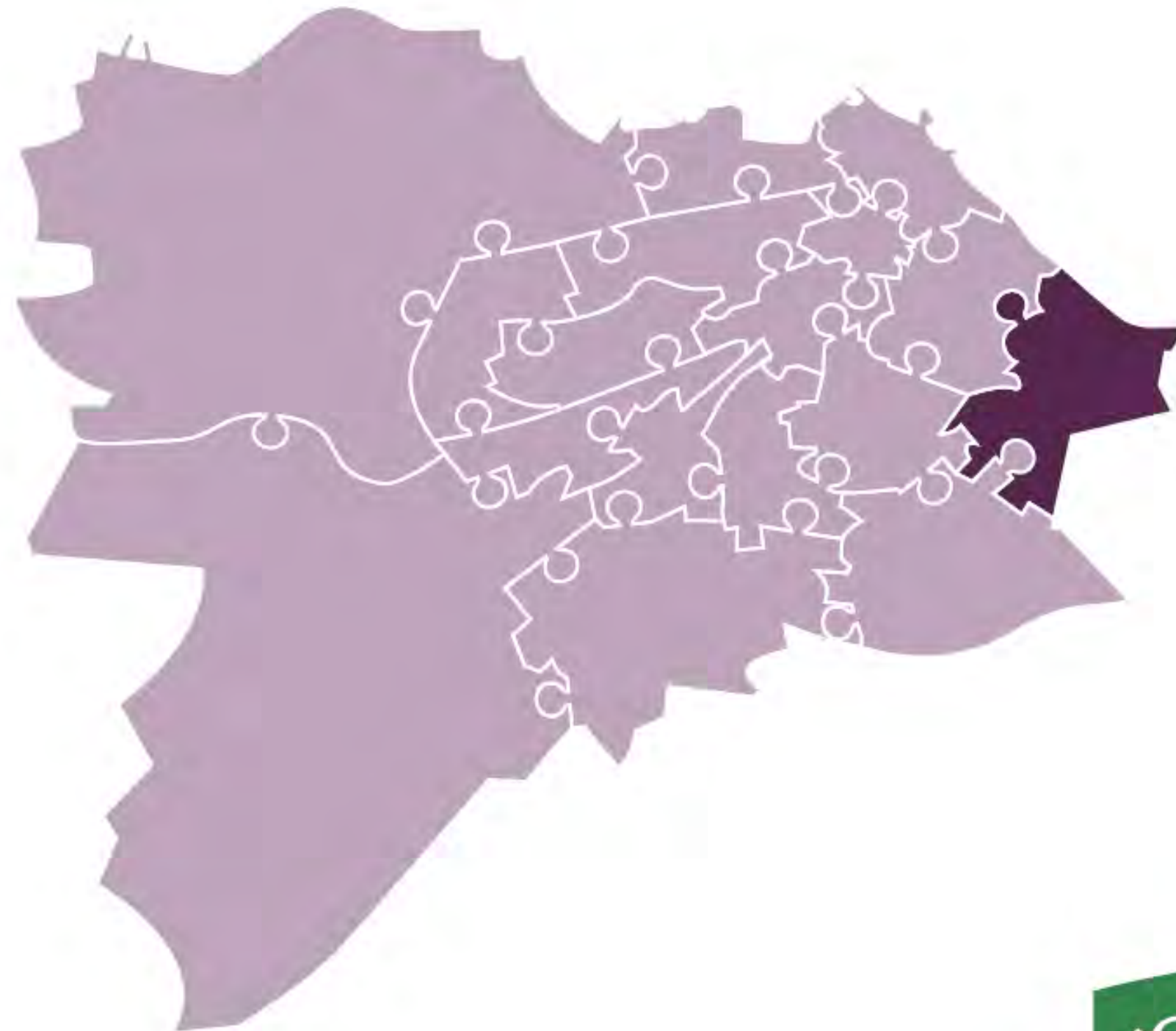


Evidence Report Place Profile

Ward 17 Portobello / Craigmillar



Introduction

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

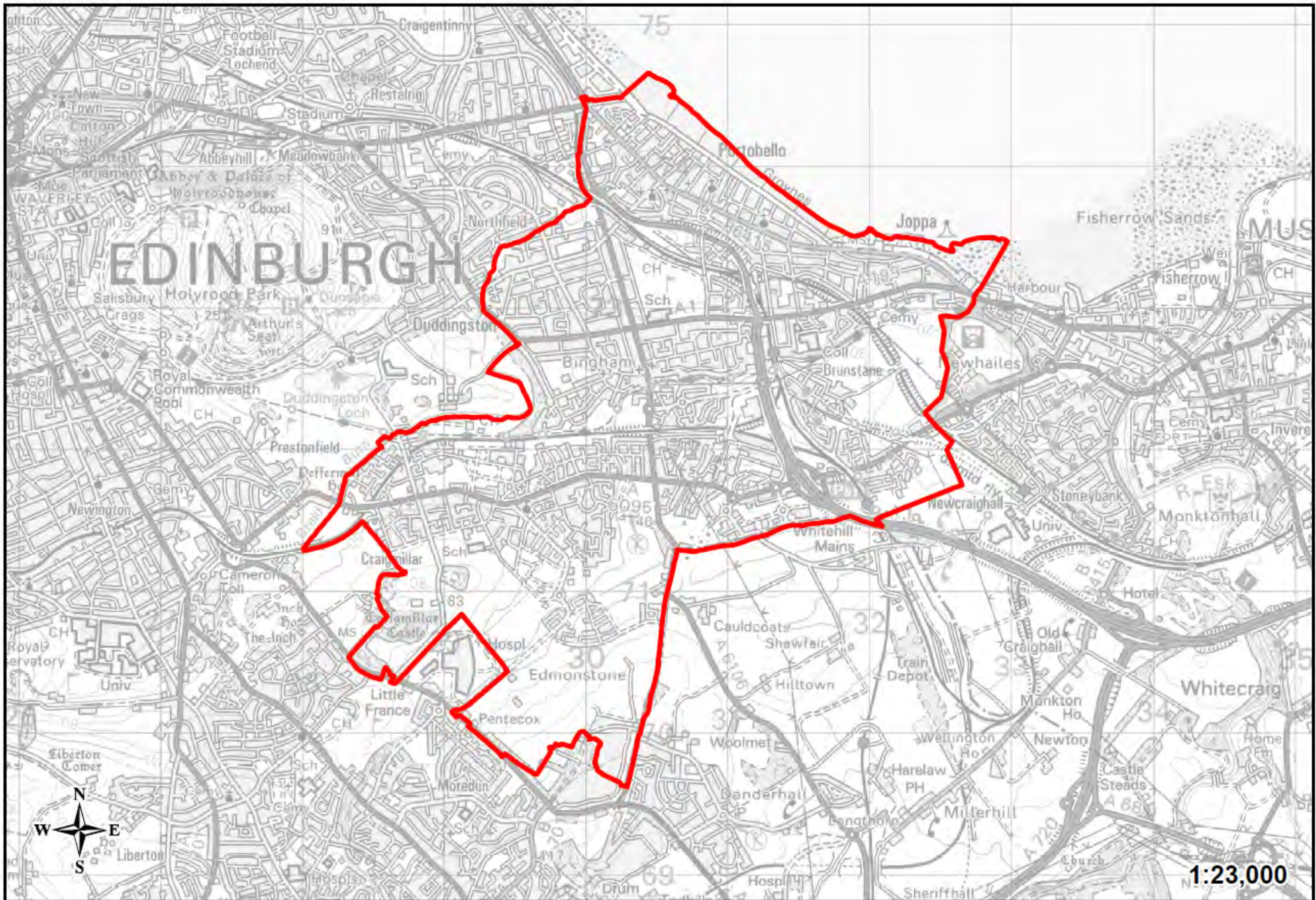
In line with NPF4 and related guidance, new Local Development Plans in Scotland need to be place-based, people-centred and delivery-focussed.

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	Weaknesses/Challenges
- Portobello and Craigmillar provide strong centres for the surrounding communities - There is a good variety of mixed accommodation in the ward. - Opportunities for business and employment can be found in this Ward, particularly close to Craigmillar/Niddrie and the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and BioQuarter are nearby growth areas. - Good transportation access is concentrated along corridors in Craigmillar, Newcraighall, Portobello and Duddingston as well as the area around the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. - Transport serves areas of higher deprivation, higher density and town, local and commercial centres in this area - There is good access to open space, water and biodiversity, and the coast is an important resource and green corridors often link to active travel routes. - Good provision of community spaces can be found in Portobello and Craigmillar.	- Hairdressers and vape shops were felt to be too common and indicates a perceived overrepresentation of certain retail uses. - More overcrowding is reported in Craigmillar, Niddrie and Magdalene. - Poor transport access is concentrated in parts of Portobello, Joppa, Brunstane and lower density areas in Duddingston. - There are issues with traffic volume, parking and congestion in this ward. - Lesser provision of community spaces in parts of the ward such as Joppa, Magdalene, Bingham and The Christians. - Quantity of open spaces is not always of good quality. - The coastal Ward may be more vulnerable to the effects of climate change. - Fewer growing spaces and allotments can be found in Joppa, Newcraighall and in the far south of the Ward. - There was reported to be a lack of NHS dentists in this ward.
Implications/Opportunities	
- The implications of overcrowding and housing types mean there is a need for more space, larger properties, a garden or a house instead of a flat as well as a need for more affordable/social/variety of housing. - Opportunities to provide better walking/wheeling/cycling and public transport links to centres and better variety of places to eat/drink. Further improvements should be made to wider connectivity of employment/opportunity. This should be considered in relation to the higher reported rates of physical disability in this ward in comparison to the Edinburgh average. - The implication of traffic and transport in this ward is a need to reduce the impact of traffic and parking on the neighbourhoods and streets within it. - Opportunities to increase food growing opportunities concentrated in Joppa, Newcraighall and in the far south of the ward. - There is an implication regarding green and open spaces requiring improvement to quality and provision of facilities for sport, community and play. - A Coastal Change Adaption Plan is currently under development which will assess risks and identify adaption options - There is an implication for cultural and community spaces requiring improvement in this ward where provision is low or requires improvement such as Magdalene where updated facilities are required.	

Background

Portobello/Craigmillar Ward is a collection of historic settlements and newer developments around them.

In the 20th century, new development in the area changed the rural land to mainly housing. Previously separate settlements in Portobello and Duddingston village were incorporated into Edinburgh. The development was completed over time in different phases ranging from private housebuilding, social housing, employment and retail uses.

Portobello developed significantly in the 18th century, not only because of its industry but due to its popularity as a bathing and spa resort. It is primarily 19th century housing based around Portobello town centre, with a coastal promenade and beach. It is a designated conservation area.

Joppa, east of Portobello, is primarily 19th and early-20th century housing located along the coast.

Duddingston/The Durhams/Southfield is early 20th century private housing development, mainly bungalows, to the east of Duddingston village.

The Christians and **Magdalene** are areas of post-war public housing development. The Christians is connected by footbridge over railway lines and Sir Harry Lauder Road to central Portobello. Magdalene is to the south and is adjacent to the Niddrie Burn green space and path.

Brunstane is a mixed area of 20th century housing development and more recent 21st century housing development. There is retail development close to Brunstane Train Station with connections to the city centre and Borders Railway. A large area of greenfield land is currently allocated for future housing development.

Peffermill is an area of business and light industry centred around Duddingston Road West.

Craigmillar is a large area with origins around the medieval Craigmillar Castle. Today the area is dominated by post-war public housing including areas more recently redeveloped. It is based around Craigmillar Local Centre and includes the Thistle Foundation Conservation Area and historic castle within a large area of green space to the south.

Niddrie is a large area of mainly post-war public housing including some areas more recently developed. It adjoins Craigmillar and is adjacent to the Niddrie Burn and Hunter's Hall Park.

Greendykes is a small area of recently constructed housing.

The Jewel/Cleekims is a large area of private housing development from the later 20th and 21st centuries.

Newcraighall is a former village along Newcraighall Road which expanded with recent housing construction on the eastern edge of the Council area.

Portobello Town Centre is situated along Portobello High Street with shops, amenities and services. There is also a small cluster of retail in Craigmillar around Niddrie Mains Road. Large retail and commercial centres include The Jewel and Fort Kinnaird.

Portobello High Street is a local transport corridor in the north of the ward leading to the city centre. The A1 is a major route leading from Edinburgh to the east and south. Milton Road West connects the A1 to the city centre.

The Edinburgh BioQuarter site is in the south of the ward and is a major area of economic development.

