



THE BIG PLACE CONVERSATION

1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout 2023 Perth & Kinross Council carried out a large scale community engagement called the Big Place Conversation. We asked communities what is good about their place and what could be improved. The main purpose of these conversations was to help shape the next Local Development Plan and our [Mobility Strategy](#). The evidence however is valuable for teams throughout the Council and for communities to help them with their own local plans.

This report provides a summary of area wide and common ideas across the neighbourhoods that make up the Perth City. Summary reports are also available for the whole of Perth and Kinross and for each neighbourhood as set out below. Neighbourhood reports provide greater detail of specific issues. All reports are available on the Big Place Conversation [Results Page](#).

PERTH CITY

Perth is the administrative, cultural and commercial centre of the Perth and Kinross area and has also become an important centre nationally for the road and railway networks. The Plan contains long-term proposals to develop new sustainable communities on the North and Western edges of the city (Bertha Park, Almond Valley, and Perth West) to provide a long-term supply of development land extending beyond 2040. Perth city is largely covered by the Perth City Centre, Perth City South, and Perth City North wards, whilst the planned new communities lie within Strathtay and Almond and Earn wards.

As the ward areas in Perth City do not always reflect the neighbourhoods within it, Perth was analysed as a whole, rather than split up. This report also includes the areas of Perth City that fall within the wards of Strathtay and Almond & Earn. This includes Bertha Park, Almond Valley, and Perth West as well as the existing settlements of Almondbank, and Huntingtower and Ruthvenfield which will in the future join up with Perth. Comments relating to all of the Perth local living neighbourhoods in Map 1 are covered within this overall Perth City summary. Further detail on how these local living areas are defined is provided in appendix 1.

This area includes the following Community Councils. We have summarised comments for each of the Community Councils below:

[Luncarty, Redgorton and Moneydie](#)

[Methven](#)

[North Inch and Muirton](#)

[North Muirton](#)

[Bridgend, Gannochy and Kinnoull](#)

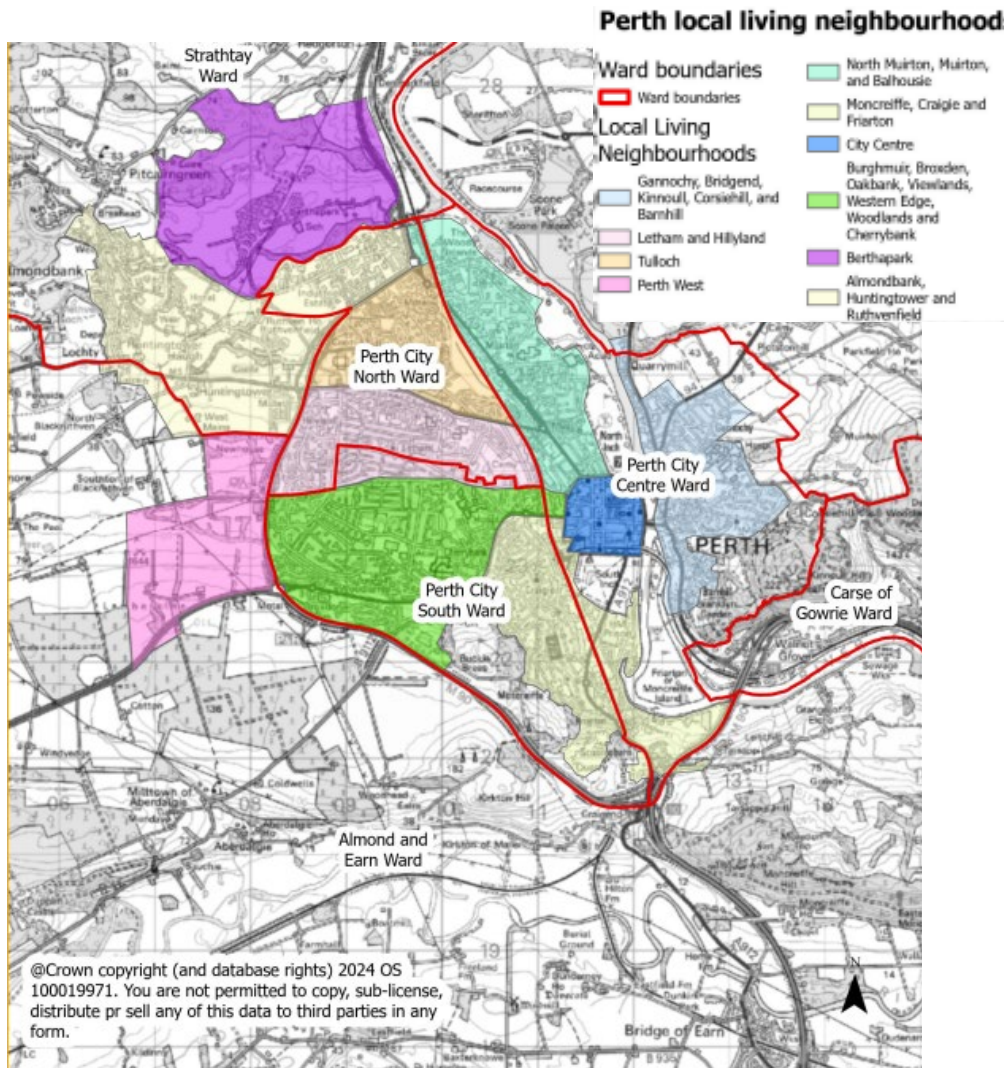
[Tulloch](#)

