

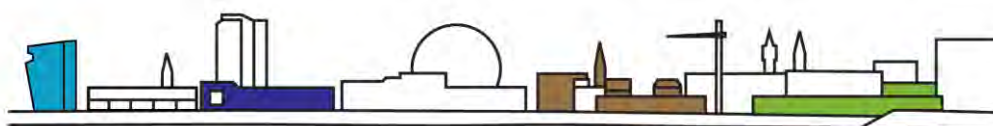
Youth Engagement in the Aberdeen Local Development Plan



Working Document

To keep track of updates and new information the table below will be completed, with recent changes highlighted in yellow.

Version Control	
Update	Date Published
1	03 July 2013
2	14 April 2014



aberdeen local development plan

1. Introduction

The [Aberdeen Local Development Plan \(LDP\)](#) (2012) sets out the City Council's vision for the future development of Aberdeen. It identifies land for new development (e.g. housing, offices and leisure facilities) and sets out policies that are used to consider applications for planning permission.

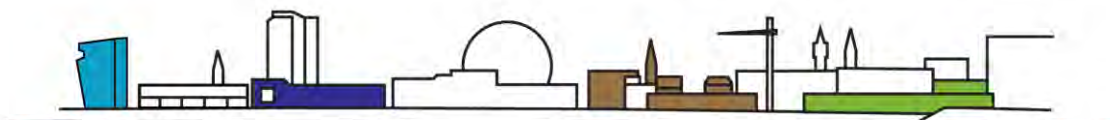
It is vital that the LDP is kept as up to date as possible so that it can respond to new issues and take into account any changes in circumstances. The Scottish Government therefore requires that Local Development Plans are reviewed every five years.

In January 2013 a [Development Plan Scheme](#) (DPS) was prepared to provide a programme for the preparation of a new Local Development Plan for Aberdeen – this was updated in January 2014. The DPS includes a Participation Statement which explained who would be consulted on the preparation on the new Local Development Plan, when this consultation would take place, and at what points decisions would be made.

The Participation Statement highlights the need to reach beyond organisations normally involved in planning consultations and towards a wider range of public interests. A 'Youth Engagement Programme' was subsequently developed by Officers within the LDP Team to think of ways to better engage with young people. Opportunities to specifically target greater youth engagement were identified as follows:

Stage 1	Pre-Main Issues Report	Identify the 'Main Issues' that the next Local Development Plan should address.	April – June 2013
Stage 2 (Current Stage)	Main Issues Report	Discuss the options and different ways of dealing with the 'Main Issues' identified.	February – March 2014
Stage 3	Proposed Plan	Consult on a Proposed version of the next LDP, including its strategy to address the 'Main Issues' and guide the future development of the city.	From February 2015

This report presents the findings from Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Youth Engagement Programme (April – June 2013 and February – March 2014) and explains how the views of the young people consulted will be considered in the preparation of a new Local Development Plan for Aberdeen.



2. Background

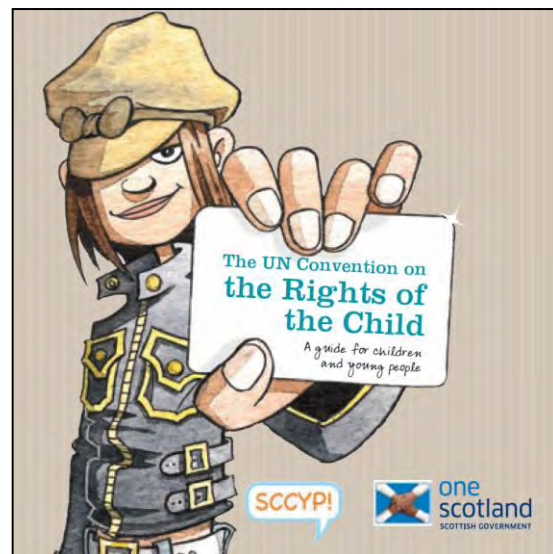
The aim of our Youth Engagement Programme has been to promote the important role young people can play in looking into the future of places and expressing how they think they should be designed and planned.

A number of areas of legislation and examples of best practice were considered in developing our Youth Engagement Programme. These are highlighted below:

2.1 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)

In 1989, world leaders officially recognised the human rights of all children and young people under 18 by signing the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#). The Convention was ratified by the United Kingdom in 1991 and is legally binding international law.

Article 12 of the Convention (respect for the views of the child) states that every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously.

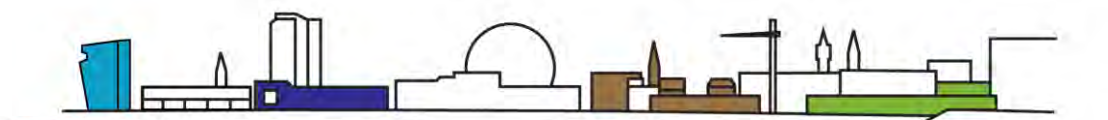


As such, when adults are making decisions that affect children, children have the right to say what they think should happen and have their opinions taken into account. The Convention encourages adults to listen to the opinions of children and involve them in decision-making.

2.2 The Children (Scotland) Act 1995

[The Children \(Scotland\) Act 1995](#) is centred on the needs of children and their families and defines both parental responsibilities and rights in relation to children.

The right for each child to be treated as an individual, and the right for a child who can form a view on matters affecting him or her to express those views if he or she wishes are essential principles within this Act.



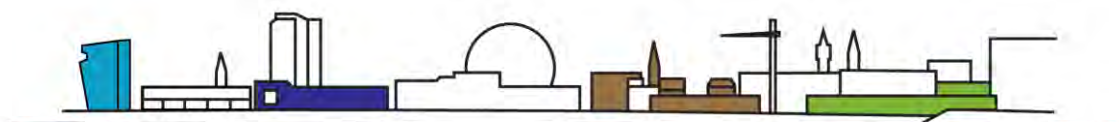
2.3 Planning Aid for Scotland

[Planning Aid for Scotland](#) (PAS) is an independent organisation which works across Scotland to help people shape their communities and engage more effectively with planning.

PAS have developed a range of projects that are specially designed to encourage young people to engage in the planning system. A [Young Placemakers](#) campaign was launched in May 2013 with the aim of recruiting a network of motivated young people to champion active citizenship and create a stronger voice for young people in their areas.



In March 2013 the Local Development Plan Team took part in a Scottish Government pilot workshop undertaken by PAS at Bucksburn Academy. Experience gained at this workshop was invaluable in helping the LDP Team to develop our own Youth Engagement Programme.



3. Stage 1 Pre-Main Issues Report Consultation April – June 2013

3.1 Methodology

3.1.1 Invitation to Participate

As part of the Pre-Main Issues Report consultation period, the first stage of the Youth Engagement Programme concentrated on discovering what young people thought were the 'Main Issues' either currently affecting the City, or likely to affect the City over the period of the next Local Development Plan (2016 – 2021, and onwards to 2035).

Officers wrote to all secondary schools (18.no) in the Aberdeen City area in January 2013 to invite young people to be involved in the first stage of the Programme.

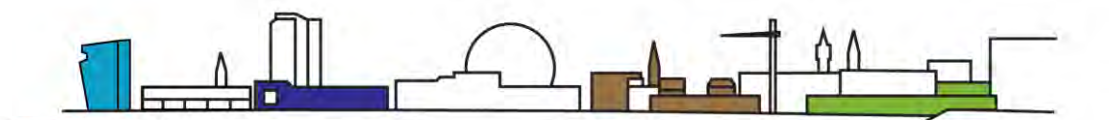
We felt it was important when writing to the secondary schools to expressly identify how our proposed engagement activities would complement each of the four capabilities set by the Curriculum for Excellence (the national curriculum for Scottish Schools) in order to encourage as many schools as possible to take part.

3.1.2 Format and Content of the Workshops

Workshops were held between April – June 2013. Members of the LDP team facilitated at all events and, to encourage wider community and intergenerational involvement, some workshops were also attended by Local Ward Members.

Of the 18.no schools invited to participate in the consultation exercise, 8.no actively took part by way of either a workshop exercise or a fieldwork exercise. Over 400 pupils (S1 – S3) were consulted with from the following schools:

- Cults Academy
- Aberdeen Waldorf School
- Bucksburn Academy
- St Margaret's School for Girls
- Hazlehead Academy
- Aberdeen Grammar
- Camphill School
- Robert Gordon's College



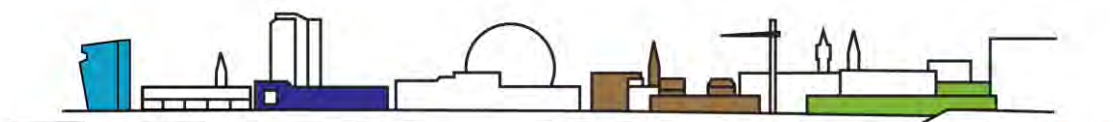
Students from Bridge of Don Academy also showed an interest in the project, and a member of the LDP Team visited the school to speak to the Student Council about the consultation process.

Format and Content

Consultation exercises for each school differed depending on the time available with the class and the number of participants within each session. A general introduction was given at the beginning of each session to ensure that participants understood the reasons why the consultation was being undertaken and how their views would be considered in the preparation of the next Local Development Plan.

Descriptions of workshop and fieldwork activities are set out below. Not all activities were undertaken at all schools:

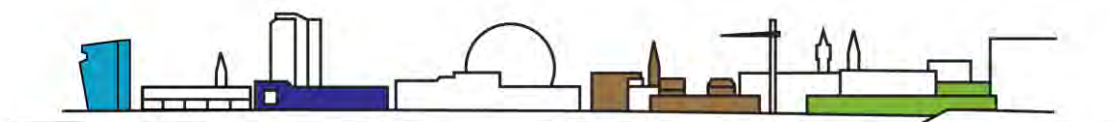
- *Planning Hierarchy*
This exercise explored the hierarchy of planning documents (national, regional and local). Participants were introduced to the Local Development Plan and the 'plan led' system. This exercise also explored the topic areas covered in the LDP and how it is used to consider applications for planning permission.
- *What Do Planners Do?*
This exercise encouraged participants to think about how planning works in practice. Volunteers were asked to play the role of different buildings and uses (e.g. a house in the countryside). They were asked to imagine would they would they hear, smell and see and how this could change as other development (e.g. other houses, factories played by other participants) developed around them. Participants were also asked to make their own assessments about where new development should be located.
- *Landmarks*
This exercise gave participants the opportunity to orientate themselves around their local area:
 - Map Based: Participants were given a list of local landmarks and asked to identify each on an aerial photograph.
 - Role Play: Participants were split into groups and asked to 'build' a local landmark out of their bodies.
- *Map Exercise 1: What do you like and dislike about your local area?*
This exercise got participants thinking about the environment around them. Participants were asked what they liked and disliked about their local areas and to mark their thoughts on the maps and on paper provided. It was explained that responses to this exercise would help



determine what 'Issues' the next Local Development Plan should try and address.

- *Perception Busting*
Participants gathered at a central point and were presented with a number of 'facts' from the facilitator. Participants were asked to move to different sides of the room depending on whether they 'agreed', 'disagreed' or 'weren't sure' if the 'fact' was true or not. This exercise introduced forward thinking, e.g. if the population of Aberdeen City and Shire is projected to rise by 23% by 2035 then what implications could this have on your local area?
- *Map Exercise 2: What should your area be like in the future?*
Participants were asked to think about their answers from Map Exercise 1 and the facts from the Perception Busting exercise to suggest what their local areas should be like in the future (2035). Groups were asked to feedback their ideas to the wider group. Responses from this exercise would also help inform the next Local Development Plan.
- *Public Meeting*
Participants were each given a role to play in a mock committee hearing on a planning application. Roles included developers, members of a community council, local residents, as well as Elected Councillors. Each participant was given the chance to put across their own thoughts on various items under debate. This exercise encouraged participants to listen to the viewpoints of others and come to their own conclusions on a proposed development.
- *Placecheck: City Centre Character Areas*
A ['Placecheck'](#) exercise was undertaken by S1 pupils from Robert Gordon's College as part of their 'Big Week' in June. Placecheck is a widely used tool to help look at places and think how to make them better. Participants were split into 10 groups, with each group studying a different area of the city centre:
 - Union Street East
 - Union Street West
 - Crown Street
 - The Civic Quarter
 - The Castlegate
 - The West End
 - The Merchant Quarter and The Green
 - The Cultural Quarter
 - Bon Accord
 - Riverside

Responses to the Placecheck exercise would also help inform the preparation of the next Local Development Plan.