Place Mapping

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

Place Mapping

Ward 17 - Portobello / Craigmillar

Legend

- Other CEC Wards
- Neighbouring Authorities
- Leisure / Sports Centres
- Swimming Pools

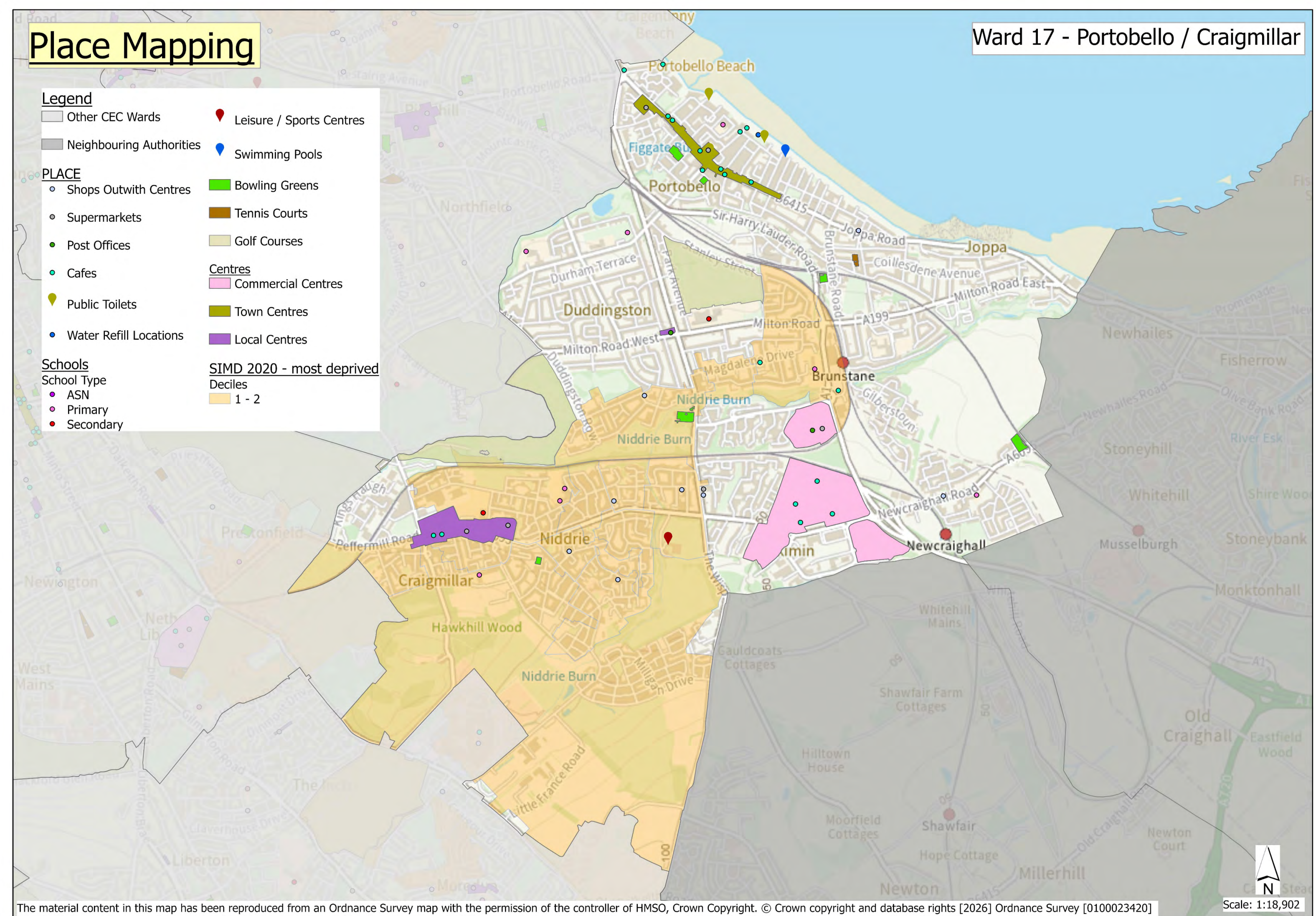
PLACE

- 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

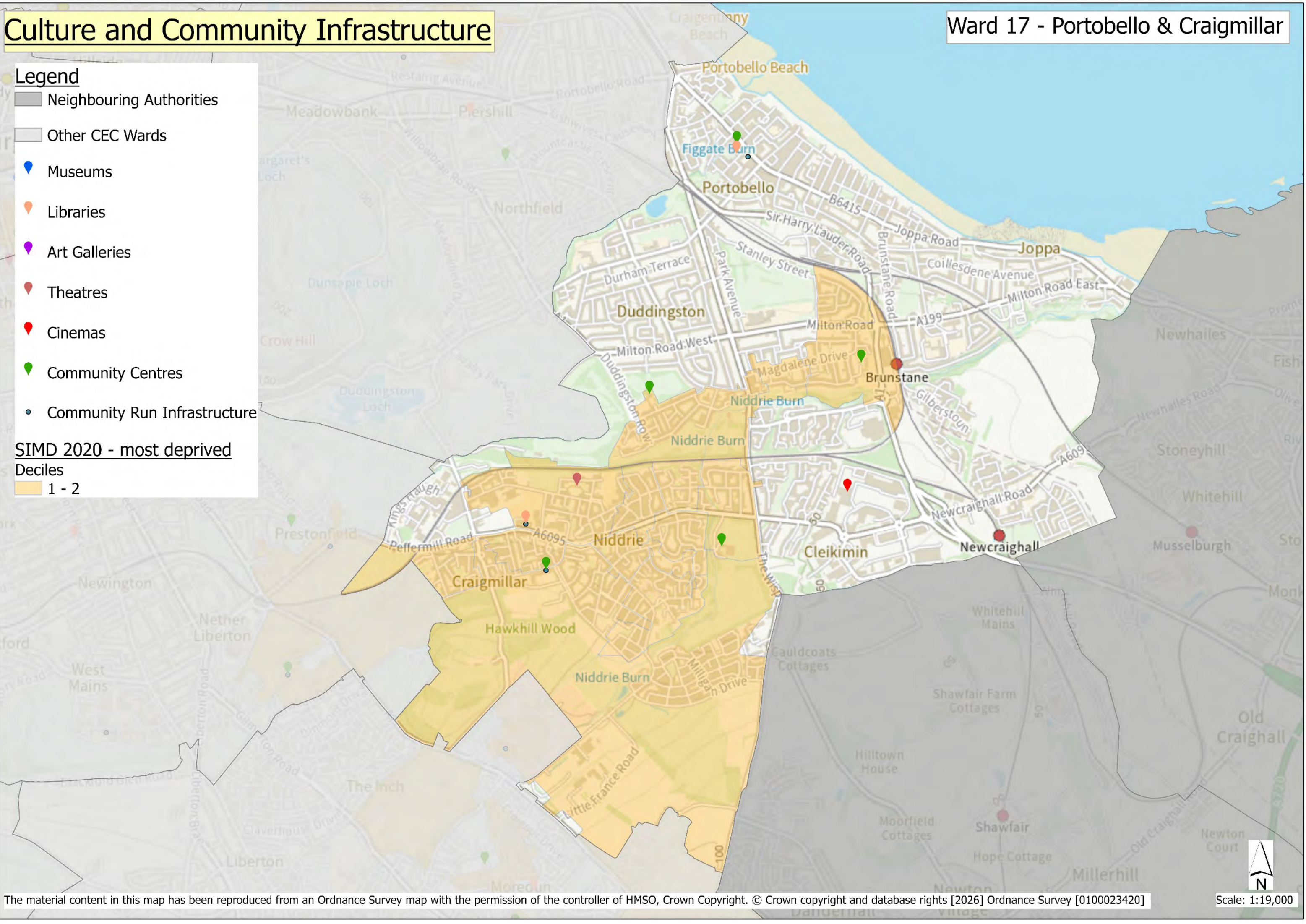
Ward 17 - Portobello & Craigmillar

Legend

- Neighbouring Authorities
- Other CEC Wards
- Museums
- Libraries
- Art Galleries
- Theatres
- Cinemas
- Community Centres
- Community Run Infrastructure

SIMD 2020 - most deprived Deciles

1 - 2



Considerations

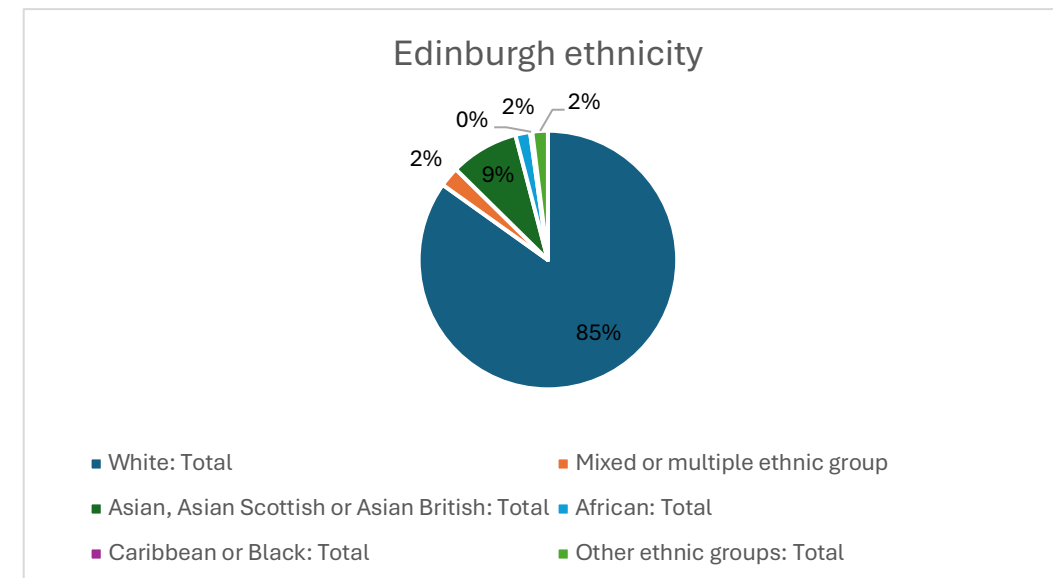
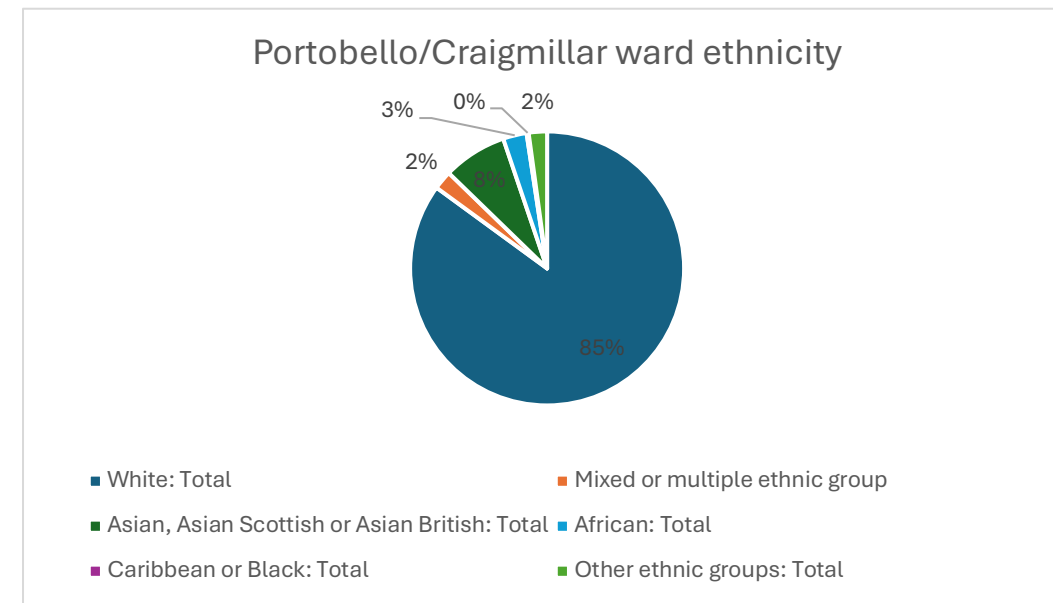
- Place mapping shows that amenities in Portobello, Craigmillar and Niddrie tend to align with population density and transport access, forming more compact neighbourhoods here. Amenities are also located close to Fort Kinnaird Commercial Centre.
- Cultural facilities are concentrated close to Portobello and Craigmillar centres.
- Community run facilities are also found in Portobello and Craigmillar centres.
- Some wanted better walking/public transport links to shopping streets and more variety of shops and places to eat/drink. Hairdressers and vape shops were felt to be too common.
- Engagement showed that although there are a lot of community run centres and spaces local groups need more help and advertising.
- Previous engagement in Portobello showed concern over seasonal litter and safety (relating to beach/promenade) and need for better maintenance and police presence.
- Previous engagement in Craigmillar showed support for more community spaces for gathering, performance, theatre and building of cultural events and traditions. Concern over anti-social behaviour.

People

Demographics

- The population of Portobello/Craigmillar is 33,693, which is **6.5%** of the Edinburgh total of 514,543.
- This population is housed in 15,479 households, which is **6.5%** of the Edinburgh total of 238,944 households.
- The following sites located within the ward boundary are allocated within the adopted City Plan 2030:
 - HSG15 Castlebrae – 145 homes.
 - HSG17 Greendykes (areas K and L) – 308 homes.
 - HSG18 New Greendykes – 291 homes.
 - HSG27 Newcraighall East – 154 homes.
 - HSG29 Brunstane – 1,330 homes.
 - HSG40 SE Wedge South Edmonstone (partially within Ward boundary) – 696 homes.
 - OPP56 Sir Harry Lauder Road – 104 homes.
 - OPP57 Joppa Road – 8 homes.
 - OPP58 Eastfield – 40 homes.
 - H86 Edinburgh BioQuarter (partially within Ward boundary) – 2,500 homes.
 - H87 Duddingston Park South – 24 homes.
 - City Plan 2030 allocates a total 5,600 households which would be a **36.2%** increase in households, compared to a projected 40,288 or **16.9%** increase for Edinburgh as a whole as set out in City Plan 2030.
 - The expected rate of growth in this Ward is approximately twice that of Edinburgh as a whole.
- The age breakdown of the ward is listed below:
 - The population aged 0-15 is 6,340 which is **18.82%** of the ward population compared to **14.58%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - The population aged 16-64 is 22,049 which is **65.45%** of the ward population compared to **69.5%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - The population aged 65+ is 5,301 which is **15.73%** 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 **85%** compared to **85%** for Edinburgh as a whole.
 - For the population recorded as not white, the largest groups represented are;
 - Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani British (1,029)
 - Other African (861)
 - Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Group (754)



Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

- SIMD mapping below shows this as a mixed ward with large areas within the 20% most deprived in Scotland concentrated in Craigmillar and Niddrie, contrasting with other areas within the 20% least deprived concentrated on Duddingston and Portobello.

