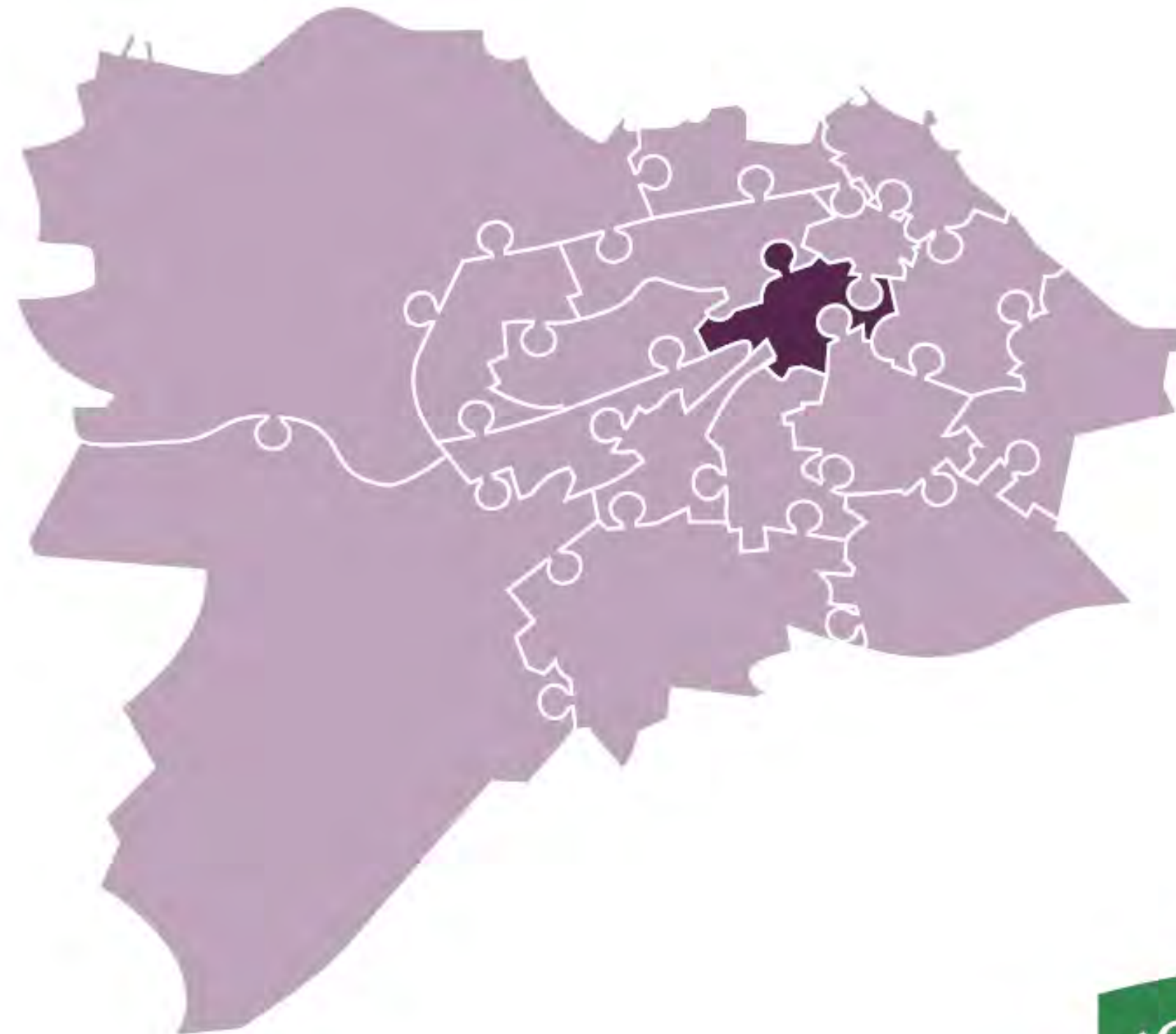


Evidence Report Place Profile

Ward 11 City Centre



Introduction

Place Profiles have been created for each of the 17 Electoral Wards within the City of Edinburgh Council area.

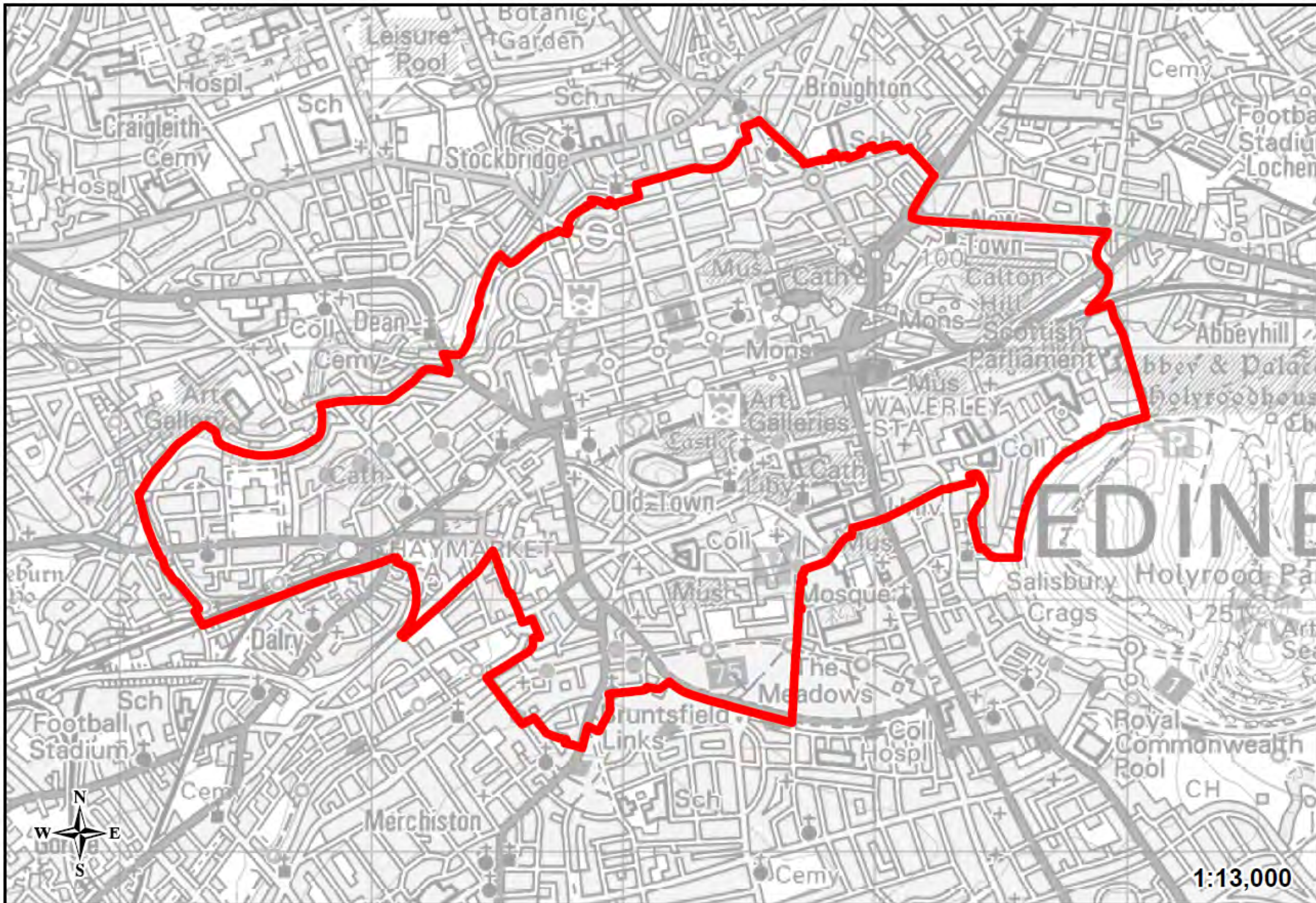
In line with NPF4 and related guidance, new Local Development Plans in Scotland need to be place-based, people-centred and delivery-focussed.

These Place Profiles display information on the people, infrastructure and key features of each ward and identify areas of focus for the Proposed Plan.

They provide spatial focus for the Evidence Report where they require a place-based analysis.

They are a tool for engagement, pulling together our spatial and statistical understanding into one place for quick access. This will assist communities looking to prepare Local Place Plans, and in turn the Place Profiles can be updated to include relevant work from Local Place Plans.

Demographic information is from the 2022 Census of Scotland and the Public Health Scotland Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) Profiles.



Place

Headlines

This is a summary of key issues raised through analysis and engagement in this ward. Full details are shown in the appendix.

Strengths	Challenges
- In the south of the ward there is a good provision of healthcare facilities. - There is a good level of access to shops and services. - The City Centre has a number of large and small employers as a major regional economic centre. Smaller town and local centres surround this either within or adjacent to the Ward boundary allowing for more locally focussed amenities for the nearby population. - Most people can walk to their everyday needs in this ward. - There is good access to public transport across the majority of the ward. - Good access to a range of open and natural spaces can be found within and adjacent to the City Centre. - Overall, cultural spaces are well distributed around this ward as the City Centre acts as a regional cultural centre. Community run spaces are concentrated in the south of the ward.	- There is a lack of GPs and NHS dentists, and a lower level of healthcare provision in the New Town and West End areas. - There are concerns of the impact of hot food takeaways, public houses and entertainment venues on households in parts of the ward. - There is a contrast between the west of the ward reporting lower levels of deprivation and the east of the ward reporting higher levels of deprivation. - Engagement responses show that people are concerned about the lack of affordable options and number of short-term lets. - There is felt to be some conflict between conservation policy and housing improvements. - There are a few active travel routes in the New Town focussed on quiet streets and/or inconsistent temporary measures requiring some joining of traffic. People have raised concerns with poor road quality. - There is less access to public transport in parts of the Canongate and Dumbiedykes, which effects households with a higher level of deprivation than much of the rest of the Ward. - People generally feel that open spaces needed more cleaning/maintenance. - Some people feel that their housing does not meet their needs and higher levels of overcrowding are reported in the east of the ward. - People have raised concerns with anti-social behaviour in this ward. - Lack of community space within certain areas.
Implications	
- There is support for more space for walking, wheeling and cycling in the ward. - There is an opportunity to improve the quality, safety and accessibility of public realm. - There is support for a bigger variety of recreation options, more growing spaces and greenery. - It is felt that there is a need for a better variety of shops and services and more independent shops aimed at local needs rather than tourism. - Explore opportunities for community space where there is a gap in provision	

Background

City Centre Ward forms the central part of Edinburgh and the wider city region and is of cultural and economic importance. It includes the original medieval origins of the city in the Old Town and the initial expansion of the city into the New Town.

It is covered by the Edinburgh Old and New Towns UNESCO World Heritage Site, in recognition of its international importance. This is covered at the local level with a large number of conservation areas and a high concentration of listed buildings.

As a result, it is a major centre for tourism and the visitor economy, aided by the many national and local cultural institutions located within the ward.

It contains the centrally located Edinburgh Waverley train station and a high number of local and national bus services, as well as Edinburgh Trams. This results in a very high level of public transport access. It also contains Edinburgh's secondary train station at Haymarket.

It is centrally important for the economy of the city and the wider city region, containing within it the central retail core for the city and a number of town centres. It also includes many large and small employers, part of the University of Edinburgh campus and the Edinburgh International Conference Centre.

Despite its economic and cultural importance, it still contains a residential population in several neighbourhoods:

Wester Coates – An area of primarily 19th century residential terrace and villa development located along a major western corridor including the former Donaldson's School.

West End – A western extension of the New Town built out mainly in the 19th century and containing mixed residences and commercial office uses.

Haymarket – A mixed area of mainly 19th century commercial and residential development located around Haymarket train station.

Tollcross - A mixed area of mainly 19th century commercial and residential tenement development located around a major road junction at Tollcross.

New Town – An area of Georgian planning development dating from the 18th to 19th centuries, consisting originally of residential townhouses and tenements around gardens now mixed with many commercial and institutional uses.

Old Town – An area consisting of the original medieval burgh of Edinburgh, focused on Edinburgh Castle and the Royal Mile, with some residences and commercial uses and a strong focus on the visitor economy.

Gayfield/Broughton Street – An area attached to the New Town but less formally planned, and containing a small local centre of shops and services.

Calton Hill – An area of mainly open space around the Calton Hill key viewpoint. Includes a small amount of 19th century residential development with some private gardens.

Canongate – Formally a medieval burgh adjacent to but separate from Edinburgh, it is a continuation of the Old Town and Royal Mile towards Holyrood containing Holyrood Palace and the Scottish Parliament but otherwise being of a more residential character than the Old and New Towns.

Dumbiedykes – A post-war housing development built in place of cleared slum housing in this part of Edinburgh adjacent to the Canongate and Holyrood Park.

Lauriston/Quartermile – An area largely covered by the previous Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, since replaced by mixed-use redevelopment. The area contains some remaining medical facilities and the Edinburgh College of Art.

Place Mapping

- Mapping of key amenities are shown below, which are linked to amenities detailed in the **Local Living topic paper** which can contribute to Living Well Locally.
- Distribution of cultural facilities and community-run spaces is also shown. This is based upon available information at the time of mapping and may not include all existing spaces but is used to show an overall pattern.

