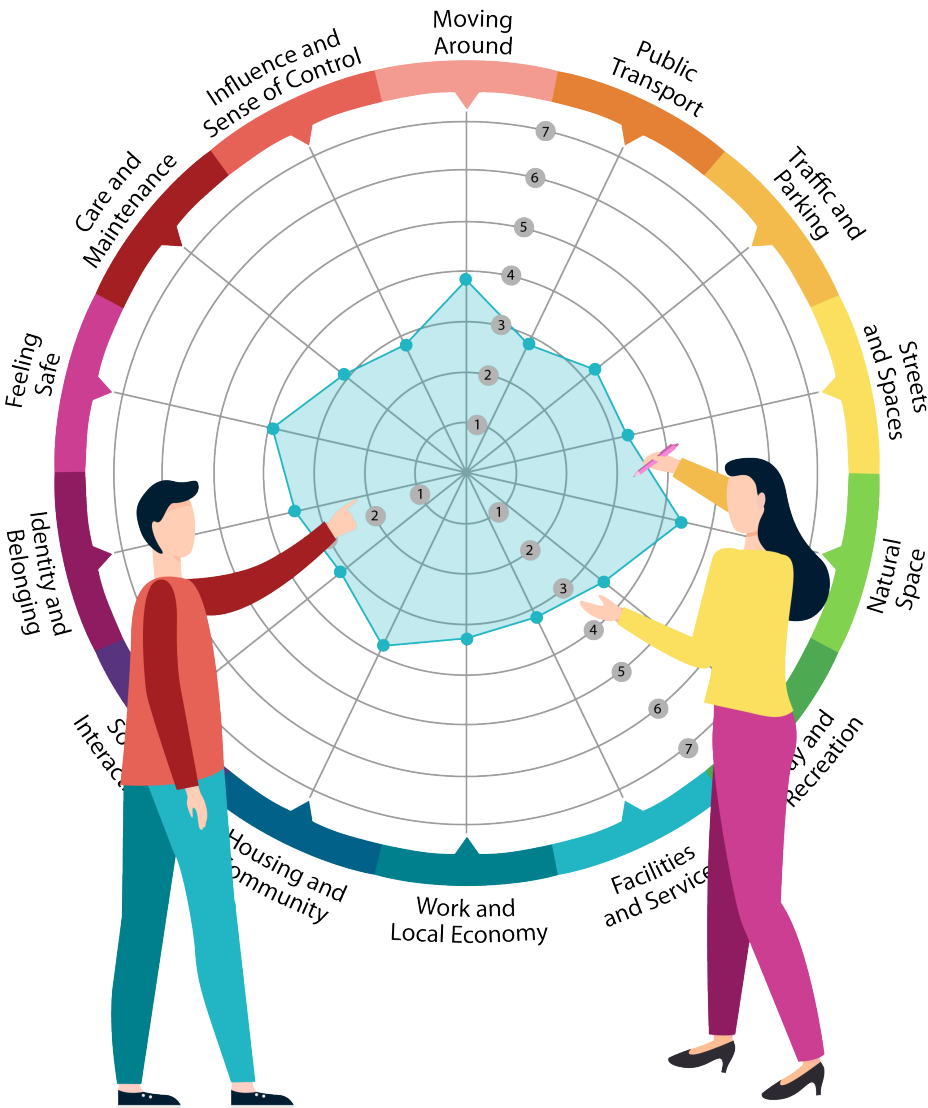


# Tell Us About Your Place Consultation Summary



# Contents

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Tell Us About Your Place Surveys - The Consultation</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Advertisement Material to Support Surveys</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Profile of Responses</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Public Survey - Summary of Comments by Topic / Question</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Public Survey - Summary of Comments by Settlement Area</b>	<b>24</b>
	Bo'ness	24
	Bonnybridge and Banknock	29
	Braes and Rural South	34
	Denny	40
	Falkirk	45
	Grangemouth	50
	Larbert and Stenhousemuir	55
	Rural North	60
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Young People Survey - Summary</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Children's Survey - Summary</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Know Your Eco Falkirk Event - Friday 3rd March 2023</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Falkirk Science Festival, Helix - Saturday 20th May 2023</b>	<b>77</b>

# 1.0 Introduction

We have started preparing a new Local Development Plan (LDP3) which will guide growth and change in our communities for years to come. It will indicate where new development should or should not take place, what infrastructure is needed to support growth, and how our environment and greenspace can be improved.

The first stage in the process is to gather information about the area to help us prepare the Evidence Report on which to base the new plan. This evidence will take many forms including research, early engagement, and technical reports on particular topics.

This report focuses on our early engagement work and 'Call for Evidence' campaign undertaken with the public in the first part of 2023. The main purpose being to find out how people feel about their places, their perceptions as well as facts.

The survey was open for 4 months between February and June 2023. We asked people who live or work in the area to complete our survey to tell us about their places and how they function. What is good about them, and what could be improved? Given the importance of hearing from all sorts of different people, we published separate surveys for children and young people whose future will be affected by the new plan.

## 2.0 Tell Us About Your Place Surveys - The Consultation

We asked people who live and work in the area to tell us about their places by using the 'Place Standard' survey. This is a widely used technique for assessing the quality of places and advocated by Scottish Government. The survey opened at the end of February until the end of June 2023. Special versions of the survey were made available for children and young people.

The Surveys were well received. The public survey specifically generated a wealth of valuable evidence about respondents' places. Generally, responses were detailed and insightful across the Council area. The number of responses are highlighted in Table 1 below.

Survey Type	Number of responses
Public	353 (includes 3 U16s and 13 in 16-25 category)
Young People	32
Childrens	4

Table 1 - Number of responses

The Public Survey included 14 place standard themes which are highlighted below. For each theme respondents were asked to give a score 1-7, and for each theme comment on what is good now and what could be improved.

- Q1 Streets and Space
- Q2 Facilities and Services
- Q3 Play and Recreation
- Q4 Natural Space
- Q5 Housing and Community
- Q6 Work and Local Economy
- Q7 Moving Around
- Q8 Public Transport
- Q9 Traffic and Parking
- Q10 Social Interaction
- Q11 Identity and Belonging
- Q12 Feeling Safe
- Q13 Care and Maintenance
- Q14 Influence and Sense of Control

The place standard allows for scores to be recorded on a diagram and the shape drawn.

## 3.0 Advertisement Material to Support Surveys

**Falkirk Council Web Site:** The surveys were advertised on the home page of the Council's website with a direct link to the LDP3 page for detailed information on the choice of surveys for submitting comments.

**Press:** An article announcing the launch of LDP3 appeared in Falkirk Herald 21 March 2023.

**Short Film:** A short awareness film was made to accompany the consultation which was hosted on the LDP3 page on the Council website. At less than 3 minutes long it was purposely designed to be short, informative and eye catching. Using drone footage, the video aimed to explain the process and why the views of the public were being sought on their places. It received 432 views.



**Newsletter:** Our 'Development Plan Update' newsletter was released at the start of the consultation in February 2023. It was emailed to 618 interested parties on our database. It launched the start of LDP3, gave background information and included a QR link to the surveys.

**Social Media:** The launch of the gathering evidence was announced on Planning and Environment's Facebook page which received 3,887 views, with 528 engaging further including reactions, comments, shares, views and clicks. Posts were made thereafter to remind people of the availability of the surveys. There was also an announcement on the Council's Twitter page which received 5,851 views.

**Local Newspaper Adverts:** Public adverts were placed in the Falkirk Herald and Linlithgow and Bo'ness Journal to launch the start of LDP3 and outline how people could get involved.

**Banners:** Pull up free standing banners were prepared advertising the launch of LDP3 and accommodated in local libraries. They outlined how people could get involved in the process. Individual banners were prepared for each settlement area displaying photos showing change over time. In addition, banners were also placed in Falkirk College and some Community Centres & Halls.



**Posters:** Advertisement posters were placed in key public buildings, supermarkets, and shops to alert the public to the surveys.

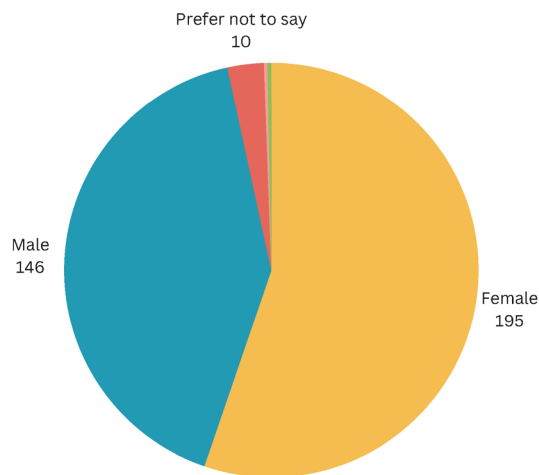
**Deposit Locations:** Surveys were available in paper format at the Council's 8 libraries and 3 Advice and Support Hubs.

## 4.0 Profile of Responses

### Gender

55% of respondents were female, compared to 41% male and 3% non-binary / other.

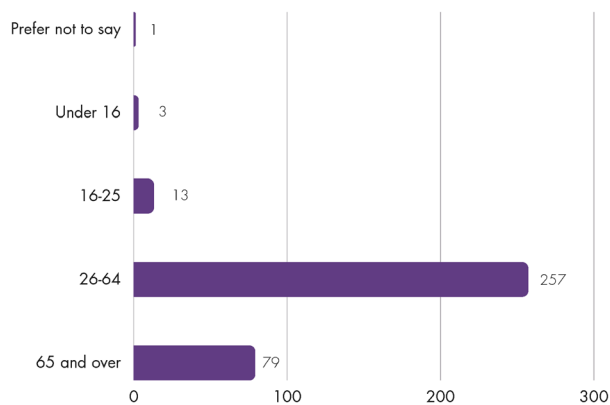
What gender do you identify with?



### Age Category

The majority of respondents who completed the survey were in the 26-64 category at 73%.

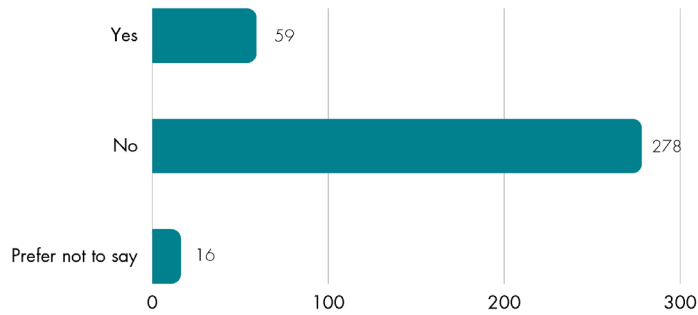
What is your age?



## Disability

17% of all respondents considered themselves to have a disability.

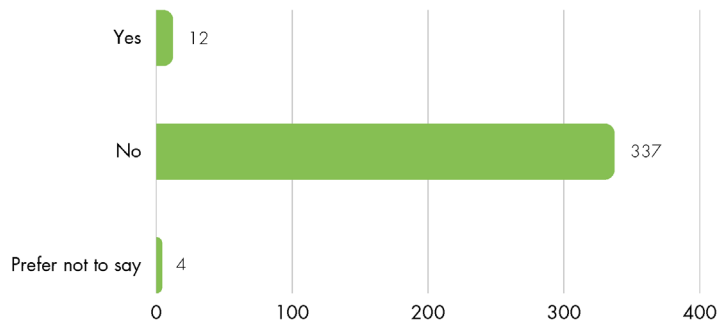
### Do you consider yourself to have a disability?



## Community Groups

The majority of people responded individually, although there were a small number of responses from Community Councils and Resident Associations.

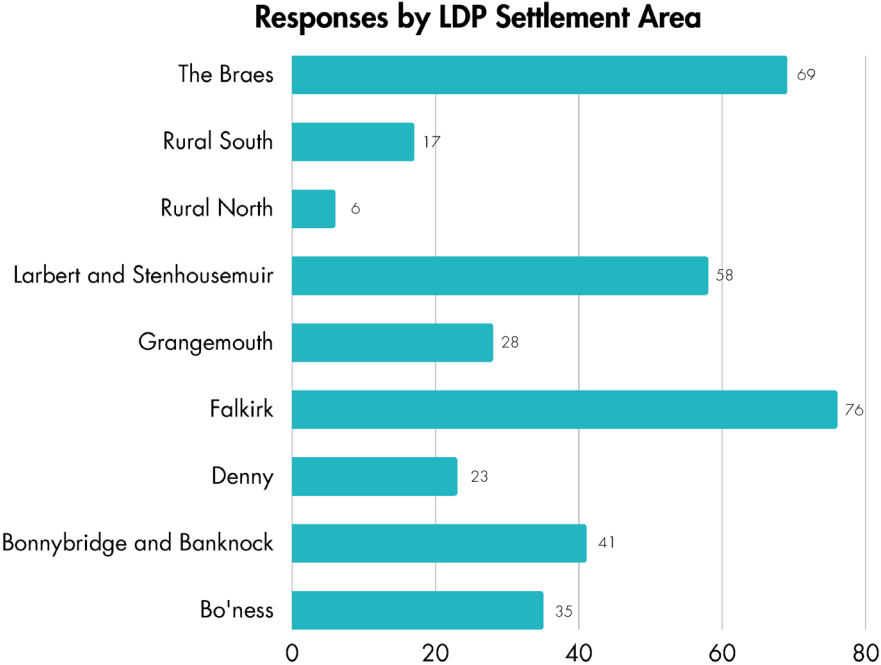
### Are you responding to the survey on behalf of a community council or community group?





### Responses by Settlement Area

The largest response came from Falkirk, closely followed by the Braes and then Larbert and Stenhousemuir. Rural North received the lowest response rate.



## **5.0 Public Survey - Summary of Comments by Topic / Question**

Overall, 353 surveys were completed which is in the region of over 4,700 discrete comments. This data collected provides a valuable and welcomed insight into places within the Council area. Whilst summarising this volume of comments is difficult, the following section seeks to give an overview of some of the common themes and issues that have emerged.

## Question 1: Streets and Spaces

***What are streets and spaces like? Are there points of interest? Is it easy to find my way around? How accessible are spaces for everyone? Are there any challenges?***

What is good now?

- ▲ Quality of green space
- ▲ Good access to path network for walking and cycling
- ▲ Local shops, boutique artisan shops and cafes
- ▲ Proximity to open woodlands and canals
- ▲ Libraries
- ▲ Beautiful historic listed buildings
- ▲ New developments improving the look of the town
- ▲ Transport links
- ▲ Good pavement and lighting
- ▲ Access to canals
- ▲ In general, private properties are well maintained
- ▲ Green belt and open countryside
- ▲ Good signposting for most places

How could we make it better in the future?

- ▼ Increase facilities in parks e.g. crazy golf, pétanque, outdoor table tennis tables
- ▼ Better facilities for young people to meet
- ▼ Fines for dog fouling
- ▼ Pavements and roads need repair/replaced, especially dangerous potholes
- ▼ Halt planning permission for houses on green space
- ▼ Stop new building and encourage reuse of empty or derelict buildings
- ▼ More bins which are emptied regularly and better lighting
- ▼ Too many fast-food shops
- ▼ Access to primary school after hours
- ▼ More planters
- ▼ More community facilities i.e., gyms, community centres, decent shopping facilities
- ▼ Invest in infrastructure to create a community not a set of housing estates
- ▼ Stop Illegal parking on pavements forcing pedestrians onto the road
- ▼ Renovate Falkirk High Street
- ▼ A working bus station is needed
- ▼ Address buildings with vegetation growing out of them, stonework needs cleaning
- ▼ Enforce Council tenants to look after their properties better

## Question 2: Facilities and Services

***What facilities and services are there? What other support is available? Do the facilities and services meet local needs, now and in the future? Are facilities and services easy to get to and use? Are there other barriers for people?***

What is good now?

- ▲ Healthcare facilities
- ▲ Good access to shops and services
- ▲ Independent shops
- ▲ Good primary school and nursery provision
- ▲ Appreciation for library services, community centres and sports facilities
- ▲ Local charity groups and community groups
- ▲ Good parks
- ▲ Good refuse collection service

How could we make it better in the future?

- ▼ Issues with GP provision
- ▼ Council cuts / SPR will impact on venues and facilities
- ▼ Too many houses built and not enough increase in services
- ▼ Lack of facilities for older children / teenagers
- ▼ More leisure facilities
- ▼ More diversity of shops
- ▼ Replacement Town Hall needed
- ▼ Improve park maintenance
- ▼ Better bus routes
- ▼ Villages need better path connections
- ▼ More local independent shops

### Question 3: Play and Recreation

*What opportunities are there? Are there places that everyone can enjoy? Are spaces and facilities well used? How else could we make the most of what we have? Are there any issues?*

What is good now?

- ▲ Some fantastic play parks and open spaces
- ▲ Lots of lovely walks
- ▲ Lots of opportunity for sports and leisure
- ▲ Improved facilities at Zetland Park
- ▲ Helix, Dollar Park, Callandar Park, Larbert Woods, John Muir Way, Muiravonside Country Park
- ▲ Parks fine for ages 3-8
- ▲ Canals for walking and cycling
- ▲ Hippodrome
- ▲ Wild nature and forestry

How could we make it better in the future?

- ▼ Safeguard against greedy development
- ▼ Make facilities more imaginative and exciting for play
- ▼ Replace the Town Hall for community and the arts
- ▼ Look after open space better
- ▼ Increase opportunities in parks: crazy golf; outdoor gym equipment; outdoor theatre
- ▼ Improve all weather options
- ▼ Improve cycle ways
- ▼ More public toilets
- ▼ Open school playing fields up
- ▼ Better drainage in parks
- ▼ Improve access and facilities for disabled people
- ▼ Ensure against vandalism, broken glass and rubbish
- ▼ Benches for older people
- ▼ Enclosed dog areas in all parks
- ▼ Leave wild open space to flourish
- ▼ Perceived safety issues in the evening
- ▼ Bo'ness foreshore has so much potential

## Question 4: Natural Space

*What kind of natural spaces are there? Can everyone use the spaces? Are spaces looked after? What stops people using spaces? How can natural spaces work better for us?*

What is good now?

- ▲ Plenty of open spaces natural woodland and pathways
- ▲ Well connected walks with good signage
- ▲ Spaces well managed
- ▲ Trees in town centre
- ▲ Helix, River Carron, canal network, Callendar Estate, Polmont Woods, Foreshore, John Muir Way, Dollar Park, Kinniel Estate and Woods

How could we make it better in the future?

- ▼ Prevent fly tipping
- ▼ Plant empty flower beds
- ▼ Better accessibility for prams
- ▼ Address litter problem
- ▼ More safe parking for visitors
- ▼ Improve facilities for disabled
- ▼ Improve dog fouling, empty waste bins more regularly
- ▼ Stop building housing and losing greenspace
- ▼ Access to public land for allotments
- ▼ Not enough bins

## Question 5: Housing and Community

*Is there a good mix of housing types? Are residential areas attractive? Are homes and places able to adapt to changing circumstances? Is there a good community spirit? Are there any challenges?*

What is good now?

