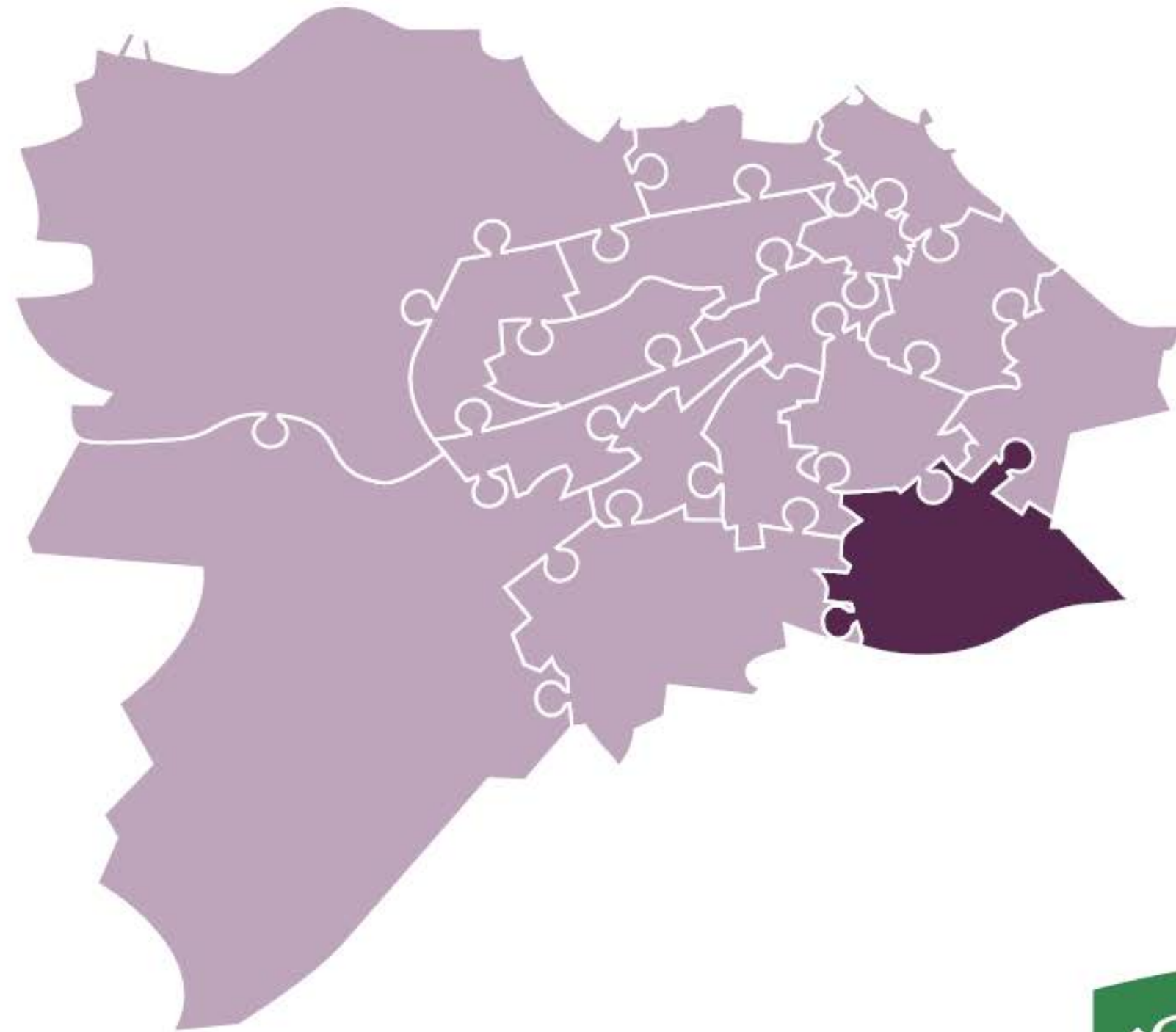


Evidence Report Place Profile

Ward 16 Liberton / Gilmerton



Introduction

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

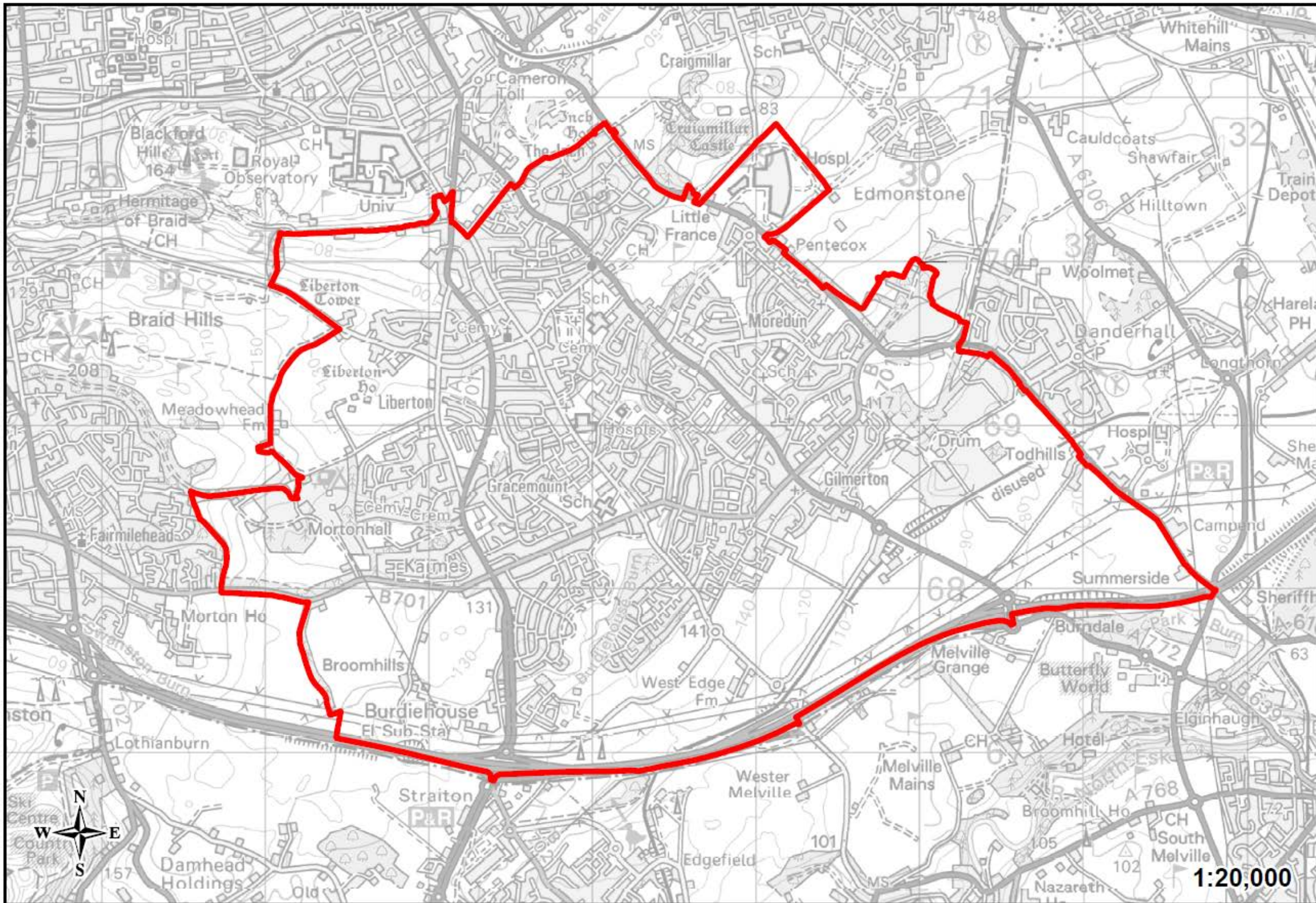
In line with NPF4 and related guidance, new Local Development Plans in Scotland need to be place-based, people-centred and delivery-focussed.

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
- Health facilities are good and well dispersed throughout the ward. - There is a good provision of shops and local services around the ward including access to the Cameron Toll commercial centre. - The age of housing stock is generally newer and of good quality. - Close proximity to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and BioQuarter and the University of Edinburgh King’s Buildings as key employers for the ward. - Good numbers of well-maintained greenspaces well dispersed throughout the ward. The Burdiehouse Burn is a valuable natural recreation space. - Very good public transport is concentrated along the main roads: A701, Lasswade Road, Gilmerton Road and Old Dalkeith Road - Close to the historic centre of Gilmerton and close to the Royal Infirmary.	- People felt there was a need for better access to larger shops and access to healthy food is not consistent across the ward with Gracemount, Burdiehouse and Moredun showing greater need for access to healthy food. - There is an identified cluster of unhealthy uses at Walter Scott Avenue local centre. - Access to GP appointments is increasingly difficult due to significant new development. - In areas such as Liberton, Gilmerton, Moredun and Southhouse and the Inch, the housing does not always meet the requirements of the population with overcrowding more likely to be reported. - Traffic congestion and parking is bad in most areas, exacerbated by new development and commuting due to wider development patterns. - Public transport access is poor in areas away from the transport corridors and the Royal Infirmary. - There is a lack of connected and segregated active travel routes in the ward. - New development in the south of the ward is largely based on housing with little diversity of facilities and uses. - Growing spaces and allotments are not well dispersed, with existing concentrated in Moredun, Gracemount and the Inch. There is a need for more community and cultural spaces in the new-build areas to the south and the area around Gracemount.
Implications	
- There is a need for better variety in types of housing as well as amenities and services to support local living. - There is a need for better connections and access to employment and education options elsewhere. - Opportunities to improve congestion, journey times and walking, cycling and wheeling routes should be explored. - Opportunities to explore community growing spaces and allotments as well as biodiversity improvements. - Nature and open spaces need improved accessibility and safety. - There should be opportunities for more and improved community space provision in the ward.	

Background

Liberton/Gilmerton Ward has seen continued residential expansion of the city with new developments starting to surround the country houses, institutions and original rural/mining settlements such as **Liberton, Gracemount, Gilmerton** and **Kaimes**.

New development has been focussed on the new public transport routes along Kirk Brae and Liberton Brae/Liberton Gardens.

During the post-war period there was significant expansion in this area including large areas of council housing, from garden city-style homes to high-rises including the following areas:

- **The Inch**
- **Moredun**
- **Fernieside/Ferniehill**
- **Hyvots/Gilmerton Dykes**
- **Burdiehouse**
- **Southhouse**
- **Gracemount**

There has also been large-scale private residential development up to the present day; notably:

- **Howdenhall**
- **Alnwickhill**
- **Mortonhall**
- **Burdiehouse**
- **The Murrays/Lang Loan**
- **Gilmerton**
- **Edmonstone**

The ward is predominantly residential with local shopping centres at Walter Scott Avenue, Moredun Park Road, Gilmerton, Gracemount and Liberton Brae.

Gilmerton Road, Lasswade Road-Kirk Brae, the A701 (Burdiehouse Road-Liberton Gardens-Liberton Brae) and Old Dalkeith Road are major routes and public transport corridors through the ward and leading out of Edinburgh to Midlothian and the south.

The ward is partially enclosed by the green belt and this includes Liberton Golf Club, the Drum Estate and land along the line of the City Bypass to the south, where recent housing development has been concentrated, and around to the Mortonhall Estate and north to Blackford Glen Road. The Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park/Nature Reserve runs through the ward.

There are also several public parks and playing fields throughout the ward as well as Mount Vernon Cemetery and Liberton Cemetery.

Little France, once a small settlement connected to Craigmillar Castle, is the location of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and Royal Hospital for Children and Young People.

