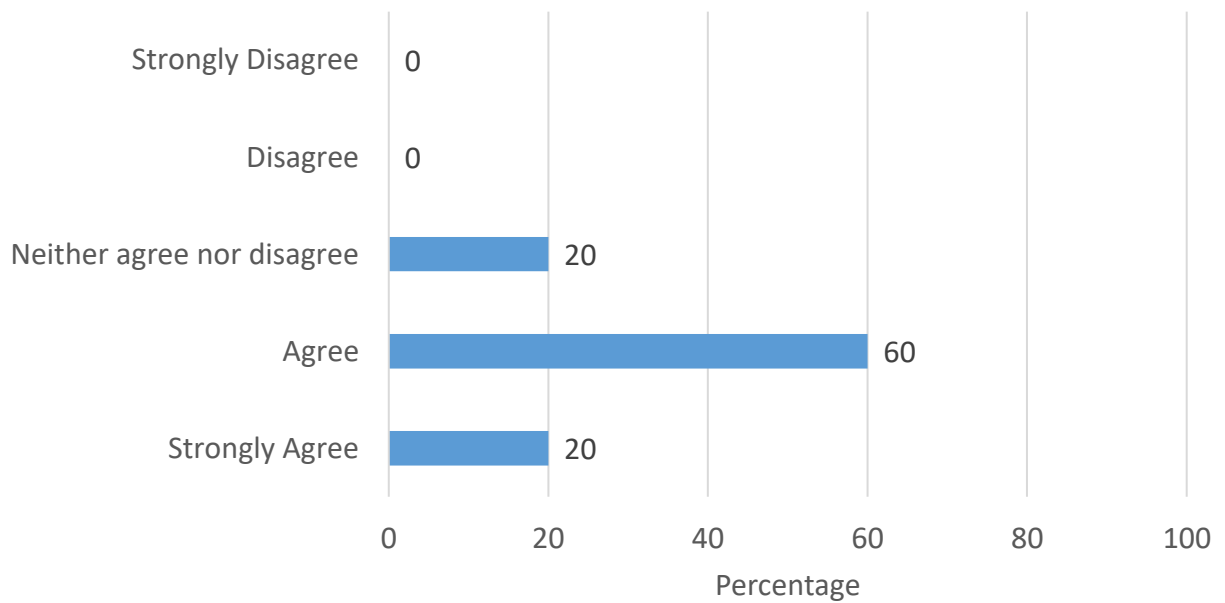
Q7. The Quiz on the Midlothian Profile was what I expected

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	7
Neither agree nor disagree	33
Agree	53
Strongly Agree	7

Percentage
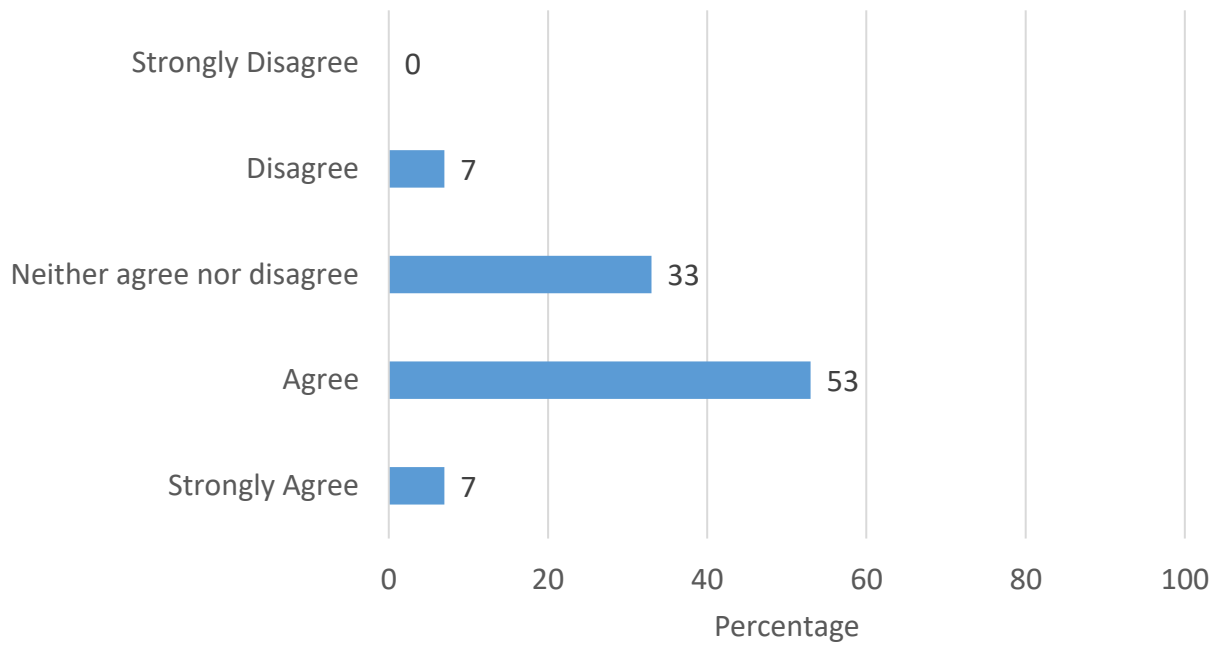
Q8. The Quiz on the Midlothian Profile was relevant

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Neither agree nor disagree	13
Agree	60
Strongly Agree	27

Percentage

Q9. The Quiz on the Midlothian Profile contained information that was new and useful to me

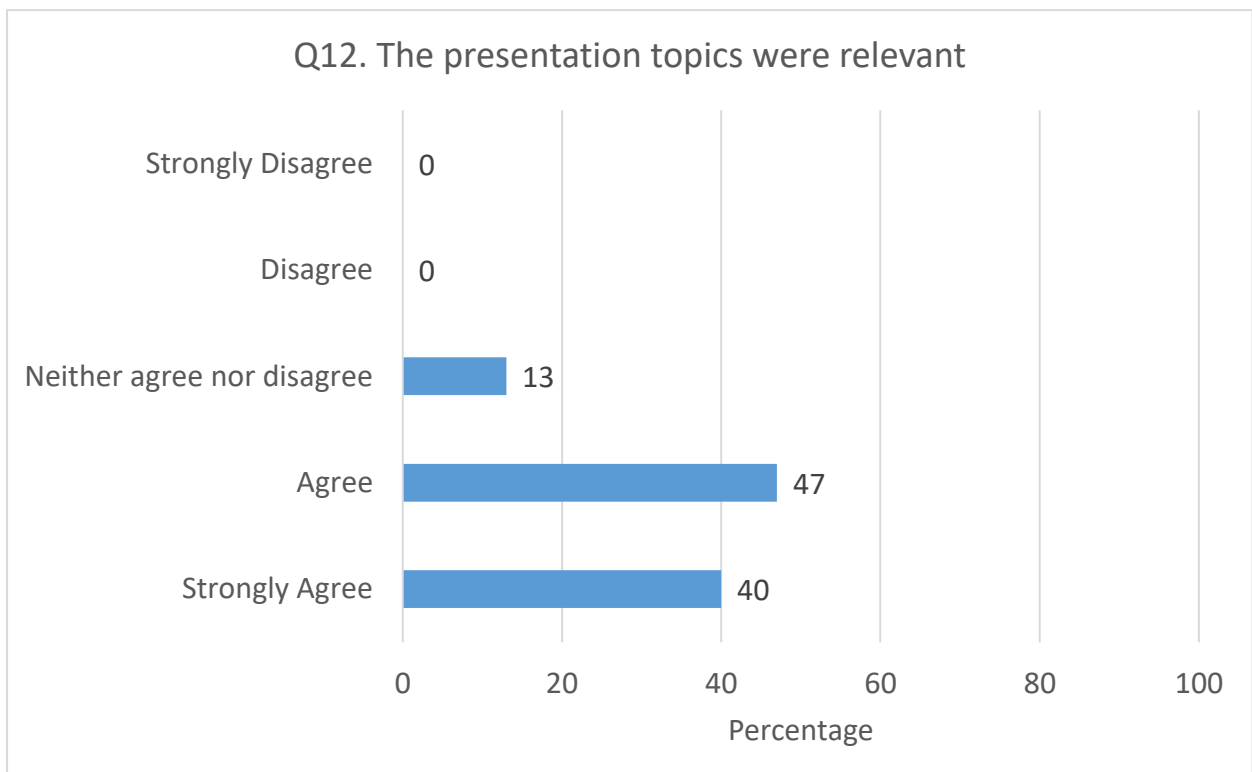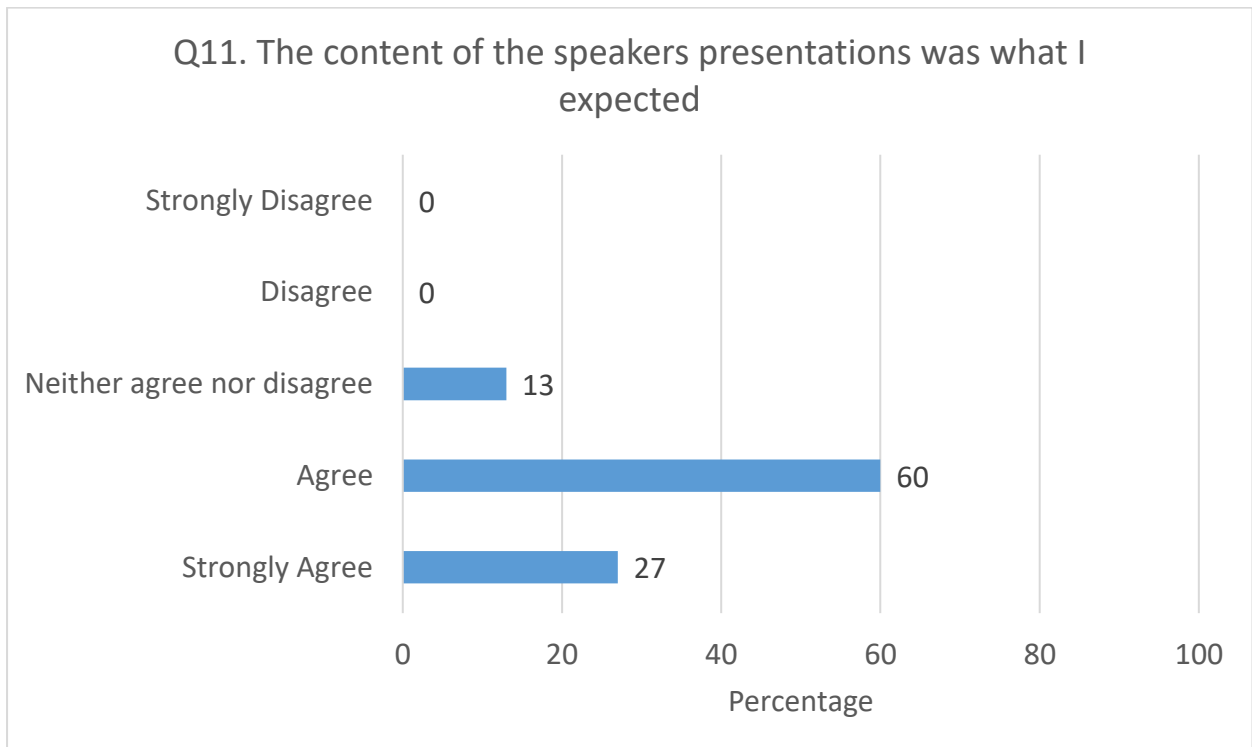| Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Neither agree nor disagree	7
Agree	66
Strongly Agree	27