Place Mapping

Ward 11 - City Centre

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Swimming Pools

PLACE

Shops Outwith Centres

Bowling Greens

Supermarkets

Tennis Courts

Post Offices

Golf Courses

Cafes

Centres

City Centre

Public Toilets

Commercial Centres

Water Refill Locations

Town Centres

Schools

School Type

ASN

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

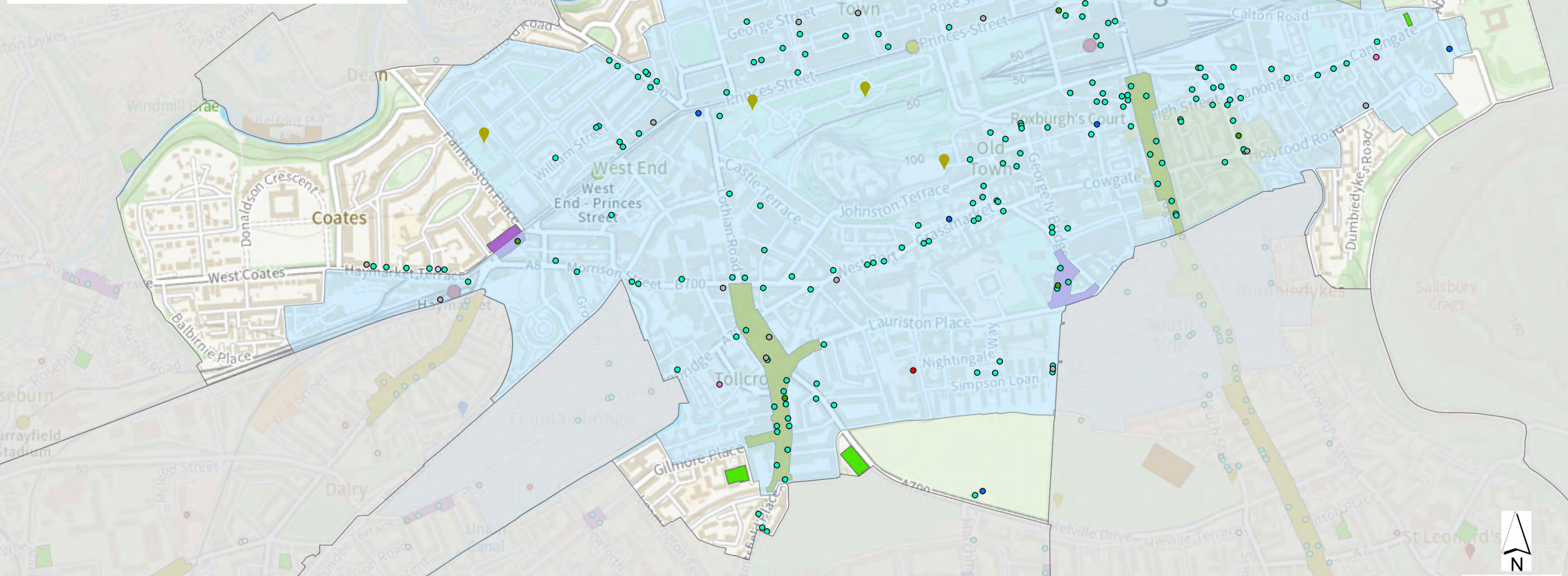
1 - 2

Primary

Secondary

Leisure / Sports Centres

Local Centres



Culture and Community Infrastructure

Ward 11 - City Centre

Legend

Other CEC Wards

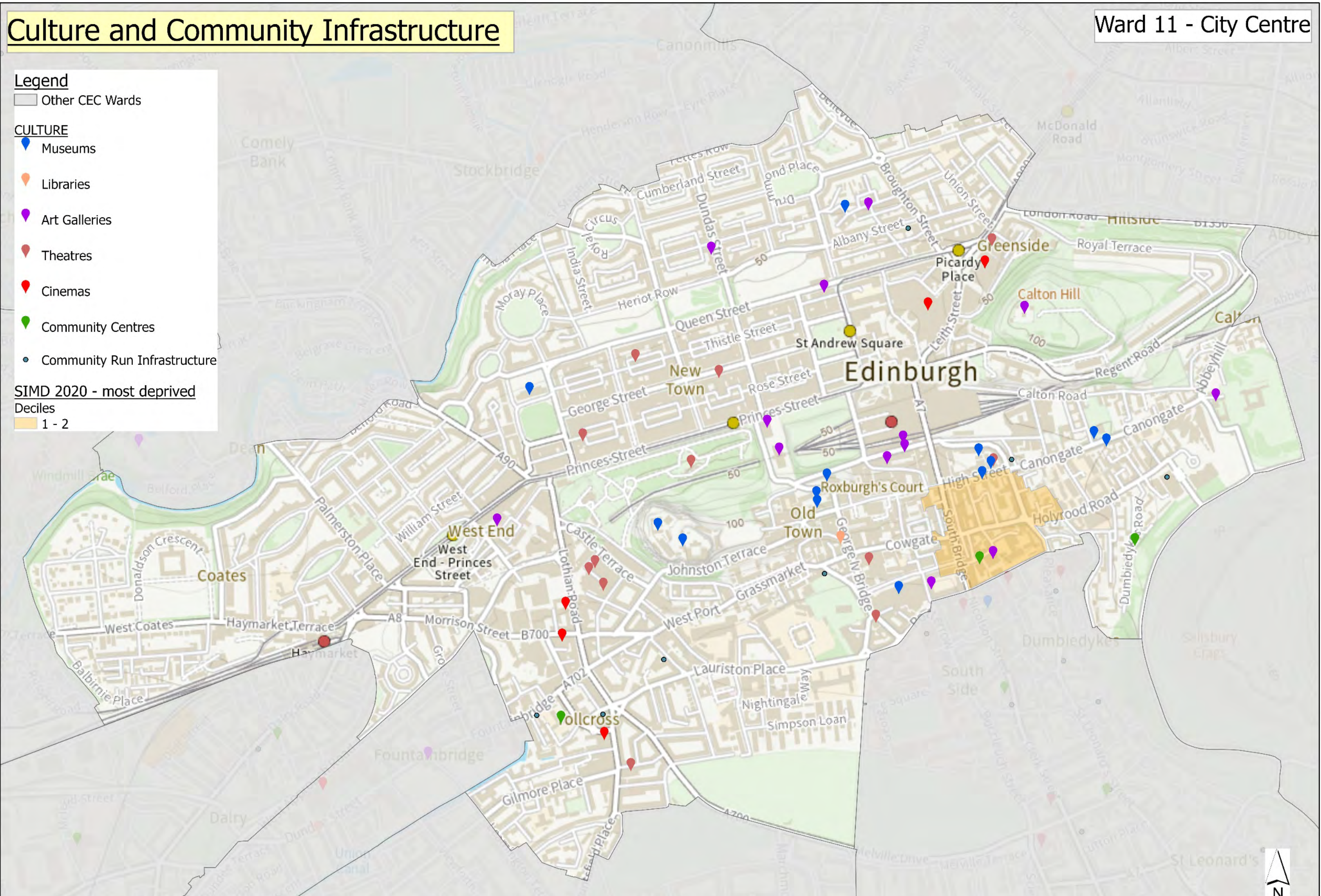
CULTURE

- Museums
- Libraries
- Art Galleries
- Theatres
- Cinemas
- Community Centres
- Community Run Infrastructure

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

- 1 - 2



Considerations

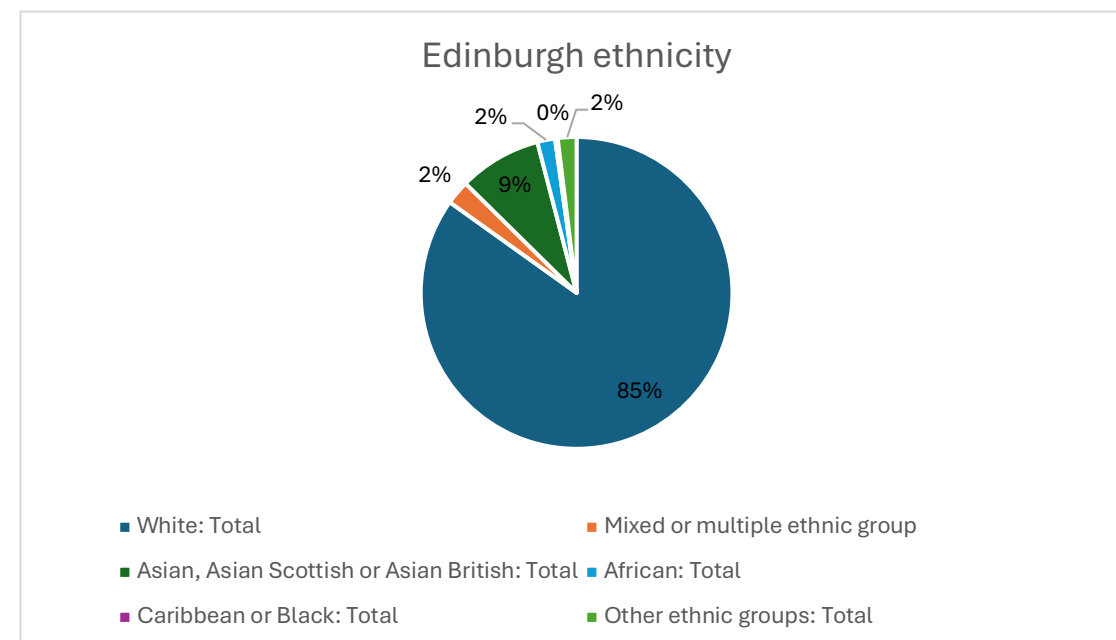
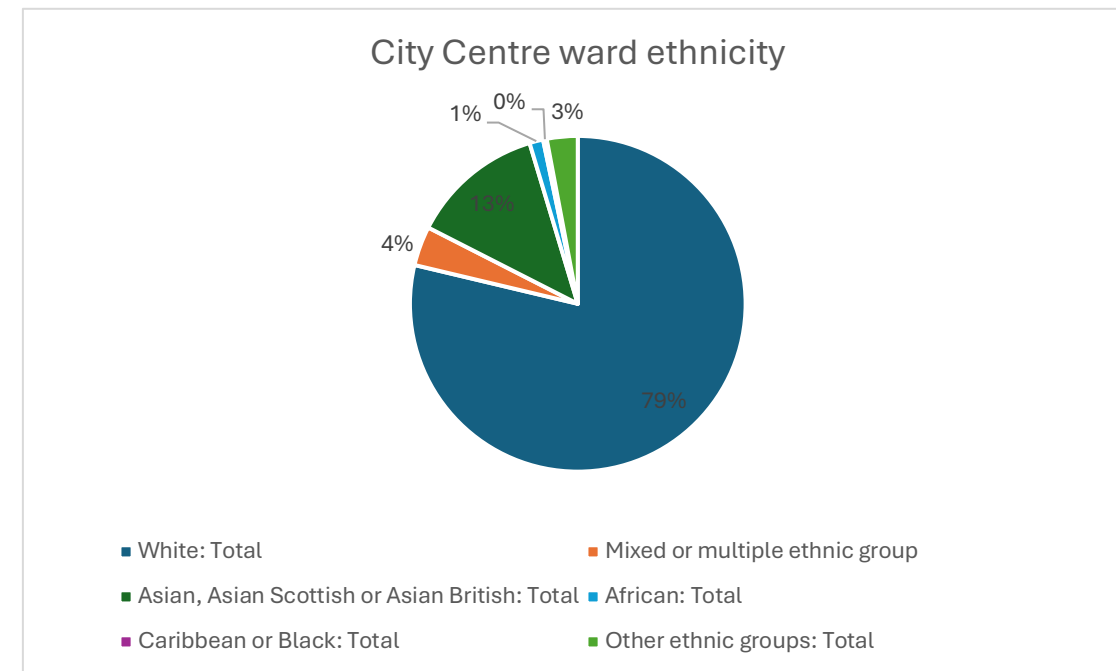
- Place mapping shows that the range of amenities is greater in the north and south of the ward aligning with population density while the centre of the ward is focused on commerce. Where more mixed ranges of amenities are located, they tend to be arranged close to town and local centres aligning with population density and transport access, forming part of compact neighbourhoods where mixed uses and tenement/other flatted development are common. This urban form is relatively continuous and connects to the wards surrounding the city centre.
- Overall, cultural spaces are well distributed around this ward, as the city centre acts as a regional cultural centre. Community-run spaces are concentrated on the south of the ward, with the New Town and West End having less or no provision.
- It is felt that there is a need for a better variety of shops and activities and more independent shops aimed at local needs rather than tourism.

People

Demographics

- The population of City Centre is 33,106, which is **6.4%** of the Edinburgh total of 514,543.
- This population is housed in 15,035 households, which is **6.4%** of the Edinburgh total of 238,944 households.
- The following sites located within the ward boundary are allocated within the adopted City Plan 2030:
 - OPP13 Gillespie Crescent – 166 homes.
 - OPP20 Broughton Market – 41 homes.
 - OPP21 East London Street – 41 homes.
 - H3 Chalmers Street (Eye Pavilion) – 68 homes.
 - City Plan 2030 allocates a total 248 households which would be a **1.6%** increase in households, compared to a projected 40,288 or **16.9%** increase for Edinburgh as a whole as set out in City Plan 2030.
 - This indicates that the City Centre will grow at a much lower rate than the city as a whole and this reflects the demand for other uses and lack of available sites for allocation in this area.
- The age breakdown of the ward is listed below:
 - The population aged 0-15 is 1,968 which is **5.9%** of the ward population compared to **14.58%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - The population aged 16-64 is 27,743 which is **83.8%** of the ward population compared to **69.5%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - The population aged 65+ is 3,384 which is **10.2%** of the ward population compared to **15.93%** for the Edinburgh total.

- The ethnicity breakdown of the ward is listed below:
 - The percentage of the population recorded as white is **78%** compared to **85%** for Edinburgh as a whole.
 - For the population recorded as not white, the largest groups represented are;
 - Chinese, Chinese Scottish or Chinese British (3,020)
 - Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Group (1,377)
 - Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British (812)



Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

- Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation mapping is shown below and shows this as a mixed ward with some data zones in the Canongate area reported as being within the 20% most deprived in Scotland and adjacent to Dumbiedykes also reporting high levels of deprivation, contrasting with large areas of the New Town and West End which are within the 20% least deprived.

