

# Response ID ANON-MKNR-FHGH-N

Submitted to **Edinburgh: connecting our city, transforming our places**

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## Introduction

### 1 What is your name?

**Name:**

Stuart Hay

### 2 What is your email address?

**Email:**

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### 3 If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, what is your organisation?

**Organisation:**

Living Streets Scotland

## Ideas for an active and connected city

**4 The Council wants to ensure that the city centre is at the heart of Edinburgh's communities, its cultural and civic life and the focal point for its economy. In addition, improvements to our environment and transport system must benefit our local town centres and neighbourhoods. Please tell us your views on the following statements:**

**The amount of general traffic in the city centre and town centres should be reduced to improve the experience for people who live, work and visit:**

Strongly Agree

**The amount of general traffic in the city centre and town centres should be reduced to improve the experience for people who travel on foot, bicycle and public transport. :**

Strongly Agree

**5 Evidence suggests that an increased uptake of walking and cycling can have a positive impact on physical health and mental wellbeing. Better connections for people on foot and bike could improve their access to employment, education, health services and social support networks. Please tell us your views on the following statement:**

**By creating a safe, attractive, accessible and connected network of walking routes and cycling routes, more people would choose to walk or cycle for short journeys rather than use a car:**

Strongly Agree

**6 Most of Edinburgh is well served by frequent public transport (bus or tram), especially for journeys to/from the city centre. Travel by rail has also increased over recent years. However, Edinburgh's population is growing and there are some communities who could be better served by public transport. Please tell us your views on the following statement:**

**The city's public transport system should be extended and serve more people and employment areas across the city and the city region:**

Strongly Agree

**7 The volume of public transport going through the city centre, particularly at peak times, leads to longer journey times and impacts on how people experience the city centre environment. A single type of ticket and fare payment across all forms of public transport could reduce congestion. Please tell us your views on the following statement:**

**There should be a single type of ticket or fare payment to cover multiple journeys across the public transport system.:**

Strongly Agree

## Ideas for an active and connected city

**8 There are a number of ways that the Council could help provide more travel choices for people without access to a private car, or who are poorly served by public transport within the city. Which of the following would be useful? Please tick as many as you wish.**

Providing more car club hire locations across the city, Helping to make peer-to-peer car hire (renting other people's vehicles) easier

**Other - please write in.:**

**9 The Council has a responsibility to protect people from the harms of poor air quality. The Scottish Government and the Council are committing to implementing Low Emission Zones (LEZ) in Edinburgh. LEZs would restrict vehicles from entering a zone by imposing a**

monetary penalty where they do not meet minimum emission standards. Please tell us your views on the following statement:

**Restricting access for the most polluting vehicles to the city centre and the wider city is one way to control and improve air quality:**

Strongly Agree

**10 Thinking about your most recent visit to the city centre, what was your main reason?**

**Reason for visiting:**

Work

**Other, please write in:**

**If you don't visit the City Centre, please tell us why.:**

**11 Thinking about your last visit to the city centre, overall how satisfied were you with your enjoyment of the streets and public spaces?**

**satisfaction with public spaces:**

Very dissatisfied

**Please tell us why you feel this way.:**

**12 If you are a resident of the city, please tell us your views on whether the appearance of streets and public open spaces should be improved where you live?**

**Opinion on your street:**

Strongly Agree

**Please tell us how it could be improved: :**

**Ideas for an active and connected city**

**13 To reduce traffic in the city centre and town centres, create a more welcoming and healthy environment for people and business, and to protect its heritage and culture, how much do you support the following ideas?**

**Selected temporary vehicle free streets once a month in the city centre and town centres:**

Fully support

**The creation of permanently vehicle free streets within the city centre:**

Fully support

**A reduction in the availability of on-street parking:**

Fully support

**Reducing the number of bus services passing through the city centre:**

Somewhat support

**Introducing and enforcing controls to manage access for large delivery vehicles by size, weight and time:**

Fully support

**Investing in freight depots around and within the city and supporting delivery within the city by smaller, cleaner vehicles:**

Fully support

**Investing in technology to better manage traffic congestion and improve safety:**

Somewhat support

**The park and ride network should be expanded:**

Fully support

**14 The Council has to do more to ensure the air we breathe is healthy for us all. In five of Edinburgh's six Air Quality Management Areas legal standards for nitrogen dioxide are regularly exceeded. These are the City Centre and the West End, St John's Road, Inverleith Row, Great Junction Street, and Glasgow Road (Newbridge).**

**Euro IV:**

2 years

**What are your reasons for this answer?:**

The strategy needs to focus on the shortest practical time to reduce pollution and improve public health. A drawn out adjustment period will be more difficult to promote and sustain in terms of public awareness.