[Letham](#)

[Perth South](#)

[Perth Central](#)

Map 1: Perth Local living neighbourhoods (also showing ward boundaries)



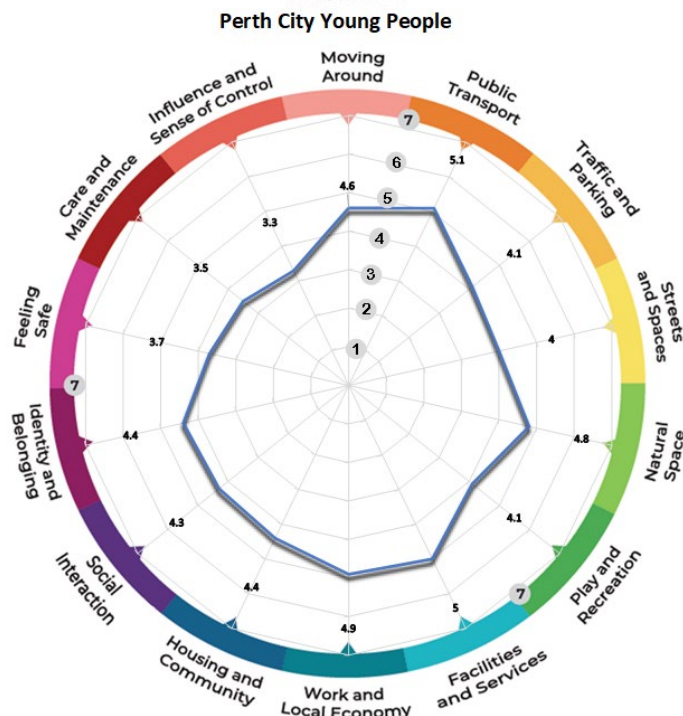
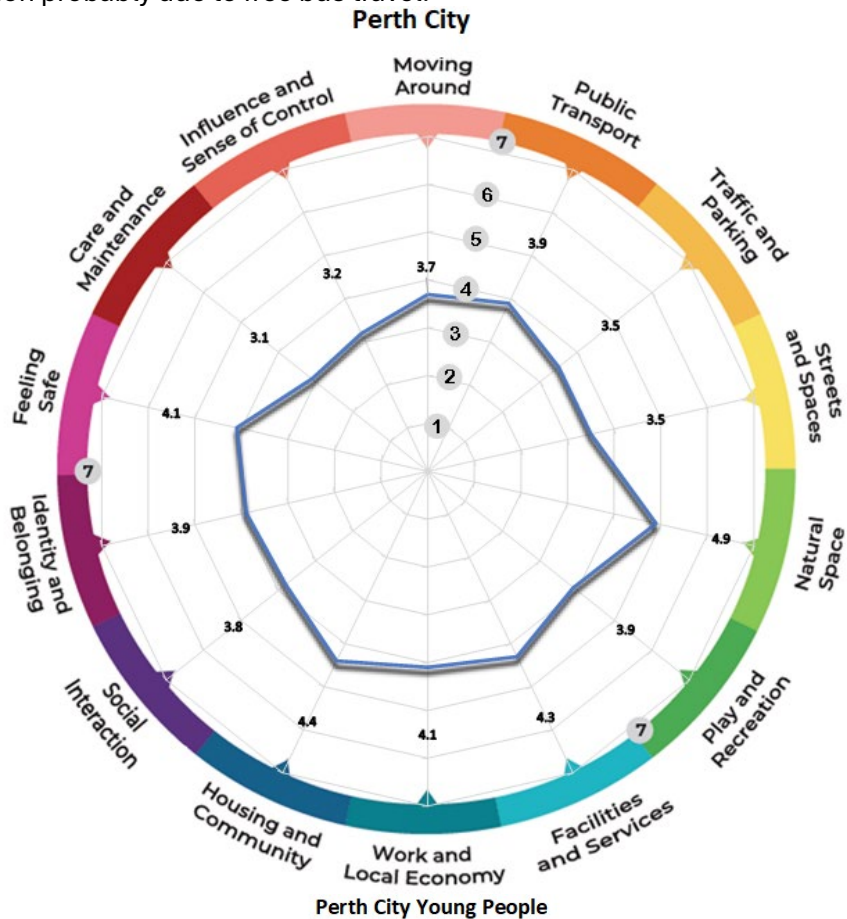
We received feedback from 374 respondents relating to Perth City. In addition to the online survey, we held 10 events for the public along with 10 sessions for specific groups including sheltered housing tenants, schools, minority and disabled groups. Responses and comments for the local living areas will be undercounted due to people providing general Perth comments rather than own local living areas. We also include feedback from 2022 Culture and Sports engagement, and referred to May East’s “What if Women Designed the City ?” which engaged with Perth women’s groups in 2022. This resulted in feedback from the public at large as well as from the following groups:

- children and young people
- elderly
- representatives from community council, and other community bodies
- disabled
- business representatives
- LGBTQI+
- minorities
- women issues
- other interest groups

2. AREA WIDE SUMMARY

PLACE STANDARD SCORES

We used the [Place Standard](#) approach for our community engagement, a tool widely used across Scotland. The Place Standard includes questions on 14 themes. Participants provide comments and scores out of 7 for each theme. Seven is where the least improvement is needed, and 1 the most. Note that due to the tailored nature of conversations not all participants completed scores. The scores for children and young people, is provided below for comparison. It is notable that they feel less safe, and less positive about work and economy, but better served by facilities and services, and find it easier to get around, and are more positive about public transport provision probably due to free bus travel.



SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK AT PERTH CITY LEVEL

This section is a summary of feedback for each topic/question at Perth City level for all respondents. Please note there are references to comments from a separate Culture and Leisure engagement carried out by PKC in 2022 where they were relevant to BPC questions. The summary also refers to May East's "What if Women Designed the City?" which engaged with Perth women's groups in 2022.

1. MOVING AROUND (3.7)

HOW EASY IS IT TO WALK, WHEEL OR CYCLE TO PLACES I NEED TO AND WANT TO GO?