3.2 Results: Likes and Dislikes

This section outlines the results from Map Exercise 1 and the Placecheck Exercise. It provides a summary of what participants said they liked and disliked about their local area, the city centre, and Aberdeen generally.

Responses have been split into the following broad categories:

- **Natural Environment**
- **Housing, Business and Local Facilities**
- **Architecture, Design and the Historic Environment**
- **Transport and Accessibility**

Data used to compile this summary will be published on the Local Development Plan website in Summer 2013. A link to the relevant page will be provided within this report once available.

What do participants like and dislike about their local area / Aberdeen?

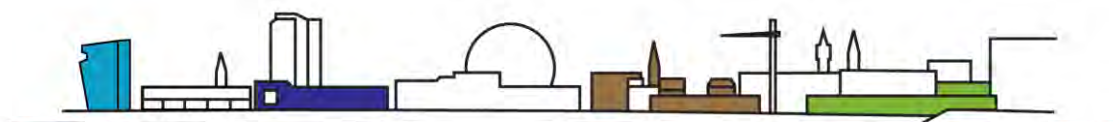
Natural Environment

Participants from across the city all generally liked areas of formal and informal green and open space. Some noted examples were: Seaton Park, Rubislaw and Queens Terrace Gardens, Duthie Park, Johnson Gardens, Beacon and Bankhead fields and Hazlehead Park.

Proximity, and easy access, to the countryside were noted as positives by a number of participants, particularly those from Deeside, Kingswells and Bucksburn. It was felt that an appropriate balance between being close to the countryside and being close to the city centre facilities was important.

Participants from Deeside identified the lack of a Green Belt / Green Wedge between Cults and Bieldside as a dislike, as well as a lack of easy access to South Deeside across the River Dee. Participants from Bucksburn liked the places they had to play football, however the lack of a football pitch in Kingswells was noted as a dislike.

Along with Hazlehead Park, participants from Hazlehead noted that they liked the nearby woodlands, fields for grazing animals, routes to walk dogs and the number of areas to run around in. They noted a dislike for the Hazlehead Park Zoo, toilets and maze, all of which they thought should be improved.



Housing, Business and Local Facilities

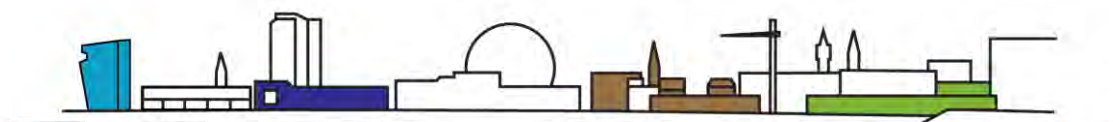
Only participants from Deeside touched in any great detail about housing in their local area. They noted that they liked the existing balance of housing around Deeside, particularly the balance between old and new housing styles for people to choose from. Participants did however dislike housing built on flood plains, the number of flats in Peterculter and when new housing is built which blocks views.



In terms of business, some participants liked that Aberdeen is the oil capital of Europe and that this status brings many jobs to the area. The Harbour was mentioned as something that some participants disliked, generally due to reasons of amenity, congestion and lack of access.

Sports facilities and activities around the city were mentioned as positives, particularly boating at the River Dee and facilities at the Sports Village. Some participants also noted that they liked the diversity of restaurants the city offers, as well as the AECC, Satrosphere and local shops. Good libraries and a large hospital were also noted as likes.

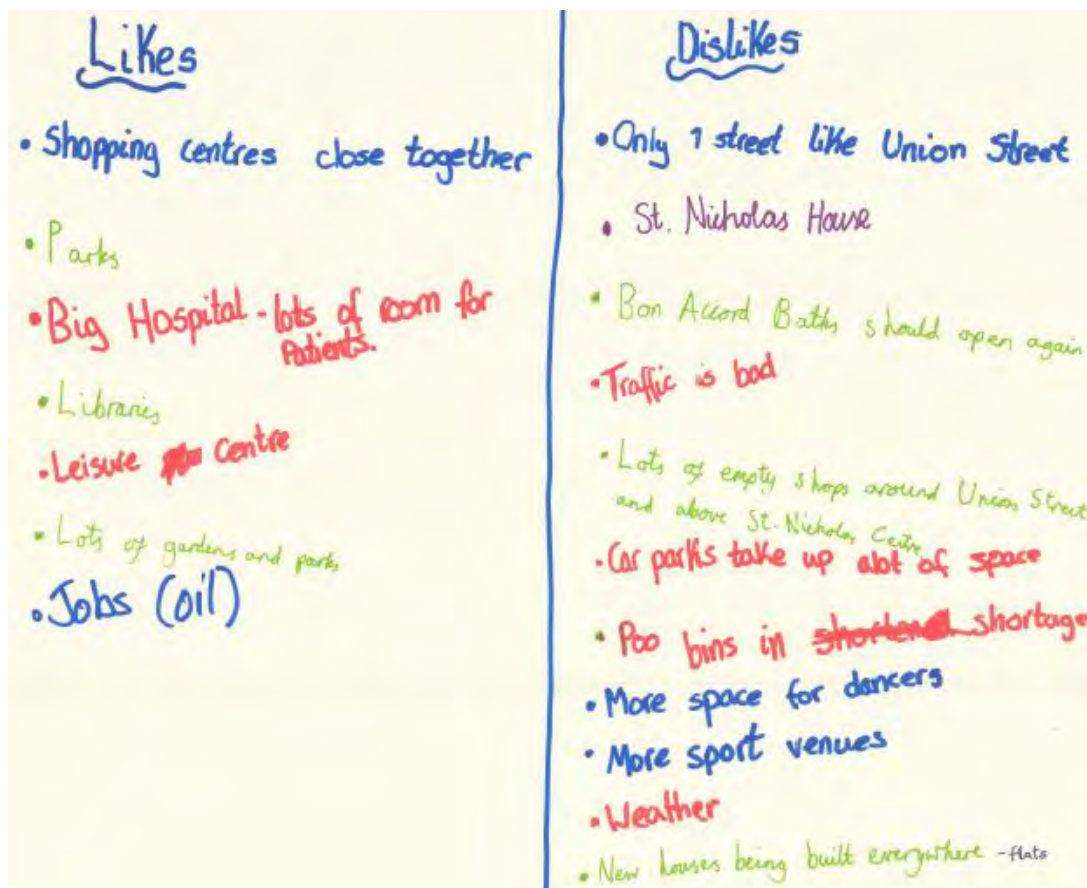
Other participants didn't think attractions and facilities generally within Aberdeen were very good, and thought there wasn't enough to attract tourists.



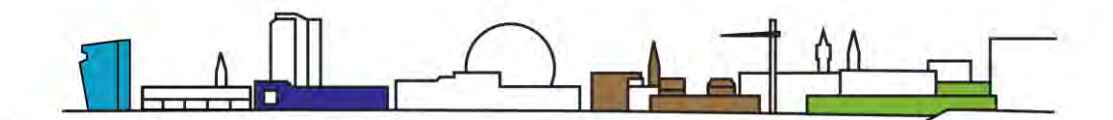
Cleanliness was touched on a number of times, with many participants disliking areas with lots of chewing gum, litter, cigarette butts and graffiti.

A number of participants discussed the facilities available at Aberdeen Beach, with some liking the cinema and restaurants, but other noting that it was rundown, dirty and needed more activities.

The main area in the City Centre disliked by participants was Union Street due to its empty shops, dull, rundown and dirty appearance as well as the lack of things to do there. The majority of participants preferred Union Square and liked that it has shops, restaurants, cinema, and bus and train stations all in one place. Other areas which participants disliked within the city centre included St. Nicholas House, Aberdeen Market, Castlegate, the Denburn Carpark and Bon Accord Baths.



There were many things that participants liked about local facilities within the Deeside area, for example the parks and sport facilities (golf courses, astroturf pitch, sport centres, tennis club, swimming pool, football pitches and Culter Football Club ground). They also liked the local shops and food places, the library, schools and community centres. Many participants did however note



that there is very little for young people to do within Deeside. The lack of shops in Milltimber was also seen to be a problem.

Participants from Bucksburn liked the schools in their area, as well the library and swimming pool (Beacon Centre). The number of local shops was seen as a positive. Participants from Kingswells noted a general lack of shops and local facilities as something they disliked about their area.

Participants from Hazlehead liked the new Tesco on the Lang Stracht however would like more shops and places to eat near their school. They don't like that there is nothing for them to do within their local area, and they need to travel into the city centre for entertainment. They did however note that they liked the local swimming pool and other sports facilities they have in the area.

Architecture, Design and the Historic Environment

Many participants disagreed about granite buildings in the city with some participants liking the granite architecture, especially when it has been cleaned (like at Marichal College). Others however think the city is too grey and needs more colourful modern buildings.

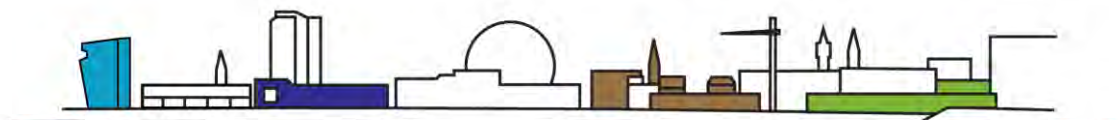
Transport and Accessibility

Road conditions were a dislike for participants from across the city, and noise, the amount of traffic, potholes and air pollution were mentioned frequently. Parking was also a point of contention, with participants disliking areas of on-street parking and the lack of parking controls.

While some participants liked the bus service in Aberdeen, and thought there was a good service, other participants thought the buses were irregular, expensive and unreliable. The lack of trains into the city was mentioned.

Participants from Bucksburn noted good connections to both Aberdeen International Airport and the city centre from their local area. Participants from both Bucksburn and Kingswells disliked the fact that there is no bus service connecting the two communities. Participants from Hazlehead liked the good connections they have to other areas in the city. Participants from

Deeside liked the walking and cycling facilities in their local area, particularly the North Deeside Railway Line. A group of participants from disliking the plans for the new Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR) and the impact it would have on their local area.



3.3 Results: Aberdeen 2035

This section outlines the results from Map Exercise 2 and the Placecheck Exercise. It provides a summary of what participants said they would like their local areas, and Aberdeen generally, to be like in the future (2035).

Responses have been split into the following broad categories:

- **Natural Environment**
- **Housing, Business and Local Facilities**
- **Architecture, Design and the Historic Environment**
- **Transport and Accessibility**

Data used to compile this summary will be published on the Local Development Plan website in Summer 2013. A link to the relevant page will be provided within this report once available.

What do young people want Aberdeen to be like in 2035?

Natural Environment

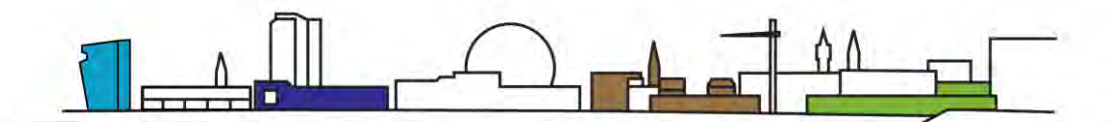
By 2035 participants want to see the end of global warming, less pollution and people to have more consideration for the environment. More open spaces, roof gardens, community gardens, play areas, trees, and flowers were all popular suggestions for measures to improve the natural environment of the city and to encourage biodiversity.