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

Ward 11 - City Centre

Legend

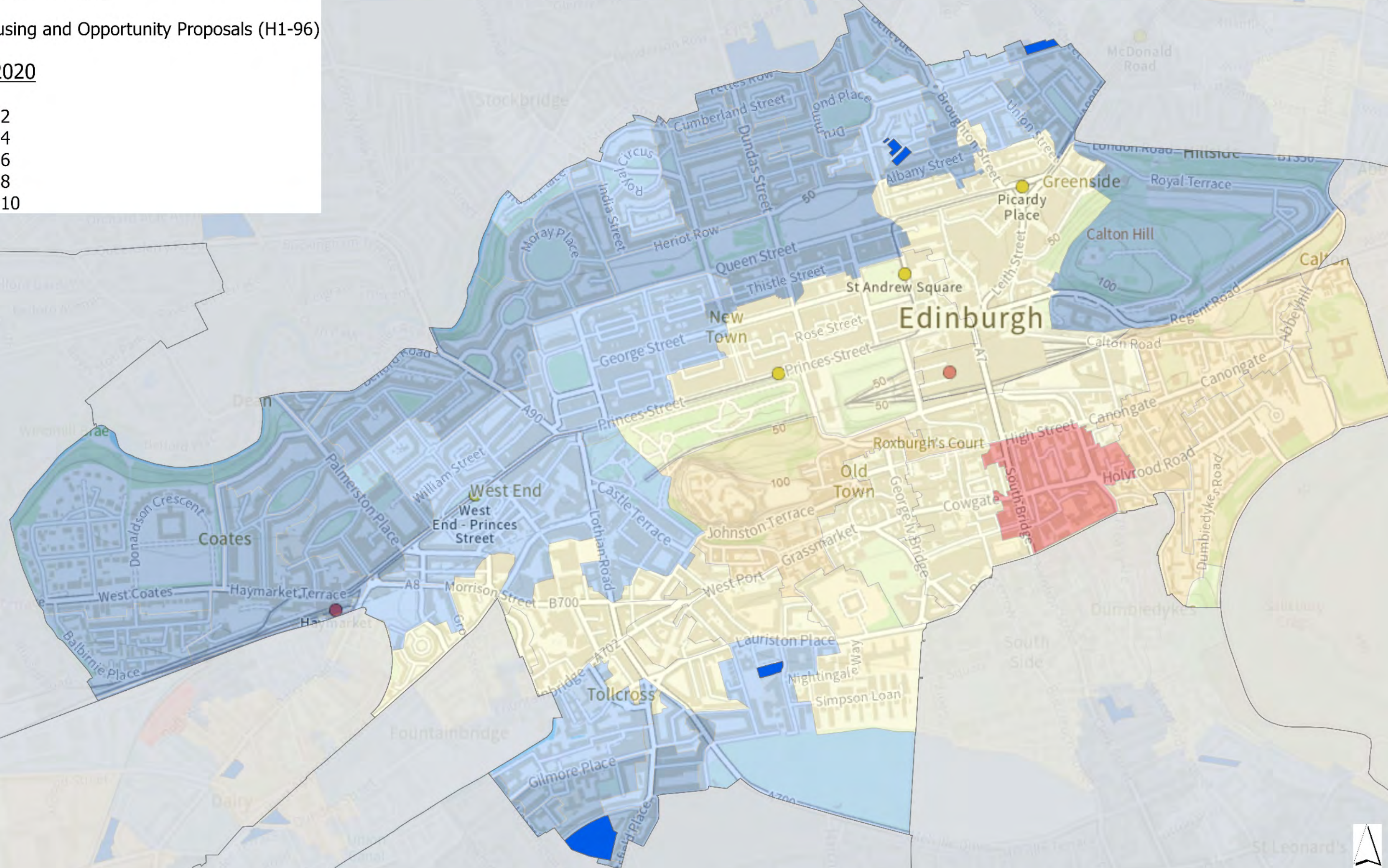
Other CEC Wards

Housing and Opportunity Proposals (H1-96)

SIMD 2020

Deciles

- 1 - 2
- 3 - 4
- 5 - 6
- 7 - 8
- 9 - 10



Considerations

- The population is expected to grow much slower than the Edinburgh average, due to its position as the economic centre of the city region leading to greater competition for land, high level of heritage value restricting the scale of redevelopment, the lack of available sites and resulting high cost of land and property.
- The working age population is much higher than the Edinburgh average, but the child age population and older population is much lower than the Edinburgh average.
- This ward is generally more diverse than Edinburgh as a whole, which may partially reflect the presence of the University of Edinburgh.
- Some areas of the ward are identified as being within the most 20% deprived in Scotland, concentrated in the Canongate areas. This contrasts with areas of the ward including the New Town and West End which sit within the 20% least deprived in Scotland.
- Engagement in this area raised concerns with short-term lets, poor road quality, age/condition of housing and anti-social behaviour in this ward and there is support for more space for pedestrians.

Health

Demographics

- **13.9%** of the ward population reported having a long-term illness or disease, compared to **18.1%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **15.5%** of the ward population reported having a long-term mental health condition, compared to **11.9%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **88.2%** of the ward population considered themselves to be in good or very good health, compared to **83.7%** of the Edinburgh population.
- The total number of dental registrations in this ward is **46,089**, greater than the ward population of **33,106**. Dental practices do not have fixed boundaries, indicating that people may travel to this ward for dental care.
- This ward has a ratio of **1 pharmacy per 2965.3 people** based on mid-2024 estimates compared to **1 pharmacy per 5006.4 people** for Edinburgh as a whole.
- It is estimated based on A&E attendances that **13.19%** of the ward have accessed A&E services in 2025, compared to **17.59%** for Edinburgh as a whole.
- For pregnant people in this ward who had a BMI reading taken between 2020 and 2025, **25.91%** were overweight and **11.02%** were obese. For Edinburgh as a whole, **29.1%** were overweight and **18.76%** were obese.
- For all people who had a BMI reading taken in 2025, **31.12%** were overweight and **21.1%** were obese. For Edinburgh as a whole, **32.56%** were overweight and **30.12%** were obese.
- As these BMI statistics are biased towards either all pregnant people or people who are more likely to have a BMI taken for medical reasons they should be viewed for comparison only, not as an accurate reading of population health statistics.
- Life expectancy data is based upon intermediate zones, which do not match with ward boundaries. For Edinburgh as a whole between 2022 and 2024 male life expectancy was **78.3 years** and female life expectancy was **82.2 years**. The life expectancy measured from 2019 to 20203 of the intermediate zones all or partially within this ward are as follows:
 - In Abbeyhill – Male life expectancy was **79 years** and female life expectancy was **86.6 years**.
 - Bruntsfield – Male life expectancy was **81.6 years** and female life expectancy was **84.3 years**.
 - Canongate, Southside & Dumbiedykes – Male life expectancy was **71.9 years** and female life expectancy was **79.1 years**.
 - Dalry & Fountainbridge – Male life expectancy was **77.1 years** and female life expectancy was **80 years**.
 - Deans Village – Male life expectancy was **83.4 years** and female life expectancy was **85.1 years**.
 - Hillside & Calton Hill – Male life expectancy was **81.2 years** and female life expectancy was **84.8 years**.

- Meadows & Southside – Male life expectancy was **91.3 years** and female life expectancy was **87 years**.
- New Town West – Male life expectancy was **83.5 years** and female life expectancy was **86.8 years**.
- Old Town, Princes Street & Leith Street – Male life expectancy was **72.9 years** and female life expectancy was **79.5 years**.
- Stockbridge – Male life expectancy was **83.7 years** and female life expectancy was **85.8 years**.
- Tollcross-City of Edinburgh – Male life expectancy was **75 years** and female life expectancy was **83.9 years**.

Uses likely to affect health and wellbeing and food access

- Town and local centres with identified clusters of unhealthy uses are set out in the **Health and Wellbeing topic paper** and **City, Town, Local and Commercial Centres topic paper**.
- There are no town and local centres with identified clusters of unhealthy uses within this ward.
- Parts of the ward, at Tollcross/Lothian Road, Bread Street/Grassmarket and Broughton Street, are included within areas of restriction for hot food takeaways, public houses and entertainment venues. This restricts but does not prevent all development of these types.
- The Priority Places for Food Index identifies neighbourhoods that are most vulnerable to increases in the cost of living and which have a lack of accessibility to cheap, healthy, and sustainable sources of food making them a Priority Place for Food as set out in the **Health and Wellbeing topic paper**.
- According to this index, there are no data zones within this ward falling within the top 20% priority areas lacking access.
- Due to the central location, hot food takeaway uses are distributed around this ward, except for some residential areas in the West End and New Town.