- Accessibility to the city centre is a concern for people living in neighbourhoods outwith centre
- Lack of segregated cycle routes, to the city centre particularly on the main routes into centre, Edinburgh Road, Glasgow Road, Rannoch Road etc
- Active travel plans needed in Perth due to the dispersed nature of housing from city centre (East, 2024)
- key concerns were condition of paths, pavements, and obstacles (cars parking on pavements, kissing gates, steps etc) and constraints (hilly, safety, lack of signage)
- Particular issue for elderly/disabled is unevenness of pavements and missing dropped kerbs
- Need to give pedestrians more priority at crossings
- Need electric bike hubs at strategic connection points such as Perth railway station and the inches (East, 2024)
- Need more dropped kerbs

2. PUBLIC TRANSPORT (3.9)

HOW EASY IS IT TO GET TO WHERE I NEED TO OR WANT TO GO BY BUS, TRAIN, OR OTHER FORMS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT?

- + Ember bus to Edinburgh and Dundee is good
- + Children and young people like free buses
- Accessibility to the city centre and reliability of service is a concern for people living in neighbourhoods outwith
- Evening and weekend bus services are also considered insufficient
- Insufficient public transport reduces social opportunities and the vitality and viability of city centre businesses
- Lack of direct services from neighbourhoods to Broxden for long-distance routes an issue
- Frustration with connections from train to bus require going to Mill St
- Frustration at lack of progress on integrated transport hub
- Buses need space for both wheelchairs and pushchairs (East, 2024)
- Need for quicker more reliable connection to Edinburgh by train and better PT connectivity to wider areas of Perth and Kinross
- Some negative comments about bus service to other cities
- Bus arm rests are the same colour as the seat making it hard for visually impaired

3. TRAFFIC & PARKING (3.5)

HOW DOES TRAFFIC AND PARKING AFFECT ME WHEN I AM OUT AND ABOUT IN MY PLACE?

- + Some consider the parking sufficient
- Traffic and safety issues particularly at Inveralmond and Broxden roundabouts, on the A9, and on the A85/Dobbies
- There are issues with parking on pavements
- Some residential areas have on street parking issues/speeding vehicles/difficult streets to cross
- There is a need for park and ride facilities at Kinfauns, Bertha Park, and south of city
- Some consider the parking insufficient

- Some consider parking not affordable

4. STREETS, SQUARES & BUILDINGS (3.5)

WHAT ARE THE STREETS, SQUARES, AND BUILDINGS LIKE IN MY PLACE?

- Concerns include lack of dropped kerbs at suitable crossing points
- Uneven pavement surfaces, and café tables also impact accessibility.
- Neglect of important streets and buildings, and issues with vacancies.
 - o Desire for use of vacant units for community use
 - o Desire for repurposing empty properties/spaces for housing within city centre

5. NATURAL SPACES (4.9)

HOW WELL AM I CONNECTED TO NATURE IN MY PLACE?

- + Most parts of Perth have great access to nature, and the Inches, Kinnoull Hill, St Magdelines Hill and Buckie Braes are mentioned
- Some communities particularly Letham have limited natural spaces within them
- Not accessible for disabled and routes can have issues such as tree roots
 - o There is desire for more allotment/community garden spaces
 - o Women want to expand food growing facilities to support health and wellbeing (East, 2024)
 - o Improvement of maintenance and path infrastructure alongside the lade is suggested
 - o Seeks more to be made of the River Tay, and better walkways generally
 - o Desire for improving biodiversity/naturalness within open spaces (particularly from children and young people)
 - o More nature on the streets is sought

6. PLAY & RECREATION (3.9)

WHAT ARE THE SPACES (PARKS, PITCHES ETC) LIKE FOR PLAY, RECREATION, SPORT, AND SPENDING TIME WITH FRIENDS IN AND AROUND MY PLACE?