Place Mapping

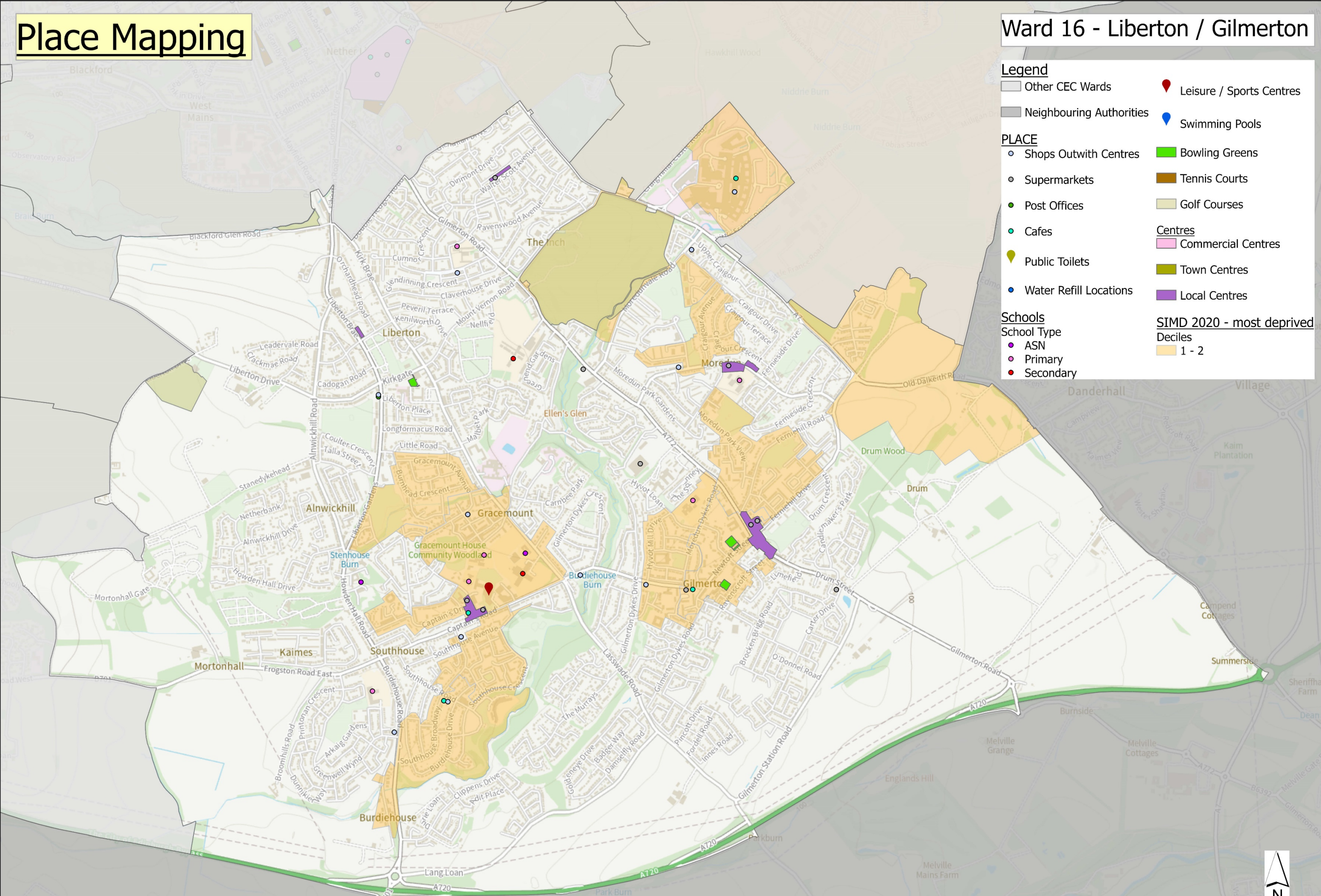
- Mapping of key amenities are shown below, which are linked to amenities detailed in the **Local Living topic paper** which can contribute to Living Well Locally.
- Distribution of cultural facilities and community-run spaces is also shown. This is based upon available information at the time of mapping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

Place Mapping

Ward 16 - Liberton / Gilmerton

Legend

- Other CEC Wards
- Neighbouring Authorities
- Leisure / Sports Centres
- Swimming Pools
- PLACE**
 - Shops Outwith Centres
 - Supermarkets
 - Post Offices
 - Cafes
 - Public Toilets
 - Water Refill Locations
 - Bowling Greens
 - Tennis Courts
 - Golf Courses
- Centres**
 - Commercial Centres
 - Town Centres
 - Local Centres
- Schools**
 - School Type
 - ASN
 - Primary
 - Secondary
- SIMD 2020 - most deprived**
 - Deciles
 - 1 - 2



Culture and Community Infrastructure

Ward 16 - Liberton / Gilmerton

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Neighbouring Authorities

CULTURE

Museums

Libraries

Art Galleries

Theatres

Cinemas

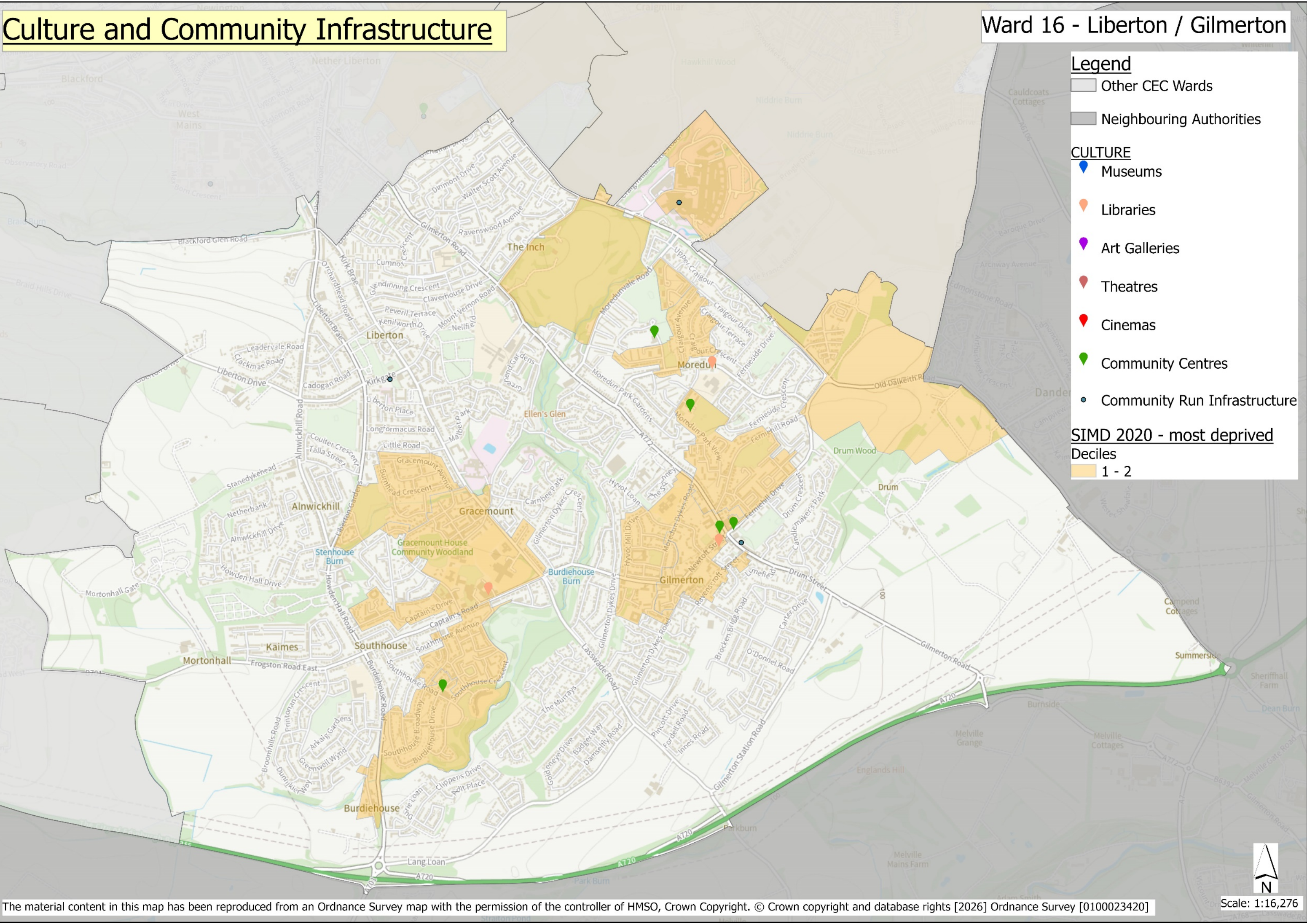
Community Centres

Community Run Infrastructure

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

1 - 2



Considerations

- Place mapping shows that amenities are concentrated closer to the historic centres of Liberton and Gilmerton as well as Gracemount, although population density is fairly spread out and not concentrated near these neighbourhoods resulting in more people having to travel to access certain amenities. Newer housing development to the south lacks access to many amenities.
- Overall, cultural spaces are concentrated in Gilmerton, Moredun and Burdiehouse with a lower level of provision around the Inch, Kaimess and newly developed areas to the south.
- Shop and service provision is good on a local scale, but people feel they need to travel for larger shops. Road safety, noise and crime are mentioned as issues in the ward.
- The majority of the people think there is not an overprovision of certain services, although a few report that there are too many beauty shops.
- It was felt that more and improved community centre provision is required in this area.

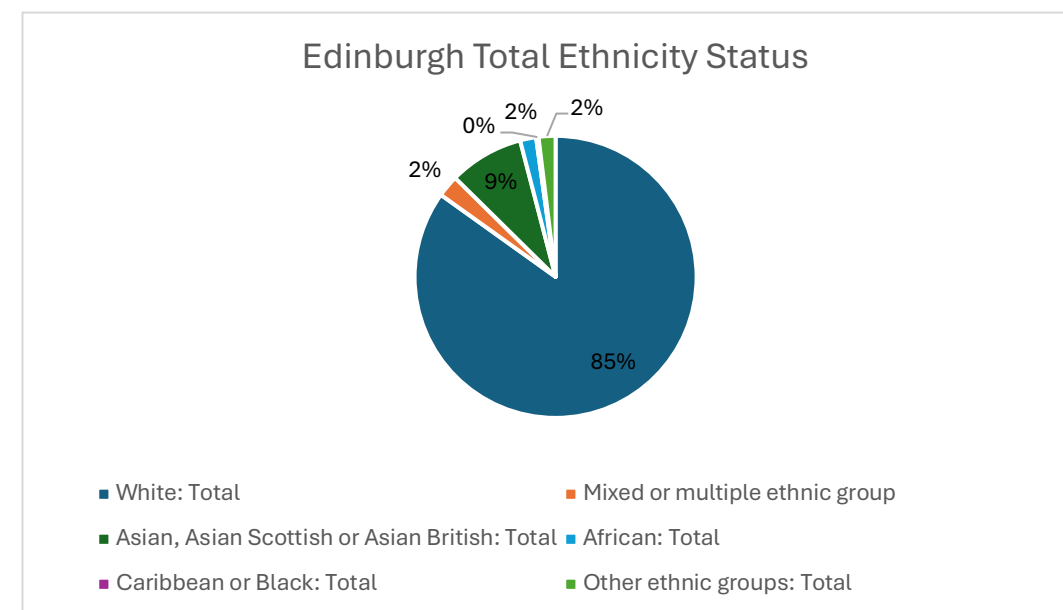
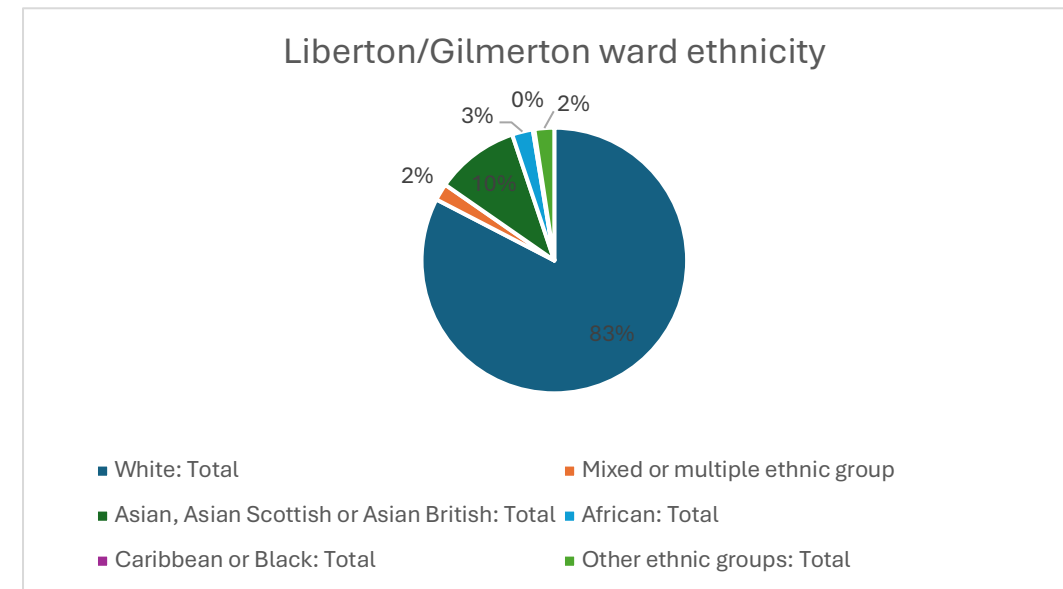
People