Percentage
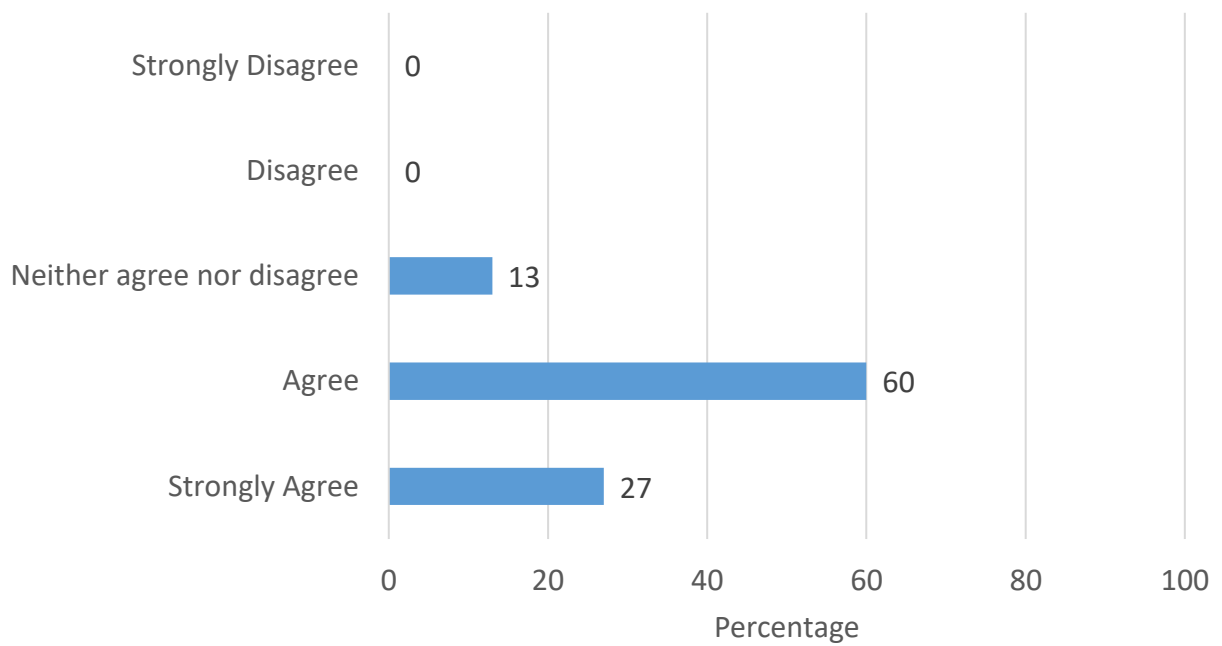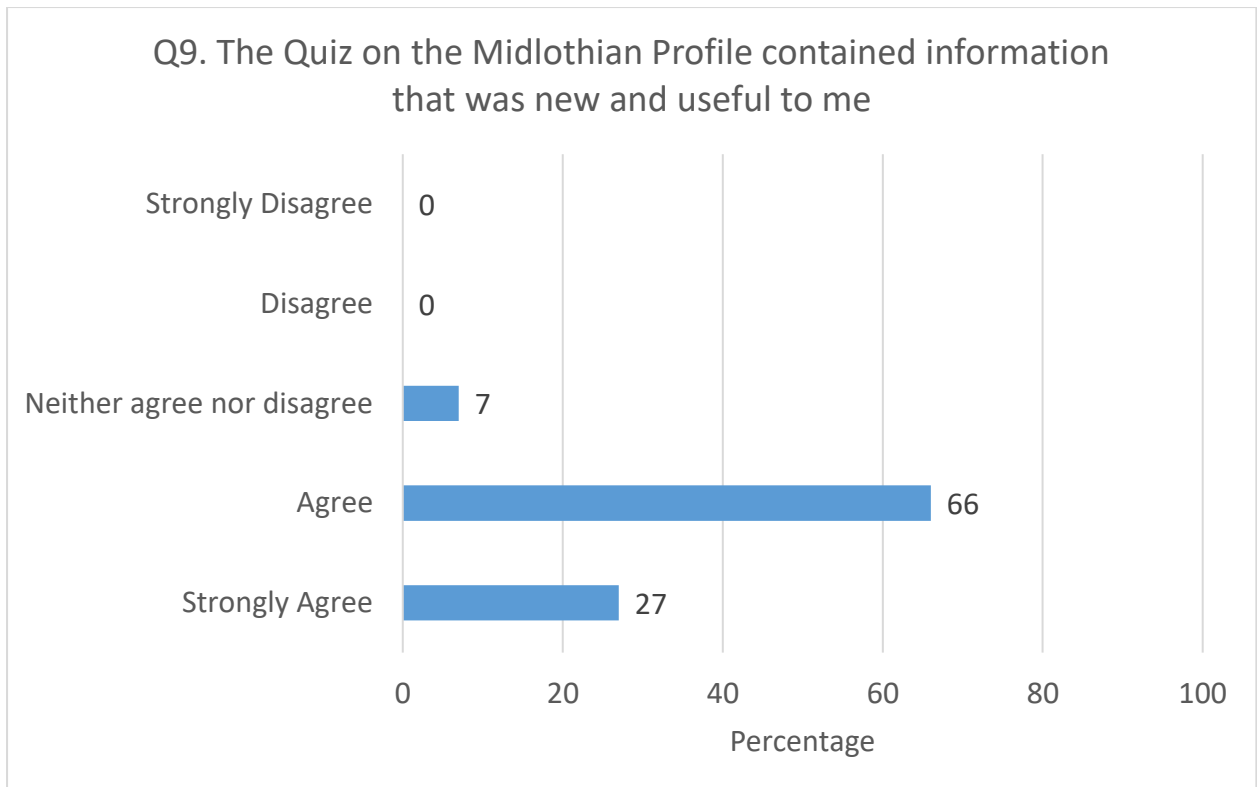
Q10. Any other feedback on the morning speakers?

