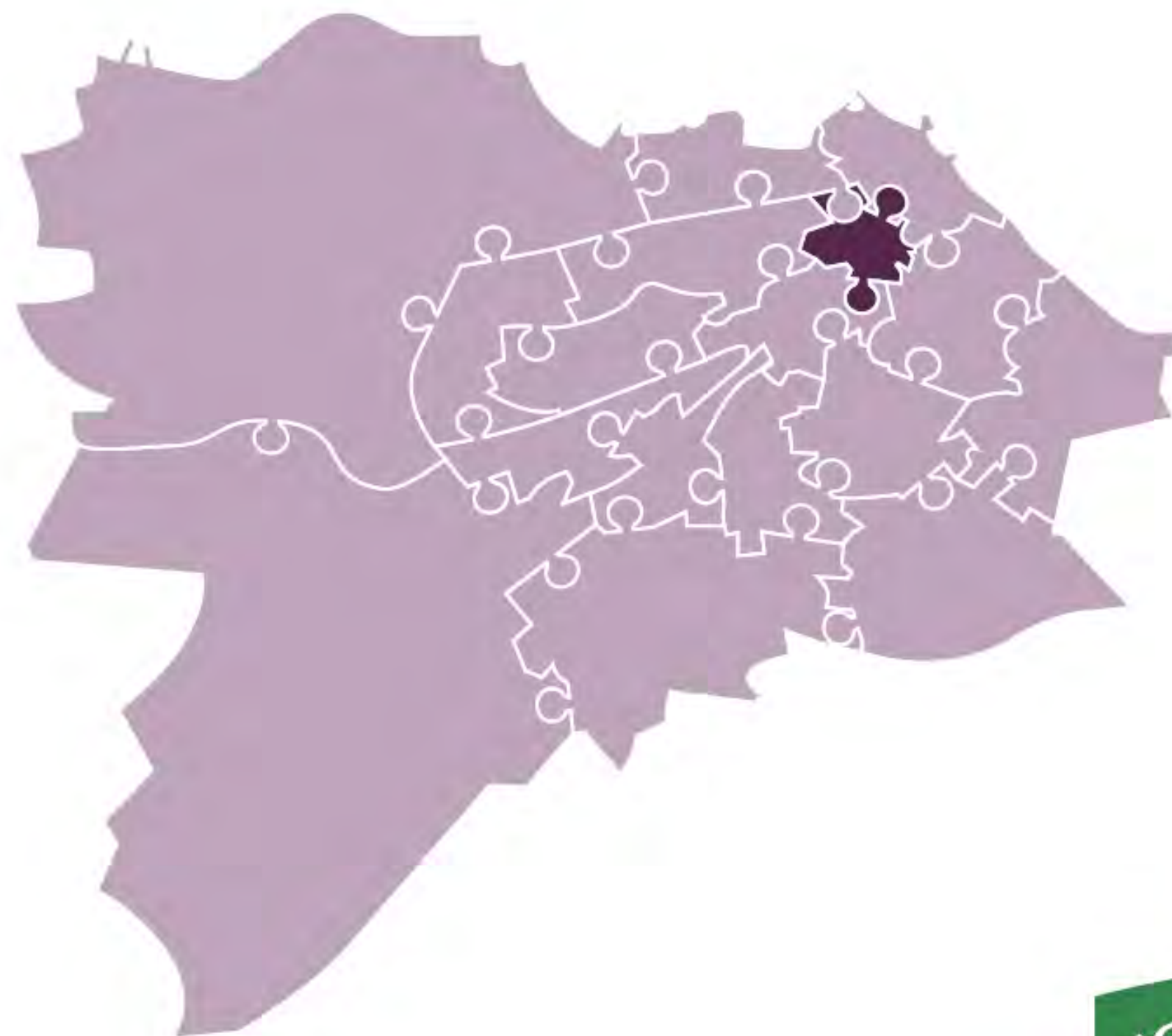


Evidence Report Place Profile

Ward 12 Leith Walk



Introduction

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

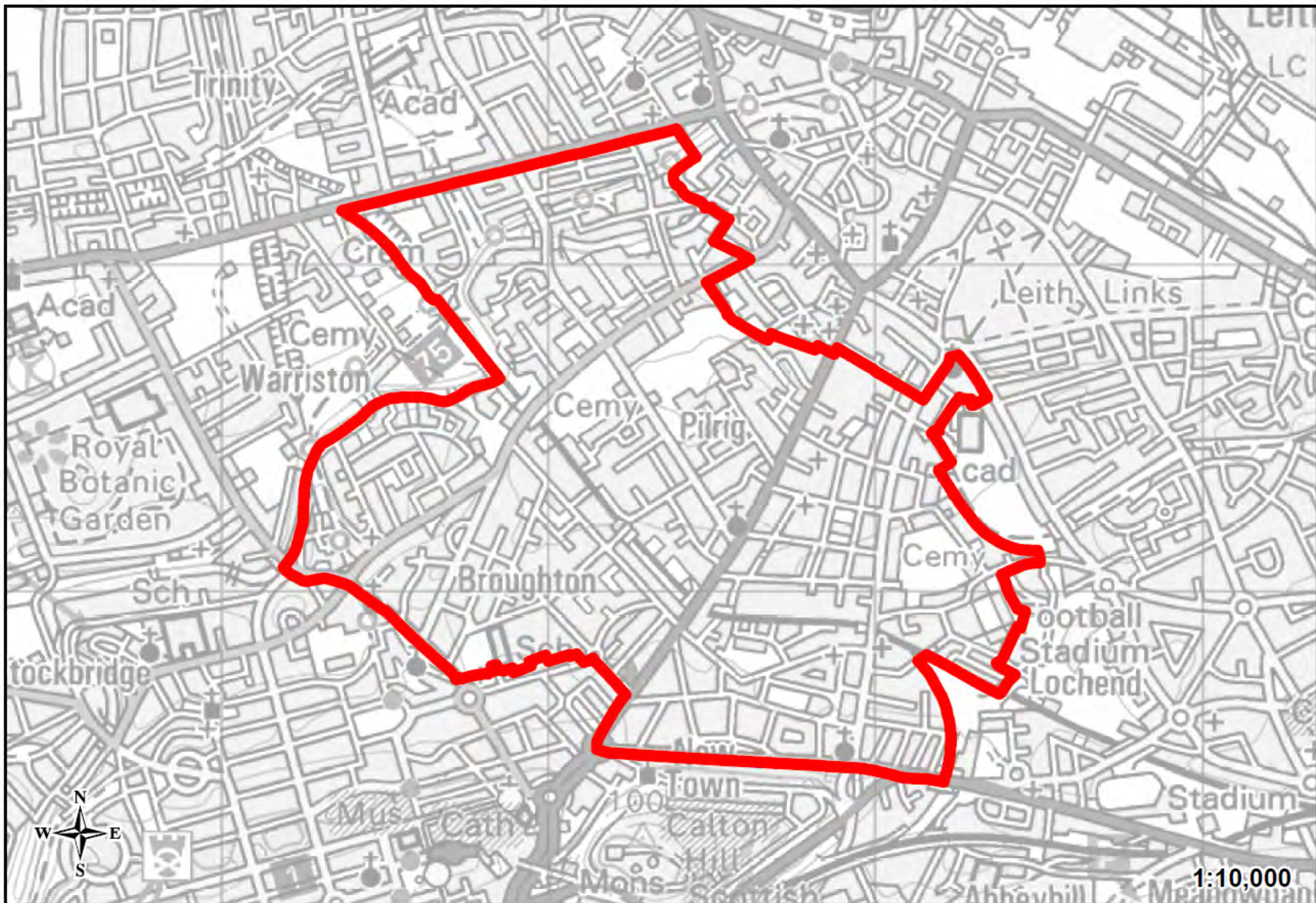
In line with NPF4 and related guidance, new Local Development Plans in Scotland need to be place-based, people-centred and delivery-focussed.

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
- Most people feel happy with their area - Healthcare facilities are of good quality - There is good quality and affordable public transport access along Leith Walk and Easter Road - The ward is in proximity to the City Centre and Leith benefiting from easy access to large numbers of employers yet still contains town centre for local work opportunities and Lothian Buses is a key employer. - Housing stock is generally well suited to the population and meets resident's needs - Adults and young people feel there is a good provision and variety of shops and services in the ward including sports and leisure facilities and independent businesses. - Volunteering opportunities are available - Active travel routes are found along Leith Walk and east-west along McDonald Road and Brunswick Road - Small open green spaces well distributed throughout the ward - The Water of Leith is in the ward and is a major recreational and natural space - Council allotments are found in Pilrig and adjacent Inverleith ward and community growing spaces are present	- All ages are concerned about safety and policing in the ward - Health infrastructure is not evenly distributed throughout the ward and people feel that more GPs and dentists are required to make accessing appointments easier - Concerns with cold and damp housing - There is poor access to public transport in the west of the ward in Powderhall and parts of Broughton - There is occasionally conflict between pedestrians and cyclists regarding shared spaces and cycle lanes could feel unsafe because of the speeds - Ward traffic levels considered by some to still be too high and free parking at weekends causes conflict for residents and permit holders. - There is a lack of growing spaces in the south of the ward, as well as the north of the ward - Young people are worried that the area and wider city are vulnerable to the impact of climate change - Some young people feel socialising opportunities are expensive within the ward - There are concerns of the impact of hot food takeaways, public houses and entertainment venues on households in parts of the ward. Some also consider there to be an overprovision of beauty shops
Implications	
- Opportunity to develop employment and training - Explore the expansion and improvement of active travel routes - Opportunity to explore and expand the maintenance and number of open spaces within the ward including more investment in growing spaces, outdoor recreation and socialising - Revision of opening times of community spaces to increase availability and improve the publicity of socialising and community activities	

Background

Leith Walk ward contains a number of densely populated communities located between central Leith and central Edinburgh, along the major transport corridor of Leith Walk.

Hillside is an area intended to form an eastern extension of the Georgian New Town, however only a small part of this scheme was completed. It is mainly made up of 19th and early 20th century tenement development.

Easter Road is an area running alongside Easter Road, a street parallel to Leith Walk. It is mainly made up of 19th and early 20th century tenement development with uses like shops, cafes and pubs on the ground floor.

Bellevue/Broughton is an area of primarily 19th and 20th century terraced and tenement housing development adjacent to the New Town and containing some shops and services mostly concentrated on Broughton Street.

Canonmills is an area based around a historic mill village on the Water of Leith, now a primarily residential area of mixed 19th, 20th and 21st century development. Part of this area extends into Inverleith ward.

Powderhall is an area formally in use for business and industry, some of which still exists. Large areas have undergone redevelopment for housing in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Pilrig is a mixed residential area including tenements, terraces, semi-detached housing, colonies and post-war public housing mainly dating from the 19th century onwards.

Bonnington is an area based around a historic village formally in use for business and industry, some of which still exists. Large areas have undergone redevelopment for housing in the 20th and 21st centuries. The Water of Leith passes through this area.

Modern Leith Walk originates in a 17th century raised earth rampart constructed to defend the city. After this it was used as a promenade for leisure walking from the city to the sea, giving it the title of 'Walk' still used today. Following the construction of the North Bridge and the subsequent expansions of the city in the 18th and 19th centuries, it became a major transport corridor and saw extensive development.

Leith Walk is a designated Town Centre with a large number of shops and services. It is also an important tram and bus corridor.