- + Good spaces at the Inches
- + Good facilities including swimming pool, ice rink and foot golf
- + Cultural highlights include art gallery, museum, cinema, theatre
- + Some good provision for football/golf is mentioned
- + Volunteers across all sports (Culture + Sports engagement 2022)
- + School activities for youth (Culture + Sports engagement 2022)
- + Para athletes (Culture + Sports engagement 2022)
- + Equalities Team supports inclusion (Culture + Sports engagement 2022)
- + Perth parrots LGBT floorball team mentioned by LGBT group
- Accessibility to city centre opportunities is a concern for people in neighbourhoods outwith
- Need to protect Dewars and Perth Leisure pool (and need for new pool are mentioned)
- Need more all-weather facilities
- Limited leisure facilities for learning disabled
- Age of facilities (Culture + Sports engagement 2022)
 - o Desire for more trees, and naturalness and improving biodiversity within open spaces
 - o Need benches/picnic areas within parks
 - o Need for more diversity of (skate spaces, pump tracks, horse riding, bike trails)
 - o Children and young people request different age groups to be catered for in parks
 - o Children and young people seek more range of leisure activities including go karting, arcades, softplay etc
 - o Pool, trampoline and team sports for mobility and learning disabled needed
 - o Need school facilities open to public

- One point for information sought (Culture + Sports engagement 2022)
- Invest in Sports for health and wellbeing (Culture + Sports engagement 2022)
- Use of common good land for facilities (Culture + Sports engagement 2022)

7. FACILITIES & SERVICES (4.3)

WHAT IS MY PLACE LIKE FOR ACCESSING SERVICES WE NEED?

- + Some consider there a good range of shops
- + Creative exchange resource – space for working with young people (Culture + Sports engagement 2022)
- + Theatre and music – independent venues, concert hall and theatre (Culture + Sports engagement 2022)
- + Existing services and amenities are greatly appreciated particularly the swimming pool, and AK Bell library.
- Accessibility to the city centre is a concern for people living in neighbourhoods outwith
- Facilities and services within the local living neighbourhoods are more limited
- Neighbourhoods rely on access to the city centre impacted by public transport issues
- Gaps in provision in the city for leisure opportunities, and for older children/young adults.
- Gaps in services for older LGBT adults
- The loss of neighbourhood social spaces is strongly felt by women (East, 2024)
- Gap in mental health services - LGBT group can't support everyone/huge waiting list
- Issues with lack of shelter, more informal spaces are sought that do not require money to access, and there is also a need for better signposting to activities.
- There are mixed views on the range of shops, some are concerned about vacancies
- Concerns about range of shops/leisure opportunities amongst children and young people
- Out of town retail impacts on accessibility
- Cost of using venues for community groups (Culture + Sports engagement 2022)
- Lack of exhibition and graduate space (Culture + Sports engagement 2022)
- Not enough space in shops for wheelchairs
- Issues with access to dentists and doctors
- Focus on Ninewells rather than Perth Royal Infirmary
- Better promotion of creative exchange in Perth and the maker spaces (Culture + Sports engagement 2022)
- Digital/ new technology for visitor attractions (Culture + Sports engagement 2022)

8. WORK & LOCAL ECONOMY (4.1)

ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE TO WORK, TRAIN OR VOLUNTEER LOCALLY?

- + Some positive views about the range of jobs
- + Perth is a good base for commuting
- Opportunities within the local living neighbourhoods is more limited but varied between areas
- Neighbourhoods rely on access to rest of the city limited by public transport issues evening and weekend, regularity and reliability
- There is concern that people leave the area/commute for further education and that there needs to be a better link between training and job opportunities
- There is a mix of views about the range of jobs, there is limited higher paid/skilled jobs/career opportunities
- Many commute for better job opportunities
- There should be more support for small businesses and startups

9. HOUSING & COMMUNITY (4.4)

DO THE HOMES IN MY AREA SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY?

