

LC 2021 survey responses

Executive summary

Overall, responses were in favour of LC continuing, if necessary using participatory grant-making to get around issues raised by lack of systems for online voting, when coronavirus prevents in-person voting.

- Q1: 119 responses, of which 69 were useful.
- Q2: The majority preference is clearly for running £eith Chooses. Only a small minority (13/69) supported cancelling LC2021.
- Q3: The majority preference is for 'usual kind of themes are still relevant'. There is some support for 'more community input'.
- Q4: Suggestions for new themes favour topics around
 - 'mental health'
 - 'green-space/environmental'
 - 'loneliness/isolation'
 - 'community/place'.
- Q5: Suggestions for local spending of £5,000 listed very many general and specific topics.
- Q6: responses from community groups unanimously support 'nominated representative(s) from [their] organisation attending online meeting(s) to discuss priorities, themes and procedures for £eith Chooses' new format'
- Q7: 24 community organisations that responded to this survey identified themselves (redacted).
- Q8: other comments/suggestions are generally positive. Some suggest ways to seek online-voting methods and stronger engagement.

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Q1. 'Consent' question

- 119 'Yes' responses received.
- However, 50 respondents answered no other questions.

Q2. 'How do you think Leith's Community Grant money should be allocated in 2021?' (if online voting is not possible)

Option	number of responses
The Leith Chooses 2021 participatory budgeting process should be cancelled. Community Grant money should be distributed directly by the Council to community projects – probably allocated by a small panel of Edinburgh Councillors, Edinburgh Council staff and Leith area Community Councillors (in the way it was done until 11 years ago when the first Leith Decides was run.)	13
The Leith Chooses team should work with the community on new ways of running some kind of participatory process, so that members of the local community still have a say in deciding how the money is allocated. (That would be 'participatory grant making' rather than full scale 'participatory budgeting'.)	52
Don't know	4
Total	69

The main preference is for 'participatory grant-making'. There is some support for cancelling LC2021.

Q3. 'Do you think the 'usual' kind of themes (for projects) are still relevant?'

Option	number of responses
Yes	45
No	1
It would be good to get more community input about themes.	22
Don't know	1
Total	69

The main preference is for 'usual kind of themes are still relevant'. There is some support for 'more community input'.

Q4. 'Please suggest any new themes that are of higher priority or more relevant to your community than the examples in Question 3.'

51 responses received.

6 are not suggestions for new themes. 4 of these support previous years' themes.

Hence 45 responses actually try to answer the question.

A manual analysis counts the topics (generated by inspecting the responses) in the responses as follows. (Some responses covered more than 1 topic.)

topic	count	topic	count
mental health	11	active travel	3
green-space/environmental	10	homelessness	2
loneliness/isolation	10	addiction/alcohol	2
community/place	9	hunger	2
digital inclusion	6	early years/children	2
(un)employment	6	debt/poverty	2
coronavirus (now and recovery)	5	health/wellbeing	1
racism/ethnic issues	4	homelessness	1