- ▲ Good mix of house types and house prices
- ▲ The council have listened to the public more
- ▲ Good neighbours
- ▲ New private housing estates being maintained by factors
- ▲ New builds on unused ground which is to be commended
- ▲ Good community spirit
- ▲ Friendly neighbours, gardens well kept

How could we make it better in the future?

- ▼ Social housing needs some work to bring its standards up to date
- ▼ Make sure existing infrastructure can cope with new housing
- ▼ Houses not well looked after with drugs problem, litter is an issue
- ▼ Little or no community spirit
- ▼ More affordable homes generally and specifically in villages
- ▼ Upgrading of some council owned properties with new roofing and rendering
- ▼ Renovate empty buildings
- ▼ All housing should have solar panels installed
- ▼ Address vandalism and anti-social behaviour
- ▼ Spend more on repairs to empty housing
- ▼ Social housing allocation system needs reviewed
- ▼ Encouragement of building on brownfield sites should be prioritised over greenbelt land
- ▼ More assisted living / care homes
- ▼ Assistance for homeowners to make homes more energy efficient
- ▼ More diversity in new homes, smaller houses / bungalows needed not just flats

## Question 6: Work and Local Economy

***Is there an active local economy? Is there work available in the local area for those that want it? Are there opportunities for people to build skills? What support is available? Are there any challenges? How does the local economy affect how I feel about my place?***

What is good now?

- ▲ The new Falkirk College is great and offers more opportunities for young people
- ▲ Local industry
- ▲ Varied employment availability is good
- ▲ The presence of local shops and facilities
- ▲ Appears to be a wide range of business in the area
- ▲ Well linked to Edinburgh and Glasgow via the high station, which is a walkable distance, that is where the jobs are
- ▲ There is work available locally, but often low paid
- ▲ FVRH and call centres
- ▲ Broadband in this area is very good, bonus for working from home
- ▲ Lots of work opportunities in Grangemouth
- ▲ Good independent shops

How could we make it better in the future?

- ▼ Encouragement to open businesses
- ▼ This is purely a residential area
- ▼ Most people work outwith the Falkirk area, in Stirling, Glasgow, Edinburgh
- ▼ There is no “local economy”
- ▼ Poor and limited choice of shops / restaurants encourages people to travel out of the area
- ▼ Over reliance on Grangemouth for jobs for the local area
- ▼ Better digital infrastructure - fast internet/broadband
- ▼ Opportunities for community building projects
- ▼ Reduce rates for business and local shops
- ▼ Encourage new businesses to employ local people
- ▼ Better and cheaper public transport to get to workplace
- ▼ Too many nail bars beauty salons charity shops and take aways, encourage niche business
- ▼ Falkirk High Street is sad, encourage more shopping opportunities
- ▼ The local economy is not focused enough on community wealth building



## Question 7: Moving Around

***Are paths and routes suitable? Are there enough routes for people to get to where they want to go? Are routes attractive and safe? Can everyone use them? Are there any barriers?***

What is good now?

- ▲ Good access to countryside walks / cycle paths
- ▲ Helix paths
- ▲ Cycle route along the canal is very good
- ▲ Good paths in the local parks, cycle, wheelchair, and pram friendly
- ▲ Very good area for cycling and walking
- ▲ Most pathways in good condition
- ▲ John Muir way path great for cycling and walking and more people are using these

How could we make it better in the future?

- ▼ There isn't a good link between the paths in parks or canal and the main amenities in town
- ▼ Good paths around the town, but network poorer for travel to other towns i.e. Grangemouth
- ▼ Cleanliness of lots of paths and the quality of paths are needing attention
- ▼ Some paths too narrow for shared bike/walking or streets too narrow so cycling less safe
- ▼ Too many potholes and dog fouling
- ▼ Some uneven pavements and dark unlit sections puts me off running
- ▼ Lack of designated safe cycle lanes
- ▼ Segregated walking and active travel routes are urgently required
- ▼ Reduce parking on pavements
- ▼ Increase maintenance to cut back trees and hedges on paths
- ▼ Many pavements with no dropped kerbs for my mobility scooter
- ▼ More bins and benches
- ▼ Very car centric town, more needs to be done for pedestrians and walkers cyclists
- ▼ Walking and cycling poor between villages
- ▼ Refuse bins on pavements cause issues for people with mobility issues and prams

## Question 8: Public Transport

***Is public transport a good option? Can everyone use services? Do facilities and services have what people need? Is there information on services? Does the public transport system allow people to get to where they need to go if they can't get there by walking, wheeling or cycling?***

What is good now?

- ▲ Good train services
- ▲ Two train stations in Falkirk
- ▲ Bus route to Falkirk and Edinburgh is good however to get to nearest town Grangemouth there is no direct bus
- ▲ Regular trains to both Edinburgh and Glasgow
- ▲ Lots of bus routes
- ▲ Good bus links from the hospital to other towns
- ▲ Good taxi service in our area
- ▲ There is nothing good about the public transport in this area
- ▲ There is a good but very expensive train service
- ▲ Any issues very little to do with planning and infrastructure and more to do with individual companies operating services
- ▲ Busses do not run on time and the bus company make it difficult to get for hospital appointments
- ▲ Bus staff are polite, and buses are clean
- ▲ Busses are reliable and affordable

How could we make it better in the future?

- ▼ No direct bus to Grangemouth, have to go to Falkirk then change for Grangemouth
- ▼ Need direct bus to Edinburgh...it takes 90 minutes currently
- ▼ There is no bus station in Falkirk, bus service is scattered all over Falkirk makes no sense
- ▼ Difficult to get to local or near towns
- ▼ To have some service on a Sunday, some of the villages have none
- ▼ A bus every 2 hours is not suitable, more frequent service needed
- ▼ Bus stops need electronic displays, so you know what's coming and when
- ▼ More buses accessible for all, depending on where you live it's a long walk to the bus stop
- ▼ Free shuttles from the kelpies/wheel to bring tourists into town over the summer
- ▼ Too expensive, reduce fares
- ▼ Night buses would be useful to and from Edinburgh / Glasgow at weekends to help night time economy and create more jobs
- ▼ More buses to rural areas
- ▼ Buses need to be more reliable and frequent
- ▼ Greater bus connections to Glasgow and Edinburgh

## Question 9: Traffic and Parking

***Do people have priority over vehicles? How does traffic affect people? What impact does parking have? What is parking like? Are there options for lower carbon travel?***

What is good now?

- ▲ Not congested or difficult to park
- ▲ Plenty of free parking in and near town centre
- ▲ Free parking at hospital & train station
- ▲ There are lots of EV charging locations and they seem well used
- ▲ The pedestrianised zone in the town centre is very good

How could we make it better in the future?

- ▼ School drop off and picking up times is chaotic and should be prevented
- ▼ Cars parked on pavements blocking access for walkers prams and wheelchair users
- ▼ Grahams Road is constantly busy
- ▼ Like everywhere, car and lorry dominate
- ▼ Introduce more traffic calming and traffic free zones
- ▼ Zero low carbon options
- ▼ Encourage people to park and ride into Falkirk
- ▼ Put more infrastructure for electric vehicles in place
- ▼ Reintroduce free after 15:00hrs, a great way to get people into the centre of Falkirk
- ▼ More double yellow lines
- ▼ Redirection of heavy goods vehicles that currently pass through villages

## Question 10: Social Interaction

*Where do people get together? How do people find out what's happening? Can everyone join in and mix? Is there a mix of activities? Would people come together in a crisis? Are there any gaps?*

What is good now?

- ▲ Local face book pages on what's going on and local issues
- ▲ Events such as Beer festival, Hippodrome cinema
- ▲ Community Hubs, Libraries, Sports centres
- ▲ Local community centres offer plenty of classes or social cafes
- ▲ Places such as Mariner Centre, Grangemouth Stadium are good to encourage social life
- ▲ Communities have taken to social media to create their own networking opportunities
- ▲ Libraries are an ideal place to meet new people at a limited cost
- ▲ Good sports and local halls for hire
- ▲ Lots of clubs in the area in several different places
- ▲ Churches restaurants and cafes
- ▲ Lots of good volunteer groups and community groups

How could we make it better in the future?

- ▼ More Community Centres
- ▼ Council not closing places
- ▼ SPR has the potential to adversely affect residents who use facilities
- ▼ Protect facilities such as Dobbie Hall
- ▼ More press advertising, not everyone has internet access for social media
- ▼ Closure of Falkirk Town Hall is going to make it difficult for people to come together at community events
- ▼ Community centres underused and not cared for
- ▼ Introduce a local newsletter with info off what's on in the area
- ▼ More seating areas in the town public parks
- ▼ More social spaces, especially outdoors where vendors can sell food & drinks and families can feel welcome and safe
- ▼ Better communication from the Council
- ▼ Stop cuts of public council services
- ▼ Keep libraries and community centres etc open, they are the main focus for people and communities coming together
- ▼ Give community groups/ councils more money to spend locally for events such as litter picking, Fun Days, planting and fares
- ▼ A new Town Hall
- ▼ A notice board to let everyone know of any upcoming events
- ▼ Publish the minutes of the Community Council online so that locals can read them and have an online method of raising points for discussion.

## Question 11: Identity and Belonging

*How strong is the sense of identity and belonging? How does the community celebrate? How involved are people in the community? How welcoming are people in this place? What do others think of the place and community?*

What is good now?

- ▲ Superb neighbours and feeling at home within the community
- ▲ Local groups and Facebook / social media groups
- ▲ Friendly place to live
- ▲ Many volunteer groups in Falkirk
- ▲ School offers a good sense of community, churches and local football teams
- ▲ Good sense of community
- ▲ Community Gala days, War Memorial, Christmas lights, Toddler Groups

How could we make it better in the future?

- ▼ Lots of community groups for theatre and arts with nowhere to perform
- ▼ Try and promote a sense of community
- ▼ Antisocial behaviour by youths and regular orange walks needs to be addressed
- ▼ More information about community activities
- ▼ Not something the council can do; people make their own effort to be part of a community
- ▼ Falkirk needs a town hall and performance venue
- ▼ Sort out bad tenants and drug users in the area
- ▼ There's a real lack of community in society
- ▼ Address anti-social behaviour
- ▼ Festivals to celebrate Falkirk for things we have produced contributed to society e.g. Irn Bru
- ▼ More community / fun days activities
- ▼ More adult education classes locally i.e. sewing bee, coffee morning, crafting sessions where people can share their skills with others
- ▼ More allotments and community gardens

## Question 12: Feeling Safe

*Does everyone feel safe in our place? Are there physical barriers or areas that feel unsafe? Are there social issues? How do we share our concerns? Are there other issues?*

What is good now?

- ▲ Streets are well lit
- ▲ Relatively safe area to live in
- ▲ Police are helpful, but undermanned for issues of antisocial behaviour
- ▲ Very little crime
- ▲ Lots of CCTV in public areas makes me feel a bit safer during the day
- ▲ Local community Facebook page where we share info and raise any concerns.

How could we make it better in the future?

- ▼ Better street lighting
- ▼ Police presence, visible policing, and local police stations
- ▼ Clamp down on the children who have no respect
- ▼ Improve CCTV at main areas like shopping area and main street
- ▼ Less anti-social behaviour
- ▼ Somewhere for teenagers to meet to get them off the streets
- ▼ More neighbourhood watch schemes
- ▼ Local authority doesn't have the funding to change things

### Question 13: Care and Maintenance

*Are buildings, streets and spaces maintained? Who helps to maintain our place? Are there any challenges? Do we report issues? What are local services like?*

What is good now?

- ▲ Good refuse and recycling service
- ▲ Flower beds maintained by a group of volunteers
- ▲ Private owners look after their own property
- ▲ Green spaces which are the responsibility of the council have been well maintained so far
- ▲ Streets are clean and well maintained
- ▲ Volunteers do a great job
- ▲ Regular grass cutting by the Council
- ▲ Roundabouts always look well maintained
- ▲ Fly tipping is easy to report via the council web site

How could we make it better in the future?

- ▼ I struggle to see the Council maintaining their buildings
- ▼ Roads and pavements are in a terrible condition, address potholes
- ▼ Clean dirty road signs
- ▼ Increasing council tax for less service not fair, introduce something more appropriate
- ▼ Maintain Council buildings and protect what we have e.g. Dobbie Hall
- ▼ Stop cutting back on services
- ▼ More regular maintenance of grassed areas, shrubs, undergrowth, cutting back vegetation at side of roads
- ▼ Address litter, fly tipping, dog fouling
- ▼ Stop Allowing 'wilding' on grass verges, an excuse for lack of maintenance
- ▼ Public toilets needed
- ▼ Lack of lowered kerbs for mobility scooters
- ▼ Greater access to recycling facilities
- ▼ Some persistent flooding needs fixed
- ▼ More frequent bin uplifts
- ▼ Encourage education in schools re environment damaging caused by litter
- ▼ Better housing maintenance for Council tenants
- ▼ Reporting problems needs to be easier, Council isolating parts of the population not online

## Question 14: Influence and Sense of Control

*Does the community have a voice? Is the community listened to? Are there effective local groups? Do I feel able to take action on my own or with neighbours? Are there barriers for some people?*

What is good now?

- ▲ Community Council publish on Facebook
- ▲ Tenants Association in place
- ▲ Resident's Association trying to generate a sense of community, but it needs more people to get involved
- ▲ Local Councillors are very supportive to local initiatives but there needs to be more traction
- ▲ Use of surveys is good but difficult to see if they are acted upon at times
- ▲ Contact with Council services is good
- ▲ Nothing is good, Council doesn't seem to listen to people
- ▲ This survey and other surveys, I feel like I have a say
- ▲ We're listened to within our community

How could we make it better in the future?

- ▼ I struggle to see the Council maintaining their buildings
- ▼ Roads and pavements are in a terrible condition, address potholes
- ▼ Clean dirty road signs
- ▼ Increasing council tax for less service not fair, introduce something more appropriate
- ▼ Maintain Council buildings and protect what we have e.g. Dobbie Hall
- ▼ Stop cutting back on services
- ▼ More regular maintenance of grassed areas, shrubs, undergrowth, cutting back vegetation at side of roads
- ▼ Address litter, fly tipping, dog fouling
- ▼ Stop Allowing 'wilding' on grass verges, an excuse for lack of maintenance
- ▼ Public toilets needed
- ▼ Lack of lowered kerbs for mobility scooters
- ▼ Greater access to recycling facilities
- ▼ Some persistent flooding needs fixed
- ▼ More frequent bin uplifts
- ▼ Encourage education in schools re environment damaging caused by litter
- ▼ Better housing maintenance for Council tenants
- ▼ Reporting problems needs to be easier, Council isolating parts of the population not online



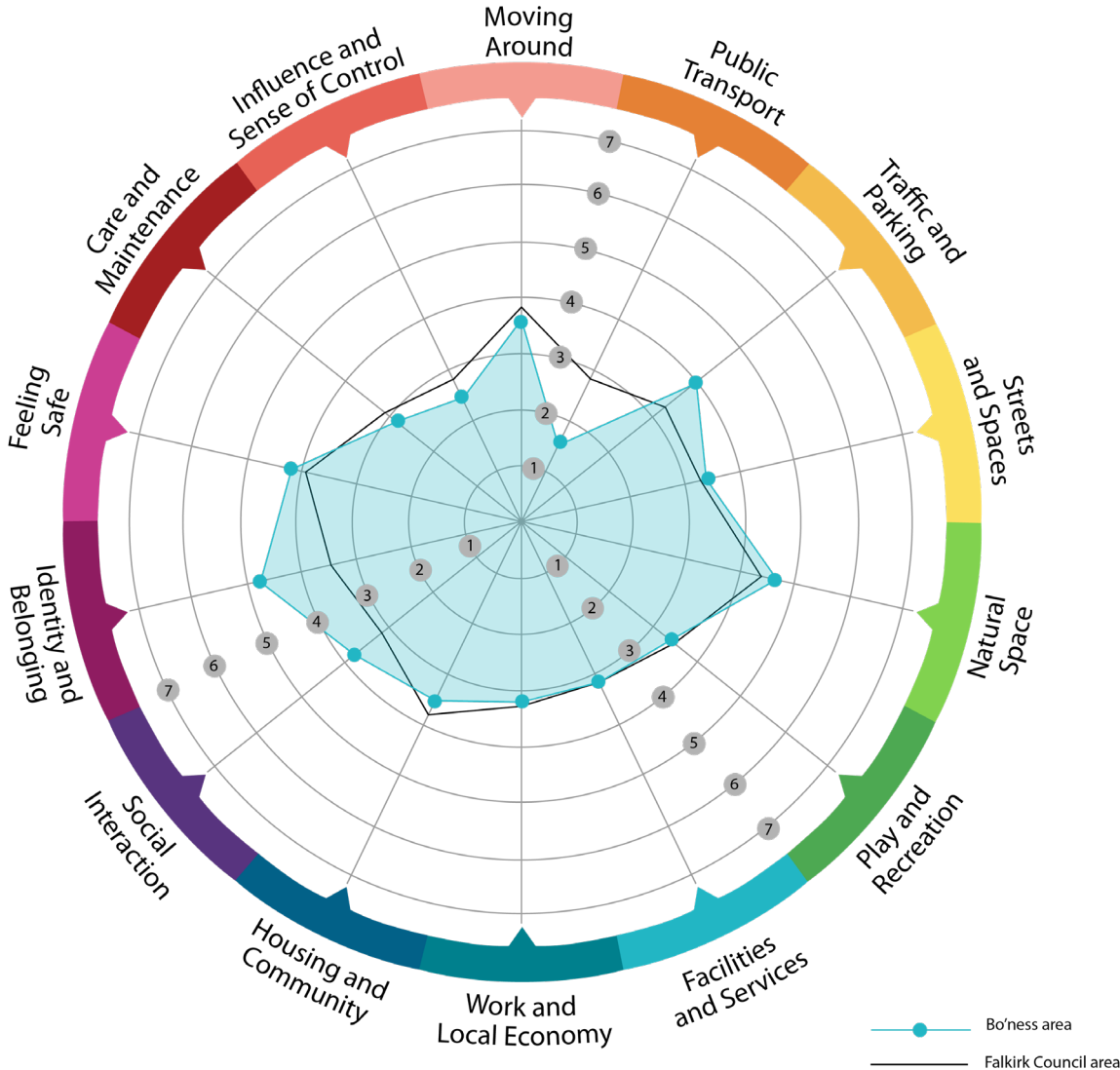
# 6.0 Public Survey - Summary of Comments by Settlement Area

All comments received have been summarised for each Local Plan settlement area. For each of the eight settlement summaries the place standard diagram illustrates the settlement score compared to the Council average for each place standard topic. The summaries for each identify where settlements score most highly and what is currently valued, as well as highlighting the scope for future improvement where scores are poor.

## Bo'ness

The Place Standard allows people to give scores out of 7 for 14 different aspects of their places.