- Accessibility to the city centre is a concern for people living in neighbourhoods outwith.
- Maintenance/energy performance and running costs of existing stock is also a significant issue
- Issue for LGBT is where living environment not accepting and can result in homelessness
- Need for greater affordability in housing
- Need for more smaller homes/units for older/younger people
- PKC tenants need for better opportunities to swaps
- o Micro homes could be useful for homeless people
- o Suggestion that reusing and repurposing will be key

10. SOCIAL INTERACTION (3.8)

ARE THERE PLACES WHERE I CAN GO TO MEET AND TALK WITH FRIENDS AND OTHER PEOPLE?

- + Good range of bars/cafes and music scene is appreciated
- + The range of youth groups and sports clubs are appreciated.
- Accessibility to the city centre is a concern for people living in neighbourhoods outwith
- Areas outwith the city centre are not well served by facilities
- Neighbourhoods rely on access to city centre and rest of the city, impacted by public transport issues.
- The facilities/open spaces/events have an important role but the issues/threats to leisure facilities already mentioned are an issue.
- Limited opportunities for older kids, and limited free spaces.
- Concern about overall attractiveness of the city centre.
- Social groups limited as are support groups for disabled groups and general social groups

11. IDENTITY & BELONGING (3.9)

HOW PROUD DO I FEEL ABOUT MY PLACE, AND DO I FEEL I BELONG?

- + Children and young people look forward to new City Hall museum
- + Some neighbourhoods within Perth have greater cohesion and identity,
- + Events are good
- Concern that identity has reduced over time
- A lot of LGBT young people move away from Perth because don't feel sense of community
- Perthshire Pride great event, but is only one day
- Perth is considered too big to have one identity.
- Some neighbourhoods within Perth not so much identity.
- Considered that Perth should make more of its history, and heritage sites
- o Don't use celebrities use local talent (Culture and Sports engagement 2022)
- o More events are sought.
- o Importance of free spaces comes up
- o Effort needed to attract visitors and support art and nature

12. FEELING SAFE (4.1)

HOW SAFE DO I FEEL IN MY PLACE?

- + Some people feel safe
- Accessibility to the city centre is a concern for people living in neighbourhoods outwith
- Significant concerns particularly at night
- Vennels in Perth are a no go area for women (East, 2024)
- Antisocial behaviour
- Children and young people had more concerns about safety (largely from young people)

- Flooding is an issue
- Better lighting
- More CCTV
- o Warden/police presence should be increased
- o Drainage/flood protection sought
- o Would be good to have one central safe space for LGBT

13. CARE & MAINTENANCE (3.1)

ARE THERE SPACES OR BUILDINGS THAT NEED CLEANING UP OR FIXING IN THE AREA?

- Condition of the buildings, trailing wires, weeds, unsafe buildings and dereliction,
- Concerns about the condition of the city centre streets and buildings, and vacancies
- Higher ground floor vacancies, gives the impression of relatively uncared for spaces, and has impinged on the attractiveness of the city centre.
- Flooding also impacts on streets and buildings

14. INFLUENCE & SENSE OF CONTROL (3.2)

WHEN THINGS HAPPEN IN MY PLACE, HOW EASY IS IT FOR ME TO SAY WHAT I THINK AND BE LISTENED TO?

- + Great PKC equalities unit, make a real effort to listen and take action
- + Good assistance from local Members
- Limited influence for fewer than half the city having an active community council: central, Perth South, Letham and Tulloch are all without.
- It is considered difficult to influence planning decisions.
- o Suggestions include that a user group would be useful way to engage
- o Suggestion that there should be more feedback/actions taken
- o Children and young people suggest improved use of social media and shorter surveys
- o Children and young people are concerned about lack of engagement and have opinions as 'it will be our future'

3. APPENDIX 1

PERTH CITY METHODOLOGY

A different approach was taken for Perth City where these boundaries do not fully reflect the settlement nor the neighbourhoods within it. Rather than using Community Council areas, Scottish Government National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) says LDPs should support local living/20-minute neighbourhoods. It was therefore considered that identifying local living areas within Perth city (taking account of Community Council areas where possible) would be a better focus for analysis. These areas are shown on map 1 below. Also Perth was analysed as a whole, rather than splitting it up into 3 Perth City wards, or excluding parts of it within the 2 wards Strathtay and Almond and Earn which pick up areas of Perth west of the A9 (please see map 2 below).