Demographics

- The population of Liberton/Gilmerton is 37,672, which is **7.3%** of the Edinburgh total of 514,543.
- This population is housed in 17,104 households, which is **7.2%** of the Edinburgh total of 238,944 households.
- The following sites located within the ward boundary are allocated within the adopted City Plan 2030:
 - OPP89 Moredun Park View – 24 homes.
 - H86 Edinburgh BioQuarter– 1250 homes.
 - H88 Moredun Park Loan – 32 homes.
 - H90 Morrisons at Gilmerton Road – 32 homes.
 - H91 Liberton Hospital – 360 homes.
 - H92 Gilmerton Dykes Street – 24 homes.
 - H93 Rae's Crescent – 32 homes.
 - HSG40 – SE Wedge South Edmonstone – 348 homes.
 - City Plan 2030 allocates a total 2,102 which would be a **12.3%** 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 at approximately the same rate as Edinburgh as a whole, with this growth focussed on the BioQuarter and nearby at Edmonstone although significant recent development has been focussed on previous greenfield land between Gilmerton, Burdiehouse and the City of Edinburgh Bypass.
- The age breakdown of the ward is listed below:
 - The population aged 0-15 is 6,599 which is **17.5%** of the ward population compared to **14.58%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - The population aged 16-64 is 24,338 which is **64.6%** of the ward population compared to **69.5%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - The population aged 65+ is 6,716 which is **17.8%** 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 **83%** compared to **85%** for Edinburgh as a whole.
- For the population recorded as not white, the largest groups represented are:
 - Chinese, Chinese Scottish or Chinese British (1,101)
 - Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani British (971)
 - Other African (870)



Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

- SIMD mapping below shows this as mixed ward. Areas of higher deprivation, including some within the 20% most deprived in Scotland which sit close to areas within the 20% least deprived. Areas of higher deprivation are centred on Gracemount, Southhouse, Burdiehouse, Gilmerton, Moredun and the Inch.

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

Ward 16 - Liberton / Gilmerton

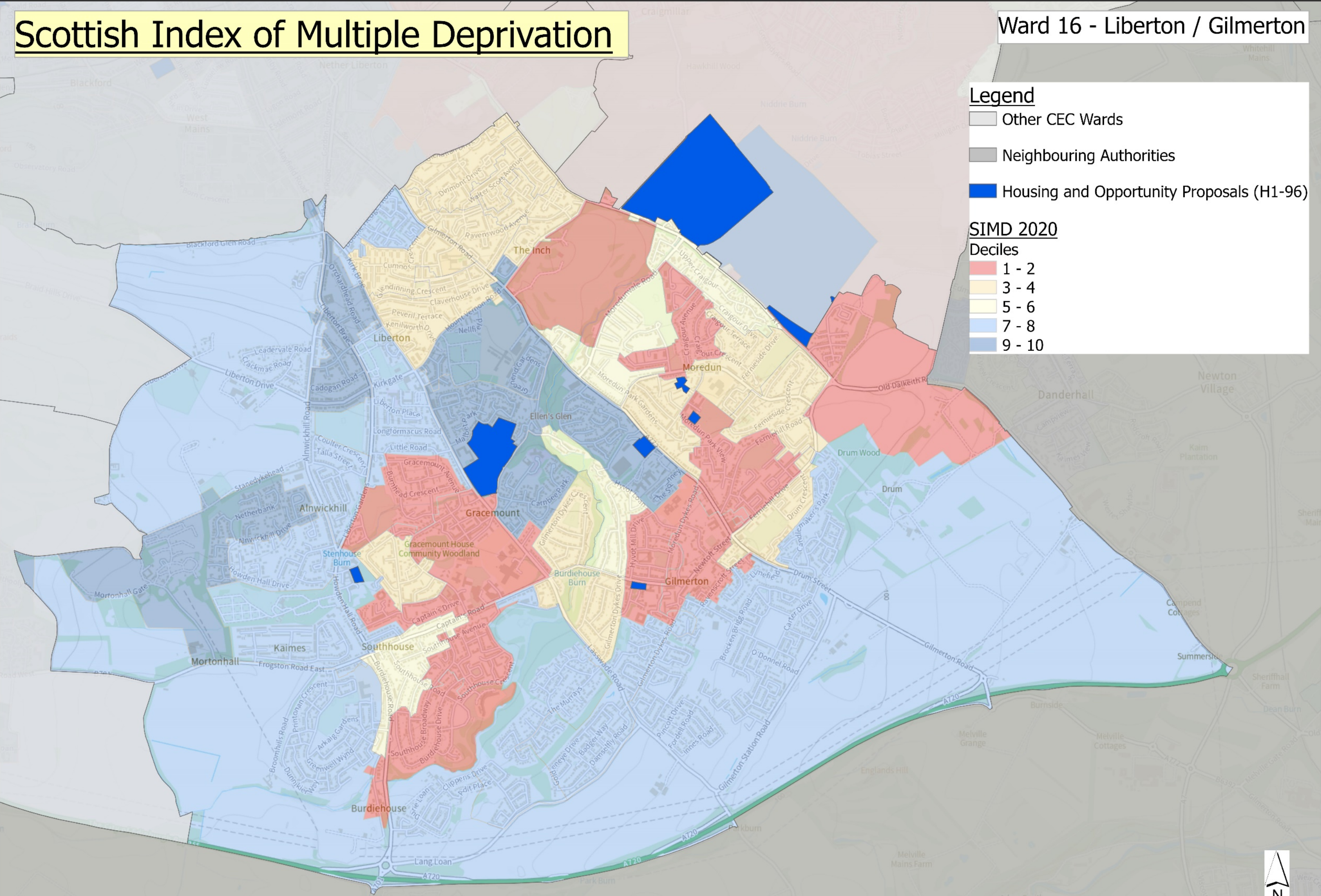
Legend

- Other CEC Wards
- Neighbouring Authorities
- 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 slightly slower than the Edinburgh average, with this growth concentrated in the BioQuarter area and at Liberton Hospital in the centre of the ward although significant recent development has been focussed on previous greenfield land between Gilmerton, Burdiehouse and the City of Edinburgh Bypass.
- The working age population is slightly lower than the Edinburgh average, but the child-age and older populations are higher than the Edinburgh average.
- Population groups show an average level of diversity compared to Edinburgh as a whole.

Health

Demographics

- **20.1%** of the ward population reported having a long-term illness or disease, compared to **18.1%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **11.4%** of the ward population reported having a long-term mental health condition, compared to **11.9%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **78.8%** 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 **17,322**, less than the ward population of **37,672**. Dental practices do not have fixed boundaries, indicating that people may have to travel elsewhere for dental care.
- This ward has a ratio of **1 pharmacy per 7,925 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 **23.24%** of the ward 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, **30.44%** were overweight and **21.35%** 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, **32.76%** were overweight and **36.61%** 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**.
 - Craigmillar – Male life expectancy was **69.3 years** and female life expectancy was **73.9 years**.
 - Fernieside & Moredun South – Male life expectancy was **73.4 years** and female life expectancy was **77.7 years**.
 - Gilmerton South & the Murrays – Male life expectancy was **81.7 years** and female life expectancy was **84.3 years**.
 - Gracemount, Southhouse & Burdiehouse – Male life expectancy was **73.5 years** and female life expectancy was **80.1 years**.
 - Hyvots & Gilmerton – Male life expectancy was **74.4 years** and female life expectancy was **79.3 years**.

- Liberton East – Male life expectancy was **76.8 years** and female life expectancy was **83.3 years**.
- Liberton West & Braid Hills – Male life expectancy was **77.8 years** and female life expectancy was **77.8 years**.
- Moredun & Craigour – Male life expectancy was **70.5 years** and female life expectancy was **78.3 years**.
- Mortonhall & Alnwickhill – Male life expectancy was **81.8 years** and female life expectancy was **88.4 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 **City, Town, Local and Commercial Centres topic paper**.
- The Walter Scott Avenue local centre in the Inch has five takeaways and one betting shop and this represents 42% of all units, therefore showing signs of clustering of unhealthy uses. This affects the communities close to it which have higher levels of deprivation.
- 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, Gracemount, Burdiehouse and Moredun fall within the top 20% priority areas lacking access, affecting the communities close to it which have higher levels of deprivation.
- Hot food takeaway uses are found throughout the ward with concentrations in the Inch, Gilmerton and Gracemount in or close to areas of higher deprivation.