- Midlothian profile quiz was very interesting & quiz-format was refreshing
- It was a shame we couldn't really hear the video at the start. The quiz was interesting but there needs to be context around some of the stats
- The sound system was very poor throughout the day
- It was a lovely day. I particularly enjoyed the economics talk
- I thought it was great to start with the youth platform but the quality of the recording wasn't the best, so I missed a lot of the content
- Quiz was very good activity to engage the room, the video by the kids wasn't very clear which was a shame, the message was strong from the young people that presented
- The sound quality meant I couldn't hear the young people's performance

Community Wealth Building by Neil McInroy

Q11. The content of the speakers presentations was what I expected

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Neither agree nor disagree	13
Agree	60
Strongly Agree	27

Percentage

Q12. The presentation topics were relevant

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Neither agree nor disagree	13
Agree	47
Strongly Agree	40

Percentage

Q13. The presentation contained information that was new and useful to me

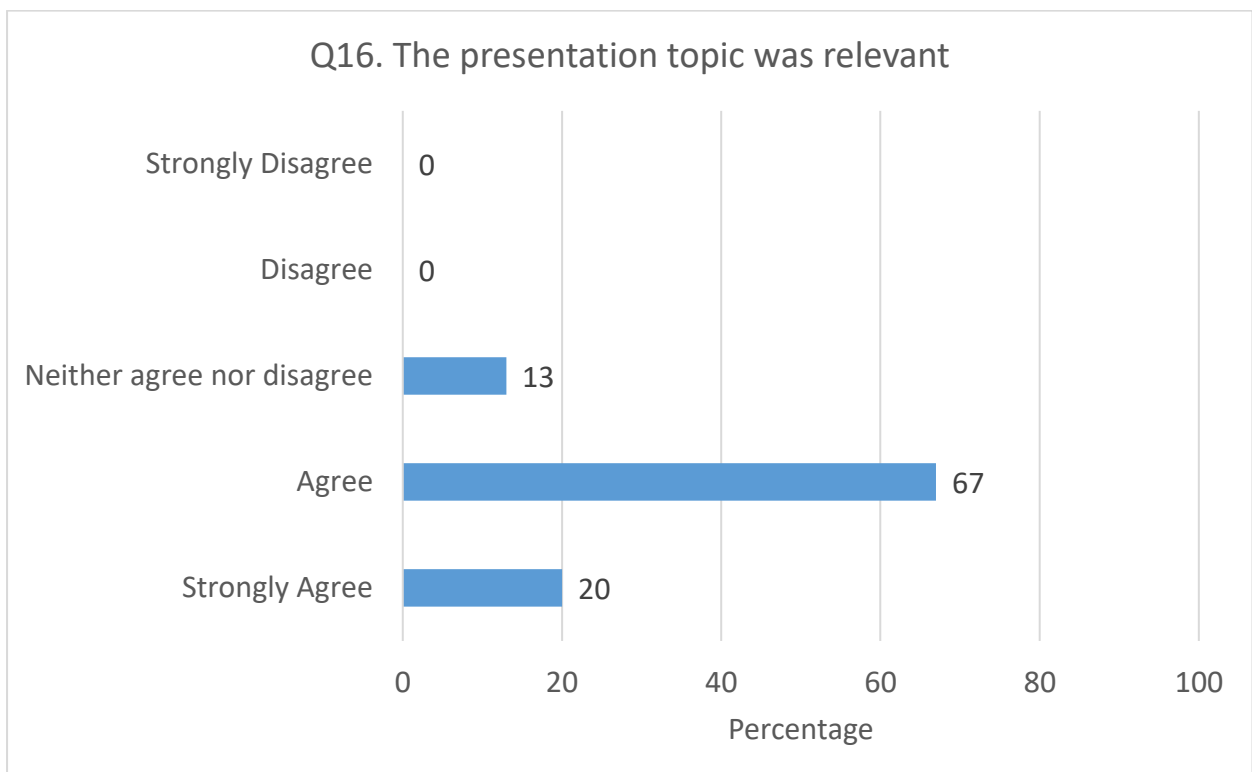| Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	7
Neither agree nor disagree	13
Agree	60
Strongly Agree	20

Percentage

Q14. Additional comments

- I had previously heard Neil speak which is why the info wasn't new to me
- Would have liked longer on the community wealth building item
- An interesting choice of visuals. Big subject to deal with and very disappointing that the speaker left immediately. Very disappointing for the conference organisers I imagine
- I would like to hear more from Neil
- Could have been longer and should have had time for questions

Midlothian Cares Housing Support from Melville and Midlothian Council

Q15. The content of the speaker presentation was what I expected

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Neither agree nor disagree	27
Agree	60
Strongly Agree	13

Percentage

Q16. The presentation topic was relevant

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Neither agree nor disagree	13
Agree	67
Strongly Agree	20

Percentage

Q17. The presentations contained information that was new and useful to me

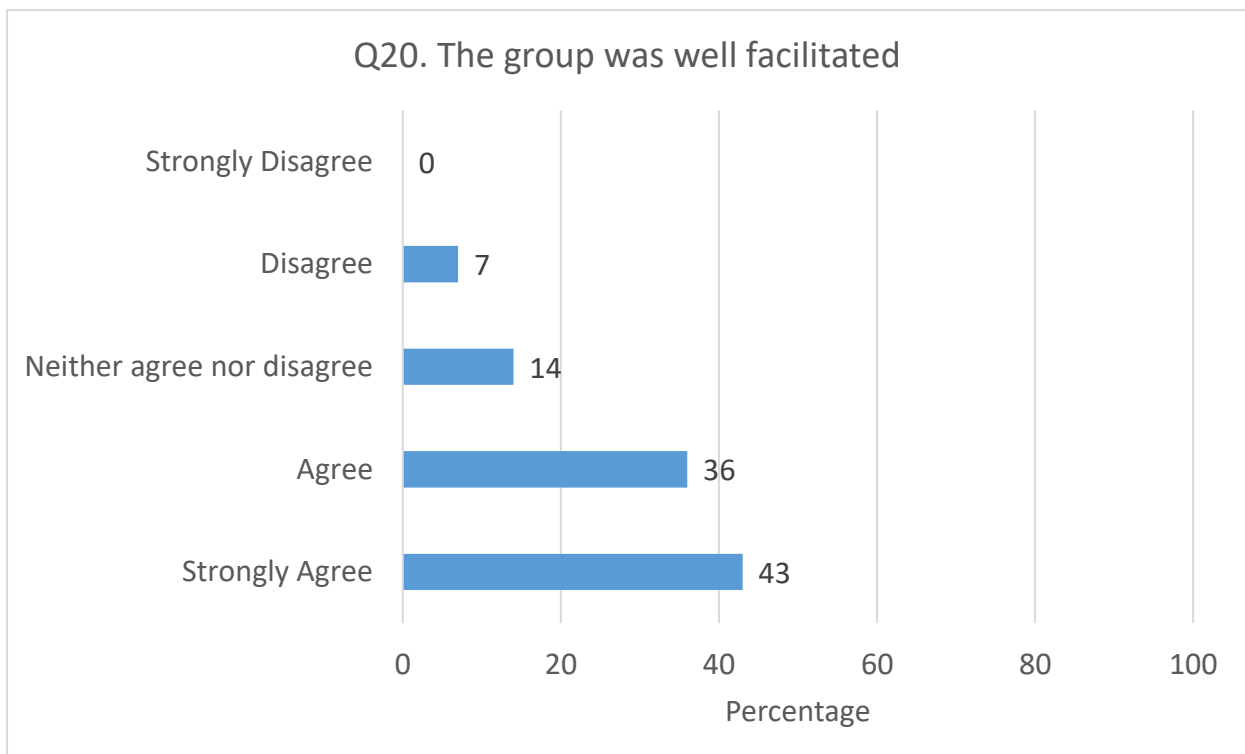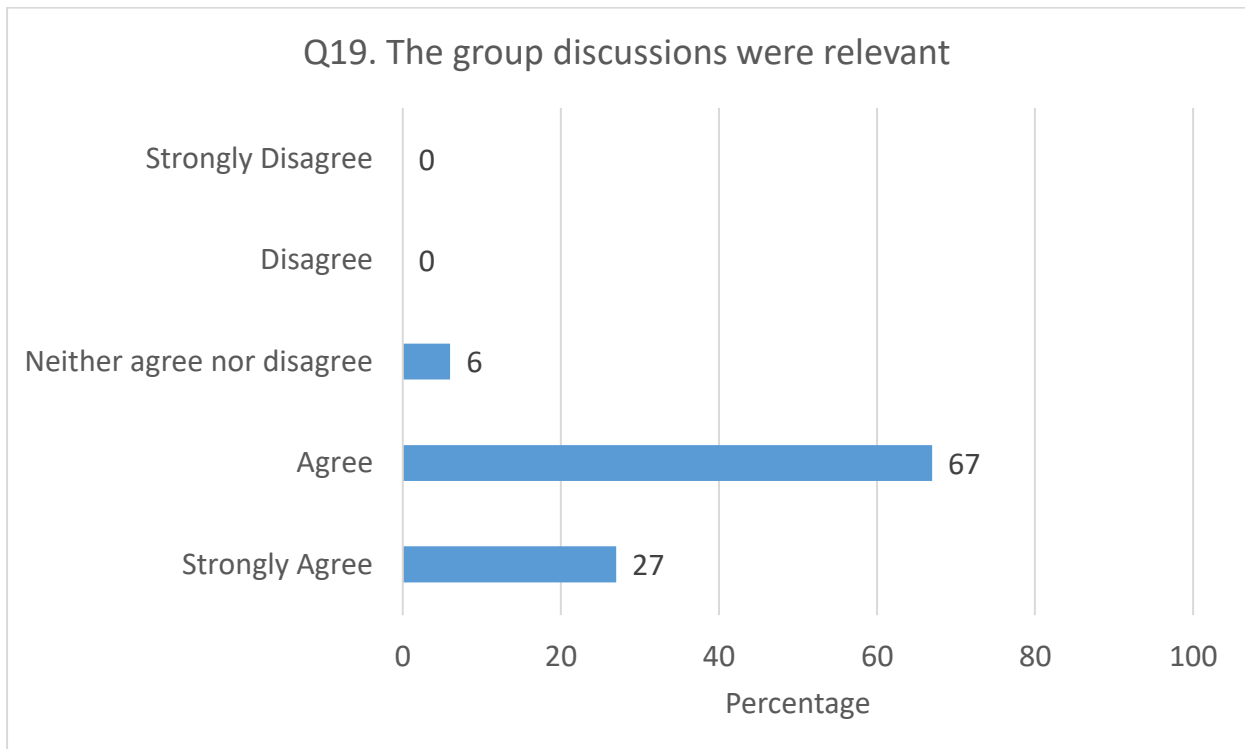| Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Neither agree nor disagree	13
Agree	74
Strongly Agree	13

