

'How Good is Your Place?'

Where we spend our time has an important effect on our lives and our wellbeing. Improving the quality of places and the opportunities we have access to can help to tackle inequalities

Understanding what is good about our places now, and what could be better, can help us make good decisions on what needs change, how best to change them and allow us to target resources where they are needed most.

This will help make the places better for us to live, work and play in and help to take care of nature and the environment, now and for the future

At this time we are seeking to gather information about the many different places in West Lothian where people live and work. We've created this survey to find out what you think about 'your place' and what you would like to see improved.

How to complete this survey

Think about what 'your place' is like now and decide what score from 1 to 7 you want to give for each of the main questions. A score of 1 means terrible (and that you think there is a lot of room for improvement) but a score of 7 means excellent (and indicates that there is very little that needs improved). You can of course give a score of anywhere in between the bottom and the top score.

We would also invite you to answer two follow-on questions for each of the 14 themes covered in the survey, although these are optional. You can type your response into the relevant text boxes.

NB: There are separate surveys for children and young people which are also available to complete.

This survey is estimated to take approximately 18 minutes to complete.

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* Requi	ired	
1. Wh	at is your age group? * 👊	
\bigcirc	Under 18	
\bigcirc	18 to 24	
\bigcirc	25 to 34	
\bigcirc	35 to 44	
\bigcirc	45 to 54	
\bigcirc	55 to 64	
\bigcirc	65 or over	
2. Wh	at gender do you identify wit	h?

Female Male Non-binary Prefer not to say

3. Do you consider yourself to have a disability or long-term physical or mental health condition? * 🗔

Prefer not to say

4. Are you responding to this survey on behalf of a community council or

another community body?
* (₄₎
Yes
○ No
Prefer not to say
5. If you selected 'yes' to question 4 please state the name of the communit council or the community body you are responding on behalf of. * * * * * * * * * *
Enter your answer
6. Please identify the <u>place</u> your answers to the questions in this survey will be about. It must be a town or a village in West Lothian and it's important that all your answers relate to <u>the same place</u> .
You can complete more than one survey if you want to tell us about other places
* 🕠
Enter your answer

reach the places you want to go to in your place?

7. How easy is it for you to walk, wheel or cycle using good-quality routes to

Safe and enjoyable routes encourage people to walk, wheel and cycle, which is good for people's health and for the environment. These include quiet streets with low vehicle use or reduced speed limits, wide pavements, footpaths, cycle paths. They are also good for people who use wheelchairs and walking aids or have to push prams and pushchairs.

Before answering these questions on **moving around** please think about the following:

- Are paths and routes suitable for walking, wheeling, and cycling?
- Do routes provide obvious and direct links with the places where people want to go such as schools, shops, parks and public transport?
- Are walking and cycling given priority over cars and other traffic as much as possible?
- Are there enough routes for walking and cycling?
- Are the routes attractive and safe good surfaces, well-lit and well maintained?
- Do routes meet the needs of everyone, whatever their age or mobility?
- How easy is it to move around in a wheelchair or with a pram or pushchair?
- Are there any barriers illegal parking, overgrown hedges, refuse bins; lack of dropped kerbs?
- What could be changed to make it easier and safer for everyone to move around?

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8. What are the best things about walking, wheeling or cycling in your place? \Box

Enter your answer

9. If you could change anything to make walking, wheeling and cycling better experiences, what would it be?

10. How easy is it to get to where you want to go to by bus, train or other forms of public transport from your place?

Access to an affordable, reliable and well-connected public transport service is important for all communities. Good public transport encourages people to get around in ways that are better for the environment.

Before answering these questions on **<u>public</u>** transport please think about the following:

- Do current public transport arrangements allow people to get to where they need to go if they can't get there by walking, wheeling or cycling?
- Is public transport a good option for you is it safe and convenient, fast, frequent and reliable, affordable, clean and comfortable and is it easy to change between services?
- Can everyone use it all ages and all levels of mobility including people in wheelchairs, cyclists, people with prams and pushchairs?
- Do hub facilities and have what people need toilets, seating, shelter from weather, car parking, cycle storage?
- Is there adequate information about timetables and real time tracking available?
- Is taking public transport a pleasant and safe experience or does it make you feel apprehensive?

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11. What do you think is currently good about travel by public transport in your place?

Enter your answer

12. What do you think could be done to improve travel by public transport in the future?

13. How do traffic and parking arrangements affect how you move around your place and how well do they meet the needs of your community?