Hot Food Takeaways

Ward 11 - City Centre

Legend

Other CEC Wards

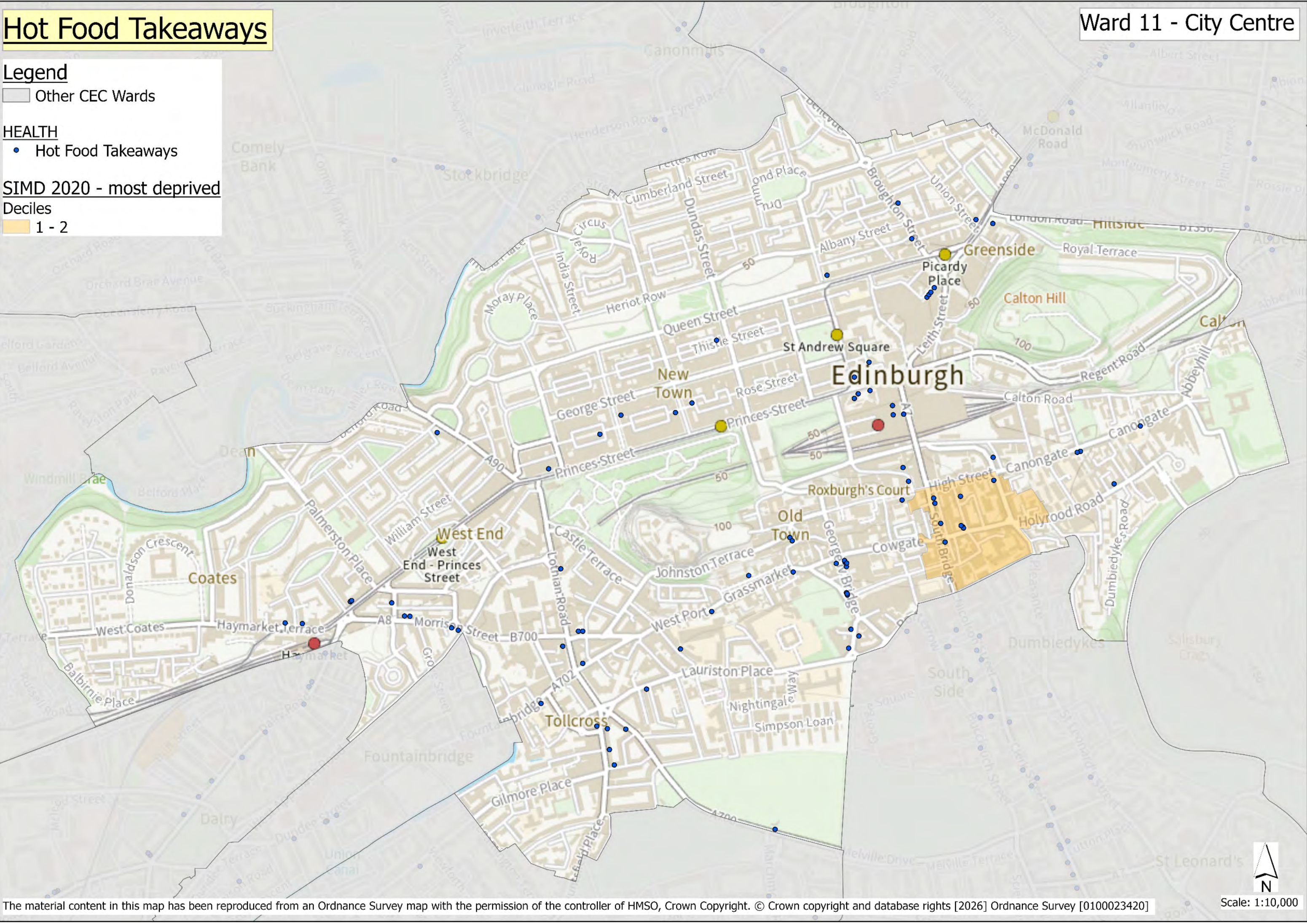
HEALTH

- Hot Food Takeaways

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

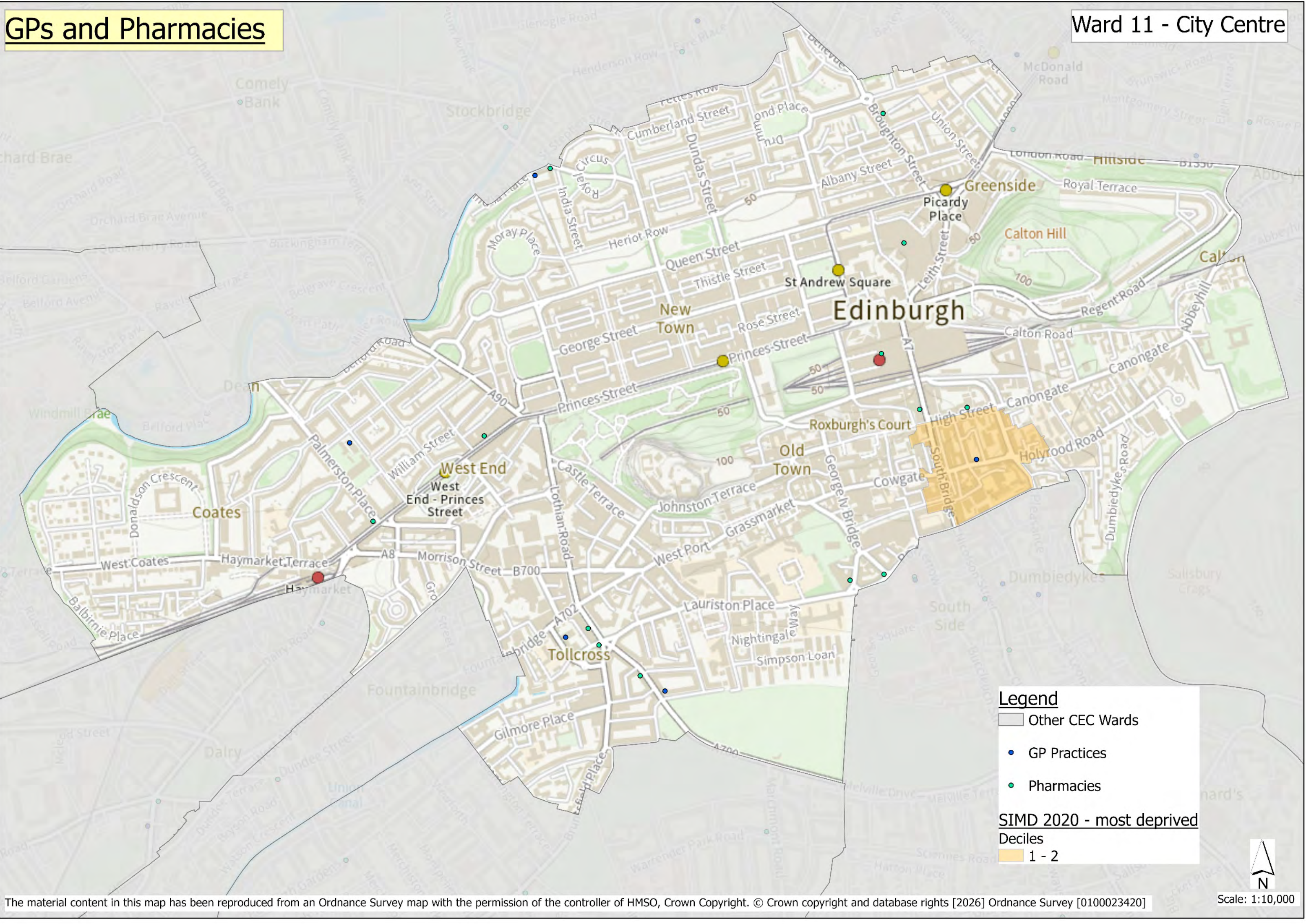
Deciles

1 - 2



GPs and Pharmacies

Ward 11 - City Centre



Legend

- Other CEC Wards
- GP Practices
- Pharmacies

SIMD 2020 - most deprived
Deciles
1 - 2

Considerations

- The percentage of people who report being in good or very good health is above the Edinburgh average, with fewer people having a long-term illness/disease than the Edinburgh average.
- The percentage of people who report having a long-term mental health condition is higher than the Edinburgh average.
- The location of health facilities is largely focussed around Tollcross and Lauriston, where population density tends to be higher, and fewer in the New Town and West End/Wester Coates areas.
- People in this ward feel that health facilities are in walking distance, but that there is a lack of GPs and NHS dentists.
- It should be noted that a business case informed by public consultation is to be prepared for the establishment of a Safer Drug Consumption Facility in Edinburgh and this would be likely to be located in the City Centre in Cowgate or Spittal Street. Consultation will be undertaken to account for local concerns and residential impact.

Housing

Housing type and density

- 1,191 households live in houses, which is **7.8%** compared with **36.8%** of the Edinburgh total, while 14,008, which is **92.1%**, live in flats compared with **63.2%** of the Edinburgh total. Nine live in a caravan or another mobile/temporary structure.
- Homelessness and rough sleeping is not included in the above statistics. The Edinburgh Rough Sleeping Count conducted by the Simon Community Scotland in September 2025 noted that the majority were in the City Centre, especially near places of worship (e.g, churches and mosques), likely because these places feel safer.
- The level of flatted accommodation is higher on average than the Edinburgh total and mapping shows this to be consistent across the ward with only a slight drop in Wester Coates and small parts of the New Town with a greater number of houses.
- Population density as measured by households per hectare is higher in Tollcross and parts of the New Town, with lower density showing across much of the central areas of the ward reflecting its value as a commercial location.

Housing tenure and overcrowding

- The housing tenure breakdown of the ward is listed below.
 - **40.4%** households in the ward report their housing tenure as Owned, compared to **60.1%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **14.1%** households in the ward report their housing tenure as Social Rented, compared to **15.7%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **43.8%** households in the ward report their housing tenure as Private Rented, compared to **23.1%** for the Edinburgh total.
- The level of owner occupation is lower than the Edinburgh average with private rental accommodation at a higher level, but households living in socially rented accommodation are only a slightly lower percentage than the Edinburgh average and mapping shows this to be concentrated in the Tollcross, Canongate and Dumbiedykes areas.
- The level of overcrowding as measured by Census reporting of number of people within occupiable rooms per household is higher in Tollcross, Canongate and Dumbiedykes areas, aligning with concentrations of social rented accommodation as above.

Density (Households per Hectare)

