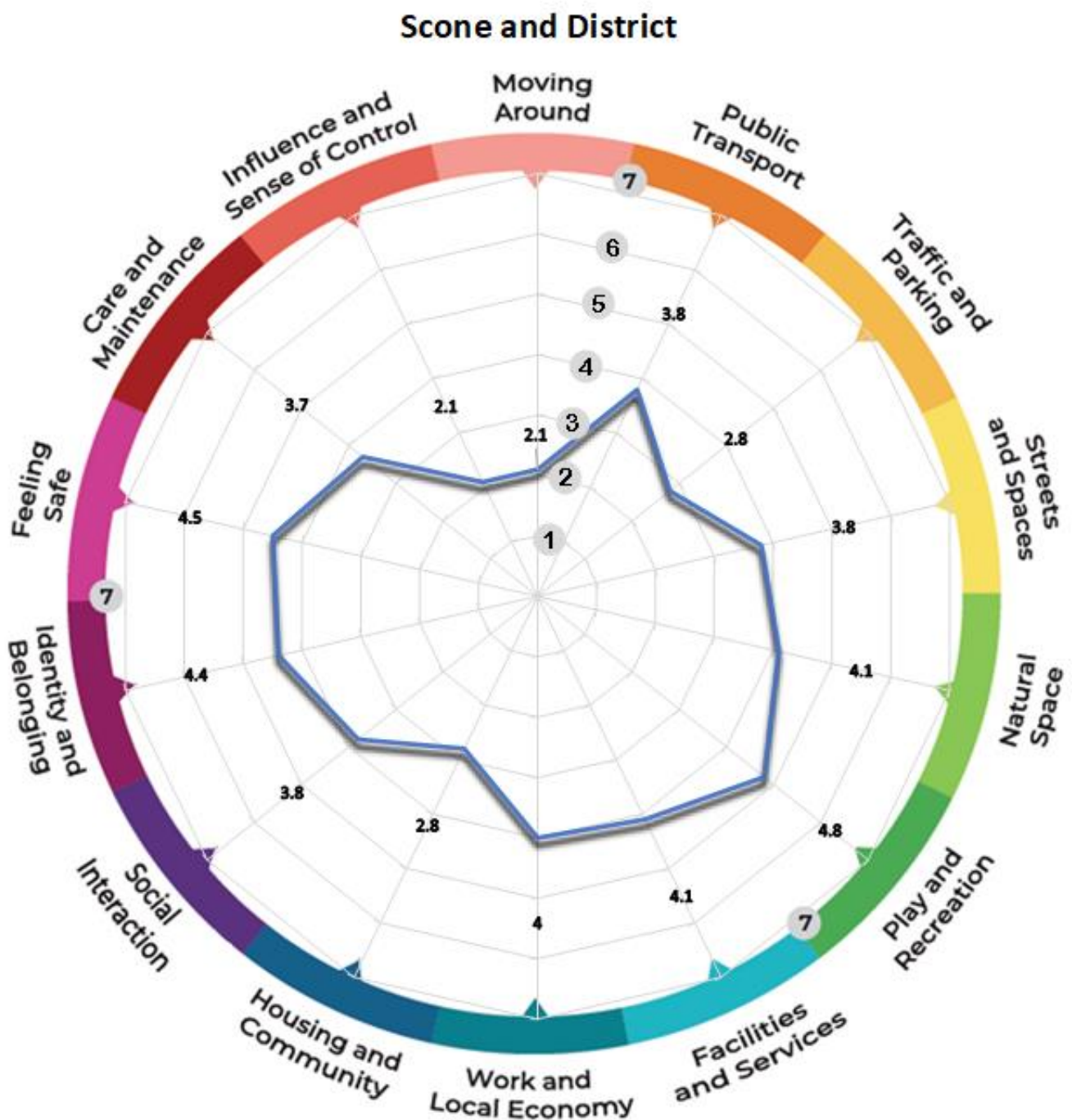


### Community Council: Scone and District

Scone and District Community Council is located just outside Perth, to the east of River Tay. It is centred around the historic village of Scone, a place of profound cultural significance in Scotland's history. Scone and Perth Airport are the only designated settlements in the Local Development Plan. Feedback was only received regarding Scone.

The Big Place Conversation received feedback from a total of 37 people in the area. This included participants from a drop-in at Scone Library, workshop at the Robert Douglas Memorial Institute, and several survey responses. It is important to note, only 16 people participated in scoring the Place Standard topics shown below.