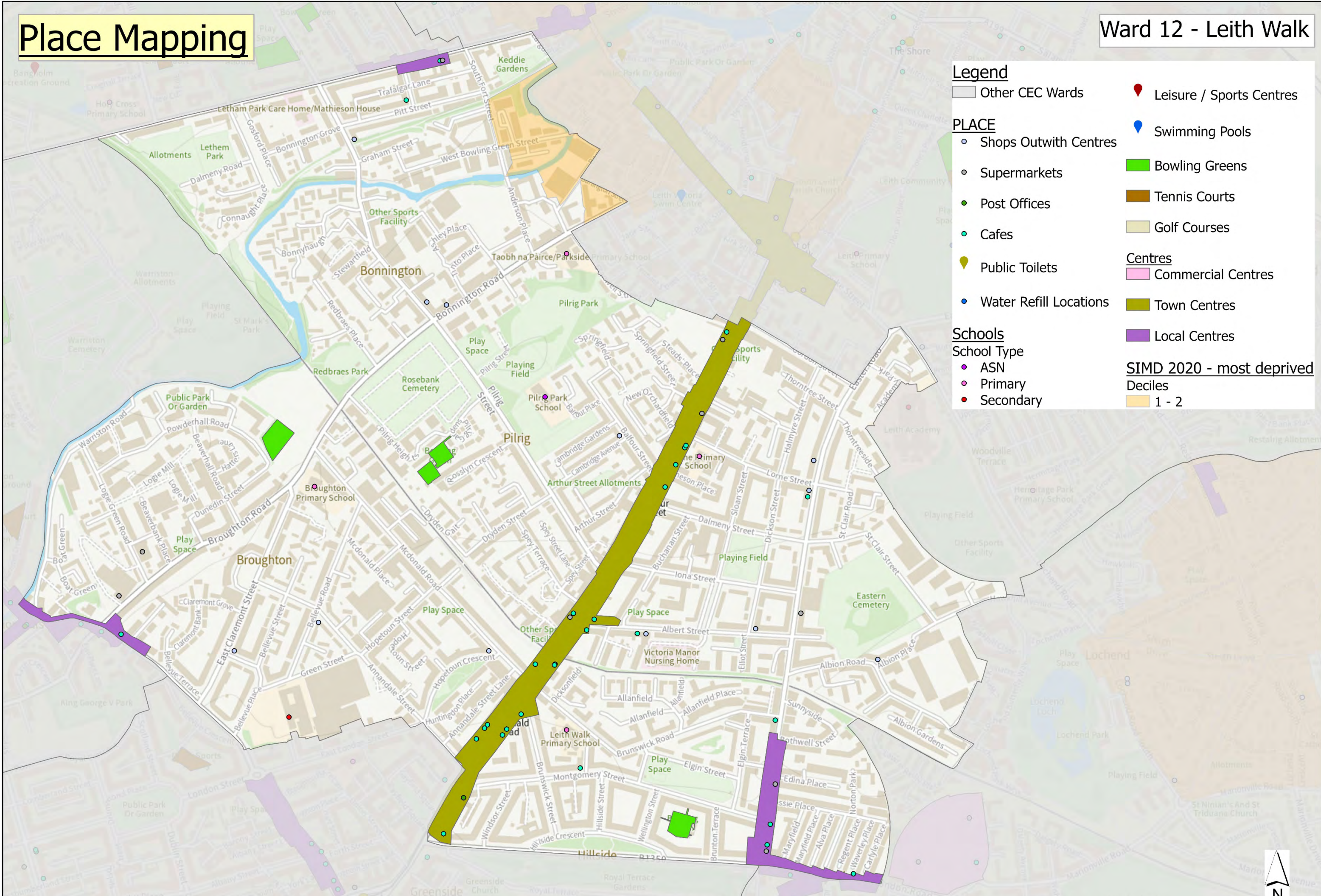
Open spaces include Pilrig Park, Dalmeny Street Park, Eastern Cemetery and Rosebank Cemetery. The ward is a location of Easter Road Stadium.

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 12 - Leith Walk



Culture and Community Infrastructure

Ward 12 - Leith Walk

Legend

Other CEC Wards

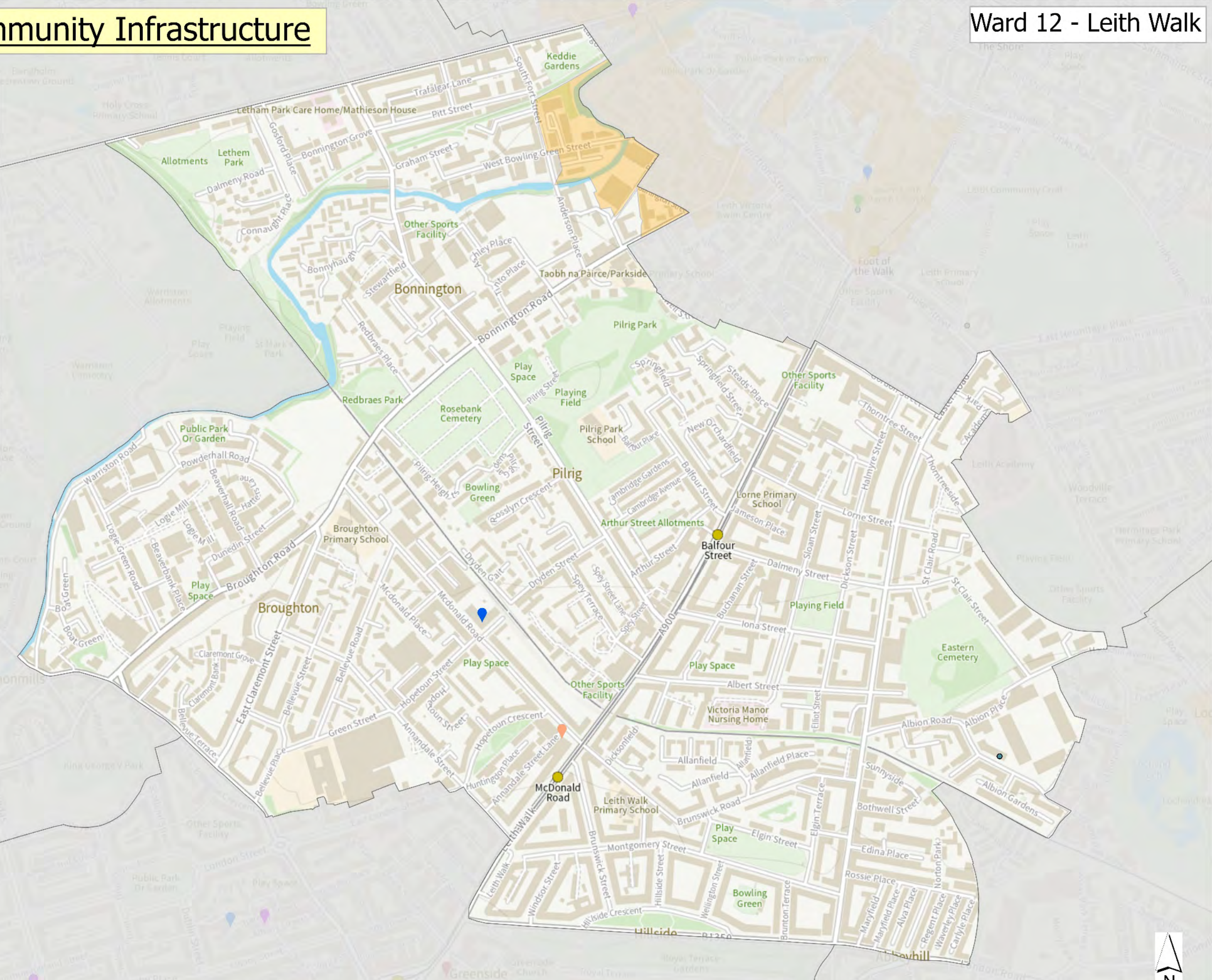
CULTURE

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

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

- 1 - 2



Considerations

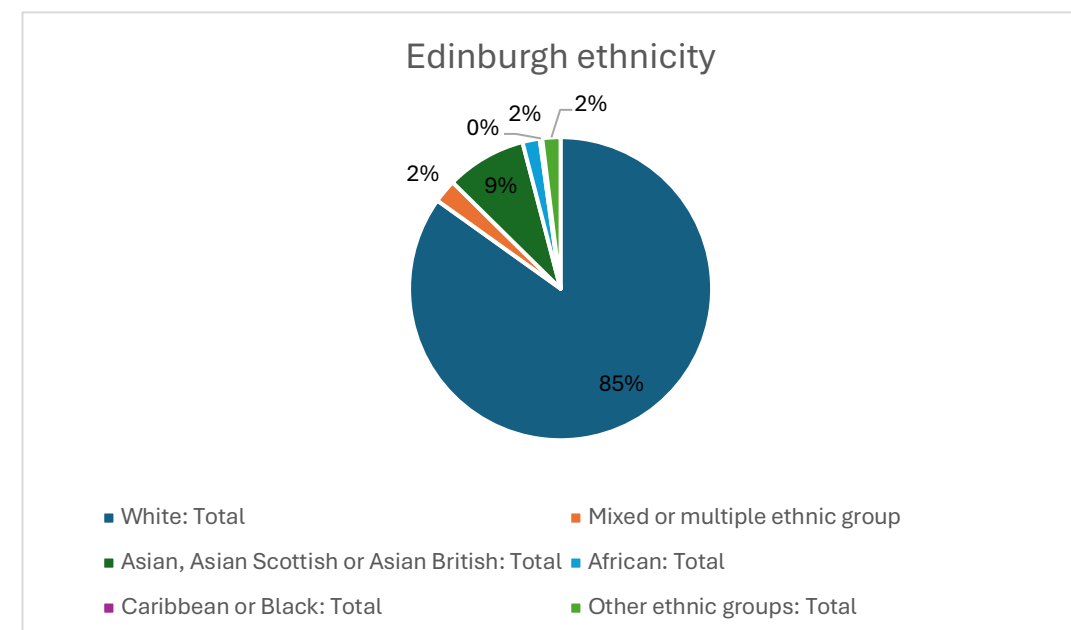
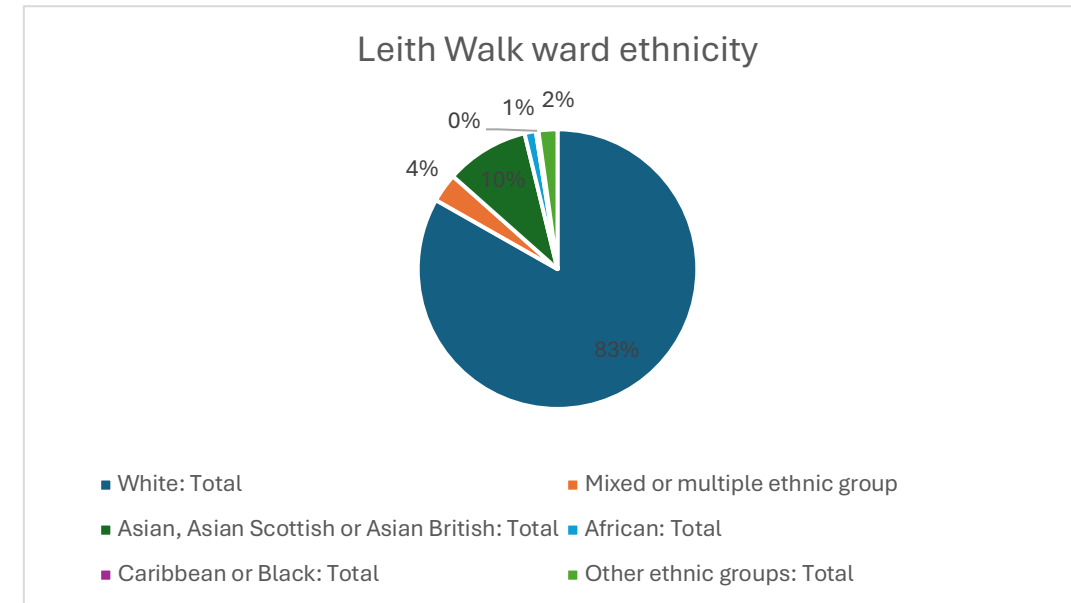
- Place mapping shows that amenities located along the town and local centres of Leith Walk, Canonmills, Easter Road and Ferry Road tend to align with population density and transport access, forming part of compact neighbourhoods where mixed uses and tenement/other flatted development are common. This urban form is relatively continuous and connects to adjacent wards, particularly the City Centre and Leith.
- Overall, the few culture and community spaces in this ward are located close to Leith Walk and Easter Road. The north and south of the ward are close to culture and community spaces in adjacent wards.
- Most people feel that the shops and services in the area are very good at meeting their needs. People like the availability and variety of shops and services and the mix of both independent and chain shops. People also like the leisure centre and sports options.
- Most children and young people feel that there are enough shops and services in the area. Some feel that there needs to be a better range of shops and other things to do.
- Some people feel that there are too many beauty shops in the area.
- People generally feel good or neutral about the spaces and opportunities to meet up with friends and other people, with a good availability of cafes and green spaces.
- Some people would like to see more spaces that are open later. Others would like street improvements to support social activity, such as benches.
- People also generally feel good or neutral about the community spaces in the area. Some people feel that existing community spaces are not well known or well used and more should be done to advertise these spaces and make them more attractive.
- Children and young people have mixed views on the number of activities, community clubs and groups for young people. Most feel that there is a good amount. Others aren't aware of any in the area. Some don't like the options available and would like to see a better range of options, such as creative or arts clubs. Others feel that the options are too expensive.
- Most children and young people feel that there are enough things to do at the weekend and during holidays.
- Many children and young people visit the free art galleries and museums in Edinburgh. Others rarely or never visit them, finding them boring or hard to get to, or have no-one to go with.