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

Ward 17 - Portobello & Craigmillar

Legend

SIMD 2020

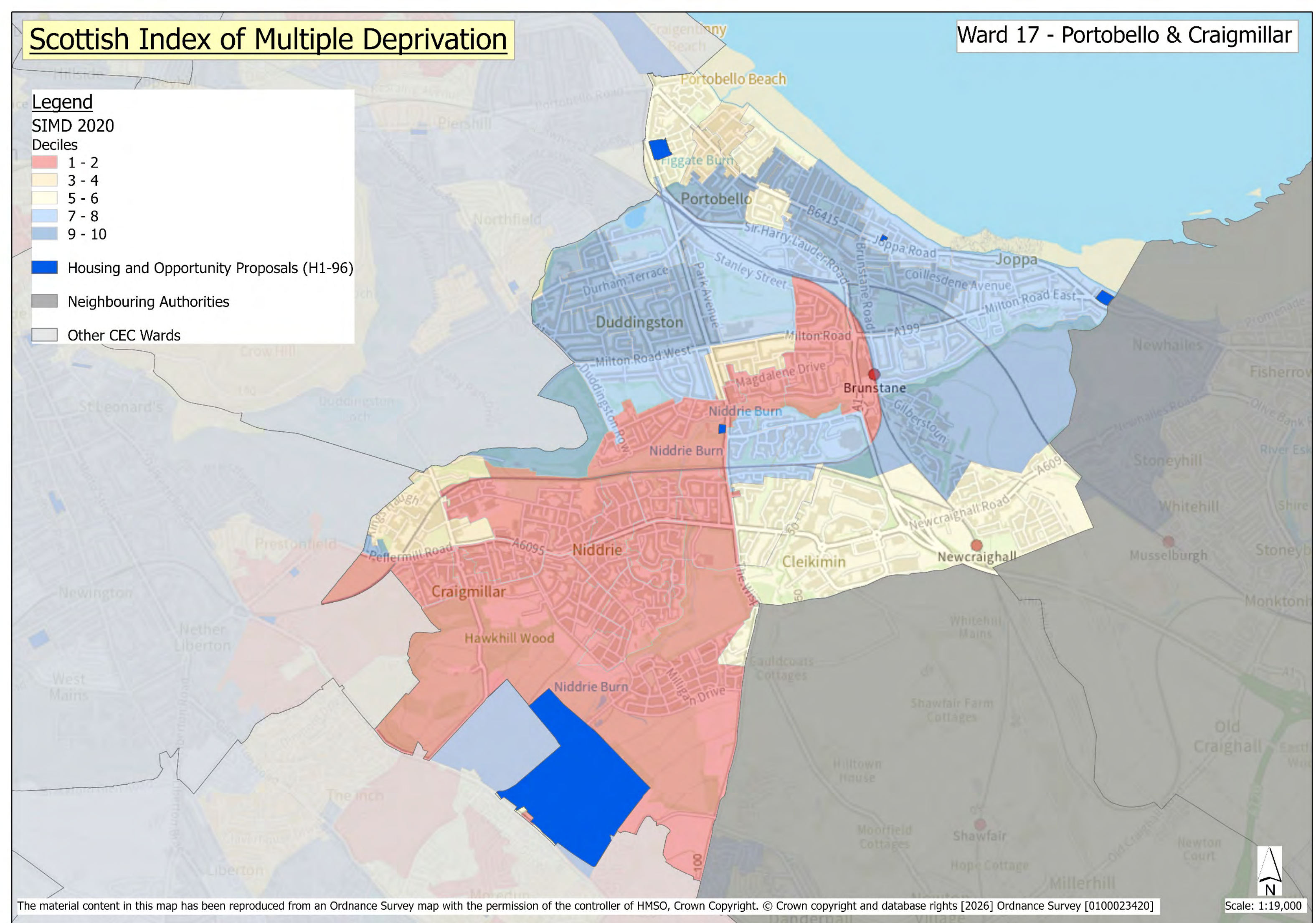
Deciles

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

Housing and Opportunity Proposals (H1-96)

Neighbouring Authorities

Other CEC Wards



Considerations

- The population is expected to grow faster than the Edinburgh average, with this growth concentrated in the south and east fringes of the ward.
- The working age population is lower, but the child age population is higher.
- Population groups show a slightly lower level of diversity compared to Edinburgh as a whole.
- Large areas of the ward are identified as being within the most 20% deprived in Scotland, concentrated in the south, including Craigmillar, Niddrie, the Christians and Magdalene. This contrasts with areas of the ward including Portobello, Duddingston and Brunstane which sit within the 20% least deprived in Scotland, indicating an approximate north-south split.
- Overall, most people felt happy/very happy with their area and felt that there should be more calm, safe and accessible streets, resurfaced roads and public toilets.
- Overall, young people showed support for better parks, transport improvements and better/cheaper resources.

Health

Demographics

- **19.9%** of the ward population reported having a long-term illness or disease, compared to **18.1%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **11.9%** of the ward population reported having a long-term mental health condition, compared to **11.9%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **79.9%** 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 **44,064**, greater than the ward population of **33,693**. 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 4,477.6 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 **22.54%** 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, **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, **32.69%** were overweight and **35.82%** 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 Bingham, Magdalene & The Christians – Male life expectancy was **70 years** and female life expectancy was **75.9 years**.
 - Craigmillar – Male life expectancy was **69.3 years** and female life expectancy was **73.9 years**.
 - Duddingston & Portobello South – Male life expectancy was **81.2 years** and female life expectancy was **86.2 years**.
 - Fernieside & Moredun South – Male life expectancy was **73.4 years** and female life expectancy was **77.7 years**.
 - Jewel, Brunstane & Newcraighall – Male life expectancy was **79 years** and female life expectancy was **82.5 years**.
 - Joppa – Male life expectancy was **77.9 years** and female life expectancy was **83 years**.

- Niddrie – Male life expectancy was **68.8 years** and female life expectancy was **74 years**.
- Portobello – Male life expectancy was **77.3 years** and female life expectancy was **83.4 years**.
- Willowbrae & Duddingston Village – Male life expectancy was **84.8 years** and female life expectancy was **82.1 years**.

Uses likely to affect health and wellbeing and food access

- Town and local centres with identified clusters of unhealthy uses are set out in the **Health and Wellbeing topic paper** and **City, Town, Local and Commercial Centres topic paper**.
- There are no town and local centres with identified clusters of unhealthy uses within this ward.
- 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 shown below to be mainly located in Portobello Town Centre and Niddrie Mains Road Local Centre with some overlap with areas of higher deprivation in Craigmillar.

Hot Food Takeaways

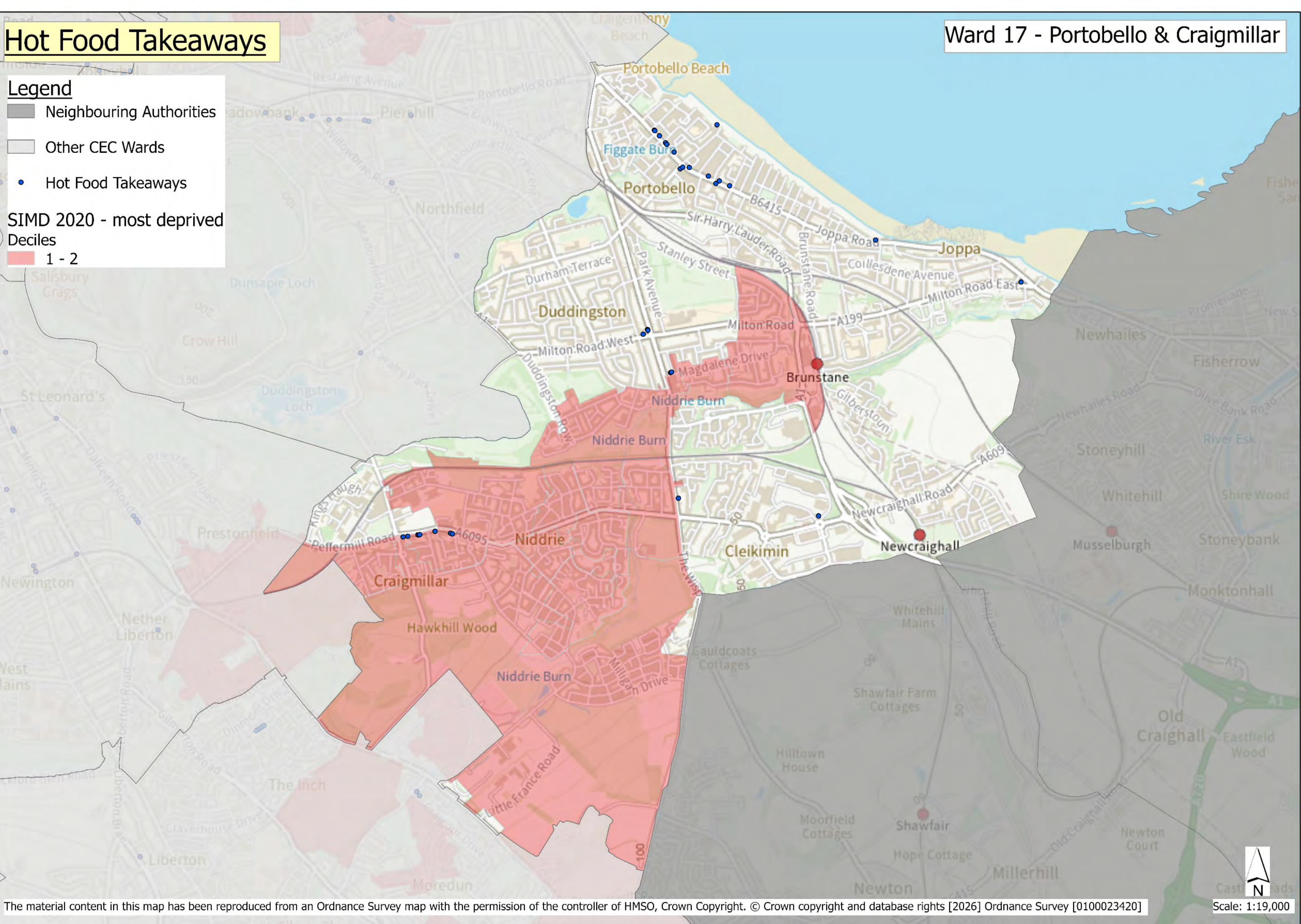
Ward 17 - Portobello & Craigmillar

Legend

- Neighbouring Authorities
- Other CEC Wards
- Hot Food Takeaways

SIMD 2020 - most deprived Deciles

- 1 - 2



GPs and Pharmacies

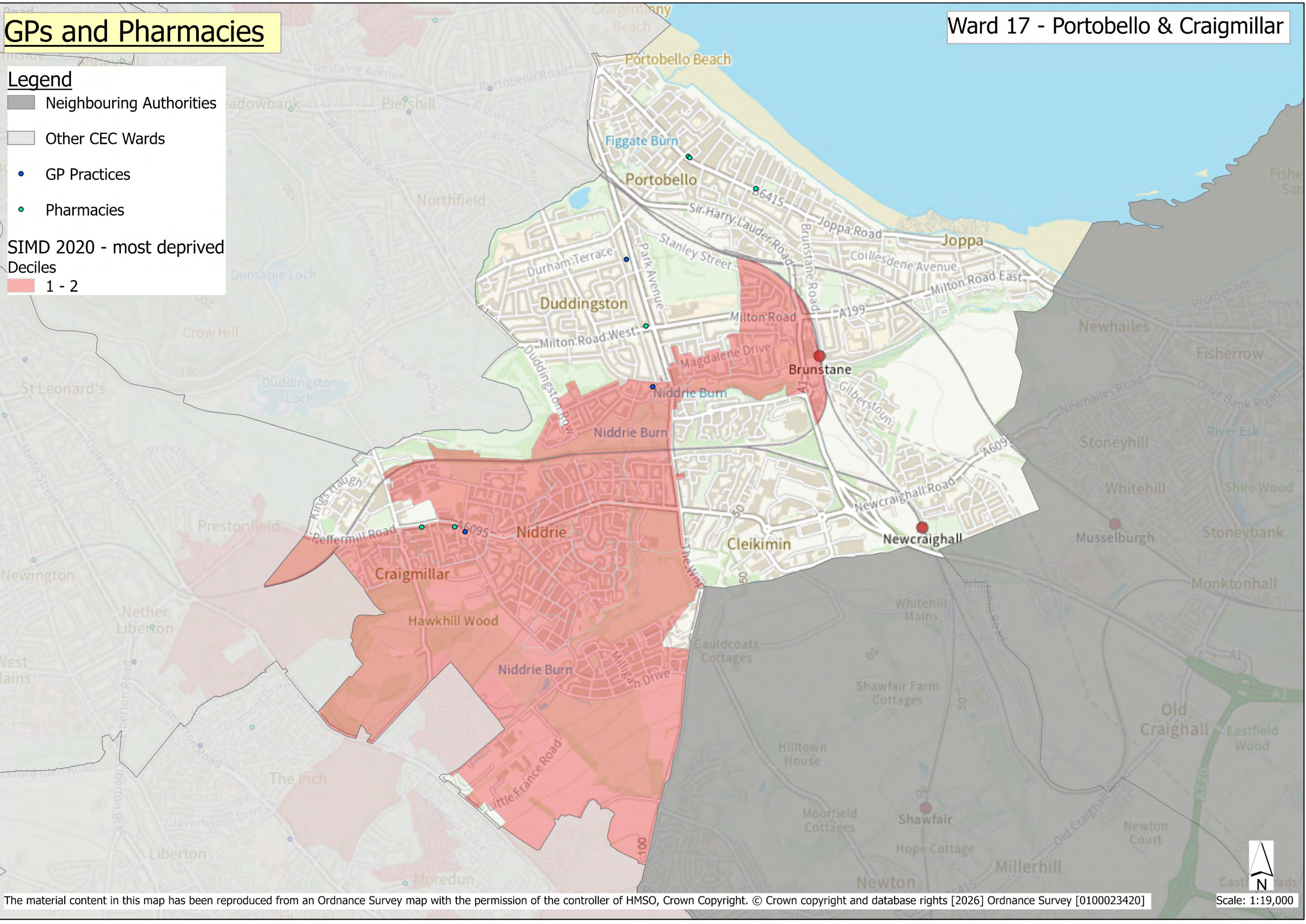
Ward 17 - Portobello & Craigmillar

Legend

- Neighbouring Authorities
- 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 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.
- The location of health facilities largely follows existing areas of higher population density and transport access around Portobello, eastern Duddingston and Craigmillar, although a large area of future growth around Brunstane is a greater distance from these facilities.
- There are no centres within this ward reported as having clusters of unhealthy uses or low access to healthy food shops although mapping shows some concentration in Portobello and Niddrie Mains Road.
- Most people felt there was a good provision of pharmacies and GPs but there was a strong level of response feeling there was a lack of NHS dentists.
- Previous engagement in Portobello showed support for improved affordable food options.