35 survey responses were received in the Bo'ness area, including 34 for Bo'ness and 1 for Blackness. 63% of people who responded are female and 27% male. 11% of survey responses were from people who identify as disabled.



## **Buildings, streets and spaces** **(3.4 - marginally higher than the Council average)**

Respondents mentioned a number of positive features including historic buildings, the town centre and open spaces. Volunteering to look after streets and spaces was mentioned.

Areas for improvement included lack of maintenance (linked to cuts in Council spending), wheelchair/buggy access, parking in Blackness, and use of community benefits from new development to invest in the town.

## **Facilities and Services** **(3.2 - the same as the Council average)**

Respondents mentioned a number of valued and positive facilities including schools, nurseries, the recreation centre, the Hippodrome, the library with its improved access, parks and independent shops.

In terms of improvement, there was concern about the potential closure of Council facilities such as the recreation centre (which should be repaired), public toilets and the general centralisation of facilities. Lack of cafes and healthy places to eat was mentioned, as well as a wider range of shops and facilities for disabled people. There was a concern about facilities such as schools, GP practices and dentists not keeping pace with extensive housing growth, and a desire to maximise developer contributions. The development of multi-purpose hubs was suggested, but the difficulties with multi use facilities was also highlighted.

## **Play and Recreation** **(3.4 - just below the Council average)**

Positive features mentioned included good parks and greenspace, paths including the John Muir Way allowing access to surrounding countryside, the foreshore, Kinneil Estate and the recreation centre.

Improvements mentioned included improved and better maintained play facilities, e.g. at the Drum, developing the potential of Kinneil Estate so it becomes more of an attraction, and keeping the recreation centre with improved amenities. Levels of investment were compared unfavourably with Falkirk, and general concerns about Council cuts expressed.

## **Natural Space** **(4.6 - above the Council average and the second highest rated attribute)**

Key assets mentioned included Kinneil Estate, John Muir Way, Carriden and the route to Blackness, and the foreshore. Wheelchair accessibility of paths on the foreshore was mentioned.

Concern was expressed about housebuilding on countryside and green spaces. Litter, vandalism and dog fouling were mentioned as issues. More benches, places to sit, litter bins and toilets would be good. Difficulties in wheelchair access across the railway was cited.

### **Housing and community** **(3.6 - below the Council average)**

Positive features mentioned included the range of available housing, including the amount of new build housing and upgrading of social housing in the town. In terms of concerns, the scale of new housing in relation to provision of services, the resultant loss of green belt and the unaffordability and lack of diversity of new build houses were mentioned. Lack of affordable housing, poor condition of Council stock, and lack of bungalows/disabled friendly houses was also referenced. More use should be made of brownfield sites.

### **Local Economy** **(3.2 - just below the Council average)**

The existence of some good local employers and small businesses particularly in the town centre was mentioned, but many people travel outwith the town to work. Various sectors were mentioned as offering potential to create more local jobs, including tourism and hospitality, bigger food shops, and a more vibrant town centre. More local training and business support, and better digital connectivity and transport links are needed.

### **Moving around** **(3.6 - below the Council average)**

The John Muir Way and the foreshore paths were mentioned as a positive feature. In terms of improvements, the condition of pavements and difficulties for disabled people need to be addressed. Active travel links to other towns are poor. Travel between the town centre and the top of the town is difficult because of the hill – not conducive to a 20 minute neighbourhood.

### **Public transport** **(1.6 - well below the Council average and the lowest rated attribute)**

Positive mention is made of the Blackness village bus and increased services to Edinburgh.

Bus services are seen as deficient in terms of the frequency, reliability and cost of services. Public transport does not allow you to go where you want to go. Bo'ness feels cut off and you need a car. Difficulties in commuting to Edinburgh, getting to

NHS services in Larbert and Falkirk, and travelling to Linlithgow in the evening are specifically mentioned.

### **Traffic and parking** **(4.0 - well above the Council average)**

Parking is generally plentiful and free. There are electric charging points in the car park on the shore.

Issues raised include parking problems in Blackness during the summer and within some residential areas, including parking on pavements. Pavements are used by cyclists and there is lack of clarity on which routes are shared. More secure bike parking is needed. There are issues with cars speeding in certain locations. Oversubscribed parking at Linlithgow station is a problem.

### **Social interaction** **(3.8 - well above the Council average)**

A number of opportunities for social interaction are referenced including both venues and events. There is a strong community spirit and many groups for people to join.

Mention is made of the need for better communication, including from the Council, the threat of closure of venues, lack of support for groups from the Council and the lack of seating in public parks.

### **Identity and belonging** **(4.8 - well above the Council average and the highest rated attribute)**

Mention is made of the town's strong sense of identity and heritage, its strong social infrastructure in the form of groups, clubs, volunteers, and the Bo'ness fair. In terms of improvements, the need to invest more in town, more funding, better publicity of what is available, and making more of the heritage of the town are mentioned. If you have not been born and raised in the town, you do not necessarily feel the same connection to the place.

### **Feeling safe** **(4.2 - above the Council average)**

People generally feel safe in the town, including at night. Most areas are well lit. The police attend community council meetings.

In terms of improvements, reopening the police station, a greater police presence and more neighbourhood watch schemes are mentioned. Reckless driving, poor quality of lighting in some areas and anti-social behaviour are highlighted as issues.

## **Care and maintenance (2.8 - less than the Council average)**

Positive points include the activities of volunteer groups, such as Blooming Bo'ness, good recycling and bin collection information. Factoring arrangements in estates are OK but are expensive.

Litter, fly tipping, maintenance of streets, spaces and older buildings, grass cutting, and vandalism are cited as issues.

## **Influence and sense of control (2.4 - less than the Council average and second lowest rated attribute)**

Positive features are community groups and volunteers which keep people informed of their work and the community choices programme.

Negative aspects included a general feeling that the Council does not listen to people and consultation either does not happen or is tokenistic. Bo'ness feels like a forgotten town.

### **Summary**

Bo'ness scores most highly for identity and belonging, natural space and traffic and parking. It scores most poorly for public transport, care and maintenance, and influence and sense of control.

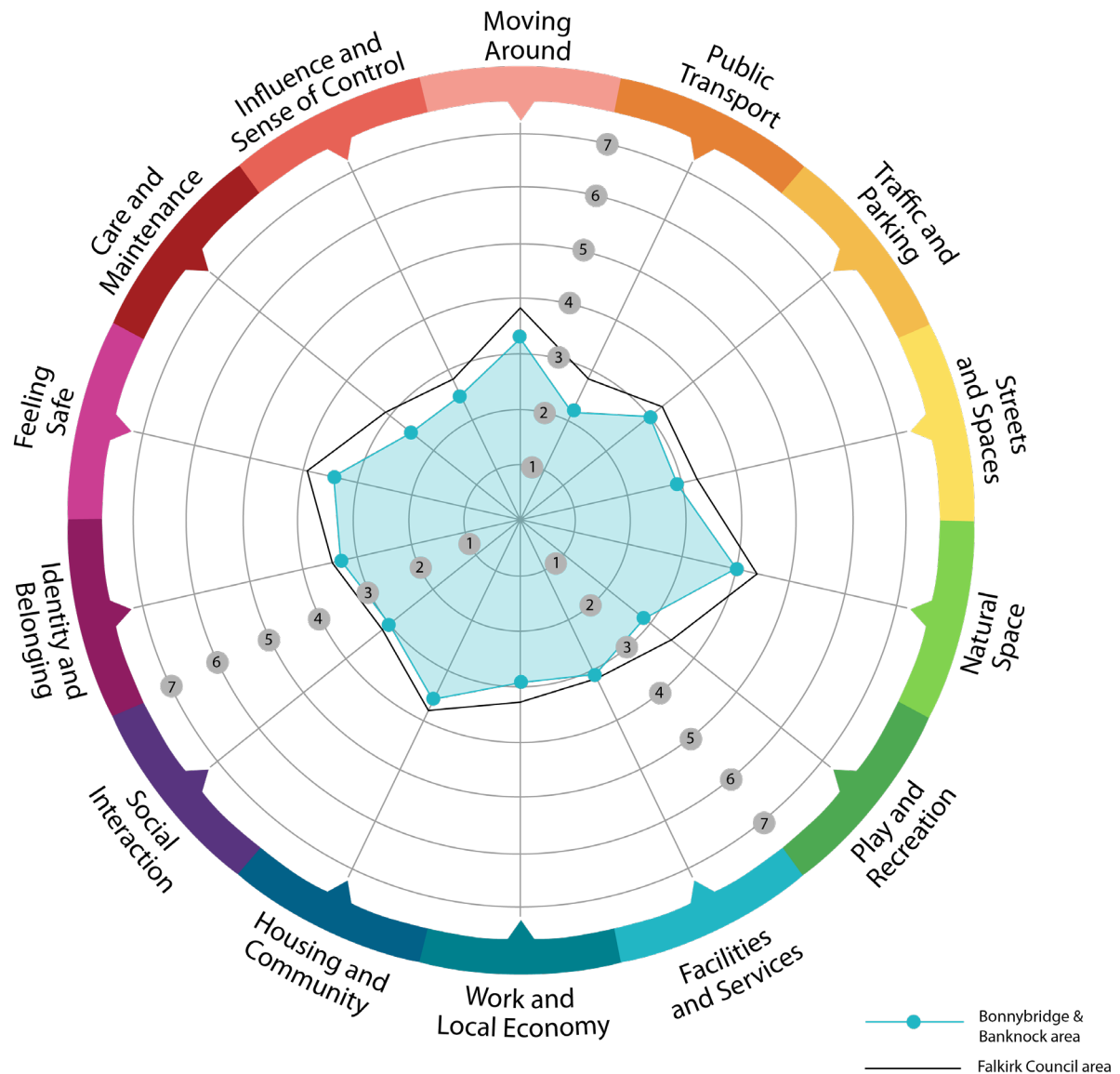
## Bonnybridge and Banknock

The Place Standard allows people to give scores out of 7 for 14 different aspects of their places.

41 survey responses were received in the Bonnybridge and Banknock area, including 16 from Bonnybridge, 16 from Banknock, 4 from Dennyloanhead and 4 from Haggis and Longcroft and 1 from High Bonnybridge.

51% of people who responded are female and 47% are male. One person (or 2% of people) preferred not to state their gender.

17% of survey responses were from people who identify as disabled.



## **Buildings, streets and spaces (2.9 - below than the Council average)**

Recently completed projects in Bonnybridge have enhanced the attractiveness of the area and also interest in local heritage. Projects cited included new benches at Memorial Park and the Greenhill Historic Society's 'Welcome to Bonnybridge' mural on the High Street.

Some commented that the area feels neglected by lack of investment or cuts to Council spending. By way of improvements, respondents suggested refurbishment of Banknock Community Hal; shops and other buildings in Bonnybridge Toll. In addition, respondents stated they are keen to see the area's brownfield sites (such as the former Bonnybridge library, Seabegs Road and the former Cannerton Brickworks) brought back into a positive use.

## **Facilities and Services (3.1 - slightly below the Council average)**

Respondents praised local facilities including shops, businesses, schools, Denny and Bonnybridge Libraries, Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, the Archibald Russell Centre and GP surgeries.

Negative comments were expressed too. It was stated residents in Banknock can feel remote from accessing certain services (such as libraries) outwith the village due to poor public transport links. Concern was expressed about the potential closure of Banknock Community Hall and other local facilities. Respondents said there is a lack of diversity in local shops, or not enough places to buy affordable, healthy food. Some think the area has too many fast food takeaways, barbers and hairdressers.

## **Play and Recreation (2.8 - below the Council average)**

Jenny's Park, the Forth and Clyde Canal and Memorial Gardens were mentioned as good places to play or relax in the area. Respondents said they like the amount of open space in Bonnybridge while Banknock, Dennyloanhead, Haggs and Longcroft were cited as lacking good sized and quality areas of open space.

Improvements suggested included new and better maintained equipped play facilities (e.g. at Coneypark, Ash Park and Bog Park), more community growing spaces, repairs to park paths, additional seating and improved drainage of football pitches.

## **Natural Space (4.0 - below the Council average but the highest rated attribute)**

The Forth and Clyde Canal and Bonnyfield Nature Reserve were mentioned as good places to experience and see nature locally, although some perceive the canal to be

an unwelcoming and unsafe place for people with disabilities. Several respondents added that the natural space in and around the villages is plentiful and attractive. The villages benefit from close proximity to Denny, Camelon and Denny with residents being able to access other natural spaces (such as the River Carron and Chacefield Woods) within a short distance away by car or bike.

Lastly, a couple of respondents stated a need to do more to protect, and raise awareness of, local nature.

### **Housing and community** **(3.6 - below the Council average and the second highest rated attribute)**

Positives stated included good quality homes and the availability of new housing. Some respondents cited a lack of affordable housing to buy or rent, or concerns about the condition and age of the Council's housing stock. Local facilities (such as schools and GP) were mentioned as lacking the capacity to meet the needs of future housing development.

In terms of improvements, the delivery of sites with planning permission would increase the supply of new affordable housing and help regenerate the area.

### **Work and Local Economy** **(2.9 - below the Council average)**

Barriers to work and local economy included lack of local childcare, poor transport links and limited availability of local jobs. It was suggested more employment space and training opportunities would encourage businesses to locate to the area and take advantage of the area's accessibility to major towns and cities.

### **Moving around** **(3.3 - below the Council average)**

Positive assets stated included local path networks and the Forth and Clyde Canal. Improvements suggested included more crossing points in Bonnybridge Toll, direct and convenient active travel links to other communities (in particular Denny, Camelon and Stenhousemuir), better path maintenance, and stricter enforcement of pavement parking.

### **Public transport** **(2.2 - below the Council average and the lowest rated attribute)**

Bus services are infrequent, absent or too expensive. Communities find it bothersome to commute by bus to Falkirk Town Centre, Stenhousemuir, Forth Valley Hospital, and Denny, although the X37 service is viewed as a lifeline for many. A



train station in Bonnybridge, and more affordable and frequent bus services, would improve public transport in the area.

### **Traffic and parking** **(3.0 - above the Council average)**

Some respondents liked the car parking provision in the area, finding it plentiful and free. However, concerns were raised about a lack of car parking spaces to access schools and local shops (such as those on Bonnybridge's High Street and Main Street). Other issues referenced included hazardous and illegal parking, cars speeding and traffic congestion on certain routes (such as the A803 and Seabegs Road).

Various improvements were suggested for traffic and parking. These included upgrades to the A803, more convenient, car parking near shops, stricter parking enforcement, more electric charging points and the introduction of traffic calming measures (such as 20 mph zones and speed bumps).

### **Social interaction** **(3.0 - below the Council average)**

Respondents referenced pubs, community halls, clubs, parks, local shops and libraries as the main places to meet people in the local area.

Several comments mentioned that the area has a lack of venues and activities (such as clubs, cafes, restaurants, allotments, outdoor seating and parks) to tackle social isolation. Mention was also made of the threat of closure of Banknock Community Hall. Many people seem to be unaware of the opportunities to volunteer in the area.

### **Identity and belonging** **(3.3 - below the Council average)**

Bonnybridge has a strong sense of identity and belonging in the form of clubs, built heritage, gala days, remembrance services, and the Bonnybridge Christmas Lights Switch on. The Greenhill Historic Society was praised again for its efforts in raising awareness of Bonnybridge's heritage.

Concerns were expressed about the lack of community cohesion among existing and new residents in Banknock, Longcroft and Haggs. A point was made that the Banknock has little in the way of community events.

### **Feeling safe** **(3.4 - below the Council average)**

Most people feel safe in the villages, although anti-social behaviour (such as vandalism and public drinking) is said to be issue in local parks and on the Forth and Clyde Canal.

Improvements were suggested to improve the perception of safety. These included more policing in the area, youth clubs, more street lighting and better maintained open spaces.

### **Care and maintenance**

**(2.5 - below the Council average and the joint second lowest rated attribute)**

Comments positively mentioned community litter picks, regular maintenance of public areas and the Council's household waste collection service. Issues raised included funding, fly-tipping, litter, grass cutting, drainage problems, and the maintenance of streets, parks and Council housing.

### **Influence and sense of control**

**(2.5 - below the Council average and the joint second lowest rated attribute)**

Respondents said the Council could improve its engagement with local people by listening better and having consultations that are meaningful. Banknock feels overlooked and forgotten about.

### **Summary**

Bonnybridge and Banknock scores most highly for natural space; and housing and communities. It scores most poorly for public transport, care and maintenance, and influence and sense of control.

The area scores above the Council average in only two of the 14 attributes, these being facilities and services; and traffic and parking.

## Braes and Rural South

The Place Standard allows people to give scores out of 7 for 14 different aspects of their places.

86 survey responses were received in the Braes area. These can be broken down into settlement area responses as follows:

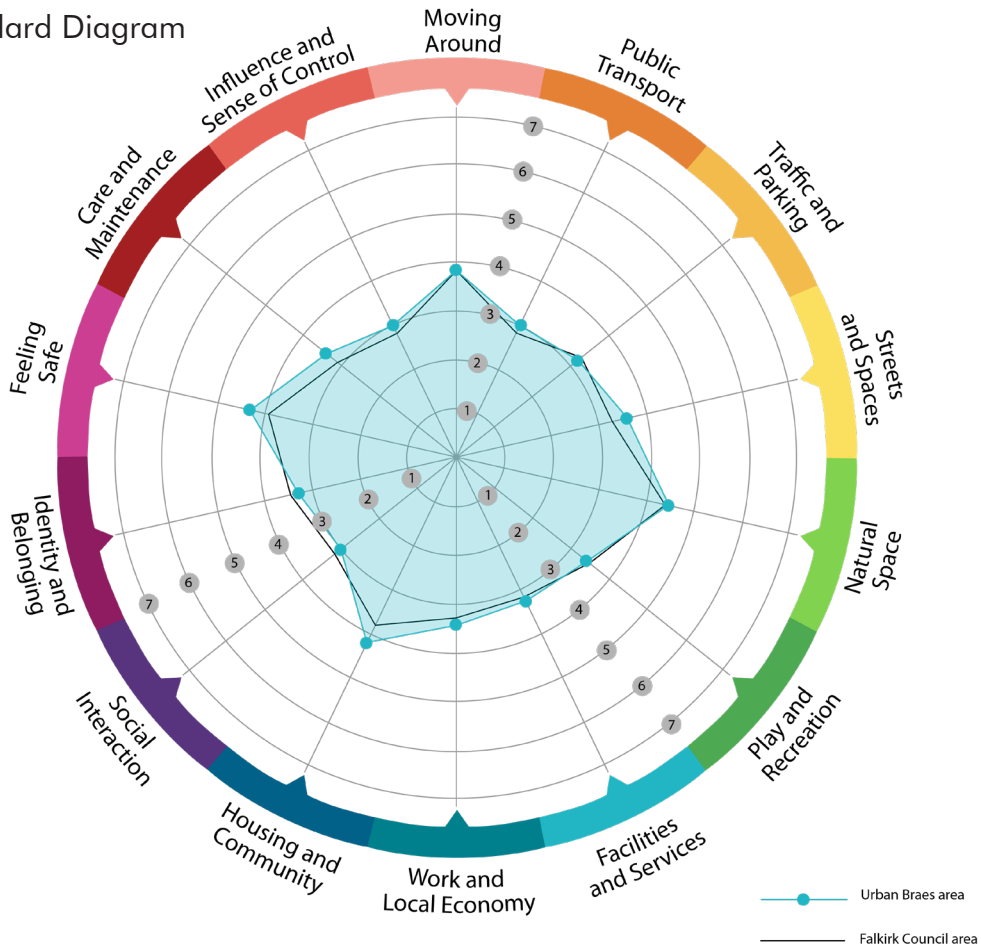
- Avonbridge and Standburn – 5
- Polmont and Brightons – 20
- Allandale – 1
- Laurieston, Redding and Westquarter – 21
- Slamannan and Limerigg – 4
- Maddiston and Rumford – 18
- Reddingmuirhead and Wallacestone – 10
- Shieldhill and California – 7

51% of people who responded are female and 47% are male. One person (or 1% of people) preferred not to state their gender and one person (1%) identified as other.