There was a general concern about the scale of new development the city could accommodate, and the pressures on green fields and areas prone to flooding.

It was suggested that Aberdeen will need to produce and use more renewable energy by 2035. A hydrogen plant was suggested by one group. Other suggestions were solar panels on shopping centres, wave power, wind turbines on top of / within buildings and offshore wind farms. Some participants weren't keen on larger wind farms on land.

Other participants suggested that cars should be run on vegetable oil, as well as more electric cars and charging points and hydrogen transport.

It was recognised that we will need to increase our levels of recycling and therefore provide more recycling facilities throughout the city by 2035. Less plastic packaging should be used, recycling should be uplifted more often, and recycling facilities should be introduced in flats. A number of participants did not want to see nuclear power / waste.



parks. It was also suggested that by 2035 there may be an industry shift in the city away from oil and gas and that we should start to plan for this now.

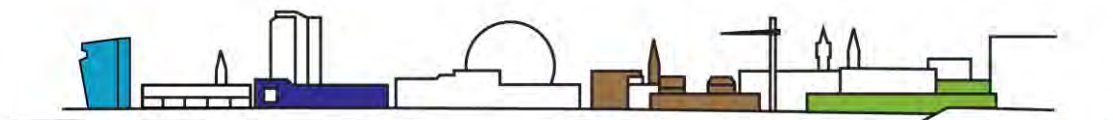
Generally participants wanted to see more things for young people to do in Aberdeen by 2035. Cleanliness was also big issue with participants wanting to see less graffiti, littering, chewing gum and vandalism by 2035.



Participants thought that there should be more to attract tourists to the city, and some suggestions included: a dolphin park, Chinatown, a skydiving school, safari park, different museums, a paintball arena, an indoor ski slope, a rugby stadium, a football academy, a theme park, a zoo and an aquarium.

Participants also wanted to see improvements to the Football Stadium at Pittodrie, and for the AECC to be bigger to attract bigger artists. Participants in Deeside also want to see better use of the river for recreation, more shops in Milltimber and another convenience shop in Peterculter.

A key area where participants wanted to see dramatic change by 2035 was Union Street. Participants wanted to see better shops, less pound shops and for shop fronts to be improved. They also suggested that there needs to be less traffic, with strategies like pedestrianisation and the reintroduction of trams. Other suggestions for Union Street were the installation of travelators



and for fast and slow walking lanes to be established. Greenery was also discussed with some participants suggesting blossom trees should be planted down Union Street.

Elsewhere in the city centre, participants generally agreed that Union Terrace Garden should be made more accessible in the future; however opinion was divided about whether or not the Gardens should be redeveloped.

The Beach was also discussed and generally participants wanted the beach area to be cleaner and more user-friendly. Many participants want to see more happening at the beach such as more cafes, events and attractions and water sport attractions. It was said that linkages to and from the City Centre must be improved, trams being a suggestion.

Architecture, Design and the Historic Environment

Some participants wanted to see granite buildings and streets in the city cleaned up, whereas others wanted less granite and more modern buildings made of materials like glass and timber. Almost all participants wanted to see more colour in the city and more green spaces. Others want to see more done about derelict buildings and older buildings brought back into use rather than being demolished.

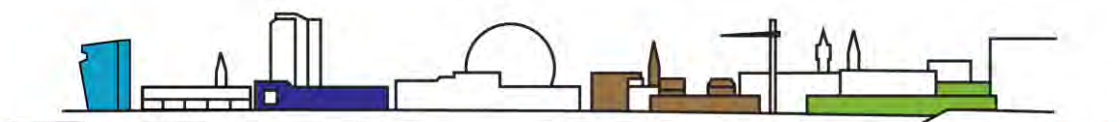
Transport and Accessibility

Sustainable transport opportunities and roads issues were also discussed by participants. Many participants think there will be more cyclists on the roads and that there should be separate roads for cyclists in the future. There should also be more cycle facilities including a bike hire service similar to the 'Boris Bikes' in London.

Many participants want to see more trains, trams or an underground system established in the city. Cheaper bus fares were also mentioned an Oyster Card scheme to pay for public transport suggested.

Participants suggested that the Harbour should be bigger and cleaner and the airport extended with more international flights. More radical ways to get about were also suggested such as rollercoasters, flying cars, hovercrafts and teleportation!

Participants from Hazlehead suggested walking and cycling routes to Sheddocksley and Dobbies Garden Centre, as well as a bus route in and around Airyhall. Some Deeside participants would like to see a new bridge across the River Dee at Cults, and trains re-established from Deeside into the City Centre.



4. **Stage 2 Main Issues Report Consultation February – March 2014**

4.1 **Methodology**

4.1.1 Invitation to Participate

As part of the Main Issues Report consultation period, the second stage of the Youth Engagement Programme concentrated on discovering what young people thought of their City Centre. It was decided to concentrate on the City Centre as it appeared to be one of the Main Issues that came out of Stage 1 of our Youth Engagement Programme.

Officers wrote to all secondary schools (18.no) in the Aberdeen City area in November 2013 to invite young people to be involved in the second stage of the Programme.

Again, we felt it was important when writing to the secondary schools to expressly identify how our proposed engagement activities would complement each of the four capabilities set by the Curriculum for Excellence (the national curriculum for Scottish schools) in order to encourage as many schools as possible to take part.

4.1.2 Format and Content of the Workshops

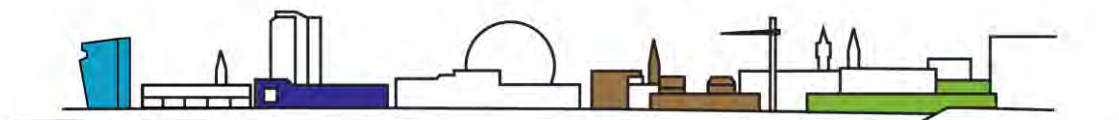
Workshops were held between February and March 2014. Members of the LDP team facilitated at all events.

Of the 18.no schools invited to participate in the consultation exercise, 7.no actively took part in the workshop exercise.

Nearly 350.no pupils (S1 – S6) were consulted with from the following schools:

- Camphill School
- Robert Gordon's College
- St Margaret's School for Girls
- Northfield Academy
- Hazlehead Academy
- Harlaw Academy
- Dyce Academy (Geography and Interlink Classes)

Nearly 200 no. pupils were involved in the workshops and approximately 150 no. pupils answered a questionnaire that was distributed around Dyce Academy by the school's Interlink Group. These are also included within our Results section of this Report.

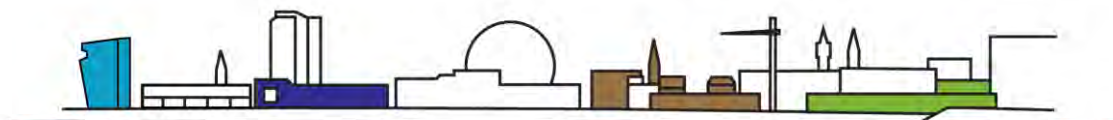


Format and Content

Consultation exercises for each school differed depending on the time available with the class, the age of the class, previous experience with our Youth Engagement Programme and the number of participants within each session. A general introduction was given at the beginning of each session to ensure that participants understood what planning is, why we want to engage with young people and give them an introduction into the Main Issues Report and how their comments will inform the process.

Descriptions of workshop activities are set out below. Due to time constraints not all activities were undertaken at all schools:

- *What Do Planners Do?*
This exercise encouraged participants to think about how planning works in practice. Volunteers were asked to play the role of different buildings and uses (e.g. a house in the countryside). They were asked to imagine what they would hear, smell and see and how this could change as other buildings (e.g. other houses, factories played by other participants) developed around them. Participants were also asked to make their own assessments about where new development should be located.
- *What is a City Centre?*
This exercise gave participants an introduction into City Centres by asking them to identify iconic city skylines from silhouettes on the PowerPoint. Following this, a number of questions are asked about what they think about City Centres such as 'What type of buildings are found in City Centres?', 'What type of uses are found in City Centres?' and 'Who are City Centres for?'
- *Where is Aberdeen City Centre?*
This exercise gave participants the opportunity to orientate themselves around the City Centre using a map. Participants were given a list of local landmarks and asked to identify each on an OS Base Map. Following this pupils were then asked what is important to include within the City Centre boundary and if there are any areas of the current City Centre boundary that should be removed.
- *Shopping in Aberdeen City Centre*
This exercise asked participants questions about shopping in Aberdeen City Centre such as 'Do you think there are enough shops in the City Centre?', 'What type of shops do you think are missing?' and 'Have you ever shopped in any other City Centres? What's better / different about these places?' Answers to the questions were noted by a volunteer from the class.

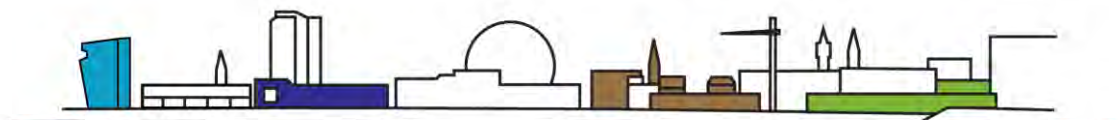


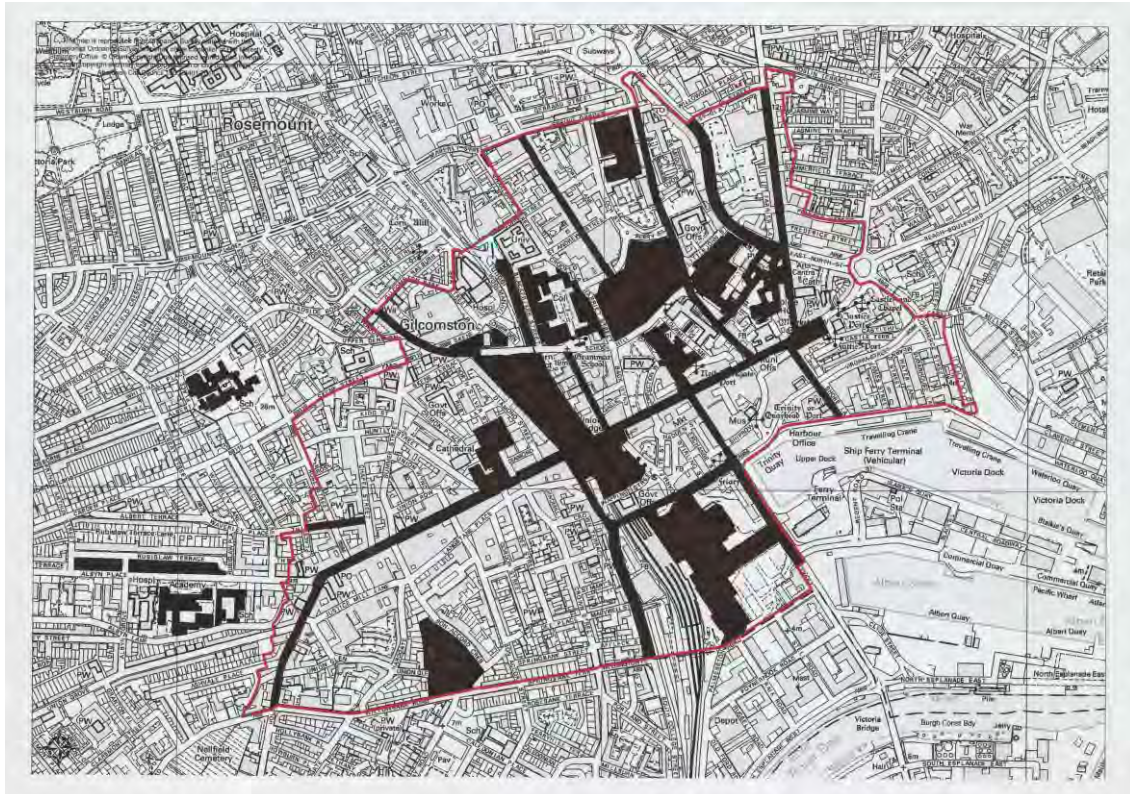
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- ***City Centre Accessibility***
This exercise gave participants the opportunity to show on a map where they feel safe and unsafe in the City Centre. Groups were given a different scenario to think about, whether this was at night, during the day or either wearing or not wearing their school uniform. Following this they were then given a further scenario, to travel from the Bon Accord Centre to Union Square either as a person with a disability, cycling, with small children or walking. They were then asked to mark their route on the map taking into consideration where they feel safest.
 - ***The Beach***
Participants were asked what things they would like to change about the Beach. Questions were posed such as 'What uses should be promoted at the beach?', 'What uses should be discouraged?', 'How do you get to the beach?' and 'Would you walk or cycle to the beach from the City Centre?' Thoughts and ideas were noted in their groups.
 - ***A Vision for the City Centre in 2035***
Participants were asked what things they would like to change about the City Centre, and what it should be like in 2035. Thoughts and ideas were noted in their groups.
 - ***Dyce Interlink Class Questionnaire***
Participants were asked a number of questions by the Dyce Interlink Class in the form of a questionnaire. Questions asked were: 'Where do you think the City Centre is?', 'Who uses the City Centre?', 'What do you think should be located within the City Centre?', 'What do you as young people 'feel' when you use the City Centre?', 'What are the best ways to travel around the City Centre?' and 'What do you think the City Centre should be like in 2035?'