Housing

Housing type and density

- 8,038 households live in houses, which is **51.9%** compared with **36.8%** of the Edinburgh total, while 7,420, which is **47.9%** live in flats compared with **63.2%** of the Edinburgh total. 17 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 higher concentrations of flatted dwellings, apartments or maisonettes in parts of Portobello, Magdalene, Niddrie and Craigmillar. This approximately aligns with areas of higher population density.

Housing tenure and overcrowding

- The housing tenure breakdown of the ward is listed below:
 - **60.1%** households in the ward report their housing tenure as Owned, compared to **60.1%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **25.9%** households in the ward report their housing tenure as Social Rented, compared to **15.7%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **13.2%** 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 live in socially rented accommodation than the Edinburgh average and mapping shows this to be concentrated in the Magdalene, Niddrie and Craigmillar areas.
- The level of overcrowding as measured by occupation of rooms per household is higher in the Magdalene, Niddrie Craigmillar areas.

Flats, Apartments and Maisonettes Percentage

Ward 17 - Portobello / Craigmillar

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Neighbouring Authorities

Public Transport Stops

Type

- Bus
- Coach
- Rail
- Tram

Open Space

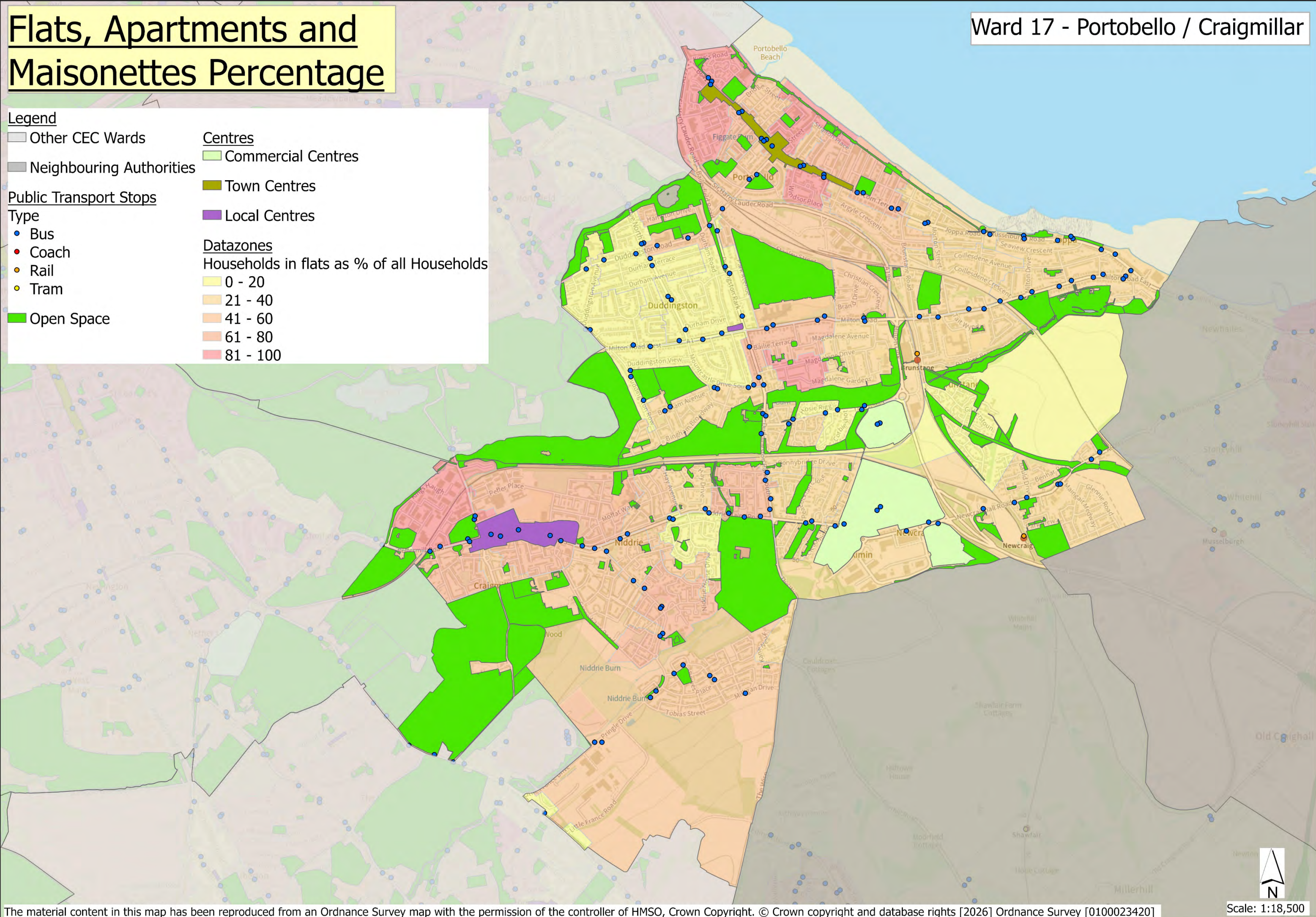
Centres

- Commercial Centres
- Town Centres
- Local Centres

Datazones

Households in flats as % of all Households

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



Density (Households per Hectare)

Ward 17 - Portobello & Craigmillar

Legend

Neighbouring Authorities

Other CEC Wards

Public Transport Stops

Type

- Bus
- Coach
- Rail
- Tram

Open Space

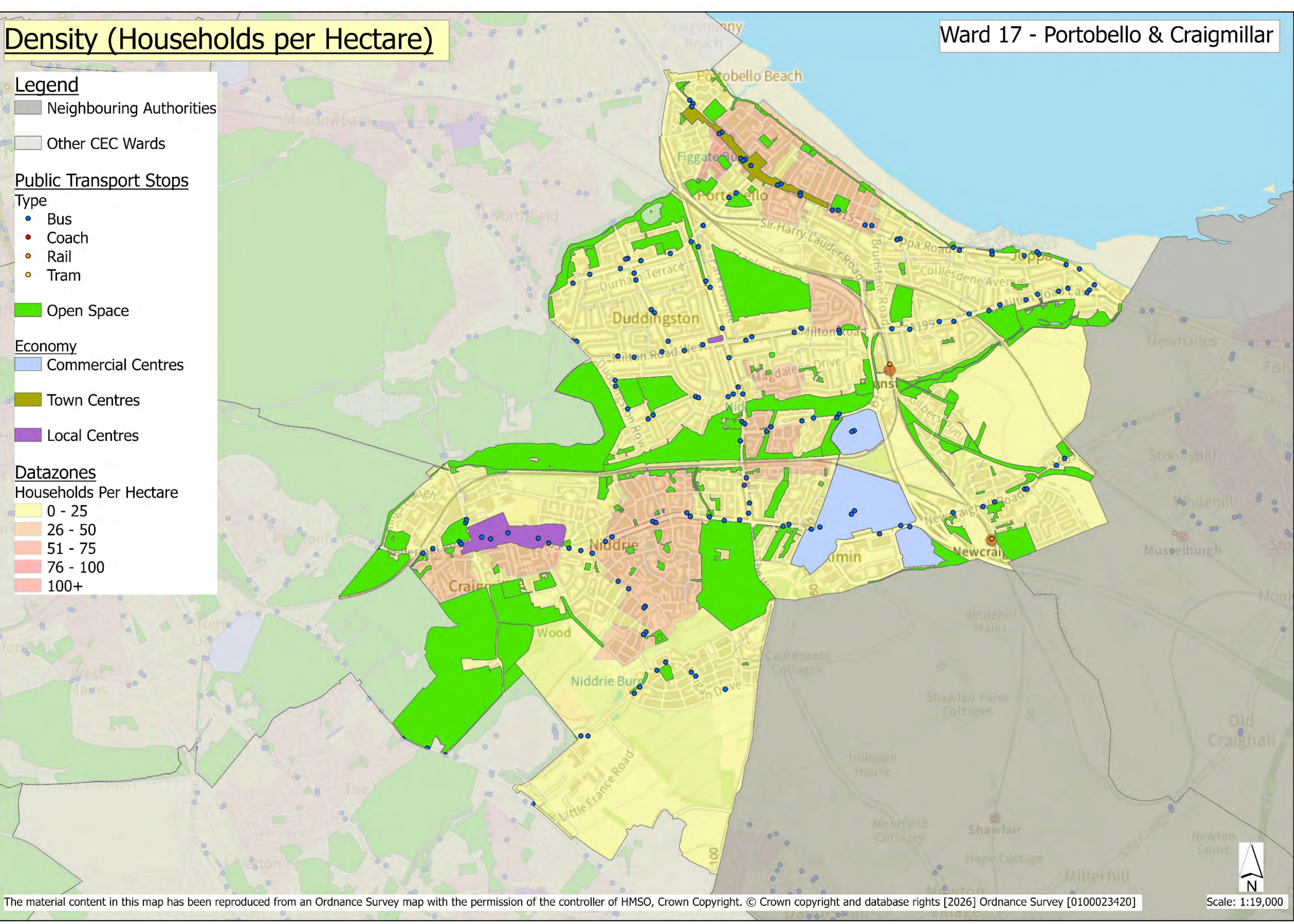
Economy

- Commercial Centres
- Town Centres
- Local Centres

Datazones

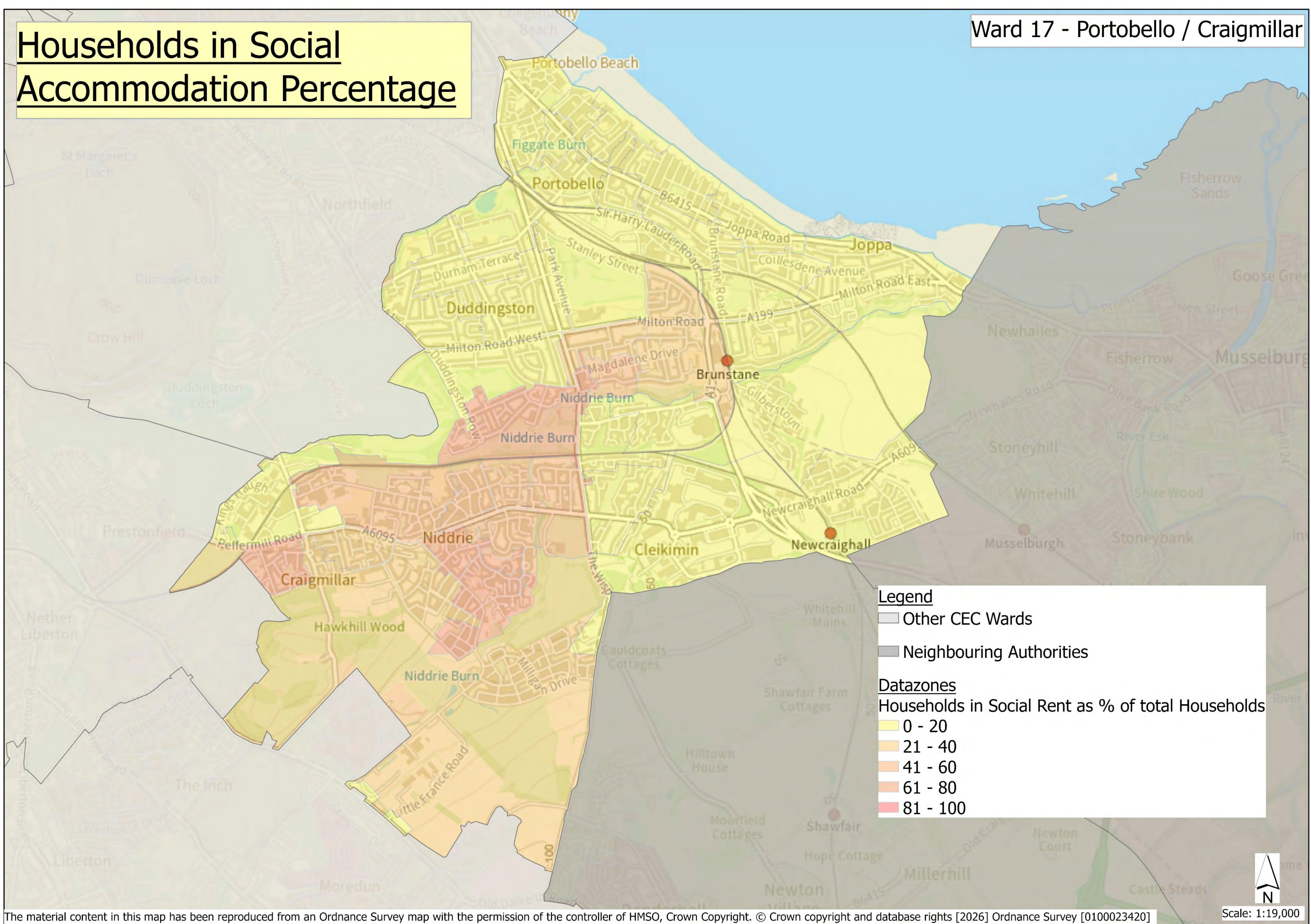
Households Per Hectare

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



Households in Social Accommodation Percentage

Ward 17 - Portobello / Craigmillar



Overcrowding (percentage of households based on room habitation)