NPF4 Local Living and 20-minute neighbourhoods policy refers to access to local public transport and safe, high quality walking, wheeling and cycling networks, and taking local context and settlement patterns into account. The following local living areas within Perth have been identified considering a combination of a 10 min walking, cycling and public transport distance (using [travel time map demo](#)), neighbourhood identity, access to retail facilities/local centres, and community council areas and primary school catchments. GP surgeries are fairly centrally located within Perth and there are only 2 libraries so neither have a strong neighbourhood function.

Existing communities in Perth, together with the masterplanned communities on the edge of Perth, reflect the principles of local living neighbourhoods imperfectly, and should be considered fuzzy boundaries. There are usually smaller neighbourhoods which function with degree of independence within these local living neighbourhoods but mostly they share some key facilities such as shops, or a primary school. Also, the city centre is a much smaller local living neighbourhood, being 10 min walking distance rather than considering cycling or public transport, but it has been kept discrete due its role serving all the other neighbourhoods.

Perth local living neighbourhoods have been defined as follows:

Gannochy, Bridgend, Kinnoull, Corsiehill, and Barnhill – Topography and lower density makes a 10-minute walking neighbourhood challenging. It spans around 3km (majority of residential properties are contained within around 1.6km), and residential areas on upper slopes are outwith 10 minute walking distances of amenities. These areas function together as a community council area, and share a primary school, and local shopping facilities along Main St. This whole area is within 10 min travel time (cycling), and is largely within a 10 min travel time (public transport).

City Centre – Around 0.8 km span and functions very well as a 10-minute walkable neighbourhood with access to excellent range of community and shopping facilities although there is no primary school provision, and instead it falls within the catchment for Inchview Primary. Technically in terms of size the city centre could be merged with another neighbourhood, however it doesn't have a clearer relationship with one neighbouring area, over another, rather it serves as the major service centre for all of Perth, making it discrete.

North Muirton, Muirton, Balhousie and North Inch – Around 3km span (although main residential areas are within 2.4km) so significantly larger than an ideal 10 minute walkable neighbourhood. However, these residential areas are within a 10-minute cycle and public transport travel time. They function together as one neighbourhood and also distinctly separately depending on the function. They function together in terms of sharing the new Riverside primary school. However, they function separately in terms in terms of community council areas. Shopping facilities are shared between North Inch, Balhousie and Muirton (Asda and Balhousie Store) whilst North Muirton neighbourhood has its own local centre at Argyll Road.

Tulloch – Around 1.8km span (but the majority of Tulloch is within 10 minute walking distance), whilst it all lies within 5-minute cycle and 10-minute public transport travel time. It has Tulloch primary, a distinct

identity as a neighbourhood, and has some shopping facilities at the local centre at Tulloch Square, but also separately some shops and takeaways along Dunkeld Road and Tesco's on Crieff Road.

Letham and Hillyland - Around 2.4 km span so significantly larger than an ideal 10 minute walkable neighbourhood. However, this whole area is within 10 min travel time (cycling), and largely within a 10 min travel time (public transport). There is a local centre and primary school within Letham, whilst Farmfoods convenience store on Dunkeld Road, and Goodlyburn Primary school also helps serve part of Tulloch.

Burghmuir, Broxden, Oakbank, Viewlands, Western Edge, Woodlands and Cherrybank - Around 3km span, so significantly larger than an ideal 10 minute walkable neighbourhood. This whole area is within 10 min travel time (cycling), and largely within a 10 min travel time (public transport). There are two primary schools within close proximity which are centrally located and serve almost all this area. It has a post office and convenience shop on Jeanfield Road and then Coop on Oakbank Road to serve different areas so the neighbourhoods within this area also function somewhat independently.