Percentage

Q18. Additional Comments

- Recognise time constraints meant presentation was slight rushed

Shared Priorities Workshops

Q19. The group discussions were relevant

	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Neither agree nor disagree	6
Agree	67
Strongly Agree	27

Q20. The group was well facilitated

	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	7
Neither agree nor disagree	14
Agree	36
Strongly Agree	43

Q21. I felt that my contributions to the group discussion were valued

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Neither agree nor disagree	20
Agree	47
Strongly Agree	33

Q22. Our group identified future actions for the 4 year plan

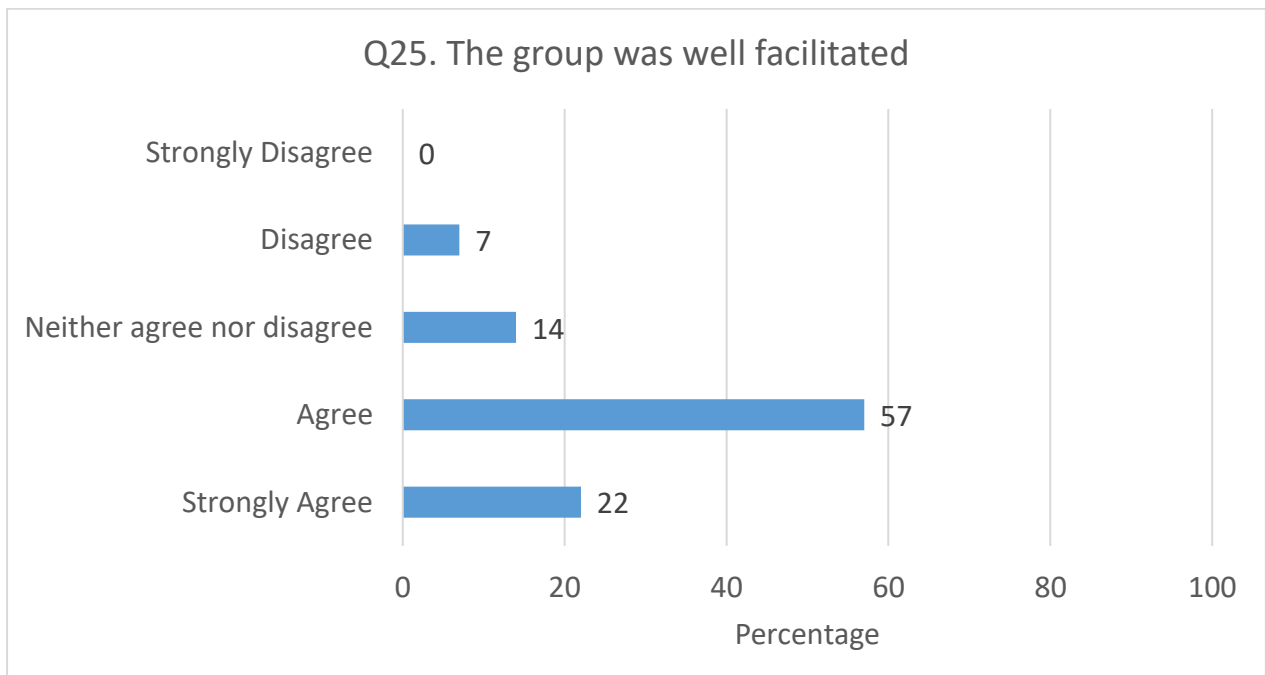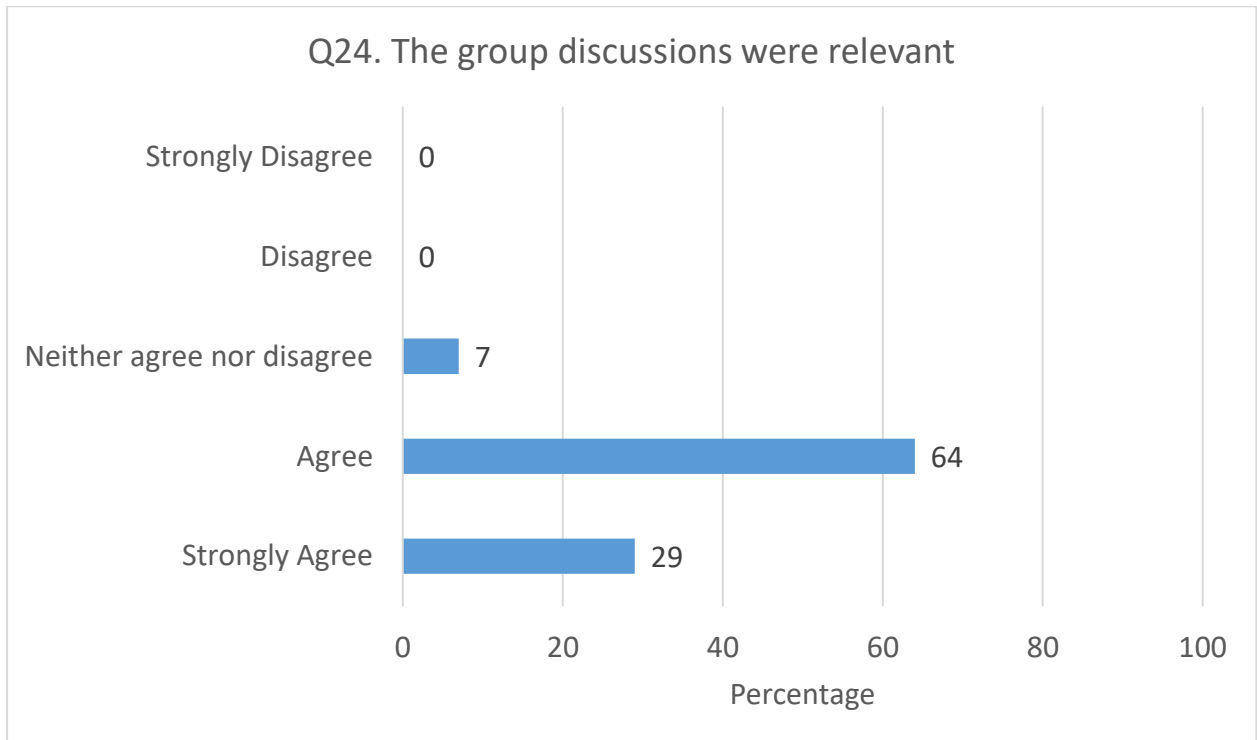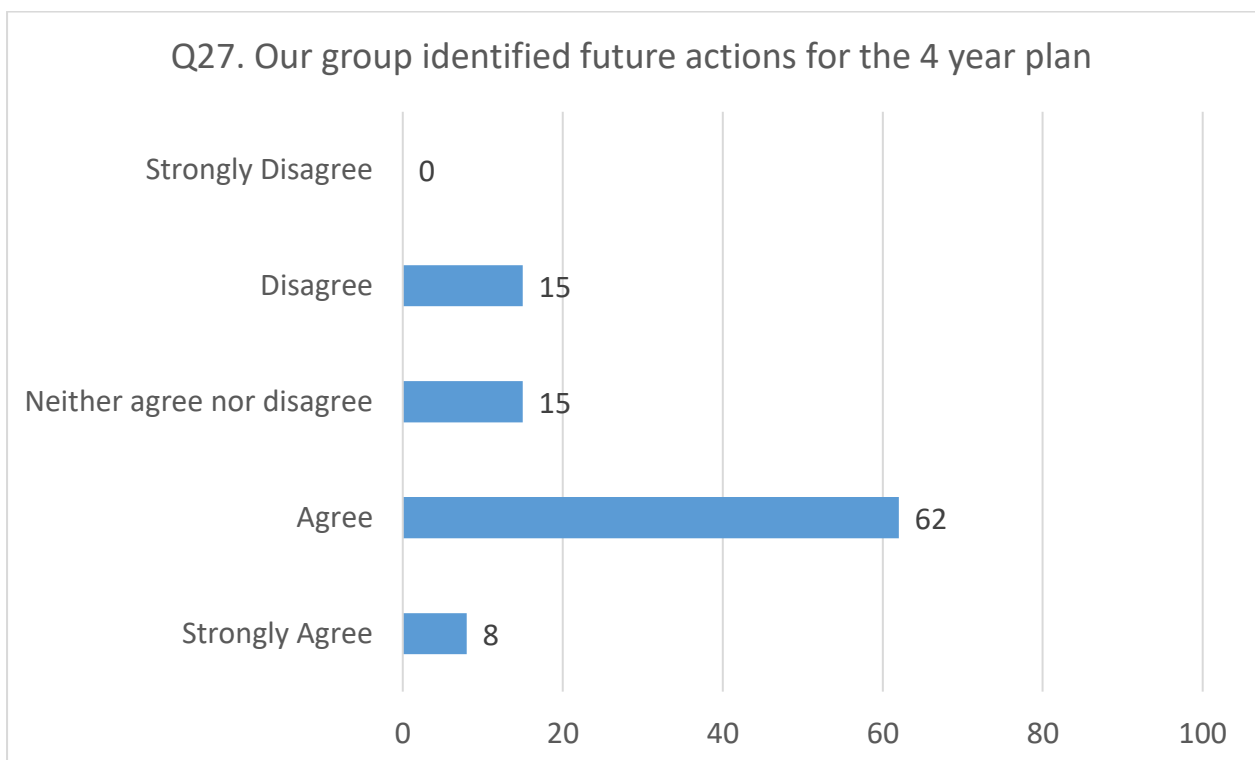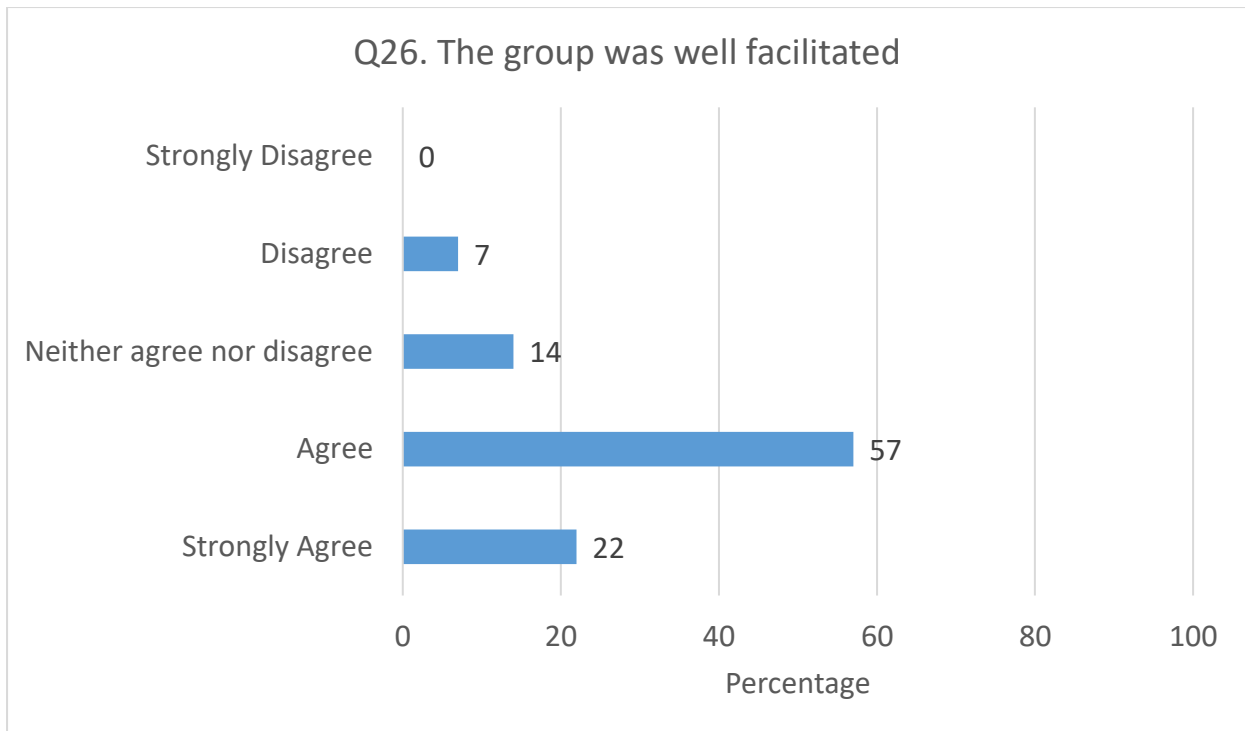| Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	14
Neither agree nor disagree	14
Agree	72
Strongly Agree	0