Ward 11 - City Centre

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Public Transport Stops

Type

- Bus
- Coach
- Rail
- Tram

Open Space

Centres

Commercial Centres

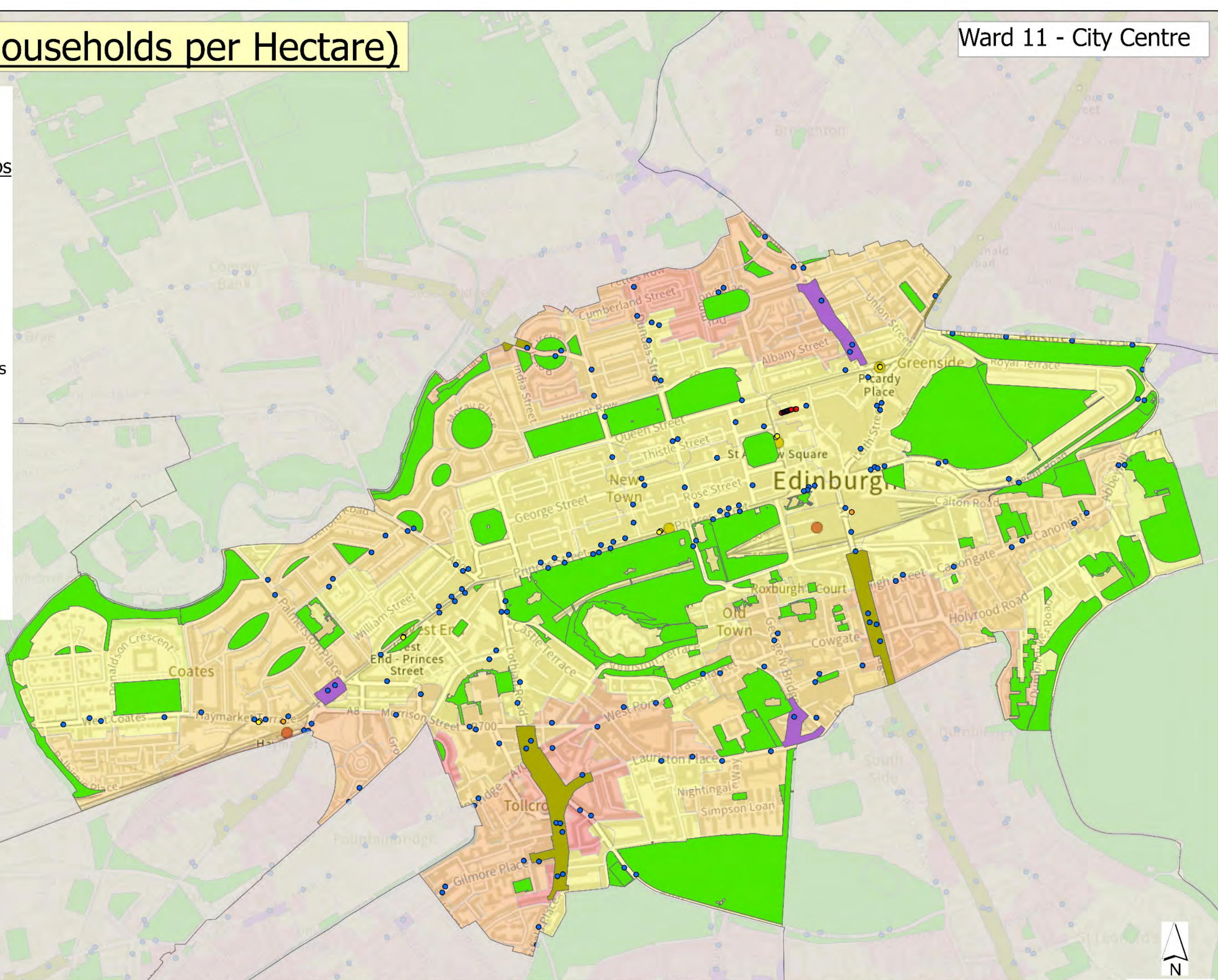
Town Centres

Local Centres

Datazones

Households Per Hectare

- 0 - 25
- 26 - 50
- 51 - 75
- 76 - 100
- 100+



Flats, Apartments and Maisonettes Percentage

Ward 11 - City Centre

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Town Centres

Public Transport Stops

Bus

Coach

Rail

Tram

Centres

Commercial Centres

Type

Open Space

Datazones

Households in flats as % of all Households

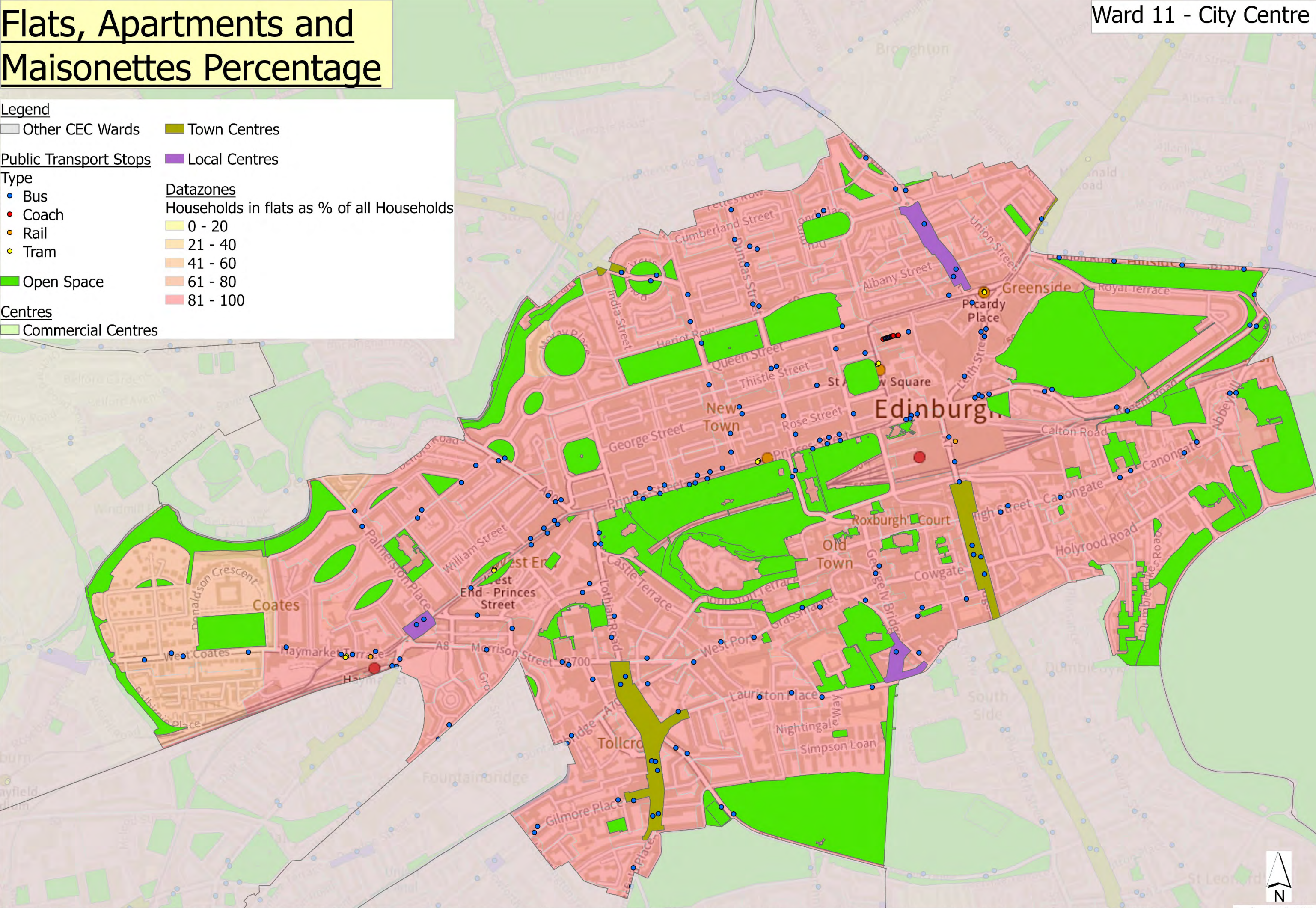
0 - 20

21 - 40

41 - 60

61 - 80

81 - 100



Households in Social Accommodation Percentage

Ward 11 - City Centre

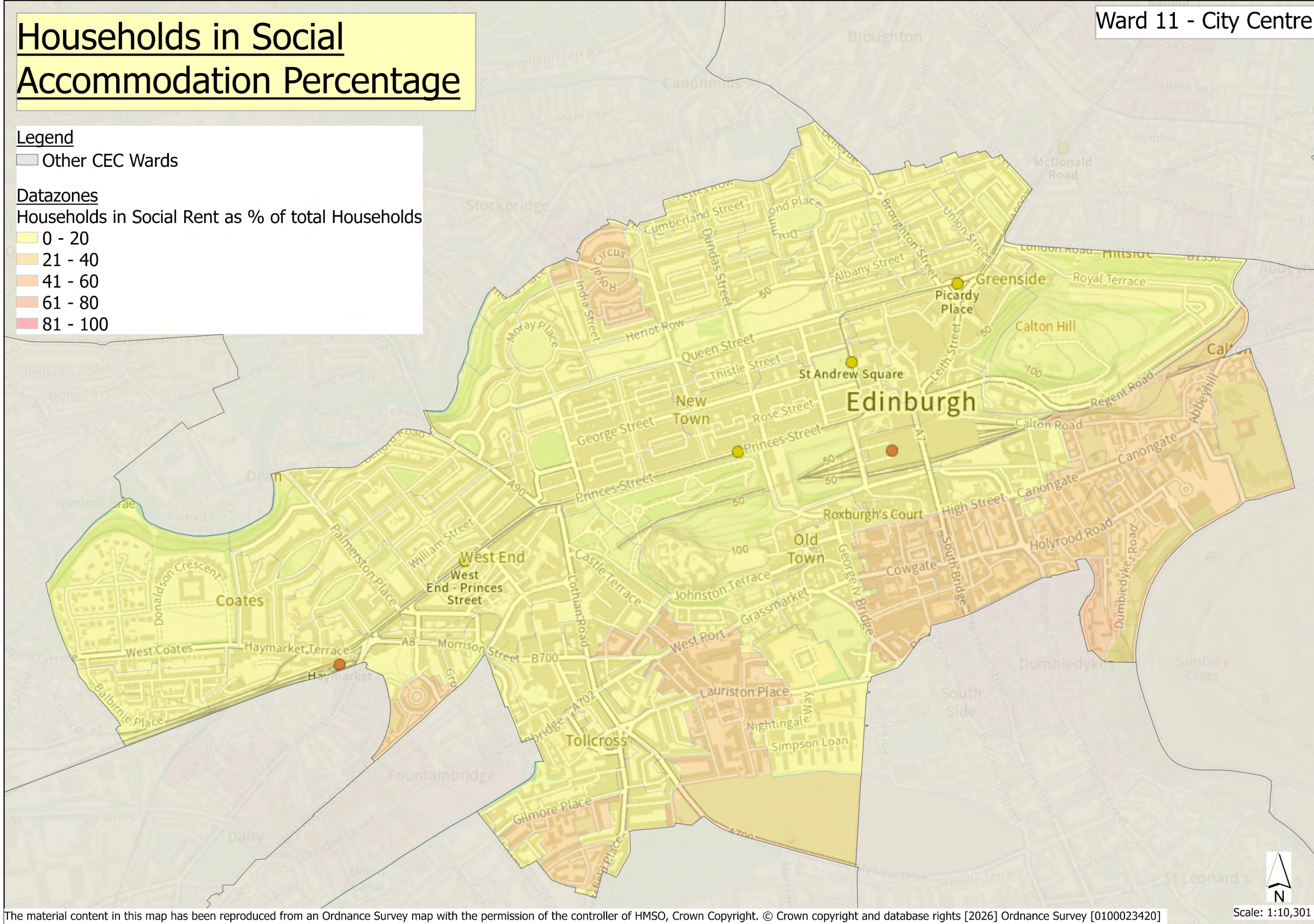
Legend

Other CEC Wards

Datazones

Households in Social Rent as % of total Households

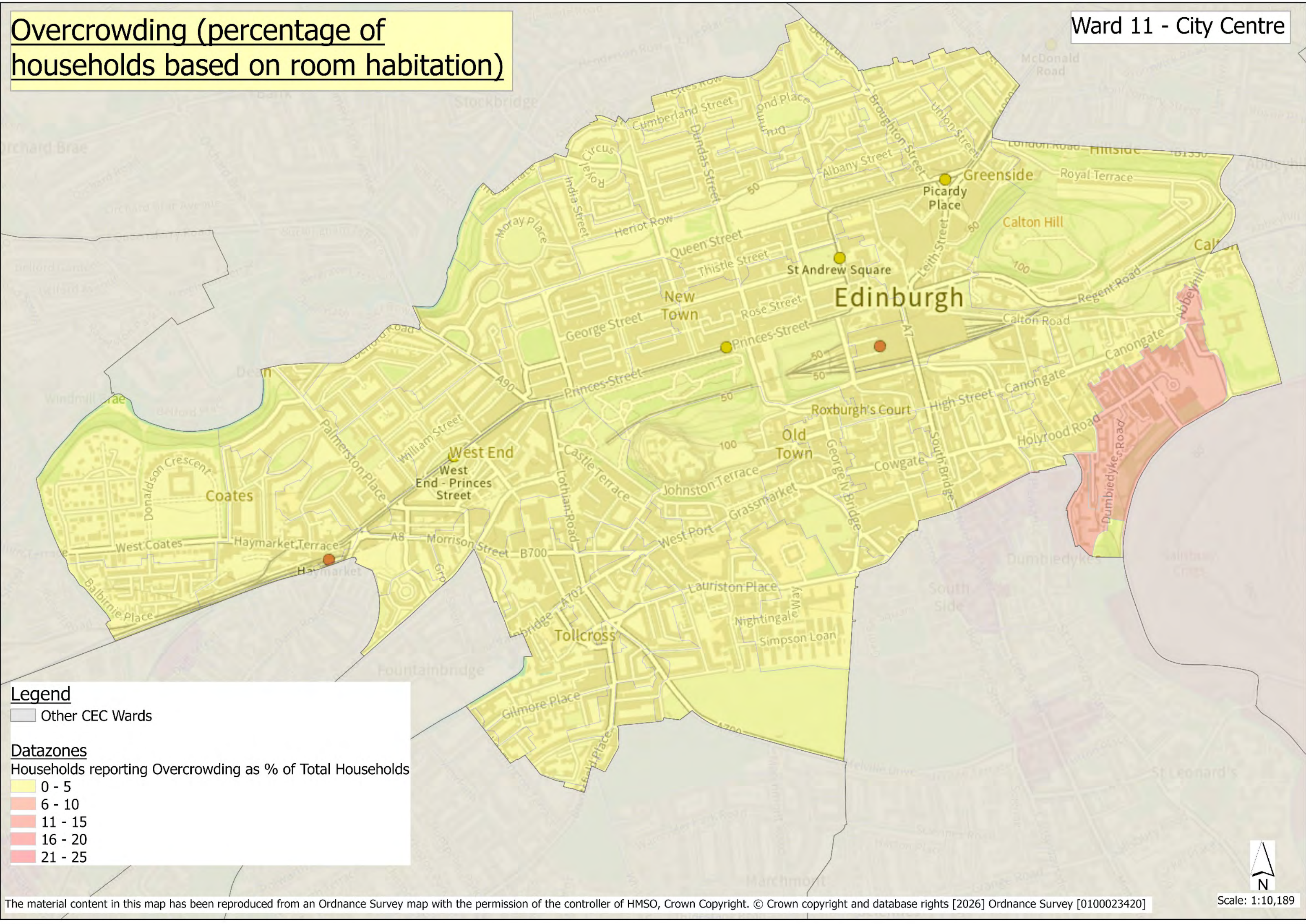
- 0 - 20
- 21 - 40
- 41 - 60
- 61 - 80
- 81 - 100



Scale: 1:10,301

Overcrowding (percentage of households based on room habitation)

Ward 11 - City Centre



Considerations

- Due to the commercial and institutional nature of the City Centre Ward, housing density is concentrated around the edges of the ward.
- Social housing is concentrated in the Tollcross, Canongate and Dumbiedykes areas and these areas see more overcrowding.
- Parts of this ward are noted for having a high number of student accommodation bedspaces, as set out in the **Student Accommodation topic paper**.
- Engagement responses show that people are generally happy with their home but are concerned about the lack of affordable options and number of short-term lets. There is also felt to be some conflict between conservation policy and housing improvements.

Economy

Demographics

- The occupation breakdown of the ward is listed below:
 - **9.8%** of people aged 16 or over in employment in the ward report their occupation as Managers, Directors and Senior Officials, compared to **8.7%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **33.4%** of people aged 16 or over in employment in the ward report their occupation as Professional Occupations, compared to **29.9%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **16.4%** of people aged 16 or over in employment in the ward report their occupation as Associate Professional and Technical Occupations, compared to **15.7%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **7.1%** of people aged 16 or over in employment in the ward report their occupation as Administrative and Secretarial Occupations, compared to **8.9%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **4.7%** of people aged 16 or over in employment in the ward report their occupation as Skilled Trade Occupations, compared to **7.2%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **5.4%** of people aged 16 or over in employment in the ward report their occupation as Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations, compared to **7.5%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **7.6%** of people aged 16 or over in employment in the ward report their occupation as Sales and Customer Service Occupations, compared to **7.2%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **2.8%** of people aged 16 or over in employment in the ward report their occupation as Process, Plant and Machine Operatives, compared to **4.3%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **12.7%** of people aged 16 or over in employment in the ward report their occupation as Elementary Occupations, compared to **10.6%** for the Edinburgh total.
- The qualification breakdown of the ward is listed below:
 - **4.6%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as No qualifications, compared to **9.7%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **8.9%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Lower school qualifications, compared to **14.3%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **19.2%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Upper school qualifications, compared to **4.4%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **1.6%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Apprenticeship qualifications, compared to **4.4%** for the Edinburgh total.

- **7.6%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Further Education and sub-degree Higher Education qualifications incl. HNC/HNDs, compared to **9.3%** for the Edinburgh total.
- **58.1%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Degree level qualifications or above, compared to **50%** for the Edinburgh total.

Employment designations and centres

- The mapping below shows areas designated for Strategic Business Centres, Business and Industry and Economic Importance, alongside the network of local, town, commercial and city centres and some known large employers mapped previously.

Employment and Economic Designations

Ward 11 - City Centre

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Public Transport Stops

Type

- Bus
- Coach
- Rail
- Tram

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

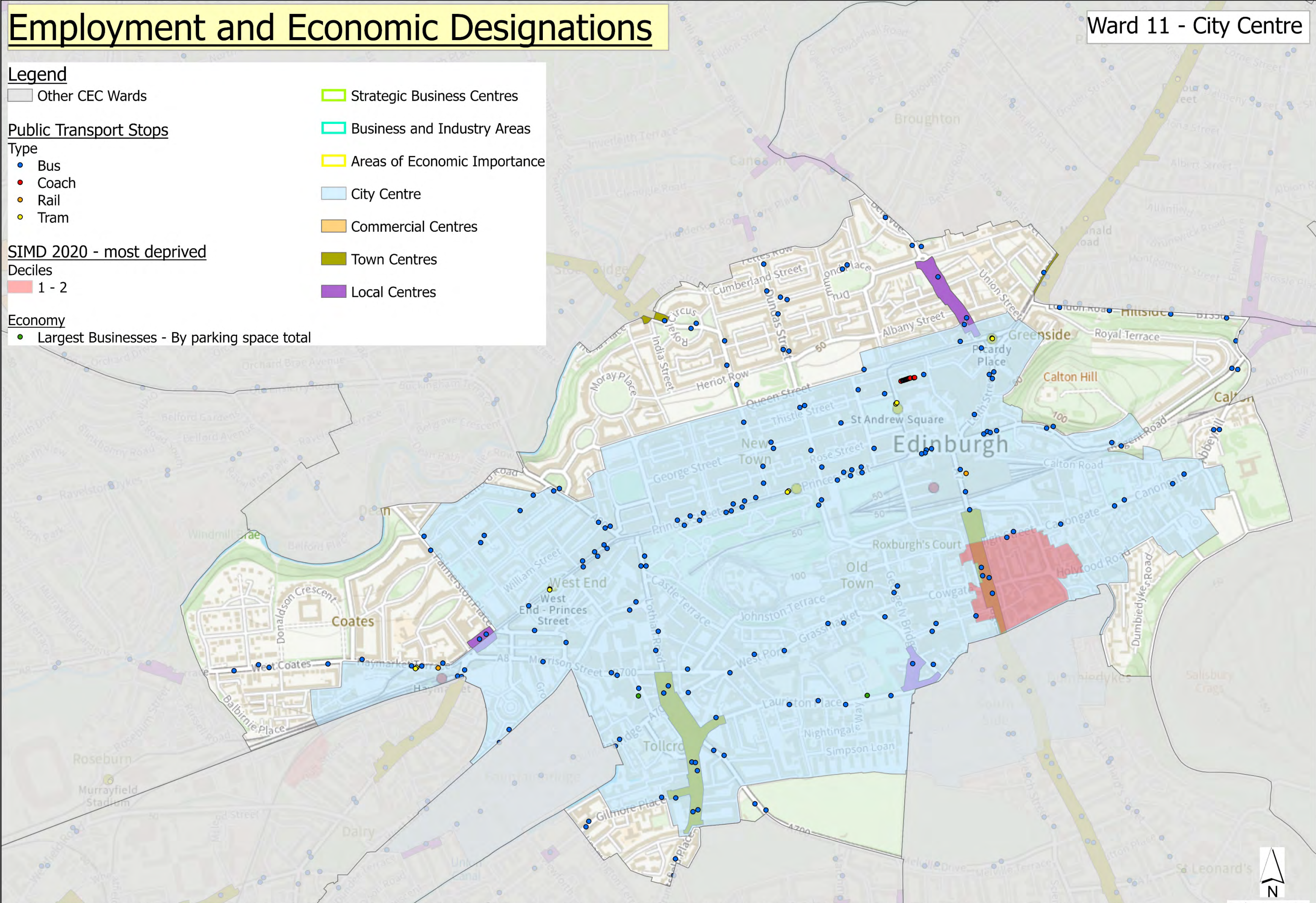
Deciles

1 - 2

Economy

- Largest Businesses - By parking space total

- Strategic Business Centres
- Business and Industry Areas
- Areas of Economic Importance
- City Centre
- Commercial Centres
- Town Centres
- Local Centres



Considerations

- The City Centre Ward is largely covered by the City Centre designation shown below which ensures it remains a centre for office investment and retail diversity while still allowing for appropriate residential development. Smaller town and local centres surround this either within or adjacent to the ward boundary allowing for more locally focussed amenities for the nearby population.
- The City Centre has a number of large and small employers as a major regional economic centre.
- People feel there is fair availability of jobs and volunteering but better distribution of information on these is needed.