Ward 17 - Portobello & Craigmillar

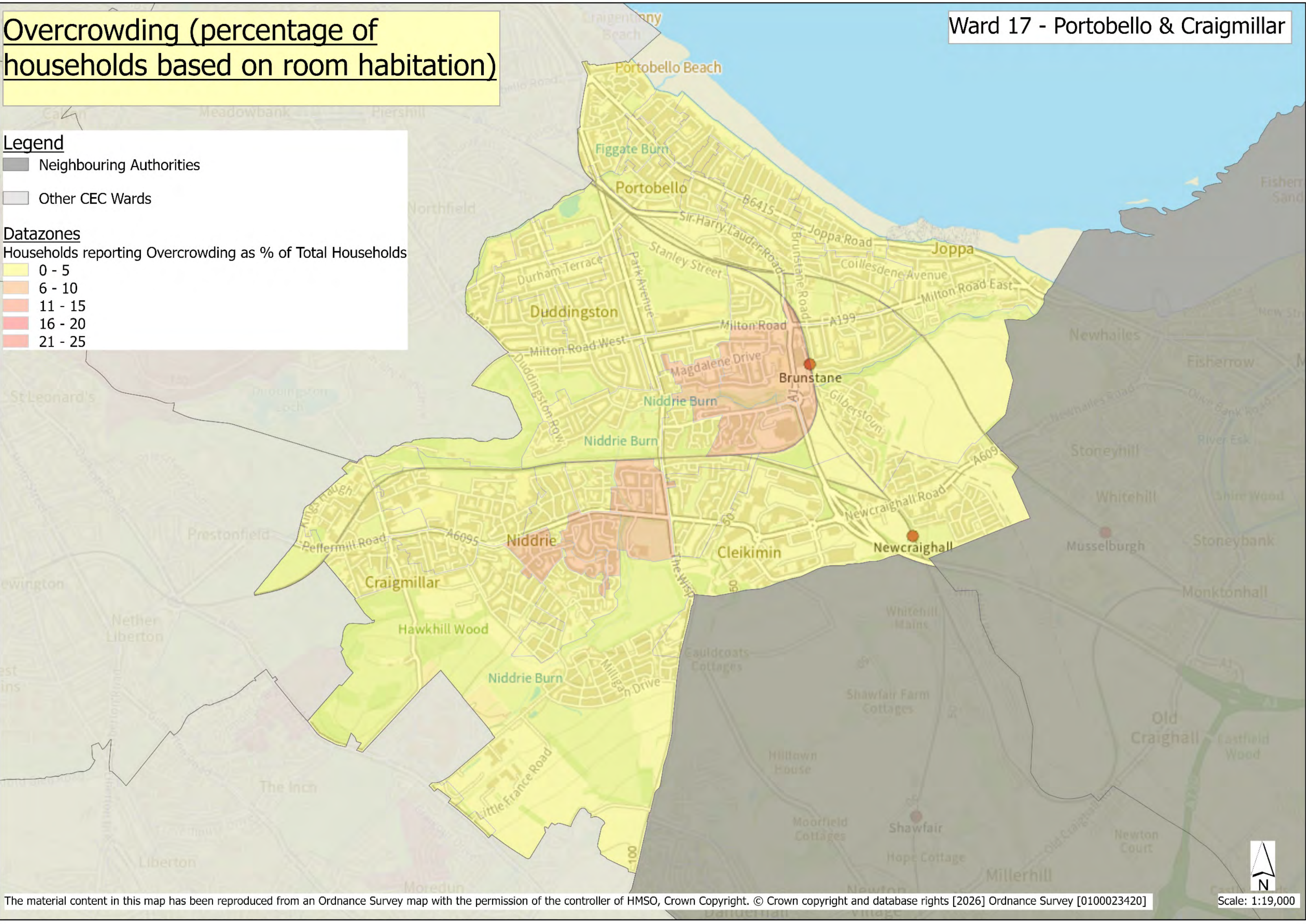
Legend

- Neighbouring Authorities
- 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 Portobello and Craigmillar, close to existing town and local centres with a higher concentration of houses outwith these areas.
- Social housing is concentrated in the south of the ward in Craigmillar, Niddrie and Magdalene. These areas see more overcrowding.
- Engagement showed desire for more space, a garden or a house instead of a flat. More needed to be done around the variety of housing available and providing more affordable/social housing.
- Some children and young people wanted a bigger place/their own bedroom or a warmer, less damp/cold home.

Economy

Demographics

- The occupation breakdown of the ward is listed below:
 - **8.1%** 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.
 - **24.3%** 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.
 - **13.9%** 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.
 - **9.3%** 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.
 - **9.1%** 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.
 - **10.3%** 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.
 - **7.7%** 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.
 - **6.2%** 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%** 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:
 - **14.8%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as No qualifications, compared to **9.7%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **19.5%** 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.
 - **5.8%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Apprenticeship qualifications, compared to **4.4%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **10.3%** 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.

- **39.9%** 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 17 - Portobello & Craigmillar

Legend

Neighbouring Authorities

Other CEC Wards

Public Transport Stops

Type

- Bus
- Coach
- Rail
- Tram

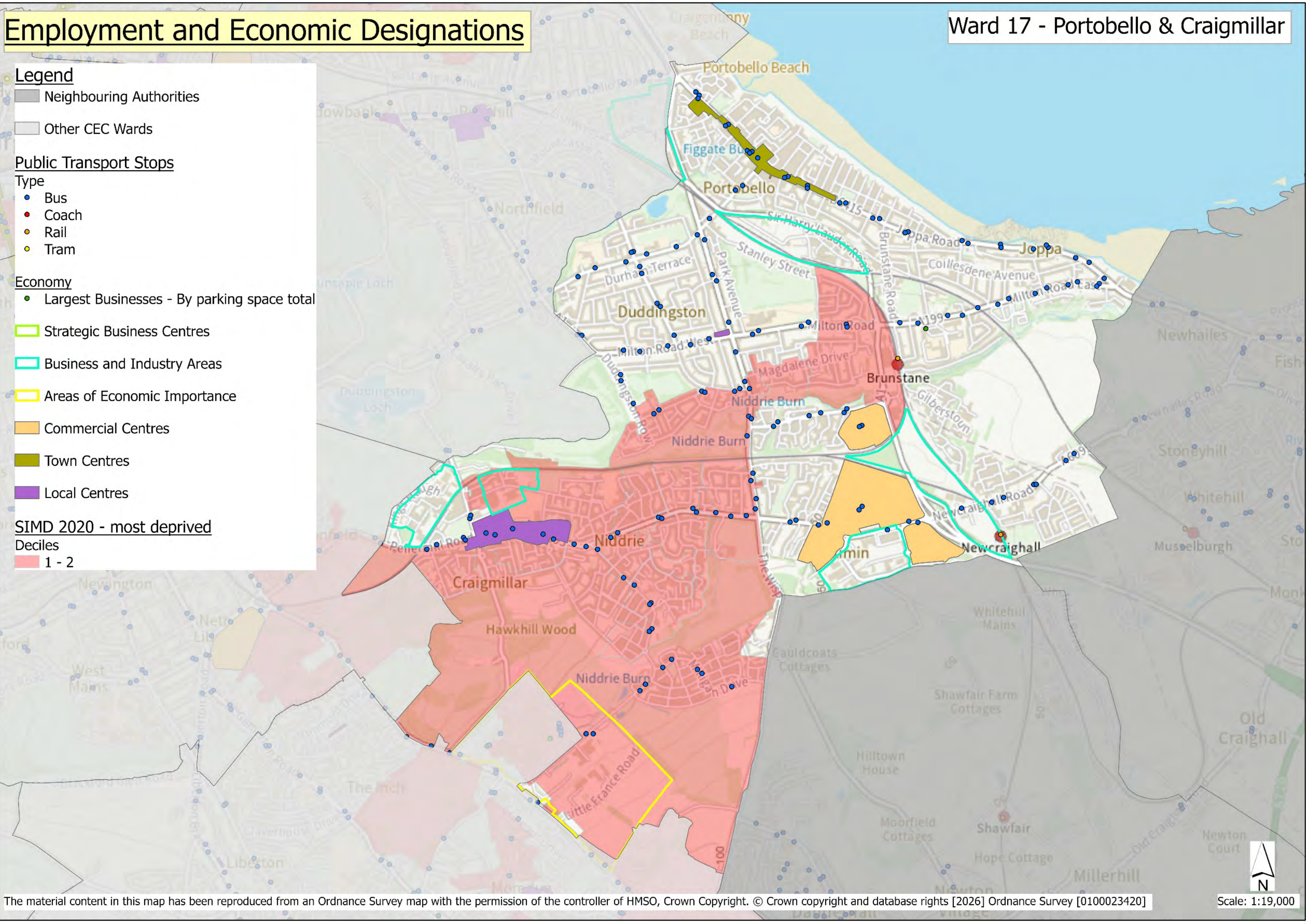
Economy

- 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

- A designated Area of Economic Importance as well as Business and Industry designations can be found close to Portobello, Craigmillar, Newcraighall and the BioQuarter.
- Portobello Town Centre is a major centre for the ward, with further local centres at Craigmillar and Milton Road West and a large commercial centre at Fort Kinnaird. There is a lack of centres in Joppa and south of Hunter's Hall Park.
- A key employer and anchor institution is the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and associated BioQuarter which is adjacent to the south of the ward.
- Engagement showed support for one interconnected space for work, volunteering and training opportunities and more information for work, volunteering and training opportunities in the area.

Transport

Demographics

- The breakdown of the primary method of travel to work is listed below:
 - **36.3%** of the working population report mainly working from or at home, compared to **39%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **30.4%** of the working population report driving a car or van, compared to **25.1%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **19.2%** of the working population report travelling by public transport (bus, minibus, coach, train, underground, subway or tram), compared to **16.7%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **4%** of the working population report travelling by bike, compared to **3.8%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **6.6%** of the working population report travelling on foot, compared to **12%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **33.6%** of households in the ward have access to a car or van, compared to **37.7%** 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 Craigmillar, Niddrie, Magdalene and part of Portobello.
- Use of cars for driving to work is broadly similar across the ward and is typical of areas which are a moderate distance from the city centre.

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 corridors in Craigmillar, Newcraighall, Portobello, the eastern part of Duddingston and Bingham as well as the areas around the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and The Jewel. Public transport serves areas of higher deprivation, higher density and town, local and commercial centres in this area.
- Poor access is concentrated in parts of Portobello and Joppa, as well as lower density areas in Duddingston. Brunstane is also poorly served, and this contains a large housing site allocation in City Plan 2030.
- Improved orbital bus routes and connections are proposed to improve levels of access in the Ward and provide connections to other parts of Edinburgh.

Active travel

- Key active travel paths are at Portobello Promenade and a shared use path crossing through Brunstane, Magdalene and Bingham with connections on to East Lothian and the Innocent Railway path leading toward central Edinburgh.
- The City Mobility Plan has identified projects in Portobello Town Centre, Craigmillar Local Centre, as well as other streets in Craigmillar, Niddrie, Joppa and Newcraighall 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 17 - Portobello & Craigmillar