4.2 Results: Where is Aberdeen City Centre?

This section outlines the results from the 'Where is Aberdeen City Centre' Exercise. It provides a summary of what participants said they thought was important to include within the City Centre boundary and what they think could be removed from or added to the boundary.

Data used to compile this summary is published on the Local Development Plan website. The map below, made by officers, shows all the key buildings and key streets that participants thought were important to include within the City Centre boundary.





Key Buildings

The key buildings that most participants thought were important to include within the City Centre boundary were shopping centres such as Union Square, Trinity Centre, Bon Accord Centre and St Nicholas Centre.

A number of cultural buildings were also noted as important for the City Centre such as His Majesty's Theatre, Provost Skene's House, the Music Hall, Aberdeen Art Gallery, Central Library and the Arts Centre.

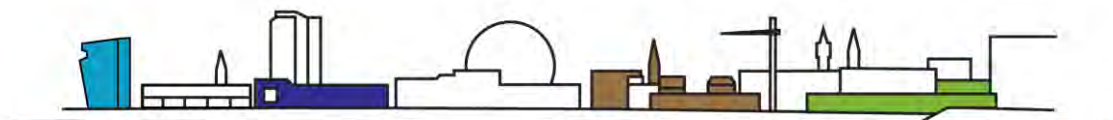
Educational institutes such as North East Scotland College, Robert Gordon's College, Harlaw Academy, Aberdeen Grammar School, Albyn and St Margaret's School were also seen as important buildings for the City Centre.

Other participants thought it is important to include the hospital within the city centre boundary.

Other notable buildings were Marischal College, the Police Headquarters and the bus and train stations.

Key Streets

Nearly every participant thinks Union Street should be within the City Centre boundary. Other notable streets participants think should be included within the boundary are Belmont Street, Market Street, Union Terrace, George Street, Gallowgate, West North Street, Bridge Street, Broad Street, Marischal



Street, College Street, Queen Street and King Street (some groups stated this should be the Union Street end of the street). Rosemount Viaduct, Thistle Street, Golden Square, Holburn Street, Guild Street and Denburn Road were also mentioned as well as Queens Cross.

Key Uses

A vast list of key uses found in the City Centre was drawn up by the views of all participants. These include:

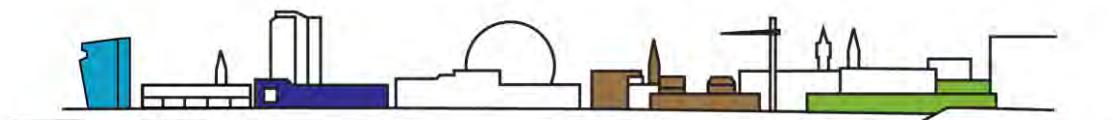
- Culture and entertainment (e.g. museums, theatres, cinemas, music venues and art galleries)
- Historic buildings
- Nighttime economy (e.g. pubs, clubs and bars)
- Places to eat (e.g. restaurants, cafes and take-aways)
- Educational institutions (e.g. schools, universities and colleges)
- Healthcare buildings (e.g. hospitals, dentists, opticians and pharmacies)
- Religious buildings (e.g. cathedrals, churches and mosques)
- Transportation (e.g. taxi ranks, bus stops, good transport links, airports and car parks)
- Business and employment (e.g. offices, banks, industry, car show rooms, job centre, the Harbour and places of trade)
- Retail (e.g. shops, shopping centres, markets and convenience stores)
- Open Spaces (e.g. parks, gardens and covered space to sit)
- Government Buildings
- Residential
- Services (e.g. post offices, hairdressers and beauty salons)
- Recreation (e.g. gyms, leisure centres, swimming pools, ice rinks and spas)
- Tourism (e.g. hotels, tourist information and sightseeing)

Key Open Spaces

- Union Terrace Gardens
- Castlegate
- St Nicholas Square (area outside Marks and Spencer)
- Area outside the Art Gallery and RGC
- Rubislaw and Queens Terrace Gardens
- Bon Accord Terrace Gardens
- Area outside Union Square

Areas that could be removed from the City Centre

- North Ferryhill area
- North Harbour area
- King Street area
- North East College and George Street area



-
- Huntly Street area
 - Denburn / Woolmanhill area
 - Justice Mill Lane area
 - Chapel Street area

Areas that could be included in the City Centre

- West End (Rubislaw Terrace and Albyn Place)

4.3 Results: Shopping in Aberdeen City Centre

This section outlines the results from the ‘Shopping in Aberdeen City Centre’ Exercise. It provides a summary of what participants think about shopping in Aberdeen City Centre and how this compares to shopping in other cities.

Data used to compile this summary is published on the Local Development Plan website.

Do you think there are enough shops in the City Centre?

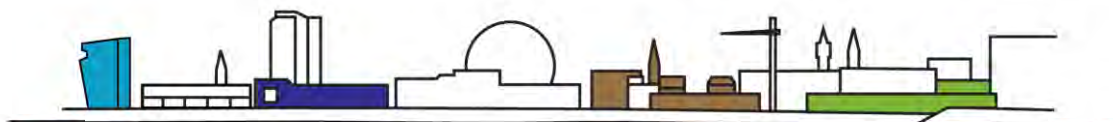
Most participants don’t think there are enough shops in Aberdeen City Centre and would like to see more shops. However, others think there are plenty shops but just not the types they would like and others are quite happy with what we have at the moment. Others think there are plenty of shops but they are all the same. Therefore some participants think there needs to be more diversity and variety. There needs to be bigger shops too and the shops we already have should be bigger.

Some think that there need to be more shops on Union Street and those already there need to be kept better. It was also stated that there is a lack of diversity along Union Street. The vacancies on Union Street were also mentioned by a number of participants. One group of participants stated that they wish to see more restaurants to the west end of Union Street and there is a current conflict and inconsistency between cheap shops and restaurants.

What types of shops do you think are missing?

Some shops participants would like to see in the city centre are: Forever 21, Urban Outfitters, Waitrose, IKEA, Nike, Jenners, and Whole Foods. Other kinds of shops participants would like to see are record shops, toy shops, men’s clothing shops, formal wear shops, department stores, organic and health food shops, fast food shops, outlet shops and independent shops.

It was also thought that Aberdeen needs more designer and luxury shops. This was furthered by one group stating that these would ideally be



concentrated in one location like Buchanan Street in Glasgow. It was noted there is a great variety of food places in Aberdeen City Centre.

Where in the City Centre do you generally shop? Why?

The most popular areas to shop in Aberdeen seem to be Union Square, Bon Accord Centre and the other centres located in the city centre. One group of participants said that Union Square has everything – atmosphere, transport links and a feeling of safety.

Not many people shop on Union Street. Participants thought this was the case because there is a more pleasant environment within the shopping centres and they are better maintained. However, it was noted that the coffee shops on Union Street are also very popular. Some participants said they would use Union Street more if it was improved.

Have you ever shopped in any other City Centres? What's different / better about these places?

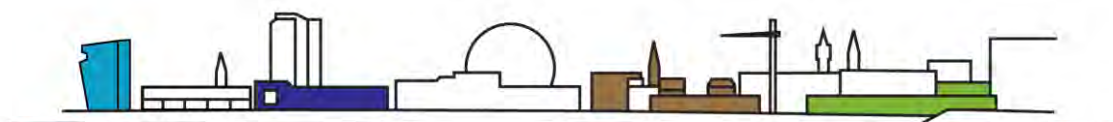
Most participants found other cities to be more enjoyable because they have a better quality of shops. One group mentioned that they enjoy visiting Edinburgh's Grassmarket because it is old. Other participants think Edinburgh is better set out, busier and has more green areas.

Another city participants prefer to go to is Glasgow because all the shops are on one street, the buildings are nicer and there is a buzz about the place. Other groups said that Glasgow benefits from the pedestrianised area that gives pedestrians more space to move around.

London was also mentioned by some participants because it is busy and more special.

When asked why they like to go to other cities there were a number of reasons why they preferred other cities. These were that other cities have more and a better variety of shops, longer streets, look nicer, cleaner and have a better pedestrian environment because they have more open space and greenery for people to sit and enjoy. They also think that other cities have more activities and more culture. They also said that the transport systems in other cities are better than Aberdeen, saying they enjoyed using the underground or tram systems other places offer and the better way finding in place in other cities.

One group of participants did mention that the attraction of other places is more to do with the fact that they are different!



Do you think shopping is important to a City Centre?

Participants think shopping is important. It was also noted that there needs to be good accessibility to shopping centres because many people travel regularly by foot and public transport – Union Square is seen as a good example of this. It was also noted by a group of participants that there is a social aspect to shopping as it is a major activity in Aberdeen City Centre.

What do you think about the retail opportunities presented in the Main Issues Report?

Some participants were asked what they think of the proposed sites for new retail floorspace in the Main Issues Report. Some participants liked the Denburn / Woolmanhill site because it is close to the theatre and a good distance from other shops. They would also like to see some retail on the former St Nicholas House site because it is close to the North East of Scotland College and it is a vacant site at the moment. They also thought the George Street / Crooked Lane site was good for the people who live near that site. However, they did not like the proposal to redevelop Aberdeen Market and 73-149 Union Street (upper and basement floors) because it is too close to the existing shops and it would not encourage other areas of the city centre to improve.

4.4 Results: City Centre Accessibility

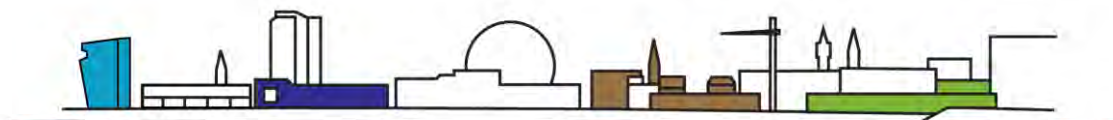
This section outlines the results from the 'City Centre Accessibility' Exercises. It provides a summary of where participants think is safe and unsafe in Aberdeen City Centre and how they move around the city centre from Bon Accord Centre to Union Square.