Actual responses

- promoting use of green space and environmental themes
- Supporting mental health
- anti-racist work and learning about the different ethnic communities in Leith
- Homelessness, mental health, digital inclusion, loneliness.
- Employability projects, mental health and addiction issues.
- Community mutual support; Charities developing sense of 'place' and needing co-funding; services to hungry homeless and unemployed
- Pathways to connecting communities
- Making sure people isolated by Covid-19 are looked out for.
- Impact of covid-19 on organisations ability to provide services.
- Hunger and isolation are even more relevant than ever so these should be concentrated on
- Mental health
- Something about protecting greenspaces, reducing air pollution, bettering the community for the next generation.
- Building health and wellbeing is particularly important after the pandemic
- Environment, including healthy and active travel and green spaces
- Anti racism and community inclusion
- None particularly
- Near Chancelot Mill beside Ocean Drive there is an ugly "dead zone" with a high brick wall. It could become a garden or skateboard park or something - anything - rather than the present eye-sore. £44k could fund a development proposal.
- Digital inclusion, BAME communities, racial equality
- Happy as is
- More things aimed at supporting active travel locally
- Access to nature, developing green spaces
- While the above are all still relevant, I would suggest that the social landscape moved outdoors for those who were lucky enough. Those who couldn't became more socially isolated. I think a project involving the improvement of outdoor spaces for people (perhaps linked to the Spaces for People initiative) and projects developing greenspace.
- Cleaning the area up
- No themes
- Challenging loneliness and social isolation is a priority at this time.
- Old themes are still very relevant
- mental health and anxiety and early years support
- creating employment
- Access to technology- this year has proven the reliance on digital communication but not everyone has access to or is comfortable with using it. Reusable masks- not everyone can afford well made washable masks and the disposable ones are so terrible for the environment.
- Support for clubs that encourage social interaction, such as singing, dancing or other social activities to cheer people up.
- Outdoor green spaces, sustainable living education
- Mental health and well being
- Theme related to intergenerational activity projects. This has been of particular relevance during the current situation, especially in relation to social isolation
- Supporting recovery after Covid
- Debt advice. Mental health
- Unemployment
- These sounds very appropriate.
- Mental health
- Youth work to prevent anti social behaviour
- Mental health support especially after covid 19 and those with social isolation

- Tackling loneliness and isolation.
- Community engagement programmes. Voluntary litter picking programmes,
- Supporting organisations / people with no recourse to public funds, supporting people affected by mental health difficulties, supporting members of the BAME community
- Social isolation & digital connectivity
- Access to mental health support. Supporting bereaved families after Covid. Return to school.
- Digital inclusion/connectivity? (although links to isolation I guess) Employment/skills training
- Transport/Active Travel - (e.g projects that make it easier for people of all abilities to travel around the local area for amenities and work - real issue with reduced road capacity and reduced access to public transport.)
- Climate change, fuel poverty, employment, biodiversity - projects such as creating community gardens can address some of these issues.
- I think tackling isolation should also be one of the priorities and perhaps looking at organisations that can develop projects which tackle social isolation whilst maintaining social distancing. (Not easy I realise!)
- Drug/alcohol dependency, poverty and mental health. I do still believe that helping vulnerable people and social isolation are still key areas too.
- digital exclusion

Q5. 'If you had £5,000 what would you spend it on to help the community around where you live?'

60 responses received

1 is 'don't know'

Hence 59 responses actually try to answer the question.

A manual thematic analysis (using the same topics as greeted for Q4) counts the topics in the responses as follows. (Some responses covered more than 1 topic. 'Community/place' was used when other topics didn't really 'work'. Hence this topic may be artificially overemphasised.)

topic	count	topic	count
community/place	23	addiction/alcohol	3
green-space/environmental	14	homelessness	3
early years/children	12	health/wellbeing	2
loneliness/isolation	8	racism/ethnic issues	2
hunger	8	(un)employment	2
mental health	7	debt/poverty	2
coronavirus (now and recovery)	5	homelessness	1
digital inclusion	3	active travel	1

Comparison with Q4

NB the above caveat about 'community/place' for Q5

QUESTION FOUR		QUESTION FIVE	
topic	count	topic	count
mental health	11	community/place	23
green-space/environmental	10	green-space/environmental	14
loneliness/isolation	10	early years/children	12
community/place	9	loneliness/isolation	8
digital inclusion	6	hunger	8
(un)employment	6	mental health	7
coronavirus (now and recovery)	5	coronavirus (now and recovery)	5
racism/ethnic issues	4	digital inclusion	3
active travel	3	addiction/alcohol	3
homelessness	2	homelessness	3

addiction/alcohol	2	health/wellbeing	2
hunger	2	racism/ethnic issues	2
early years/children	2	(un)employment	2
debt/poverty	2	debt/poverty	2
health/wellbeing	1	homelessness	1
homelessness	1	active travel	1

