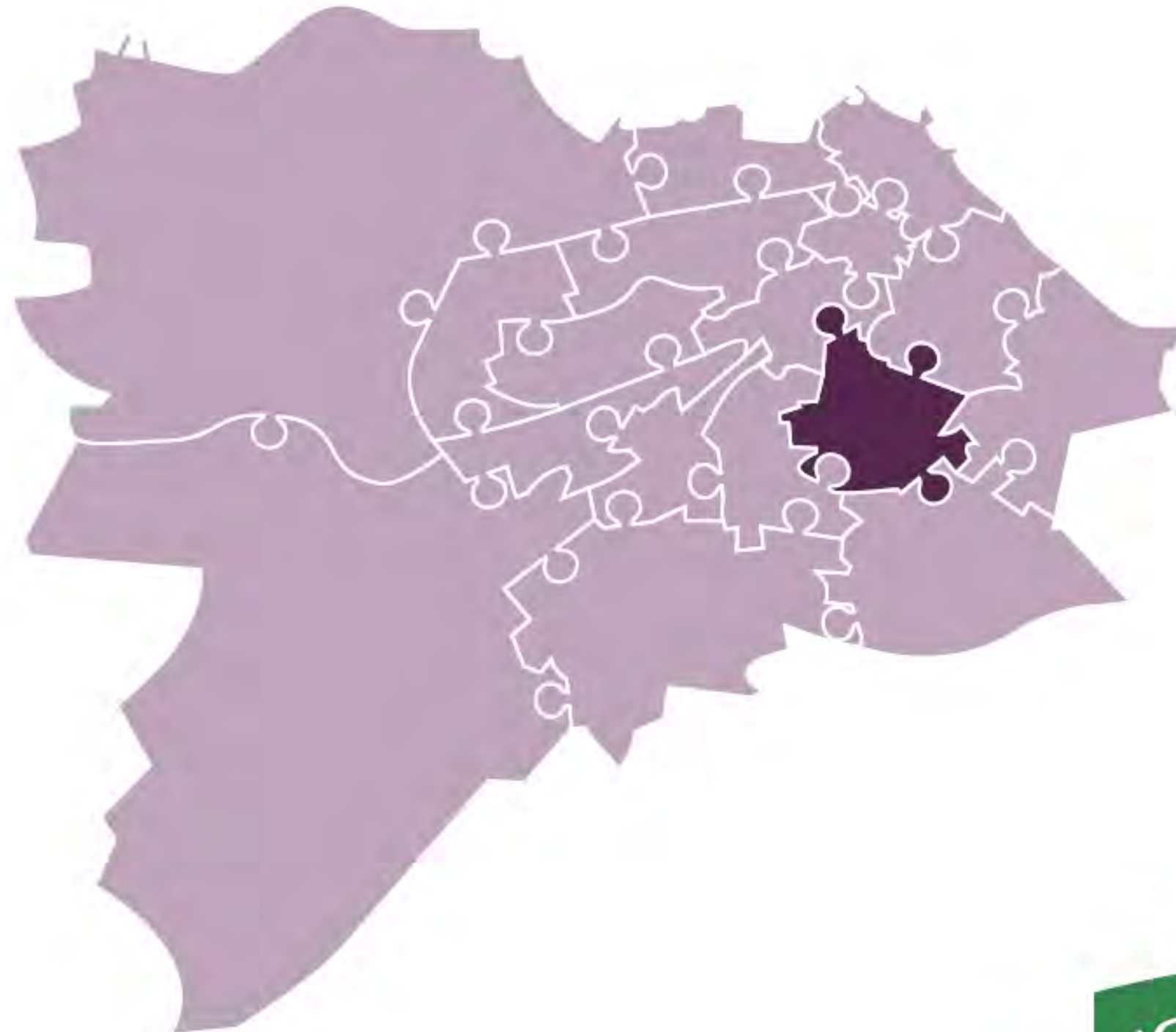


Evidence Report Place Profile

Ward 15 Southside / Newington



Introduction

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

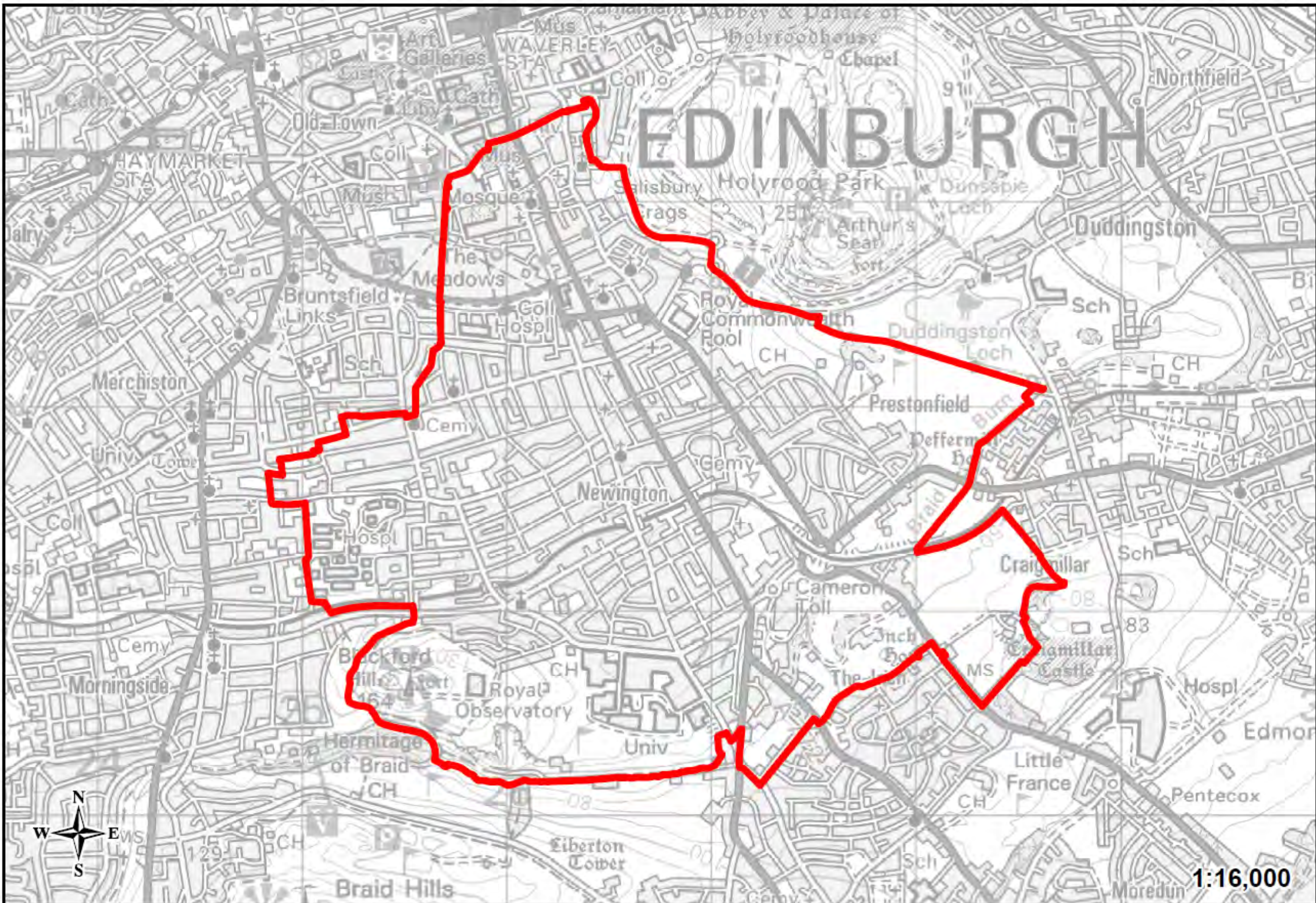
In line with NPF4 and related guidance, new Local Development Plans in Scotland need to be place-based, people-centred and delivery-focussed.

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
- Almost all engagement participants are happy or very happy with their area - The housing stock generally meets the requirements of the population - A variety of good quality of shops and services are available within walking distance of most of the ward - There is close proximity to large employers as the north of the ward falls within the City Centre and the University of Edinburgh is a key employer with multiple campuses. - Volunteering opportunities are plentiful - Public transport is excellent along the north-south axis of the ward - Active travel routes are to be found including the Innocent Railway, shared paths in the Meadows and the Union Canal to the west - Large areas of open space are to be found in the ward in addition to smaller green spaces and these are well distributed and within walking distance to residents - Cultural and community spaces can be found within the ward and are concentrated towards the north of the ward	- There is a strong contrast between the deprivation levels within this ward, with Prestonfield and The Inch reported as being more deprived than adjacent areas - Some find it challenging to book appointments at GPs and dentists - There is concern over the impact of hot food takeaways, public houses and entertainment venues along Nicolson Street-Clerk Street on households within the ward. - There is some concern about the over provision of charity and betting shops and cafes - The west of the ward has poorer access to public transport, especially around the Grange and Blackford areas - Traffic on main streets is considered too high and parking insufficient - The centre of the ward lacks allotments and community growing spaces - Climate change is a concern for residents regarding surface water flooding and the impact on biodiversity
Implications	
- Implication on housing is that there should be more energy efficient and affordable homes - Explore actions to aid the retention of and establishing of local independent businesses - Explore the retention and creation of commercial/light industry units within the ward - Reductions in traffic levels and improvements to transport infrastructure are seen as opportunities to improve bus times, and the re-establishment of the suburban railway could be explored - Active travel enhancements could improve connectivity and safety. - Open green spaces could be enhanced and established with facilities for all ages to play and a focus on biodiversity - Opportunity to explore creating additional community growing spaces - Both indoor and outdoor community spaces could be better publicised and utilised with a focus on alcohol free spaces - Enhancement of current educational and learning provision could be explored	

Background

Edinburgh's Southside started to develop in the early 18th century when Edinburgh could expand beyond its city walls with some small-scale planned developments. The construction of North Bridge and South Bridge in the later 18th century linked the New Town, Old Town and Southside and drove further expansion to the south.

By 1830, development expanded rapidly with tenements, terraces and villas in leafy surroundings for the growing middle-class of merchants and professionals in areas. Including:

- **The Grange**
- **Sciennes**
- **Blacket**
- **Newington**

The development of public transport with horse-drawn trams in 1871 and the railway stations at Newington and Blackford Hill fuelled further residential development in the following areas:

- **Craigmillar Park**
- **Cameron Toll**
- **Blackford**
- **Mid Liberton**
- **Nether Liberton**

There are pockets of later housing development including the inter-war Council housing at **Prestonfield** and at **St Leonard's**.

Cameron Toll, originally a historic village, is now the location of an indoor shopping centre and is a designated commercial centre. Nicolson Street/Clerk Street is a designated town centre. There are designated local centres at Ratcliffe Terrace, Mayfield Road and Dalkeith Road.

The A7 (Dalkeith Road) and the road formed by South Clerk Street-Newington Road-Minto Street-Craigmillar Park-Liberton Road are arterial routes and public transport corridors.

There are large areas of open space including George Square, the eastern section of the Meadows, Grange Cemetery, Grange Cricket Club and Newington Cemetery, Inch Park and Double Hedges playing fields. The Braid Burn runs across the southern section.

The University of Edinburgh has a large presence in the ward including the following:

- **George Square Campus**
- **Pleasance**
- **Pollock Halls of Residence**
- **Peffermill**
- **King's Buildings**

The Astley Ainslie Hospital in the Grange occupies a large site.

The ward contains Blackford Hill, a section of Craigmillar Castle Park (including the cemetery and amenity centre) and Prestonfield Golf Course on the former parkland setting of Prestonfield House.

Place Mapping

- Mapping of key amenities are shown below, these are linked to amenities detailed in the **Local Living topic paper** and can contribute to Living Well Locally.
- Distribution of cultural facilities and community-run spaces are 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 of distribution.