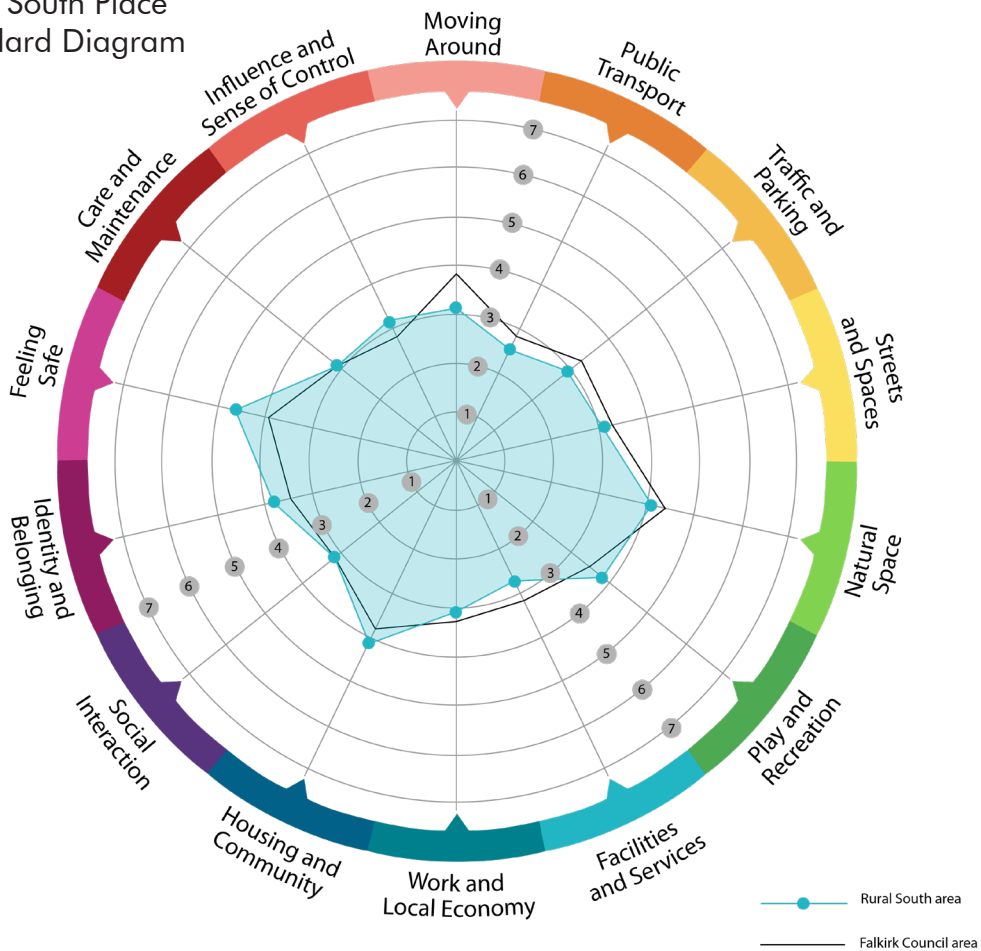
15% of survey responses were from people who identify as disabled.

The figures below show settlement averages for all the place standard criteria which were filled in by respondents. This has been split between Urban Braes and Rural South.

## Urban Braes Place Standard Diagram



## Rural South Place Standard Diagram



## **Buildings, streets and spaces**

**Urban Braes 3.6 - above the Council average**

**Rural South 3.1 – below Council average**

Generally, respondents in Rural South were happy with the outdoor access network. Two respondents acknowledged the improvements in the path network between Shieldhill and California.

There were some concerns raised over general maintenance of Council properties, as well as litter.

## **Facilities and Services**

**Urban Braes 3.3 - slightly above the Council average**

**Rural South 2.7 – below Council average**

A significant number of residents expressed concern over the closure of community facilities. Maddiston Community centre was specifically highlighted as an example of vital community infrastructure. Issues regarding access to healthcare provision in Maddiston and Shieldhill were raised as transport links were unreliable and expensive. One respondent highlighted that the removal of the mobile library was a loss to the area, and that it should be reinstated. The absence of a shop in Limerigg was seen as a negative for the area.

## **Play and Recreation**

**Urban Braes 3.4 - below the Council average**

**Rural South 3.8 – above Council average**

In Urban Braes, Maddiston residents highlighted that Valley Park is harder for residents of the north end of Maddiston to access, but several respondents mentioned that the quality of the park had improved. Suggestions included major upgrading of play equipment at George V playing fields in Redding, and Laurie Park was highlighted as needing investment.

In Rural South, Standburn community park was highlighted as an asset, and Muiravonside appears to be a popular place to visit within the Braes as a whole. It was noted by several residents that while Upper Braes is well serviced by countryside and path networks, some of the open spaces within villages require improvement. Across the area, residents highlighted the need for improvements of facilities within the parks alongside play equipment including public toilets, seating areas and general maintenance including litter picking.

## **Natural Space**

**Urban Braes 4.4 - above the Council average**

**Rural South 4.1 – below Council average**

Several respondents across the Urban Braes and Rural South noted that the path network was well connected, which was beneficial for those who enjoyed walking.

In Urban Braes, respondents highlighted several greens spaces which they enjoyed including Westquarter Glen, Polmont Woods, Gray Buchanan Park and Wallacestone woodland walk and play park.

In Rural South, paths between California and Shieldhill and the canals, were highlighted as being positive.

Across both area, antisocial behaviour was a common theme of issues which need to be resolved including dog fouling, antisocial trail bike use, alcohol and litter. Green spaces require maintenance which often falls to community groups who are under resourced. Several respondents also expressed concern about the loss of green spaces to housebuilding.

### **Housing and community**

**Urban Braes 4.2 - above Council average**  
**Rural South – 4.1 above Council average**

Positives stated included good quality homes and the availability of new housing. Some respondents cited a lack of affordable housing to buy or rent, or concerns about the condition and age of the Council's housing stock. Local facilities (such as schools and GP) were mentioned as lacking the capacity to meet the needs of future housing development.

In terms of improvements, the delivery of sites with planning permission (such as the Council housing site at Banknock South and the former) would increase the supply of new affordable housing and help regenerate the area.

### **Work and Local Economy**

**Urban Braes 3.4 – slightly above Council average**  
**Rural South – 3.1 – below Council average**

Barriers to work and local economy included poor transport links and limited availability of local jobs. It was suggested that more could be done to support people to find jobs and stay in work.

### **Moving around**

**Urban Braes 3.8 – equal to Council average**  
**Rural South – 3.2 – below Council average**

A majority of residents in both Urban Braes and Rural South enjoyed the local path network. Only one resident stated that they felt unsafe. It was also highlighted by a number of respondents that the area enjoys good access to the trunk road network for travel further afield.

Improvements suggested included better connections between Avonbridge and other villages, in order to access services better. The delivery of promised core path projects was highlighted as being stalled.

A significant number of respondents highlighted specific issues with pavements in the Braes, highlighting narrow, poorly maintained pavements restricting moving around, and pavements being used for parking. Specific issues raised were frequent flooding of the underpass linking Falkirk town centre and Laurieston, which means that the village is somewhat cut off.

There were also numerous comments about the lack of cycle infrastructure, and that fact that much of the road network felt unsafe for cyclists.

### **Public transport** **Urban Braes 3.0 – above Council average** **Rural South 2.6 – below Council average**

Comments regarding bus services highlighted the fact that they were expensive and infrequent, with a lack of service in evenings and on Sundays meaning it could not be relied upon. A significant proportion of respondents (around 20%) stated that they had never used public transport in the area. Residents living next to Polmont railway station highlighted that this had good links to Glasgow and Edinburgh.

### **Traffic and parking** **Urban Braes 3.2 – just below Council average** **Rural South 2.9 – below Council average**

Concerns were raised about traffic congestion generally, such as at Main Street, Shieldhill. Speeding traffic is a serious concern among many respondents, and parking around schools can be chaotic. The problem of people parking on pavements was raised repeatedly.

Various improvements were suggested including traffic calming, and widening of pavements and paths to encourage use, as well as reinstating the Falkirk park and ride.

### **Social interaction** **Urban Braes 3.0 – below Council average** **Rural South 3.2 – equal to Council average**

Respondents listed community halls, clubs, parks, local shops and libraries as the opportunities to meet people in the local area.

A number of respondents highlighted the fact that Maddiston is divided between new and old Maddiston and both sides don't often mix.

Several comments mentioned that California Community Centre is at the heart of the village. Suggestions includes more cafes as well as a pub in Shieldhill and Maddiston. Much of the promotion of social events seems to take place on social media pages, but it would be good to have more community notice boards to publicise events better.

## **Identity and belonging**

**Urban Braes 3.3 – below Council average**

**Rural South 3.8 – above Council average**

There was concerns among residents in areas where there has been substantial new development such as Maddiston, Redding and Reddingmuirhead that the area is more geared towards commuters rather than retaining a sense of community cohesion. Urban Braes scored below the Council average in this criteria.

However, Westquarter was highlighted as being a friendly place to live by several respondents.

## **Feeling safe**

**Urban Braes 4.3 – above Council average**

**Rural South 4.6 – above Council average**

Most people feel safe in both Urban Braes and Rural South, and the area has very little crime. Some low-level antisocial behaviour around young people, and people speeding in cars/motorbikes was highlighted, and there were some observations that street lighting council be improved around some paths.

## **Care and maintenance**

**Urban Braes 3.4 – above Council average**

**Rural South 3.1 – equal to Council average**

Litter and fly tipping seemed to be the main issue raised, with concern that the Council were not well resourced enough to deal with a growing problem. Community litter picks were highlighted as a positive thing to bring communities together.

## **Influence and sense of control**

**Urban Braes 3.0 – above Council average**

**Rural South 3.2 – above Council average**

While some highlighted that their voice could be heard by participating in surveys, many respondents said the Council could improve on its engagement and that engagement was sometimes seen as a box-ticking exercise to deliver a decision already made.

## **Summary**

The lowest scores for both Braes and Urban South were for traffic and parking and for public transport. Both Urban Braes and Rural South scored high than the Council average for Housing and community, indicating that many were happy with the choice and quality of the homes within the area. Respondents in both Urban Braes and Rural South scored the highest for safety. There is clearly a split between settlements areas in terms of identify, belonging and sense of community with Respondents from Rural South scoring highly but with Urban Braes coming in slightly below the Council average.



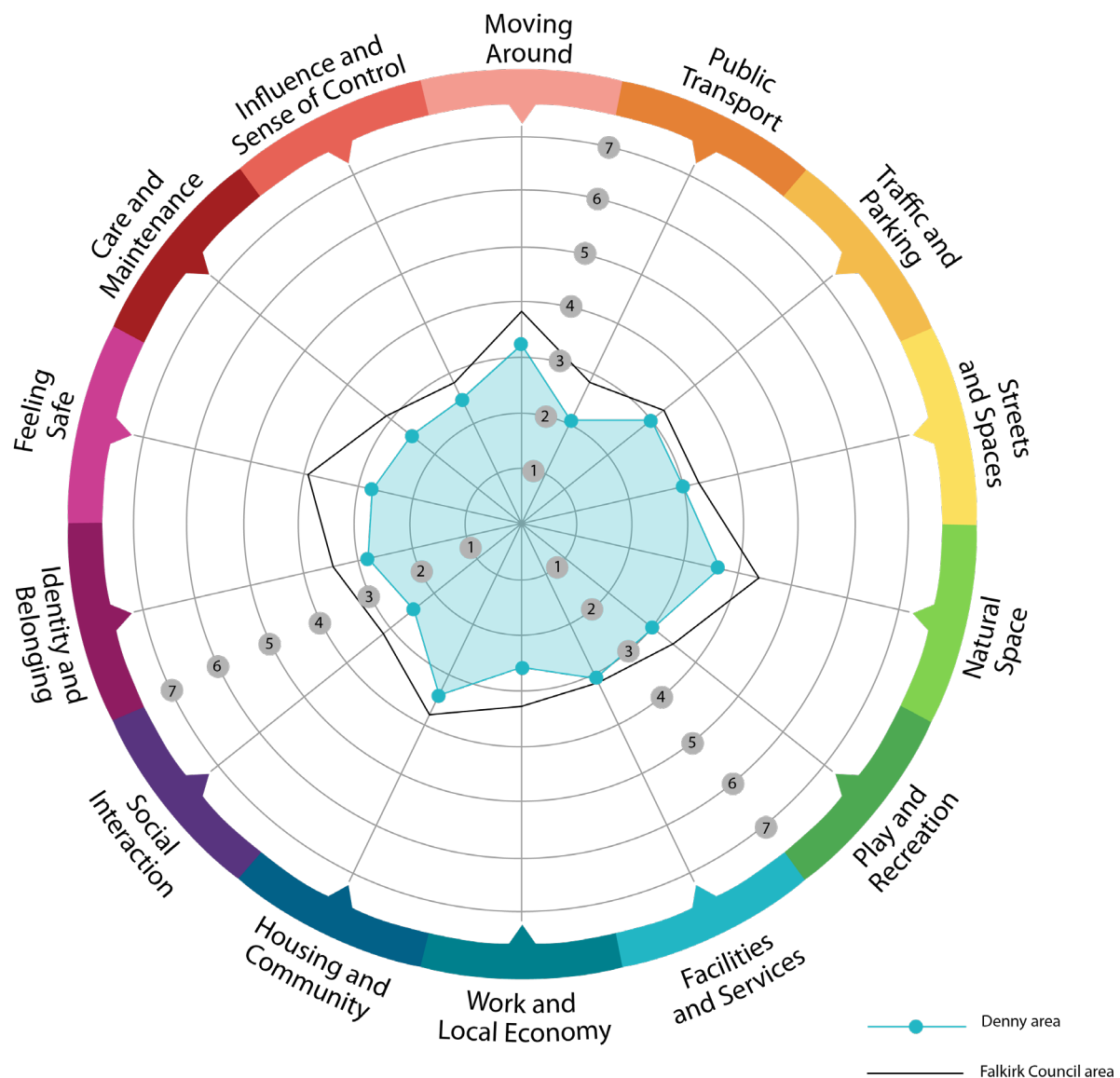
## Denny

The Place Standard allows people to give scores out of 7 for 14 different aspects of their places.

23 survey responses were received in the Denny area, including 19 from Denny, 3 from Dunipace and 1 from Head of Muir.

57% of people who responded are female and 43% are male.

22% of survey responses were from people who identify as disabled.



## **Buildings, streets and spaces (3.0 - below than the Council average)**

Denny has a good amount of accessible, public spaces including parks. Streets are quiet and easily walkable. The attractiveness of Denny has improved in recent years, for example, with the new library and shop units on Stirling Street. Some buildings, however, are still in a state of despair and need refurbished or better maintenance.

Lastly, Council spending cuts could limit the scope for further physical improvements in the area.

## **Facilities and Services (3.1 - below the Council average)**

The area has a good range of quality public services (GP surgeries, Denny library, schools and a post office) within an easy walking distance of homes and bus stops. However, traffic congestion at Denny Cross can make it frustrating to access facilities and services by public transport and car during peak times.

Local recycling facilities would be helpful as Roughmute Recycling Centre is too far away. Other improvements suggested included a new sports centre and gym, the provision of public toilets and the refurbishment of community halls.

Concerns were raised about the lack of diversity of local shops. An overconcentration of fast-food take-aways and hairdressers was mentioned along with a limited choice of cafés, restaurants and affordable supermarkets. As Denny is missing a bank and large food store, residents often travel to other towns to shop and access face to face banking services.

## **Play and Recreation (3.0 - below the Council average)**

Respondents said open spaces are generally plentiful, accessible and good quality. Play provision was particularly cited as being good overall, and positive mention was made of the recently upgraded play area in Gala (or Herbertshire Castle) Park.

Local parks generally lack play facilities and activities aimed at teens and disabled children. Issues were also raised about anti-social behaviour, litter and dog waste, poor maintenance and children's safety.

Improvements suggested included additional bins, more picnic tables and better and more maintained play spaces. It was suggested vacant and derelict land (such as the former Denny High School site) could be put to better use as community allotments or a new public park.

## **Natural Space** **(3.6 - below the Council average)**

Comments mentioned Gala Park, the River Carron and Carron Glen Wildlife Reserve as particularly good places to see and experience nature locally. The paths in and around the area were praised, offering off road and easy access to natural spaces (such as woodlands, the river and surrounding open countryside) within reach of most homes. Positive mention was also made of the amount of natural space accessible to the public.

Improvements suggested included path lighting and maintenance, reduction and removal of litter and dog waste, additional tree planting and the replacement of metal street furniture (signs, benches, bins etc.) with wooden furniture.

## **Housing and community** **(3.4 - below the Council average)**

Positive aspects included the mix of housing options and the on-going refurbishment of the Council housing stock.

Issues raised included anti-social behaviour, housing maintenance and vacant homes. A small number of respondents oppose house building citing congestion at Denny Cross and the impacts on local schools.

More affordable housing is needed for families and single-person households in the area. In addition, there is an urgent demand for more older people accommodation including bungalows, and sheltered housing.

## **Work and Local Economy** **(2.6 - below the Council average)**

Raising awareness of the area would attract more employers and jobs. Better bus services and more skilled apprenticeships would help also.

An improved offering of shops, cafes and restaurants in Denny would encourage more residents to spend locally rather than elsewhere. Denny needs a bank for businesses and residents to access financial services on their doorstep.

## **Moving around** **(3.3 - below the Council average)**

Again, respondents mentioned Denny has a good network of accessible paths. The main improvements included additional bins, street lighting, and improved maintenance of roads, paths and bus stops.