Adding the two sets of constructs (NB the above caveat about 'community/place' for Q5) gets

topic	count	topic	count
community/place	32	(un)employment	8
green-space/environmental	24	racism/ethnic issues	6
loneliness/isolation	18	addiction/alcohol	5
mental health	18	homelessness	5
early years/children	14	active travel	4
coronavirus (now and recovery)	10	debt/poverty	4
hunger	10	health/wellbeing	3
digital inclusion	9	homelessness	2

Actual responses

- a wide range of projects, including the environmental, green space, poverty, hunger and isolation related and ideas that are just bringing people together and sheer good fun.
- Supporting new and expectant parents health and wellbeing - creating a network to improve community and connection - offering practical, professional and peer support to improving confidence and empower new parents
- Creating opportunities for better relationships within Leith
- Murals, art installations and online choirs. We need a little joy in our lives....
- Neighbourhood facilities
- Urban youth projects to engage high school aged children in positive activity. Developing a skate park, for example.
- see above. Heart of Newhaven;. Fresh Start; Leith churches Food and Basics bank
- reducing social isolation and enabling greater intermingling of different ethnic groups.
- On building bridges of cultural awareness and increase understanding of the new emerging communities in Leith to address any forms of racism and xenophobia
- Food distribution for families struggling due to the effects of Covid-19. (Unemployment, illness, mental health)
- Support local schools and organisations that support equality/equity of opportunity
- Mental health for young people
- Get rid of the graffiti on the former bowling club building on Links Place so the garden is a nice place to go again
- Technology keeping communities connected.
- Homeless housing
- Window boxes, making communal back gardens a better place for the residents of tenement flats.
- Mental health and physical fitness support and interventions
- Community orchard/garden in Pilrig Park
- School bike & walking groups and buses - need to reduce school related traffic from within Leith
- More and better outdoor spaces
- Victoria Park: extra picnic tables.

- Child activity packs, free online learning for communities inc courses and how to guides, more kids activities, books to encourage reading sending letters out to communities
- Investing in/ setting up a something around the broughton/ powderhall area like the police box on leith walk that community groups can use for pop ups / activities / tool hire etc.
- more litter bins, regularly emptied
- Revenue generating traffic enforcement ie pavement, subject yellow and bus lane parking
- Helping the lowest socio-economic demographic in meaningful ways. Creating a community oriented initiative
- Projects to improve greenspace, plant trees to provide social, environmental and economic benefits.
- Homeless
- online access for those who need it, speed cameras to reduce accidents, playpark for kids, more greenspace
- Set up activities that people want to be involved in. Canvas their interests and needs.
- Weather proof outside area with physically distanced seating to enable community groups to meet during COVID 19
- provide real life skills
- Digital skills drop in sessions Or Masks/hand sanitiser hand outs Vouchers for local cafes so people can get out the house and have somewhere comfortable to go.
- Addressing impact of COVID-19 - particularly social isolation and loneliness for older people in Leith (who seem to be the last group getting any help coming out of lock down)
- I would give it to Lochend YWCA who do good work for the community.
- Food parcels and distribution.
- Education and events for kids and families
- Mental health support - social prescribing
- Providing school meals out of term time
- Crops in pots! And more opportunities for social connection for people who need it.
- Enhancing green space to include activities and companionship for all
- Up date the kids swing park at Pilrig Put gym equipment in Pilrig park Do a running track in Pilrig park similar to Inverleith
- Informal support for those recovering from covid - based problems, financial or social wellbeing
- Food banks and mental health
- Local Foodbank
- Perhaps addiction and alcohol. We are looking at moving away as we don't our daughter thinking that's the norm, despite loving so much more about the area. Great school/nursery. Good green space and kids parks.
- A group for advice and help to help for the homeless and for low paid workers who are facing eviction
- Early years support or youth work as I believe this has the biggest social impact in the long run.
- Either youth work or assisting those with mental health troubles / new mums struggling unable to attend mother and baby groups and being lonely
- Putting on an event that lots of people could enjoy safely and for free.
- Schemes to assist children in poverty.
- Benches with planters
- Tackling anti social behaviour, e.g drug dealing / use, littering, crime
- Connecting elderly people facing social isolation
- Youth facilities to give all children not just a place to be but support to value and respect their community.
- project to create pocket parks with benches between key amenities, (e.g. care homes and kirkgate); and/or in public spaces, e.g between kirkgate and banana flats - involving local assets and knowledge like the tool library, local youth groups and residents in the creation of these.