Data used to compile this summary is published on the Local Development Plan website.

Scenario 1 – 9pm Saturday Night

Safe Areas

Union Street	Harriett Street	College Street
Holburn Junction	Little John Street	Belmont Street
Albyn Place	Huntly Street	Rosemount Viaduct
Dee Street	Summer Street	Schoolhill
Castlegate	Union Row	Back Wynd
Shiprow	Chapel Street	Union Square
Queen Street	Crimond Place	Crown Street
King Street	Thistle Street	Windmill Brae
Bon Accord Crescent	Broad Street	

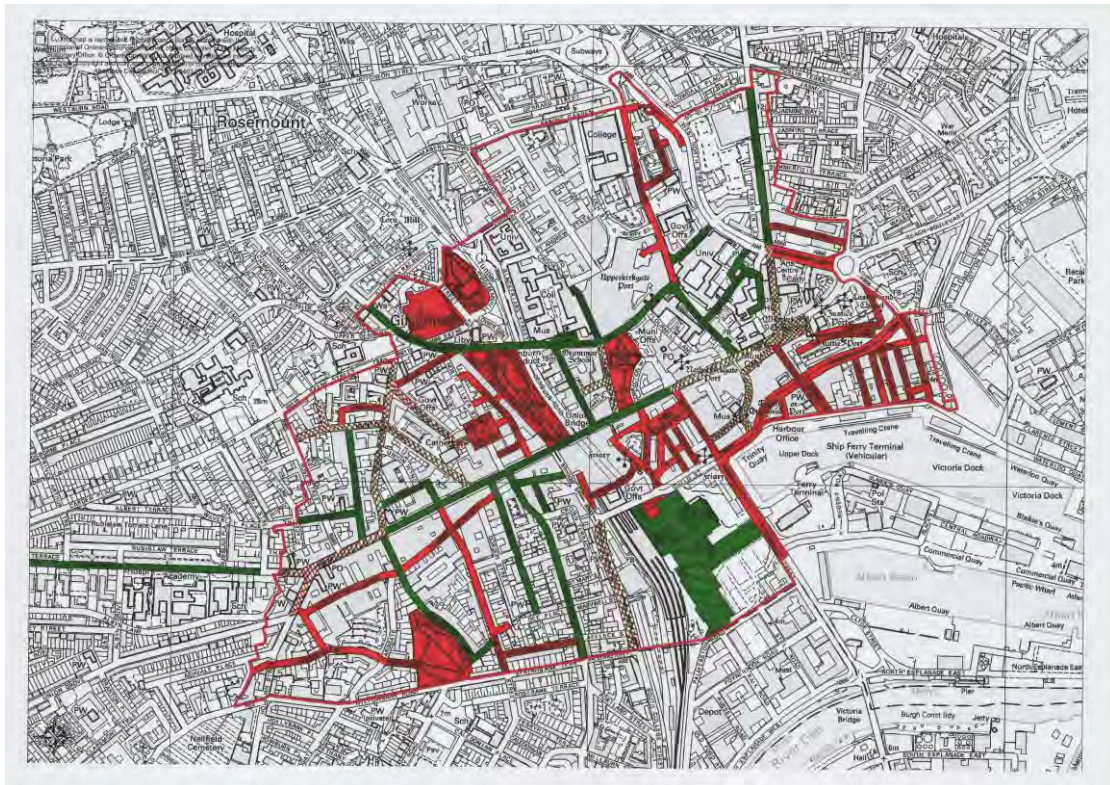


Unsafe Areas

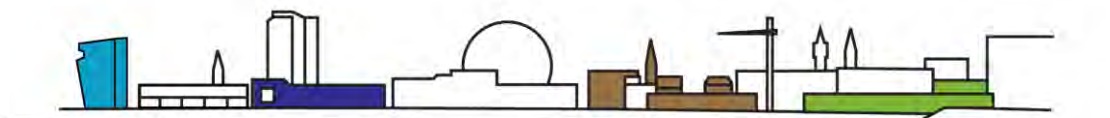
Market Street
Exchange Street
Castlegate
Castlehill
Castle Terrace
Marischal Street
Union Street (east end)
Union Street (west end)
King Street (southern end)
Bon Accord Street
Denburn/Woolmanhill
North Harbour area

Bon Accord Terrace
Gardens
Union Terrace
Gardens
St Nicholas Kirkyard
Skene Terrace
Union Terrace
Union Glen
Justice Mill Lane
Langstane Place
Pedestrianised plaza outside Union Square
Seamont Road
Gallowgate

Golden Square
Crimmond Place
Holburn Junction
Back Wynd
East North Street
Kidd Street
Huntly Street
Shiprow
Frederick Street
Summer Street
Diamond Street
Wapping Street
The Green area
College Street
Springbank Street



The map above, made by officers, shows where in the City Centre participants felt safe (marked green) and unsafe (marked red) at 9pm on a Saturday night. The areas both marked with green and red were identified by some participants to be safe and others unsafe.



Scenario 2 – 2pm Sunday afternoon

Safe Areas

Union Street
Golden Square
Union Terrace
Union Square

Schoolhill
Trinity Centre
Rosemount Viaduct
Belmont Street

Bon Accord Centre
Broad Street

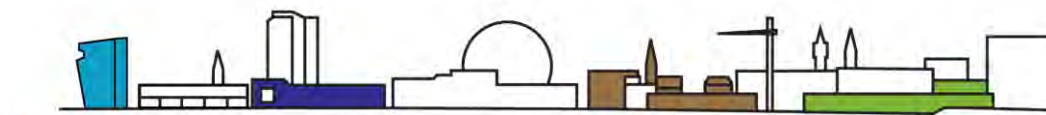
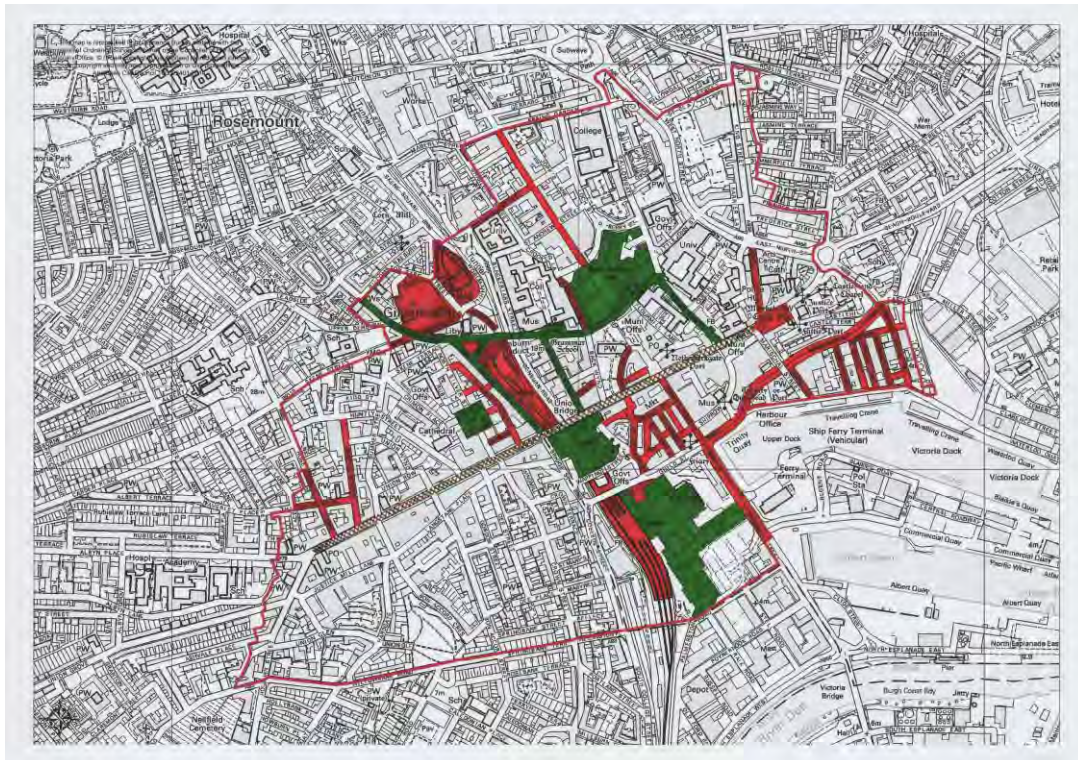
Some participants think all of the city centre is safe at this time of day. Some feel particularly safe in Union Square.

Unsafe Areas

John Street
George Street
King Street (southern end)
Castlegate
Harriet Street
Union Street
Union Terrace
Gardens
Lower Den

Gaelic Lane
Correction Wynd
Underneath Union Bridge
Market Street
Train Station
The Green area
Hadden Street
North Harbour area
Chapel Street

Thistle Street
Rose Street
Denburn/Woolmanhill
Skene Street
Diamond Street
Pedestrian plaza outside Union Square



The map above, made by officers, shows where in the City Centre participants felt safe (marked green) and unsafe (marked red) at 2pm on a Sunday afternoon. The areas both marked with green and red were identified by some participants to be safe and others unsafe.

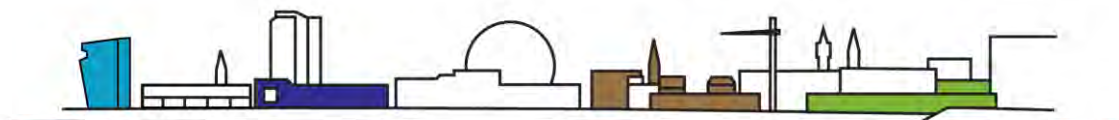
Scenario 3 – 10am Monday morning wearing school uniform

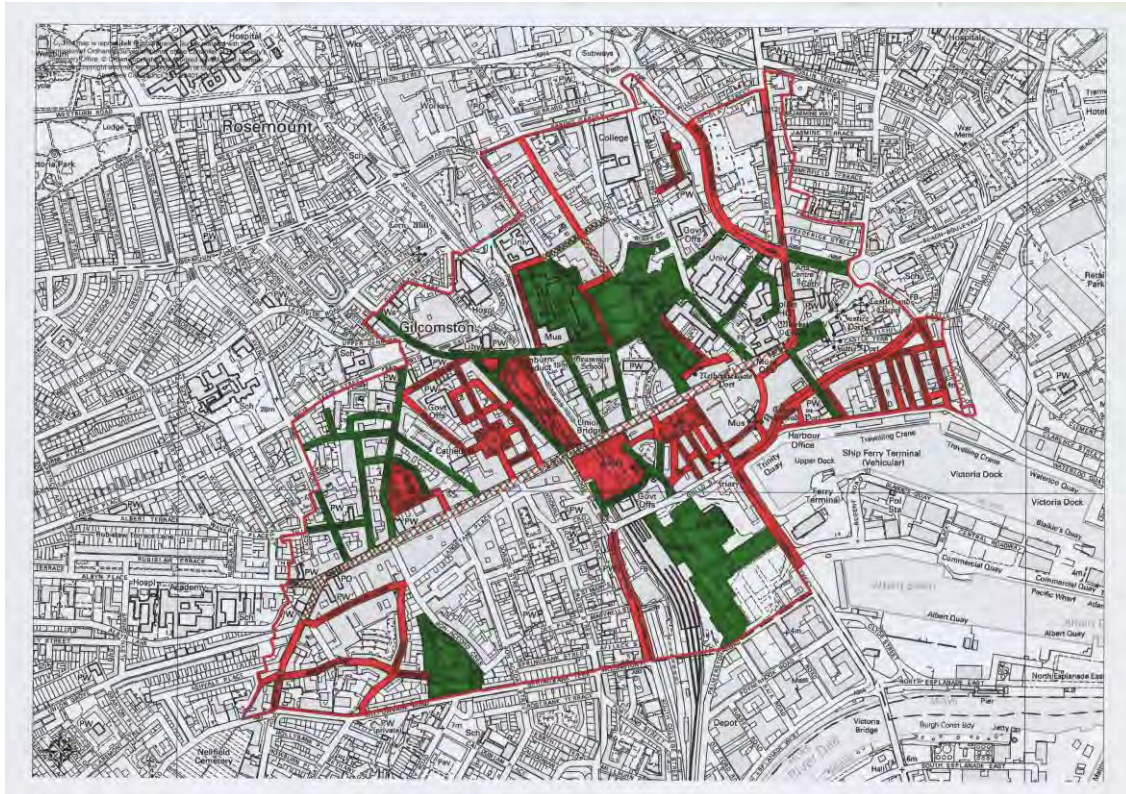
Safe Areas

Union Street	Bon Accord Centre	Wapping Street
Union Terrace	Broad Street	Carmelite Street
Rosemount Viaduct	Queen Street	Castlegate
Belmont Street	Littlejohn Street	Back Wynd
Schoolhill	East North Street	Robert Gordons
Union Square	Union Wynd	College
Marischal Street	Kidd Street	Crooked Lane
Summer Street	Huntly Street	St Andrew Street
Bon Accord Terrace	Chapel Street	George Street
Gardens	Thistle Street	(pedestrianised area)
St Nicholas Centre	Rose Street	
St Nicholas Square	Holburn Junction	