Q23. Additional Comments

- Group recognised well intentions of working in collaboration, but also that many ideas/suggestions had been raised before
- Could have done with more time. There were people in the group with very limited knowledge of Midlothian or the theme so they struggled to get involved

- The discussion was interesting, and point captured. I don't think actions were agreed in terms of an action plan
- I would like to see a resume of the points made and be given an idea of which, if any, might find favour going forward
- Workshops felt like more information gathering rather than action planning and wasn't much discussion but were asked to write on post-its and wasn't much debate or sharing ideas

Cost of Living session

Q24. The group discussions were relevant

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Neither agree nor disagree	7
Agree	64
Strongly Agree	29

Q25. The group was well facilitated

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	7
Neither agree nor disagree	14
Agree	57
Strongly Agree	22

Q26. The group was well facilitated

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	7
Neither agree nor disagree	14
Agree	57
Strongly Agree	22

Percentage

Q27. Our group identified future actions for the 4 year plan

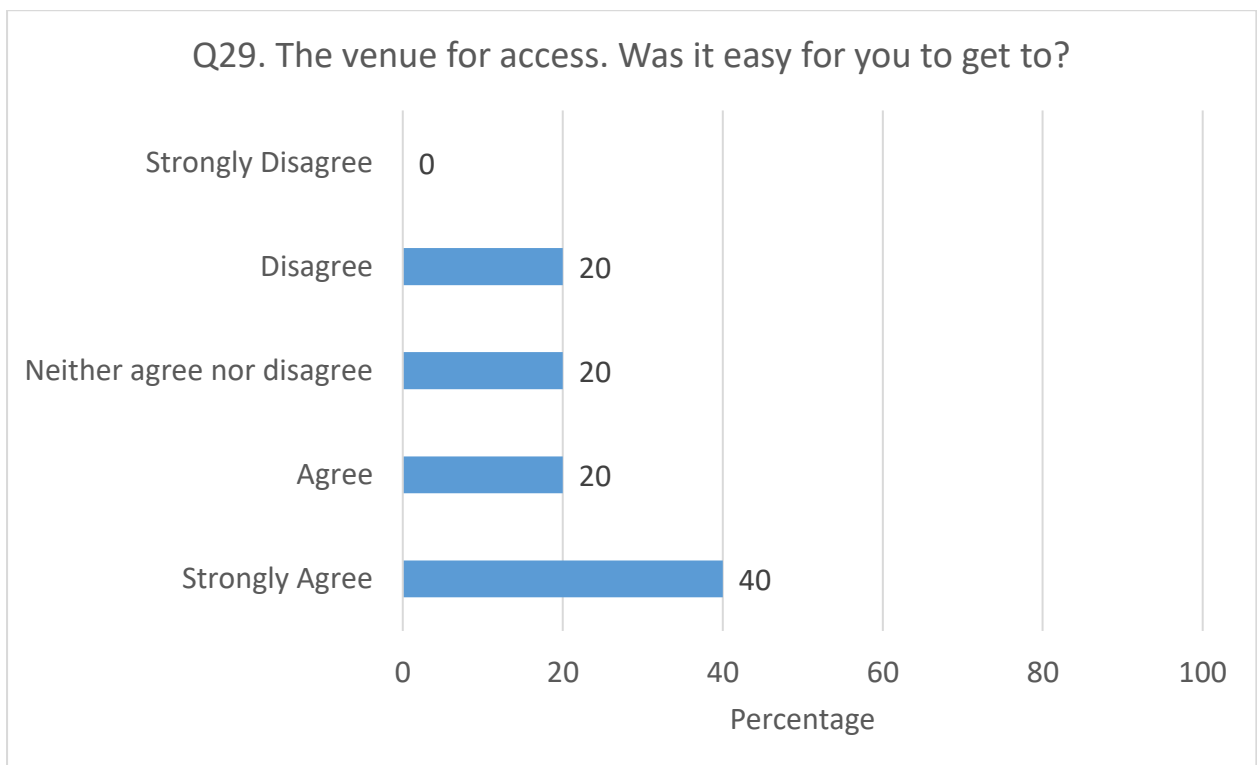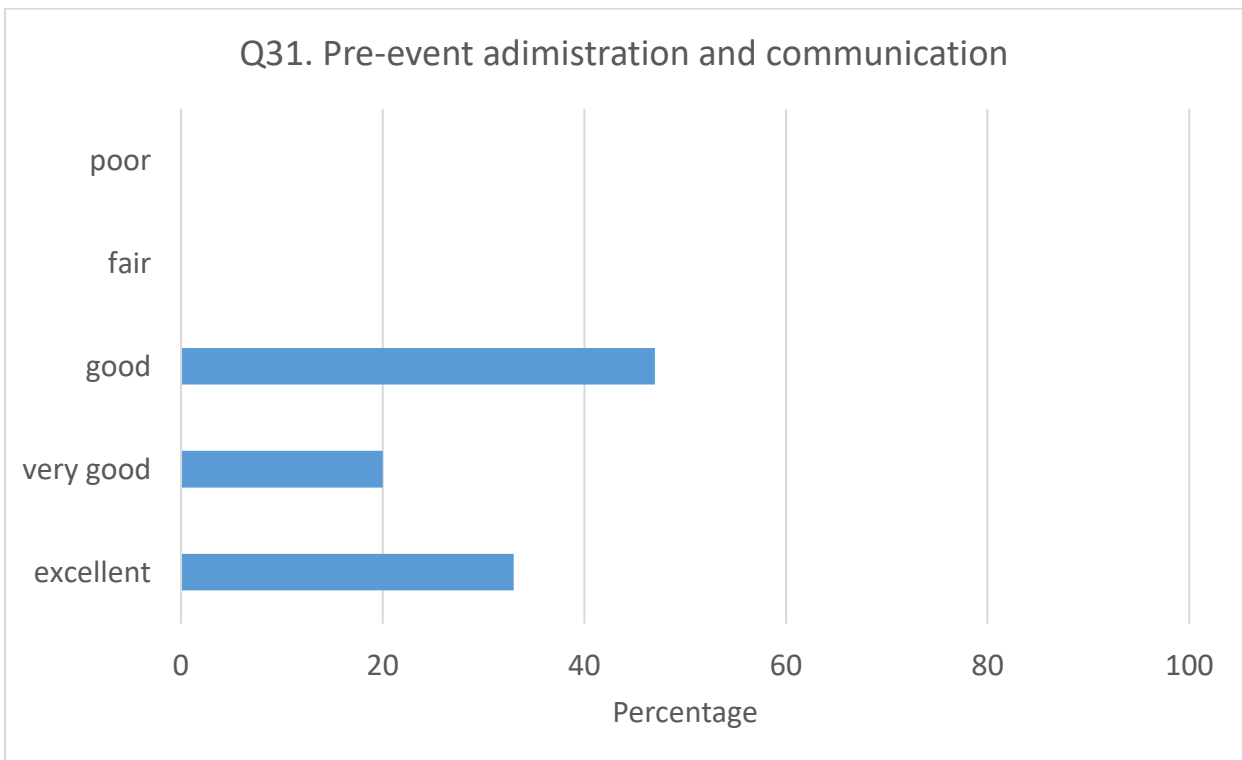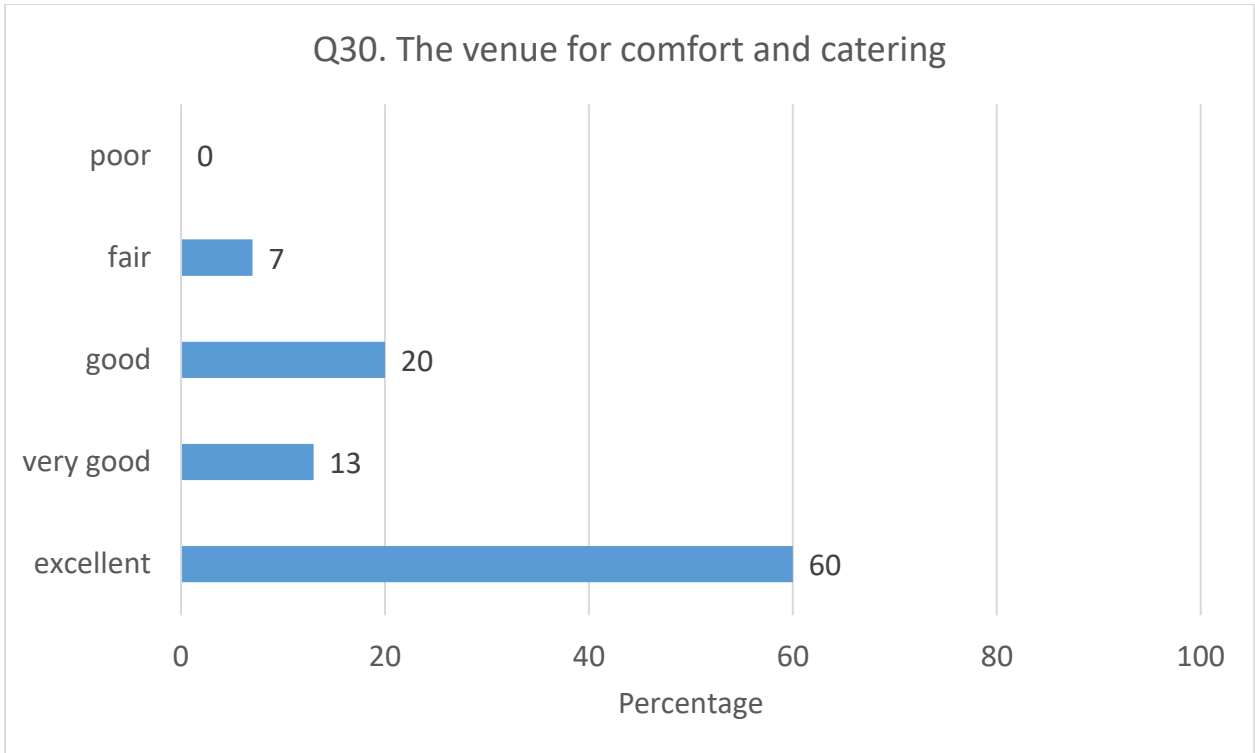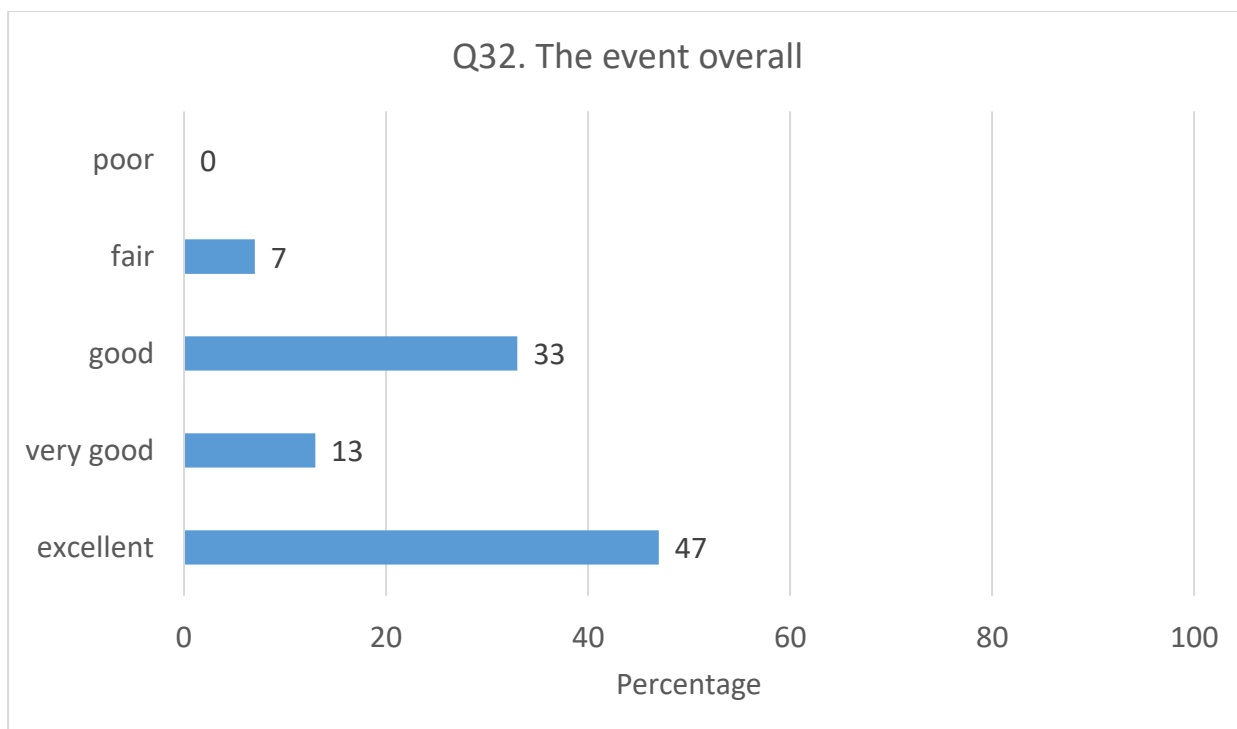| Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	15
Neither agree nor disagree	15
Agree	62
Strongly Agree	8

Q28. Additional Comments

- Suggestions from the group felt were mainly aimed as longer-term actions. Recognised difficulties in support for young people
- Could have done with more time

- I think points were captured from the discussion, I wouldn't say they were actions to take forward as part of an action plan. You would still need some work to make them actionable
- Again difficult to see which actions will be taken up but plenty of useful input from others. The group leaders appeared to be taking notes so I can assume that points being made were noted. I have no reason to think that the groups were not being well 'facilitated'. It is what happens going forward that is the crucial thing. I would like to see the participant list to see how many Community Council were there
- This workshop wasn't very well facilitated I felt and there wasn't enough background information for people to grasp the concept of how their priority area could help support this crisis felt unprepared and again was just asked to write on post-its not much discussion or engagement over and issue which was very important

Event Organisation

Q29. The venue for access. Was it easy for you to get to?