Legend

- Neighbouring Authorities
- Other CEC Wards

Datazones

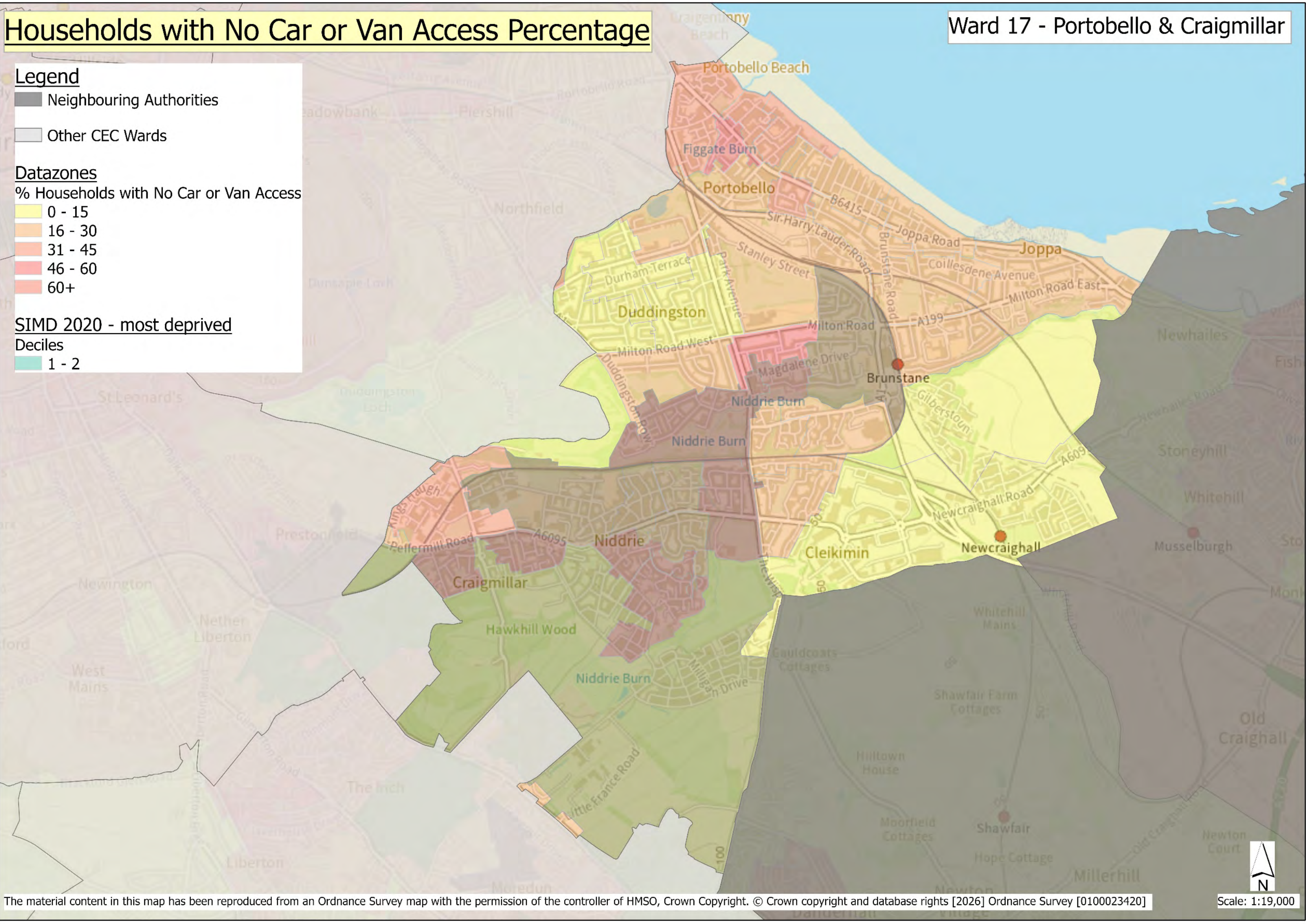
% Households with No Car or Van Access

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

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

- 1 - 2



Driving a car or van to work percentage

Ward 17 - Portobello & Craigmillar

Legend

- Neighbouring Authorities
- Other CEC Wards

Datazones

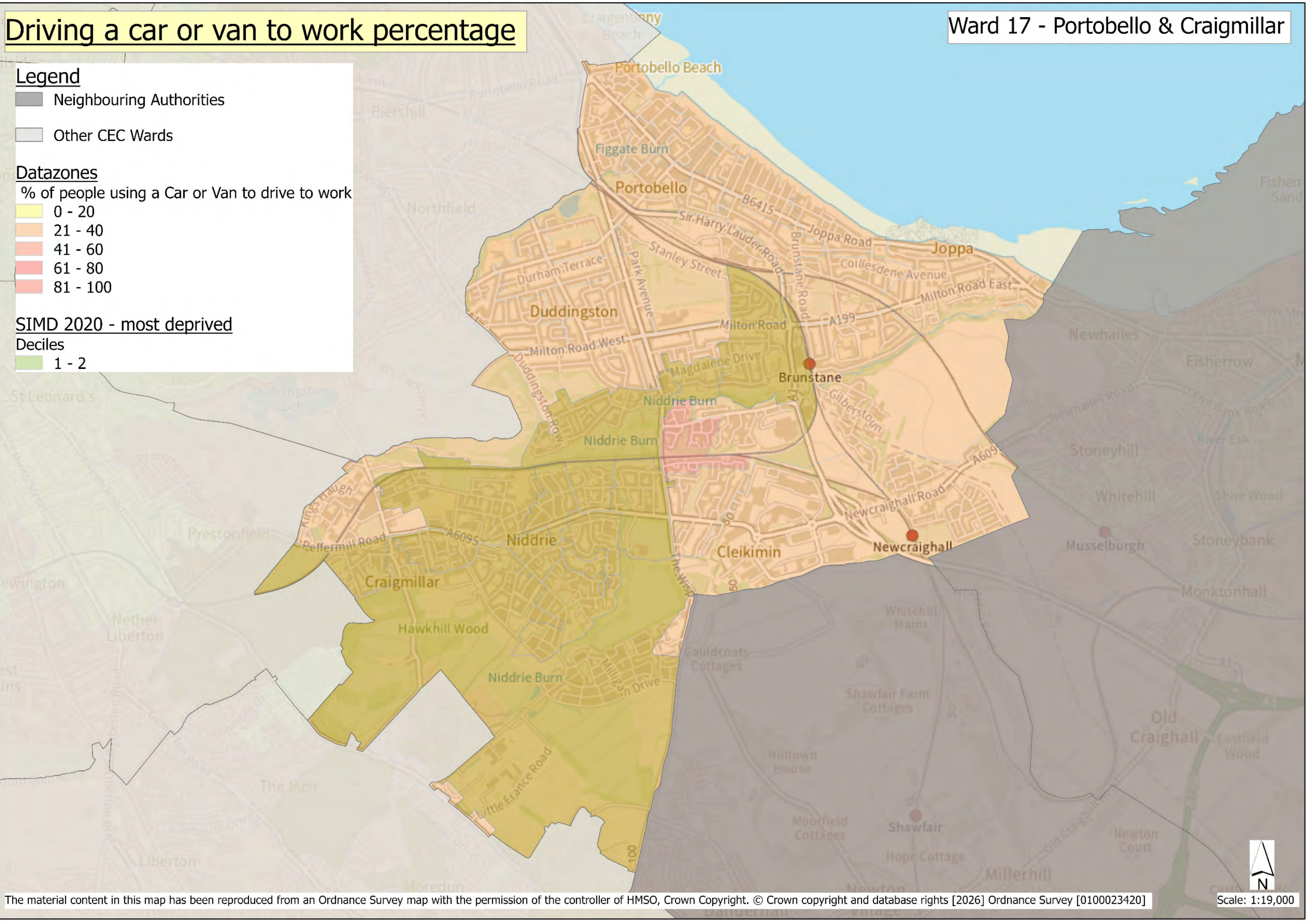
% of people using a Car or Van to drive to work

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

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

- 1 - 2



Public Transport Accessibility

Ward 17 - Portobello & Craigmillar

Legend

- Neighbouring Authorities
- Other CEC Wards

TRANSPORT

- Bus Improvemnents and Orbital CP2030

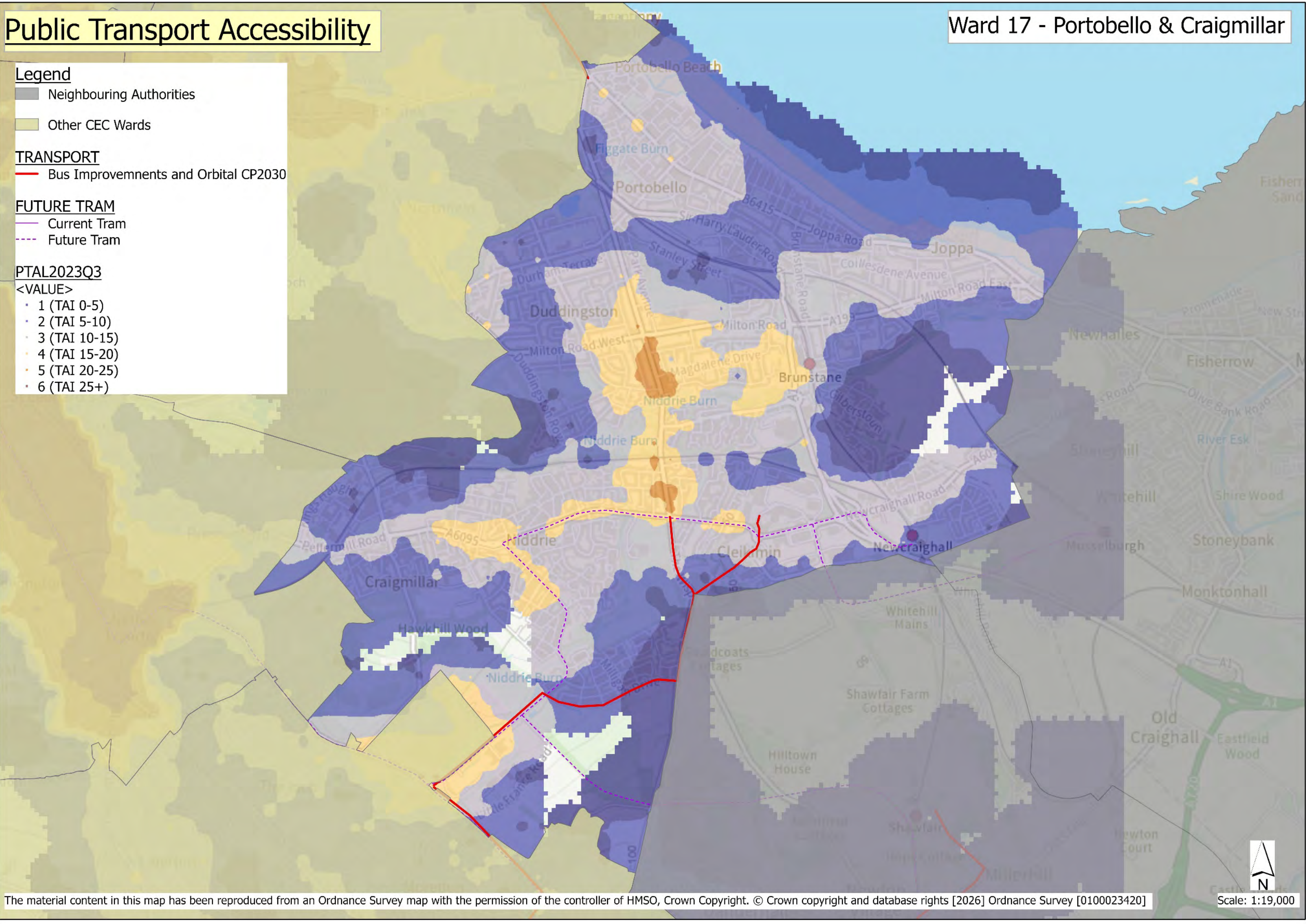
FUTURE TRAM

- 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+)



Active Travel Mapping

Ward 17 - Portobello & Craigmillar

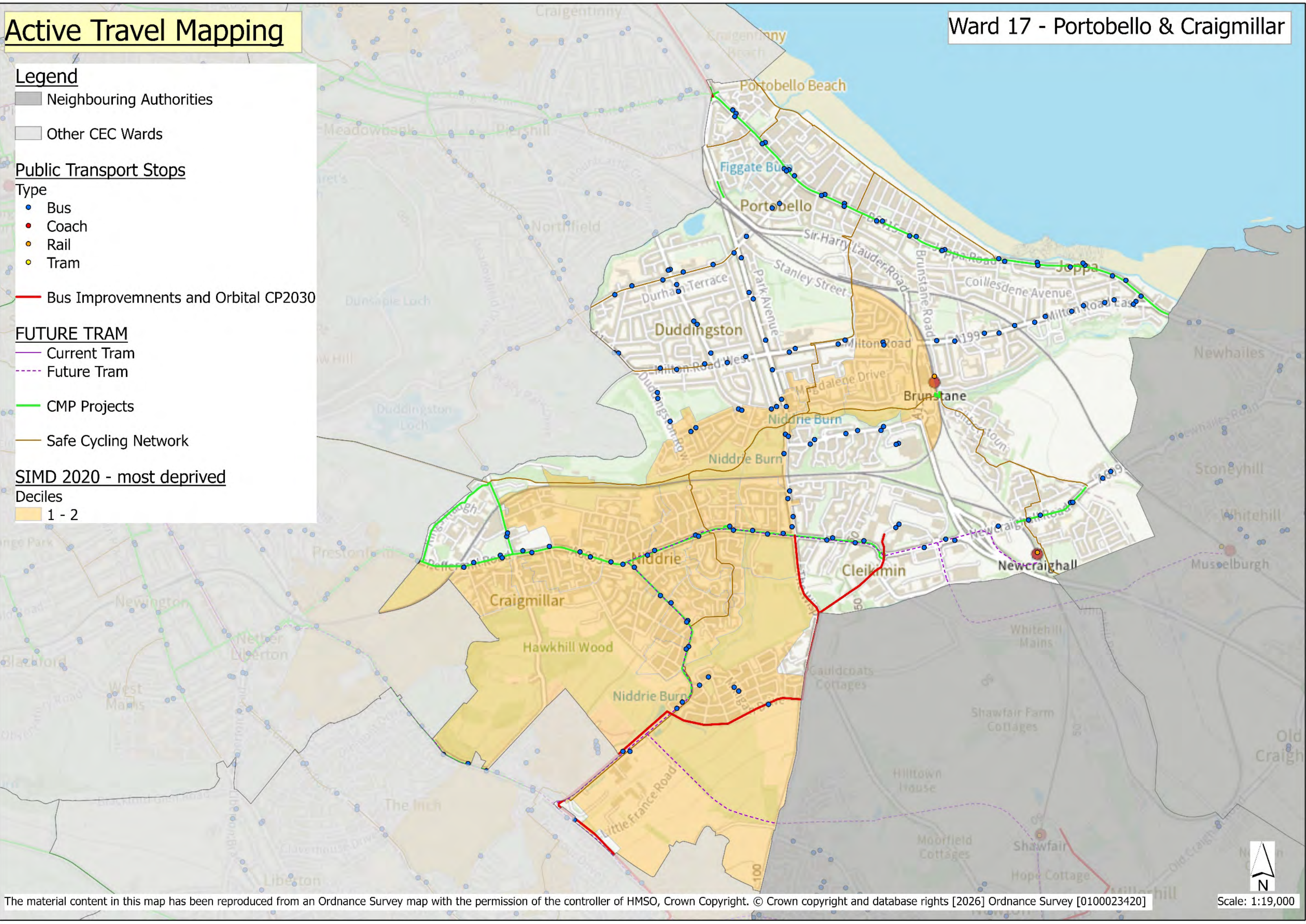
Legend
■ Neighbouring Authorities
■ Other CEC Wards

Public Transport Stops
Type
● Bus
● Coach
● Rail
● Tram

FUTURE TRAM
— Current Tram
- - Future Tram

— CMP Projects
— Safe Cycling Network

SIMD 2020 - most deprived
Deciles
■ 1 - 2



Considerations

- A greater number of people in the ward drive to work compared to the Edinburgh average whilst fewer people walk despite a lower level of car ownership.
- Areas with lower access to a car or van broadly line up with areas of higher deprivation.
- Public transport access is concentrated in the central part of the ward, with lower levels in the east and south where greater housing development is expected. Portobello, Craigmillar and Niddrie, which form compact neighbourhoods with amenities and denser housing, are considered to have good access. Some public transport improvements in the area are proposed.
- City Mobility Plan improvements are proposed to be brought forward primarily in Portobello Town Centre and Craigmillar Local Centre primarily to address vehicle dominance in these areas and improve the environment for walking and active travel access.
- Engagement showed support for more connected and segregated cycle lanes. Many felt there was dangerous cycling on pavements and that traffic was too high on main roads such as Portobello High Street.
- Many reported that parking was generally available but that there was too much traffic at too high a speed. This is influenced by the road corridors in this ward leading into the city from East Lothian and the east and south.
- Previous engagement in Portobello expressed support for safer cycling routes and segregation from pedestrians, improved public spaces and improved bus links.
- Previous engagement in Craigmillar expressed concern over traffic volume, speed and lack of safe cycling provision.