## Moving Around

Positive feedback was limited to a several comments, mostly from children, suggesting walking around in Scone is easy and there is good connectivity between locations in town.

Feedback was primarily negative for this topic with significant concerns raised around safety hazards when walking or cycling. This is primarily due to the speed and volume of traffic, coupled with narrow pavements and on-street cycle routes. Furthermore, the condition paths and pavements is a problem, primarily due to damaged surfaces and overgrown vegetation.

Generally, the active travel in the area is regarded as poor quality. Although there are some great, well-used recreational routes into the countryside, recent developments have resulted in fragmentation and loss of paths in the network. Another key issue raised is the poor connectivity with Perth City Centre, despite the close proximity the existing active travel routes are considered dangerous.

Respondents suggest there should be better quality off-road active travel routes to key locations within Scone and connecting with other settlements. Developing a new crossing over River Tay for walking and cycling to Perth was recommended, both to improve safety when active travelling and reduce traffic in Perth City Centre. Other suggestions included introducing more traffic calming measures, expanding 20mph zones, designating more roads as pedestrian-friendly, as well as better separation of on-road cycle lanes with traffic (e.g. through bollards or armadillos).

## Public Transport

Some positive comments were received around good bus links to Perth, opportunities for social contact on public transport, and specific praise for the number 3 service.

Negative comments were received regarding ticket pricing, limited evening services, hourly timetabling, unreliability due to frequent delays and cancellations, as well as the lack of direct links to key facilities and services. Provision of bus stops was also raised as an issue, with some reporting to have no access within reasonable walking distance.

Overall, there is significant concern for the impact new development will have on public transport provision. It is important to the community that any new development helps improve the quality and accessibility of services.

Suggestions for this topic include developing bus lanes to help buses keep scheduling and better co-ordination of bus and train services (e.g. flexible tickets).

## Traffic & Parking

No positive comments were received regarding traffic and parking.

Negative feedback primarily concerned issues of speeding and consistent presence of large industrial vehicles passing through the area. Availability of formal parking spaces was a key issue, leading to excessive on-street parking resulting in congestion.

Residents expressed significant concerns around the impact that the Cross Tay Link Road and other new developments will have on the road network, and whether these will increase the problems listed above.

Suggestions are to extend 20mph zones, develop more safe crossings, increase traffic calming measures, stronger enforcement of penalties, and better management of roadworks by PKC. It

was also suggested there should be more temporary park and ride services around events happening in the area

### Streets, Squares & Buildings

Streets, squares and buildings are generally agreed to be in good condition and a positive contribution to Scone's character. There is plenty of greenery and a good mix of housing styles.

Negative feedback focused on vacant and derelict sites that require attention. Comments were also received suggesting that parks, streets, and some monuments (e.g. Celtic Cross at Cross Street) require improvement to make the place more attractive.

It was noted that Woollcombe Square is an important site for residents that should be protected against development to preserve the character of this neighbourhood in Scone. Over 20 responses were received for this site.

### Natural Spaces

Respondents agree that residents in the area have good access to nature, with positive comments received around various countryside walks and natural spaces, as well as the good provision of greenspace within Scone. Scone is surrounded by greenbelt, and it is important that this is safeguarded from development, as well as urban greenspaces.

Negative feedback focused on accessibility to open spaces with poor path conditions being a common issue. Furthermore, there is significant concern new development will fragment the path network. Respondents suggest development should improve connectivity and enhance paths. Respondents suggest that core paths in general require better maintenance and signposting to improve access to natural spaces.

Woolcombe square was raised again as an important natural space for residents. It was previously well-used for recreation, however the site has been fenced off by private landowners, restricting access. In general, respondents suggest PKC should work with landowners to improve accessibility to natural spaces.

Other comments suggest road verges and amenity grassland should be better managed to enhance biodiversity.

### Play & Recreation

Positive feedback indicates there is good provision of play and recreation opportunities in the area, and close proximity to Perth provides reasonable access to a wider variety. As discussed above, there are great opportunities for recreational walking in the countryside. The parks are generally regarded as good, both for formal play provision and as informal recreation space. Local halls are well-used by various groups for a variety of activities. There are ample sporting opportunities, including tennis, bowling, and football.

Negative comments were received regarding the high demand for football pitches, lack of large-scale indoor facilities (similar to Dewars or Bells in Perth), shortage of opportunities that attract visitors, and difficulty accessing opportunities in Perth. It was also noted that there is limited provision for young people, which is attributed as a cause for anti-social behaviour amongst this demographic.