Hot Food Takeaways

Ward 16 - Liberton / Gilmerton

Legend

Other CEC Wards

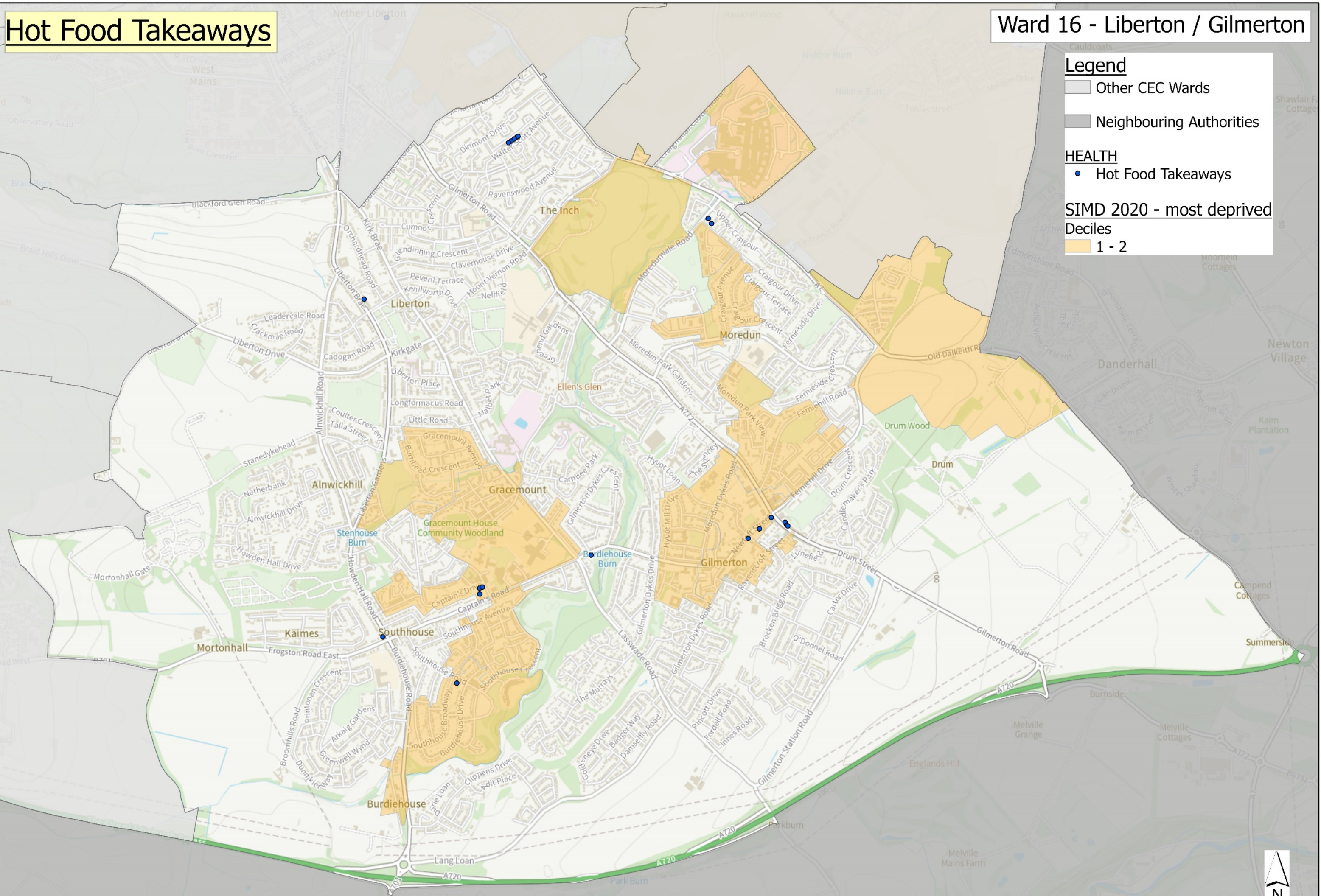
Neighbouring Authorities

HEALTH

- Hot Food Takeaways

SIMD 2020 - most deprived Deciles

1 - 2



GPs and Pharmacies

Ward 16 - Liberton / Gilmerton

Legend

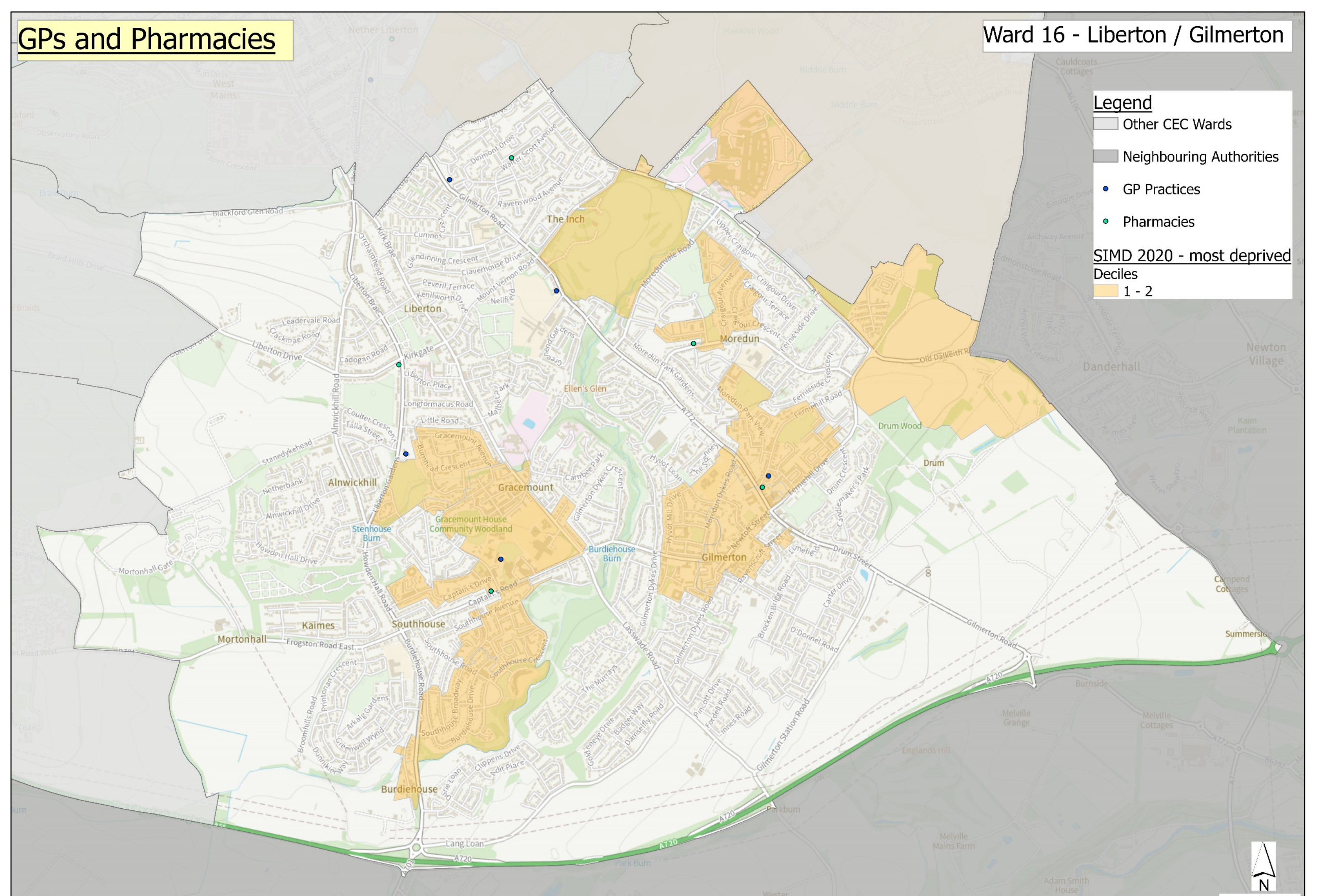
Other CEC Wards

Neighbouring Authorities

GP Practices

Pharmacies

SIMD 2020 - most deprived Deciles1 - 2



Considerations

- The percentage of people who report being in good or very good health is below the Edinburgh average, with more 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 in line with the Edinburgh average.
- There is evidence that in this ward there is a cluster of unhealthy uses at the Walter Scott Avenue local centre and parts of Gracemount, Burdiehouse and Moredun fall within the top 20% priority areas lacking access to healthy food.
- The location of health facilities largely follows existing areas of higher population density and transport access around Liberton, Gilmerton and the Inch. The west and south of the ward are further from these facilities and these areas have seen significant recent housing development. The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh is a significant facility for the area and the city as a whole.
- People feel that medical practices are considered good but it is difficult to get appointments and more GPs are required to accommodate new housing developments.

Housing

Housing type and density

- 11,608 households live in houses, which is **67.9%** compared with **36.8%** of the Edinburgh total, while 5,488, which is **32.1%**, live in flats compared with **63.2%** of the Edinburgh total. Eight live in a caravan or another mobile/temporary structure.
- Although the level of flatted accommodation is lower on average than the Edinburgh total, mapping shows this to be concentrated in Moredun, Liberton, Gilmerton, Southhouse as well as the Inch, aligning with the historic centres of these areas or areas of purpose-built public housing.
- Population density as measured by households per hectare is generally lower than wards closer to the city centre but some concentrations can be found in the areas noted above, which were developed as purpose-built public housing.

Housing tenure and overcrowding

- The housing tenure breakdown of the ward is listed below:
 - **64.6%** households in the ward report their housing tenure as Owned, compared to **60.1%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **23.2%** households in the ward report their housing tenure as Social Rented, compared to **15.7%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **11%** households in the ward report their housing tenure as Private Rented, compared to **23.1%** for the Edinburgh total.
- The level of owner-occupation matches the Edinburgh average, but more households also live in socially rented accommodation than the Edinburgh average and mapping shows this to be concentrated in Gracemount, Southhouse, Gilmerton, Gilmerton Dykes, Moredun and the Inch.
- The level of overcrowding as measured by census reporting of number of people within occupiable rooms per household is higher in the areas noted above as having higher concentrations of households in social rent.

Density (Households per Hectare)