People

Demographics

- The population of Leith Walk is 33,173 which is **6.4%** of the Edinburgh total of 514,543.
- This population is housed in 18,093 households, which is **7.6%** of the Edinburgh total of 238,944 households.
- The following sites located within the ward boundary are allocated within the adopted City Plan 2030:
 - OPP22 McDonald Road (B) – 158 homes.
 - OPP23 McDonald Place – 152 homes.
 - OPP24 Norton Park – 69 homes.
 - OPP43 West Bowling Green Street – 83 homes.
 - OPP44 Newhaven Road (B) - 90 homes.
 - OPP47 South Fort Street – 414 homes.
 - OPP48 Stewartfield – 207 homes.
 - OPP50 Bonnington Road – 56 homes.
 - OPP53 Albert Street – 112 homes.
 - OPP54 St. Clair Street – 373 homes.
 - H19 Broughton Road (Powderhall) – 262 homes.
 - H39 Pitt Street – 103 homes.
 - H40 Steads Place – 148 homes.
 - H42 Leith Walk/Manderston Street – 235 homes.
 - H45 Newhaven Road 2 – 193 homes.
 - H52 Iona Street – 80 homes.
 - City Plan 2030 allocates a total 2,735 households which would be a **15.1%** 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.
- The age breakdown of the ward is listed below:
 - The population aged 0-15 is 2,774 which is **8.4%** of the ward population compared to **14.58%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - The population aged 16-64 is 27,312 which is **82.3%** of the ward population compared to **69.5%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - The population aged 65+ is 3,065 which is **9.2%** 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 **84%** compared to **85%** for Edinburgh as a whole.
 - For the population recorded as not white, the largest groups represented are;
 - Mixed or multiple ethnic group (1,121)
 - Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British (828)
 - Chinese, Chinese Scottish or Chinese British (1,095)



Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

- SIMD mapping is shown below and shows this as a ward of mainly lower deprivation, although the north of the ward is generally more deprived than the south.

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

Ward 12 - Leith Walk

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Housing and Opportunity Proposals (H1-96)

SIMD 2020

Deciles

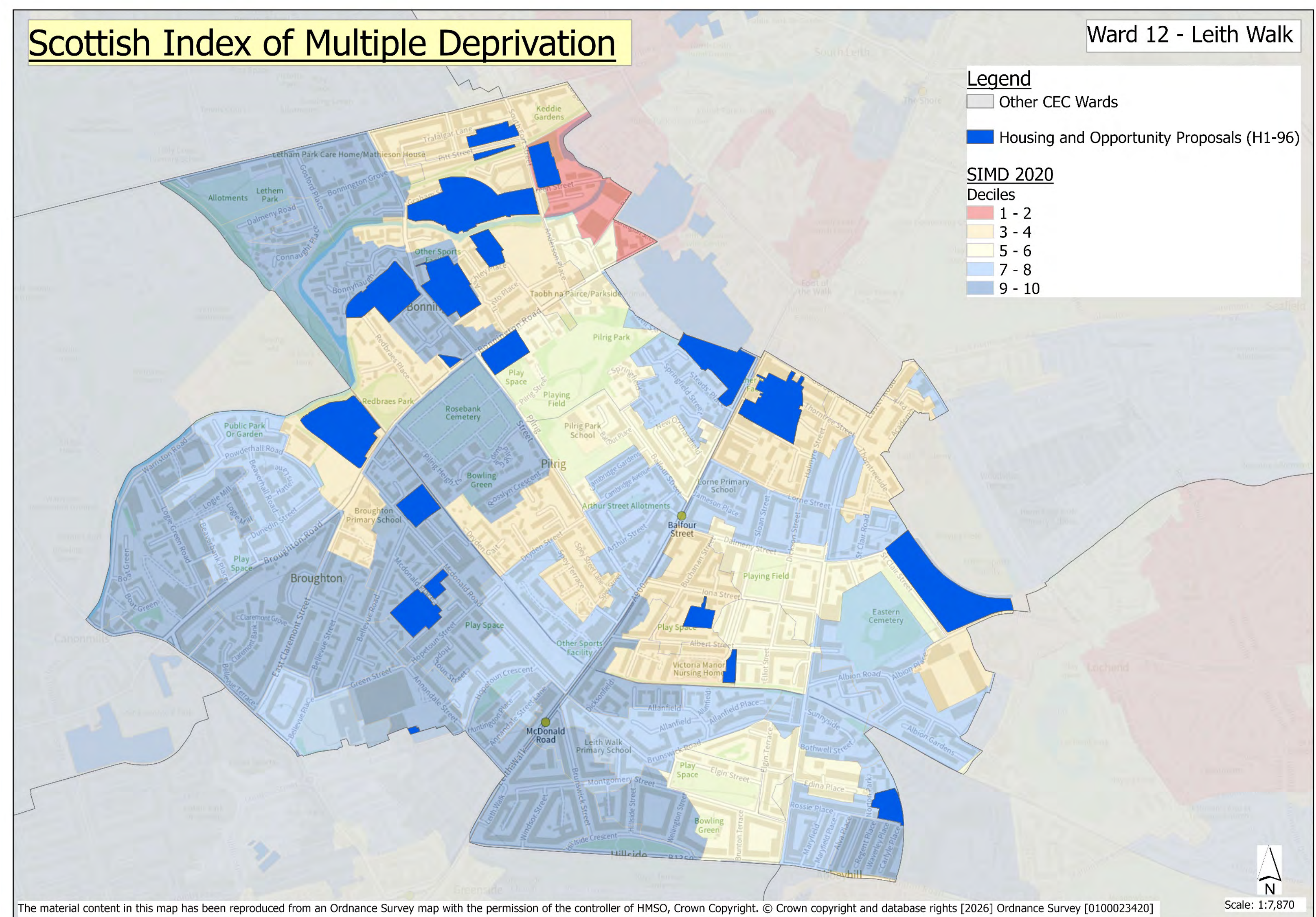
1 - 2

3 - 4

5 - 6

7 - 8

9 - 10



Considerations

- The population is expected to grow approximately in line with the Edinburgh average, with this growth concentrated in the Bonnington area.
- The working age population is higher than the Edinburgh average, but the child-age and older population is lower than the Edinburgh average.
- Population groups show an average level of diversity compared to Edinburgh as a whole, although those identifying as Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British form a bigger community in this ward than the Edinburgh average.
- Some areas of the ward are identified as being within the most 20% deprived in Scotland, concentrated in the far north of the ward close to Bonnington. This contrasts with areas of the ward including parts of Canonmills and Broughton which sit within the 20% least deprived in Scotland.
- Most people feel happy with the area.
- Some people have concerns about safety and policing in the area, including children and young people.
- Some children and young people are concerned by rough sleeping and begging in the area.

Health

Demographics

- **16.4%** of the ward population reported having a long-term illness or disease, compared to **18.1%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **15.6%** of the ward population reported having a long-term mental health condition, compared to **11.9%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **84.6%** 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 **46,712**, greater than the ward population of **33,173**. 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 4755.9 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 **15.53%** of the ward have accessed A&E services in 2025, compared to **17.59%** for Edinburgh as a whole.
- For pregnant people between between 2020 and 2025, **30.29%** were overweight and **19.25%** 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, **32.24%** were overweight and **26.96%** 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 Bonnington – Male life expectancy was **73.1 years** and female life expectancy was **78.8 years**.
 - Broughton North & Powderhall – Male life expectancy was **83.1 years** and female life expectancy was **83.1 years**.
 - Broughton South – Male life expectancy was **82.5 years** and female life expectancy was **81.2 years**.
 - Easter Road & Hawkhill Avenue – Male life expectancy was **73.6 years** and female life expectancy was **78.9 years**.
 - Great Junction Street – Male life expectancy was **74.6 years** and female life expectancy was **78 years**.
 - Hillside & Calton Hill – Male life expectancy was **81.2 years** and female life expectancy was **84.8 years**.

- Inverleith, Goldenacre & Warriston – Male life expectancy was **81.2 years** and female life expectancy was **83.1 years**.
- Leith (Albert Street) – Male life expectancy was **68.7 years** and female life expectancy was **75.3 years**.
- Leith (Hermitage & Prospect Bank) – Male life expectancy was **78.8 years** and female life expectancy was **82.8 years**.
- Meadowbank & Abbeyhill North – Male life expectancy was **78.5 years** and female life expectancy was **81.8 years**.
- Pilrig – Male life expectancy was **76.2 years** and female life expectancy was **85.7 years**.
- South Leith – Male life expectancy was **71.7 years** and female life expectancy was **79.9 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.
- Part of the south of the ward, at Elm Row, is included within an area 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.
- Hot food takeaway uses are mainly located along Leith Walk with a few on Easter Road.