- Community gardens made from repurposed materials - this will help people develop skills (manual, planning, social) and provide enhanced community infrastructure and low cost healthy food options.
- I'd like to see more of the activities that happened during lockdown continue as people are still isolated and it's having effect on mental health for many. Some of the ways community rallied round in lockdown should continue I.e. food delivery for elderly and vulnerable, free online classes, befriending etc
- To support people with drug and alcohol problems by offering programmes to build their skills, confidence and self-esteem. I would also like to see more social clubs for seniir citizens and young people. Lits of social clubs have stopped offering a service for older people due to covid-19
- don't know

Q6. 'Would you support (a) nominated representative(s) from your organisation attending online meeting(s) to discuss priorities, themes and procedures for £eith Chooses' new format?

The raw data are as follows:

Option	number of responses
1 = 'Yes'	30
2 = 'No'	8
3 = 'Don't know'	23
Total	61

However, if we eliminate responses that are not from people clearly identifying with community groups, there are 24 'Yes' responses and no other responses.

Hence the community groups that responded are unanimously in favour of attending such meetings.

Q7. Community groups' contact details

3 irrelevant/unhelpful responses

24 worthwhile responses, mentioning 24 organisations.

Redacted for publication.

Q8. 'Do you have any further comments, ideas or questions?'

22 responses, of which 4 were not positive or constructive criticism.

- Have you thought of consulting either the electoral reform society or University of Edinburgh's School of Social and Political Studies about the problems you are having with organising online voting and what you could do instead?
- No
- no
- Ask the leaders of groups already existing to join panel
- I would like to know more about what is available to vulnerable and isolated people in Leith which is difficult for me to get hold of
- Would want to know what organisations would be involved in discussions before commenting on that bit!
- Leith Town Hall used to be where we held our school plays and concerts, I would love to see it once again a vibrant social hub.
- Include BAME communities.
- With gentrification and private land ownership in Edinburgh, Leith needs to keep community access to land alive, and protect the communities priorities against growth and business, altering the land rapidly

- the previous year winners cannot apply. There should be a year out gap after winning funds
- Above all it must be clear and apparent as to how monies are allocated. As in previous years clear criteria need to be set.
- Unfortunately our council has no idea what is wrong with our community, it funds projects that provide nothing in return, the amount of grant money for Leith chooses is just a fraction of the money wasted on vanity projects
- I assume it has been thought of but poster board displays that are up for a longer period and allow people to read about the projects with 2m distancing would be great. The info could also be online for those that can access it.
- Please keep us informed.
- Think about excluding large established organisations and/or previous successful applicants applying annually.
- Important to continue Leith chooses
- It's a very difficult choice but I think a recession, unemployment, end of furlough will have sunami effect washing away any support people have clung onto. Maybe use money to enable more voluntary work ertc
- Thanks
- Good luck & thank you.
- I still feel there must be an online option.
- I liked the fact that you could find out about the organisations online before voting. A small video clip might be a possibility from each group to show the passion for their project. Staff from Leith Chooses could go to organisations and video them for 5 minutes and give them a wee brief of general things to include. Some organisations may be able to do this themselves. I think that organisations applying should be awarded £100 each if unsuccessful to go towards their project as they invest time in the application process. There would still be £40000 remaining for successful projects. Participation may be higher and Leith Chooses would be helping al the projects that have applied in some way. Also, it would be good to have key voting points in supermarkets, churches or venues that will be more likely to be open. These voting pods could either have tokens or cards to put in. This would need to be without the eligibility checks or cards to be filled in with their details if not against GDPR regs.
- no