Environment

Green blue network and biodiversity

- Open spaces are well dispersed throughout the ward, with enhancements proposed to the South East Wedge.
- 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.
- A key green corridor leads through the ward to Holyrood Park. Two corridors are identified for further improvements, including the Figgate Burn and the Niddrie and Brunstane Burn. The ward borders the Firth of Forth at Portobello and Joppa which is identified as of importance for biodiversity and recreation.

Growing Spaces

- Growing spaces mapped include Council-run allotments and community-run growing spaces, which are displayed together to show opportunities for food and other growing in the ward.
- Council allotments are only found at Bingham and Craigmillar in this ward. Community-run growing spaces are more common, particularly in Craigmillar, Niddrie, Brunstane and Portobello.
- There is a lack of growing spaces of any kind around Joppa, Newcraighall and in the far south of the ward.

Open, Natural, and Play Spaces

Ward 17 - Portobello & Craigmillar

Legend

Neighbouring Authorities

Other CEC Wards

ENVIRONMENT

Green Blue Network Proposal

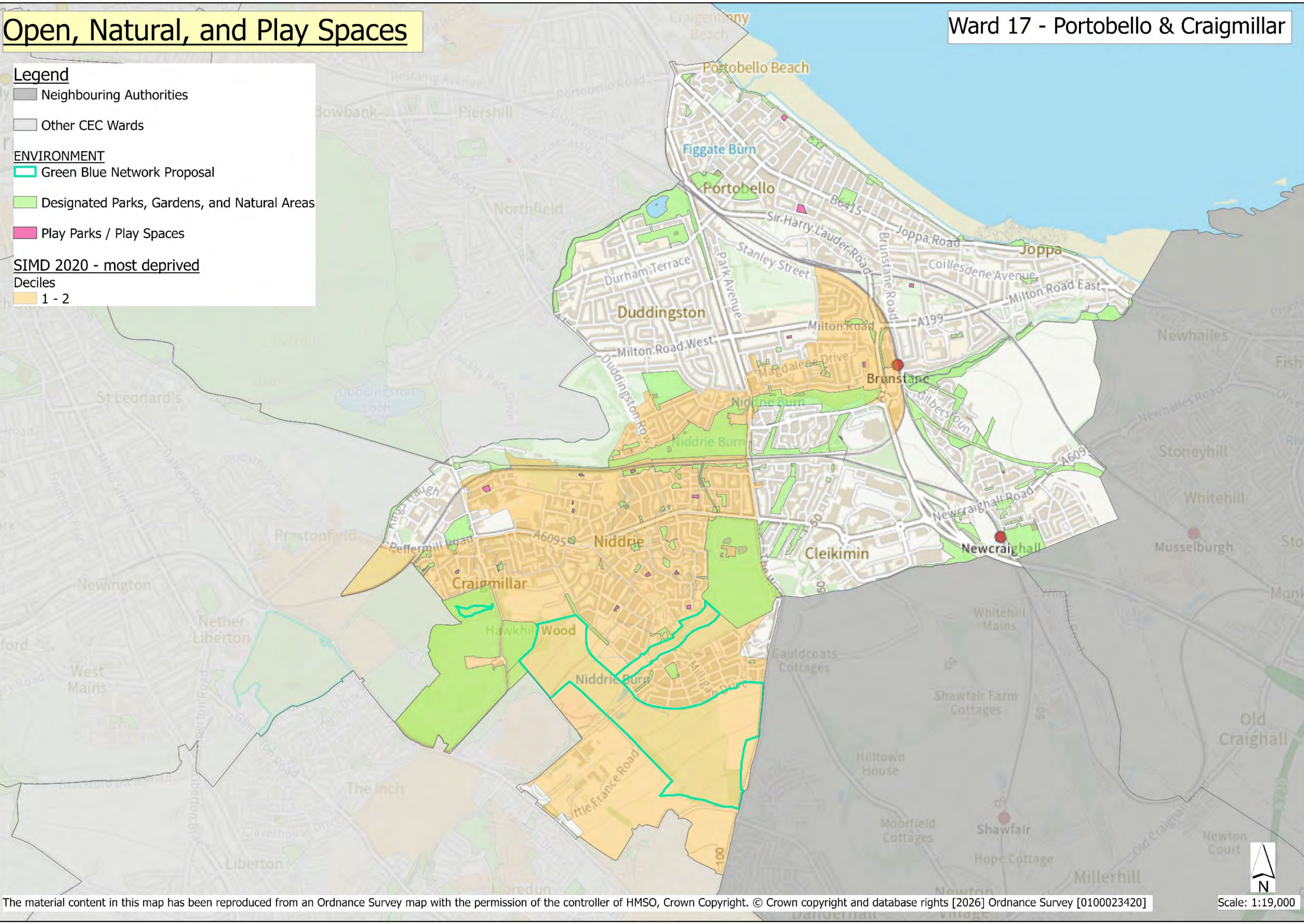
Designated Parks, Gardens, and Natural Areas

Play Parks / Play Spaces

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

1 - 2



Strategic Blue Green Network

Ward 17 - Portobello & Craigmillar

Legend

Neighbouring Authorities

Other CEC Wards

ENVIRONMENT

Green Blue Network Proposal

Blue Network

Blue Opportunity Areas

Key River Corridor

OS Rivers

Waterbodies

Tidal Water

Wetland

Wetland HotSpot

Wetland Network

Biodiversity Network

Protected Habitats

GBN Ranking Biodiversity Point data

Biodiversity

Low

High

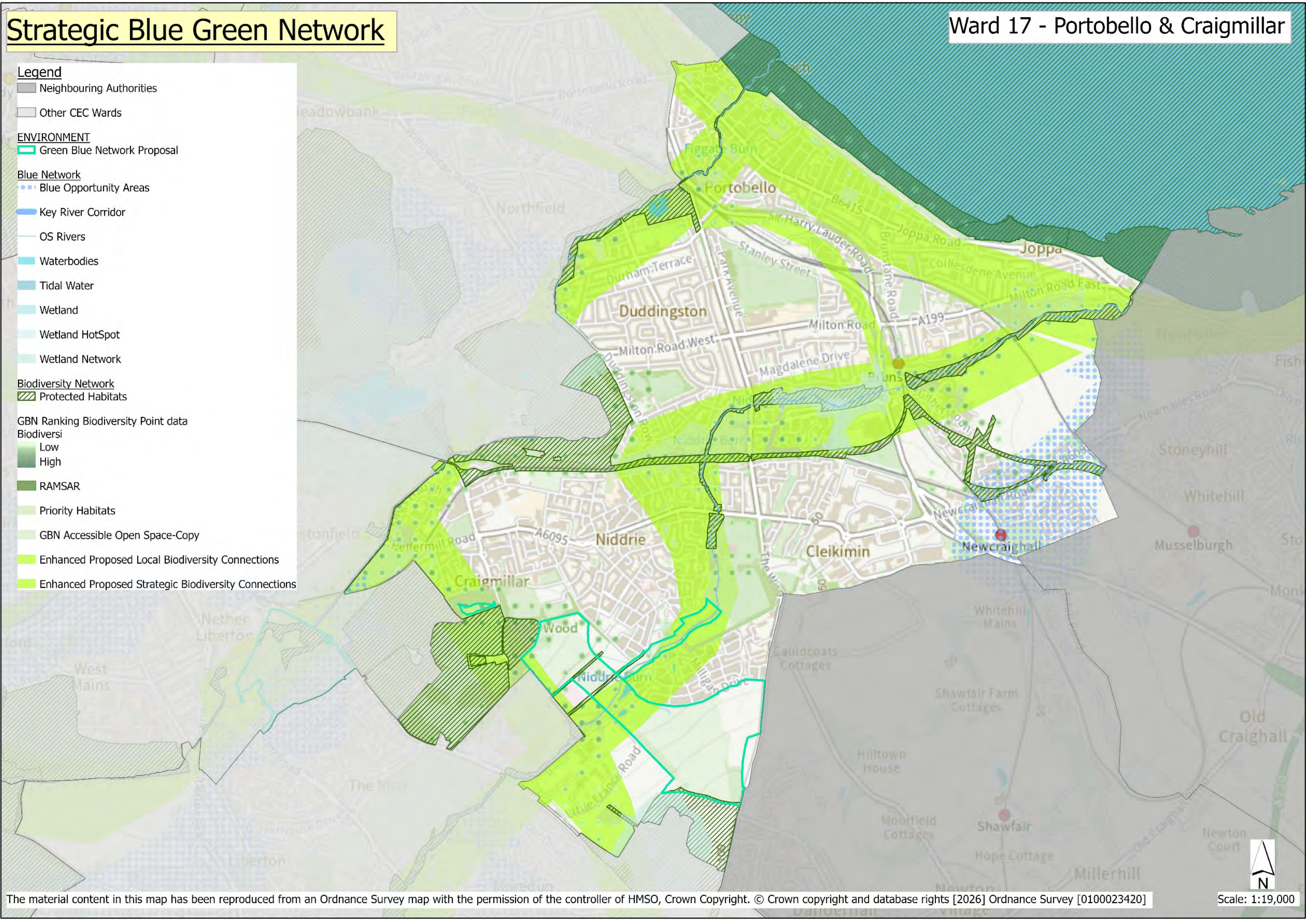
RAMSAR

Priority Habitats

GBN Accessible Open Space-Copy

Enhanced Proposed Local Biodiversity Connections

Enhanced Proposed Strategic Biodiversity Connections



Growing Spaces

Ward 17 - Portobello / Craigmillar

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Neighbouring Authorities

ENVIRONMENT

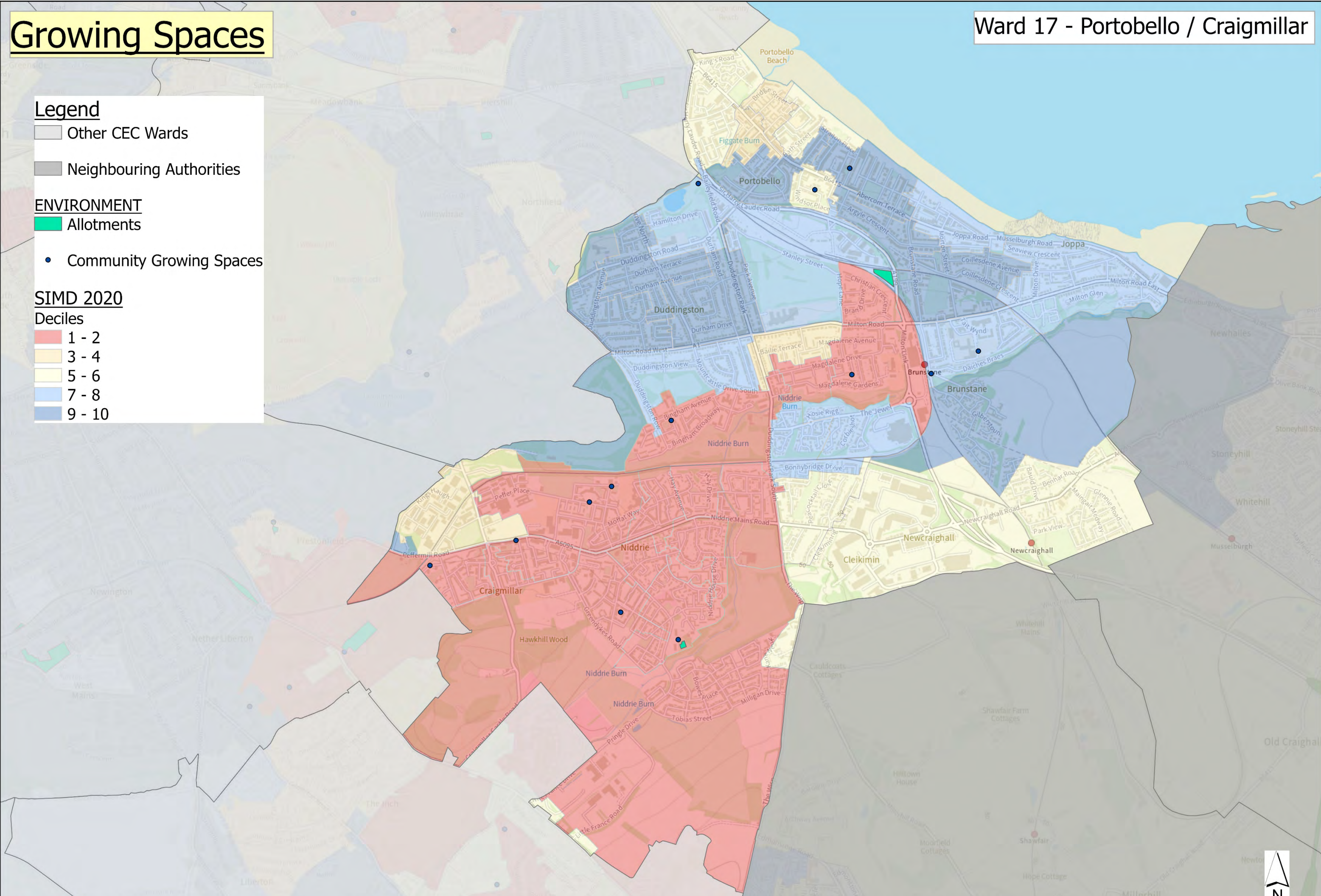
Allotments

Community Growing Spaces

SIMD 2020

Deciles

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



Considerations

- A number of existing green blue corridors cross through the ward providing good access to open space, water and biodiversity. Improvements are proposed for the South East Wedge area north of the BioQuarter. Key proposed/improved recreational routes are identified for the Niddrie and Brunstane Burns and the Firth of Forth.
- A Coastal Change Adaption Plan is currently under development which will assess risks and identify adaption options.
- Open spaces are well dispersed throughout the ward, including within and close to Portobello, Craigmillar and Niddrie, which form compact neighbourhoods with amenities and denser housing.
- Opportunities for food growing are concentrated in Craigmillar, Niddrie, Brunstane and Portobello with gaps in provision in Joppa, Newcraighall and in the far south of the ward.
- Engagement showed that most were happy/very happy with green and natural spaces in their local area and felt they were well looked after. Some felt they were not accessible or unsafe and needed more nature-based maintenance. Lack of lighting and anti-social behaviour were raised as concerns.
- Most felt there was poor access to growing spaces in their area and there should be more, especially on brownfield land.
- There was some concern over local impacts of climate change with risk from the sea, flooding and recent wildfires on Arthur's Seat.
- Previous engagement in Portobello shows support for improved facilities for the park and promenade including public toilets closer to Joppa.
- Previous engagement in Hunter's Hall Park showed support for better lighting, seating, links to surrounding areas and an upgraded Jack Kane Centre. Concern over cleaning, maintenance, safety and anti-social behaviour.