Place Mapping

Ward 15 - Southside / Newington

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Leisure / Sports Centres

PLACE

Shops Outwith Centres

Swimming Pools

Supermarkets

Bowling Greens

Post Offices

Tennis Courts

Cafes

Golf Courses

Public Toilets

Centres

Water Refill Locations

Commercial Centres

Town Centres

Local Centres

Schools

School Type

ASN

Primary

Secondary

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

1 - 2

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Culture and Community Infrastructure

Ward 15 - Southside / Newington

Legend

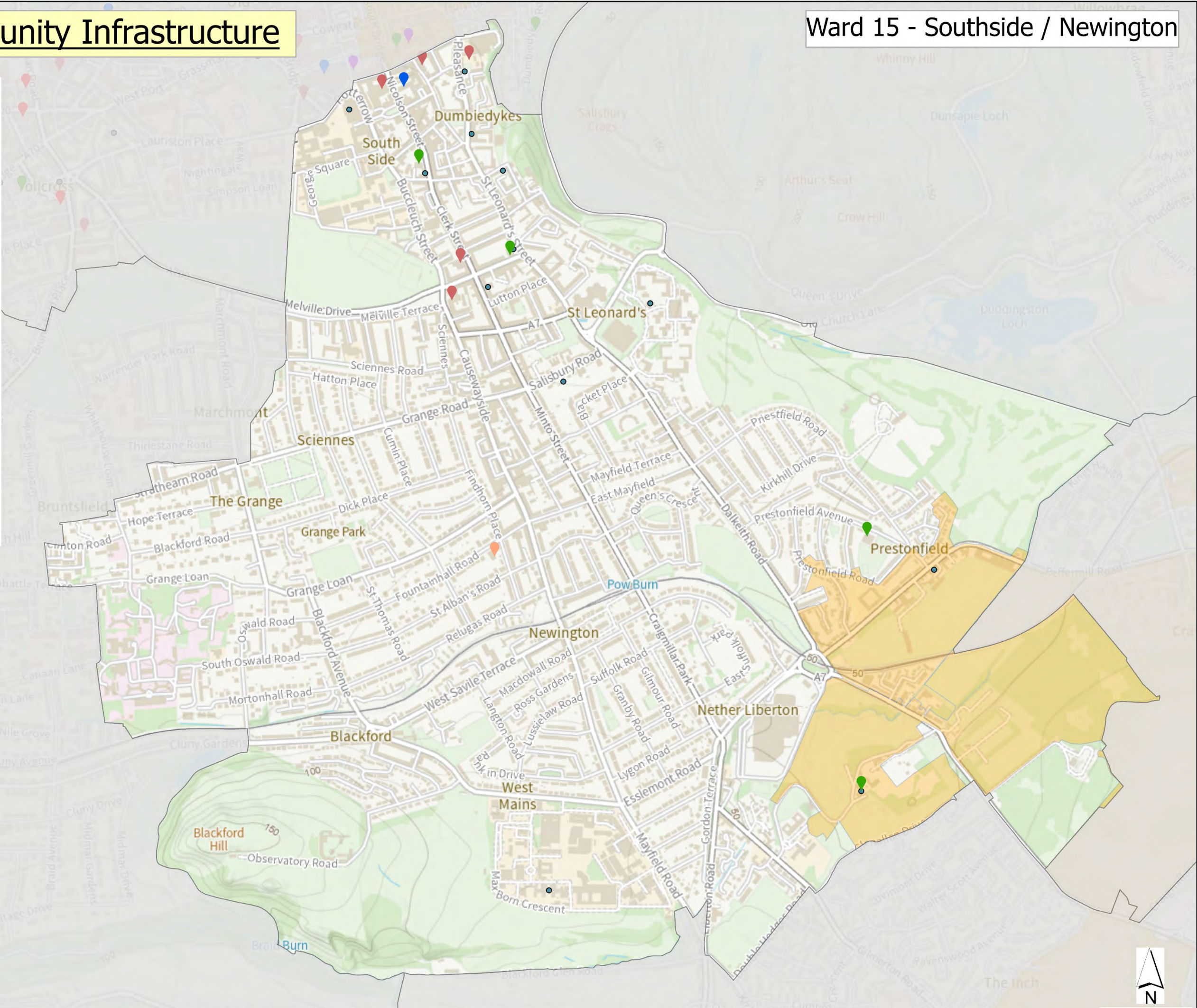
Other CEC Wards

CULTURE

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

SIMD 2020 - most deprived Deciles

1 - 2



Considerations

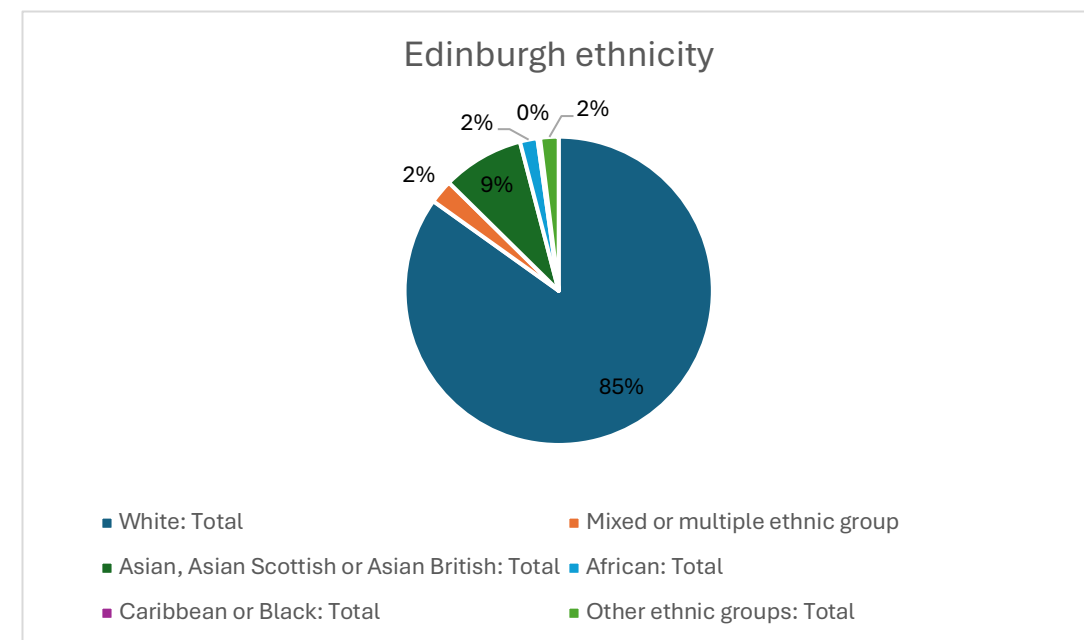
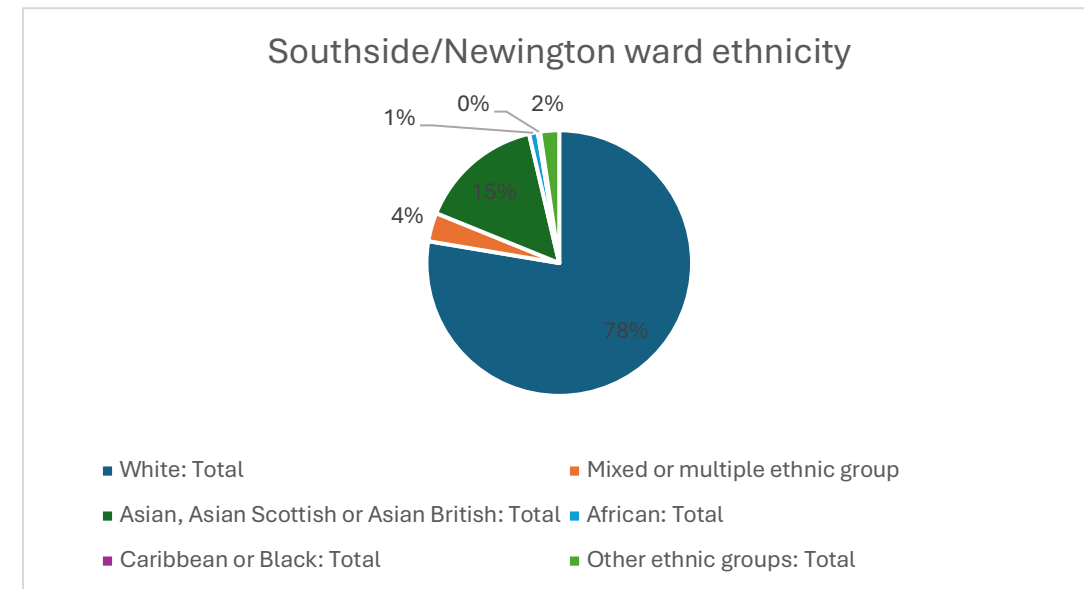
- Place mapping shows that amenities located in the corridor from the Nicolson Street/Clerk Street Town Centre towards Cameron Toll Commercial Centre tend to align with population density and transport access, forming more compact neighbourhoods particularly in the north of the ward and along main routes where mixed uses and tenement development are common.
- There is a good variety of shops and services in the area, and these are accessible by foot or bus. People want to see more local, independent shops and less cafes, charity and betting shops. Young people would like to have more parks.
- Overall, cultural and community spaces are concentrated in the north of the ward close to the university, city centre and denser neighbourhoods located here. There is some provision in the southeast of the ward with a lack of access in the west near the Grange.
- Most people mention there are a lot of green spaces, cafes, restaurants and bars to meet up. They say some areas also have libraries, church halls or community groups however better advertisement and improvements are needed.
- To improve community in the area, they would want to see more spaces to meet without alcohol open for longer, such as libraries or a community cafe. Residents would also like to see more events and highlight that many church halls in the area need to be reused/opened up.

People

Demographics

- The population of Southside Newington is 36,132 which is **7%** of the Edinburgh total of 514,543.
- This population is housed in 13,951 households, which is **5.8%** of the Edinburgh total of 238,944 households.
- The following sites located within the ward boundary are allocated within the adopted City Plan 2030:
 - OPP14 Ratcliffe Terrace – 97 homes.
 - OPP95 Peffermill Road – 16 homes.
 - H8 Astley Ainslie Hospital – 500 homes.
 - H10 Watertoun Road – 49 homes.
 - H15 St. Leonard’s Street (car park) - 24 homes.
 - H28 Cowans Close – 55 homes.
 - H94 Old Dalkeith Road – 24 homes.
- City Plan 2030 allocates a total 765 homes which would be a **5.5%** 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 ward is projected to grow slower than Edinburgh as a whole with growth focussed on Astley Ainslie Hospital.
- The age breakdown of the ward is listed below:
 - The population aged 0-15 is 3,453 which is **9.6%** of the ward population compared to **14.58%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - The population aged 16-64 is 27,523 which is **76.2%** of the ward population compared to **69.5%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - The population aged 65+ is 5,166 which is **14.3%** 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.
 - Of the population recorded as not white, the largest groups represented are:
 - Chinese, Chinese Scottish or Chinese British (2,983)
 - Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Group (1,238)
 - Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British (877)



Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

- SIMD mapping below shows that ward the majority of areas in this ward are within the 20% least deprived in Scotland. This contrasts with Prestonfield, the Inch and parts of the Southside adjacent to the city centre.

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

Ward 15 - Southside / Newington

Legend

☐ Other CEC Wards

Housing and Opportunity Proposals (H1-96)