Too much traffic can cause problems for people who live in, work in, or visit an area. Traffic and parking arrangements that allow people to move around safely can help people to get the most out of a place.

Before answering these questions on **traffic** and **parking** please think about the following:

- Do people have priority over vehicles traffic calming measures, good pedestrian routes, safe road crossings?
- Can you cross roads safely? Have you heard about or seen any road traffic accidents in your place?
- How does traffic affect people congestion, speed, pollution, noise, fear of vehicles or bicycles, delivery vehicles?
- What impact does parking have on walking, wheeling and cycling and accessibility of pavements?
- Is there safe and secure parking in convenient location and accessible for blue badge holders?
- Are there locally available options for lower carbon travel bike hire or sharing schemes, e-bikes, park and ride, car clubs, car sharing schemes, electric vehicle charging?



14. Are there particular aspects of traffic which negatively affect your place?

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15. What do you think could be done to improve traffic and traffic management in your place?

Enter your answer

16. Do buildings, streets, and public spaces create an attractive place that is easy to get around?

Buildings, landmarks, greenery, views and natural landscape can help to create an attractive place that people enjoy being in. Distinctive streets and spaces can help people to find their way around, and greener streets and spaces are not just good for wellbeing but also for the environment and for biodiversity.

Before answering these questions on **streets** and **spaces** please think about the following:

- Do buildings and public spaces make being in or passing through the area a pleasant experience?
- Are there points of interest such as local landmarks, public spaces and natural features that help make the place look attractive?
- Is it easy to find your way around are there signposts and functioning street lighting?
- Are streets and spaces accessible for everyone?
- Are there drop kerbs, are pavements wide enough for wheelchairs, are there sufficient pedestrian crossings?
- How well maintained are streets and buildings?
- Are there derelict buildings, vacant gap sites that detract from the other positive features?

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17. What do you like about the streets, buildings and public space in your place?

18.	What do you	think could	l be done to	o improve th	e streets, l	buildings a	nd
	public spaces	s in your pla	ce?				

Enter your answer

19. Do you have access to good-quality natural spaces in your place?

Natural space includes parks and woodlands, fields, streams and rivers, green space alongside paths and roads, and tree-lined streets. These can be good for wildlife, improve air quality and benefit our health and wellbeing.

Before answering these questions on **natural space** please think about the following:

- What kind of natural spaces are there in or near to your place parks, public gardens?
- Are they welcoming, easy to get to, accessible and safe to use?
- Can everyone use the spaces are they suitable for children, disabled people, elderly people, dog walkers, people with prams and pushchairs, walkers and cyclists and is there seating for everyone who might need it?
- Are these spaces looked after, clean and generally kept in good order or are they neglected?
- Is there anything about these places that might stop you from visiting them, for example litter, noise, dog fouling, surface mud/ dirt, poor air quality, flooding, no seating, overcrowding and no toilets?
- Are there enough natural spaces that can be enjoyed in your place?
- Are there opportunities for more spaces and can they continue to meet people's needs in the future?

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20.	What	do	you	think	is	the	best	thing	about	the	natural	spaces	in	your	place?

Enter your answer

21. What do you think could be done to improve connections to nature and the natural environment in your place?

Enter your answer

22. How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in your place?

Good places encourage children to play and allow adults to enjoy leisure and sporting activities.

opportunities for play and recreation can improve the quality of our lives and our health.

Before answering these questions on <u>play</u> <u>and recreation</u> please think about the following:

- What opportunities are there in your place for play, sport, culture, arts and leisure activities?
- Are there places that everyone can enjoy children and young people, adults and older people, non-disabled and disabled, vision/ hearing impaired, locals and visitors?
- Are spaces and facilities well used easy to get to, free or affordable, safe and well maintained, fun and welcoming?
- How else could we make the most of what we have- streets close to home, vacant and derelict land, playgrounds, natural spaces, libraries and public buildings, hosting activities and events)
- Are there any negative issues that are detracting from the enjoyment of these play and recreation areas access, location, lighting, noise, cost, public toilets, traffic weather, play not being welcomed by the community?

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23. What do you think are the best things about the spaces for play, recreation and sport and where you like to gather with family and friends in your place?