Ward 16 - Liberton / Gilmerton

Legend

- Other CEC Wards
- Neighbouring Authorities

Public Transport Stops

Type

- Bus
- Coach
- Rail
- Tram

Open Space

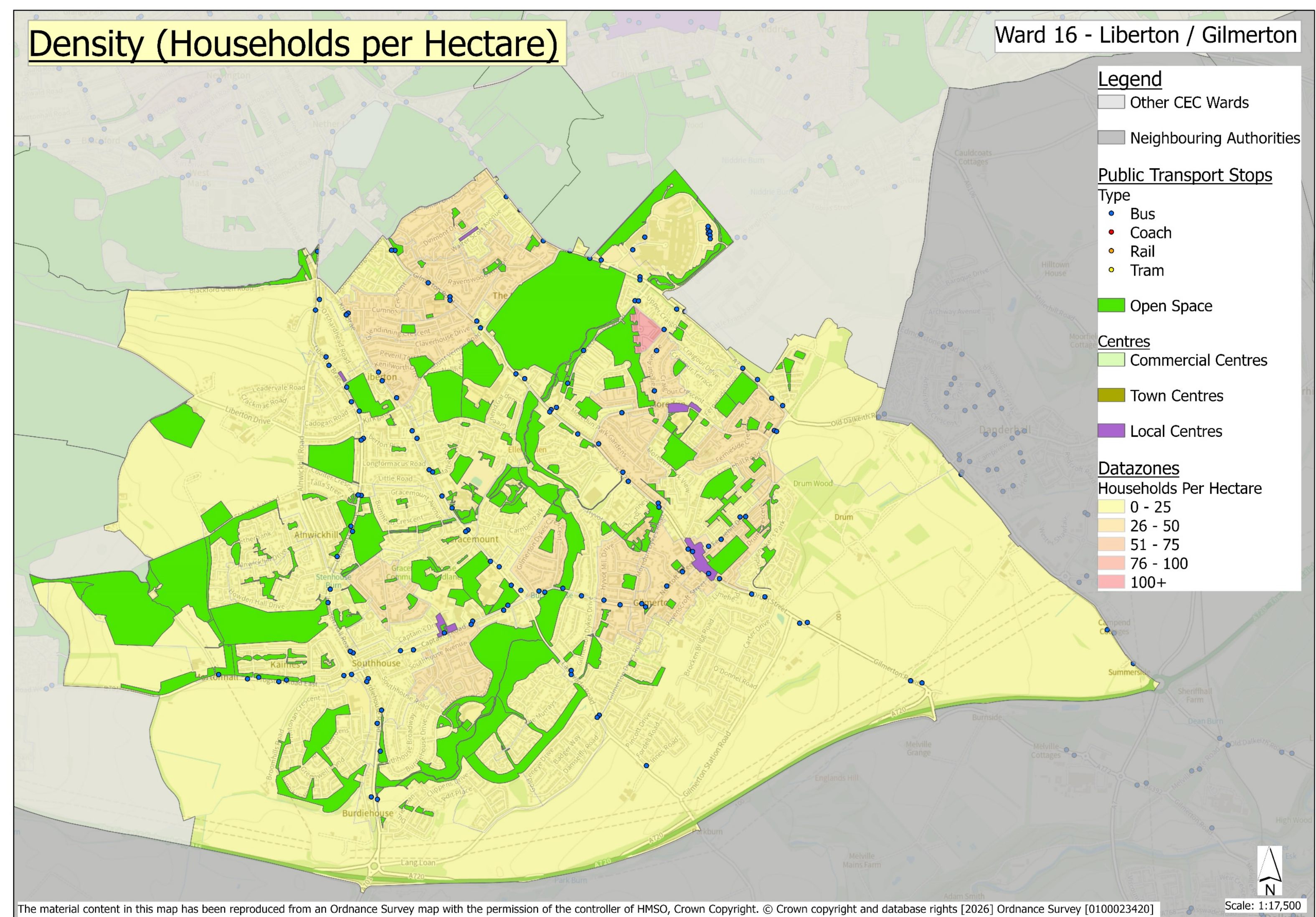
Centres

- Commercial Centres
- Town Centres
- Local Centres

Datazones

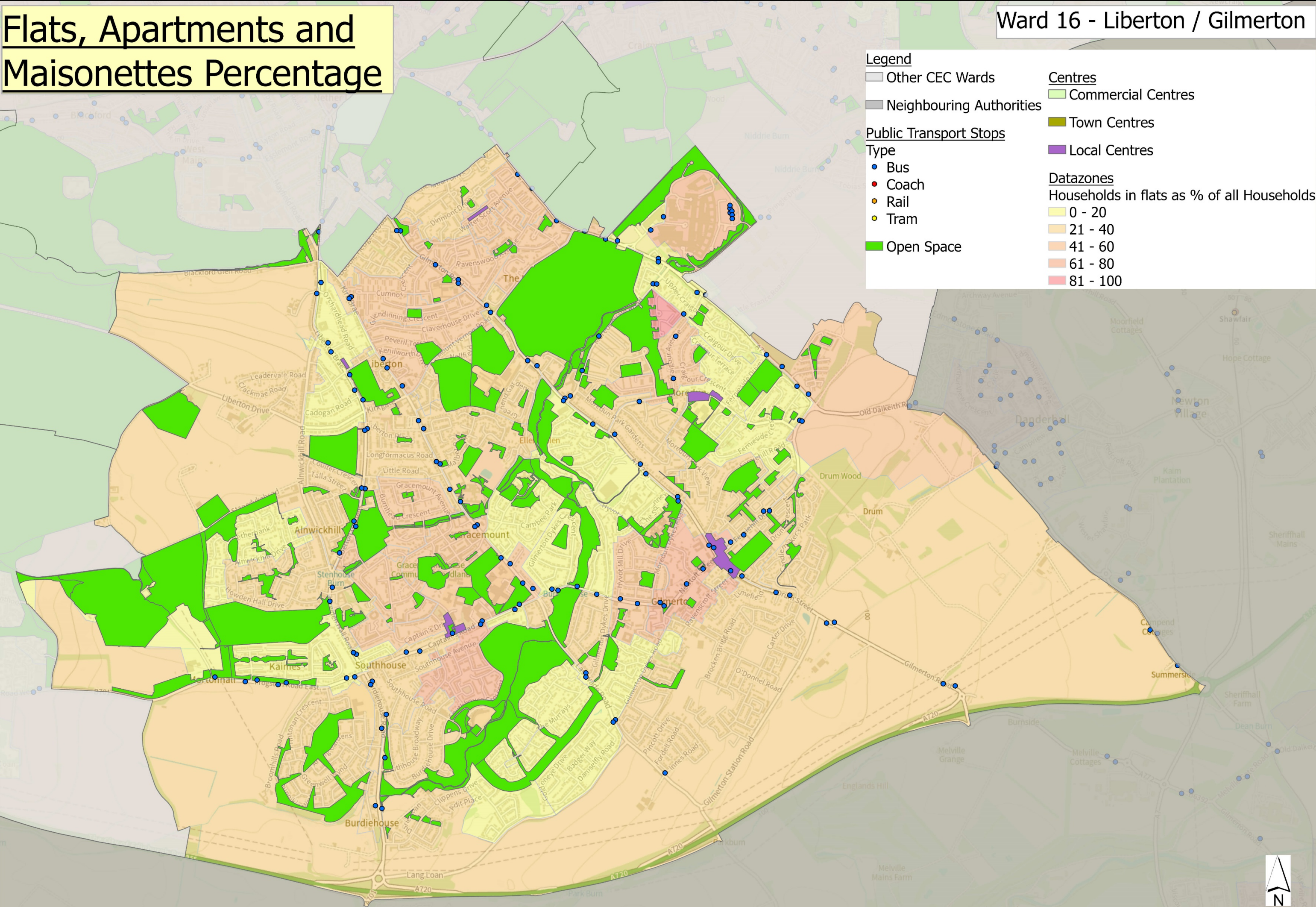
Households Per Hectare

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



Flats, Apartments and Maisonettes Percentage

Ward 16 - Liberton / Gilmerton



Households in Social Accommodation Percentage

Ward 16 - Liberton / Gilmerton

Legend

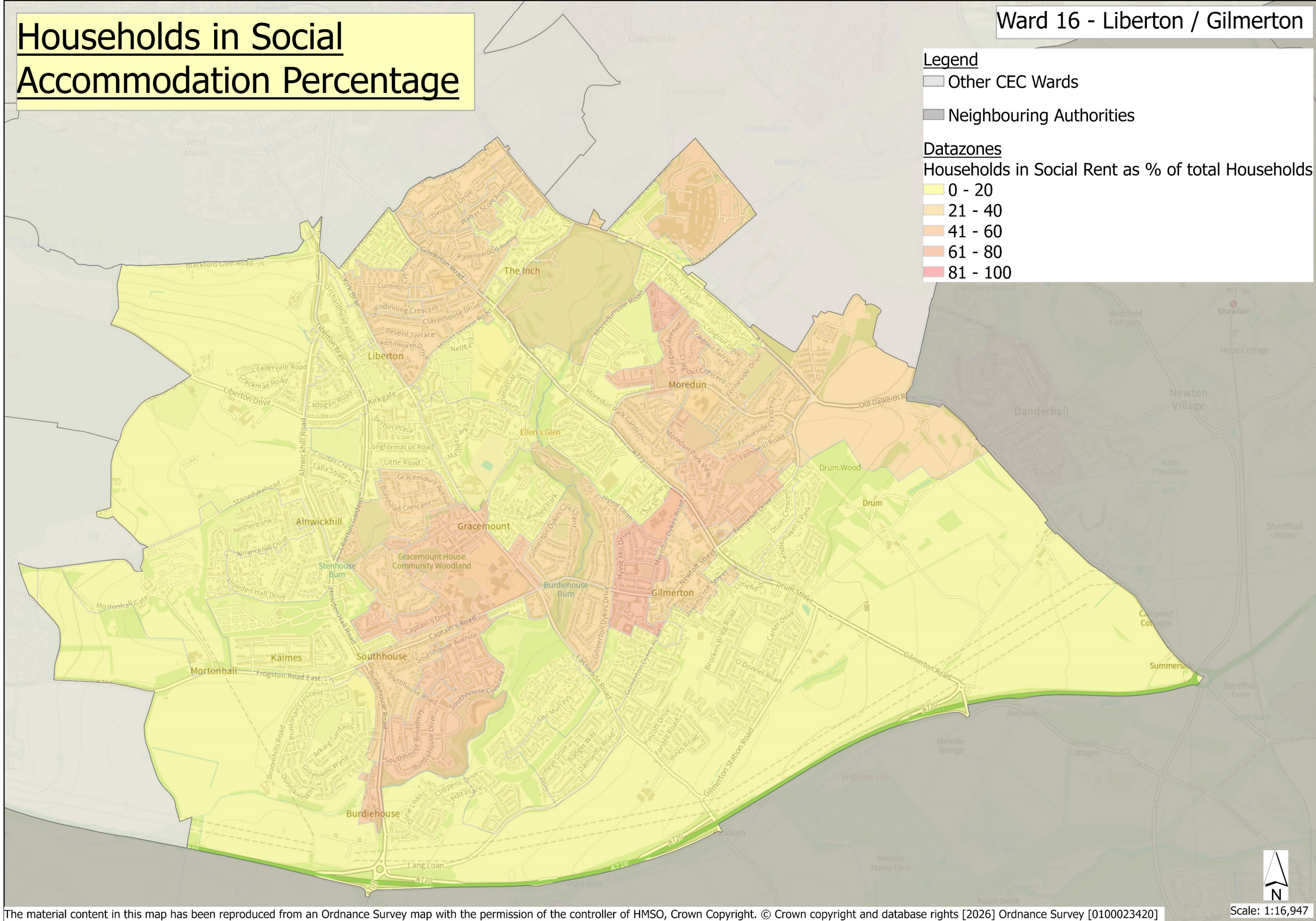
Other CEC Wards

Neighbouring Authorities

Datazones

Households in Social Rent as % of total Households

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



Scale: 1:16,947

Overcrowding (percentage of households based on room habitation)