Unsafe Areas

George Street	Golden Square area	Harriett Street
Seamount Road	Union Terrace	Flourmill Lane
Union Street	Gardens	Blackfriars Street
North of Harbour	Market Street	St Andrew's Street
area	The Green area	College Street
Holburn Street	Trinity Centre	West North Street
Justice Mill Lane	Hardgate	King Street
Union Plaza area	Union Glen	Shiprow





The map above, made by officers, shows where in the City Centre participants felt safe (marked green) and unsafe (marked red) at 9am on a Monday morning wearing their school uniform. The areas both marked with green and red were identified by some participants to be safe and others unsafe.

Scenario 4 – 9am Monday morning not wearing school uniform

Safe Areas

Robert Gordon
College
Broad Street
Rosemount Viaduct
Schoolhill
Union Terrace (south
end)

Belmont Street
Back Wynd
Union Street
Skene Terrace
Golden Square
Thistle Street
Blackfriars Street

Bon Accord Street
Bon Accord Centre
Union Square
Dee Place
Springbank Street
Affleck Street
Wapping Street

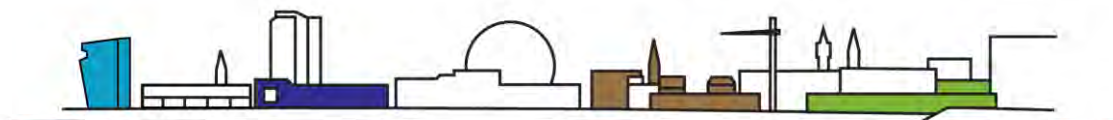
Again, it was said by some participants that all of the city centre is safe at this time of day.

Unsafe Areas

George Street
King Street

West North Street
East North Street

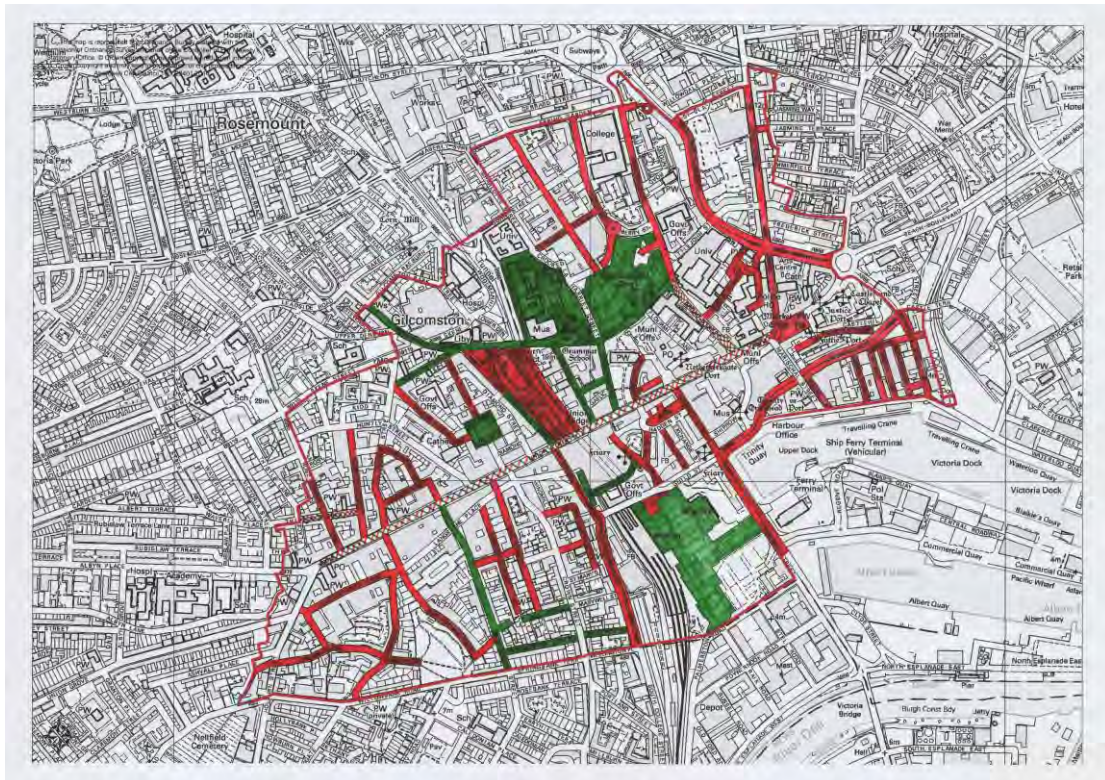
Gallowgate
St Andrew's Street



Loch Street
 Broad Street
 Castlegate
 Castle Terrace
 North Harbour area
 Jasmine Terrace
 Correction Wynd
 Union Terrace (north end)
 Union Terrace Gardens

Area around Union Plaza
 Chapel Street
 Market Street
 The Green area
 Denburn Road
 Pedestrian plaza outside Union Square
 Dee Street
 Gordon Street
 Crown Terrace

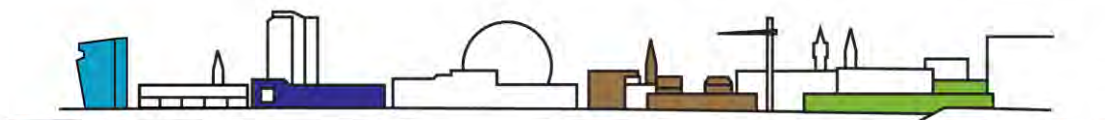
Hardgate
 Union Street
 Union Glen
 Justice Mill Lane
 Bridge Street
 College Street
 Queen Street
 Bon Accord Crescent
 Rose Street
 Thistle Street
 Crimmond Place
 North Silver Street



The map above, made by officers, shows where in the City Centre participants felt safe (marked green) and unsafe (marked red) at 9am on a Monday morning not wearing their school uniform. The areas both marked with green and red were identified by some participants to be safe and others unsafe.

Scenario 1 – Walking

Option 1. Bon Accord Centre → Schoolhill → Back Wynd or Belmont Street → Union Street → Trinity Centre → Guild Street → Union Square



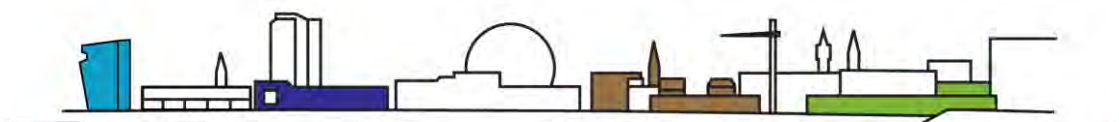
-
- Option 2. Bon Accord Centre → St Nicholas Centre → St Nicholas Square → Union Street → Trinity Centre → Guild Street → Union Square
- Option 3. Bon Accord Centre → St Nicholas Centre → St Nicholas Square → Correction Wynd → The Green → Carmelite Street → Guild Street → Union Square
- Option 4. Bon Accord Centre → St Nicholas Centre → St Nicholas Square → Union Street → Market Street → Hadden Street → Stirling Street → Guild Street → Union Square
- At night Bon Accord → over St Nicholas Centre → St Nicholas Square → Union Street → Market Street → Guild Street → Union Square

Scenario 2 – Bicycle

- Option 1. Schoolhill (outside Bon Accord Centre) → Flourmill Lane → under Union Street → Correction Wynd → the Green → Carmelite Street → Guild Street → Union Square
- Option 2. Schoolhill (outside Bon Accord Centre) → Broad Street → Union Street → Market Street → Guild Street → Union Square
- Option 3. Schoolhill (outside Bon Accord Centre) → Back Wynd → Union Street → Market Street → Hadden Street → Carmelite Lane → Carmelite Street → Guild Street → Union Square

Scenario 3 – Wheelchair Access

- Option 1. Bon Accord Centre → St Nicholas Centre → St Nicholas Square → Union Street → Market Street (although this is quite steep and maybe not wide enough) → Guild Street → Union Square
- Option 2. Bon Accord Centre → St Nicholas Centre → St Nicholas Square → Union Street → Bridge Street onto Guild Street into Union Square
- Option 3. Bon Accord Centre → Back Wynd → Union Street → Bridge Street → Guild Street → Union Square



Scenario 4 – With Young Children

- Option 1. Bon Accord Centre → St Nicholas Centre → St Nicholas Square → Union Street → Trinity Centre → Guild Street → Union Square
- Option 2. Bon Accord Centre → St Nicholas Centre → Union Street → down the steps onto The Green → Carmelite Street → Guild Street → Union Square
- Option 3. Bon Accord Centre → Schoolhill → Back Wynd → Union Street → Bridge Street → Guild Street → Union Square
- Option 4. Bon Accord Centre → Schoolhill → Belmont Street → Union Street → Trinity Centre → Guild Street → Union Square

4.5 Results: The Beach

This section outlines the results from 'The Beach' Exercise. It provides a summary of what participants would like to see at the Aberdeen Beach area. One group of participants undertook this exercise.

Data used to compile this summary is published on the Local Development Plan website.

What uses should be promoted at the beach?

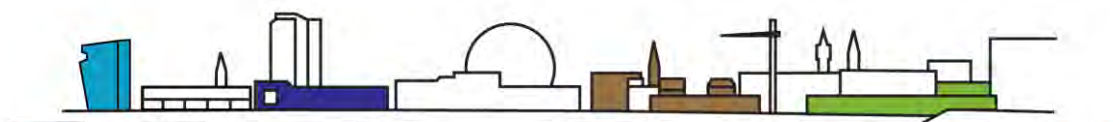
Participants would like to see Amadeus and the Bingo Hall into small shopping centres like the Galleria with small cafes and independent shops. They would also like to see more day trip activities like an aquarium or a water sports centre.

What uses should be discouraged?

Participants think large chain stores should be discouraged.

How do you get to the beach? Would you walk or cycle to the beach from the City Centre?

The participants would like to see public transport to the beach improved, such as a dedicated bus route from Castlegate straight to the beach and a bus from Duthie Park to the beach alongside Riverside Drive. They would also like to see better signage for tourists and the open top bus to be brought back which could visit the beach as well as the parks and university across the city.



4.6 Results: A Vision for the City Centre in 2035

This section outlines the results from the 'Vision for the City Centre in 2035'. It provides a summary of what participants said they would like their city centre to be like in the future (2035).