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	20
Neither agree nor disagree	20
Agree	20
Strongly Agree	40

Q30. The venue for comfort and catering

Rating	Percentage
poor	0
fair	7
good	20
very good	13
excellent	60

Percentage

Q31. Pre-event adimistration and communication

Rating	Percentage
poor	
fair	
good	
very good	
excellent	

Percentage

Q32. The event overall

Rating	Percentage
poor	0
fair	7
good	33
very good	13
excellent	47

Q33. Do you have any suggestions on how we could make the event greener going forward?

- Car-pool for staff/organisations all planning to attend
- Make it a venue that is easier to reach by public transport or offer hybrid model
- Newbattle Abbey is not an easy venue to get to by public transport
- I am very disinterested in whether the event is 'green'. What I would like to be clear about is that the input is turned into real time actions. There is a lot of 'talking' and 'consultation' in Midlothian. Where is the clarity that useful outcomes are translated into actions?
- I always enjoy this event and the venue is fabulous. However, the food is not a great advert for healthy eating or carbon reduction, particularly the break and the lack of tap water – just plastic bottles. I think this is an area which would be easy to improve
- Nothing
- No plastic water bottles or plastic food wrapping
- Make it fully online

Q34. Approximately 110 people booked to attend which meant the conference was full. However approximately 30 people did not turn up on the day. Do you have any suggestions of how to manage this for future events?

- Seek confirmation from attendees a week prior
- Reminder the day before asking them to let you know if they can no longer make it

- Perhaps having a waiting list and emailing regularly beforehand to remind people to let you know if they can't make it and then informing people on the waiting list if spaces become available
- The best way is surely to ask those people directly for their reasons. When an event is free there is no penalty for not showing up. How about circulating a list of the absentees and the departments they should have represented?
- Charge for it
- Ask people to reconfirm
- Email everyone a couple of days before to remind then to withdraw name if not attending
- Have a returnable booking fee which is donated to charity for those who don't show up

Q35. As we are moving to a 4 year plan do you feel an annual conference is required and what format should it take?
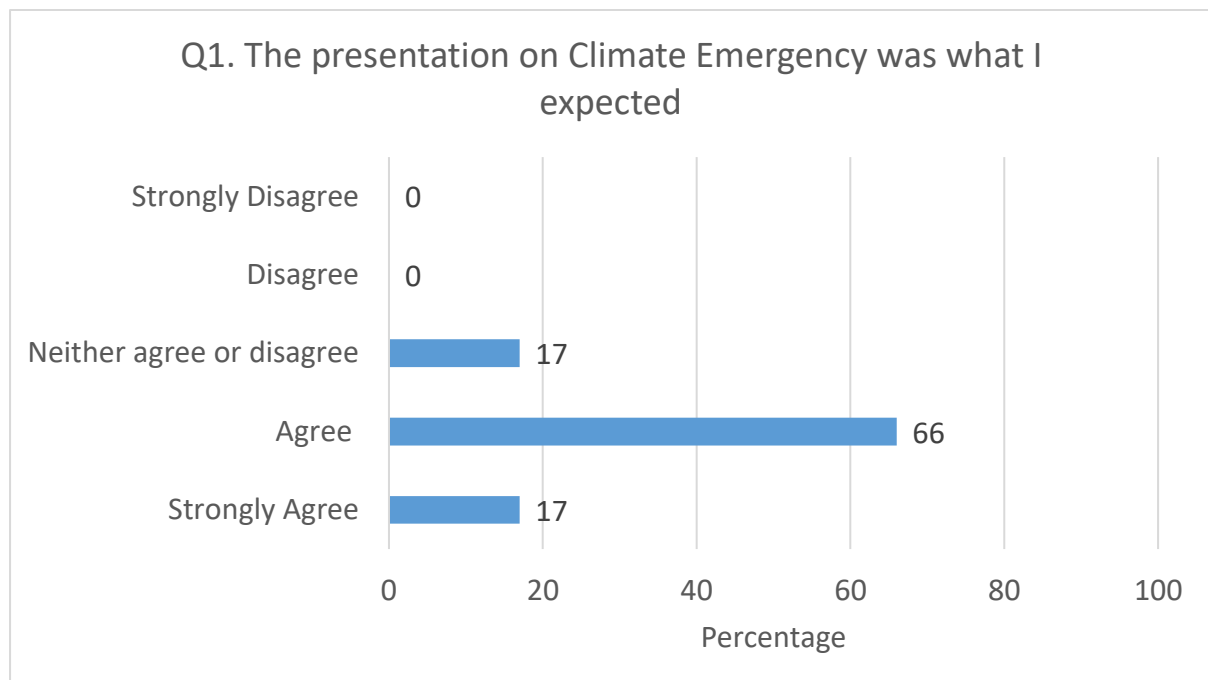
- Yes, need to keep in contact and offer opportunity to find out how things are going
- Would like to keep annual conference to keep informed of 4 year plan actions & work ongoing in Community Planning. In-person was valuable to meet & network with various partners, feel some sense of connection could be lost with virtual events
- I don't think it is required, the main priorities are agreed and there are some that don't really need to be rehashed
- The conference is useful and it would be good to explore some issues in more depth
- Think one every 2 years would be enough, one for planning and one for reviewing
- It completely depends on whether the outcomes have any bearing art all on the final thinking of Midlothian Council. Is an event like this simply a box ticking event so it can be said that MC 'consulted with residents'. If yes, then it is an expensive way to do it. A conference should be good for cementing relationships, putting faces to names. This conference was disappointing because the sound system and delivery of many of the presentations was poor
- Yes. It is a great chance of evaluating progress towards outcomes. It should be tightly focused on the plan. It should be a review of each priority and a group session to suggest amendments to actions to get things on track or increase progress towards final outcomes
- Perhaps two years and thematic meetings in between
- Yes
- Annual allows you to be adaptive to new issues/crisis that might arise but is a lot of work. Could do a half way event which looks at progress yearly and do in person but no lunch, just some workshops and presentations overall about progress. Or more to bi-annual so have one with a progress in year 2 and then in year 4 forward planning
- Yes. Plan updates and feedback sessions
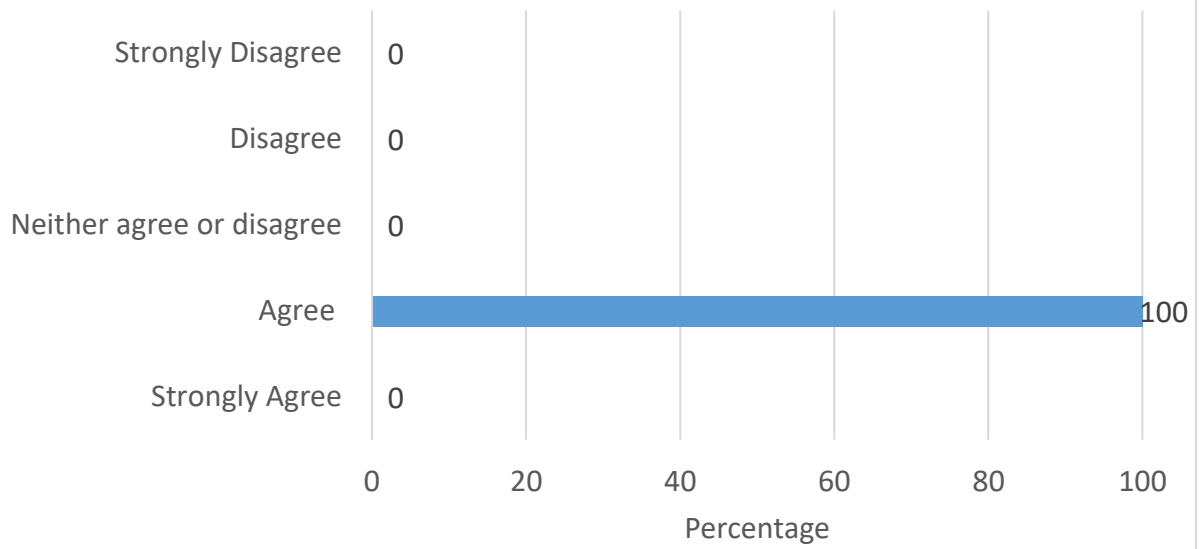
- Yes- face to face conference

Q36. Additional Comments

- It would be good to see more third sector organisations at the event
- Really enjoyed the conference, especially the networking aspect
- What would be very useful would be get together where the major departments of Midlothian Council made a presentations of their work and scope to audience of Community Council representatives. The aim of this would be to bring MC face to face with the end users. On their part the end users would be made aware of the complexities and constraints that MC have to find a way through. P. Arnsdorf, Head of Planning, gave a comprehensive overview of planning to the MFCC as a result of a request from Tynewater. This was very well received. Transport, Housing, Education, and Waste could be dealt with in a similar way. If proposed BY MC it would demonstrate that the Council and the residents truly are in partnership.
- Feedback on response time and other council issues will be fed back to Midlothian Council as this conference is the Community Planning Partnership.
- I thoroughly enjoyed the event and the atmosphere was excellent. Perhaps more could be made of the marketplace and links with the main themes