**15 How much do you support the Council investing in electric vehicle charging points to reduce the reliance on privately-owned petrol and diesel fuelled vehicles?**

**EV:**

Somewhat support

## **Ideas for an active and connected city**

**16 Where businesses in the city provide free parking spaces for employees, how much would you support charging the business to fund a higher quality public transport system?**

**Workplace parking levy:**

Fully support

**17 Some neighbourhood streets in Edinburgh are used by people to park on the street for free. To reduce the impact of this on local residents, should the Council extend parking controls across the city?**

**parking zones:**

Yes

**If this impacts on you, please tell us more:**

**18 Overall, having considered the range of ideas, how ambitious do you think Edinburgh needs to be to deliver a city that works for you?**

**Ambition:**

A widespread and radical approach is required

**Please tell us more about why you feel this way:**

Edinburgh lags behind other similar cities. A piecemeal, incremental approach has failed to transform the environment for pedestrians. The city remains car dominated, congested and polluted. Only creating high quality spaces for walking and cycling can deliver a transformation. This requires reallocation of space to people on foot and on bikes.

**19 Do you have any other ideas, big or small, about how Edinburgh can support its economy, connect its communities and transform its streets and public spaces?**

**Ideas:**

Edinburgh needs the type of principal pedestrian spaces that are found in most North European cities and capitals. These should be meeting, events, gathering and social spaces for local people and visitors. The lower Royal Mile and George Street are obvious priorities. Victoria Street, Parliament Square, City Chambers Quadrangle and Cockburn Street should also be pedestrian areas, with access only allowed for deliveries at specific times.

The city should test and learn by closing major routes to vehicles for the duration of the festival as part of a comprehensive transport plan for these events.

The council should also identify and upgrade principal walking routes (1 - 2 miles) into the city centre, in terms of pedestrian space (footways) and priority (crossings and junctions). These projects should have the same, or greater status as cycle improvements. This approach would also benefit public transport users on the routes by improving access to bus stops.

The council should appoint an active travel (walking and cycling commissioner) who reports to the Council Leader and Convener of Transport and Environment. Their remit would be to champion and monitor the delivery of active travel projects.

**20 What impacts on fairness and equality, if any, might result from introducing any of the ideas discussed previously?**

## **About you**

**21 What is your age?**

35 - 44

**22 What is your gender?**

Male

**23 Do you have any long-term illness, health problem or disability that limits your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?**

No

**24 What is your home post code?**

**post code:**

EH2 2PR

**25 What mode of travel do you use most often?**

**mode of transport:**

On foot

**26 What is your ethnic group? (Choose ONE section from A to E, then tick ONE box which best describes your ethnic group or background)**

Scottish

**Other white ethnic group, please write in:**

Not Answered

**Any mixed or multiple ethnic groups, please write in:**

Not Answered

**Other, please write in:**

Not Answered

**Other, please write in:**

Not Answered

**Other, please write in:**

**Your experience**

**27 To what extent would you agree or disagree with the following statements about this survey?**

**Feedback about consultation process - I was given all the information that I needed.:**

Agree

**Feedback about consultation process - The information was clear and easy to understand.:**

Agree

**Feedback about consultation process - I was allowed the opportunity to have my say.:**

Agree

**Please provide any other comments or suggestions you may have about the consultation process.:**

**28 If you would like to be contacted with the results of this survey and about the next stages of this project please enter your email address below.**

**email:**

stuart.hay@livingstreets.org.uk

**29 The Council will publish all responses received. Please indicate how you would like your response to be published:**

**Publish:**

Publish my response with the name of my organisation