SIMD 2020

Deciles

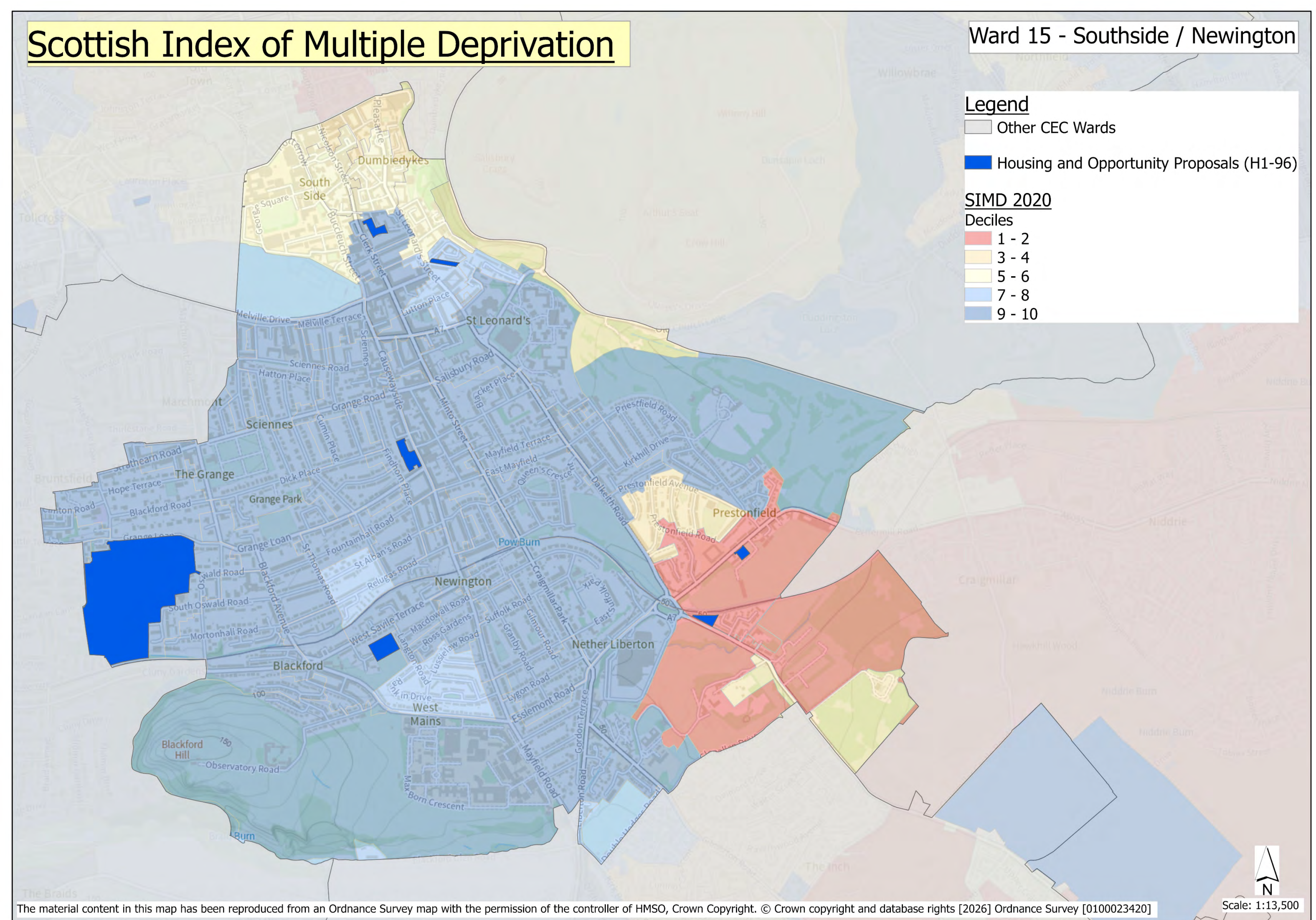
1 - 2

3 - 4

 5 - 6

 7 - 8

9 - 10



Considerations

- The ward population is expected to grow slower than the Edinburgh average, with growth concentrated in the Astley Ainslie site. A place brief and associated masterplan will be developed for this site.
- The working age population is greater than the Edinburgh average, but the child age population is significantly lower.
- This ward is more diverse than Edinburgh as a whole based on population groups, likely reflecting 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 Prestonfield and The Inch. The Southside is also an area of higher deprivation, although not within the most deprived 20%. This contrasts with the majority of the ward which sits within the least 20% deprived in Scotland. The majority of expected growth is within these areas of lower deprivation.
- Almost all consultation respondents are happy or very happy with their area, however they would like to see less traffic and better pavements. Young people want to have more facilities to play ball games.

Health

Demographics

- **15.4%** of the ward population reported having a long-term illness or disease, compared to **18.1%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **13.7%** of the ward population reported having a long-term mental health condition, compared to **11.9%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **88.3%** 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 **72,276**, greater than the ward population of **36,132**. 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 4,696 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 **13.42%** 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, **23.62%** were overweight and **10.16%** 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, **29.71%** were overweight and **20.79%** 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 2023 of the intermediate zones wholly or partially within this ward are as follows:
 - In Blackford, West Mains & Mayfield Road – Male life expectancy was **79.4 years** and female life expectancy was **83 years**.
 - Canongate, Southside & Dumbiedykes – Male life expectancy was **71.9 years** and female life expectancy was **79.1 years**.
 - Craigmillar – Male life expectancy was **69.3 years** and female life expectancy was **73.9 years**.
 - Liberton West & Braid Hills – Male life expectancy was **77.8 years** and female life expectancy was **77.8 years**.
 - Marchmont East & Sciennes – Male life expectancy was **78.7 years** and female life expectancy was **83.3 years**.
 - Marchmont West – Male life expectancy was **79.1 years** and female life expectancy was **84.1 years**.

- Meadows & Southside – Male life expectancy was **91.3 years** and female life expectancy was **87 years**.
- Merchiston & Greenhill – Male life expectancy was **79.5 years** and female life expectancy was **80.8 years**.
- Morningside – Male life expectancy was **84.1 years** and female life expectancy was **88.5 years**.
- Newington & Dalkeith Road – Male life expectancy was **77.1 years** and female life expectancy was **83.1 years**.
- Old Town, Princes Street & Leith Street – Male life expectancy was **72.9 years** and female life expectancy was **79.5 years**.
- Prestonfield – Male life expectancy was **78.2 years** and female life expectancy was **81.9 years**.
- The Grange – Male life expectancy was **79.8 years** and female life expectancy was **84.5 years**.
- The Inch – Male life expectancy was **75.8 years** and female life expectancy was **79 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 the **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 north of the ward, at Nicolson Street/Clerk Street, 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 takeaways are mainly located along Nicolson Street/Clerk Street town centre, close to the major population centre and the city centre.

Hot Food Takeaways

Ward 15 - Southside / Newington

Legend

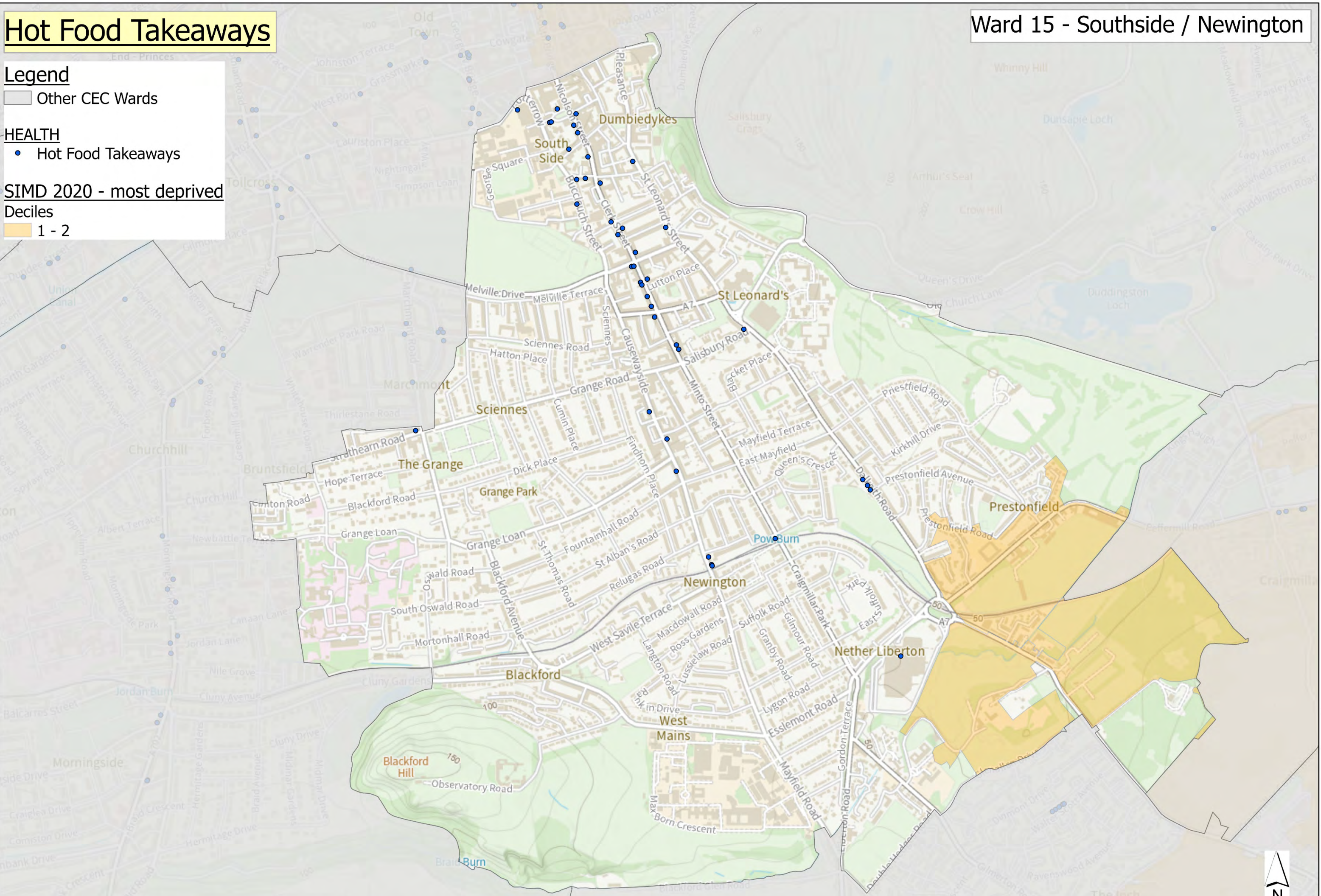
Other CEC Wards

HEALTH

- Hot Food Takeaways

SIMD 2020 - most deprived Deciles

1 - 2



GPs and Pharmacies

Ward 15 - Southside / Newington

Legend

Other CEC Wards

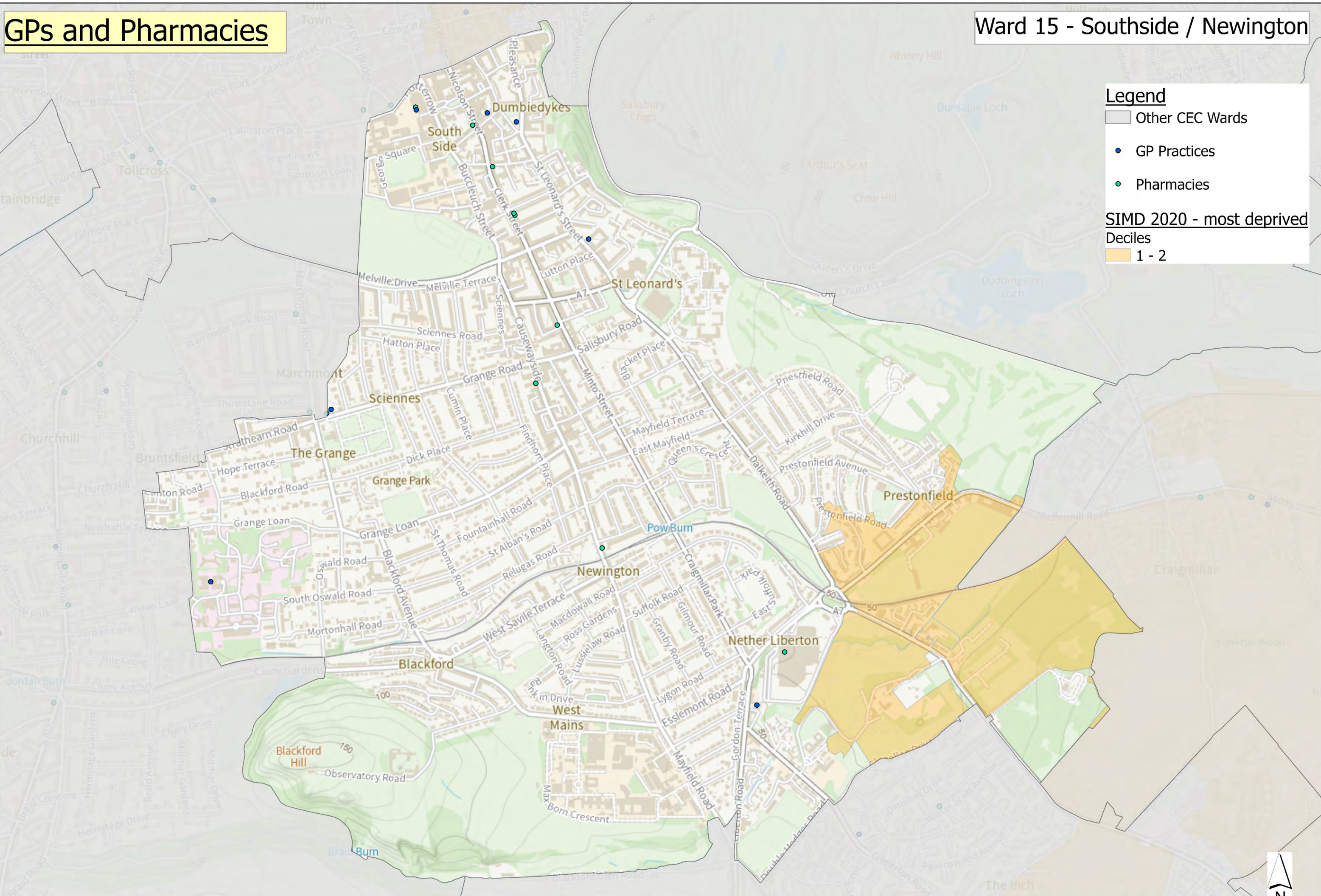
GP Practices

Pharmacies

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

1 - 2



Considerations

- The percentage of people who report being in good or very good health is lower than the Edinburgh average, with a lower percentage of people having a long-term illness/disease.
- The percentage of people who report having a long-term mental health condition is higher than the Edinburgh average.
- The location of health facilities largely follows existing areas of higher population density and transport access around the Southside, Newington and Cameron Toll. There are further health facilities around the denser areas of Marchmont within and adjacent to the ward.
- Most of the people are happy with healthcare facilities and say there are GPs, dentists and pharmacies in the area and good links to the hospitals. However, they say it could be hard to get appointments and would like to see more facilities.