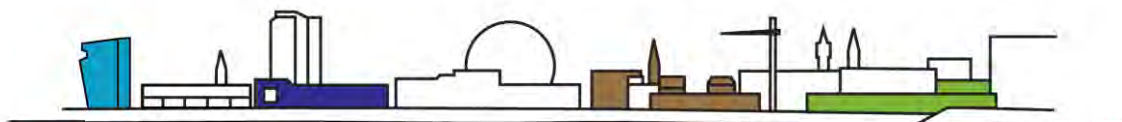
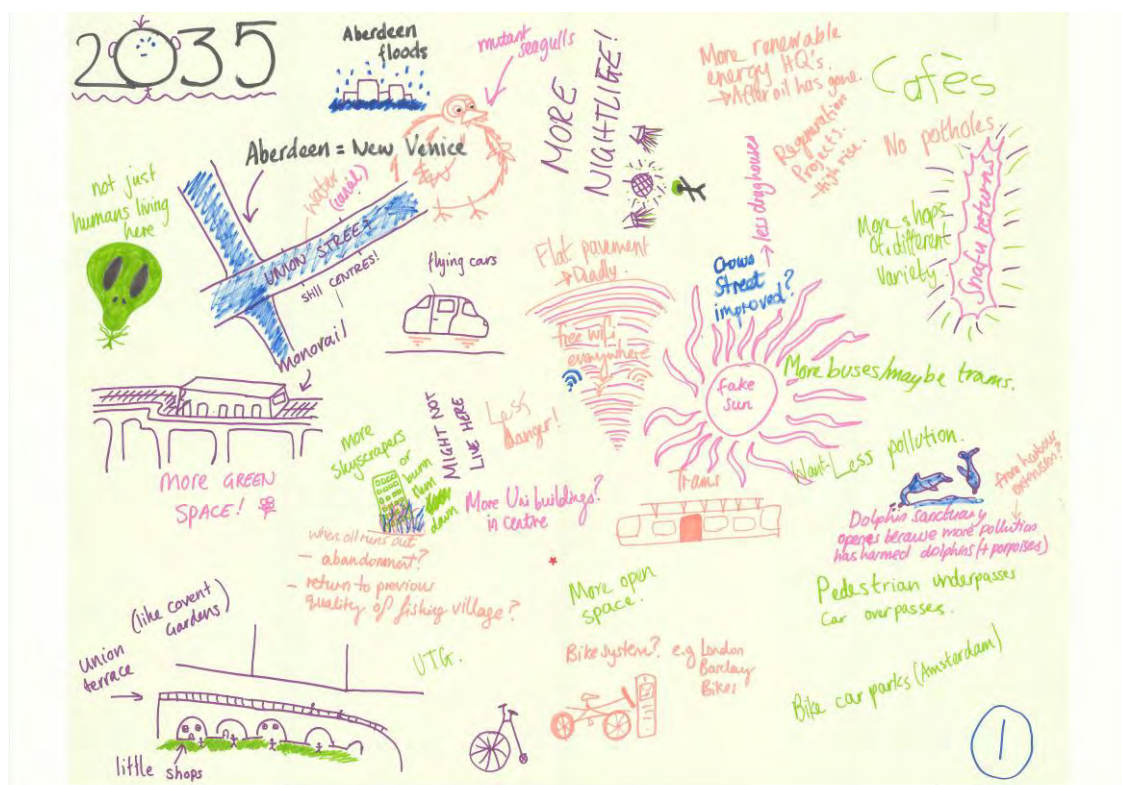
Data used to compile this summary is published on the Local Development Plan website.

Responses have been split into the following broad categories:

- **Natural Environment**
- **Housing, Business and Local Facilities**
- **Architecture, Design and the Historic Environment**
- **Transport and Accessibility**

Natural Environment

It was agreed by most participants that they would like to see more open and green spaces in the city centre by 2035. One group furthered this by saying they would like to see a mixture of green spaces and plazas that would create a safer environment in the city centre. Some think fake trees will be planted to make the city appear greener. Others would like to see more farms in the future.



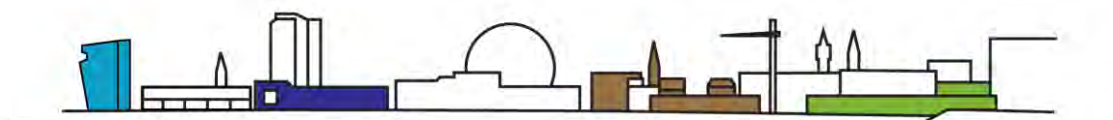
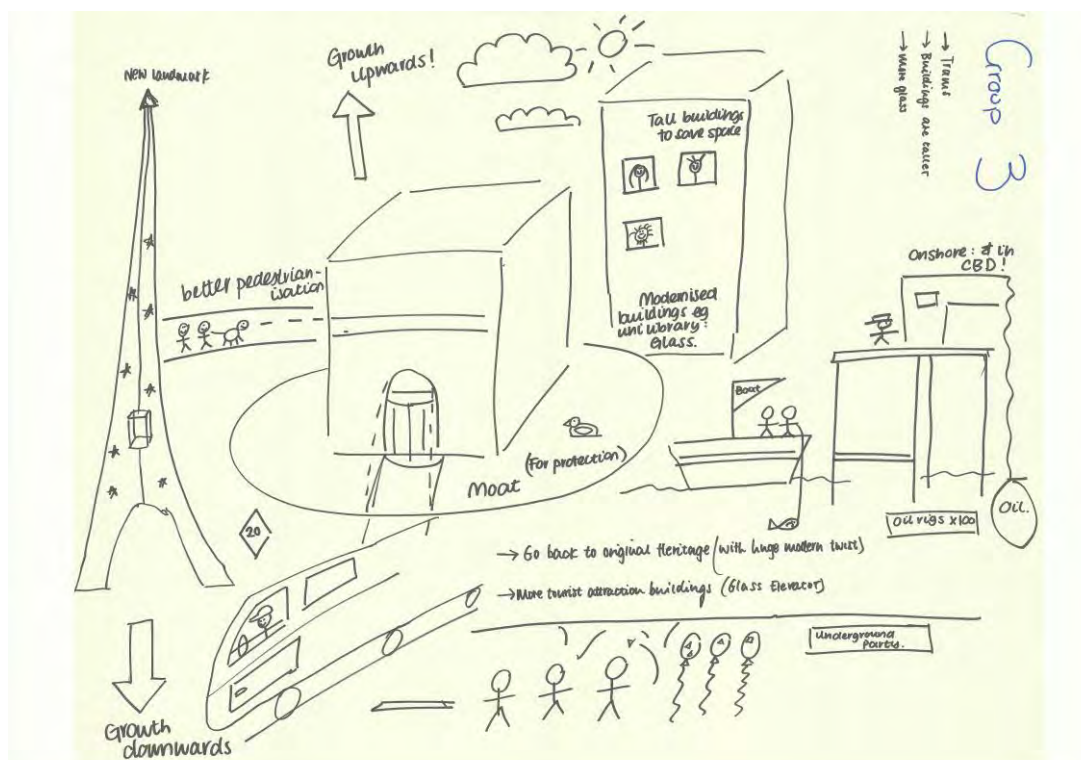
A group of participants would like to see the riverside area improved and cleaned up as well as the beach front. Others would like to see more flowers across the city centre and for the city centre to be cleaner.

One area of green space that was mentioned frequently was Union Terrace Gardens, as many participants would like to see it improved. One group would like to see Denburn Road and the railway line covered between Union Terrace Gardens and Belmont Street. Other suggestions for Union Terrace Gardens are toilets, cafes, bars, tourist attractions and outdoor activities. One group would like to see small shops opening in the arches underneath Union Terrace in the gardens as this would be like Covent Garden in London.

Another group think that Aberdeen will flood and will become the new Venice with Union Street a large canal where we can travel in gondolas. Another suggestion is that when the oil runs out we will revert back to a fishing village or we will abandon the city. Participants would also like to see less pollution.

Housing, Business and Facilities

Most participants agree that the city will see growth in the future, therefore there will be more development because there will be more people – some saying there will be overcrowding. One group said they would like to see more high rise flats and another group think Union Terrace will no longer be a park but replaced by flats. One group said they would like to see houses costing less in the future.



One group of participants said they would like everyone to have a job by 2035 as well as 12 and 13 year olds working. Some participants think there will be no oil industry by 2035, therefore they would like to see more renewable energy headquarters in the city when the oil has gone.

Some participants think there will be more offices and storage space in the city centre. However, another group think there will be less jobs for humans as we will exploit robot labour. Another group think there will be Robocop like enforcement in the city centre.

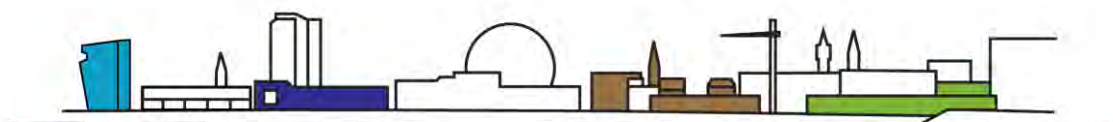
Many participants would like to see more new shops by 2035 and a greater variety of shops. These include pet shops, gift shops, doughnut shop, comic store, music stores and designer brands. Some participants would like to see shops being more accessible at night and to disabled people. One group mentioned they would like to see the Aberdeen Market knocked down and re-developed in a more modern way. Another group would also like to see more happen in The Academy and would also like to see the Bon Accord and St Nicholas Centres better advertised. Another group stated that they would like to see the retail offer on Union Street improved in the future.

Another group thinks there may be less shops because there will be more online shopping.

Some participants think that healthcare facilities should be in our city centre in the future because it is the easiest place to get to by public transport.

More entertainment and activities in the city centre in the future was something a lot of participants mentioned in this exercise. Examples that were mentioned are Laser Tag, swimming pools, a skate board park, a roller rink, a dolphin sanctuary, an ice rink on the Castlegate, penguin parades, skiing resort, Christmas market, a street made of chocolate, virtual golf, a golfers village, theme parks, Disney World, sports centre, festivals, more international restaurants, more cinemas, zoo, oil rig monument, a paint ball area and play areas.

One group of participants would like to see zero gravity golf in the future and another group would like to see more nightlife, specifically nightclubs for children. Another group would like to see an ice rink in Union Terrace Gardens. A couple of groups said they would like to see more of a cultural draw in the city centre to help attract tourism. One group think more museums and parks would help encourage tourism and the other group suggested orchestras and fireworks. Other suggestions for tourists are new landmarks, areas to sit and relax, more restaurants, a city viewing point, more hotels and glass elevators.