## **Public transport (2.1 - below the Council average)**

Bus services are criticised for being expensive, unreliable and infrequent. In terms of improvements, respondents mentioned more frequent and affordable services to Stirling, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Forth Valley Hospital and other destinations. The renewal of bus shelters was also suggested.

## **Traffic and parking (3.0 - above the Council average)**

Several respondents liked the car parking provision in Denny Town Centre, describing it as plentiful, convenient and free. However, Glasgow Road was frequently mentioned as being unsafe and congested due to parked vehicles and the high volume of cars and high sided vehicles. The traffic congestion at Denny Cross was also stated several times.

Parking enforcement issues were highlighted such as cars parked over driveways or yellow lines on busy roads.

In terms of improvements, it is hoped the completion of DEAR will address existing congestion at Denny Cross and Glasgow Road. Some respondents suggest additional car parking in Dunipace, Denny Town Centre and outside primary schools.

## **Social interaction (2.5 - below the Council average)**

Respondents referenced Denny Library, gala days, community allotments and local clubs (such as the scouts and Denny Bowling Club) as the main opportunities to meet up with people in the area. There are a lot of good groups in the area but are under threat due to lack of funding and staff.

Improvements suggested included better community spaces and better publicity of local groups and activities.

## **Identity and belonging (2.8 - below the Council average)**

Local people are friendly, welcoming and come together in a crisis. The area's sense of identity and belonging is enhanced by the local football team and the return of the annual gala day at Gala Park. More community based events throughout the year would bring more people together.

## **Feeling safe (2.7 – below the Council average)**

Several respondents said they don't feel safe due to issues linked with youth anti-social behaviour. Denny Town Centre is particularly perceived to be unwelcoming and unsafe at night.

Suggestions to improve safety included more community policing, CCTV surveillance, and better lighting on paths and underpasses.

## **Care and maintenance (2.5 - below the Council average)**

Comments largely focused on improving care and maintenance. Suggestions included better maintenance of streets, grass cutting, additional bins and action on flying tipping and better access to recycling facilities.

## **Influence and sense of control (2.5 - below the Council average)**

Respondents feel fatigued by consultation, believing it has not led to a prompt and real improvement in the area. Some respondents feel the Council's consultations are tokenistic or have an ulterior motive (e.g. to justify cuts to local services). The Council should engage better with local residents so that they are listened to.

## **Summary**

Denny scores most highly for natural space; and housing and communities but most poorly for public transport; care and maintenance; social interaction; care and maintenance; and influence and sense of control  
It scores above the Council average in only one of 14 attributes, this being traffic and parking.

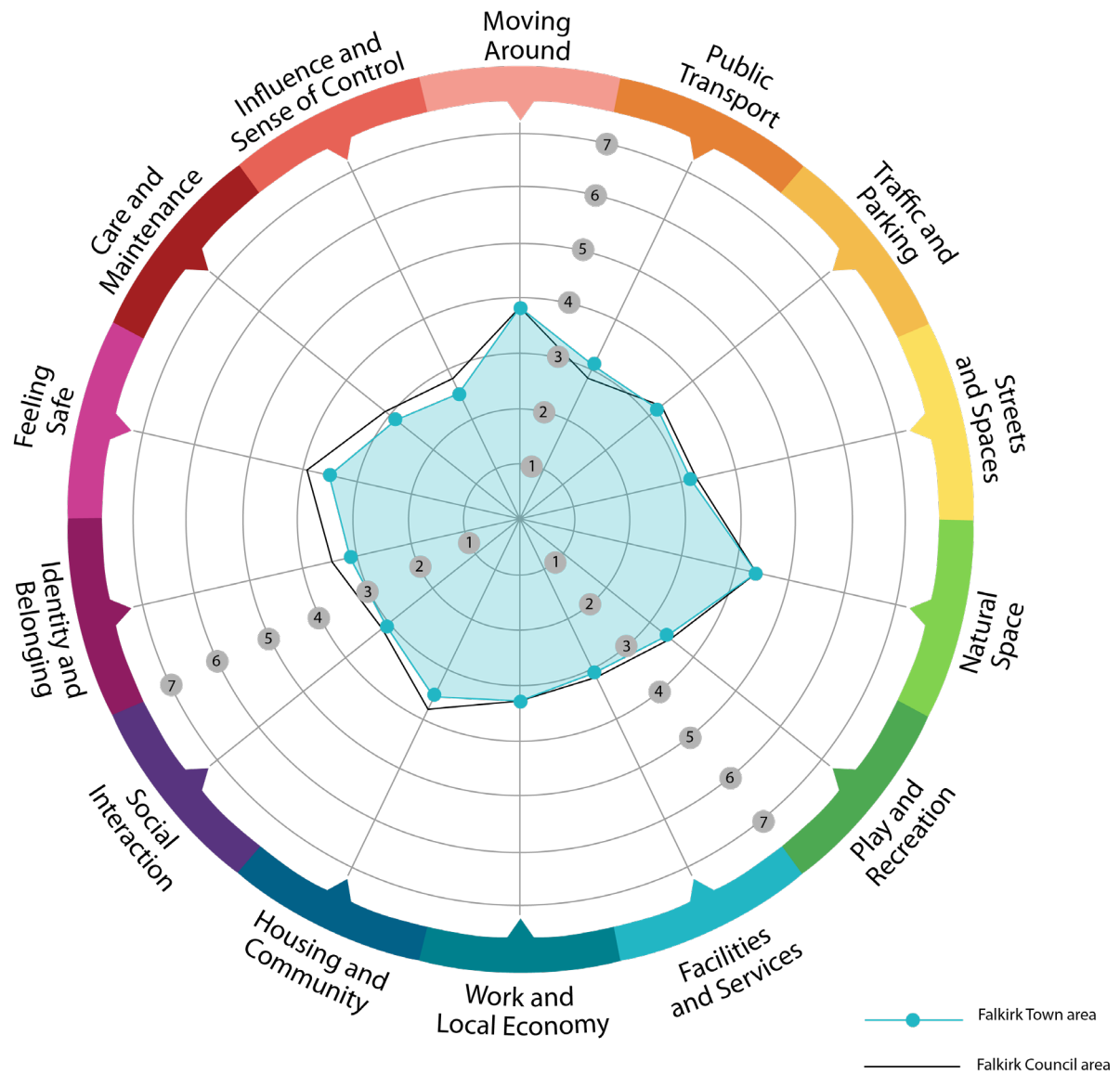
# Falkirk

The Place Standard allows people to give scores out of 7 for 14 different aspects of their places.

76 survey returns, including 7 for Camelon, 7 for Bainsford and 8 for Hallglen and Glen Village.

57% of people who responded are female and 41% are male.

22% of survey responses were from people who identify as disabled.



## **Buildings, streets and spaces (3.2 - marginally less than the Council average)**

Respondents mentioned a number of positive features such as parks, greenspaces, proximity of woodlands and nature and access to the canal. The Helix, Falkirk Wheel, and Callendar Park were specifically cited. New developments generally of a good quality.

Areas for improvement included dealing with various prominent vacant sites and the general issues of poorly maintained spaces, buildings and roads. The Town Centre is in need of improvement, including creating a proper bus station. Concern is expressed about poor quality infill development/'town cramming'. There should be more street trees.

## **Facilities and Services (3.1 - marginally less than the Council average)**

A range of valued services were referenced including sports facilities, parks, shops (particularly small local shops), library and schools.

Issues raised include the need for wider use of school/FV college buildings, making more of the library as a hub, more facilities for the elderly and disabled, the lack of a Council gym in central Falkirk, insufficient glass recycling facilities. Comments focused on the town centre, including to need to locate services in the High Street, lower rates, and the poor level of shopping for a town of Falkirk's size. A new Town Hall/performance space is needed. Poor bus services make it difficult to access more centralised facilities. Lack of facilities in the Lionthorn area was highlighted.

## **Play and Recreation (3.4 - just below the Council average)**

Parks are seen generally as good, and are generally well maintained, with particular mention of Callendar and Dollar Park, the Helix and the recently upgraded Policy Bing. There are good opportunities for walks, particularly along the canals.

Respondents made many suggestions on how parks could be improved including more facilities for disabled children, issues around vandalism and maintenance, more opportunities for imaginative play and sport, more seating, improved lighting, more provision for older children, and more events. Mention was made of the need for a new theatre/arts centre, the opportunity for creative hubs and making more of the town's historic sites.

## **Natural Space (4.3 - the same as the Council average and the highest rated attribute)**

Respondents said that natural spaces are within walking distance and easily

accessible via a good path network. Various strategic parks were mentioned. Recent 'rewilding' was commended.

Issues which were raised included litter, dog fouling and fly tipping, lack of toilet facilities, and not feeling safe. There is the opportunity for more seating and interpretation, and better cycle infrastructure. Reference is made to tree felling, and the need to plant more trees. Concern is expressed at nature being lost through new development. There should be green spaces in the town centre, including allotments.

### **Housing and community** **(3.6 - below the Council average)**

Positive features include the varied mix of housing, including new build, and range of house prices. There is good community spirit in some areas and people generally take pride in their properties. The high flats in Callendar Park are commended, as is the standard of new build Council housing.

In terms of issues, antisocial behaviour is a key theme, as is the condition of Council housing stock and garden maintenance. Opinions are divided on the need for more housing, but there is support for more social housing, which should be 'green' and in central rather than peripheral locations, and utilising vacant properties. There is a need for better design of new development and criticism of unsympathetic development in conservation areas.

### **Local Economy** **(3.3 - the same as the Council average)**

There are a wide range of businesses and employment opportunities in the town. The college in its new building is seen as a key asset. A number of respondents commute outwith the area, enabled by good transport links.

The most common concern is the state of the town centre, including lack of vitality, vacancies, types of uses, and lack of a night time economy. This is having effects on the wider economy. Over reliance on Grangemouth and insufficient focus on community wealth building are also mentioned. There is a view that the area functions as a dormitory town.

### **Moving around** **(3.8 - the same as the Council average)**

There are a number of positive comments about the walking and cycling path network, particularly in the countryside.

Issues mentioned includes pavement obstructions, road maintenance, dog fouling,



lighting, and narrowness of routes. There are comments that the town is car-centric and there is a need for more dedicated active travel infrastructure and better strategic connections across the town.

### **Public transport (3.1 - above the Council average)**

A positive point is that there are three railway stations in the town. Some respondents consider that bus services are generally good and reasonably reliable, with a variety of routes.

Many respondents identify cost and reliability as issues. Frequency of bus services is also a problem, particularly early morning and night time. The need for a new bus station in the town is cited. There is also a need for better integration between public transport and walking and cycling.

### **Traffic and parking (3.2 - just below the Council average)**

Respondents mentioned that there is plentiful parking in the town centre, with a good mixture of free and charged. The pedestrianised High Street is seen as a positive. There is bike hire and a car club, and adequate provision for electric vehicles.

There are concerns about too high level of traffic in the town, over reliance on cars, and resultant congestion and pollution. Road and parking space should be reallocated for active travel. There are problems with parking in residential areas and on pavements, and a need for more traffic calmed areas. Attention is drawn to the state of the multi storey car parks in the town centre.

### **Social interaction (3.1 - just below the Council average)**

People cited a range of opportunities and places for social interaction including pubs, restaurants, community centres and parks. The use of social media was highlighted.

Respondents mentioned the need for better communication and advertising, bearing in mind that not everyone uses social media. The closure of the Town Hall and other Council facilities is a concern. The town centre is no longer a place people want to meet. There is lack of places and opportunities to meet in certain parts of the town, and for certain groups in the community (e.g. LGBTQ).

### **Identity and belonging (3.2 which is below the Council average)**

Comments include that the area seems generally welcoming and friendly and there are some good community groups.

Respondents mention a lack of cohesion, compared with during Covid, and lack of pride in the area. The loss of the Town Hall is cited as being corrosive of sense of community. There is a need to celebrate the heritage of the area more. The 'village' mentality is mentioned, with no sense of belonging to the wider town or area.

### **Feeling safe (3.5 - below the Council average)**

There are some positive comments on safety suggesting that in most areas people feel safe, at least during the day.

A wide range of issues are referenced, with antisocial behaviour being the most common. Also mentioned is the lack of pedestrians out in the evening, e.g. in the town centre, which makes people feel less safe, reduced police presence, lighting or lack of it, and traffic speeds.

### **Care and maintenance (2.8 - less than the Council average)**

Positive comments are made in relation to the maintenance of open spaces, refuse and recycling provisions, general cleanliness of streets, and Council response to issues

Respondents mention the need to address litter and fly tipping, emptying of street bins, building and road maintenance, vandalism, and general maintenance of spaces.

### **Influence and sense of control (2.6 - less than the Council average)**

Positive features are surveys and community discussion groups, tenants and residents' associations and the fact that many improvements are initiated by local people. The view is expressed that contact with Council services is good.

In terms of improvements, there are many comments that convey a feeling of not being listened to. Surveys and consultations are seen as tokenistic. There needs to be more attempt to reach minority groups. The absence of community councils in many areas is mentioned.

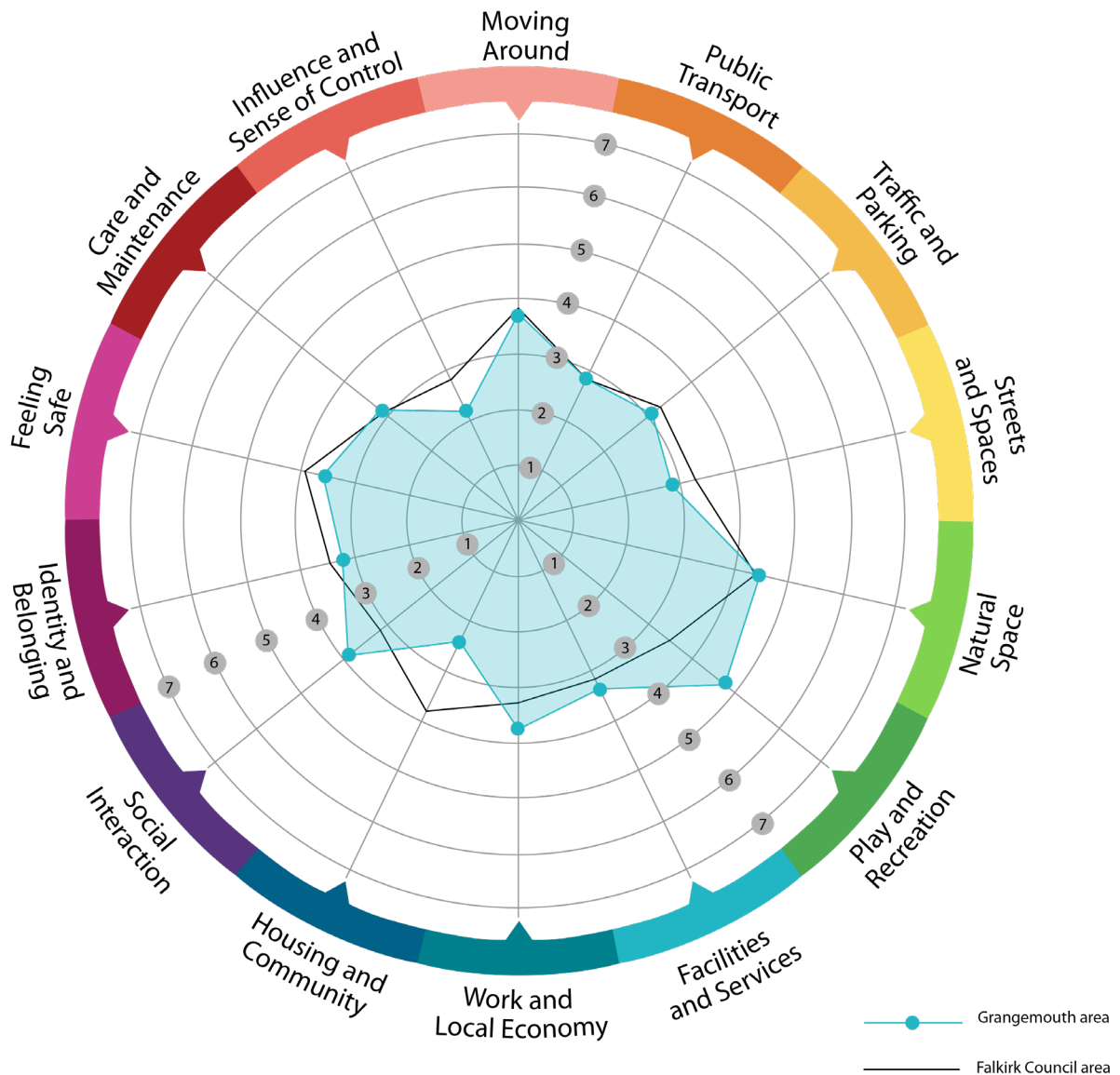
### **Summary**

Falkirk's score mirror closely those of the Council area. It scores most highly for natural space and moving around. It scores most poorly for influence and sense of control, and care and maintenance.

# Grangemouth

The Place Standard allows people to give scores out of 7 for 14 different aspects of their places.

There were 28 responses from Grangemouth with 12 female, 11 male and 5 not specifying their gender. 3 respondents were disabled. The majority (71%) were in the 26-64 age category.



## **Buildings, Streets and Public Spaces (2.8 - below the Council average of 3.3)**

The attractive areas of the town include the parks, trees and older parts of the town such as Bo'ness Road and around Zetland Park. Signposting was good and streets were well lit and volunteers such as the Glitter team did a good job.

Improvements needed included improving litter, repairing roads and pavements and addressing the declining town centre and Charlotte Dundas centre and flooding issues. There is support for more housing and demolishing some of the flatted properties. The threat of closure of Council facilities was a concern.

## **Facilities and Services (3.4 - higher than the Council average of 3.2)**

Good schools and facilities for young people, plenty of churches, good parks and sports facilities, good library.

Improvements are required in the town centre, reopen public toilets, better access to GP provision, community facilities should be kept open, address industrial traffic in the town and improve buses.

## **Play and Recreation (4.7 - significantly above the Council average of 3.5)**

Zetland Park, Inchyra Park and the swimming pool and other sports facilities are excellent. Volunteers do a great job maintaining parks.

Improvements needed in the accessibility of facilities and more events, keeping open facilities, enclosed areas for dogs, address flooding without the loss of trees.

## **Natural Space (4.4 - just above the Council average of 4.3)**

Zetland Park was also mentioned in this category with its excellent features such as the eco pond and the café which is very accessible. The Kelpies are also good, but the Helix has been spoiled by tree felling.

Traffic congestion limits access for visitors and the toilets should be upgraded and shelters provided at Zetland. Open space in housing areas is grubby with poor bin storage. There should be more walking areas.

## **Housing and Community (2.4 - significantly below the Council average of 3.8)**

There is a good mix of housing types in some areas and the idea of a Grangemouth Housing Masterplan is supported. People take pride in their gardens.