Housing

Housing type and density

- 3,514 households live in houses, which is **25.2%** compared with **36.8%** of the Edinburgh total, while 10,436 which is **74.8%**, live in flats compared with **63.2%** of the Edinburgh total. One lives in a caravan or another mobile/temporary structure.
- Although the level of flatted accommodation is higher on average than the Edinburgh total, mapping shows some concentrations of houses in the southern part of the ward. Population density as measured by households per hectare follows a similar pattern, with the highest densities in the Southside area adjacent to the City Centre, gradually falling to the south but still concentrated along the South Bridge-Newington corridor.

Housing tenure and overcrowding

- The housing tenure breakdown of the ward is listed below:
 - **54.4%** households in the ward report their housing tenure as Owned, compared to **60.1%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **9.8%** households in the ward report their housing tenure as Social Rented, compared to **15.7%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **34.5%** 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, and significantly more households live in privately rented accommodation than the Edinburgh average. Mapping shows social housing to be concentrated in the Southside, Prestonfield and the Inch.
- The level of overcrowding as measured by occupation of rooms per household is higher in the Southside and Prestonfield areas.

Density (Households per Hectare)

Ward 15 - Southside / Newington

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Public Transport Stops

Type

- Bus
- Coach
- Rail
- Tram

Open Space

Centres

Commercial Centres

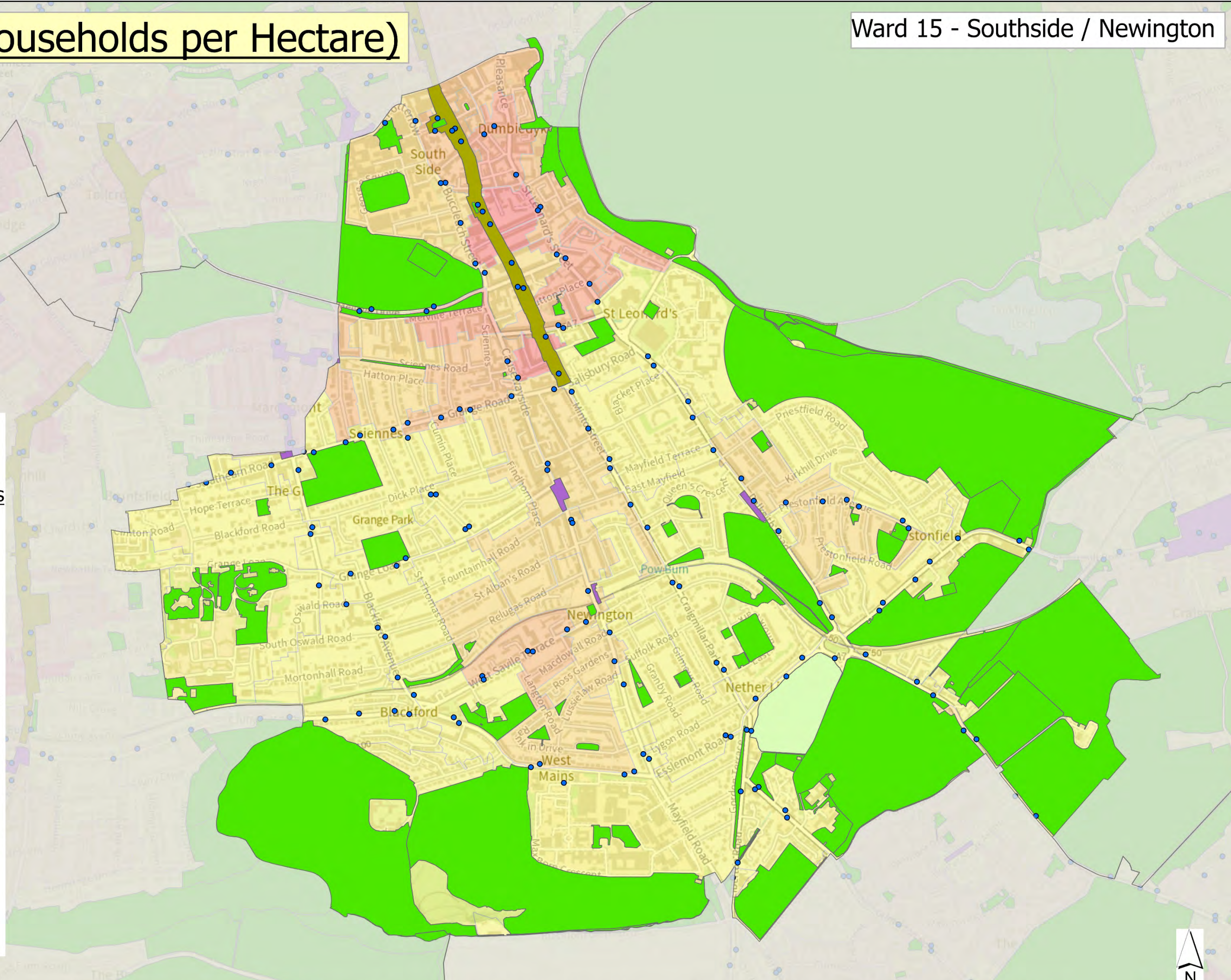
Town Centres

Local Centres

Datazones

Households Per Hectare

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



Flats, Apartments and Maisonettes Percentage

Ward 15 - Southside / Newington

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Town Centres

Public Transport Stops

Bus

Coach

Rail

Tram

Type

Open Space

Centres

Commercial Centres

Datazones

Households in flats as % of all Households

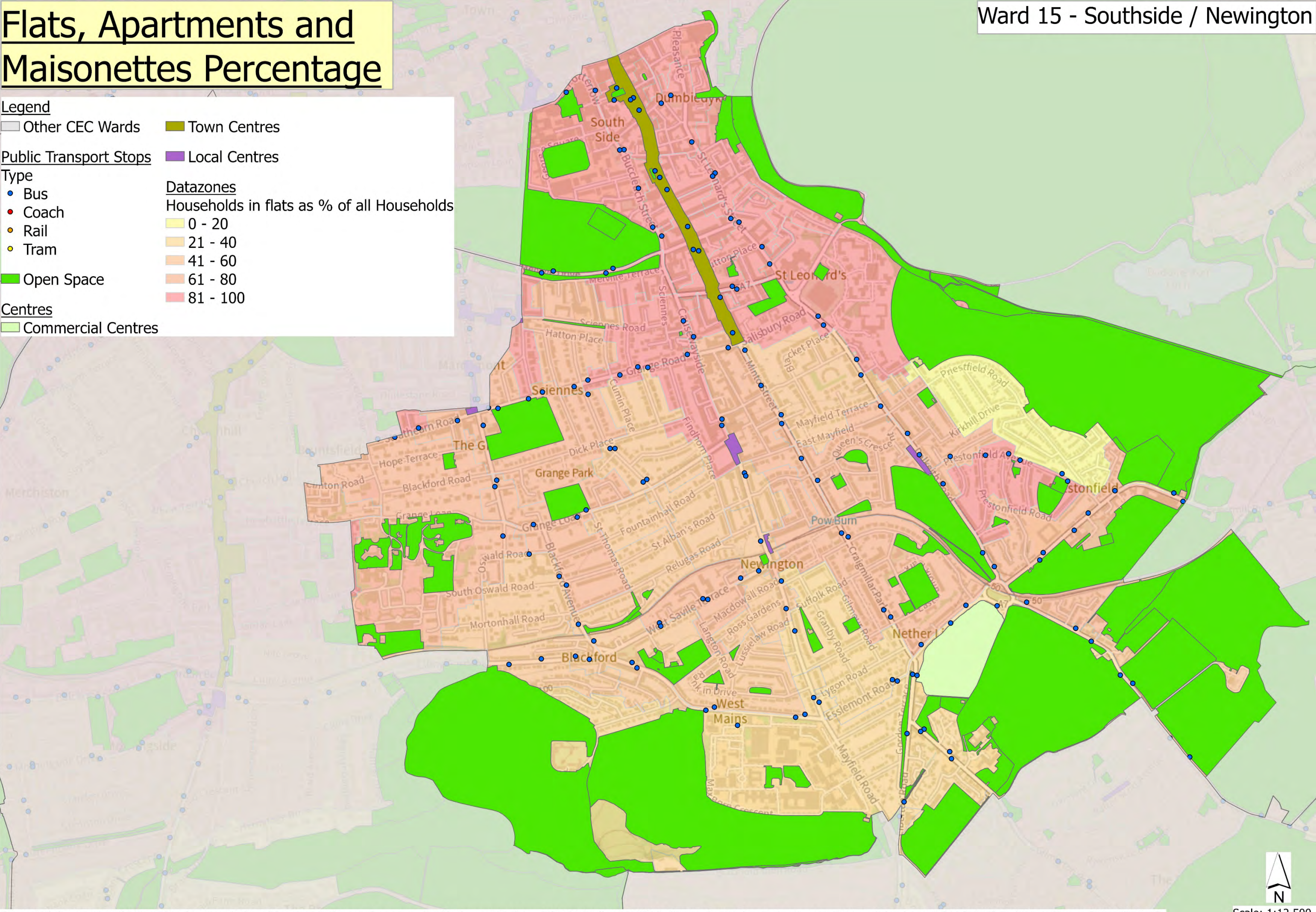
0 - 20

21 - 40

41 - 60

61 - 80

81 - 100



Households in Social Accommodation Percentage

Ward 15 - Southside / Newington

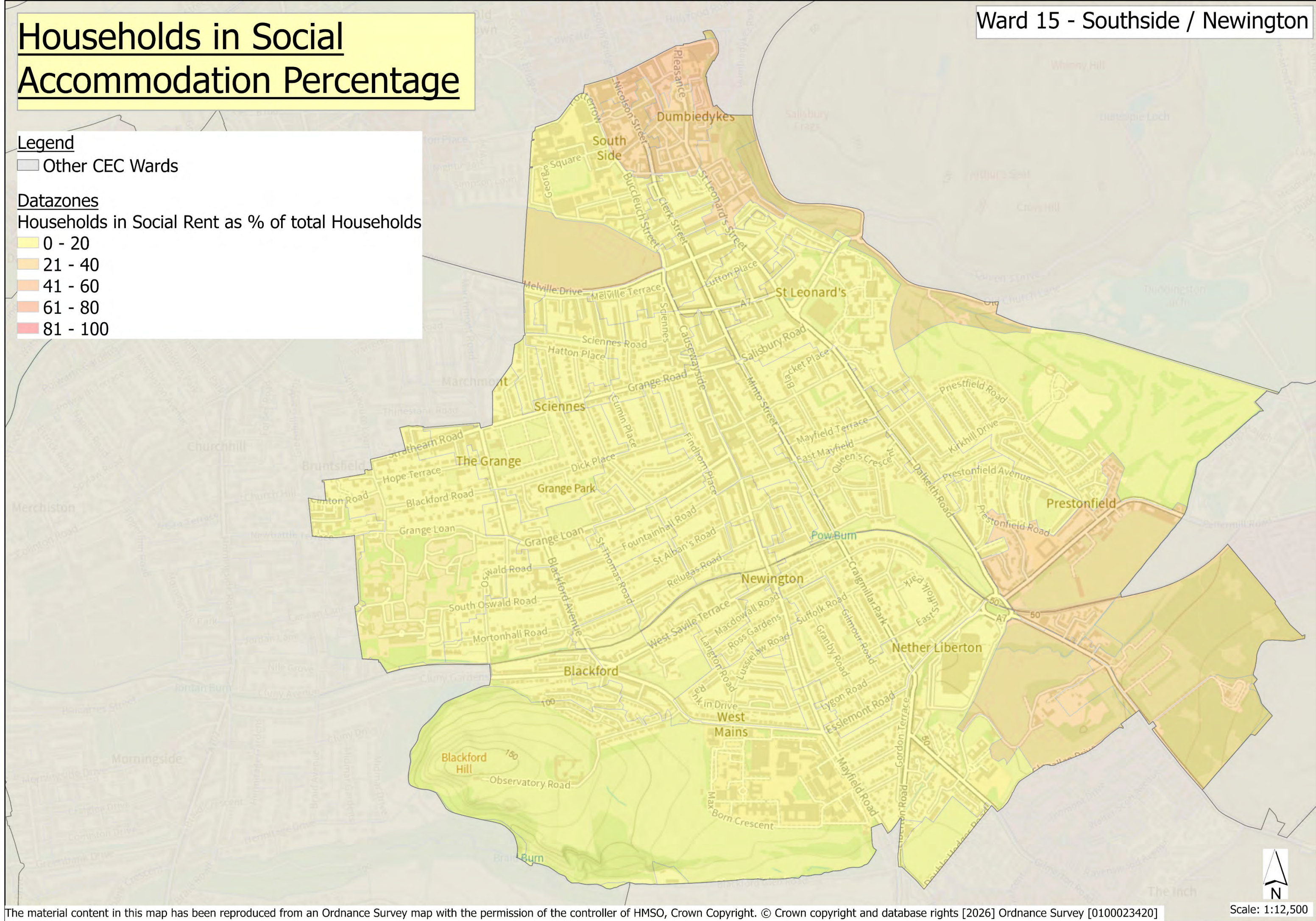
Legend

Other CEC Wards

Datazones

Households in Social Rent as % of total Households

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



Scale: 1:12,500

Overcrowding (percentage of households based on room habitation)