Suggestions include installing outdoor exercise equipment in parks, upgrading existing play and sport equipment, as well as modernising indoor facilities.

## Facilities & Services

Positive comments were received regarding the good variety of facilities and services available nearby in Perth. Scone library is highly regarded and well-used by the community, serving as community hub and warm space.

In Scone itself, respondents agree there is poor provision of facilities and services. Comments were received regarding the lack of shops, post office, NHS dentist and community food growing. Negative feedback was also received regarding the siting of Scone Public Hall, which is difficult to access due to no parking and being located up a hill, and therefore should not be used for public engagements.

Significant concerns were raised around the capacity of the GP and school to cope with growth expected from new developments. These are reported to be under pressure and residents do not feel this has been considered when allocating recent development sites.

Suggestions were to improve mobile and broadband coverage, and to develop more EV charging points. It was also suggested that Scone Public Hall is not an ideal location due to lack of parking and

## Work & Local Economy

Positive feedback was received regarding good provision of employment and volunteering opportunities. The proximity to Perth provides reasonable access to a good variety.

The main issue raised was that most local jobs are low paid and insecure (e.g. 0-hour contracts).

Utilising vacant retail space to create new opportunities and stimulate economic growth was suggested.

## Housing & Community

Only one positive comment was received stating the respondent felt homes do meet the needs of their community.

Negative feedback concerned a poor mix of housing type, size, tenure and affordability. This has a significant impact on young people and families in the area, which contributes to them moving out of the area. Other comments were around the older building stock being difficult to heat.

Again, concerns were raised around the ability of existing infrastructure to cope with population growth expected from new development in Scone.

Suggestions included utilising vacant buildings and brownfield before building on greenfield sites, improving the energy efficiency of buildings, developing a district-heat network, and limiting short-term lets.

## Social Interaction

Positive feedback was received for the provision of places to meet for social contact in Scone, with mentions including the library, Robert Douglas Memorial Institute, Church Hall, and pubs. There are opportunities for informal social contact outdoors, as well as the library and pub. There are also various groups that host clubs and other activities. Additionally, there is a good variety of opportunities nearby in Perth.

Negative comments indicate that some residents might be isolated and that there is difficulty reaching certain demographics to share information about social opportunities. Furthermore, some respondents feel social opportunities are limited unless you take part in an organised group or activity.

Suggestions were to develop more opportunities and meeting places for young people, as well as more cafes to encourage social interactions because pubs do not feel safe and inclusive for all.

### Identity & Belonging

Responses for this topic were positive, with most agreeing they are proud to be from Scone due to its sense of community and history. However, there is significant concern that the identity and character of Scone is being lost due to recent expansion and population growth.

Other negative comments were received around the lack of tourist attractions, and it was suggested there should be a tourism strategy for the area.

The other suggestion was to improve community cohesiveness through better alignment of community groups and integration of new residents.

### Feeling Safe

Respondents agree that Scone generally feels safe during the day and at night. However, concerns were raised around transport-related safety hazards, teenage anti-social behaviour in parks, and flooding.

One suggestion received was to improve lighting in some areas and produce a street light strategy that explored different lighting options.

### Care & Maintenance

Positive feedback for this topic was limited and focused on the availability of recycling points. One comment also was received stating PKC was usually quick to respond when maintenance is required.

Negative comments were received around maintenance requirements of parks, greenspaces, play areas, monuments, drainage, paths, pavements, roads, private properties, and vacant properties. Dog-fouling was also raised as an issue.

### Influence & Sense of Control

Positive feedback for this topic was limited and focused on the work Scone and District Community Council undertakes to ensure people's voices are heard and acted on. The group works hard for the community, but it is acknowledged that the group is limited in what it can do.

Feedback was primarily negative and focused on issues regarding planning history in Scone. There are official consultation opportunities, but the community feels sceptical about participating due to a history of voicing their opinions only to be disregarded. They feel consultations are merely a box ticking exercise and that community objections to planning consultations are not given enough weighting. Furthermore, with past experiences of Scottish Government overruling local planning decisions, there is scepticism generally around the planning system and concerns that national interests take priority over local interests.

Other issues raised were around poor accountability and response times by PKC, access right disputes with landowners and the lack of local climate action.

Overall, respondents are not confident that PKC will listen to the communities' concerns and act on them. It was suggested that consultations should be more widely advertised, and that there needs to be better evidence provided on how planning consultation responses are accounted for in decision-making.