Ward 16 - Liberton / Gilmerton

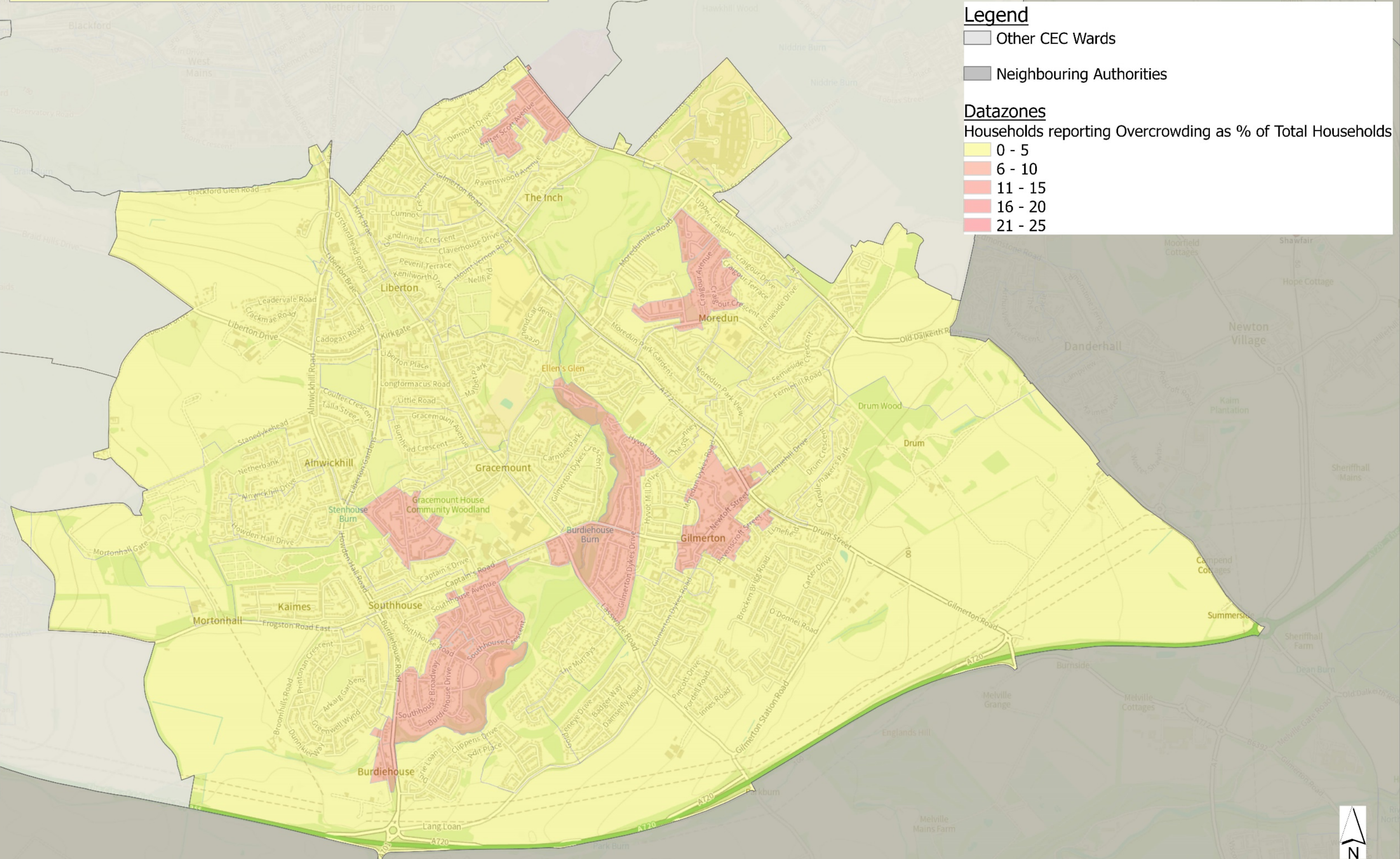
Legend

- Other CEC Wards
- Neighbouring Authorities

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 Liberton, Gilmerton, Moredun and Southhouse as well as The Inch, aligning with the historic centres of these areas or areas of purpose-built public housing, with a higher concentration of houses outwith these areas.
- Social housing is concentrated in the same areas noted above. These areas see more overcrowding.
- Homes in the area are generally felt to meet the needs of the population well. People mentioned that there could be more housing for older people. Some felt that the housing stock is generally newer, good quality and well maintained.
- People showed support for a variety of different housing types in the area.

Economy

Demographics

- The occupation breakdown of the ward is listed below:
 - **7.3%** 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.
 - **24.1%** 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.
 - **12.9%** 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.
 - **10%** 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.
 - **9.4%** 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.
 - **10.2%** of people aged 16 or over in employment in the ward report their occupation as Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations, compared to **7.5%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **7.6%** of people aged 16 or over in employment in the ward report their occupation as Sales and Customer Service Occupations, compared to **7.2%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **6.6%** 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.
 - **11.8%** 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:
 - **15.7%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as No qualifications, compared to **9.7%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **19.6%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Lower school qualifications, compared to **14.3%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **9.7%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Upper school qualifications, compared to **4.4%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **6.7%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Apprenticeship qualifications, compared to **4.4%** for the Edinburgh total.

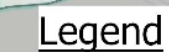
- **10.4%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Further Education and sub-degree Higher Education qualifications incl. HNC/HNDs, compared to **9.3%** for the Edinburgh total.
- **37.9%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Degree level 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 16 - Liberton / Gilmerton



- Other CEC Wards
- Neighbouring Authorities

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

- A designated Area of Economic Importance can be found based around the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and the BioQuarter. There are a number of local centres in this ward but a relative lack of provision in the south and west where significant housing development has recently occurred. There are no larger town centres.
- The key anchor employer and institution in this area is the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. The northern part of the ward is close to the University of Edinburgh King's Buildings.
- The majority of the general public have a neutral opinion about the opportunities for work, volunteering and training available in their area.
- Some feel that local businesses support the creation of community spaces in this area, and that there should be more access/travel options to employment opportunities elsewhere.

Transport

Demographics

- The breakdown of the primary method of travel to work is listed below:
 - **35%** of the working population report mainly working from or at home, compared to **39%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **32.6%** of the working population report driving a car or van, compared to **25.1%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **18.8%** 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.
 - **2.6%** of the working population report travelling by bike, compared to **3.8%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **6.3%** of the working population report travelling on foot, compared to **12%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **69.2%** 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 Liberton, Gilmerton, Moredun, Southhouse as well as The Inch, aligning with population density and areas of higher deprivation.
- Use of cars for driving to work is broadly higher in parts of Liberton, Gilmerton and Moredun where access to public transport is generally lower.

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 main transport corridors. Very good access is concentrated around the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.
- Poor access is concentrated away from these corridors in the west, south and east of the ward but also some populated central areas, including Moredun and Gracemount.
- Improved orbital bus routes and connections are proposed to run west-east through the ward to improve access in some of these areas.

Active travel

- Key active travel paths are located around the Inch, Moredun and Gilmerton and are mainly formed of some quiet roads and Spaces for People improvements which lack continuous segregation and consistency in places.
- The City Mobility Plan has identified projects in Mortonhall, Southhouse and Burdiehouse leading across the Council boundary into Midlothian, as well 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.

Driving a car or van to work percentage

Ward 16 - Liberton / Gilmerton

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Neighbouring Authorities

Datazones

% of people using Car or Van to drive to work

0 - 20

21 - 40

41 - 60

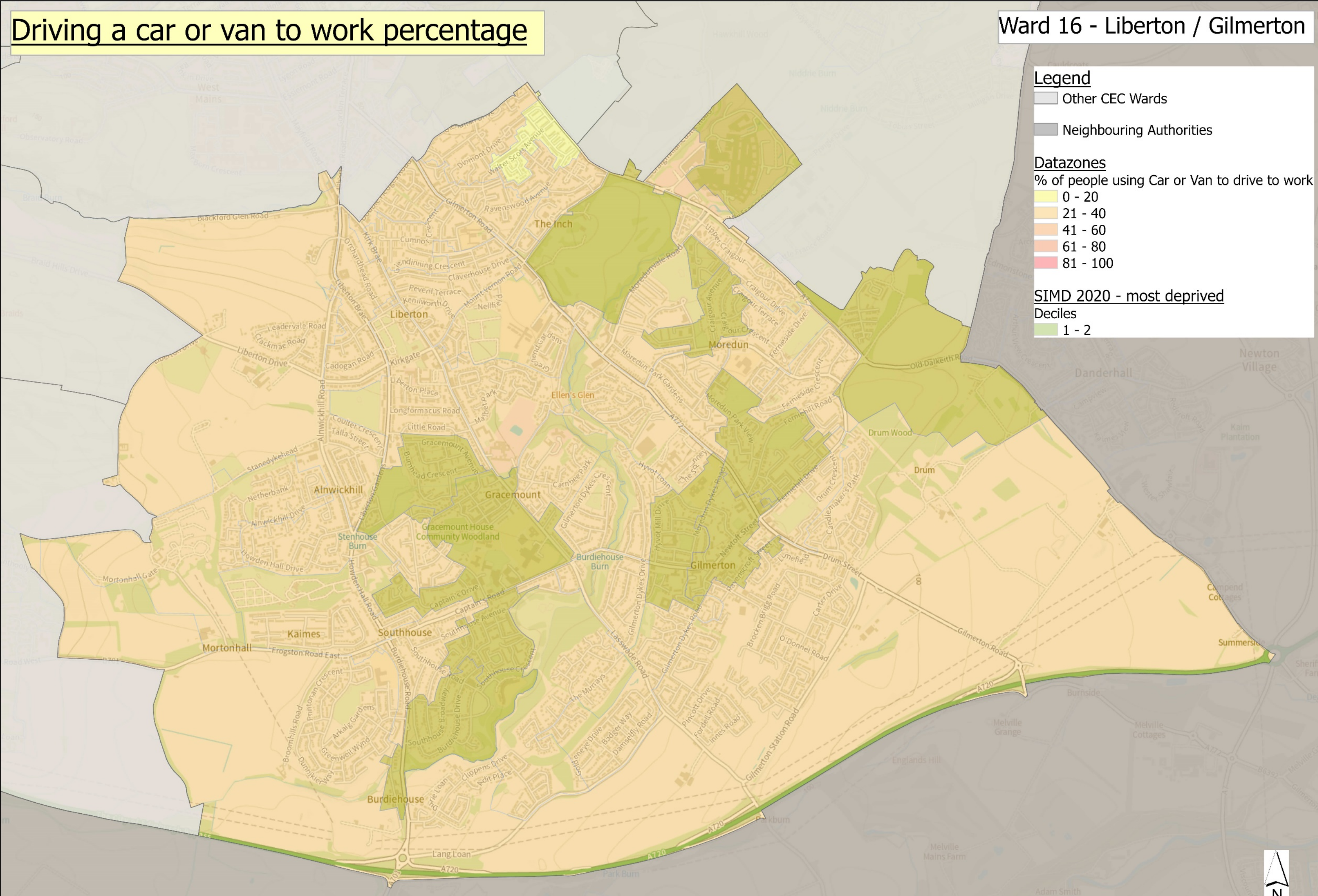
61 - 80

81 - 100

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

1 - 2



Scale: 1:16,000

Public Transport Accessibility

Ward 16 - Liberton / Gilmerton

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Neighbouring Authorities

TRANSPORT

Bus Improvemntents and Orbital CP2030

FUTURE TRAM

Current Tram

Future Tram

PTAL2023Q3

<VALUE>

1 (TAI 0-5)

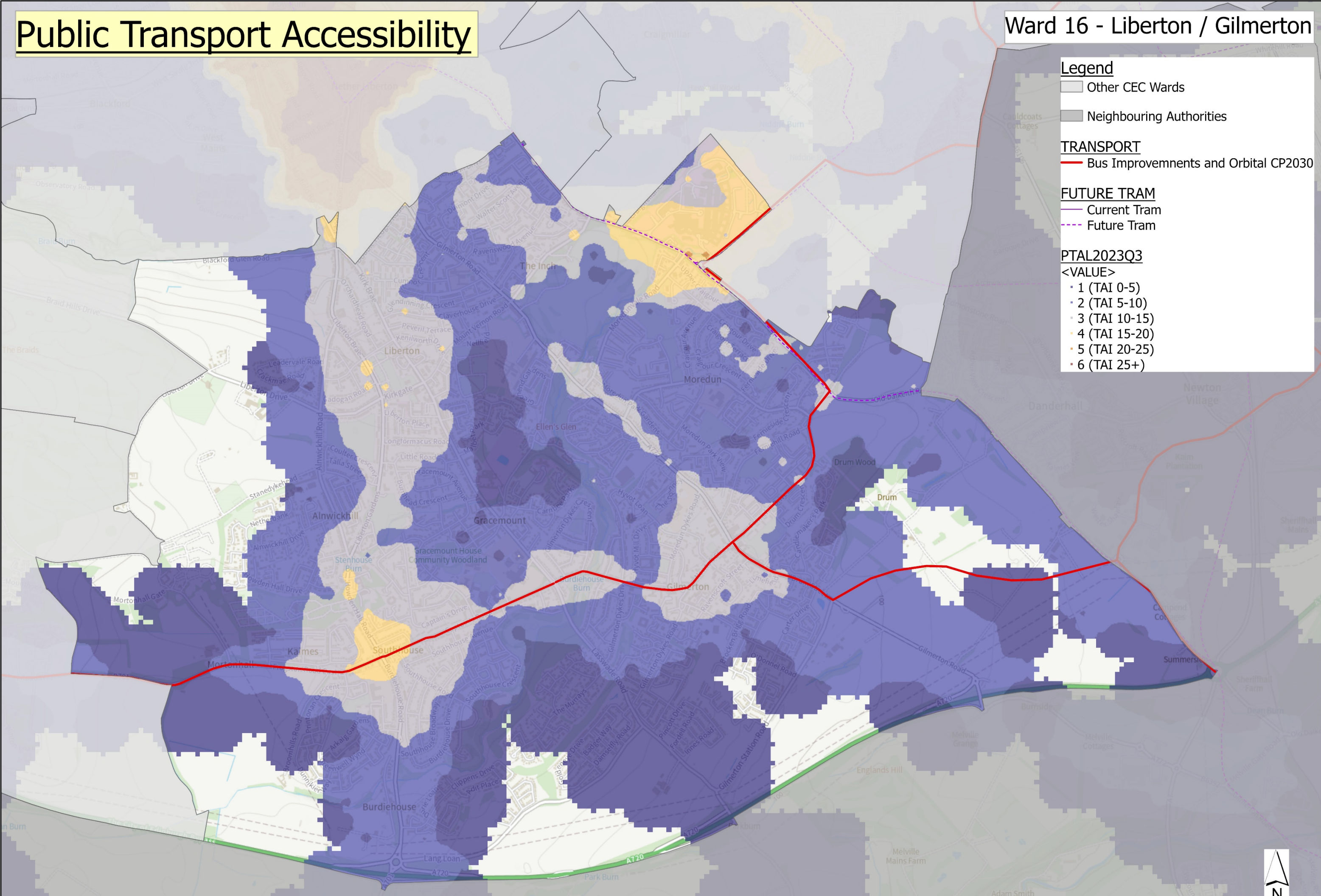
2 (TAI 5-10)