Ward 15 - Southside / Newington

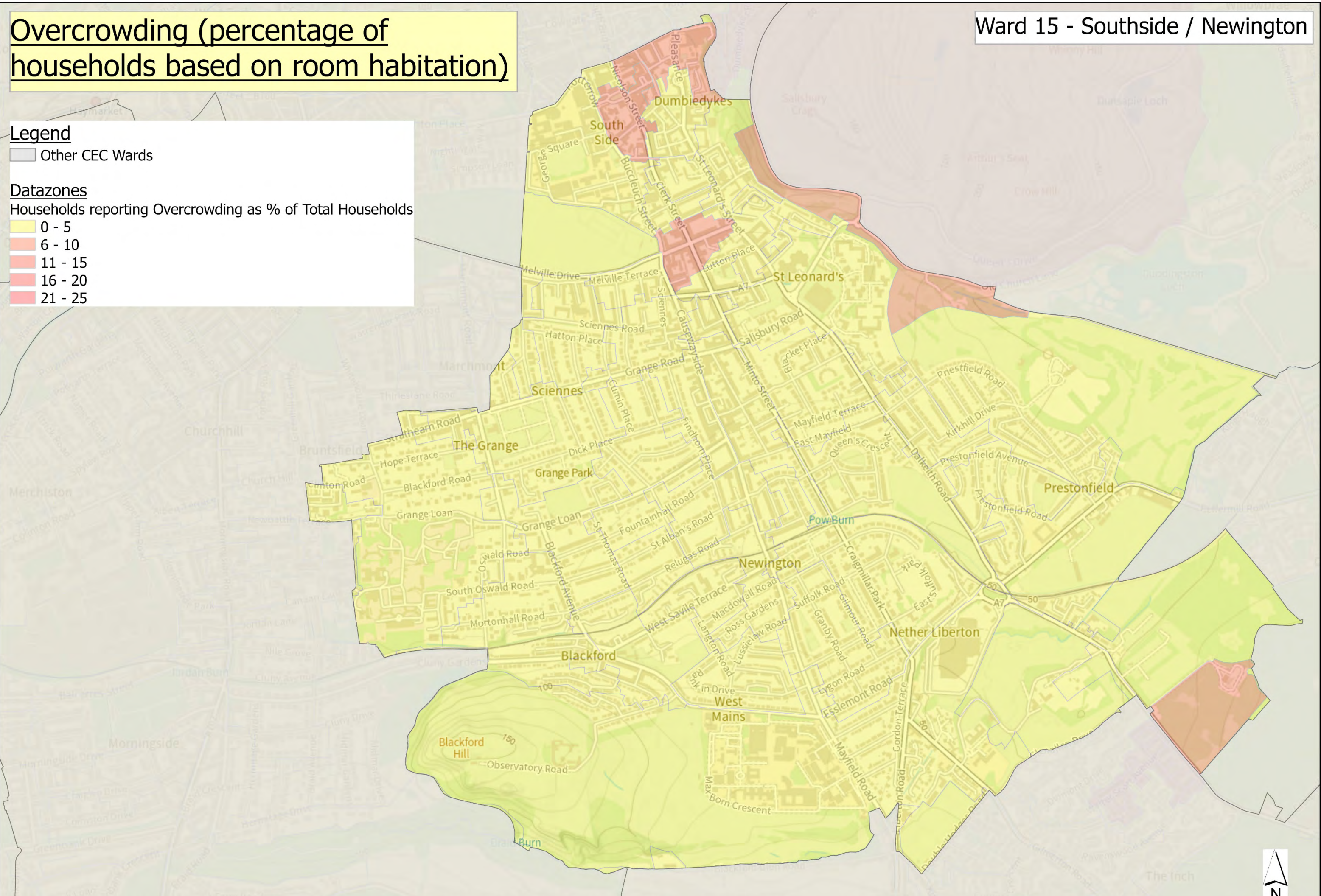
Legend

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 concentrated in the denser areas of the Southside and Newington which are compact neighbourhoods close to public transport and town and local centres as well as Prestonfield.
- Social housing is concentrated in the Southside, Prestonfield and the Inch. These areas see more overcrowding.
- Most people are happy with their homes but would like to see houses better insulated and some young people say they would like to have their own bedroom.
- Affordability has been raised as an issue and this is likely to be exacerbated by the proximity to the city centre and University of Edinburgh. Parts of this ward are noted for having a high number of student accommodation bedspaces, as set out in the **Student Accommodation topic paper**.

Economy

Demographics

- The occupation breakdown of the ward is listed below.
 - **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.
 - **38.2%** 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.
 - **14.3%** 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.
 - **6.5%** 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.
 - **4.4%** 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.
 - **5.8%** 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.
 - **7.3%** 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.
 - **3%** 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.
 - **12.4%** 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.
 - **5%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as No qualifications, compared to **9.7%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **9.2%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Lower school qualifications, compared to **14.3%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **22.2%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Upper school qualifications, compared to **4.4%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **1.8%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Apprenticeship qualifications, compared to **4.4%** for the Edinburgh total.

- **6.8%** 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.
- **55.1%** 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 15 - Southside / Newington

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Public Transport Stops

Type

- Bus
- Coach
- Rail
- Tram

Economy

- Largest Businesses - By parking space total

Strategic Business Centres

Business and Industry Areas

Areas of Economic Importance

Commercial Centres

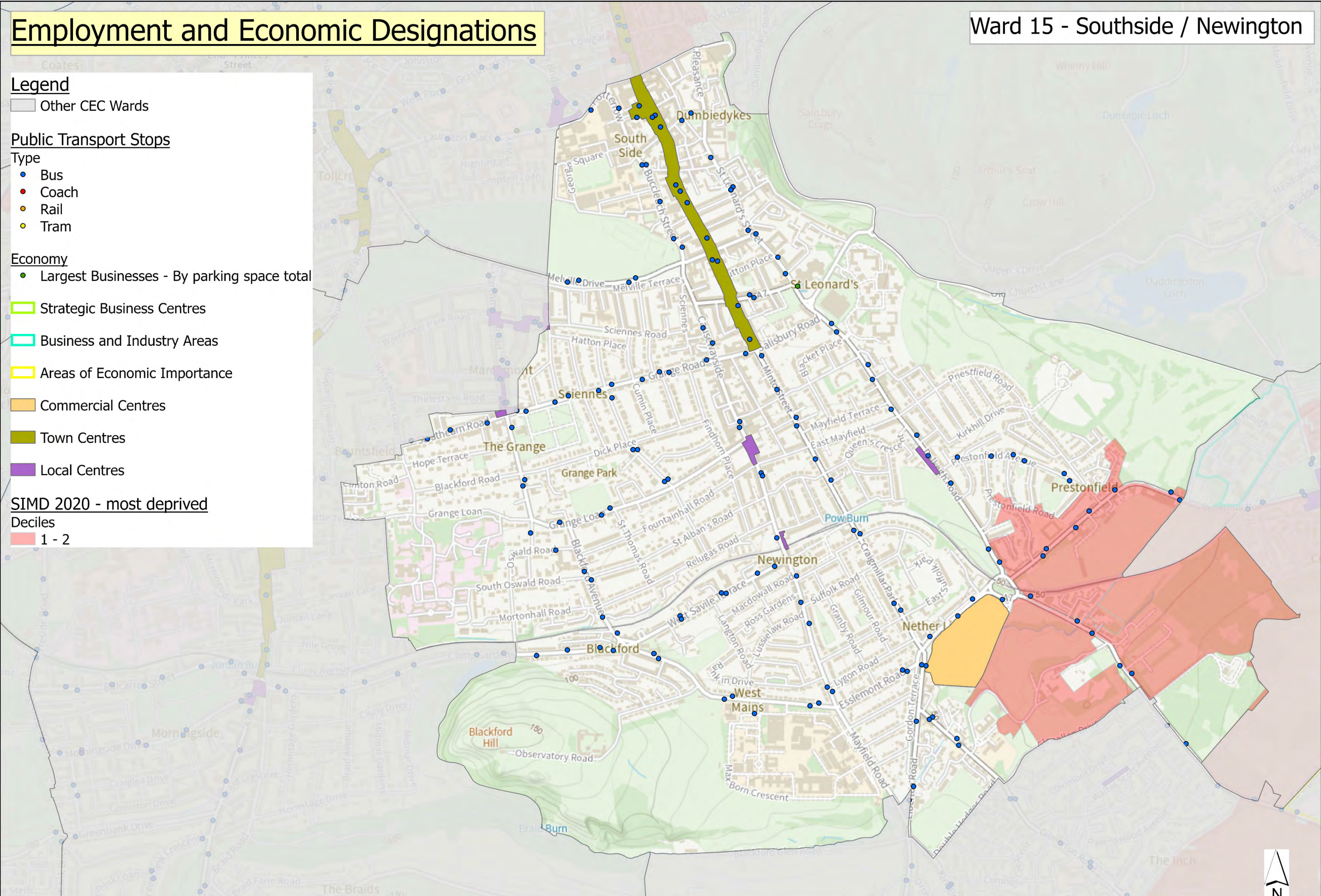
Town Centres

Local Centres

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

1 - 2



Considerations

- The City Centre falls partly within the ward to the north and is of regional economic importance. There is also a designated business and industry area adjacent to the south-east of the ward at Craigmillar.
- The Nicolson Street/Clerk Street Town Centre forms a major centre for this ward and can be found in the northern part of the ward along the major transport corridor leading into the city centre and within an area of higher population density, connecting to the City Centre. Cameron Toll is a major commercial centre in the southern part of the ward and there are a number of local centres, particularly arranged along the routes running parallel to the Nicolson Street/Clerk Street corridor.
- Key employers and anchor institutions in this area include the two campuses of the University of Edinburgh in the north of the ward, within the City Centre, and the south, in the King's Buildings campus.
- People say that there are a lot of volunteering opportunities in the area as well as Edinburgh University. They would like to see more investment into education opportunities as well as commercial/light industry units retained in the area.

Transport

Demographics

- The breakdown of the primary method of travel to work is listed below:
 - **40.9%** of the working population report mainly working from or at home, compared to **39%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **17.1%** of the working population report driving a car or van, compared to **25.1%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **13.1%** 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.
 - **6.9%** of the working population report travelling by bike, compared to **3.8%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **18.9%** of the working population report travelling on foot, compared to **12%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **54.8%** 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 concentrated around the Southside and Newington as well as Prestonfield, aligning with areas of higher population density and deprivation.
- Use of cars for driving to work is broadly low across the ward, with a slight increase in parts of Prestonfield.

Public Transport

- Public Transport Accessibility Levels (PTAL) are calculated by the Council 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.
- Good access is concentrated along the corridor stretching along the Nicolson Street/Clerk Street Town Centre towards Cameron Toll Commercial Centre from north to south of the ward and taking in the roads parallel to this, broadly aligning with town and local centres, amenities and dense housing. Areas of good access also lead into Prestonfield towards Craigmillar. Bus priority measures are proposed along this corridor to improve journey times.
- Poor access is concentrated in the west of the ward around the Grange and Blackford areas which are a greater distance from major transport corridors and have lower overall population density.

- A safeguard is in place for a potential future Edinburgh Tram route connecting Granton to the BioQuarter.

Active travel

- Key active travel paths are the shared use path in the Meadows connecting across the ward and beyond to the east of the city via the Innocent Railway and to the west via the Union Canal. Further routes can be found in the south of the ward including quiet roads and Spaces for People soft segregation, although some of these provide less protection and continuity.
- The City Mobility Plan has identified projects in the south of the ward leading from Cameron Toll to the BioQuarter which will reduce vehicle dominance, increase space for active travel and improve pedestrian access and sense of place in these areas.