Transport

Demographics

- The breakdown of the primary method of travel to work is listed below:
 - **41.9%** of the working population report mainly working from or at home, compared to **39%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **13.2%** of the working population report driving a car or van, compared to **25.1%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **13.2%** of the working population report travelling by public transport (bus, minibus, coach, train, underground, subway or tram), compared to **16.7%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **3.7%** of the working population report travelling by bike, compared to **3.8%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **24.8%** of the working population report travelling on foot, compared to **12%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **44.6%** of households in the ward have access to a car or van, compared to **62.3%** of the Edinburgh total.

Car and van access and driving to work

- The areas where households have greater access to cars or vans tend to be concentrated in parts of the New Town and Wester Coates where population density and deprivation are both generally lower. Access remains very low for the majority of the ward outwith these areas.
- Use of cars for driving to work is low across the ward, reflecting its central location and high level of public transport access.

Public Transport

- Public Transport Accessibility Levels (PTAL) is calculated based on service patterns and stops and is mapped below from 1 (lowest level of accessibility) to 6 (the highest level). A rating of 3 or higher is considered to have a good level of access.
- The City Centre Ward generally has a good level of access across its area. Poor access is concentrated in fringe areas of lower population density and more green space but there is a notable gap around parts of Canongate and Dumbiedykes which tend to have a higher level of deprivation than much of the rest of the ward.

Active travel

- Key active travel routes include the City Centre West East Link and the Meadows Route, which link into the city-wide network. There are a few routes in the New Town focussed on quiet streets and/or inconsistent temporary measures requiring some joining of traffic.
- The City Mobility Plan has identified projects across the Old and New Towns, as well as Lothian Road and Tollcross, to increase space for walking, wheeling and cycling. These will be connecting to the existing Active Travel network, with a key focus being a key north-south route between the Meadows and George Street (and a separate project for George Street and surrounds) to connect parts of the network which are currently separate.

Households with no car or van access percentage

Ward 11 - City Centre

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Datazones

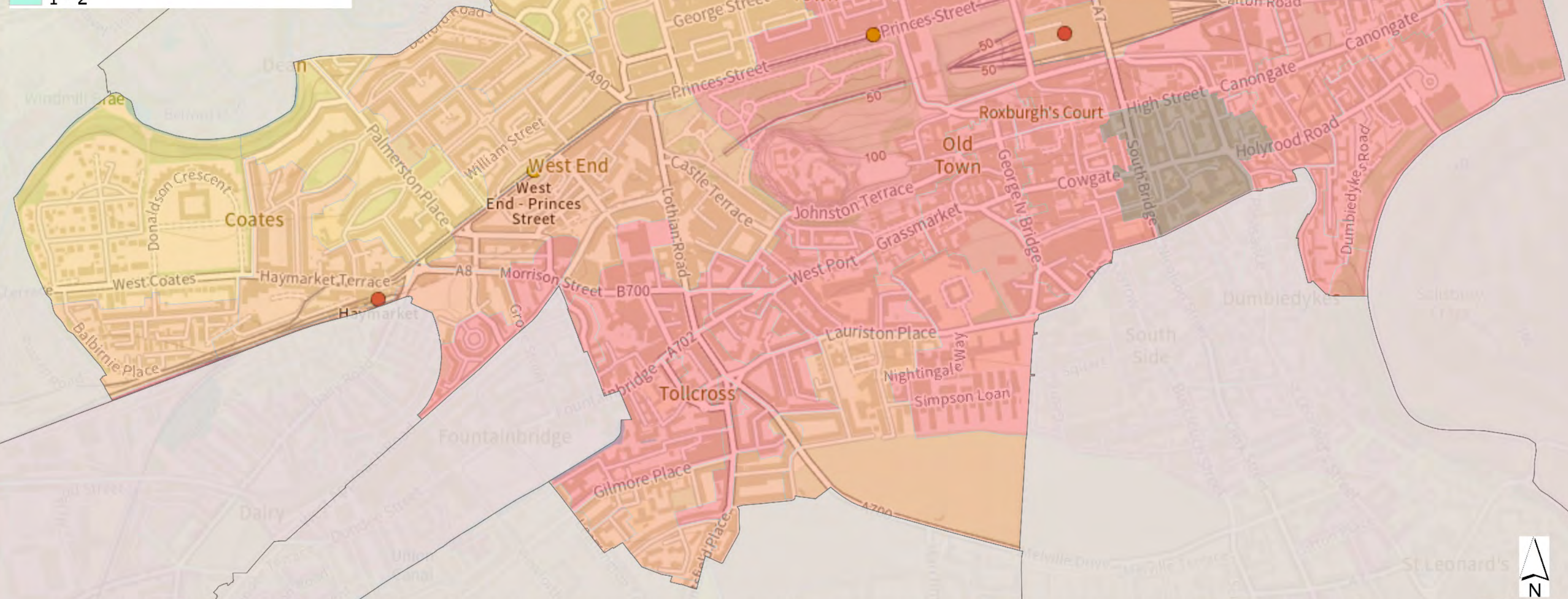
% Households with no Car or Van Access

- 0 - 15
- 16 - 30
- 31 - 45
- 46 - 60
- 60+

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

- 1 - 2



Driving a car or van to work percentage

Ward 11 - City Centre

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Datzones

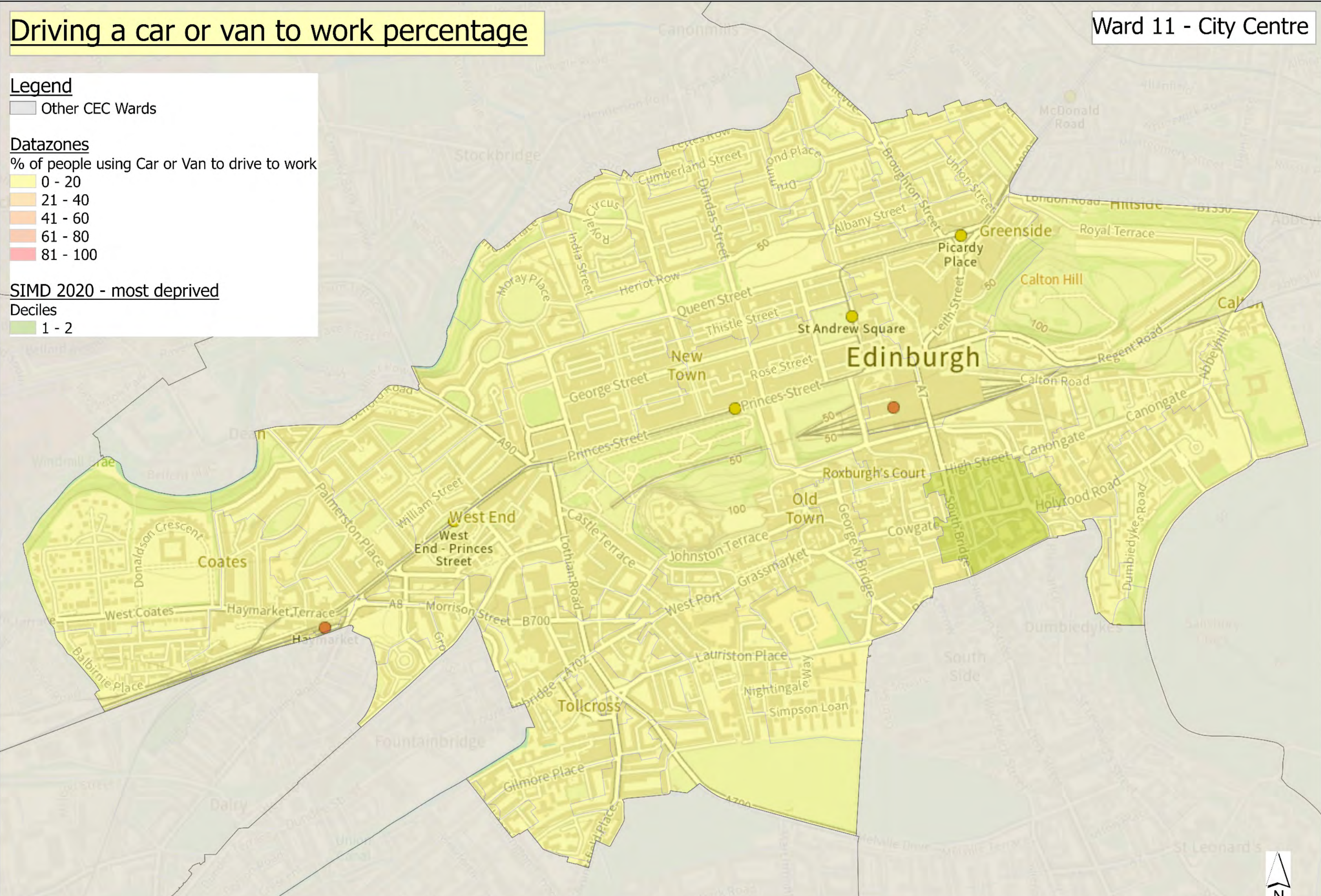
% of people using Car or Van to drive to work

- 0 - 20
- 21 - 40
- 41 - 60
- 61 - 80
- 81 - 100

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

- 1 - 2



Public Transport Accessibility

Ward 11 - City Centre

Legend

Other CEC Wards

TRANSPORT

Bus Improvements and Orbital CP2030

FUTURE TRAM

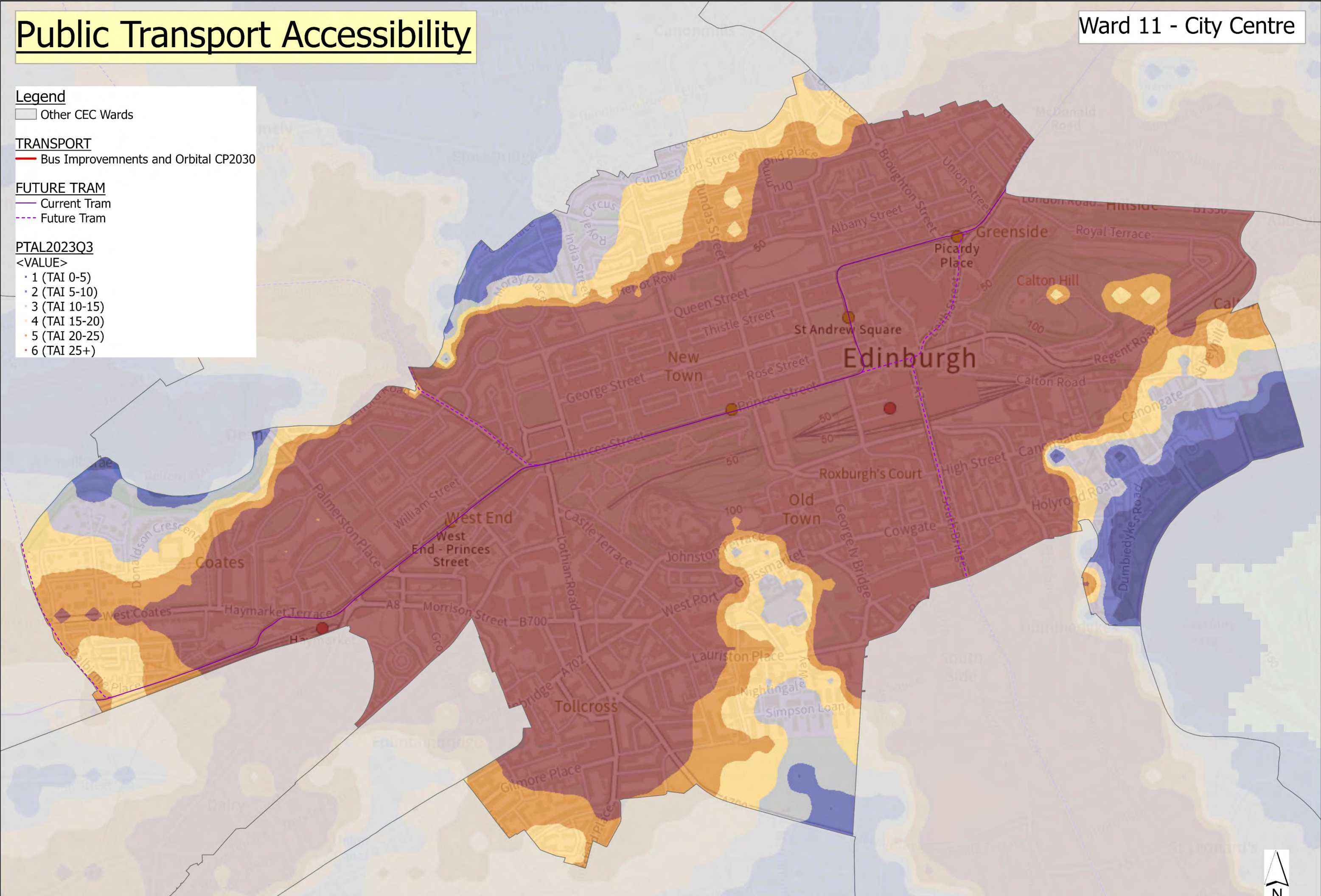
Current Tram

Future Tram

PTAL2023Q3

<VALUE>

- 1 (TAI 0-5)
- 2 (TAI 5-10)
- 3 (TAI 10-15)
- 4 (TAI 15-20)
- 5 (TAI 20-25)
- 6 (TAI 25+)