Hot Food Takeaways

Ward 12 - Leith Walk

Legend

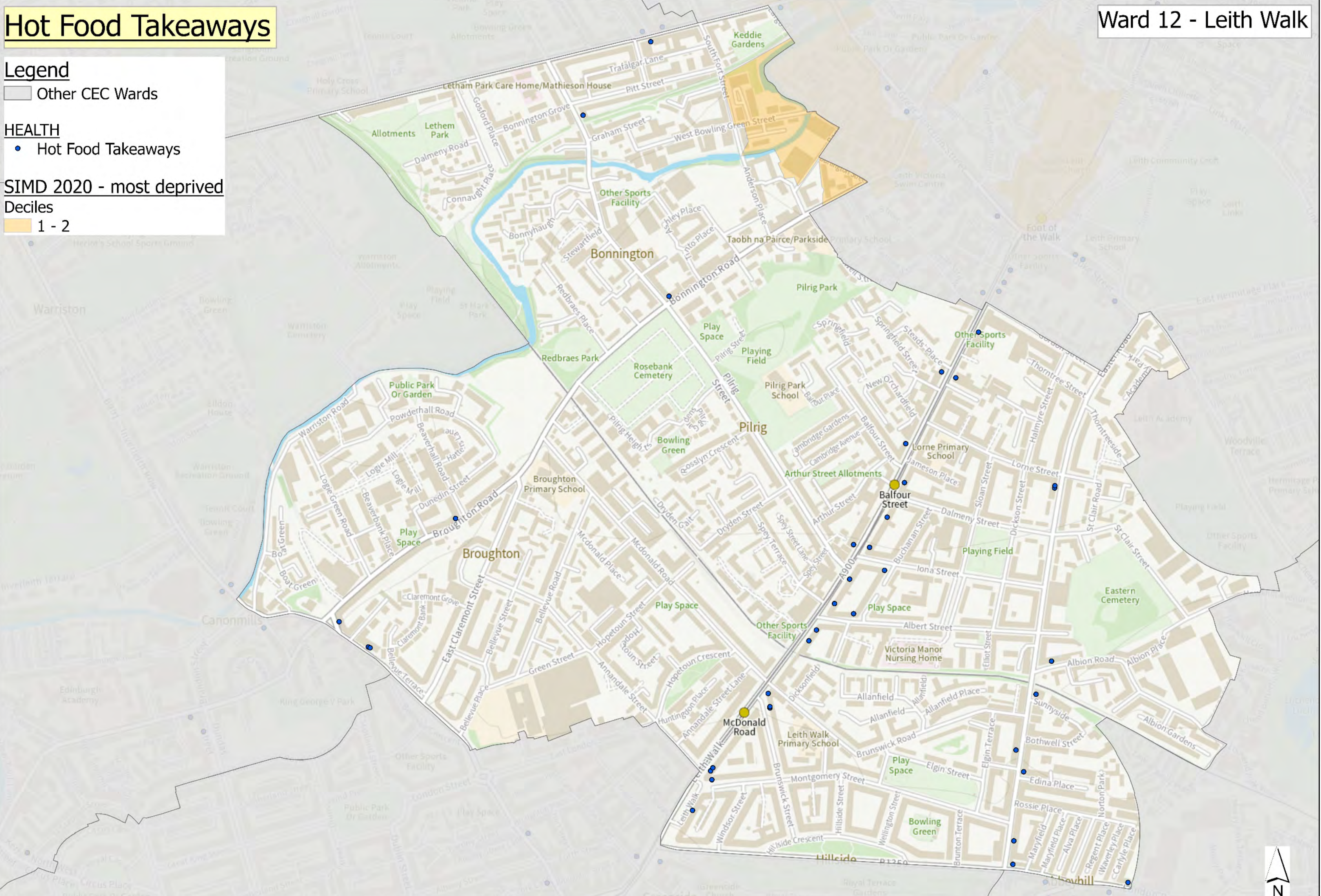
Other CEC Wards

HEALTH

- Hot Food Takeaways

SIMD 2020 - most deprived Deciles

1 - 2



GPs and Pharmacies

Ward 12 - Leith Walk

Legend

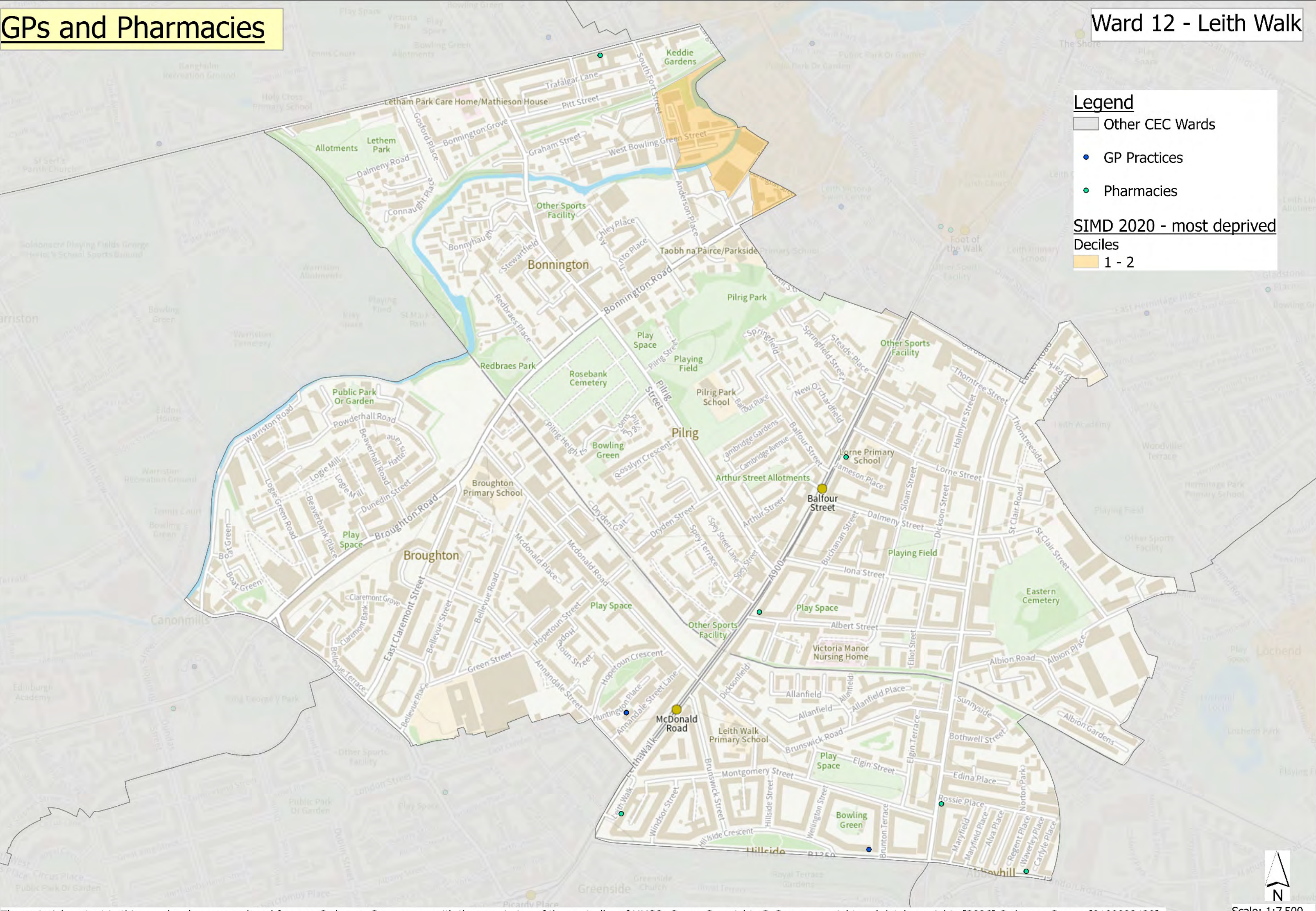
Other CEC Wards

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 Council average, with a lower percentage of 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 above the Edinburgh average.
- The percentage of people who report being in good or very good health is approximately in line with the Edinburgh average.
- There is no clustering of unhealthy uses reported in this ward, however part of the Leith Walk town centre area at Elm Row is within an area of restriction for hot food takeaways, public houses and entertainment venues.
- Health infrastructure is not well distributed within the ward boundary but there are facilities located in adjacent wards. Due to this distribution, the population in the centre and east of the ward is at a greater distance from practices.
- Most people feel that the area is generally good for healthcare facilities. Some feel that more GPs and pharmacies are needed to make it easier to get an appointment.

Housing

Housing type and density

- 1,549 households live in houses, which is **8.6%** compared with **36.8%** of the Edinburgh total, while 16,541, which is **91.4%**, live in flats compared with **63.2%** of the Edinburgh total. 3 live in a caravan or another mobile/temporary structure.
- The level of flatted accommodation is much higher on average than the Edinburgh total and generally is equal across the ward apart from smaller concentrations of houses in parts of Bonnington, Broughton and Pilrig.
- Population density as measured by households per hectare is higher in the centre of the ward, along the Leith Walk and Easter Road corridors which have designated local and town centres and very good public transport access.

Housing tenure and overcrowding

- The housing tenure breakdown of the ward is listed below.
 - **48.9%** households in the ward report their housing tenure as Owned, compared to **60.1%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **12.4%** households in the ward report their housing tenure as Social Rented, compared to **15.7%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **37.9%** households in the ward report their housing tenure as Private Rented, compared to **23.1%** for the Edinburgh total.
- The level of owner occupation and social rent is lower than the Edinburgh average, but more households live in private rented accommodation than the Edinburgh average. Mapping shows social housing to be concentrated in the parts of Pilrig and Bonnington and close to the Foot of the Walk in the north-east of the ward.
- The level of overcrowding as measured by Census reporting of number of people within occupiable rooms per household is generally even across the ward, with some concentrations not aligning directly with areas of greater social housing as above.

Density (Households per Hectare)

Ward 12 - Leith Walk

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Public Transport Stops

Type

- Bus
- Coach
- Rail
- Tram

Open Space

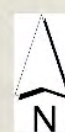
Centres

- Commercial Centres
- Town Centres
- Local Centres

Datazones

Households Per Hectare

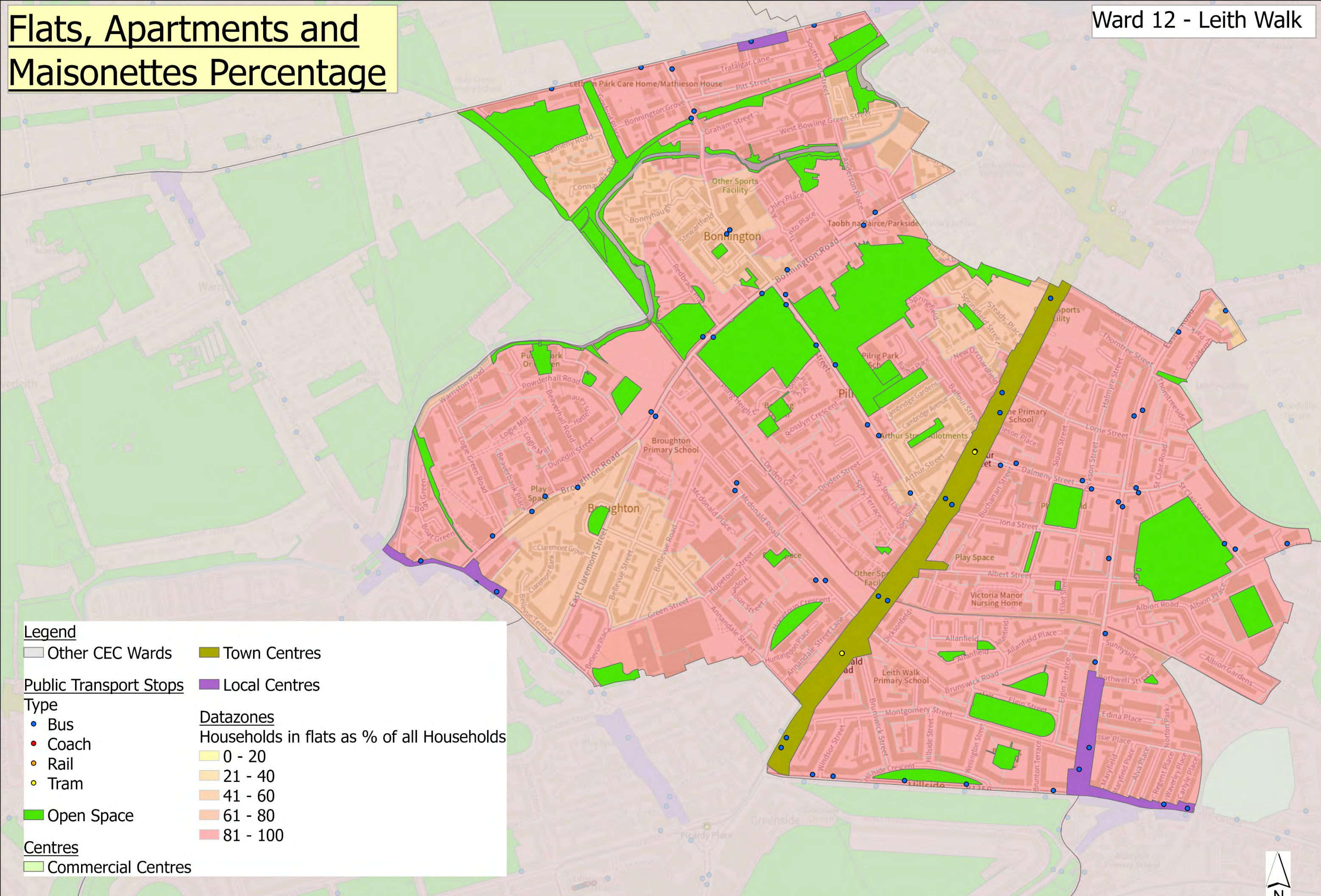
- 0 - 25
- 26 - 50
- 51 - 75
- 76 - 100
- 100+