Households with no car or van access percentage

Ward 15 - Southside / Newington

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Datazones

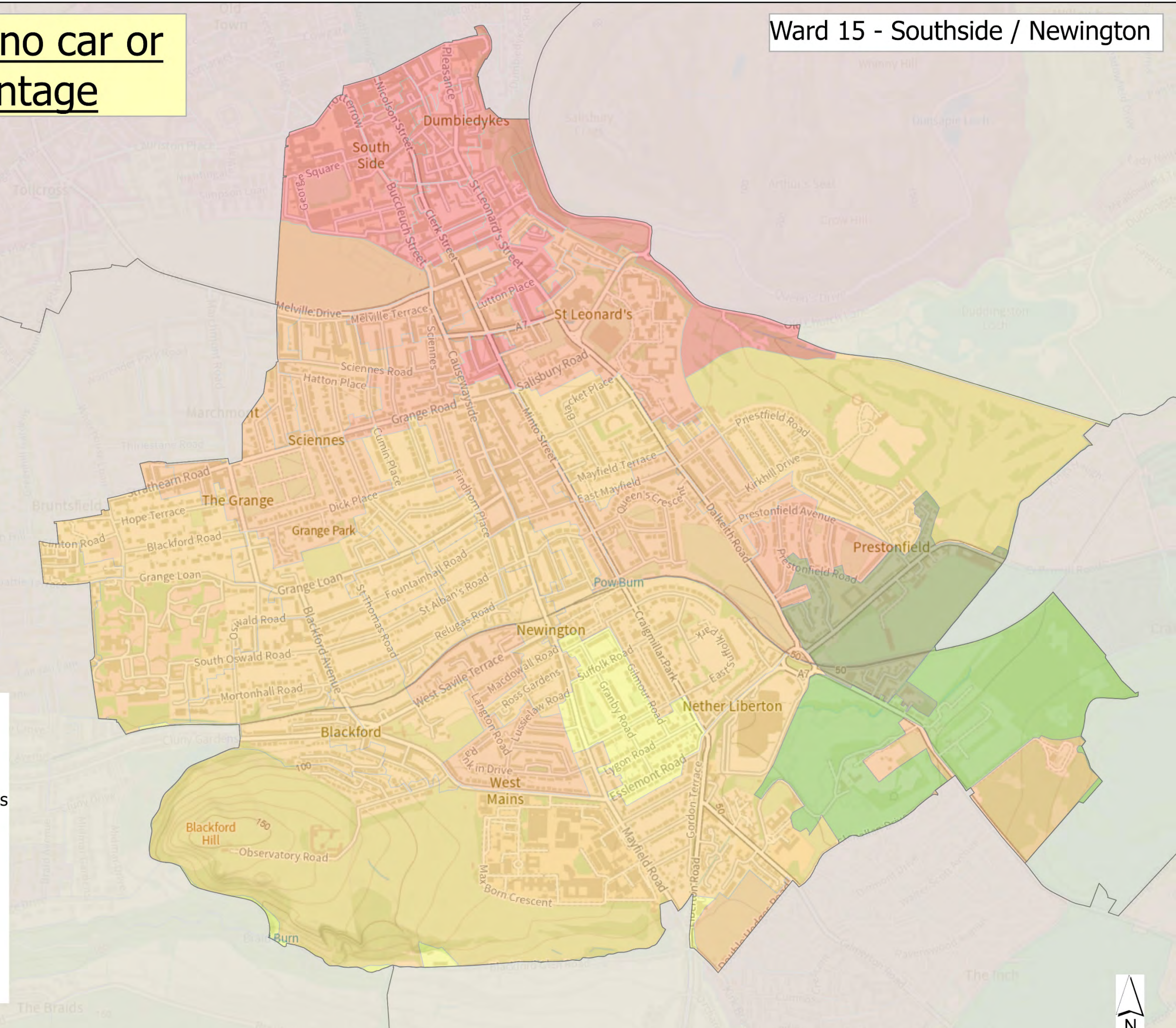
% Households with no Car or Van Access

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

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

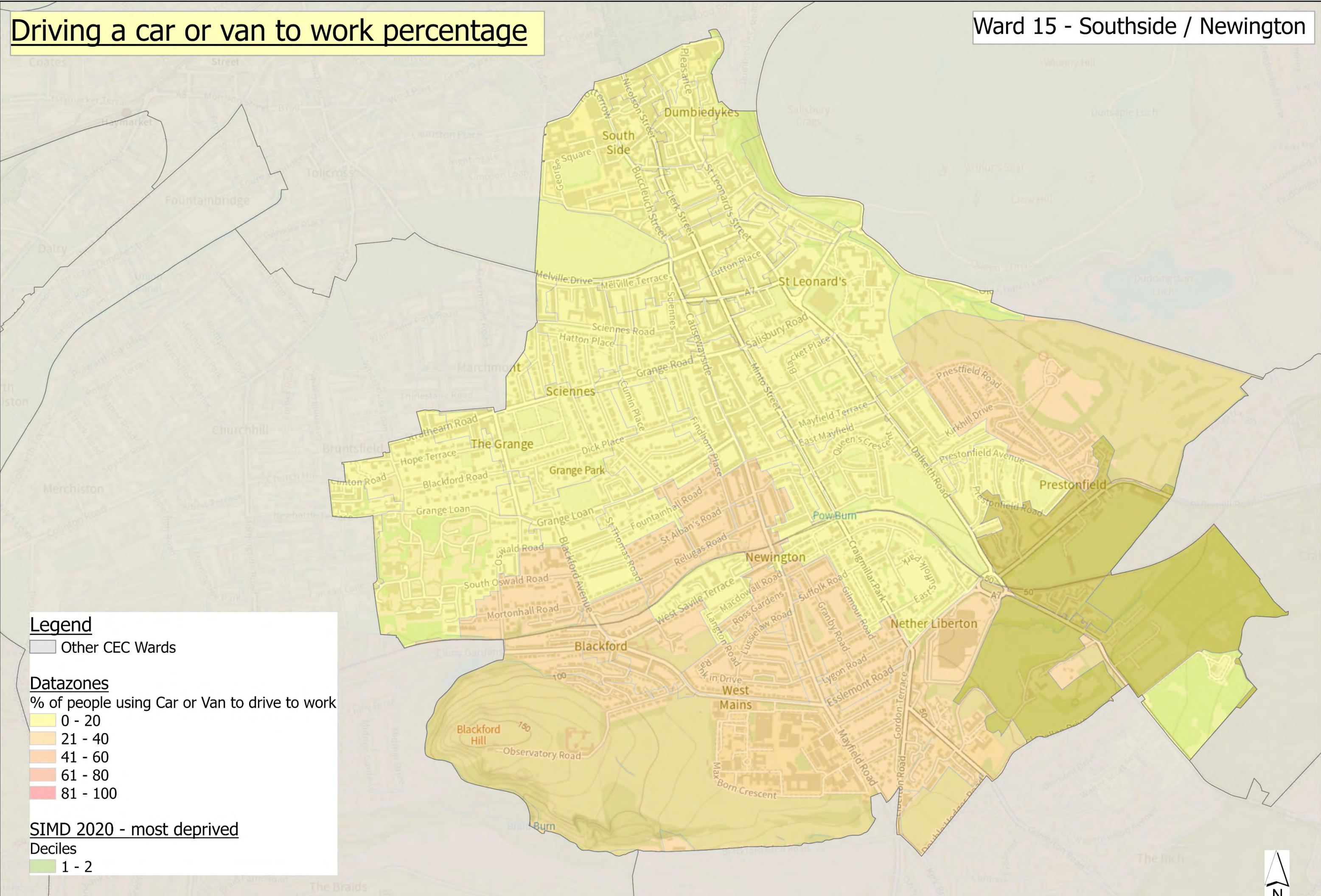
- 1 - 2



Scale: 1:13,000

Driving a car or van to work percentage

Ward 15 - Southside / Newington



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 15 - Southside / Newington

Legend

Other CEC Wards

TRANSPORT

Bus Improvemnents and Orbital CP2030

FUTURE TRAM

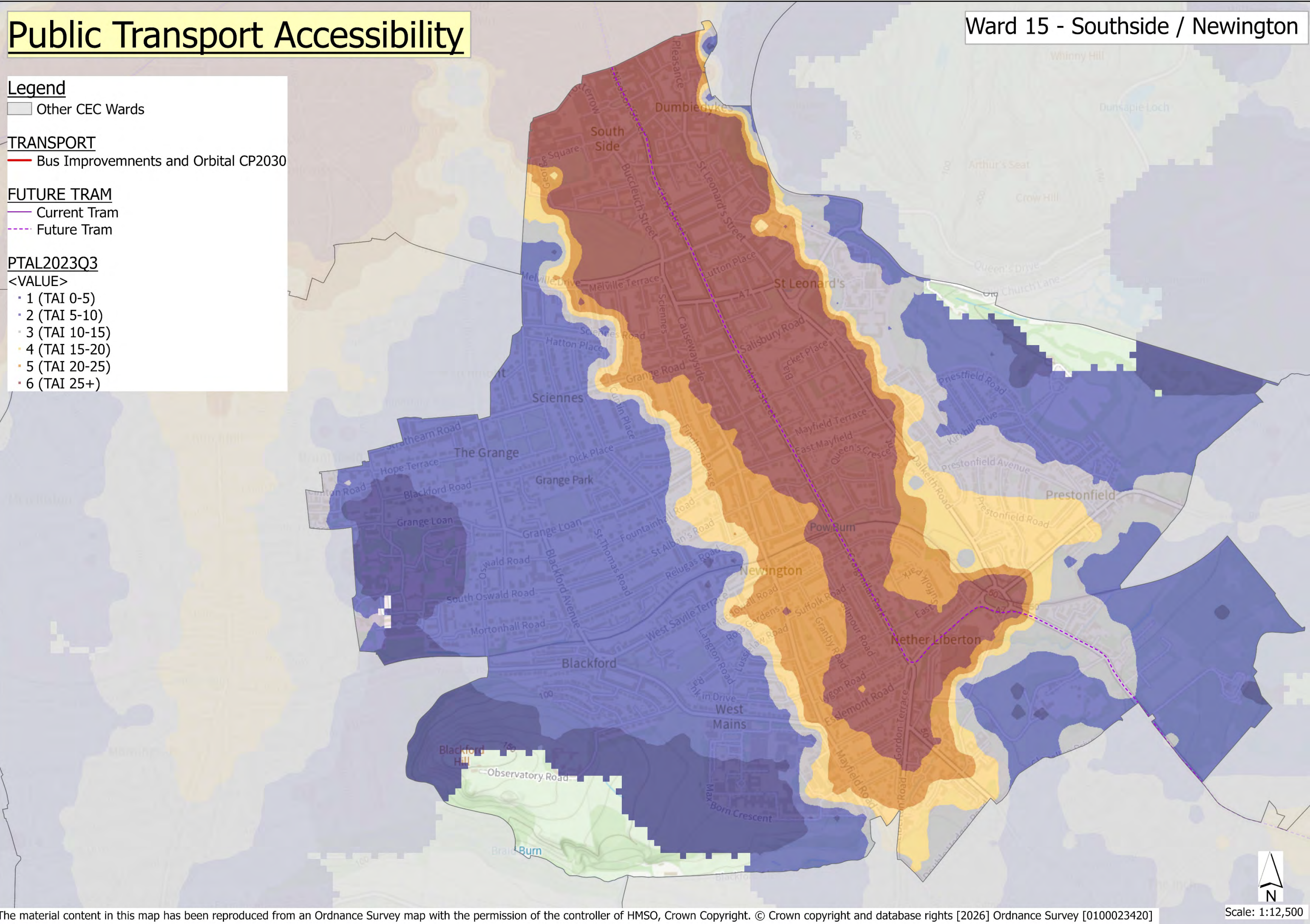
Current Tram

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+)