More private houses are needed so people can buy in the town. Larger homes for big families and adapted housing for people with disabilities are needed as well as upgrading council stock and a reduction in flats where there is a transient population. Bin storage needs improved, and communal grassed areas need to be better maintained. There is a need to address anti-social behaviour and to consider the number of homeless people and those with drug addictions being housed in the area.

### **Work and Local Economy (3.7 - above the Council average of 3.3)**

Good opportunities for work and volunteering in the town as well as it being accessible for other areas.

People who work here can't buy a house here. Smaller businesses and shops are closing limiting these kind of employment opportunities. There should be more events such as fetes and festivals to bring people into town. Large businesses need to contribute to the area offsetting noise, traffic and hazard zones impacts. There is a need for more environmentally friendly industries.

### **Moving Around (3.7 - below the Council average of 3.8)**

There are good paths in the parks with some local cycle routes and paths, but cycle paths are limited and not well signed.

Improvements could be made in maintaining greenery on routes and stopping cars parking on paths. More dropped kerbs for mobility scooters, improved crossing points such as central islands, zebra crossings or lights such as at Dundas Street or Newhouse Road. There should be more bins.

### **Public Transport (2.8 - same as the Council average)**

Need more regular, reliable and affordable services. Bus service is poor and isn't good for disabled people for example a mobility scooter can't go on buses. No bus station and therefore no toilet facilities, many stops have no shelters and seating is inadequate. Nearest train station is Polmont, but you can't get a bus there. Timetables displayed not up to date. Improvements required include a direct service to the hospital and connecting to train stations.

## **Traffic and Parking** **(3.1 which is below the Council average of 3.3)**

One positive is that free parking is available and there are plenty of crossing places.

Streets are crammed because there is not adequate on street parking for the number of cars. Industrial traffic dominates the town and should be reduced. Better policing of parking on double yellow lines and double parking, examples at Dundas Street. New crossings at Newhouse Road and Dundas Street, reduce congestion in the town centre. Introduce a 20mph in built up areas. Support for double yellow lines at primary school at Tinto Drive but traffic calming also causing issues at schools.

## **Social Interaction** **(3.8 - above the Council average of 3.2)**

Good community spirit and people volunteer. There are good social media sites about old Grangemouth. Good activities at churches and in community such as Children's Day and pensioners club at Talbot House.

Issues include finding out about events which are only promoted on social media. People feel isolated and alone and there should be more affordable, inclusive places to socialise, but the community centres and sports/leisure venues are being closed. There should be more restaurants.

## **Identify and Belonging** **(3.3 - below the Council average of 3.5)**

Generally people are warm and welcoming, and the community works together but there are areas where this is not the case and where strangers/people with differences (disability/culture/ethnicity) are not welcomed. The town feels run down and needs improved to make it a nicer place to live.

## **Feeling Safe** **(3.6 - below the Council average of 3.9)**

CCTV in public areas is good and volunteer litter pickers keep the town clean.

A reduction in anti-social behaviour would help as well as maintaining street lighting. Police should be a visible presence in areas with misbehaviour. Need to address issues associated with drugtaking and alcohol abuse in transient population. Fly tipping issue should be addressed, partly because of bins not being emptied. Kingseat Avenue and parts of Bowhouse were noted as areas feeling unsafe.

## **Care and Maintenance**

**(3.2 which is above the Council average of 3.1)**

Grass is cut regularly and Zetland Park is well maintained. Main positives relate to the Glitter Team and other volunteers at Zetland Park. As mentioned earlier, condition of roads and pavements is poor, lack of dropped kerbs. Changes to refuse collection will cause issues and fly tipping and vermin will increase. Dog owners need to be encouraged to pick up waste. The Old Cinema owners should have to improve building. Money generated from industry should be spent in the town.

## **Influence and Sense of Control**

**(2.3 - below the Council average of 2.8)**

It is recognised that there has been plenty of consultation, but this needs to be followed by action. There is a feeling that views aren't listened to as the same issues keep being raised with no obvious change happening.

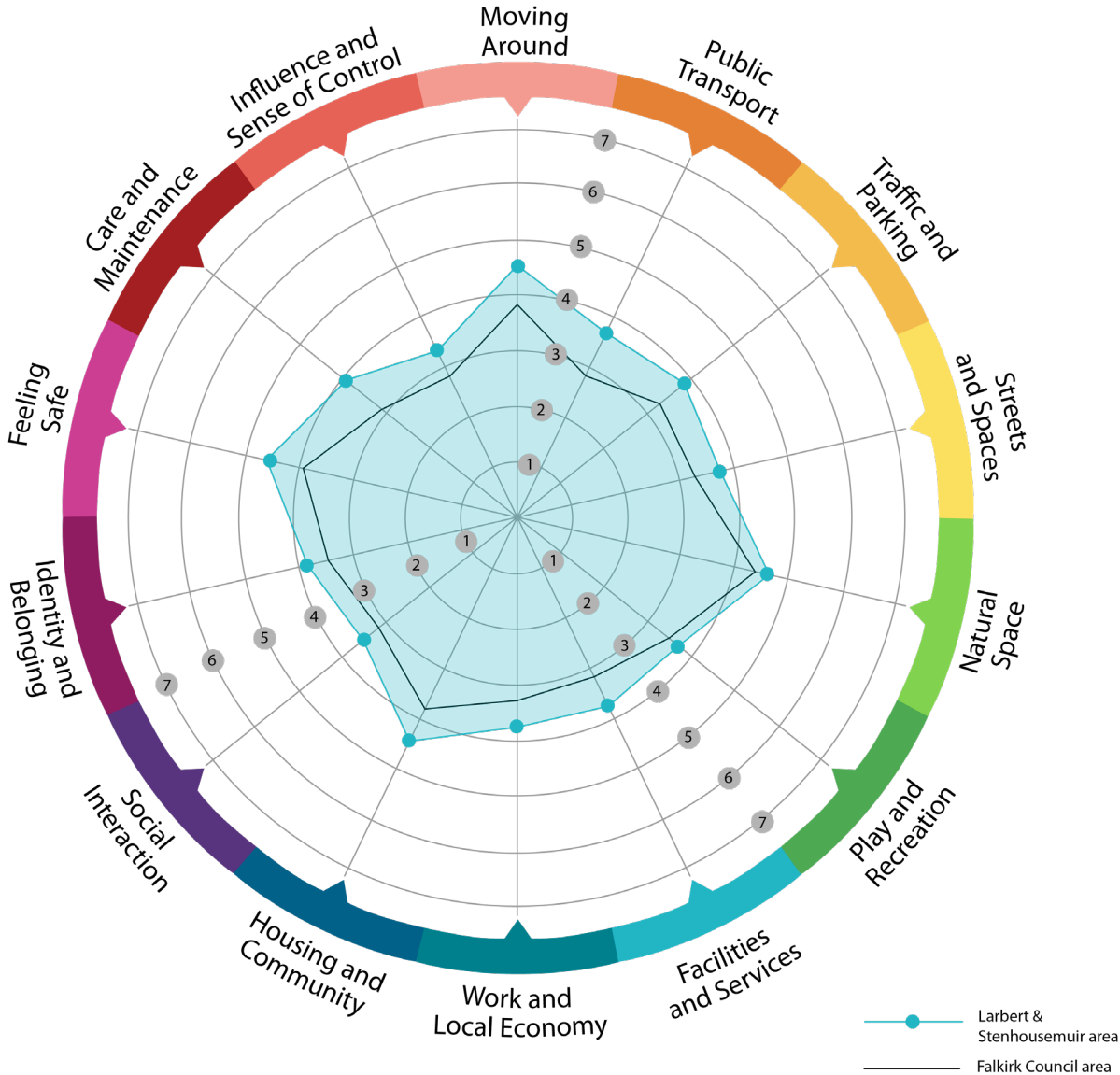
## **Summary**

Positives include green spaces such as Zetland Park, community activities and volunteers who help maintain the town. The Helix was not picked up much as relating to the town. Housing is a major concern with a desire for more private housing and the demolition of some of the flatted Council housing in favour of houses. Public transport is seen as poor and roads and pavements need improved. Decline in the town centre is also an issue.

# Larbert and Stenhousemuir

The Place Standard allows people to give scores out of 7 for 14 different aspects of their places.

There were 58 responses from Larbert and Stenhousemuir with 60% female, 35% male and 5% not specifying their gender. 12% of respondents were disabled.





## **Buildings, streets and spaces (3.7 - higher than the Council average of 3.3)**

Access to green space and local paths for walking and cycling was generally considered good by respondents.

Housing growth has fuelled concerns that services had not increased for the growing population. Many respondents indicated there should be more community facilities and access to school facilities after hours.

Concern was expressed that community facilities were lacking in Kinnaird Village; the empty retail units had not been filled and the pub/restaurant had never materialised. Some were also concerned with the vacant open space in Kinnaird village which is overgrown and needs addressed.

## **Facilities and Services (3.7 - higher than the Council average of 3.2)**

The value of Stenhousemuir Gym, Larbert library and Dobbie Hall were mentioned by many. It was felt these facilities should stay open.

Capacity issues at Larbert High School were highlighted. It was felt school capacity had not increased in line with house building.

## **Play and Recreation (3.7 - marginally higher than the Council average of 3.5)**

In general parks and recreation areas were considered good.

Facilities for teenagers needed to be improved.

## **Natural Space (4.6 – higher than the Council average at 4.3 and the joint highest rate attributed)**

River Carron walks and access to the Kelpies and Helix Park were valued. Easy access to open countryside adjacent to area was mentioned by many.

Accessibility for wheelchair users could be improved generally. Lade area is run down and suffers from fly tipping which needs to be addressed. Ensure remaining open space are not covered by houses.

## **Housing and community (4.4 – higher than the Council average at 3.8 and the third highest rated attributed)**

Good mix of house types. Respondents commented that the settlement contains lots

of private home ownership, so areas tended to be well maintained.

In terms of improvements, there needs to be an increase in affordable housing for those wanting to stay in the area. Improve housing choice for older people, more bungalows and flats with lifts. Ensure that new housing has facilities to cope with the pressures of new people moving to the area.

### **Work and Local Economy (3.8 - higher than the Council average at 3.3)**

Forth Valley Royal Hospital and call centres provides local employment. Respondents felt many commute out of Falkirk for employment elsewhere in Edinburgh and Glasgow, or work from home.

No Arts centre is a huge, missed opportunity, as many socialise and work outwith the area. Suggestions to redevelop Falkirk High Street to keep people spending in the area.

### **Moving Around (4.5 – higher than the Council average at 3.8 and the second highest rated attributed)**

Cycling and walking paths in the area are generally considered to be well connected.

Better path maintenance, specifically potholes and dog fouling. Address cars parked up on pavements preventing wheelchairs/buggies passing. Improving the condition of the cycle path on Bellsdyke Road was mentioned by some. Pedestrian crossing facilities on Bellsdyke Road need to be increased in the right places.

### **Public transport (3.7 - significantly higher than the Council average at 2.8)**

Good bus and train services in Falkirk.

Bus service needs to be more reliable and less expensive. Provide electronic displays so you know what's coming and when. Reintroduce circular bus route. More bus services from Carronshore up to Larbert High School at appropriate times.

### **Traffic and parking (3.8 – higher than the Council average at 3.3)**

Parking provision good generally, and free parking at Larbert Station and Forth Valley Royal Hospital is welcomed.

Congestion around schools at drop off and pick up times can be dangerous; parents should be discouraged from driving children to school. Re-introduce free parking after 3pm in Falkirk town centre to encourage people to use the town centre.

### **Social interaction**

**(3.5 – higher than the Council average at 3.2)**

Local facilities are good such as gym, library, restaurants/cafes, churches and Dobbie Hall. There's a good range of local clubs and Facebook social pages.

Bring together a clearer picture of what's on in the local area; more press adverts for those without internet access or a local council hub which provides support and information. General fear of Council closing facilities and impacting on opportunities for people to meet. Local leadership or oversight about sharing spaces to improve viability could help. Better use of school halls outwith school hours.

### **Identity and belonging**

**(3.8 – marginally higher than the Council average at 3.5)**

Falkirk's reputation has improved since the Helix project. Local schools, churches, community groups and local football teams offer a good sense of community.

Tackle anti-social behaviour which can cause issues in communities. More festivals to celebrate Falkirk for things we have produced or contributed to society e.g. Inn Bru, Carron Works.

### **Feeling safe**

**(4.6 – higher than the Council average at 3.9 and the joint highest rate attributed)**

Respondents generally feel it is a safe place to live.

More and improved street lighting. Groups of teenagers can make community feel less safe. Some drug dealing is openly happening with no penalty which does cause anxiety amongst some. An increased police presence that is friendly and provides support would help.

### **Care and maintenance**

**(3.9 – higher than the Council average at 3.1)**

Generally, maintenance of public open space is good, although some areas are neglected. Local volunteer litter pickers do a great job. Private factors in some areas are effective. Reporting problems online via Falkirk website is useful.

Litter, fly tipping, potholes and dog fouling can be an issue in many areas across Falkirk and should be addressed more frequently. Access to points to report problems needs to be easier; difficult to get through on phone, and not everyone is online. Stop cutting back on services, increased maintenance encourages a sense of pride and community.

### **Influence and sense of control (3.3 higher than the Council average at 2.8)**

Residents' association trying to generate a sense of community but needs more people to get involved. People are invited to meetings. Some respondents like survey forms such as this and feel like they have a say, others feel the Council doesn't seem to listen to people.

Enable all people, regardless of their tech abilities, to receive information. Re-establishment of the local community council. An annual survey like this is a good way to hear views of those who live in the area and know what issues need addressing.

### **Summary**

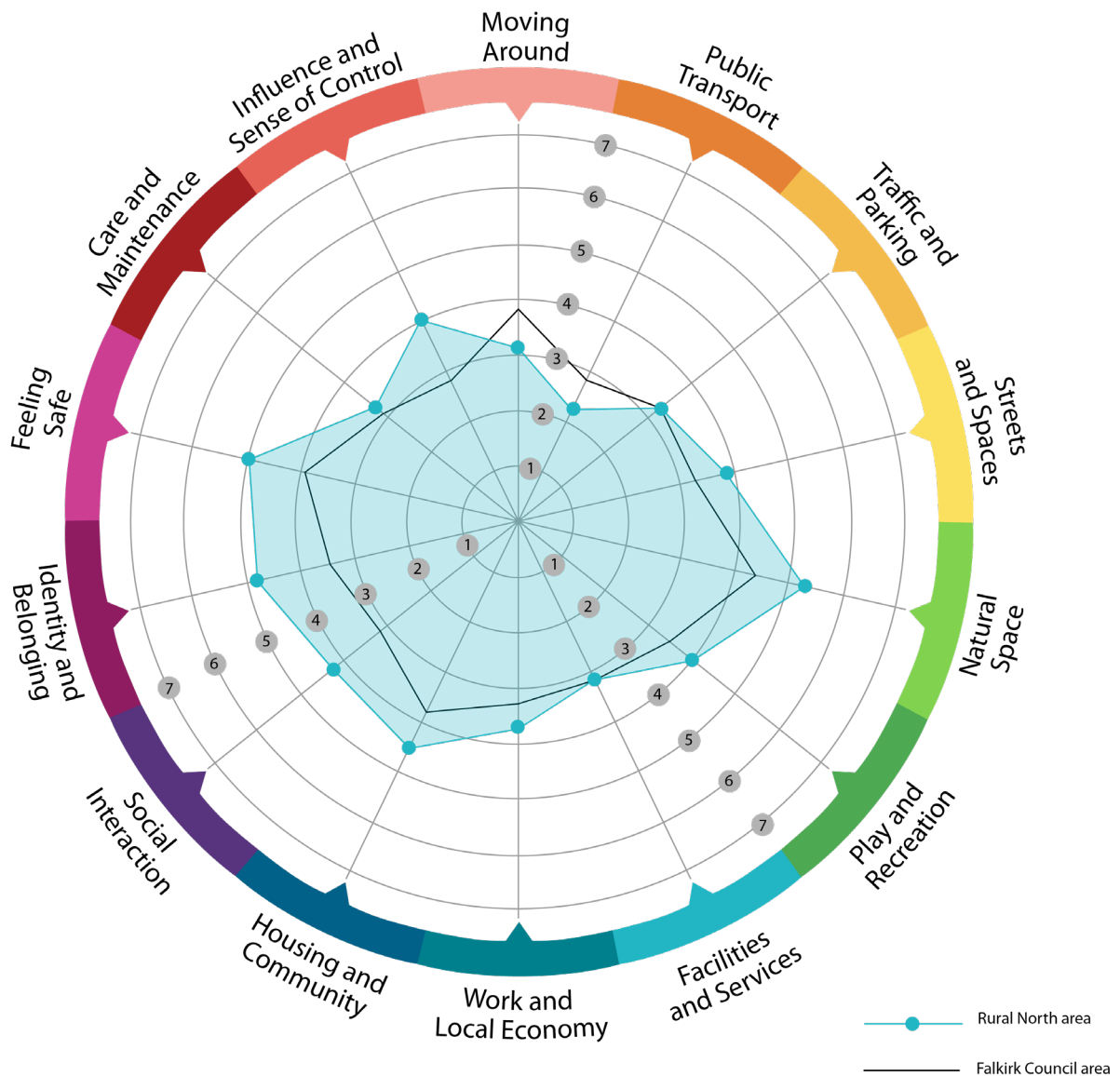
Larbert and Stenhousemuir scores higher than the Council average on every place standard topic.

It scores most highly for natural space and feeling safe. It scores most poorly for influence and sense of control and social interaction.

## Rural North

The Place Standard allows people to give scores out of 7 for 14 different aspects of their places.

There were 6 responses from Rural North with 5 for Airth and 1 for Letham. 66.6% were female and 33.3% male. 0% of respondents were disabled.



## **Buildings, streets and spaces**

### **(3.8 - higher than the Council average at 3.3)**

Positive features included the Castle, Pineapple, green belt, open countryside and path network.

In terms of improvement, investment in the Pineapple to attract tourists to increase footfall in community. Street cleaning, drainage maintenance, repairs to roads and footpaths, and encouragement to re-open empty shops. Better facilities for young people.

In Letham, localised flooding on the path between the Cottages and Terraces needs addressed.

## **Facilities and Services**

### **(3.2 - the same as the Council average at 3.2)**

Airth doctors are excellent. Shop, bakers, hairdresser, and pharmacy all available locally. Good local primary school, nursery and community hall available for activities. Several community groups active.

There are no facilities at Letham other than the football pitch, cabin and playground.

Improvements mentioned include encourage the provision of a full-time post office in Airth, and greater use of medical centre which is underused. Assist Airth Castle Hotel, Powfoulis Hotel and Parsonage to become successful businesses and employers again.

Reopen shops and introduce public toilets or coffee shops/cafes within Airth. Improve access between Airth and Letham, currently a narrow pavement with overhanging bushes/trees and huge road puddles causing splashing from by cars passing at 60mph. The only alternative is a private road (hostile owners) and then woodland which is unsafe for women/children.