Scale: 1:7,969

Flats, Apartments and Maisonettes Percentage

Ward 12 - Leith Walk



Households in Social Accommodation Percentage

Ward 12 - Leith Walk

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Datazones

Households in Social Rent as % of total Households

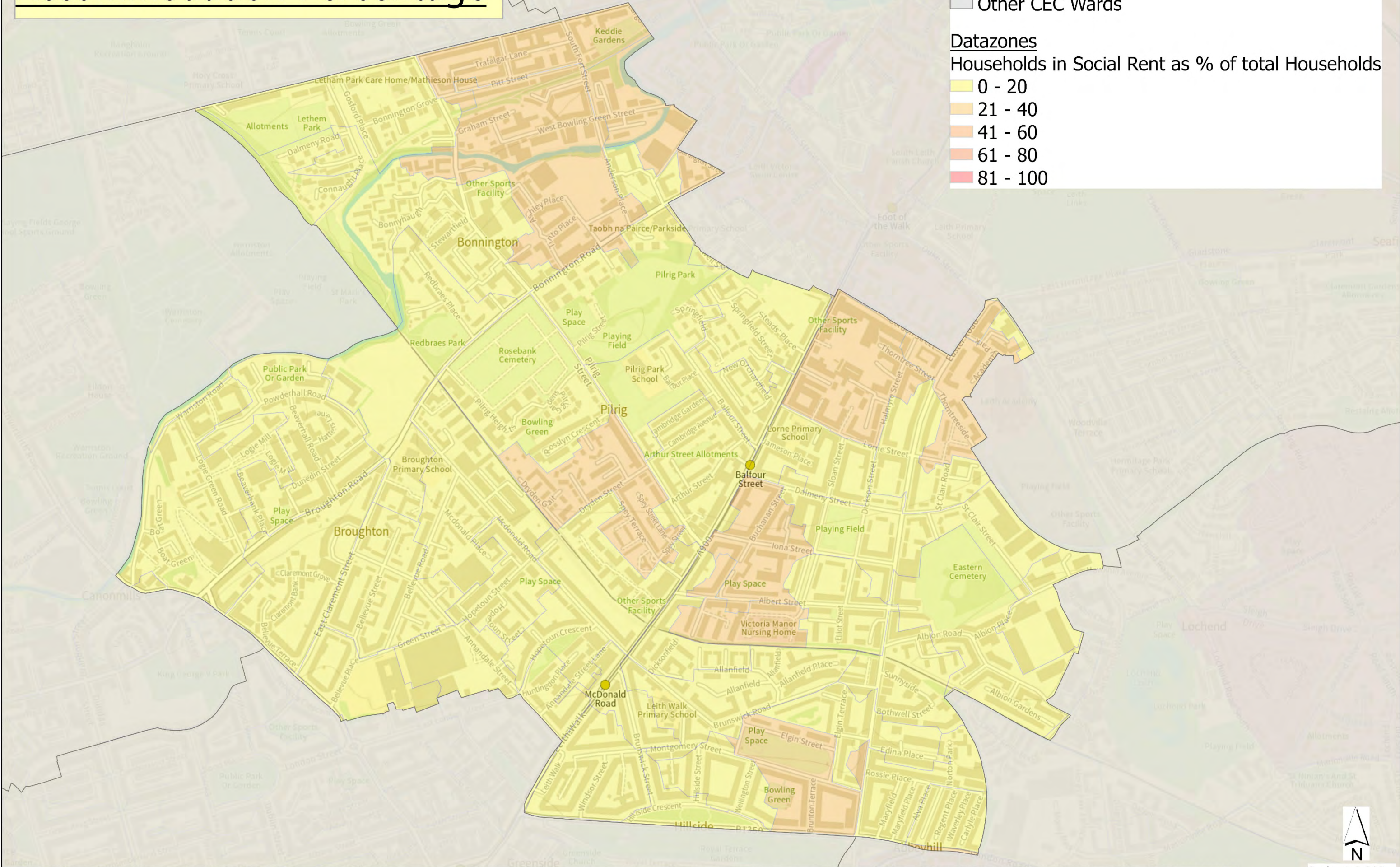
0 - 20

21 - 40

41 - 60

61 - 80

81 - 100



Overcrowding (percentage of households based on room habitation)

Ward 12 - Leith Walk

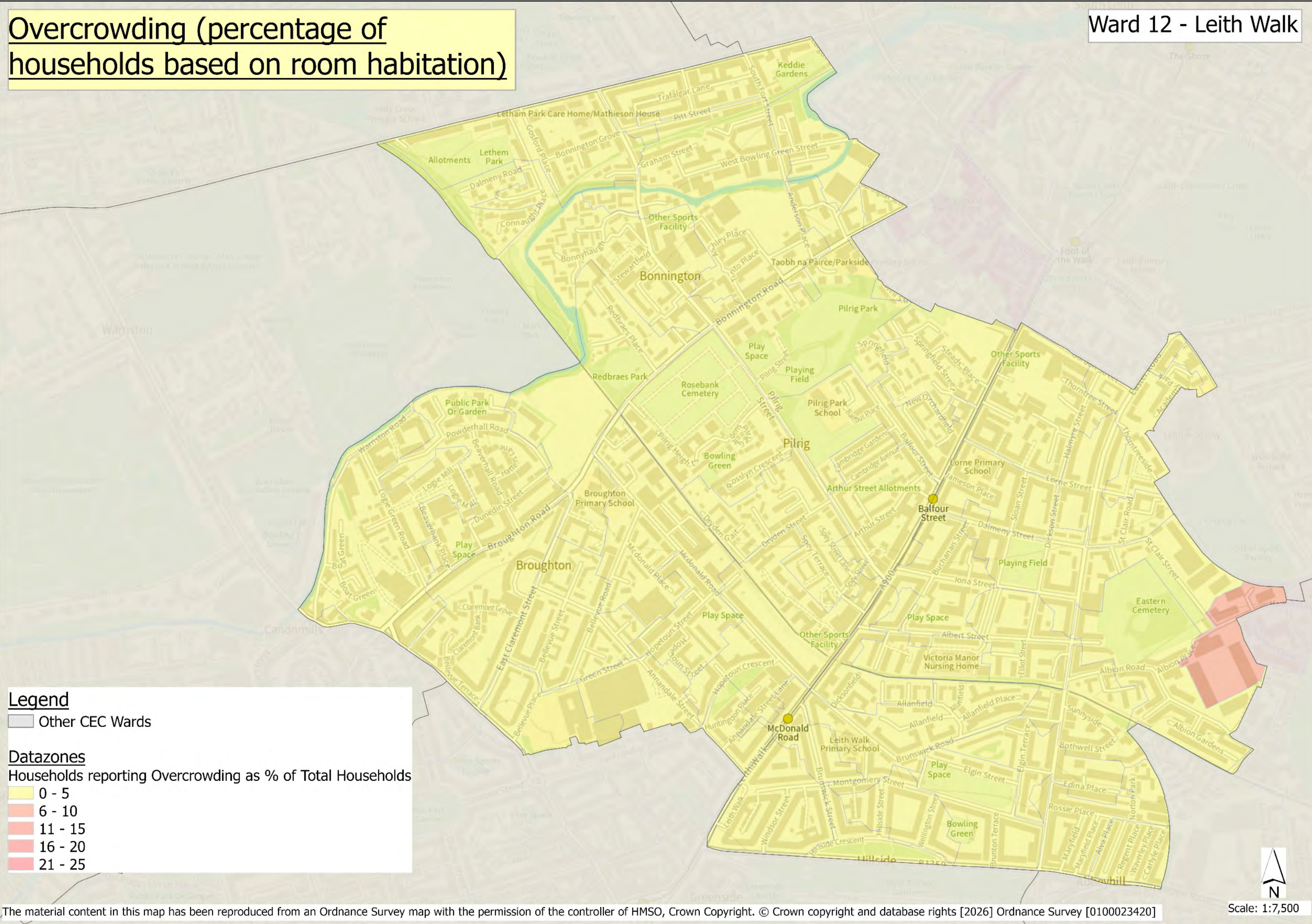
Legend

Other CEC Wards

Datazones

Households reporting Overcrowding as % of Total Households

- 0 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 11 - 15
- 16 - 20
- 21 - 25



Considerations

- Flatted accommodation is very common in this ward and population densities are particularly concentrated in the north-south Leith Walk and Easter Road corridors. This aligns with tenement and more modern flatted built forms in these areas, corridors of higher public transport access and the linear local and town centres on these streets.
- Social housing is concentrated in the parts of Pilrig and Bonnington and close to the Foot of the Walk in the north-east of the ward.
- Parts of this ward are noted for having a high number of student accommodation bedspaces, as set out in the **Student Accommodation topic paper**.
- Most people in the area are very happy with their home and feel the homes in the area do a good job of meeting the needs of the local people. These views were shared by children and young people.
- Some people would like a larger place or one with their own garden. Some have issues with cold and damp.
- People like the mix of housing, though some people would like to see more affordable housing in the area.

Economy

Demographics

- The occupation breakdown of the ward is listed below:
 - **7.6%** 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.
 - **32.5%** 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.
 - **17.8%** 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.
 - **8.6%** 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.
 - **6.7%** 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.
 - **6.6%** 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.
 - **6.9%** 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.
 - **1.5%** 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.
 - **10%** 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:
 - **6.6%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as No qualifications, compared to **9.7%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **10%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Lower school qualifications, compared to **14.3%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **11.5%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Upper school qualifications, compared to **4.4%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **2.9%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Apprenticeship qualifications, compared to **4.4%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **9.4%** 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.