Scale: 1:12,500

Active Travel Mapping

Ward 15 - Southside / Newington

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Public Transport Stops

Type

Bus

Coach

Rail

Tram

Bus Improvemnts and Orbital CP2030

FUTURE TRAM

Current Tram

Future Tram

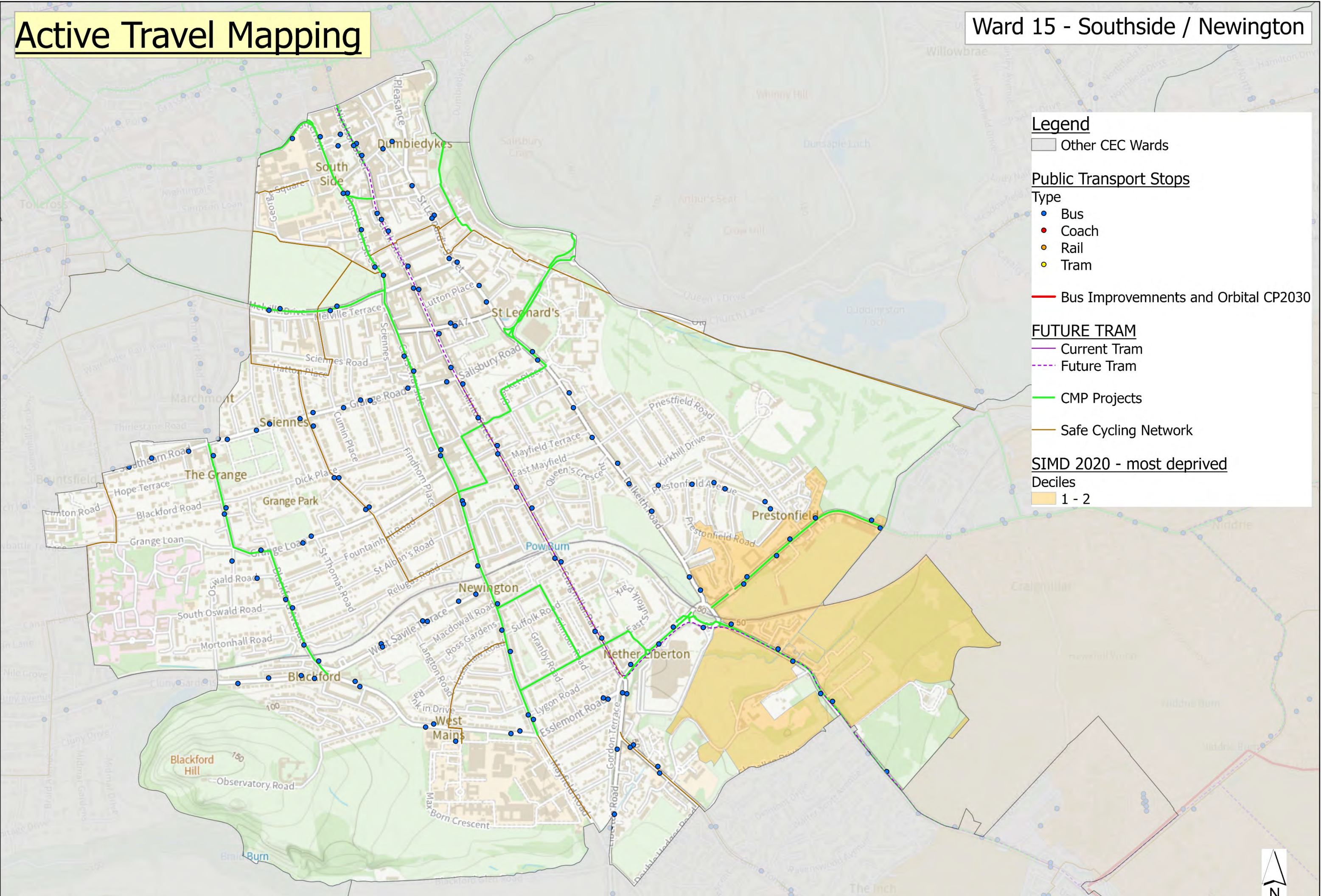
CMP Projects

Safe Cycling Network

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

1 - 2



Considerations

- A higher percentage of people in the ward walk and cycle to work, with a lower percentage taking public transport or driving, compared to the Edinburgh average.
- Areas with lower access to a car or van broadly line up with areas of higher deprivation and higher than average population density.
- Public transport accessibility is concentrated in the central part of the ward, along the Nicolson Street/Clerk Street corridor.
- City Mobility Plan improvements are proposed to be brought forward primarily along this key corridor to improve public transport journey times while another project is to improve active travel connectivity with the BioQuarter.
- A safeguard is in place for a potential future Edinburgh Tram route connecting Granton to the BioQuarter through this ward.
- People say that walking/wheeling/cycling is good with variety of destinations within a short distance. They mention that there were many improvements to these over the last decades however would like to see even more dedicated cycle lanes, wider pavements and more restrictions to motor traffic. Young people also mention that lack of safe cycle routes is a problem.
- Most of the respondents are happy with the public transport and highlight good bus service. They would like to see more cross-city routes, quicker travel times and support the idea of a suburban rail line.
- They also mention that while existing restrictions are a positive, there is still an issue with traffic and parking, especially through traffic on the main streets. They say active travel should be encouraged and rules better enforced. Previous engagement showed support for active travel improvements.

Environment

Green blue network and biodiversity

- Open spaces are well dispersed throughout the ward, with larger open spaces located to the edge of the ward to the north, south-west and south-east. There are relatively fewer small open spaces in the centre of the ward in parts of The Grange and Newington.
- 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.
- Holyrood Park forms the largest part of the green blue network adjacent to the ward and is of primary importance for recreation, nature and the character of Edinburgh. It connects to a green blue corridor leading to Blackford Hill and in the other direction to the east and on to the Council boundary incorporating the Braid Burn and land around it close to Cameron Toll.
- Green blue network improvements are proposed as part of this corridor at Inch Park next to Cameron Toll and The Inch area, involving a park improvement plan. The improvement plan's outputs will include proposals for Inch Nursery, the Council Depot, Inch House, and boundaries to better connect it within the surrounding neighbourhood.

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.
- Allotments and growing spaces are located in the south-west and south-east of the ward
- There is a lack of growing spaces of any kind in the central and northern part of the ward.