Enter your answer

24. What do you think could be done to improve spaces for play, recreation and sport in your place?

Enter your answer

25. How well do the facilities and amenities in your place meet your needs?

Facilities and amenities are the things that we need to live and enjoy life. This can include shops, schools, nurseries, libraries, GP surgeries and places to eat, drink and meet friends. Access to facilities and amenities is important to support healthy, fulfilling lives. It can be difficult for some people where there is a lack of local facilities, the quality of those facilities is poor, or where the services and support available in the community is limited.

Before answering these questions on **facilities** and **amenities** please think about the following:

- What facilities and services are there, for example nurseries, schools and colleges, health facilities, social care, shops, library, leisure and culture, community centres and halls?
- Are facilities and services easy to get to and use within a reasonable walking, wheeling or cycling distance, for disabled people, available online, linked to other services?

- Do the facilities and services meet local needs, now and in the future are they affordable, for all ages, different needs and abilities?
- What support is available in your place charities and clubs, welfare support, community food groups, places of worship, housing and employment advice?
- Are there barriers which make accessing facilities difficult for people in your place – hard to get to locations, inaccessible buildings, language issues, none or poor internet access?



26. What do you think is good about the facilities and services in your place?

Enter your answer

27. What do you think could be done to improve the facilities and services in your place?

Enter your answer

28. How active is the local economy in your place and are there good opportunities for work, volunteering and training?

Good-quality work offers important benefits through income, activity, social contact, sense of identity and job satisfaction. A thriving local economy can provide work opportunities and help create lively places where people want to spend time.

Before answering these questions on work and local economy please think about the following:

• How well is the local economy doing – firstly are there local shops, is there a

mix of businesses, are they open at times people need them, are they well used, are people able to afford to spend locally?

- Are there locally available job opportunities for those that want them is there mix of jobs for different abilities, temporary and permanent, seasonal and part time positions and also opportunities for volunteering?
- If you wanted a job, do you think you could find one in or near your place?
- Are there opportunities for people to acquire and build skills locally education, training or retraining, community work?
- Is there support is available for people with different needs, employment advice, starting and growing a business, childcare and travel?
- Are there any challenges such as reliance on a few major employers, recently closed businesses, inadequate broadband connectivity?
- How does the local economy affect how you feel about your place is it thriving or declining, does it have lots of activity or are streets empty and buildings boarded up?



29. Are there any positive things that you can see in the local economy of your place at this time?

Enter your answer

30. What do you think could be done to improve the local economy of your place and also opportunities for people to work locally?

Enter your answer

31. How well do the homes in your place meet the needs of your community?

The homes that are available locally will affect who lives in an area and how a place looks and feels. Good places have a mix of quality homes for families and people of different ages and incomes

Homes, friends and neighbours are important parts of a community and living in places where the people in the community care for each other makes us feel more positive about our lives. Strong communities help making places more sustainable in the long term.

Before answering these questions on **housing and community** please think about the following:

- Is there a good mix of housing types privately owned, rented, specialist housing for single, elderly and disabled people, supported living accommodation and homes of varying sizes?
- Are there people of different social groups, ages and from different cultures living in your place?
- Are residential areas visually attractive places are they well laid out with community gardens and communal areas and satisfactorily maintained?
- Have the homes and places been designed (or are they capable of being adapted) to respond to climate changes, population change and more demanding energy efficiency standards?
- Is there any evidence of there being strong community spirit in your place local activities and events, food banks, neighbourhood watch groups?
- Are there any signs of a community facing challenges homelessness, high unemployment, social deprivation, derelict and abandoned homes and buildings, vandalism, and graffiti, anti-social behaviour and the frequent presence of police?

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32. What are the things that suggest your place is a good community to live in?

(4))

Enter your answer

33. What do you think could help to make your place function even better as a community for everyone living there?

34. How good is the range of spaces and opportunities to meet and spend time with other people in your place?

Feeling isolated can be damaging to our health and wellbeing. Good places provide a variety of spaces to meet and spend time with others.

Before answering these questions on **social contact** please think about the following:

- Where do people get together are there sufficient places for people to meet i.e. local halls and centres, schools, places of worship, food and drink outlets, parks and outdoor seating?
- How do people find out what's happening locally from friends/family/neighbours, social media, advertising and posters, local radio and newspapers?
- Can everyone join in are places accessible, friendly, inclusive, welcoming, free or affordable?
- Is there a mix of activities available- indoor and outdoor groups, kids clubs and elderly clubs, and community activities?
- If people need to come together in a crisis are there any established networks and local support groups?
- What other spaces/places are needed in your place?