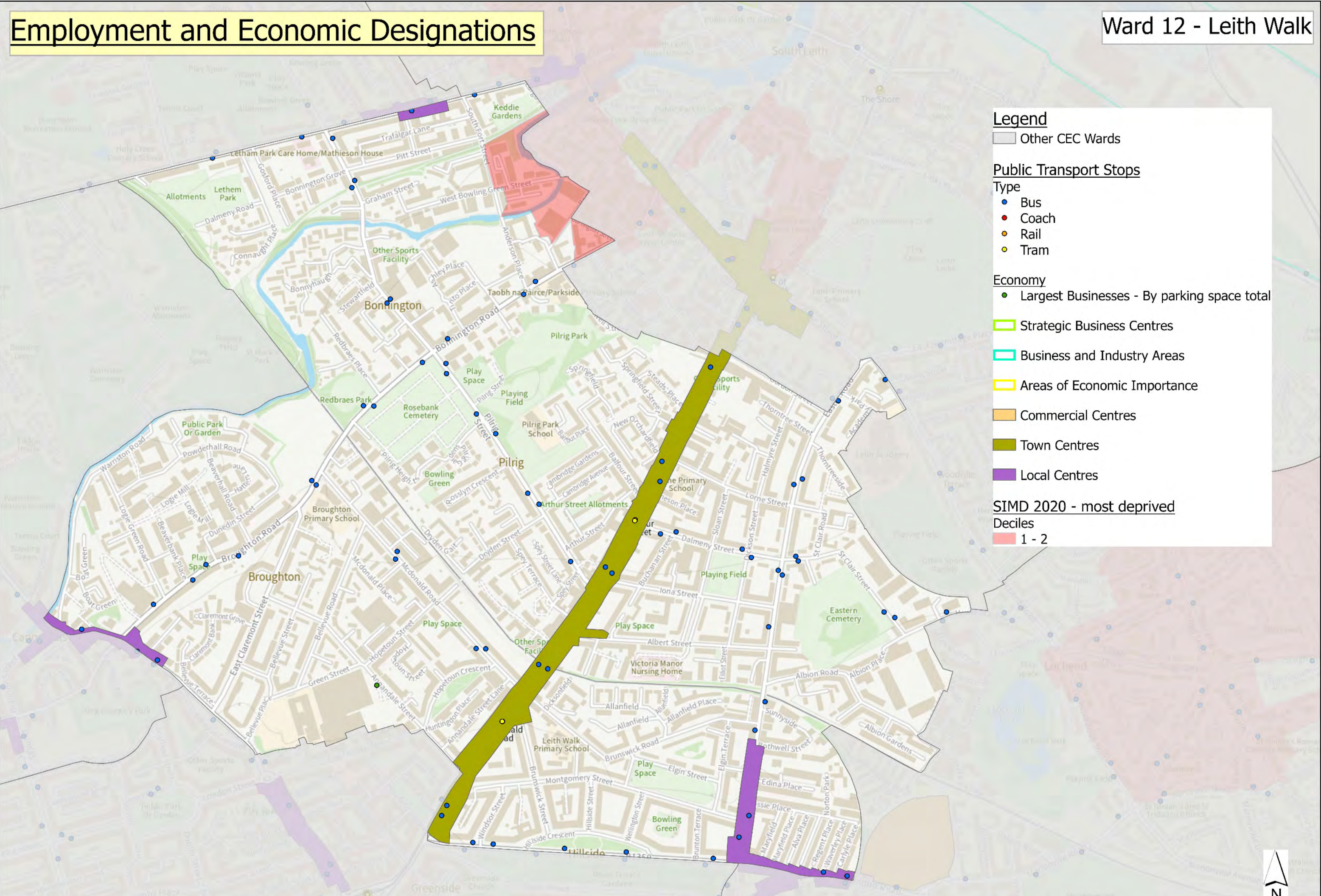
- **59.6%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Degree level qualifications or above, compared to **50%** for the Edinburgh total.

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 12 - Leith Walk



Considerations

- No business, industry or economic designations can be found within this ward, although a defining feature of the ward is direct access to the centres of Leith and the city centre, and high level of public transport access to the rest of the city and beyond. A large designated Town Centre for Leith/Leith Walk crosses the centre of the ward from north-south along the Leith Walk corridor.
- A key employer and anchor institution is the Lothian Bus depot located to the south of the ward close to the city centre and, to a lesser extent, Hibernian Football Club.
- People generally feel good or neutral about the opportunities for work, volunteering and training in the area. The volunteering availability is good, but some people would like to see more employment and training opportunities.

Transport

Demographics

- The breakdown of the primary method of travel to work is listed below:
 - **39.8%** of the working population report mainly working from or at home, compared to **39%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **15.6%** of the working population report driving a car or van, compared to **25.1%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **16.9%** 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.
 - **4.1%** of the working population report travelling by bike, compared to **3.8%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **21.3%** of the working population report travelling on foot, compared to **12%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **46.7%** 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 lower access to cars or vans are relatively evenly spread across the ward. Some areas where car or van access is reported as being slightly greater align approximately with lower density toward the west of the ward.
- Use of cars for driving to work is evenly low across the ward, while walking to work is reported as much higher than the Edinburgh average.

Public Transport

- Public Transport Accessibility Levels (PTAL) are calculated by the Council based on service patterns and stops and are 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.
- Good access is concentrated along the densely populated Leith Walk and Easter Road corridors aligning with higher population densities and amenities.
- Poor access is concentrated in the west of the ward in parts of Broughton and Powderhall.

Active travel

- Key active travel paths are the north-south Leith Walk cycle paths and the west-east routes along McDonald Road and Brunswick Road which connects to the North Edinburgh Path Network but includes areas of temporary infrastructure and on-road lanes.
- The City Mobility Plan has identified projects on the disused Powderhall railway line to form a new shared-use path linking the North Edinburgh Path Network with Meadowbank in the east, via the dense and well-connected centres of Leith Walk and Easter Road. Enhancements are also planned at the entrance to St. Marks Path at Powderhall alongside adjacent development.

Households with no car or van access percentage

Ward 12 - Leith Walk

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Datazones

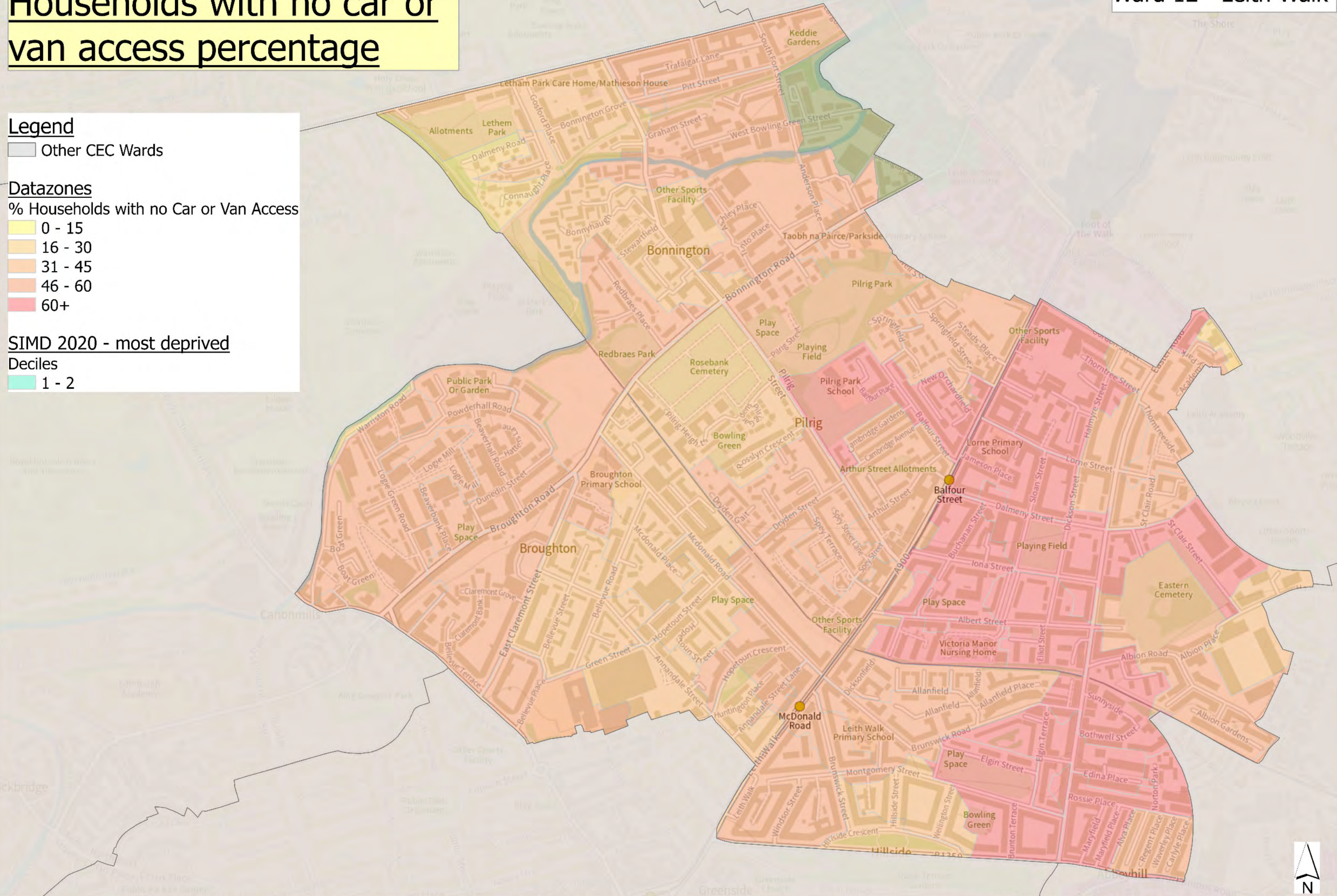
% Households with no Car or Van Access

- 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 12 - Leith Walk

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Datazones

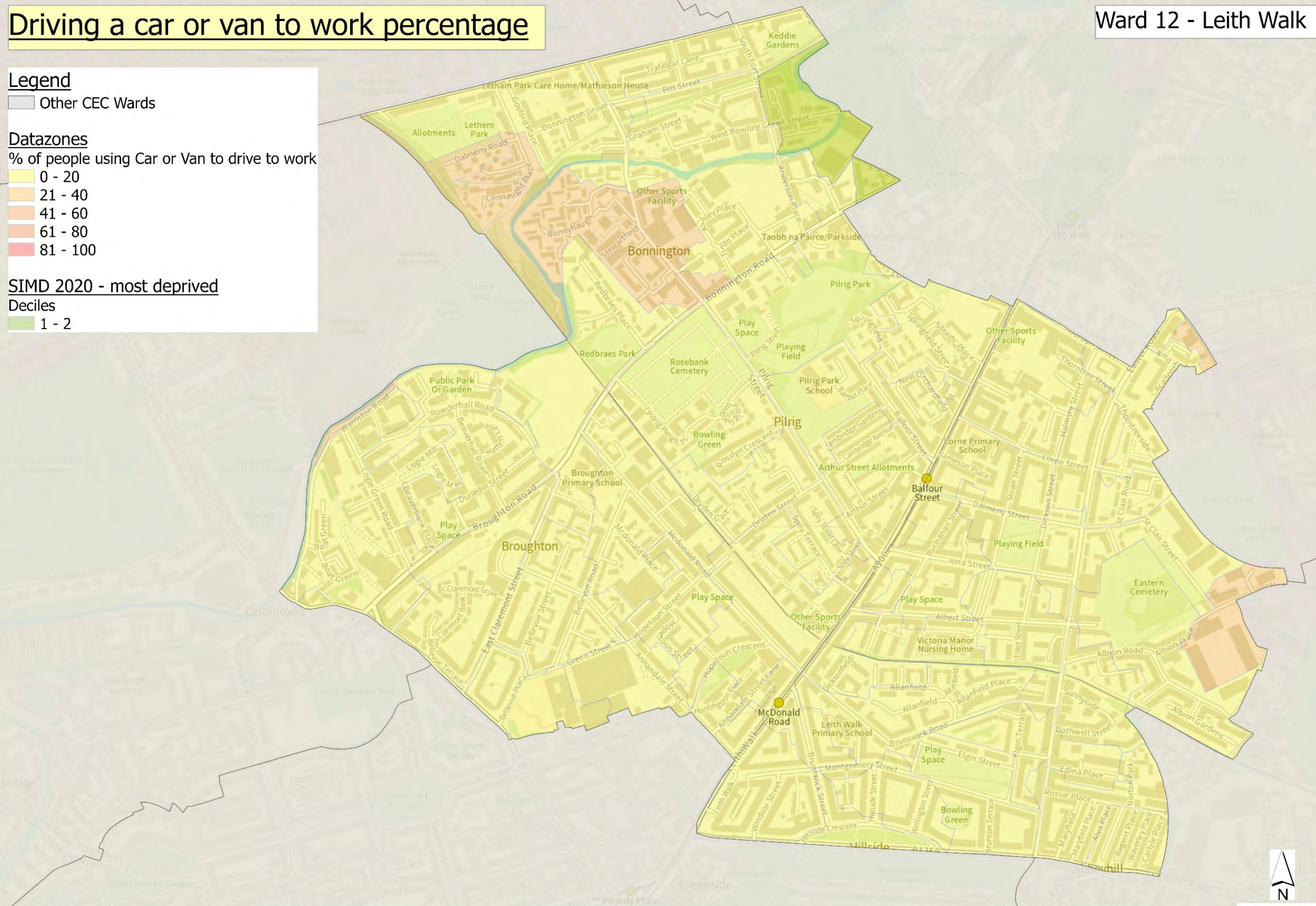
% of people using Car or Van to drive to work