Open, Natural, and Play Spaces

Ward 15 - Southside / Newington

Legend

☐ Other CEC Wards

ENVIRONMENT

 Green Blue Network Proposal

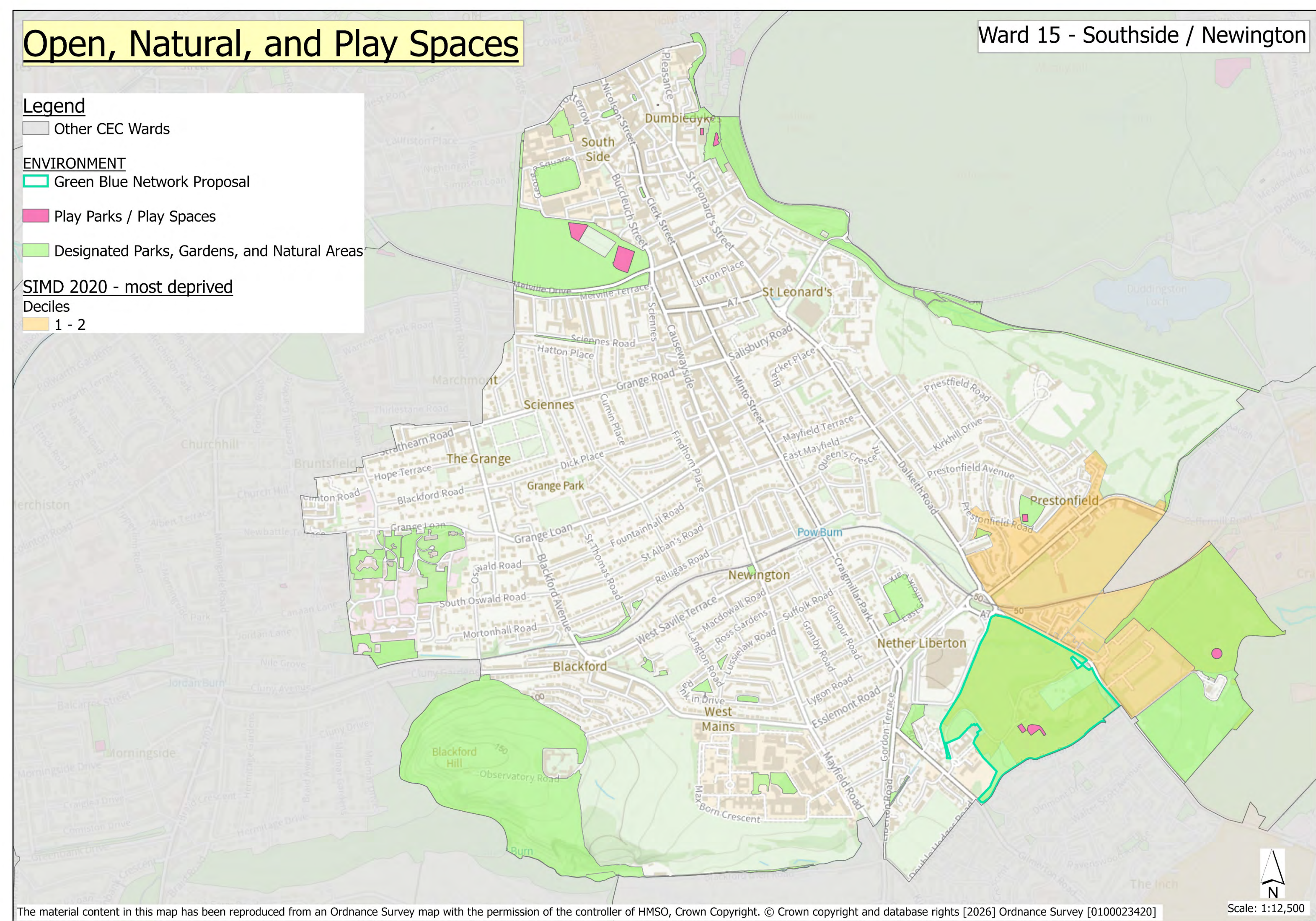
Play Parks / Play Spaces

 Designated Parks, Gardens, and Natural Areas

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

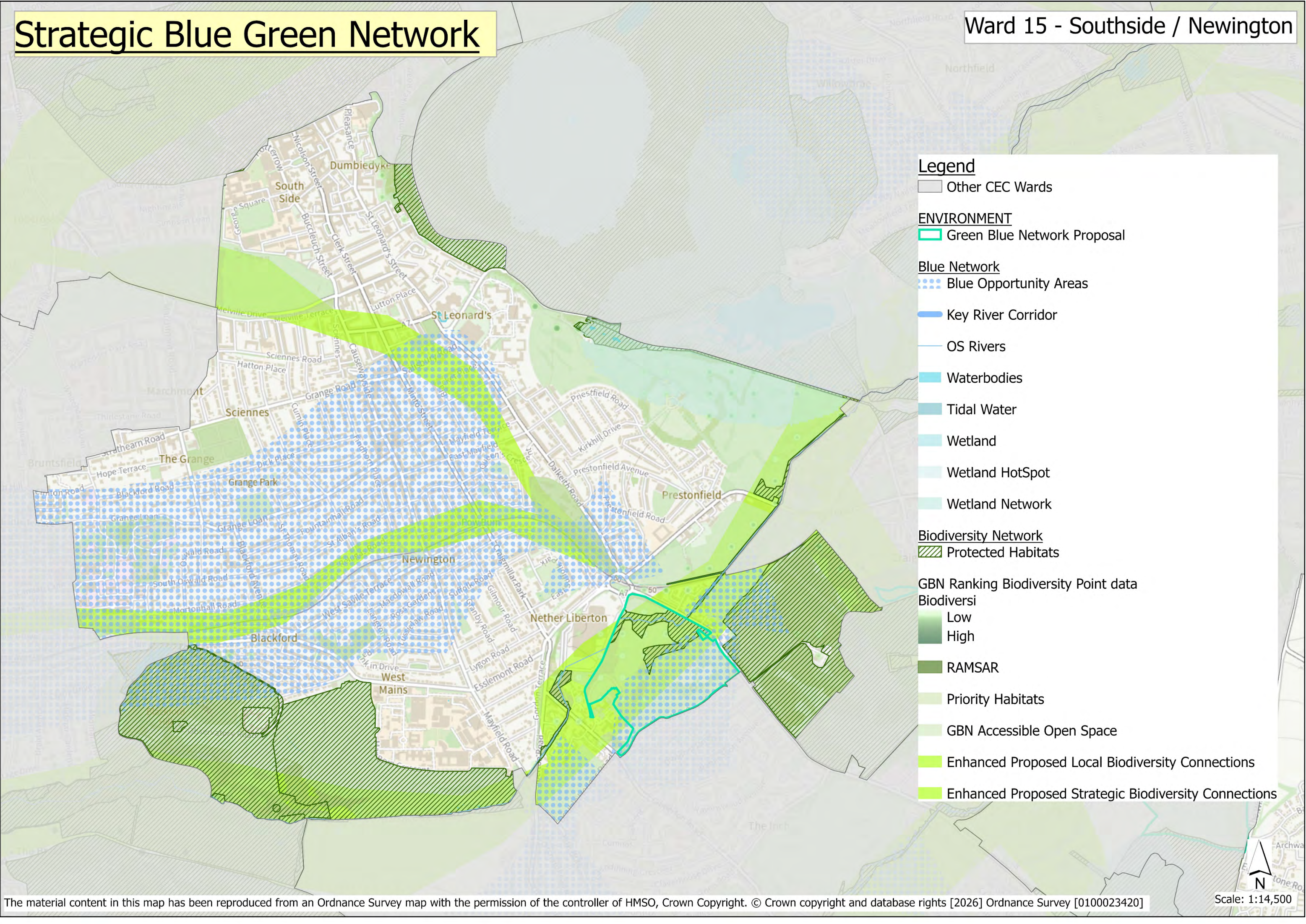
Deciles

1 - 2



Strategic Blue Green Network

Ward 15 - Southside / Newington



Growing Spaces

Ward 15 - Southside / Newington

Legend

Other CEC Wards

ENVIRONMENT

Allotments

Community Growing Spaces

SIMD 2020
Deciles

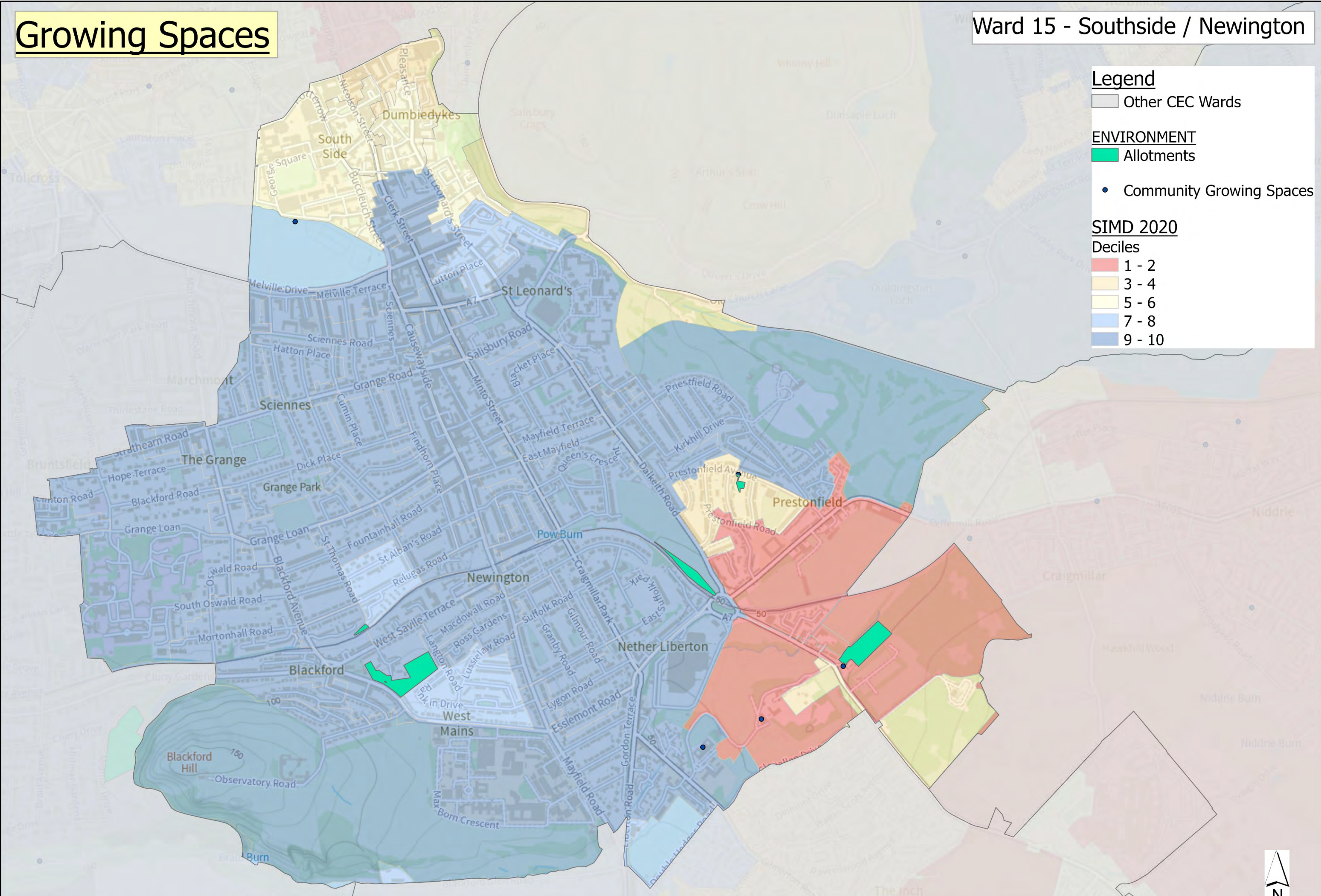
1 - 2

3 - 4

5 - 6

7 - 8

9 - 10



Considerations

- Key existing green blue corridors through and adjacent to the ward include Blackford Hill, the Braid Burn and Holyrood Park.
- Improvements are proposed for the Inch Park to improve this portion of the green blue network.
- Open spaces are well dispersed throughout the ward, with larger open spaces located to the edge of the ward to the north, south-west and south-east. There are relatively fewer small open spaces in the centre of the ward.
- Opportunities for food growing are concentrated in the Southside and Prestonfield area but are lower in the south and west of the ward where there is lower population density.
- Most people say there is a great variety of green walkable spaces in the area and they would like to see them retained. Residents want green spaces to be cleaner and biodiversity improved. They support restricting car access to the Meadows and Holyrood Park.
- People mention that the Meadows playpark is great however some areas are underserved and improvements are needed to meet the needs of older kids.
- Young people say that they prefer to hang out where it's fun, close to home and they feel welcomed. They mention Inch Park and Liberton Park as their favourite however would like to have more and better equipment and feel safer in these spaces.
- The Meadows is great for ball games however might be too far for some to access. Local parks are scattered around the ward but not adapted to ball games and local clubs might be too expensive or inaccessible.
- There are growing spaces in the area and some residents have their own garden however more community growing spaces are needed.
- Residents are worried about surface flooding as a result of the climate change and young people worry about the impact it has on animals and their habitat. They say that more greenery and less litter would help nature in their area.

Appendix

This report details the consultation and engagement information utilised when creating the Southside/Newington 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 142 responses were received for the Southside/Newington Ward. Out of these, 138 were from public at large and 4 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 and then children and young people where similar questions were asked.

Housing

Public at large

How happy are you with your home?

- 61 Very happy
- 47 Happy
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Unhappy
- 1 Very unhappy

If you could change one thing, comments

- Change nothing.
- Warmer, less damp/cold.

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

- 31 Very good
- 49 Good
- 28 Neutral
- 6 Bad
- 2 Terrible

Homes in the area, comments

- **Good:** Well-built older housing that is dense. Range of options.
- **Bad/change:** More affordable housing. Better insulation/energy improvements to the existing houses.

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

- 41 Very good
- 54 Good
- 15 Neutral
- 4 Bad
- 1 Terrible

Shops and services, comments

- **Good:** Variety of shops and services in a walking/bus distance.
- **Bad/change:** Less chains, support independent shops. Improve non-car travel links.

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

- 29 Yes
- 74 No
- 6 Don't know

What there is too much of, comments

- Coffee shops, charity shops, betting shops.

Children and Young People

Are you happy with your home (the building)?

- 15 Yes
- 5 It's OK
- 1 It's not good
- 0 It's bad

If you could change one thing, comments

- **Good:** Having own bedroom/ house not flat
- **Bad/change:** Change nothing

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

- 0 Too many
- 18 Right amount
- 3 Not enough
- 0 None

Shops and things, comments

- More parks

Health

Public at large

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

- 30 Very good
- 50 Good
- 26 Neutral
- 7 Bad
- 2 Terrible

Healthcare facilities, comments

- **Good:** GPs, dentists, pharmacies in the area. Bus links to Royal Infirmary and Wester General.
- **Bad/change:** More healthcare in the area. Easier to get appointments.

Transport

Public at large

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

- 33 Very easy
- 45 Easy
- 27 Neutral
- 7 Difficult
- 4 Very difficult

Walk, wheeling, cycling, comments

- **Good:** Short distances to a range of places. Many pleasant/quiet routes. Cycle infrastructure is ok/good. Lots of positive improvements to cycling and walking over the last decades.
- **Bad/change:** More dedicated cycle lanes. Wider pavements. Less cars and more car restrictions.

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

- 48 Very easy
- 43 Easy
- 18 Neutral
- 7 Difficult
- 0 Very difficult

Public transport, comments

- **Good:** Good bus availability and coverage.
- **Bad/change:** More bus routes that are not going to/through the city centre. Quicker travel time. Suburban rail line.

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

- 4 Very happy
- 25 Happy
- 48 Neutral
- 27 Unhappy
- 9 Very unhappy

Traffic and parking comments

- **Good:** Restrictions to parking and traffic are a positive.
- **Bad/change:** Enforce speed limit. Prevent people from parking in non designated spaces. Promote active travel. Main streets are busy during rush hours due to commute and school drop off.

Cameron Toll to BioQuarter Cycling & Walking Route (2019)

- High-quality active-travel corridor linking Cameron Toll with Edinburgh BioQuarter.
- Connects shopping, hospital, research, and education sites.
- Includes segregated cycle lanes, improved footways, and upgraded crossings.
- Strong public interest in safer, continuous walking and cycling links between Southside and Little France.

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?

- No, nothing
- Bad weather stops me
- Not enough safe paths for cycling/scooting

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
- There's not enough

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?

- 10 Yes
- 3 No
- 8 Don't know
- 0 Don't care

Economy

Public at large

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

- 12 Very good
- 32 Good
- 57 Neutral
- 6 Bad
- 1 Terrible

Work, volunteering and training, comments

- **Good:** Lots of volunteering opportunities. University in the area.
- **Bad/change:** Investment into education opportunities. Provision and retaining commercial/light industry units in the area.

Culture

Public at large

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

- 24 Very good
- 53 Good
- 22 Neutral
- 10 Bad
- 2 Terrible

Spaces to meet people, comments

- **Good:** Lots of green spaces. Cafes/pubs. In some parts – a library, church halls, community group.
- **Bad/change:** Community cafe. Longer opening hours for non alcoholic places and meeting places like libraries. More events, classes etc. Church halls' reuse.

How is the community space in your area?

- 15 Very good
- 41 Good
- 39 Neutral
- 12 Bad
- 4 Terrible

Community spaces, comments

- **Good:** Lots of church halls. Southside community centre. Liberton Library.
- **Bad/change:** Not enough of these. Poor advertisement – needs to raise awareness. Improvements and better maintenance of them.

Children and Young People

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

- Friend's house
- Playgrounds
- Shopping centres/food & drinks

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

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

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

- Football, basketball
- Climbing centre

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

- 14 Yes
- 7 Sometimes
- 0 No
- 0 Don't know

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

- 2 Often
- 12 Sometimes
- 7 Very rarely
- 0 Never

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

- Boring/not interested
- No one to go with
- Hard to get to

Environment

Public at large

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

- 57 Very happy
- 51 Happy
- 4 Neutral
- 0 Unhappy
- 2 Very unhappy

Open and natural spaces, comments

- **Good:** Variety of them in the area. Walkable.
- **Bad/change:** Protecting from development. Improving biodiversity. Cleaner. Restricting car access (Meadows, Holyrood).

What is the access to growing spaces like now?

- 9 Very happy
- 22 Happy
- 57 Neutral
- 14 Unhappy
- 3 Very unhappy

Growing spaces, comments

- **Good:** Some residents have their own garden. There are allotments in the area.
- **Bad/change:** Most don't have access. More allotments to reduce waiting list.

Climate change, comments

- Rainwater flooding.

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.?

- 17 Very happy
- 43 Happy
- 34 Neutral
- 8 Unhappy
- 2 Very unhappy

Ball game spaces, comments

- **Good:** Meadows is great albeit slightly too far for some.
- **Bad/change:** There are local clubs but needing to pay to access. Local parks throughout the area however these are not specifically adapted to ball games.

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?

- 10 Very happy
- 28 Happy
- 48 Neutral
- 12 Unhappy
- 8 Very unhappy

Outdoor play spaces, comments

- **Good:** Playpark in Meadows is great and well maintained. Playparks in the area although some parts are underserved.
- **Bad/change:** More for older kids. More playparks in the underserved areas.

Children and Young People

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

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

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

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

What is your favourite park or greenspace in Edinburgh?

- Inch park
- Liberton 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
- I feel welcome

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

- Bad weather/too dark in winter
- Not enough people to do things with
- Hard to organise meeting up with friends

How could the places where you hang out be better?

- More equipment
- More safe/less sketchy teenagers

Are the outdoor spaces you go to clean?

- 1 Very clean
- 9 Clean
- 7 OK
- 4 Dirty
- 0 Very Dirty

Outdoor play equipment

- 11 In good condition
- 4 Needs fixing
- 4 Needs cleaned/painted
- 1 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?

- 10 I always feel safe
- 9 I sometimes feel safe
- 2 I never feel safe

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

- Not safe because of teenagers
- It's dark

How close are you with nature?

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

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

- More trees
- Less litter

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

- Not worried
- Yes it will/does hurt animals

Place

Public at large

How happy are you with your area?

- 43 Very happy
- 62 Happy
- 6 Neutral
- 2 Unhappy
- 1 Very unhappy

What would you change, comments

- Less motor traffic – more restrictions. Better pavements.

Any other comments

- No/thanks/love the area.

Children and Young People

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

- More football pitches with nets
- People with pit bulls terrify me

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
- [Cameron Toll to BioQuarter Cycling and Walking Route, City of Edinburgh Council, July 2019](#)