Appendix

This report details the consultation and engagement information utilised when creating the Portobello/Craigmillar 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 85 responses were received for the Portobello/Craigmillar Ward. Out of these, 42 were from public at large and 43 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 chapters. Each category presents the results from the public at large then children and young people where similar questions were asked.

Housing

Public at large

How happy are you with your home?

- 18 Very happy
- 11 Happy
- 4 Neutral
- 1 Unhappy
- 0 Very unhappy

If you could change one thing, comments

- Bigger place. House not flat, own garden.
- Warmer, less cold.

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

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

Homes in the area, comments

- **Good:** Variety of types and sizes of housing.
- **Bad/change:** More affordable, social housing. Rent control.

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

- 11 Very good
- 16 Good
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Bad
- 0 Terrible

Shops and services, comments

- **Good:** Good variety of shops and services throughout the ward.
- **Bad/change:** Better walking/bus links to shopping areas/streets. More places to eat/drink.

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

- 14 Yes
- 17 No
- 2 Don't know

What there is too much of, comments

- Hairdressers, vape shops.

Children and Young People

Are you happy with your home (the building)?

- 28 Yes
- 14 It's OK
- 0 It's not good
- 1 It's bad

If you could change one thing, comments

- Bigger place/own bedroom.
- Warmer, less damp/cold

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

- 5 Too many
- 32 Right amount
- 5 Not enough
- 1 None

Shops and things, comments

- Generally enough shops and things, some desire for different kinds of shops.

Health

Public at large

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

- 7 Very good
- 21 Good
- 6 Neutral
- 0 Bad
- 0 Terrible

Healthcare facilities, comments

- **Good:** Pharmacies and GPs close by.
- **Bad/change:** NHS dentists needed in the area – overwhelming response.

Children and Young People

Young Peoples Engagement in Portobello Town Centre Improvements (2023)

- Encourage More Affordable Food Outlets to Set up

Transport

Public at large

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

- 6 Very easy
- 13 Easy
- 6 Neutral
- 8 Difficult
- 1 Very difficult

Walk, wheeling, cycling, comments

- **Good:** Cycle paths are great. Improvements to streets made it quieter and better for accessibility.
- **Bad/change:** Segregate cyclists from pedestrians – cyclists on pavements make them more dangerous and less accessible. Interconnected, continuous cycle infrastructure. Main roads in the area (esp. Portobello High) are too busy, too much traffic.

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

- 7 Very easy
- 19 Easy
- 4 Neutral
- 3 Difficult
- 1 Very difficult

Public transport, comments

- **Good:** Regular buses, good service.
- **Bad/change:** Reopen South Suburban railway. Reopen train station Portobello. Add from Portobello to Leith and other cross city buses not through city centre.

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

- 1 Very happy
- 6 Happy
- 10 Neutral
- 11 Unhappy
- 6 Very unhappy

Traffic and parking comments

- **Good:** Parking is available.
- **Bad/change:** Some pro CPZ, some against it. Too much traffic and it's going too fast.

Portobello – Living Well Locally (2023)

The most frequently mentioned issues related to:

- Cyclist safety
- Volume of motor traffic
- Pavement parking
- Too many cars parked
- Promenade cycling

The most frequently mentioned suggestions had more than 50 people mentioning the idea, including:

- New or better cycle lanes
- Enhanced public spaces (including lighting, public art and seating)
- Restricting car parking in some form
- Reducing through motor traffic
- Widening footways
- Providing Promenade design improvements
- Improving bus links

Craigmillar and Niddrie - Living Well Locally (2023)

- The main barriers to movement identified in the area are:
- poor quality of dropped kerbs, pavements, roads;
- lack of provision for cyclists and safe junctions;
- cars parked everywhere; and
- frequent vehicle speeding and traffic jams.

Portobello: Living Well Locally Survey/Place Standard Results (2023)

Walking cycling and wheeling - The most frequently mentioned suggestions included:

- New or better cycle lanes
- Enhanced public spaces (including lighting, public art and seating)
- Restricting car parking in some form
- Reducing through motor traffic
- Widening footways
- Providing Promenade design improvements

- Improving bus links

Later:

- Many respondents consider Portobello town centre to already have a good mix of amenities but that the experience of using these facilities is compromised by high volumes of motor traffic and ineffective car parking arrangements

Children and Young People

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

- Prefer to travel by public transport/ car, bad weather.

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, some find it not always on time and prefer to go by car instead.

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?

- 15 Yes
- 6 No
- 14 Don't know
- 8 Don't care

The Craigmillar Children and Teenagers Neighbourhood Plan (2023)

- More cycle paths
- Improve Access between different areas in Craigmillar
- Making our streets feel calmer

Young Peoples Engagement in Portobello Town Centre Improvements (2023)

- Better traffic control to reduce speeding, and ways to make walking a better experience
- More safe cycle paths on the high street

Economy

Public at large

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

- 2 Very good
- 12 Good
- 17 Neutral
- 1 Bad
- 1 Terrible

Work, volunteering and training, comments

- **Good:** Lots of volunteering opportunities.
- **Bad/change:** One interconnected space for these. More information.

Craigmillar and Niddrie - Living Well Locally (2023)

About what kinds of cultural opportunities, facilities, and services that respondents would like to see more of in the local area, 50% of participants provided input that support themes and ideas including:

- Independent cafes and shops: greater range of social spaces and places to eat, family friendly play cafes; community-focused shops; post office

Portobello: Living Well Locally Survey/Place Standard Results (2023)

- There is a desire for a greater range of shops including hardware stores and arrangements to encourage more diversity and enliven the nighttime economy

Children and Young People

The Craigmillar Children and Teenagers Neighbourhood Plan (2023)

- Increasing the number of shops and places to eat in Craigmillar

Young Peoples Engagement in Portobello Town Centre Improvements (2023)

- Attract a Greater Variety of Shops and Places to Work

Culture

Public at large

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

- 11 Very good
- 13 Good
- 6 Neutral
- 3 Bad
- 1 Terrible

Spaces to meet people, comments

- **Good:** Natural spaces, cafes, church halls, community centres, libraries.
- **Bad/change:** Less spaces in the south of the ward.

How is the community space in your area?

- 8 Very good
- 15 Good
- 6 Neutral
- 4 Bad
- 1 Terrible

Community spaces, comments

- **Good:** Lots of community run centres/spaces.
- **Bad/change:** More advertisement. Helping already existing local community groups.

Craigmillar and Niddrie - Living Well Locally (2023)

- Community activities: live music, art centres, food banks, youth projects, more evening activities, fairs and markets, nature workshops, outdoor exercise groups, craft / knitting groups
- Cultural traditions: places to build a sense of community and highlight the unique history of the area; conservation work and 'heartbeat of communities needs to be retained'
- Performance space: a local theatre, community hall, better supported community centres

Portobello: Living Well Locally Survey/Place Standard Results (2023)

- The library is well used and there is interest in refurbishing the facility including better signage
- There is a desire for more care and maintenance across the area, including:
- Maintenance of roads, footways and green spaces
- Seasonal management regimes such as greater visibility of a police presence and more frequent emptying of litter bins
- Initiatives that better manage dog access to the beach and fouling issues.

Children and Young People

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

- Shopping centres, food & drink places and friend's house

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

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

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

- Greater variety of clubs and sports
- Some interest in cheaper/free activities

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

- 21 Yes
- 16 Sometimes
- 3 No
- 1 Don't know

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

- 3 Often
- 15 Sometimes
- 19 Very rarely
- 4 Never

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

- Boring/not interested, no one to go with/take me.

The Craigmillar Children and Teenagers Neighbourhood Plan (2023):

- Clean up the area and tackle ASB
- Treating each other well
- More community events and celebrations
- More community facilities

Young Peoples Engagement in Portobello Town Centre Improvements (2023)

- Modernise the local area, potentially adding in more colour
- Increase the Number of Local Public Toilets
- Take Away the Charge to Use the Pits

Environment

Public at large

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

- 9 Very happy
- 17 Happy
- 4 Neutral
- 2 Unhappy
- 2 Very unhappy

Open and natural spaces, comments

- **Good:** Lots of green spaces in the area. Most are well looked after by volunteers or council.
- **Bad/change:** More naturalised maintenance for more biodiversity. These spaces often feel unsafe. Some of them are not wheelchair accessible.

What is the access to growing spaces like now?

- 1 Very happy
- 3 Happy
- 16 Neutral
- 10 Unhappy
- 1 Very unhappy

Growing spaces, comments

- **Good:** Few in the area.
- **Bad/change:** More of them, especially on brownfield land.

Climate change, comments

- Surface flooding. Sea level rise.

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.?

- 3 Very happy
- 11 Happy
- 13 Neutral
- 4 Unhappy
- 1 Very unhappy

Ball game spaces, comments

- **Good:** Some in the area, although a lot of spaces are part of schools or the leisure centre making them less accessible.
- **Bad/change:** More and more free to use.

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?

- 1 Very happy
- 8 Happy
- 17 Neutral
- 4 Unhappy
- 2 Very unhappy

Outdoor play spaces, comments

- **Good:** Parks and some play spaces.
- **Bad/change:** Getting to them is not safe because of the roads in the area. The playparks are not wheelchair friendly. There are not enough for them and they could be better maintained.

Hunters Hall Park (2023)

Suggested improvements (most common answers)

- Cleaner park/better litter management (e.g. more bins)
- Better lighting in the park
- An upgraded/renovated/modernised JKC building
- Better opening times for the building (particularly the gym)
- More classes/clubs on offer
- Better maintenance and upkeep of the park and JKC in general (particularly the playground)
- Better links to surrounding areas e.g. new housing at the Wisp, Hammond Place, Greendykes Road.
- Improved safety at the Park e.g. CCTV installation
- Better management of motorbike usage in park
- More seating in the park

Craigmillar and Niddrie - Living Well Locally (2023)

- 36% of respondents are satisfied with the greenspaces in the local community. Respondents felt strongest about the following improvements they would like to see in their greenspaces: maintenance (55%), trees and planting (48%), spaces and activities for teenagers (44%), community spaces (42%), and places to sit (42%).
- Healthy living: inclusive parks, play areas, sport facilities, locally grown and sourced food, more accessible leisure centre, better support for local charities

Portobello: Living Well Locally Survey/Place Standard Results (2023)

- There is a lack of public toilets in the area, particularly towards Joppa
- Play park facilities have been identified as needing improvement and there is a lack of facilities for teenagers
- More facilities are suggested to support the use of the Promenade such as water fountains, showers and sheltered areas

Children and Young People

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

- 7 Almost every day
- 20 A few days a week
- 7 Once a week
- 9 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?

- 18 Yes, there are lots
- 20 There are a few
- 5 No, there aren't enough
- 0 No, there aren't any

What is your favourite park or greenspace in Edinburgh?

- Figgate park
- Jack Kane
- The Meadows

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

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

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

- Bad weather/too dark in winter, equipment is only for little kids and hard to organise meeting up with friends.

How could the places where you hang out be better?

- More benches/places to sit
- More equipment/facilities

Are the outdoor spaces you go to clean?

- 1 Very clean
- 8 Clean
- 24 OK
- 7 Dirty
- 1 Very Dirty

Outdoor play equipment

- 17 In good condition
- 5 Needs fixing
- 11 Needs cleaned/painted
- 4 Needs replacing
- 3 There is not enough or any play equipment

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

- 18 I always feel safe
- 20 I sometimes feel safe
- 2 I never feel safe

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

- Concern over safety at night/in the dark
- Concern over crime/groups of people to avoid

How close are you with nature?

- 3 7 (closest to nature)
- 8 6
- 16 5
- 10 4
- 3 3
- 2 2
- 1 1 (furthest away from nature)

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

- Cleaner/less litter
- More planting and greenery

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

- Concern over climate change
- Noting recent wildfires on Arthur's Seat and risk from sea

The Craigmillar Children and Teenagers Neighbourhood Plan (2023)

- Cleaning up the broken glass and reducing litter
- Cleaning up and reducing dog poo in the area
- More Art and Murals in the Community
- Reducing vandalism and fixing things that are broken
- Improving our access to play
- More Local Food Growing
- Protecting and increasing the amount of trees and nature we see
- Increasing the amount of trees and nature we see

Young Peoples Engagement in Portobello Town Centre Improvements (2023)

- The litter problem needs sorting out, especially at the beach during the summer
- More street lighting to address safety after dark
- Plant more trees, flowers, and prioritise the needs of wildlife
- Use sustainable materials in any construction work
- Bring More adventure play opportunities to our parks
- Add more free picnic benches at the beach

Place

Public at large

How happy are you with your area?

- 10 Very happy
- 19 Happy
- 4 Neutral
- 1 Unhappy
- 0 Very unhappy

What would you change, comments

- Calmer streets. More accessible streets. More public toilets.

Any other comments

- Resurface roads and make streets safer.

Children and Young People

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

- Support for better parks, transport improvements and better/cheaper resources.

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
- [Craigmillar and Niddrie - Living Well Locally, City of Edinburgh Council, April 2024](#)
- [Portobello: Living Well Locally Survey/Place Standard Results, City of Edinburgh Council, July 2023](#)
- The Craigmillar Children and Teenagers Neighbourhood Plan, A Place in Childhood, November 2023
- [Hunter's Hall Public Park – Common Good Consultation, City of Edinburgh Council, September 2023](#)