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

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

- 1 - 2



Public Transport Accessibility

Ward 12 - Leith Walk

Legend

Other CEC Wards

TRANSPORT

Bus Improvemments and Orbital CP2030

FUTURE TRAM

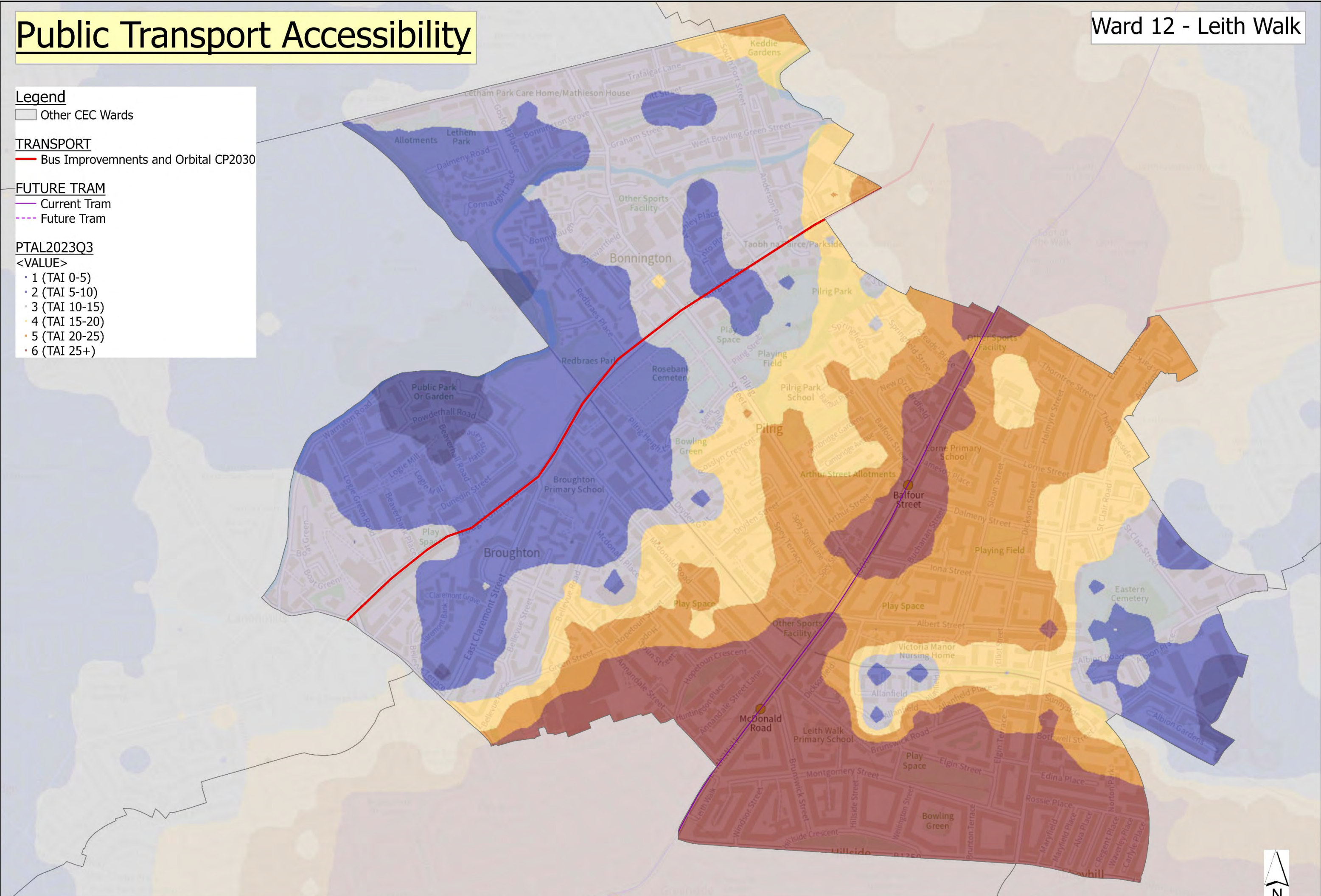
Current Tram

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 12 - Leith Walk

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Public Transport Stops

Type

- Bus
- Coach
- Rail
- Tram

Bus Improvements and Orbital CP2030

FUTURE TRAM

Current Tram

Future Tram

CMP Projects

Safe Cycling Network

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

1 - 2



Scale: 1:7,500

Considerations

- A higher percentage of people in the ward walk to work compared to the Edinburgh average whilst public transport and cycling remain broadly similar despite a lower level of car ownership, reflecting this ward's location.
- Areas of lower of access to a car or van are broadly similar across the ward.
- Public Transport accessibility is concentrated in the central part of the ward, along the Leith Walk and Easter Road corridors.
- City Mobility Plan improvements are proposed to be brought forward primarily along the west-east Powderhall railway route providing additional segregated shared-use path access.
- Most people find it easy to walk, cycle or wheel in the area, which some people say is due to the infrastructure in place. Some children and young people are stopped by the bad weather, prefer to travel by public transport or don't have a bike or scooter.
- Some people have safety concerns around cycle-lanes, such as large e-bikes being ridden at fast speeds or conflicts on the Leith Walk cycle lane/pavement.
- Most people find it very easy to get where they need by public transport, praising the quality and affordability of the bus services in the area. This includes children and young people in the area.
- People have mixed views on the traffic in the area. Some feel that the low level of traffic is good. Others feel that traffic levels need to be reduced further.
- People have mixed views on parking in the area. Some feel that the free parking on the weekends create problems for residents and permit holders.

Environment

Green blue network and biodiversity

- Smaller open spaces are well dispersed throughout much of the ward, although this ward still has a relatively low level of visible green space provision due to the high number of flatted tenement neighbourhoods and their overall high average building density. Pilrig Park is one of the larger green spaces within the ward, but much of the population in the ward has access to larger green spaces adjacent to the ward.
- 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.
- The Water of Leith forms the largest part of the green blue network here and is of primary importance for recreation, nature and the character of Edinburgh. It forms part of a blue green corridor leading from the Pentlands across the city to Leith Waterfront.
- A blue network opportunity area is identified crossing the central part of the ward.

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.
- Council allotments are found in Pilrig and adjacent to the ward in Inverleith. Community growing spaces are also found in Leith Walk and part of Bonnington.
- There is a lack of growing spaces in the less deprived southern part of the ward, as well as certain areas of the north close to Leith Walk and Easter Road where population density is higher.