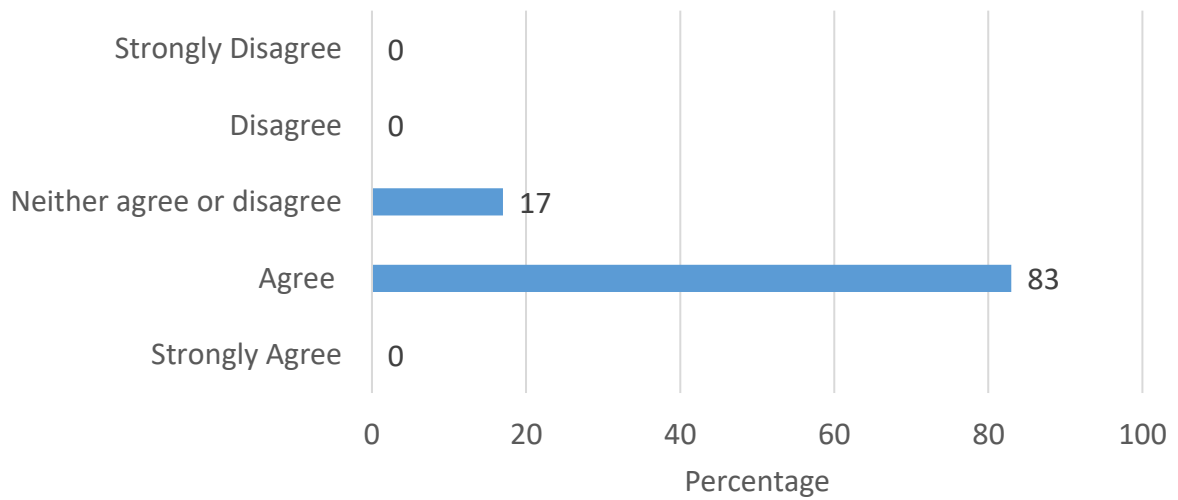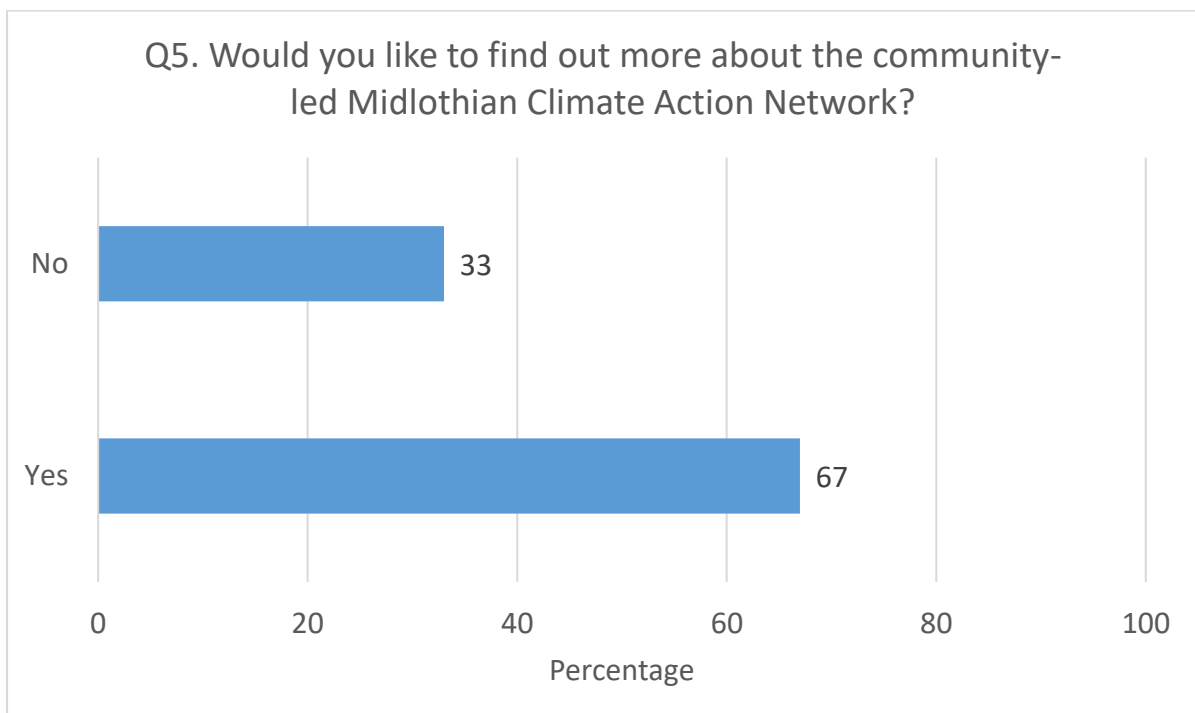# Evaluation: Climate Emergency Questions

Q1. The presentation on Climate Emergency was what I expected

Category	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Neither agree or disagree	17
Agree	66
Strongly Agree	17

Q2. The presentation on Climate Emergency was relevant

Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Neither agree or disagree	0
Agree	100
Strongly Agree	0

Percentage

Q3. The presentation on Climate Emergency was new and useful to me

Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Neither agree or disagree	17
Agree	83
Strongly Agree	0

Percentage

Q4. Would you like to find out more about Midlothian's Climate Emergency response?

Response	Percentage
No	17
Yes	83

Percentage

Q5. Would you like to find out more about the community-led Midlothian Climate Action Network?

Response	Percentage
No	33
Yes	67

Percentage
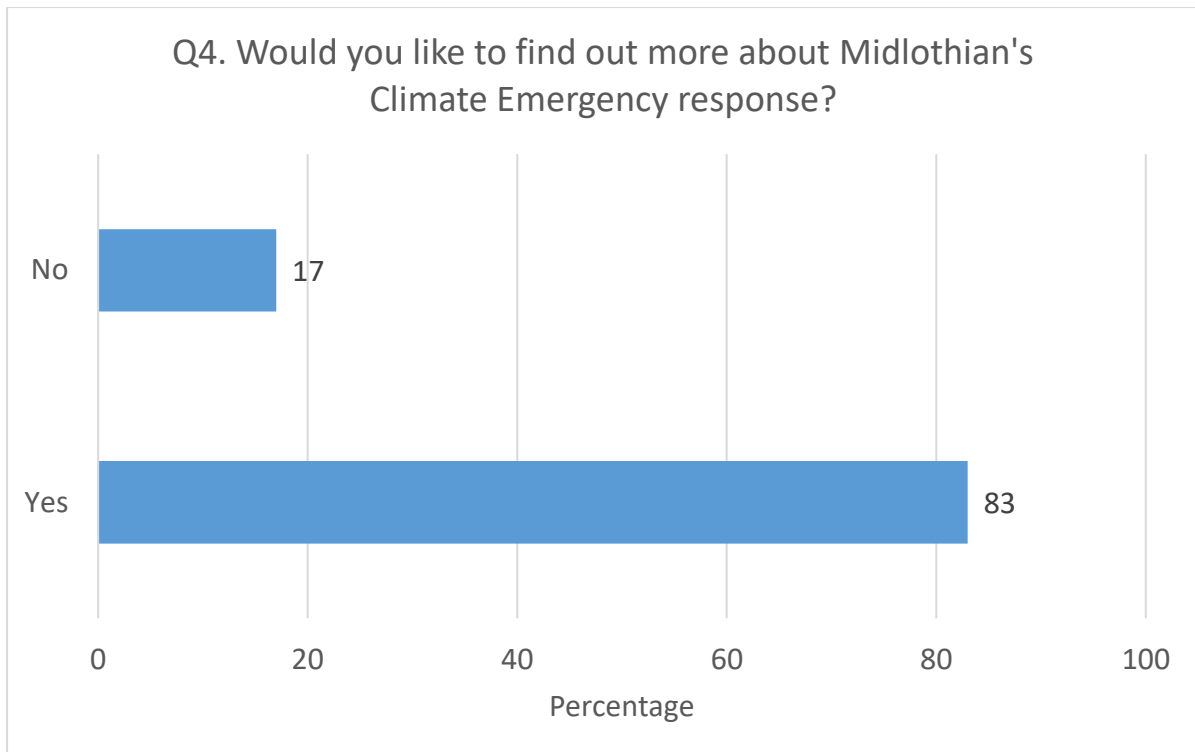
Q6. What do you feel are the most important steps we can take to achieve net zero?

- Improve (insulation etc) our homes, maximize local initiatives for: non-carbon based energy; food production; transport
- Eating organic, local plant based diets, more local market gardens, less reliance on fossil fuels and using more sustainable transport, more upcycling projects on a larger scale

- Increasing use of green transport and energy
- Try to reduce fossil fuel use
- Lobbying companies who pollute

Q7. What do you feel are the most important steps we can take to conserve our biodiversity?

- Re-wild where possible for larger spaces, increase the number of smaller patches that can link together to provide corridors of biodiversity
- Making sure there are green connected corridors, seeding habitat for biodiversity, reduction in the use of pesticides/fertilizers, mosaic landscape which is planted to support species which need support with appropriate habitat, more land given to woodland
- protecting green spaces within our communities
- ensure the remaining green spaces within Midlothian are linked to one another with wildlife corridors
- Support green space activity

Q8. What steps should be a priority for the Community Planning Partnership and our Communities?

- Anything that directly helps people live their lives sustainably
- supporting sustainable communities
- Invest in sustainable public transport
- Linked to cost of living - coordination of activities around insulation of housing