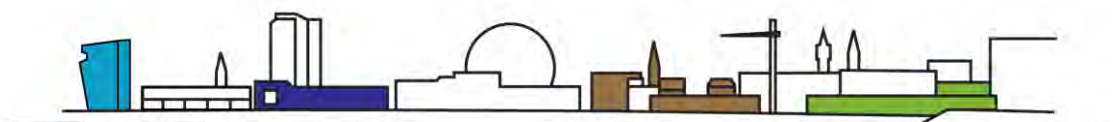
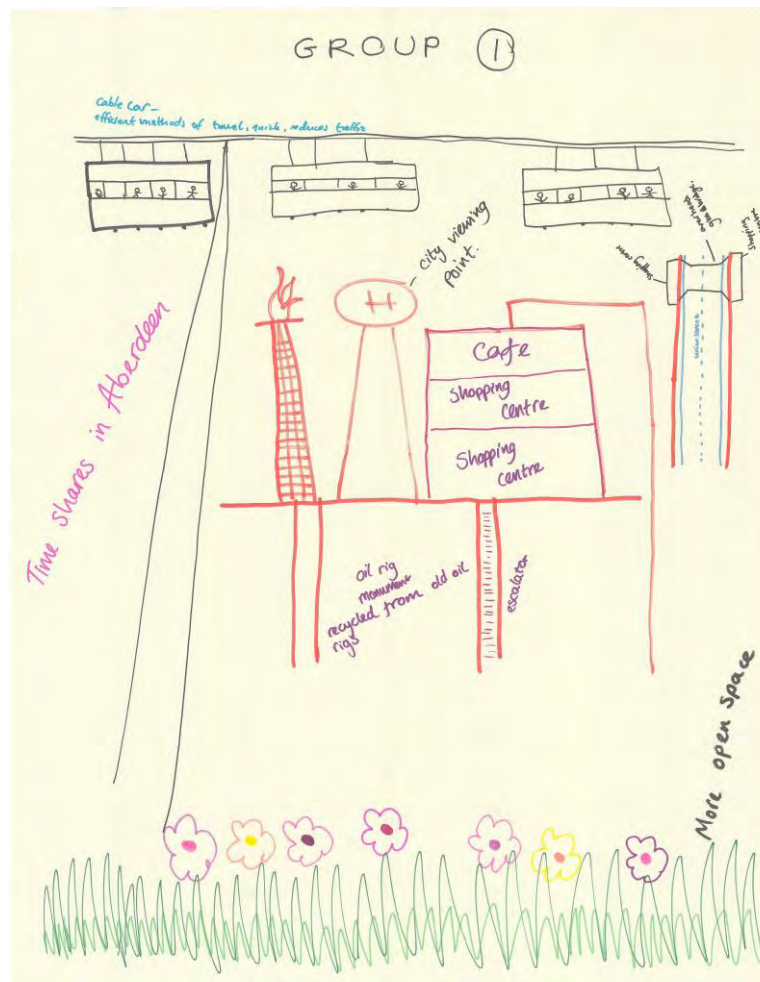


One group would like to see more university buildings back into the city centre. Another group mentioned that they would like to see the Music Hall improved.

Other things the participants would like to see or think they will see in the city centre by 2035 is free WIFI everywhere, no more Big Belly Bins because they are awkward to open, a new football team so there are two in the city and a better football stadium. Other suggestions are space stations and space equipment, more money with things being more expensive and more food.

Architecture, Design and the Historic Environment

Design and architecture was also mentioned by participants. Some would like to see more coloured buildings because they think the city is too grey which affects people's moods and therefore the city should be more colourful and exciting. One participant added that if people feel happy they will buy more!



There seems to be a divide in opinion regarding design in the city centre. Some want to keep our buildings as they are and some would like these to be knocked down and replaced by modern buildings. Some stated that they would like to see more distinctive and modern buildings like the University of Aberdeen Library. However, others would like to see the preservation of our heritage continued but with a modern twist, an example of this would be modernising Union Street by building a roof on top of it. Other groups would like to see the granite of the existing buildings cleaned up with weeds removed in the city centre.

Some groups think that buildings will be taller to save space with another group saying they would like to see more skyscrapers. Another group mentioned they would like to see more public art by suggesting a large oil rig in the City Centre.

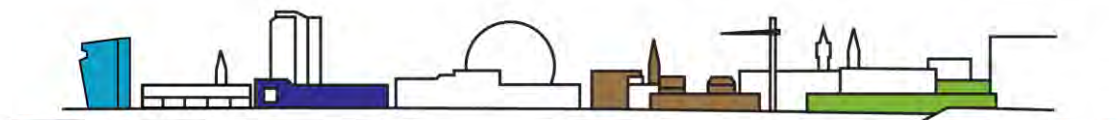
Some groups state that they would like the city centre to be less dangerous and some suggest that back streets should have more street lights. One group mentioned they would like to see Crown Street improved as it is quite dangerous at the moment.

Transport and Accessibility

Some participants would like to see more electric charging points for electric cars in the future and another source of energy that was suggested was fusion power. Other suggestions for how we will move around in the future include flying cars, flying bikes, blimps, flying buses and flying boots as well as jet packs, escalators, hover boards, parachutes, rockets, zip lines, tractors, F1 cars, rocket power roller skates, cable cars, teleportation, time machines, trams, go-karts, water slides, moving pavements (like travelators), escalators, monorail, submarines, quad bikes, lifts, magic carpets, chutes, rollercoasters, camels, elephants and donkeys.

However, some participants think we will still be using buses and taxis and others think there will be no cars in 2035 and there will be less buses. Another group wish to see public transport improved and think more train stations, both locally and regionally, in the future would help this.

One group who do think there will still be cars would like to see them and parking cheaper. They would also like for yellow lines to be removed from our streets, as well as traffic lights, and no car parking tickets to be issued. One group think there will be lots more cars on the road in the future and underground car parks have been suggested to deal with the increased volume of cars. This was furthered by another group who would like to see those over the age of 13 allowed to drive. Another suggestion by a group of participants is a bike system like London and bike car parks like those in Amsterdam. Other would like to see more flyovers for cars and an underground system was also suggested.



4.7 Results: Dyce Interlink Class Questionnaire

This section outlines the results from the Dyce Interlink Class Questionnaire. It provides a summary of the participants responses to the questions posed in the questionnaire.

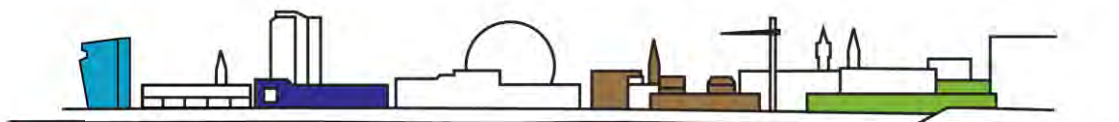
Data used to compile this summary is published on the Local Development Plan website.

Where do you think the City Centre is?

The results of the questionnaire show that the majority of participants think Union Street is the City Centre. Other places that were mentioned frequently were: Union Square, Bon Accord Centre, Trinity Centre, George Street, St. Nicholas Centre, Market Street, King Street and Union Terrace along with others which can be seen in the Word Cloud below.



Some participants think that other places made up the city centre too, such as: St. Nicholas Square, the Art Gallery, Ship Row, Schoolhill, Aberdeen Market, The Green and Golden Square. One participant said the city centre is where there is most footfall.



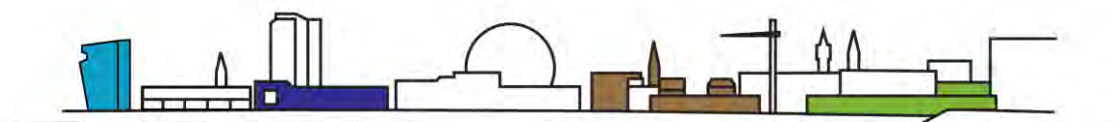
Who uses the City Centre?

Most participants think that everyone uses the City Centre as can be seen in the Word Cloud below. Other people that the participants said use the City Centre are: shoppers, business people, the general public, tourists, residents of Aberdeen, retailers and themselves. It was also noted at all age groups use the City Centre.



What do you think should be located within the City Centre?

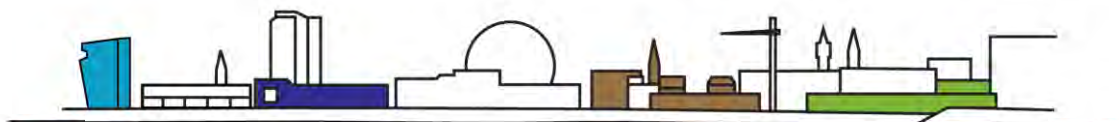
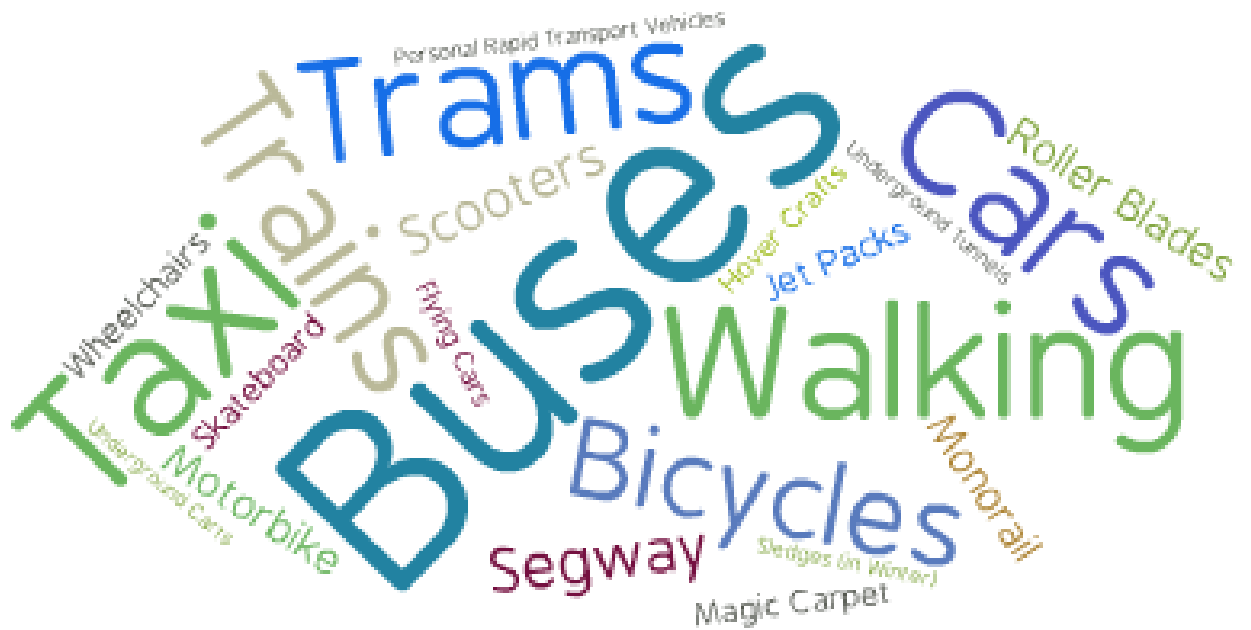
The participants that filed out the questionnaire had lots of ideas of what they think should be located within the City Centre. The most popular response was more shops and shopping centre. Some would like to see a greater variety of shops with some particular brands coming to Aberdeen City Centre. One participant would like to see one massive shopping centre rather than the existing smaller centres.





What are the best ways to travel around the City Centre?

Most participants think that the bus and walking are the best ways to travel around the City Centre. Others mentioned trains, cars and bicycles.



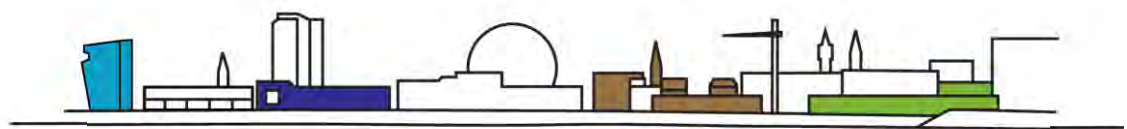
There were a lot of great answers received on what participants would like to travel on around the city centre which do not exist in Aberdeen at the moment or at all such as: a mono-rail, trams, hover-crafts, flying cars, sledges in winter, Segway's and an underground system.

What do you think the City Centre should be like in 2035?

There were lots of responses to this question and the Word Cloud below shows the more popular responses.



Others would like to see the City Centre greener and quieter with more wildlife. It was also said that there should be better design and pavements should be wider. Some think Aberdeen should be more like other cities such as: Glasgow, New York, Tokyo or Las Vegas. One participant said they would like to see a better attitude towards pedestrians and public transport in the future.



5 Conclusions

Young people can often be marginalised from the planning process, however it is only right that they should be actively involved in important decisions affecting the city, and take a more active role in shaping their local communities.

Information gathered during the second stage of the Youth Engagement Project will be used by Officers to prepare the Proposed Plan which will be the next stage in revising the Aberdeen Local Development Plan.

The Proposed Plan will be presented to Councillors later this year and be released for public consultation early 2015. We hope to begin Stage 3 of the Youth Engagement Programme at this time with options currently being discussed.

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