35. What particular things do you like about the places where you can meet with friends and other people?

36.	What do you think could be	done to	create new	spaces for	people to	meet
	and interact in your place?					

37. To what extent does your place have a positive identity and does it support a strong sense of belonging?

How a place looks, its history and what other people think of the place can affect how we feel. A strong local identity can help us feel pride in our place, our community and in ourselves as a result. A positive identity can also attract people and businesses to move into an area.

Before answering these questions on **identity** and **belonging** please think about the following:

- Do people (inside and outside the area) perceive your place positively do local people have a sense of pride or embarrassment about where they come from?
- How strong is the sense of identity and belonging local pride, neighbourliness, local groups?
- Is the history, heritage and culture of your place evident and celebrated are there for example local gala days and festivals which the community participates in?
- How involved are people in the community?
- Do you feel connected to your neighbours and your community and are you welcome and made to feel that you belong regardless of your age, gender, ethnicity, any disability, sexual orientation or religious beliefs?

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38. What are the things that make you feel good about your place and which give you a sense of identity and belonging?

39. What do you think could be done to strengthen the identity of your place and give other people living there a stronger feeling of belonging?

Enter your answer

40. How safe do you feel in your place?

How safe a place feels can affect people's wellbeing and how they spend their time in the place. Well-designed places, supported by good maintenance, can help make places feel safer and reduce crime and antisocial behaviour.

Before answering these questions on **feeling** safe please think about the following:

- Do you feel safe at home, inside your property, but also when you are outside?
- Is your place safe for all people (and at all times, day and night) regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity, any disability, sexual orientation or religious beliefs?
- Are there any particular areas where you sometimes feel unsafe or uncomfortable?
- Is there anything which contributes to making you feel unsafe for example insufficient street lighting, gap sites, boarded up or derelict buildings, graffiti and speeding traffic, congregating groups?
- Are footpaths and public spaces overlooked by buildings?
- Are there social issues which affect your feeling of safety deprivation, inequality, hate crimes?
- Do you think your place is more or less safe than it used to be and if so, what has changed to make it so?

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41.	What are	the	things	that	make	you	feel	safe	in	your	place'	?
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Enter your answer

42. What practical things do you think could be done to make you feel safer in your place?

Enter your answer

43. How well is your place looked after and cared for?

Places that are cared for can make us feel positive and secure, while those that are not looked after properly can have the opposite effect. Proper maintenance arrangements allow people to feel supported and more positive about where they live.

Before answering these questions on <u>care and maintenance</u> please think about the following:

- Are buildings, streets and spaces in your place well maintained are they clean and safe and are repairs carried out rapidly?
- Do you think your place is well looked after or does it appear neglected are there buildings, roads footpaths and signage which are damaged overgrown gardens and public spaces that all need attention?
- Are there any specific problems in the area, such as litter, fly tipping, vandalism, graffiti and dog fouling?
- Are you aware of who is responsible for maintenance and would you know how to report an issue?
- If you have reported an incident, did this lead to remedial action and if so, how quickly?
- Are there sufficient and effective facilities for domestic refuse storage and collection in your place?
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44. Are there any positive things that you can say about how well your place is currently maintained and looked after?

Enter your answer

45. What do you think could be done to improve the care and maintenance of the built environment in your place?

Enter your answer

46. How well are you listened to and included in decision making about the things that happen in your place?

People's views about their local area should be heard. Having a voice in decision making and feeling able to make changes can help to build stronger communities and better places. Having a sense of control can make people feel positive about their lives.

Before answering these questions on **influence** and sense of control please think about the following:

- Does the community feel it has a voice are people able to contribute and have a say in decisions that affect them?
- How do communities find out what's going on in their particular area?
- Are there obstacles which may prevent some people participating language, requirements to engage digitally/online, hearing and vision impairment, other disabilities,
- Do you personally have the **c**onfidence to take part, get involved and influence decisions?
- If you have done so, did you find it a worthwhile experience?
- Is the community listened to are its needs understood, who does it talk to and how is it consulted?
- Do organisations such as local authorities, health services and housing

associations actively work with the community to understand their needs?

• Are there effective local groups operating in your place - community councils, residents' groups, business organisations and charities that people are aware of?

47. Would you like to have more say about what happens in your place, and if so, what matters would you like to have a say on? \Box

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Enter your answer

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48. What do you think could be done to improve engagement and consultations with local people on matters that directly affect their place?

Enter your answer

49. Finally, thinking about all the questions which you have now answered, please tell us what are the things you think need to change most in your place?

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