Open, Natural, and Play Spaces

Ward 12 - Leith Walk

Legend

Other CEC Wards

ENVIRONMENT

Green Blue Network Proposal

Play Parks / Play Spaces

Designated Parks, Gardens, and Natural Areas

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

1 - 2



Scale: 1:7,750

Strategic Blue Green Network

Ward 12 - Leith Walk

Legend

Other CEC Wards

ENVIRONMENT

Green Blue Network Proposal

Blue Network

Blue Opportunity Areas

Key River Corridor

OS Rivers

Waterbodies

Tidal Water

Wetland

Wetland HotSpot

Wetland Network

Biodiversity Network

Protected Habitats

GBN Ranking Biodiversity Point data

Biodiversity

Low

High

RAMSAR

Priority Habitats

GBN Accessible Open Space

Enhanced Proposed Local Biodiversity Connections

Enhanced Proposed Strategic Biodiversity Connections

Growing Spaces

Ward 12 - Leith Walk

Legend

Other CEC Wards

ENVIRONMENT

Allotments

Community Growing Spaces

SIMD 2020

Deciles

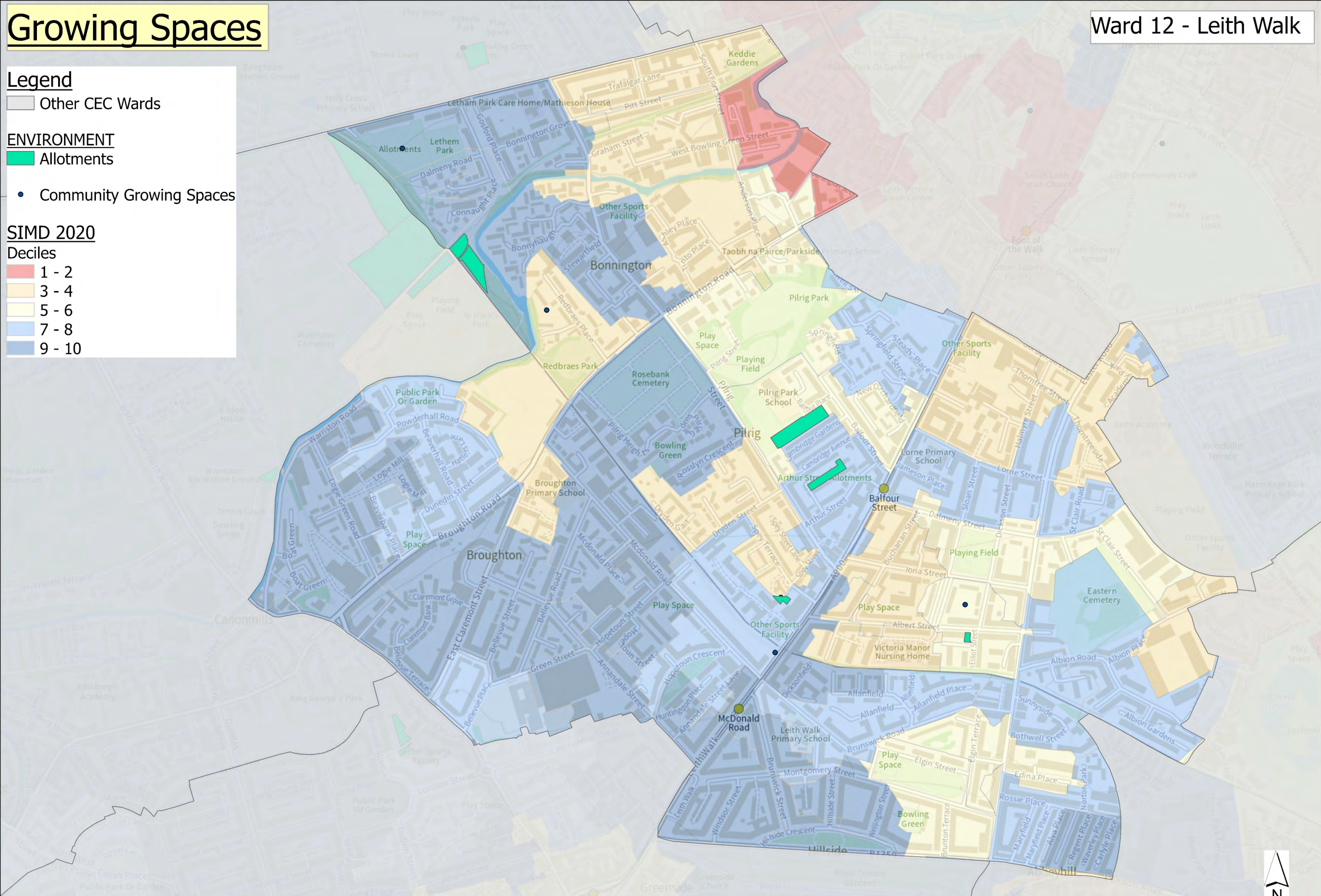
1 - 2

3 - 4

5 - 6

7 - 8

9 - 10



Considerations

- A key existing green blue corridor in the ward centred on the Water of Leith providing good access to open space, water and biodiversity. An area of proposed green network opportunity is identified in the south-east of the ward.
- Smaller open spaces are well dispersed throughout the ward although this ward still has a relatively low level of visible green space provision due to the high number of flatted tenement neighbourhoods and the overall high average building density. Pilrig Park is one of the larger green spaces within the ward, but much of the population in the ward has access to larger green spaces adjacent to the ward.
- Opportunities for food growing are concentrated in the allotments to the west and community growing spaces in the east and centre. Access to spaces is lower in the north close to Leith Walk and Easter Road where population density is higher and the south where deprivation is lower.
- Most people are happy with the number of green and natural spaces in the area, with plenty nearby. However, some people have concerns around the maintenance and safety of these spaces. Others would like to see more green spaces to combat climate change.
- Most people feel neutral about the access to growing spaces in the area. Some people feel that there should be more growing spaces to reduce waiting times. Others feel that uncared for allotments should be handed over to other residents.
- People generally feel happy or neutral about the number of spaces for ball games in the area. The tennis courts are seen as good. Some people would like more variety in spaces, such as basketball courts. Others feel that more investment in the existing infrastructure is needed.
- Adults, children and young people generally feel happy or neutral about the number of green and open spaces for children and young people to play and hang out in, with good availability and good quality of spaces.
- People particularly like Pilrig Park and the recently refurbished Montgomery Street Park. Children and young people find them fun, easy to get to and good for playing football and other ball games.
- Some people feel that the parks are too dull and more options are needed for different ages. Some children and young people would like to see more and better equipment and activities.
- Some children and young people feel that the spaces are not usable in bad weather and are too dark in the winter. They would like the spaces to be better lit and safer.
- Children and young people have mixed views on the cleanliness and condition of the outdoor spaces. Most feel that the outdoor play equipment is in good condition and most feel that the cleanliness is okay. However, some feel that the outdoor spaces are clean or very clean, while others feel that they are dirty or very dirty. Some feel that the outdoor play equipment needs fixing, cleaning, painting or replacing, or that there is not enough of it.
- Children and young people feel safe most of the time when hanging out in the area, though many mentioned concerns over crime, unsafe people and feeling unsafe in poorly lit spaces.
- Children and young people have mixed feelings about how close that are to nature. Some feel close to nature, while others do not feel close at all. Keeping the outdoor areas cleaner and increasing planting and greenery are seen as measures that would help nature in the area.
- Some children and young people are worried about the impact of climate change in the area.

Appendix

This report details the consultation and engagement information utilised when creating the Leith Walk 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 166 responses were received for the Leith Walk Ward. Out of these, 34 were from public at large and 132 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 children and young people where similar questions were asked.

Housing

Public at large

How happy are you with your home?

- 15 Very happy
- 14 Happy
- 4 Neutral
- 0 Unhappy
- 0 Very unhappy

If you could change one thing, comments

- Bigger place/own garden. Less cold/damp.

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

- 4 Very good
- 14 Good
- 12 Neutral
- 2 Bad
- 0 Terrible

Homes in the area, comments

- **Good:** Mix of housing.
- **Bad/change:** More affordable needed.

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

- 18 Very good
- 10 Good
- 3 Neutral
- 1 Bad
- 0 Terrible

Shops and services, comments

- **Good:** Great availability and variety. Lots of independent and chains at the same time.
- **Bad/change:** Support local business. Leisure centre/sports options.

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

- 10 Yes
- 18 No
- 4 Don't know

What there is too much of, comments

- Beauty industry.

Leith Walk/Halmyre Street (2020)

- Concerns with student housing and airbnb's which do not have permanent residents.
- More local shops (such as butchers) would be welcome.

Children and Young People

Are you happy with your home (the building)?

- 90 Yes
- 31 It's OK
- 7 It's not good
- 2 It's bad

If you could change one thing, comments

- Being in a house, not a flat
- Having my own garden

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

- 6 Too many
- 101 Right amount
- 22 Not enough
- 1 None

Shops and things, comments

- Many responses report there being enough shops and services in their area, others say there needs to be more/a better range of shops as well as other things to do.

Health

Public at large

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

- 7 Very good
- 17 Good
- 4 Neutral
- 4 Bad
- 0 Terrible

Healthcare facilities, comments

- **Good:** Nearby, generally good.
- **Bad/change:** More GPs, pharmacy. Easier to get appointment.

Leith Walk/Halmyre Street (2020)

- Lacking in GP/doctor facilities and schools.

Transport

Public at large

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

- 7 Very easy
- 13 Easy
- 8 Neutral
- 4 Difficult
- 1 Very difficult

Walk, wheeling, cycling, comments

- **Good:** Okay infrastructure available.
- **Bad/change:** Large e-bikes are too fast for cycle lanes and making spaces feel unsafe. Leith Walk cycle lane-pavement is creating conflicts.

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

- 20 Very easy
- 8 Easy
- 2 Neutral
- 3 Difficult
- 0 Very difficult

Public transport, comments

- **Good:** Great buses to many locations.
- **Bad/change:** Good as is. Cheaper buses.

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

- 3 Very happy
- 2 Happy
- 14 Neutral
- 8 Unhappy
- 6 Very unhappy

Traffic and parking comments

- **Good:** Low traffic is good.
- **Bad/change:** Free parking on weekends create problems for residents/permit holders.

Leith Walk/Halmyre Street (2020)

- Cycling, particularly on Leith Walk, feels unsafe and dangerous.
- Better connectivity of cycle paths would be welcome.
- Segregated cycle paths would be beneficial.
- Walking is easier than cycling in the area, although pavements can be uneven and cluttered.
- Bus routes and services are good.
- Issues with congestion on main roads, particularly during rush hour
- Parking is difficult.
- Congestion, speeding and illegal parking create unsafe environments.
- Some find car clubs useful.

Leith Connections: Phase 3 west – East proposals

- Proposals include protected cycle tracks, bus stop by-passes, and priority junctions for cycles and pedestrians.
- Aim to improve walking, wheeling, and cycling between Hawthornvale Path and Seafield.
- Concerns about loss of parking, pavement parking, and illegal vehicle use.
- Worries that changes may affect public transport, including bus stop removal and possible longer journey times.

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?

- Bad weather stops me, prefer to travel by public transport/ car and I don't have a bike, scooter etc.

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, prefer to go by car instead, 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?

- 69 Yes
- 8 No
- 34 Don't know
- 15 Don't care

Economy

Public at large

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

- 2 Very good
- 11 Good
- 14 Neutral
- 2 Bad
- 0 Terrible

Work, volunteering and training, comments

- **Good:** Good volunteering availability.
- **Bad/change:** More employment/training opportunities.

Leith Walk/Halmyre Street (2020)

- Quality of jobs varies.
- Could be improved and encouraged.
- Connections to employment elsewhere in the city.

Culture

Public at large

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

- 6 Very good
- 12 Good
- 12 Neutral
- 2 Bad
- 0 Terrible

Spaces to meet people, comments

- **Good:** Good availability of cafes, green spaces.
- **Bad/change:** Addition of spaces that are open until late, investment in streets to make it public space (e.g. benches). Better maintenance of green spaces.

How is the community space in your area?

- 5 Very good
- 9 Good
- 12 Neutral
- 3 Bad
- 1 Terrible

Community spaces, comments

- **Good:** There are some places/opportunities but they are not well known/well used.
- **Bad/change:** Advertisement and making existing community spaces more inviting and attractive.

Leith Walk/Halmyre Street (2020)

- Mostly friendly.
- Issues with anti-social behaviour.
- There are community places available but more would always be welcomed.
- More affordable meeting spaces would be beneficial.
- Yes, there is generally a strong sense of belonging.
- Concerns with new developments and the impact on identity.
- Concerns with the changing identity of the area.
- Lacking in museums and similar cultural facilities.
- Lacking in sports facilities.
- Projekt 42 is well used.
- A good variety of bars, cafes, cinemas and shops etc.

Children and Young People

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

- Friend's house, going into town/shopping centres and food and drink places.

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

- 35 There are plenty
- 41 There are a few
- 15 There are some, but I do not like them
- 15 Yes, but they cost too much
- 21 None that I know about

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

- More/better range of sports and activities
- Other creative/art/activity clubs

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

- 69 Yes
- 44 Sometimes
- 9 No
- 5 Don't know

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

- 6 Often
- 63 Sometimes
- 37 Very rarely
- 21 Never

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

- Boring/not interested, no one to go with and hard to get to.

Environment

Public at large

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

- 12 Very happy
- 13 Happy
- 2 Neutral
- 5 Unhappy
- 0 Very unhappy

Open and natural spaces, comments

- **Good:** Plenty nearby
- **Bad/change:** Better maintained. Feels unsafe for some.

What is the access to growing spaces like now?

- 1 Very happy
- 2 Happy
- 20 Neutral
- 3 Unhappy
- 2 Very unhappy

Growing spaces, comments

- **Good:** There are few, although most respondents unaware.
- **Bad/change:** More of them. Less waiting time. Handing over uncared for allotments to other residents.

Climate change, comments

- Concerns about flooding and rising sea levels. More green spaces.

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.?

- 4 Very happy
- 9 Happy
- 13 Neutral
- 1 Unhappy
- 1 Very unhappy

Ball game spaces, comments

- **Good:** Tennis courts are good. Some areas of grass.
- **Bad/change:** More variety (esp. Basketball courts) and infrastructure investment in existing.

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
- 7 Happy
- 13 Neutral
- 4 Unhappy
- 0 Very unhappy

Outdoor play spaces, comments

- **Good:** Good availability and good quality. Recently refurbished Montgomery Park was positively mentioned several times.
- **Bad/change:** Some of the parks are not maintained or quite dull. More options for different ages.

Leith Walk/Halmyre Street (2020)

- Streets are often unclean and contain a lot of litter.
- Urban realm could be improved using street tree planting
- Public and green space would be welcomed.
- There are good parks such as Pilrig and Leith Links.
- Need for better connections to green space.
- Green space is always welcome, particularly in this area due to the density of the population.
- More tree planting would be appreciated.

Children and Young People

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

- 24 Almost every day
- 53 A few days a week
- 19 Once a week
- 28 Rarely
- 6 I don't go outdoors to play or hang out

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

- 52 Yes, there are lots
- 63 There are a few
- 13 No, there aren't enough
- 2 No, there aren't any

What is your favourite park or greenspace in Edinburgh?

- Pilrig Park
- Montgomery Street Park

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

- It is fun, it is close to home/easy to get to and can play football and ball games

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

- Bad weather/too dark in winter, hard to organise meeting up with friends and I don't have time.

How could the places where you hang out be better?

- More/better equipment or activities
- Cleaner/better lit and safer

Are the outdoor spaces you go to clean?

- 11 Very clean
- 35 Clean
- 61 OK
- 14 Dirty
- 4 Very Dirty

Outdoor play equipment

- 58 In good condition
- 20 Needs fixing
- 18 Needs cleaned/painted
- 15 Needs replacing
- 12 There is not enough or any play equipment

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

- 60 I always feel safe
- 64 I sometimes feel safe
- 2 I never feel safe

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

- A lot of concerns over crime/unsafe people
- Feeling unsafe due to dark/poorly lit spaces

How close are you with nature?

- 9 7 (closest to nature)
- 29 6
- 27 5
- 29 4
- 20 3
- 9 2
- 7 1 (furthest away from nature)

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

- Cleaner/less litter
- More planting and greenery

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

- Some concern over climate change and effects on local area such as litter and cleanliness.

Place

Public at large

How happy are you with your area?

- 10 Very happy
- 14 Happy
- 6 Neutral
- 1 Unhappy
- 0 Very unhappy

What would you change, comments

- Reduce traffic.
- Leith Walk cycle lane-pavement design causes conflicts and faster cyclists make pedestrian feel unsafe.
- More affordable long-term housing

Any other comments

- Safety and policing.

Leith Walk/Halmyre Street (2020)

- Safe during the day.
- Most feel unsafe at night when dark.
- Concerns about anti-social behaviour, particularly at night.
- There is a limited sense of control. Although there may be opportunities to participate there is limited influence on decisions.

Children and Young People

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

- More/better shops and services
- Concerns over safety, cleanliness and rough sleeping/begging

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
- [Leith Walk/Halmyre Street, The City of Edinburgh Council, March 2020](#)
- [Leith Connections: Phase 3 west - east proposals; The City of Edinburgh Council, December 2022](#)