3 (TAI 10-15)

4 (TAI 15-20)

5 (TAI 20-25)

6 (TAI 25+)



Active Travel Mapping

Ward 16 - Liberton / Gilmerton

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Neighbouring Authorities

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 drive and take public transport to work compared to the Edinburgh average whilst walking and cycling remain lower, with car ownership recorded as higher than the Edinburgh average.
- Areas with lower access to a car or van broadly line up with areas of higher deprivation.
- Access to public transport is concentrated along the main traffic corridors and close to the historic centre of Gilmerton, where amenities tend to be concentrated. Very good access is concentrated around the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Significant gaps are found outwith these areas including populated areas with higher deprivation including Gracemount and Moredun.
- City Mobility Plan improvements are proposed to be brought forward primarily along key corridors connecting Mortonhall, Southhouse and Burdiehouse with Midlothian and connecting Cameron Toll with the BioQuarter and Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.
- Public transport access and future City Mobility Plan improvements are concentrated on improving orbital bus routes and connections which will help improve access in some of the gaps listed above and improve connections across the city.
- Some people can walk, wheel or cycle with ease, but a large proportion of people find it difficult to reach where they want. Some note that there are good routes for walking, wheeling or cycling but that path maintenance could be improved.
- More segregated cycle lanes and reasonable public transport times may be beneficial.
- The majority of people have a neutral or negative view of traffic and parking in the area. Traffic congestion is bad in most areas and exacerbated by new development. This is influenced by the road corridors in this ward leading into the city from Midlothian and the south.

Environment

Green blue network and biodiversity

- Open spaces are well dispersed throughout the ward, with access to more open countryside to the west, south and east. Newer development to the south lacks the same pattern of small and medium sized open spaces within these neighbourhoods.
- 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.
- 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.
- Burdiehouse Burn forms the largest part of the green blue network here and is of importance for recreation, nature and the character of Edinburgh. It forms part of a green blue corridor providing habitat and potential recreation connectivity between the Braid and Pentland Hills in the west to Holyrood Park and the South East Wedge in the east.

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.
- Community-run growing spaces are found in Moredun as well as Gracemount and the ward is adjacent to growing spaces in or next to Inch Park in the north, all areas recorded as having higher levels of deprivation.
- There is a lack of growing spaces of any kind in the west and south of the ward, where there has been significant recent housing development.

Open, Natural, and Play Spaces

Ward 16 - Liberton / Gilmerton

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Neighbouring Authorities

ENVIRONMENT

Green Blue Network Proposal

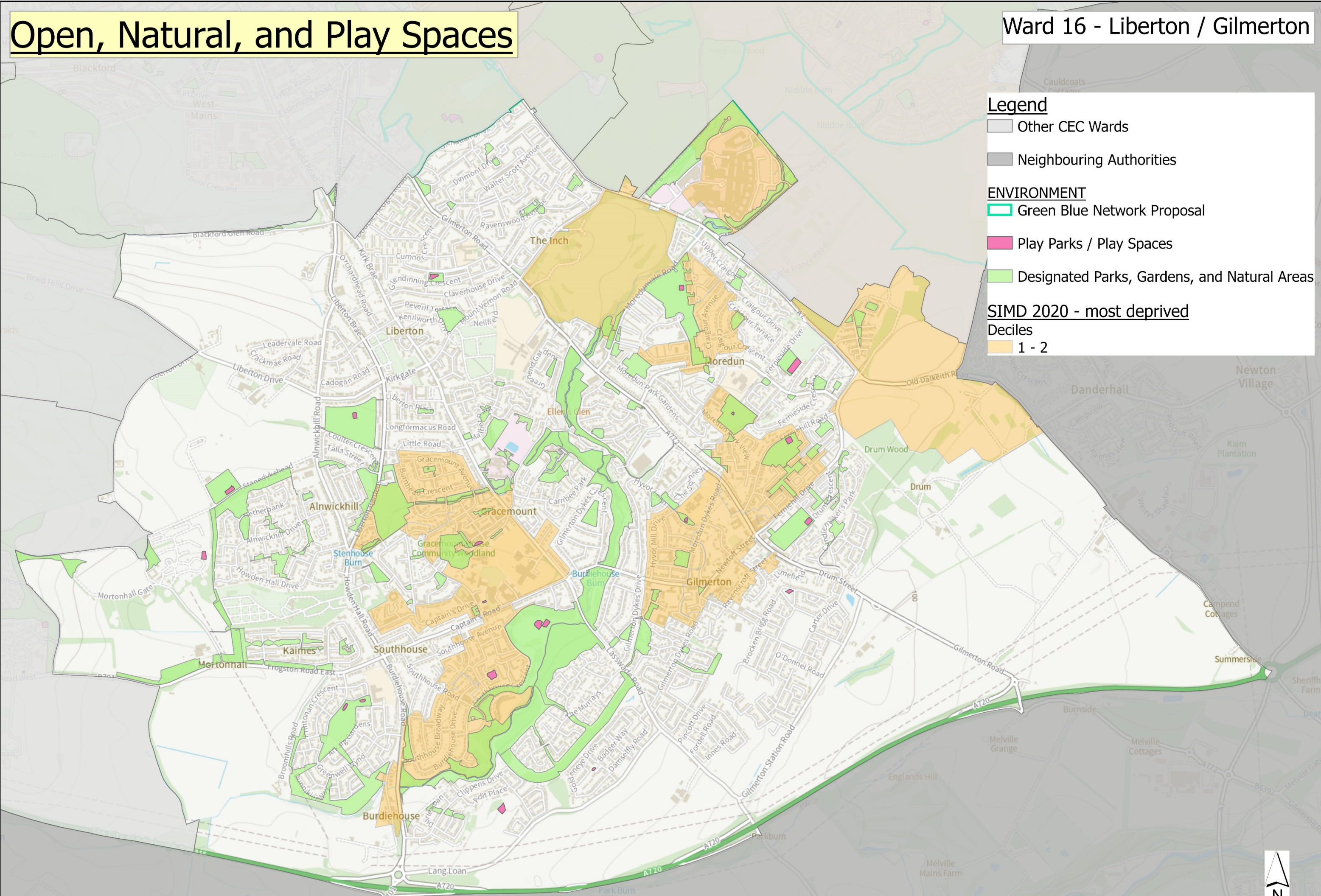
Play Parks / Play Spaces

Designated Parks, Gardens, and Natural Areas

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

1 - 2



Strategic Blue Green Network

Ward 16 - Liberton / Gilmerton

Legend

- Other CEC Wards
- Neighbouring Authorities
- 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
 - Biodiversi
 - Low
 - High
 - RAMSAR
 - Priority Habitats
 - GBN Accessible Open Space
 - Enhanced Proposed Local Biodiversity Connections
 - Enhanced Proposed Strategic Biodiversity Connections



Scale: 1:19,500

Growing Spaces

Ward 16 - Liberton / Gilmerton

Legend

- Other CEC Wards
- Neighbouring Authorities

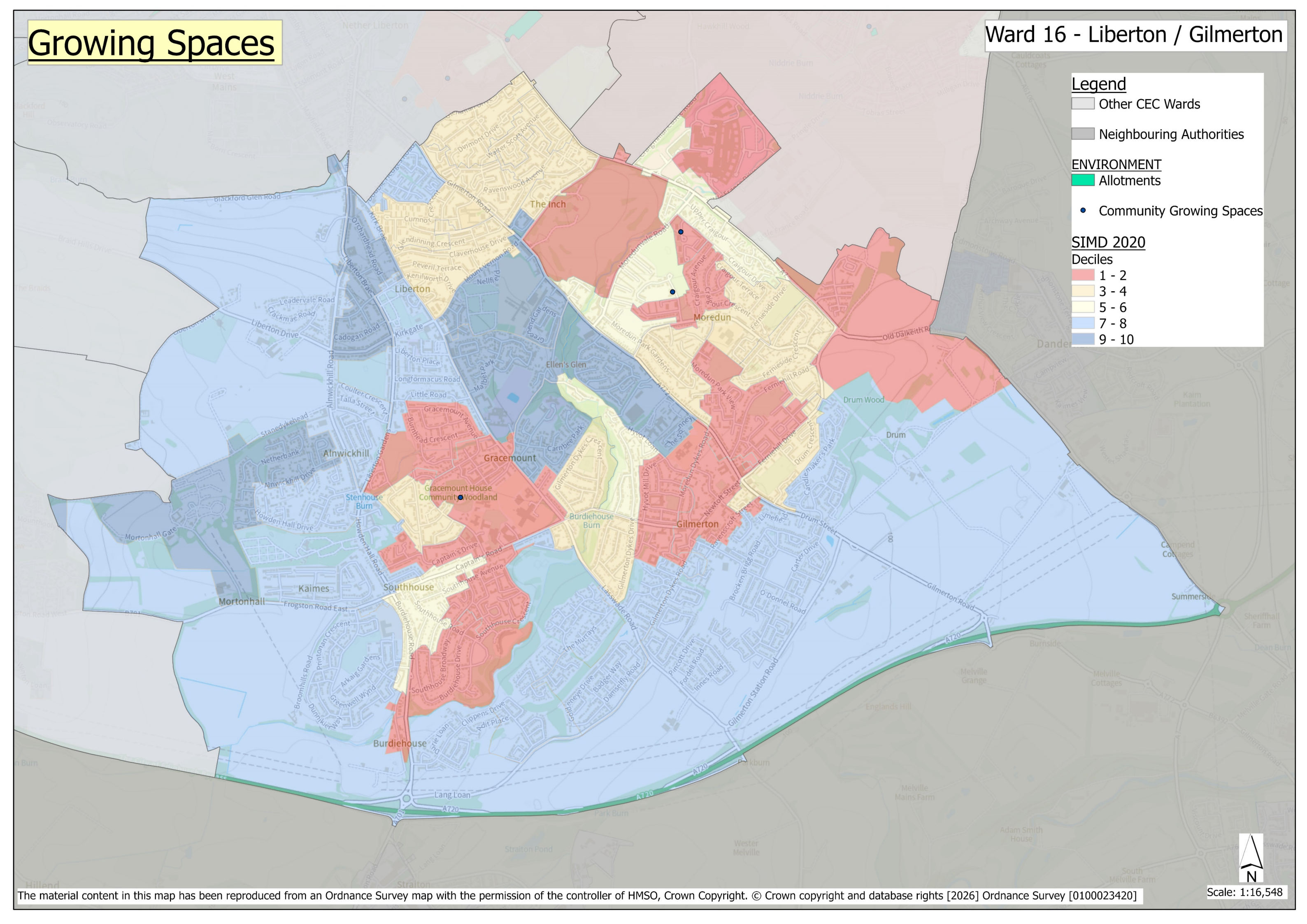
ENVIRONMENT

- Allotments
- Community Growing Spaces

SIMD 2020

Deciles

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



Considerations

- A key existing green blue corridor is concentrated on the Burdiehouse Burn which cuts through the ward connecting the Braid and Pentland Hills to Holyrood Park and the South East Wedge.
- Opportunities for food growing are concentrated in the Inch, Moredun and Gracemount, with fewer opportunities in the south and west of the ward where deprivation is lower and a greater proportion of households live in houses more likely to have private gardens.
- Open spaces are well dispersed throughout the ward, with access to more open countryside to the west, south and east. Newer development to the south lacks the same pattern of small and medium sized open spaces within these neighbourhoods.
- The majority of the people are happy/very happy or neutral in their opinion of the number of green spaces in their area.
- Open/green spaces are considered to be well maintained. Biodiversity could be increased and protected.
- Improvements to safety and accessibility would be welcomed. It is suggested that teenagers make the spaces less safe.
- It is felt there should be more allotments and growing spaces in the area.