## **Play and Recreation**

### **(4.0 - higher than the Council average at 3.5)**

Plenty of open space and parks in Airth. Countryside walks available locally at Dunmore woods, the Forth Foreshore and Dunmore Pineapple.

Letham is a good countryside location with a football pitch and paths for walking and a small playpark.

In terms of concerns, no leisure facilities for adults.

## **Natural Space**

**(5.3 - significantly higher than the Council average at 4.3 and the highest rated attributed)**

Excellent natural spaces, all well accessible. Open countryside, woodland walks, foreshore walks, wildlife and historic buildings mentioned.

Disabled access to the pineapple is poor.

## **Housing and community**

**(4.5 – higher than the Council average at 3.8)**

Good community with a mix of housing types.

In terms of concerns, a shortage of social housing as many former local authority houses have been sold. More suitable accommodation for old and infirm residents is required.

Encourage dialogue and cooperation between landowners, Falkirk Council, Scottish Government and statutory agencies like SEPA and Scottish Water to provide adequate flood defences to protect the low-lying areas from coastal flooding and flooding from the Pow burn, particularly at the Letham Terrace entrance. The Former Letham Coal mine could be utilised to provide ground source heat for new homes.

## **Work and Local Economy**

**(3.7 - higher than the Council average at 3.3)**

Good mix of local shops and some medium size businesses providing some local employment in Airth. Agriculture also provides secure employment for several residents.

Public transport could be improved and subsidised to expand opportunities for employment outwith Airth. Investing in history in village would attract more tourists and increase footfall. Improved broadband access required. Support to reopen vacant shops and closed hotels would help.

## **Moving Around**

**(3.2 - lower than the Council average at 3.8)**

Plenty of walks and paths in Airth, Letham and south Alloa but none in Dunmore.

Paths can be poorly kept in places. Introduce a dedicated cycle path out of Airth as currently the only way is along the busy main road which is not suitable for children cycling.

### **Public transport (2.3 - lower than the Council average at 2.8)**

Respondents did not comment on what is good now.

Bus services seen as unreliable and expensive. Kincardine is less than 5 mins away via car but impossible to get to via public transport. Smaller vehicles are suggested to make operating services cheaper.

### **Traffic and parking (3.3 – same as the Council average at 3.3)**

In Airth there are good crossing points across the main road and school crossing patrols.

In terms of improvements, HGVs that pass through the village causing noise and vibration should be redirected. There is only one crossing point on the A905 trunk road in the centre of Airth, additional crossing points required in the south of Airth.

### **Social interaction (4.3 – significantly higher than the Council average at 3.2)**

Positive features include Airth Facebook page which has regular updates. The Community Hall is accessible for all. Local events include garden competition, Christmas lights and a popular festive switch on event.

In terms of improvements, funding would help. A prominently displayed village notice board. Publish the minutes of the Community Council online so that locals can read them and have an online method of raising points for discussion.

### **Identity and belonging (4.8 - significantly higher than the Council average at 3.5)**

Generally, a good sense of community. The local school does a fantastic job of building a sense of belonging with the children.

There is little information available locally about local community groups.

### **Feeling safe (5.0 - significantly higher than the Council average at 3.9)**

Generally, very little issues in Airth or Letham.

Flags on people's houses around the village could be removed.



## **Care and maintenance**

**(3.3 – marginally higher than the Council average at 3.1)**

Generally well kept, grassy areas are cut by the Council and Community groups help look after the flower beds in these communal areas in Airth.

Litter can be a problem. Grass could be cut more frequently. Repairs to roads and pothole filling seem to take a long time to action once reported.

## **Influence and sense of control**

**(4.0 – significantly higher than the Council average at 2.8)**

Airth Community Council is good. Four Councillors representing S.N.P., Conservative and Labour parties work well on behalf of residents.

The Community Council could be better supported and it's powers should be enhanced.

## **Summary**

Rural North scores most highly for natural space, feeling safe and identity and belonging. It scores most poorly for public transport, facilities, and services, and moving around.

## 7.0 Young People Survey - Summary

There were 32 responses to the Young People Survey. The average age of those completing the survey was 17.

The survey contained 8 place standard questions, each of which was preceded by some background information and questions to prompt the respondent to think about the place they live.

### Q1: Streets and Buildings

#### *What are the streets and buildings like in my place?*

What is good now?

- ▲ Specific mention of facilities such as the Dobbie hall, the Library, and pond beside the hospital
- ▲ Historic town centre
- ▲ Lots of shops
- ▲ Good housing supply
- ▲ Good amounts of greenspace and paths

What could be better?

- ▼ Less vacant and derelict buildings
- ▼ Cleaning up of streets, dog fouling, litter, and potholes
- ▼ More child friendly places
- ▼ Not many landmarks, new houses all look identical
- ▼ Construction sites are left for ages (E.g. old Co-Op)

### Q2: Accessing Services

#### *What is my place like for accessing services I need?*

What is good now?

- ▲ Lots of churches offering children classes and gatherings
- ▲ Local shops and libraries
- ▲ Small town so most things walkable
- ▲ Schools provide help and support

What could be better?

- ▼ Introduce youth cafes and more places to hangout with friends
- ▼ More sports opportunities
- ▼ No real activities for older youths
- ▼ More reliable transport

### **Q3: Play and Recreation**

#### ***What are the spaces for play, recreation, sport and hanging out like in and around my place?***

What is good now?

- ▲ Lots of parks and opportunities to take part in sporting activities
- ▲ Good soft play for kids

What could be better?

- ▼ Introduce a sports centre in Larbert, with courts, swimming pools, climbing walls, ice rink
- ▼ More places for teenagers to hang out, somewhere warm to sit and chill
- ▼ Troublemakers hang around the areas that are meant for little kids
- ▼ More convenient routes for getting to places

### **Q4: Nature**

#### ***How well am I connected to nature where I live?***

What is good now?

- ▲ Surrounded by a lot of green space, woodland and trees
- ▲ Many parks in Falkirk, all within walking distance
- ▲ Variation in the landscape is nice - forested areas, farms, fields, opens spaces etc.

What could be better?

- ▼ Better signing so people know where to go
- ▼ Clear up litter, bins in the woodlands
- ▼ Stop felling trees and building houses on the land
- ▼ More trees and greenery need to be planted in housing estates

### **Q5: Moving Around**

#### ***How easy is it to walk, wheel or cycle to places I need to and want to go?***

What is good now?

- ▲ Good routes that allow for safe walking and cycling

What could be better?

- ▼ More electric bikes around Falkirk
- ▼ Keep the bridge to the Falkirk wheel open for longer on summer days
- ▼ More designated off-road cycle paths
- ▼ Less potholes, some paths/roads are in bad condition adding to the risk of injury

## Q6: Public Transport

### *How easy is it to get to where I need to or want to go by bus, train or other forms of public transport?*

What is good now?

- ▲ Free public transport until age 22 is good
- ▲ Good public transport such buses and taxis, trains
- ▲ Public transport is affordable and quick and easy

What could be better?

- ▼ Train stations could use a bit of a modernisation to make them look and feel nicer
- ▼ Unacceptable that Edinburgh bus from Larbert/Falkirk/Forth Valley Hospital takes 2.5 hours
- ▼ No public transport to Livingston by train or bus even though it's only 30 minutes away
- ▼ Train costs £14 to Edinburgh/Glasgow at peak times which is expensive
- ▼ Buses are infrequent and don't run on schedule
- ▼ Buses desperately needed to be reestablished on Sundays.

## Q7: Community

### *Does my place feel like a community?*

What is good now?

- ▲ Neighbourhoods are friendly
- ▲ Generally people are nice

What could be better?

- ▼ More community events
- ▼ More young people being provided with the opportunity to have their voice heard through the use of youth consultations and youth forums
- ▼ Address antisocial behaviour

## Q8: Safety

### *How safe and/or comfortable do I feel in my place?*

What is good now?

- ▲ General feeling of safety in most places

What could be better?

- ▼ Some areas feel intimidating with drug users and teenagers hanging about
- ▼ Some areas not safe walk in at night/in the dark
- ▼ More police presence for the hotspot areas of the town on busy drinking nights
- ▼ Safe spaces for young people to go if they feel unsafe on the streets

## **Q8: Priorities for Change**

***My priorities for change - What are the things you think need to change most in your place?***

- More police presence
- Giving the public a voice; ask if they have ideas and get them involved in group discussion
- Improved maintenance for potholes, litter, bins etc
- Places for young people to socialise and feel safe instead of being out on the streets which could be considered dangerous especially during winter months
- More social clubs, sport clubs, cafes, pubs, shops to create a community feeling
- More things for teens/ young adults to do; too much of a place for predominantly older people

## 8.0 Children's Survey - Summary

There were 4 responses to the Children's Survey. Given so few, responses have been recorded verbatim. The respondents were ages 3 (x2), age 8 and age 12.

This survey included only 6 questions as it was geared towards younger children. It included illustrations by the artist Tim Archbold to make the survey more engaging.

### Q1: Streets and Buildings

#### *What are the streets and buildings like in my place?*

What is good now?

- ▲ The streets in my area are nice
- ▲ I like my house

What would you use your magic wand on?

- ▼ The bottom of my street is very dark as there is no streetlight
- ▼ The roads are busy cars at Aldi it's scary (Polmont Cross)
- ▼ The paths are too bumpy for my scooter
- ▼ There could be more trees and plants and flowers

### Q2: Accessing Services

#### *What are the schools, libraries, shops and other places like?*

What is good now?

- ▲ I like going to my local library. I get to look at lots of books and colour in
- ▲ I love the library. It's got colours
- ▲ My school is really good
- ▲ I can go to the doctor in Stenhousemuir

What would you use your magic wand on?

- ▼ My school does not have a breakfast club and I will be going there next year
- ▼ The shop is busy cars and bumpy road (Keystore St Margarets)
- ▼ Nursery is a big, long walk I get tired (1 mile each way)

### **Q3: Play and Recreation**

#### ***What spaces are there for me to play and have fun in and around my place?***

What is good now?

- ▲ I like the playpark
- ▲ Yes, there are enough places, I live right beside a park
- ▲ There are baby swings and I use the A frame so it would be good to have a bigger climbing frame for older children

What would you use your magic wand on?

- ▼ The play park at the top of Wallacestone. It's not very nice and all the paint is coming off
- ▼ I love Zetland Park Mummy can we have one at our house?
- ▼ The children from the Thistle Wing walk to my park and sometimes they do not have accessible things to play on

### **Q4: Moving Around**

#### ***How easy is it to walk, scoot, wheel or cycle to school?***

What is good now?

- ▲ It's easy to get around on my bike or scooter
- ▲ Very easy to walk to school

What would you use your magic wand on?

- ▼ Nothing

### **Q5: Feeling Safe**

#### ***Do I feel safe in my place?***

What is good now?

- ▲ (no responses)

What would you use your magic wand on?

- ▼ I do not like being out alone sometimes because it feels like someone might creep up on me

## **Q6: What would you Change**

### ***My top list of things to change!***

- A better park at the top of Wallacestone so I can play all the time
- The bumpy road at the shop when I get picked up from nursery, I don't like it (Keystore St Margarets)
- More equipment in the park that is fun for slightly older children



# 9.0 Know Your Eco Falkirk Event - Friday 3rd March 2023

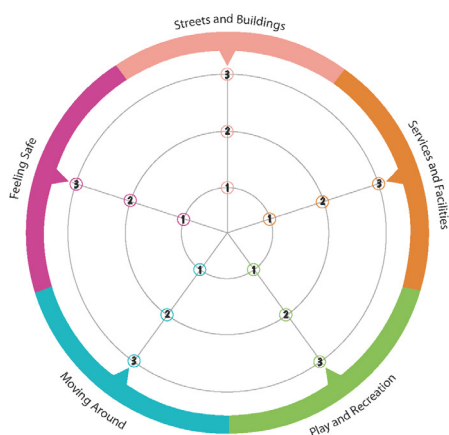
The development plan team took a stall at this MSYP organised event having made contact with the MYSP's for the Falkirk area. We used a quick place standard themed 5/8 question survey for children and young people which they could quickly plot on the diagram and asked for additional information:

1. Name one thing that could improve your area/make it better.
2. Name one thing you like about your area.

## Analysis of Results

The children and young people visiting the event were able to fill out a simple place standard derived survey with 5 topic areas covered in survey 1 and 8 topic areas covered in survey 2.

### How good is your place?



Survey 1 - Children's Survey with 5 topic areas

1

What town/village do you live in?

2

For each of these questions, give your place a score from 1 to 3, where 3 is the best, and 1 is the worst.

SCORE (1-3)

**Streets and Buildings:**

Do the streets and buildings in your place look and feel nice?

**Services and Facilities:**

Are there things like schools, shops and libraries close by?

**Play and Recreation:**

Are there good parks and places to play and have fun?

**Moving Around**

Is it easy to walk, cycle or scoot to school?

**Feeling Safe**

Do you feel safe in your place?

3

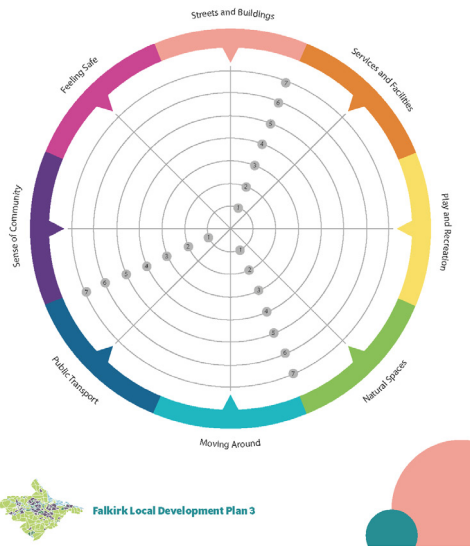
Now plot your scores on the 'Place Standard' diagram overleaf, with a dot on each spoke of the wheel at the distance from the centre according to the score.

4

Join the dots to give a picture of how good is your place and hand it to the planners. We'll use this information to help plan your area in the future.



# How good is your place?



**1** What town/village do you live in?



**2** Give the following aspects of your place a score from 1 - 7, where 7 is the best, and 1 is the worst.

- Streets and Buildings:** Are the streets and buildings in my place attractive and easy to find your way around?
- Services and Facilities:** Are there services like schools, shops and GP surgeries within easy reach?
- Play and Recreation:** Are there good parks, open spaces and indoor facilities to play or hang out?
- Natural Spaces:** Are there spaces near where you live where you can experience nature and wildlife?
- Moving Around:** Is your area easy to get around by walking and cycling?
- Public Transport:** Is it easy to use buses or trains in your area?
- Sense of Community:** Does your place feel like a community?
- Feeling Safe:** Is where you live a safe place to be in?

**3** Now plot your scores on the 'Place Standard' diagram overleaf, with a dot on each spoke of the wheel at the distance from the centre according to the score.

**4** Join the dots to give a picture of how good is your place and hand it to the planners. We'll use this information to help plan your area in the future.

## Survey 2 - Young People's Survey with 8 topic areas

We had 66 participants complete the surveys with the majority (73%) from primary schools. The simple 5 question survey worked well for younger children and the 8 question survey was used by older primary school children and young people. Table 2 indicates the split across the LDP areas with the highest number of surveys from Falkirk and Larbert and Stenhousemuir. This reflects the schools which chose to attend the event and the young people running stalls who also completed the survey. Table 3 shows that the most surveys were returned for Larbert and Falkirk towns followed by Bo'ness and Carronshore.

Table 2 - survey responses split across the LDP areas

LDP Area	No. of Surveys	PS	HS
Bo'ness	9	9	0
Braes Urban Area	1	0	1
Denny	1	1	0
Falkirk	24	15	9
Larbert and Stenhousemuir	25	19	6
Rural North	5	4	1
Rural South	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>18</b>

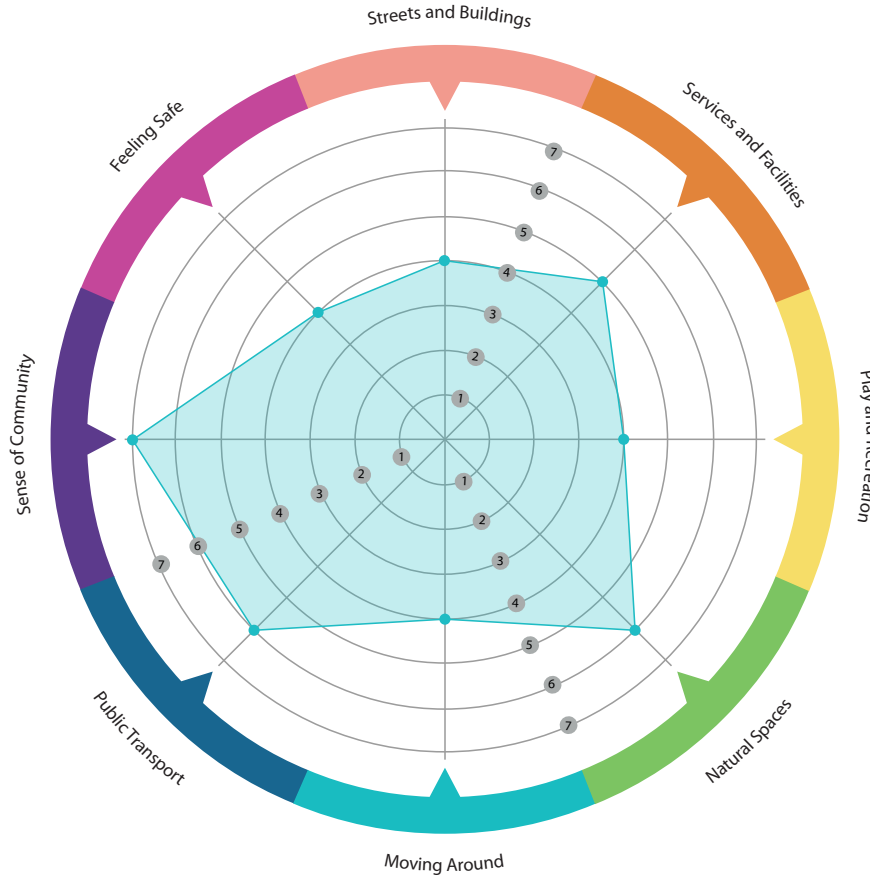
Table 3 - survey responses split by town/village

LDP Area	Town/Village	No. of Surveys	PS	HS
Bo'ness	Bo'ness	9	9	0
Braes Urban Area	Polmont	1	0	1
Denny	Denny	1	1	0
Falkirk	Camelon	2	2	0
Falkirk	Falkirk	14	6	8
Falkirk	Tamfourhill	2	2	0
Falkirk	Lionthorn	1	0	1
Falkirk	Bantaskine	2	2	0
Falkirk	Bainsford	1	1	0
Falkirk	Comely Park	2	2	0
Larbert and Stenhousemuir	Carronshore	6	6	0
Larbert and Stenhousemuir	Stenhousemuir	4	4	0
Larbert and Stenhousemuir	Larbert	15	9	6
Rural North	Airth	4	3	1
Rural North	Dunmore	1	1	0
Rural South	Whitecross	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>66</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>18</b>