Active Travel Mapping

Ward 11 - City Centre

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Public Transport Stops

Type

- Bus
- Coach
- Rail
- Tram

Bus Improvemnts and Orbital CP2030

FUTURE TRAM

- Current Tram
- Future Tram

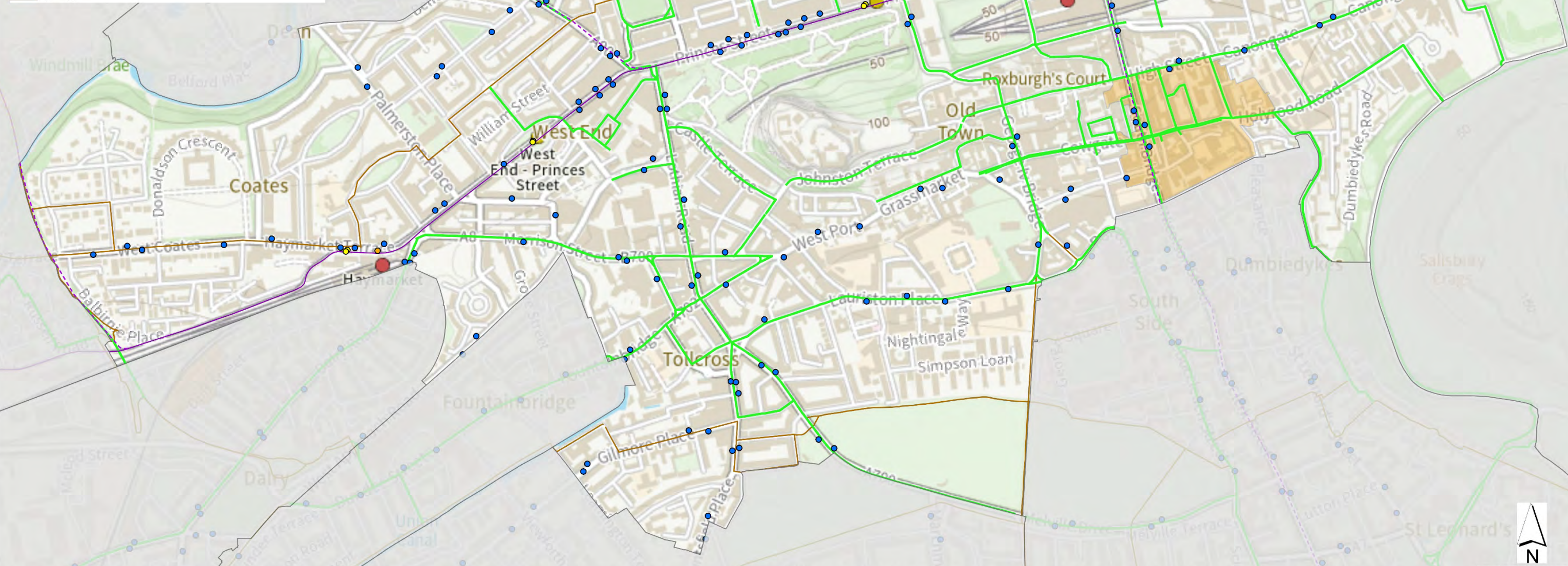
CMP Projects

Safe Cycling Network

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

- 1 - 2



Considerations

- Low levels of car and van access are reported across much of the ward and few report driving to work. Levels of walking as the main method of travel to work are much higher than the Edinburgh average, reflecting the central position of the City Centre.
- Good levels of Public Transport accessibility cover the majority of the ward, with a notable gap in parts of the Canongate and Dumbiedykes, which has a higher level of deprivation than much of the rest of the ward.
- City Mobility Plan improvements are proposed to be brought forward around many streets in this ward, including both strategic links and local improvements focused on the walking environment.
- There is general support for more space for active travel in the ward.

Environment

Blue green network and biodiversity

- Open spaces are well dispersed throughout the ward with a number of key parks in or close to the City Centre.
- Mapping has been produced showing Edinburgh's Green Blue Network at the strategic, city-wide scale. It shows infrastructure important for water management, biodiversity and recreation. It includes both local and national designations to show how they are interconnected.
- Although the City Centre ward has a central position and is densely developed, there are a number of open spaces of high importance for public access to green space, biodiversity and heritage, in particular Calton Hill, Princes Street Gardens and the Meadows. Part of the ward borders the Water of Leith which is a key green corridor and recreational route for Edinburgh. The contrast between densely built environment and green/open space is a key characteristic of the City Centre.
- The Water of Leith is important not just as an existing greenspace but as a corridor for continued potential enhancement. Princes Street Gardens and Calton Hill are identified as part of a similar corridor crossing the City Centre and Waverley Valley.
- The New Town and West End areas include a number of green spaces under shared private ownership. They are not publicly accessible, being planned as gardens for the Georgian expansion of the city but have local amenity, heritage and biodiversity value.

Growing Spaces

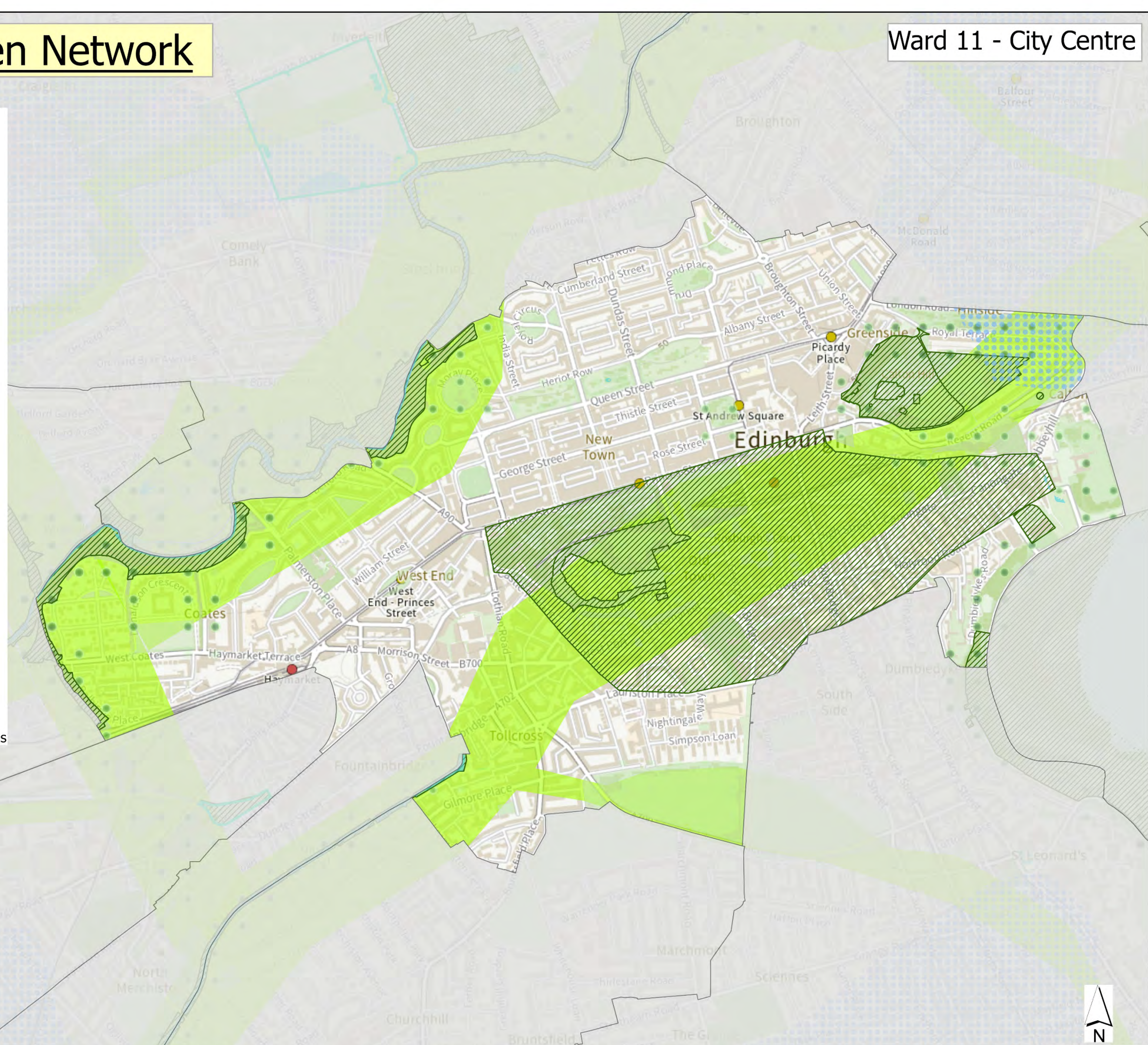
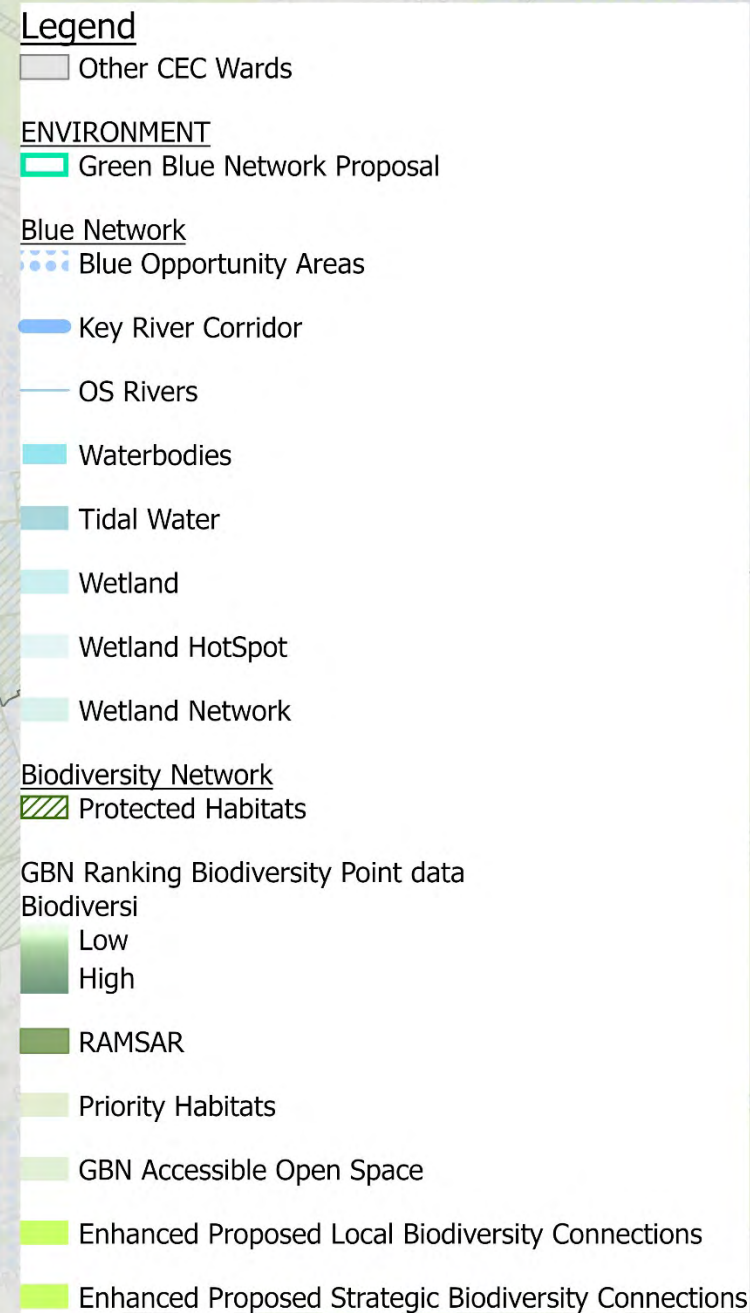
- Growing spaces mapped include Council-run allotments and community-run growing spaces, which are displayed together to show opportunities for food and other growing in the ward.
- There are no Council allotments in this ward. Community growing spaces are concentrated in the southern portion of the ward, aligning approximately with areas of higher deprivation when compared to the north which has only one community growing space.