Appendix

This report details the consultation and engagement information utilised when creating the Liberton/Gilmerton 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 49 responses were received for the Liberton/Gilmerton Ward. Out of these, 31 were from public at large and 18 were from children and young people studying at the local schools.

Results

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

Housing

Public at large

How happy are you with your home?

- 14 Very happy
- 12 Happy
- 3 Neutral
- 1 Unhappy
- 1 Very unhappy

If you could change one thing, comments

- Bigger place.
- Being in a different location, mostly road safety and crime/feeling unsafe.
- Quieter.

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

- 8 Very good
- 9 Good
- 10 Neutral
- 3 Bad
- 0 Terrible

Homes in the area, comments

- **Good:** Different house types. Largely newer housing stock of good quality and well maintained.
- **Bad/change:** More provision of accessible flats/flats for older people. More GPs, schools, comm. spaces. Very car dependant at the moment.

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

- 4 Very good
- 10 Good
- 10 Neutral
- 5 Bad
- 2 Terrible

Shops and services, comments

- **Good:** Supermarkets available in the area although often have to travel by car or walk a long way to get to bigger variety. Predominantly large chains or small convenience stores.
- **Bad/change:** No local high street. More provision of services and some shops in the area to create community. Better non-car accessibility to other shopping destinations.

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

- 7 Yes
- 23 No
- 1 Don't know

What there is too much of, comments

- Furniture shops, beauty industry.

Liberton Hospital Redevelopment – Community Consultation

- Proposals include new mixed tenure housing
- Significant proportion of affordable homes
- Housing integrated with green space, retained trees and local connections

Children and Young People

Are you happy with your home (the building)?

- 12 Yes
- 5 It's OK
- 1 It's not good

If you could change one thing, comments

- Having own bedroom
- Change nothing

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

- 0 Too many
- 15 Right amount
- 3 Not enough

Shops and things, comments

- Nothing is missing

Teams Around the Community – Liberton & Gracemount Young People Consultation (2022–2024): Young people described spending significant time at home, sometimes due to lack of local activities or safety concerns.

Youth Work Partner Feedback (2024): Some young people had caring responsibilities or crowded home environments, affecting learning, wellbeing and ability to participate in activities.

Health

Public at large

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

- 3 Very good
- 9 Good
- 5 Neutral
- 7 Bad
- 6 Terrible

Healthcare facilities, comments

- **Good:** Medical practices in the area provide good service however under big pressure - hard to register, get an appointment.
- **Bad/change:** More practises, especially to accommodate new housing being built. Easier to get appointments and register with a local practice.

Children and Young People

Teams Around the Community – Liberton & Gracemount Young People Consultation (2022–2024): High levels of anxiety, low motivation and stress were reported, often linked to school, safety and family pressures.

Youth Work Partner Feedback (2024): Youth work was seen as supporting mental health by providing calm spaces, trusted adults and opportunities to talk openly.

Liberton & Gracemount Young People Consultation (2024): Physical activity, sport and outdoor play were associated with feeling happier and less stressed.

Transport

Public at large

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

- 5 Very easy
- 9 Easy
- 5 Neutral
- 10 Difficult
- 1 Very difficult

Walk, wheeling, cycling, comments

- **Good:** Some good green routes for cycling and walking.
- **Bad/change:** More segregated from pavement cycle lanes. Better maintenance of pavements and cycle lanes – resurfacing and cleaning.

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

- 6 Very easy
- 14 Easy
- 6 Neutral
- 4 Difficult
- 1 Very difficult

Public transport, comments

- **Good:** Good buses that go different parts of the city. Reasonable travel time.
- **Bad/change:** Some areas are underserved with bus stops. More routes to the area and better frequency. More west-east routes for e.g. Gyle, Portobello, hospitals.

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

- 3 Very happy
- 6 Happy
- 7 Neutral
- 9 Unhappy
- 6 Very unhappy

Traffic and parking comments

- **Good:** In some quieter areas traffic is low and parking is available. Properties have on-site parking.
- **Bad/change:** In most parts, traffic is too congested and hard to find parking. New builds make the issue worse.

Barnton and Whitehouse Road – Policy / Project (2025)

- Engagement on changes to movement, access, and street design.
- Focus on balancing traffic flow, local access, and safety.
- Focus on safer everyday walking, wheeling, and cycling connections.

Walk Wheel Cycle Burdiehouse (2022)

- Survey engaged residents on everyday walking, wheeling, and cycling experiences

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
- Prefer to travel by public transport/ car

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

- It's great - I use it a lot
- Takes too long
- 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
- 2 No
- 6 Don't know
- 0 Don't care

Teams Around the Community – Liberton & Gracemount Young People Consultation (2022–2024): Concerns raised about feeling unsafe travelling locally, particularly at night or when using buses and walking routes.

Liberton & Gracemount Young People Consultation (2024): Anxiety around travelling to school and community activities was common, with school gates, buses and busy routes identified as stressful environments.

Youth Work Partner Feedback (2024): Safer, calmer routes and trusted local spaces were highlighted as important for supporting independent movement.

Economy

Public at large

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

- 1 Very good
- 4 Good
- 19 Neutral
- 5 Bad
- 1 Terrible

Work, volunteering and training, comments

- **Good:** Most unaware because employed/retired.
- **Bad/change:** Improve access/travel to opportunities. Create local by supporting businesses and creating community spaces.

Children and Young People

Teams Around the Community – Liberton & Gracemount Young People Consultation

(2022–2024): Young people expressed strong interest in learning practical life skills, employability skills and routes into jobs.

Youth Work Partner Feedback (2024): Young people valued opportunities linked to confidence-building, volunteering and skills development, particularly where learning felt relevant to real life rather than academic only.

Culture

Public at large

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

- 5 Very good
- 4 Good
- 12 Neutral
- 7 Bad
- 2 Terrible

Spaces to meet people, comments

- **Good:** Library and some green spaces.
- **Bad/change:** Create/improve community spaces where events can be held and people can meet without paying.

How is the community space in your area?

- 3 Very good
- 9 Good
- 11 Neutral
- 5 Bad
- 3 Terrible

Community spaces, comments

- **Good:** Library, Gilmerton Community Centre and local leisure centre
- **Bad/change:** The community centre is outdated, doesn't have a café and feels like catered only to some specific demographic. Only one community centre for the whole area is not enough. Community growing space would be great.

Children and Young People

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

- Friend's house
- Playgrounds
- Parks & greenspaces near my home

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

- 8 There are plenty
- 6 There are a few
- 3 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?

- Climbing centre

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

- 11 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?

- Often
- 11 Sometimes
- 6 Very rarely
- 0 Never

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

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

Teams Around the Community – Liberton & Gracemount Young People Consultation (2022–2024): Many young people felt there was “nothing to do” locally and wanted more youth spaces, activities and opportunities to socialise safely.

Liberton & Gracemount Young People Consultation (2024): Youth clubs, community centres and youth workers were repeatedly described as trusted, supportive and welcoming spaces.

Youth Work Partner Feedback (2024): Strong relationships with youth workers were identified as critical to engagement, confidence and wellbeing.

Environment

Public at large

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

- 10 Very happy
- 9 Happy
- 7 Neutral
- 4 Unhappy
- 1 Very unhappy

Open and natural spaces, comments

- **Good:** Well maintained, variety of green areas.
- **Bad/change:** Keeping green spaces undeveloped. Improve safety and access. Increase biodiversity.

What is the access to growing spaces like now?

- 1 Very happy
- 4 Happy
- 14 Neutral
- 5 Unhappy
- 5 Very unhappy

Growing spaces, comments

- **Good:** Not aware/no spaces in the area.
- **Bad/change:** More allotments in the area.

Climate change, comments

- Mostly concerned about traffic in the area/unsustainable transport methods.

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.?

- 2 Very happy
- 5 Happy
- 9 Neutral
- 11 Unhappy
- 3 Very unhappy

Ball game spaces, comments

- **Good:** Some says there's lots of facilities/green spaces nearby. Others feel there's none near them.
- **Bad/change:** More dedicated spaces nearby needed, not just for football and green fields.

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?

- 7 Very happy
- 3 Happy
- 12 Neutral
- 4 Unhappy
- 4 Very unhappy

Outdoor play spaces, comments

- **Good:** Some play spaces in the area.
- **Bad/change:** More spaces needed and existing ones need to be maintained properly.

Children and Young People

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

- 5 Almost every day
- 8 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
- 6 There are a few
- 1 No, there aren't enough
- 0 No, there aren't any

What is your favourite park or greenspace in Edinburgh?

- Inch Park
- Seven Acre 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
- It is easy to get to

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

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

How could the places where you hang out be better?

- More equipment
- Safer, no sketchy teenagers

Are the outdoor spaces you go to clean?

- 1 Very clean
- 9 Clean
- 6 OK
- 2 Dirty
- 0 Very Dirty

Outdoor play equipment

- 10 In good condition
- 4 Needs fixing
- 3 Needs cleaned/painted
- 0 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?

- 11 I always feel safe
- 6 I sometimes feel safe
- 1 I never feel safe

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

- Teenagers make it unsafe

How close are you with nature?

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

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

- More trees and bird boxes
- Less litter and more bins

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

- Its impact on animals

Teams Around the Community – Liberton & Gracemount Young People Consultation (2022–2024): Young people valued safe, calm and welcoming environments, including community centres and outdoor spaces where they felt relaxed.

Place

Public at large

How happy are you with your area?

- 6 Very happy
- 14 Happy
- 4 Neutral
- 5 Unhappy
- 2 Very unhappy

What would you change, comments

- Better bus service. Community centre/town centre/focal point in the area.

Any other comments

- Area feels unsafe to some.

Children and Young People

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

- No

Liberton & Gracemount Young People Consultation (2024): Young people clearly articulated priorities around safety, trusted adults, meaningful activities and being listened to.

Youth Work Partner Feedback (2024): Young people valued being respected, involved in decision-making and receiving feedback on how their views would be used.

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
- Teams Around the Community – Liberton & Gracemount Young People Consultation, City of Edinburgh Council, August 2024
- Youth Work Partner Feedback, City of Edinburgh Council, January 2024
- Liberton Hospital Redevelopment – Community Consultation, City of Edinburgh Council, 2023