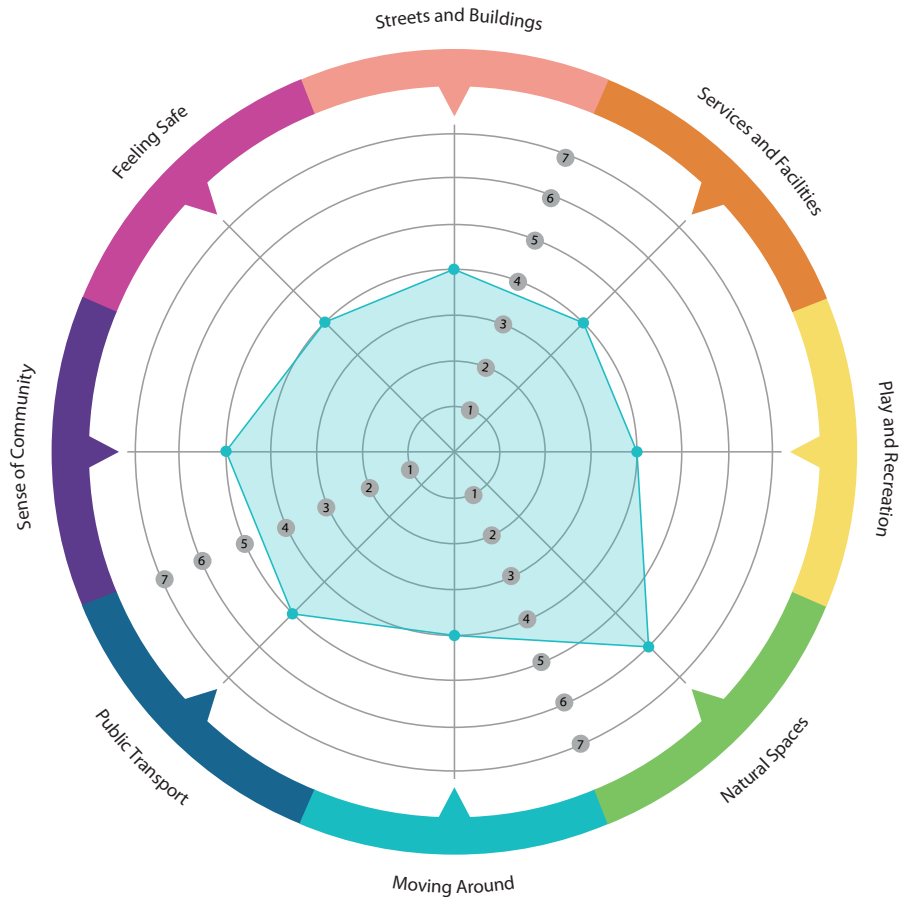
The surveys will be entered into the citizen space return spreadsheet so that the results can be amalgamated together. Examples are shown below for Bo'ness and Falkirk. In Bo'ness the response was from primary school children, and they were generally happier about the sense of community, natural spaces and public transport. Play and recreation, feeling safe and streets and buildings did not score as highly. For Falkirk the responses noted a similar score for streets and buildings, play and recreation and feeling safe. The sense of community was not as high.

The average responses for different settlements across Falkirk noted a similar score for streets and buildings, play and recreation and feeling safe. The sense of community was also not as high.

### Young Person's Survey Eco Falkirk Event - Bo'ness (9 responses)



### Young Person's Survey Eco Falkirk Event - Falkirk (24 responses)



### **Name one good thing you like about your area**

We asked the children if they could name something that they liked about the area they were thinking about, generally where they lived and had 28 responses. Parks and local woodland and walks were all rated highly as well as friendliness and being able to live close to school and other facilities and close to Granny! The youngest children focussed on play and friends and the older children were able to express views more widely on their environment.

### **Name one thing to make it better**

We asked the children if they could name one thing to make their area better and had 34 responses. There was a focus on improving both the quality and quantity of parks and outdoor spaces and a desire to see both more bins and litter collection. This perhaps reflects their relationship to these spaces and how important outdoor space is to them for playing and socialising.

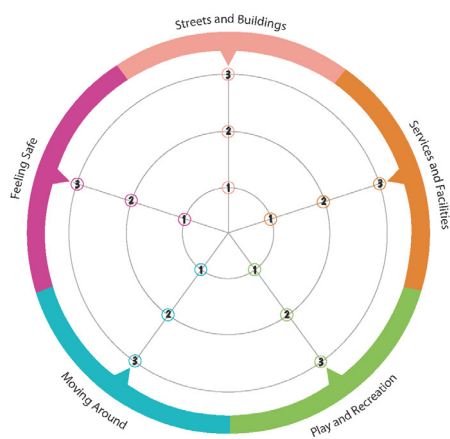
# 10.0 Falkirk Science Festival, Helix - Saturday 20th May 2023

Following on from the Eco Schools event we also attended a Falkirk Science Festival event at the Helix on Saturday 20th May 2023. This was a much busier event so there was less opportunity to talk to the children about their views. It also included children from out with the Council area, who's results are not reported here.

## Analysis of Results

The children and young people visiting the event were able to fill out a simple place standard derived survey with 5 topic areas covered in survey 1 and 8 topic areas covered in survey 2.

### How good is your place?



Survey 1 - Children's Survey with 5 topic areas

**1** What town/village do you live in?

**2** For each of these questions, give your place a score from 1 to 3, where 3 is the best, and 1 is the worst. **SCORE (1-3)**

**Streets and Buildings:** Do the streets and buildings in your place look and feel nice?

**Services and Facilities:** Are there things like schools, shops and libraries close by?

**Play and Recreation:** Are there good parks and places to play and have fun?

**Moving Around** Is it easy to walk, cycle or scoot to school?

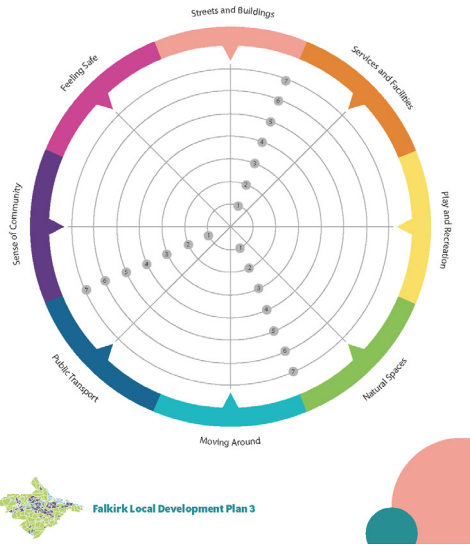
**Feeling Safe** Do you feel safe in your place?

**3** Now plot your scores on the 'Place Standard' diagram overleaf, with a dot on each spoke of the wheel at the distance from the centre according to the score.

**4** Join the dots to give a picture of how good is your place and hand it to the planners. We'll use this information to help plan your area in the future.



# How good is your place?



1

What town/village do you live in?

2

Give the following aspects of your place a score from 1 - 7, where 7 is the best, and 1 is the worst.

- Streets and Buildings:**  
Are the streets and buildings in my place attractive and easy to find your way around?
- Services and Facilities:**  
Are there services like schools, shops and GP surgeries within easy reach?
- Play and Recreation:**  
Are there good parks, open spaces and indoor facilities to play or hang out?
- Natural Spaces:**  
Are there spaces near where you live where you can experience nature and wildlife?
- Moving Around:**  
Is your area easy to get around by walking and cycling?
- Public Transport:**  
Is it easy to use buses or trains in your area?
- Sense of Community:**  
Does your place feel like a community?
- Feeling Safe:**  
Is where you live a safe place to be in?

SCORE (1-7)



3

Now plot your scores on the 'Place Standard' diagram overleaf, with a dot on each spoke of the wheel at the distance from the centre according to the score.

4

Join the dots to give a picture of how good is your place and hand it to the planners. We'll use this information to help plan your area in the future.

## Survey 2 - Young People's Survey with 8 topic areas

We had 45 participants complete the surveys with the majority (96%) from primary schools or pre-school (4 surveys) The simple 5 question survey worked well for younger children and the 8 question survey was used by older children. Table 4 indicates the split across the LDP areas with the highest number of surveys from Falkirk and the Braes Urban Area. Table 5 shows that the most surveys were returned for Falkirk town followed by Brightons, Grangemouth and Larbert. This event was visited by families and did not allow as much engagement with children as the Eco Event where children were visiting as a class, and we were able to chat to them for longer. Children were however still interested in thinking about where they lived and scoring it.

Table 4 - survey responses split across the LDP areas

LDP Area	No. of Surveys	PS	HS	Pre Sch
Bo'ness	1	1	0	0
Braes Urban Area	12	9	2	1
Falkirk	21	20	0	1
Grangemouth	5	4	0	1
Larbert and Stenhousemuir	6	5	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>

Table 5 - survey responses by town/village

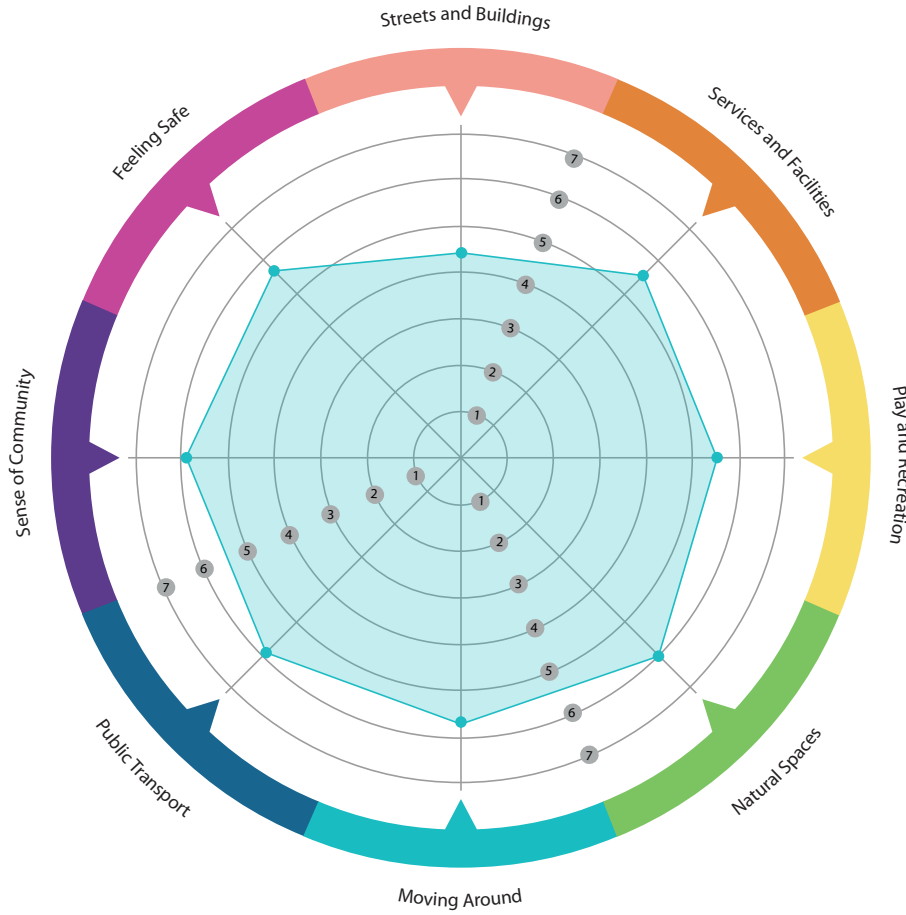
<b>LDP Area</b>	<b>Town/Village</b>	<b>No. of Surveys</b>	<b>PS</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Pre Sch</b>
Bo'ness	Bo'ness	1	1	0	0
Braes Urban Area	Brightons	7	5	2	0
Braes Urban Area	Maddiston	1	1	0	0
Braes Urban Area	Redding	4	3	0	1
Falkirk	Camelon	1	0	0	1
Falkirk	Bainsford	2	2	0	0
Falkirk	Falkirk	18	18	0	0
Grangemouth	Grangemouth	5	4	0	1
Larbert and Stenhousemuir	Carronshore	1	0	0	1
Larbert and Stenhousemuir	Larbert	5	5	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>45</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>

Examples are shown below for Falkirk and the Braes Urban Area. In Figure 1, for Falkirk town, which includes responses from Falkirk, Camelon and Bainsford, the response was from primary school children, and they were generally happy but streets and buildings and play and recreation scored slightly lower than for other topics. For the Braes Urban Area in Figure 2, the responses noted a high score for natural spaces and the lowest score for public transport.

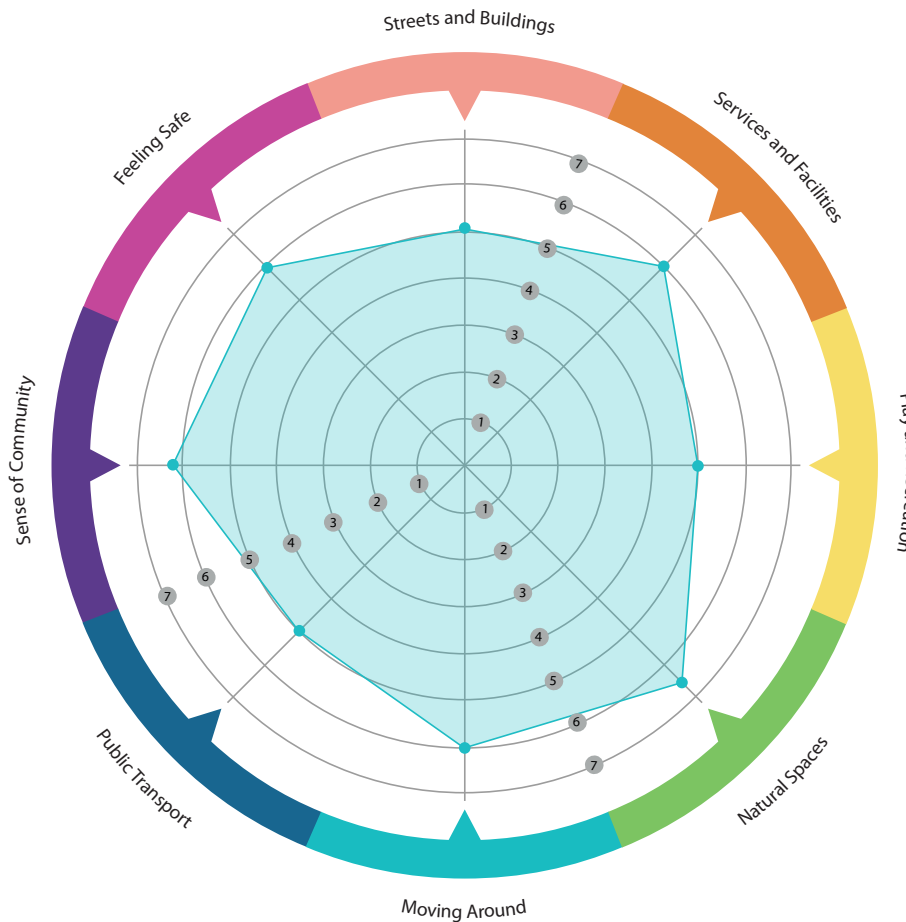
Looking at the average response across the Council area in Figure 3, from the Helix event, children generally felt reasonably safe and that there was a sense of community and natural spaces scored well. Areas for improvement were play and recreation, moving around, public transport and the quality of streets and buildings.



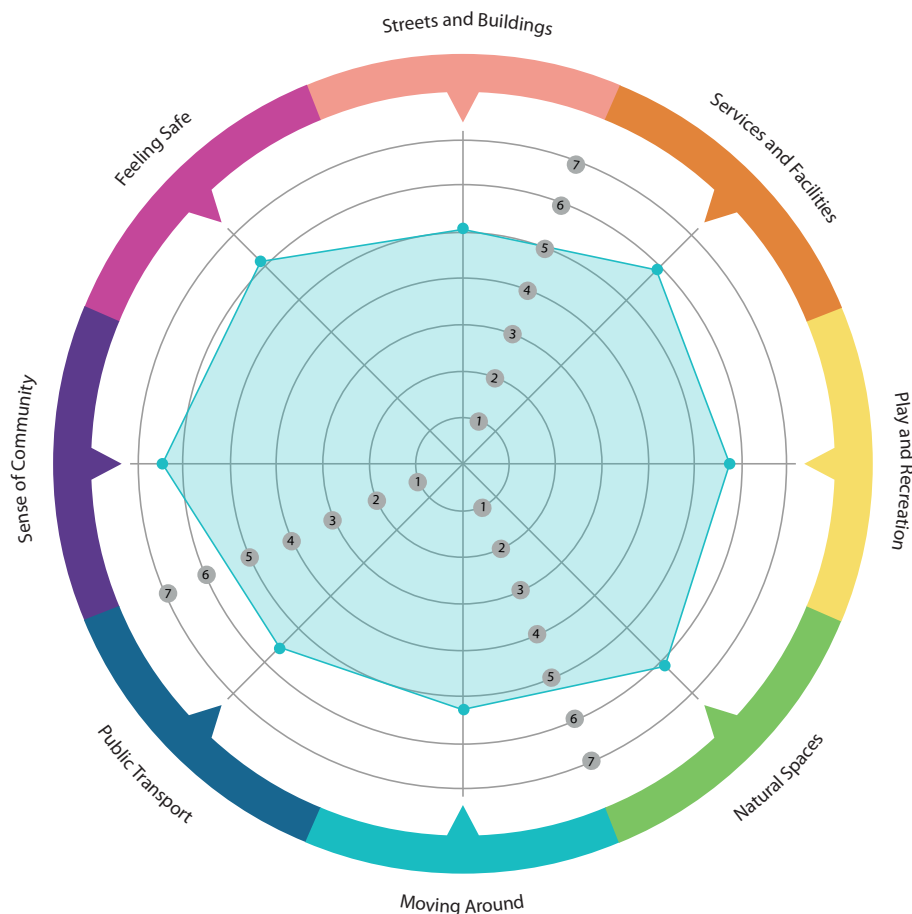
## Young Person's Survey Science Festival Event - Falkirk Results



## Young Person's Survey Science Festival Event - Braes Urban Area Results



## Young Person's Survey Science Festival Event - Average Results Across Area



### Name one good thing you like about your area

We had less responses to this prompt as the event was busier and it worked in a slightly different way. While children were doing the survey parents or other adults themselves added responses to this question. The areas parks and natural spaces were noted as being good, namely, Callendar Park, the Helix, canals and Muiravonside Park. The good Youth Club in Whitecross was mentioned and how easy it is to get to other places and facilities.

### Name one thing to make it better

Improvements suggested were predominantly about making active travel easier and safer with more routes such as a better cycle route to Falkirk and the Helix from Larbert and Stenhousemuir and safer cycling routes in the Braes Urban Area. Improving public transport also came up.