Ward 11 - City Centre

Scale: 1:10,459

Strategic Blue Green Network

Ward 11 - City Centre



Growing Spaces

Ward 11 - City Centre

Legend

Other CEC Wards

ENVIRONMENT

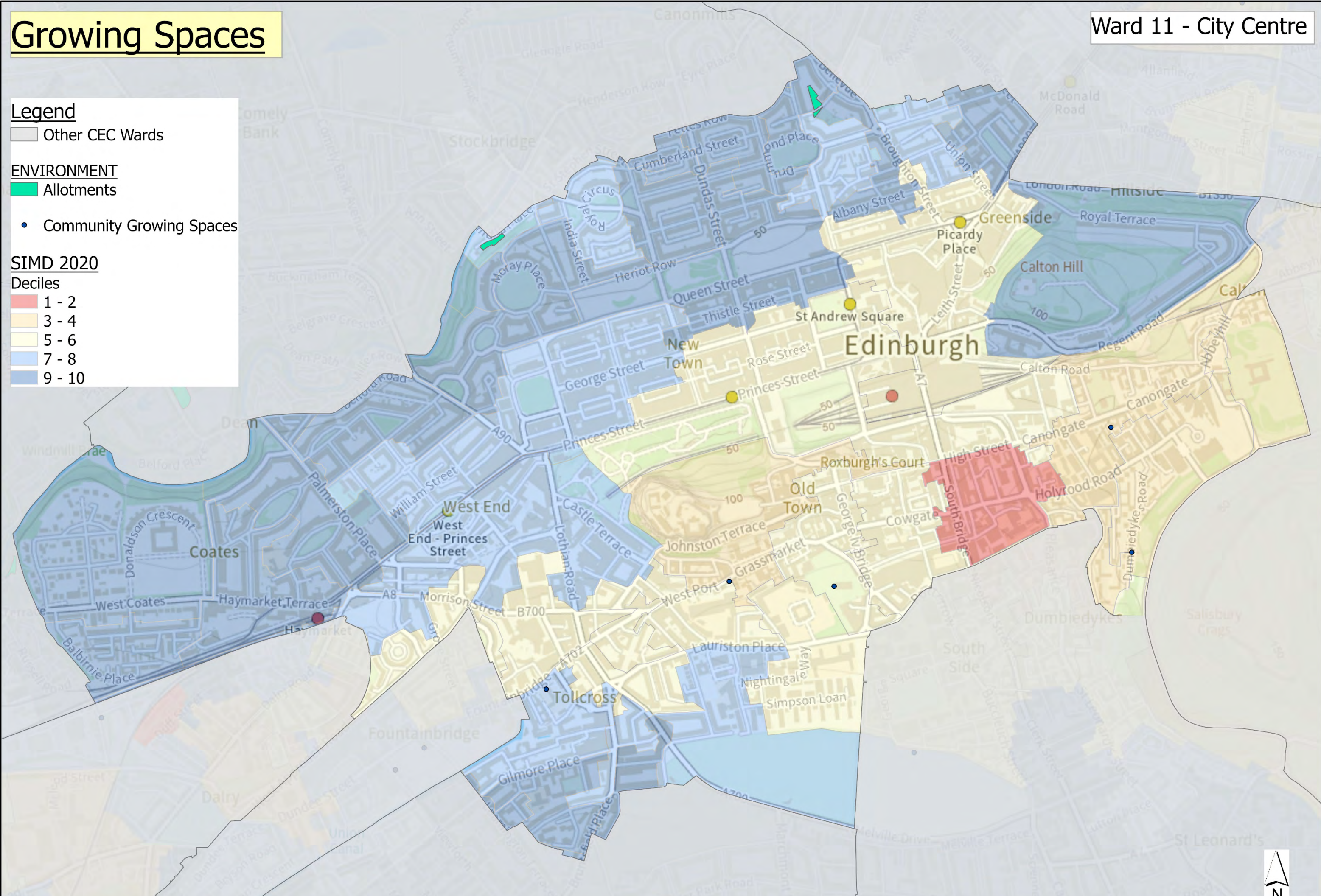
Allotments

Community Growing Spaces

SIMD 2020

Deciles

1 - 2
3 - 4
5 - 6
7 - 8
9 - 10



Considerations

- Green blue corridors are noted crossing the City Centre and along the adjacent Water of Leith, and although this ward has a very central location with a high density of development there is a mix of local and larger open spaces as well as residents-only gardens mainly found in the New Town and West End areas.
- Opportunities for food growing are concentrated in the Tollcross, Canongate and Dumbiedykes areas, with fewer opportunities in the northern portion of the ward which tend to have better garden access and lower levels of deprivation.
- People generally feel that open spaces needed more cleaning/maintenance. There is support for a bigger variety of activities, more growing spaces and greenery.

Appendix

This report details the consultation and engagement information utilised when creating the City Centre Place Profile.

The document includes the area-specific results from two “what makes a good place?” questionnaires: one for public at large and another for children and young people. In addition, the report outlines the results received from previous engagements undertaken by the Council services and other stakeholders in the ward.

A total of 2649 responses to “What makes a good place?” questionnaires were received. Out of these, 799 were from public at large and 1850 were from children and young people. These were then divided and matched with one of the 17 Wards.

A total of 54 responses were received for the City Centre Ward. Out of these, 43 were from public at large and 11 were from children and young people studying at the local schools.

Results

In this chapter, the results for the ward are further divided into seven categories – Housing, Health, Transport, Economy, Culture, Environment and Place. These categories correspond with the Place Profile structure. Each category presents the results from the public at large then the children and young people where similar questions were asked.

Housing

Public at large

How happy are you with your home?

- 13 Very happy
- 19 Happy
- 7 Neutral
- 2 Unhappy
- 0 Very unhappy

If you could change one thing, comments

- Bigger home/owning not renting
- Residents report seeing a lot of people with drug problems, syringes; not feeling safe.

How well do the homes in your area meet the needs of people living there?

- 3 Very good
- 20 Good
- 10 Neutral
- 8 Bad
- 1 Terrible

Homes in the area, comments

- **Good:** Well-maintained housing with a fair mix of different options. Majority likes good access to all kinds of services and transport links.
- **Bad/change:** Less STL. More affordable housing. Conflict between conservation area and improving housing.

What is your area like for the shops and services you need?

- 1 Very good
- 18 Good
- 3 Neutral
- 6 Bad
- 2 Terrible

Shops and services, comments

- **Good:** Good variety within walking distance.
- **Bad/change:** More independent shops serving local needs (e.g. butchers, fishmongers).

Thinking of your local shops and services, do you think there is too much of anything?

- 23 Yes
- 17 No
- 3 Don't know

What there is too much of, comments

- Tourist shops, takeaways

Children and Young People

Are you happy with your home (the building)?

- 5 Yes
- 6 It's OK
- 0 It's not good
- 0 It's bad

If you could change one thing, comments

- Nicer neighbours
- Change nothing

Do you have all the shops and things you need near your home?

- 0 Too many
- 8 Right amount
- 2 Not enough
- 0 None

Shops and things, comments

Too many unhealthy or unaffordable shops, needs better range of shops/activities or play spaces.

Health

Public at large

What is your area like for the healthcare facilities you need?

- 14 Very good
- 18 Good
- 8 Neutral
- 2 Bad
- 0 Terrible

Healthcare facilities, comments

- **Good:** In walking distance
- **Bad/change:** More GPs and dentists.

Transport

Public at large

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

- 18 Very easy
- 10 Easy
- 10 Neutral
- 3 Difficult
- 2 Very difficult

Walk, wheeling, cycling, comments

- **Good:** Close to different parts of the city to walk.
- **Bad/change:** Less motor traffic, wider and better maintained pavements, more segregated cycle lanes

How easy is it to get to where you need or want to go by public transport?

- 15 Very easy
- 22 Easy
- 6 Neutral
- 0 Difficult
- 0 Very difficult

Public transport, comments

- **Good:** Plenty of buses options. Availability of trams and trains. Buses are reliable and affordable.
- **Bad/change:** Reduce congestion (remove motor) to speed up journeys.

How do you feel about the traffic and parking in your area?

- 2 Very happy
- 7 Happy
- 9 Neutral
- 18 Unhappy
- 6 Very unhappy

Traffic and parking comments

- **Good:** Good strict laws and good enforcement.
- **Bad/change:** Converting space allocated for cars (parking lots and roads) for pedestrians and cyclists. More priority for locals and their visitors.

Princes Street and Waverley Valley

- All public realm proposals were supported, with resurfaced footways being the top priority. Improved pedestrian crossings and wider pavements at the east end are strongly supported.
- New public seating and the West Garden links were ranked as second and third priorities. Central community councils wished to see garden access plans expedited.
- Stakeholders expect measures to be high quality, with consistent street furniture across the New Town and proper maintenance of improvements.
- Most respondents didn't support segregated cycle lanes for the full length of Princes Street (60% against, 22 % for). An even split, 39% were for and 39% were against, cycle lane connections at the street's east and west ends.
- Some members of the public and stakeholders felt provision for cycling should be viewed in context with planned cycle network on George Street and Queen Street.

Children and Young People

We know that walking, cycling, wheeling are great ways of getting around – it's good for you and good for the environment. Is there anything that stops you from getting around this way?

- Prefer to travel by public transport/ car, bad weather stops me and I don't feel safe walking around.

Public transport (buses, trams and trains) is great as it can reduce the number of cars on the road. What do you think about public transport in your area?

- It's great - I use it a lot, takes too long and not always on time

There is a tram that goes from the Airport to Newhaven. Do you think a tram line from Granton to the Sick Kids Hospital, going through the city centre, is a good idea?

- 8 Yes
- 1 No
- 1 Don't know
- 1 Don't care

Economy

Public at large

How are the opportunities for work, volunteering and training in your area?

- 2 Very good
- 13 Good
- 21 Neutral
- 3 Bad
- 2 Terrible

Work, volunteering and training, comments

- **Good:** Fair availability of jobs, volunteering.
- **Bad/change:** More information distributed

Culture

Public at large

How good are the spaces and opportunities where you can meet up with friends and other people?

- 8 Very good
- 20 Good
- 9 Neutral
- 5 Bad
- 1 Terrible

Spaces to meet people, comments

- **Good:** Lots of green spaces, cafes, restaurants, pubs.
- **Bad/change:** Free sheltered space for community

How is the community space in your area?

- 0 Very good
- 12 Good
- 19 Neutral
- 8 Bad
- 0 Terrible

Community spaces, comments

- **Good:** None or very little.
- **Bad/change:** More quality, more of them.

Discussions with the West End Community Council highlighted that there are no council spaces such as schools, libraries or community centres within its boundary.

What clubs are missing / would you like to see in your area?

- More/greater range of sports
- Better range of non-sports activities

Are there enough things for you to do on your weekends and holidays?

- 3 Yes
- 4 Sometimes
- 4 No
- 0 Don't know

There are many free art galleries and museums in Edinburgh. Do you go to any of them?

- 2 Often
- 2 Sometimes
- 4 Very rarely
- 3 Never

If you selected 'Never' or 'Very Rarely', tell us why

No one to go with, no idea what there is, hard to get there and makes me nervous.

Children and Young People

If you go out to play, socialise, or hang out, where would you go?

- Friend's house, food & drink places/ going into town and playgrounds.

Are there enough activities, community clubs, and groups for young people to do within your local area?

- 2 There are plenty
- 2 There are a few
- 2 There are some, but I do not like them
- 1 Yes, but they cost too much
- 4 None that I know about

Environment

Public at large

How happy are you with the number of green and natural spaces in your place?

- 17 Very happy
- 15 Happy
- 6 Neutral
- 4 Unhappy
- 1 Very unhappy

Open and natural spaces, comments

- **Good:** Good number of different kinds of green spaces around.
- **Bad/change:** More trees on the streets, small pocket parks in the immediate area.

What is the access to growing spaces like now?

- 4 Very happy
- 6 Happy
- 22 Neutral
- 8 Unhappy
- 4 Very unhappy

Growing spaces, comments

- Not enough/none

Climate change, comments

- Concerns about flooding
- Current heating should be replaced. District heating is favoured, especially for tenements.

How would you rate the number green and open spaces in your local area to play ball games such as football, cricket, rugby, golf, basketball, tennis, bowls etc.?

- 5 Very happy
- 16 Happy
- 16 Neutral
- 2 Unhappy
- 2 Very unhappy

Ball game spaces, comments

- **Good:** Good availability
- **Bad/change:** Bigger variety of sports would be good

How happy are you with the number of green and open spaces for children and young people to play and hang-out around in your area?

- 4 Very happy
- 10 Happy
- 19 Neutral
- 5 Unhappy
- 3 Very unhappy

Outdoor play spaces, comments

- Not enough in vicinity/none in vicinity

Princes Street and Waverley Valley

- People value the Gardens as a place to walk or wheel, take a route across the city centre, get fresh air and for tranquillity and relaxation.
- Improvements to toilets, cafes and furniture, and planting to support nature and climate change – would encourage people to visit the Gardens, alongside organised activities based on environmental matters, culture and history.
- 12% of respondents would join a Friends Group and 14% volunteering activities.
- Over 50% of respondents supported keeping and improving the Ross Bandstand, compared to 33% supporting its replacement.
- 70% support redesign of the amphitheatre to improve access and its usability.

Children and Young People

How often do you go outside to play or hang out in your local area (not counting school times)?

- 0 Almost every day
- 2 A few days a week
- 2 Once a week
- 5 Rarely
- 1 I don't go outdoors to play or hang out

Are there enough good parks or greenspaces near you to play/hang out?

- 3 Yes, there are lots
- 7 There are a few
- 0 No, there aren't enough
- 0 No, there aren't any

What is your favourite park or greenspace in Edinburgh?

- Montgomery Street Park

Think about your favourite places for you to hang out/play. What do you like about it?

- It is close to home/easy to get to, it is clean and tidy, has benches or places to sit and wildlife/nature.

What stops you from using the outdoors/parks more often?

- Bad weather/too dark in winter, hard to organise meeting up with friends, equipment is only for little kids and no toilets, no cafes.

How could the places where you hang out be better?

- More/better facilities for older kids
- Safer

Are the outdoor spaces you go to clean?

- 1 Very clean
- 3 Clean
- 5 OK
- 1 Dirty
- 1 Very Dirty

Outdoor play equipment

- 6 In good condition
- 2 Needs fixing
- 0 Needs cleaned/painted
- 2 Needs replacing
- 1 There is not enough or any play equipment

How safe do you feel when hanging out or moving around in your local area?

- 3 I always feel safe
- 7 I sometimes feel safe
- 1 I never feel safe

How safe do you feel when hanging out or moving around in your local area?

- Concerns over unsafe people/groups
- Feeling unsafe in dark/at night

How close are you with nature?

- 0 7 (closest to nature)
- 2 6
- 3 5
- 3 4
- 1 3
- 1 2
- 1 1 (furthest away from nature)

What could be done to help nature in your local area?

- Cleaner/less litter
- More trees and greenery

Are you worried about the impact of climate change in your area? Do you want to tell us more?

- Yes, concern over cleanliness/pollution in local area

Place

Public at large

How happy are you with your area?

- 6 Very happy
- 25 Happy
- 6 Neutral
- 5 Unhappy
- 1 Very unhappy

What would you change, comments

- Less short-term lets, more pedestrian friendly, less drug-related concerns.

Any other comments

- Less short-term lets, overtourism.

Children and Young People

Is there anything else you want to tell us that we haven't asked you about?

- Concern over age/condition of housing
- Roads are poor quality

Data Sources

- Council Mapping, City of Edinburgh Council, April 2026
- [Scotland's Census 2022, National Records of Scotland accessed April 2025](#)
- [What makes a good place?, City of Edinburgh Council February 2026](#)
- Edinburgh Ward analysis of ScotPHO Profiles, Public Health Scotland, accessed April 2026
- [Princes Street and the Waverley Valley, The City of Edinburgh Council, November 2025](#)