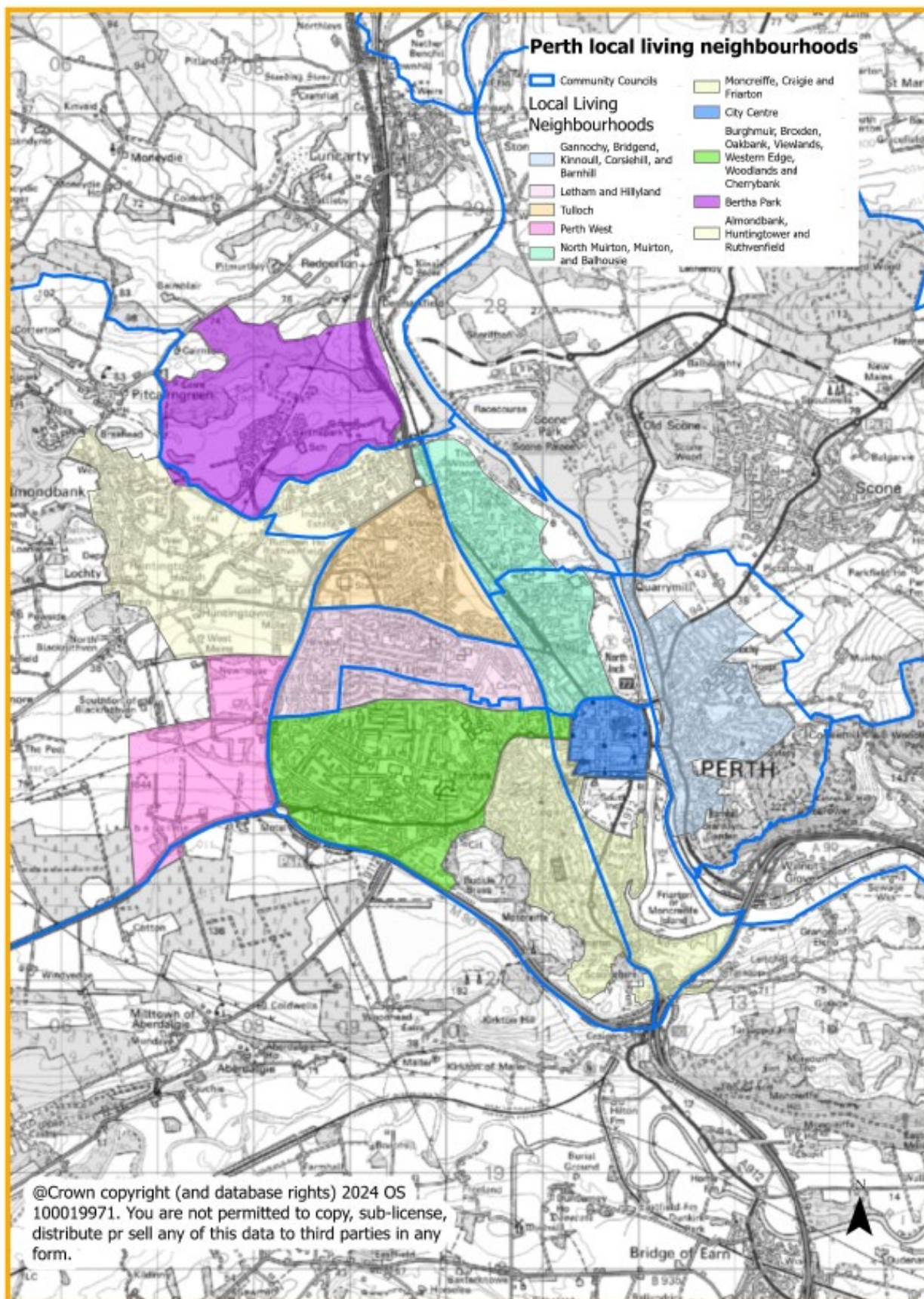
Moncreiffe, Craigie, and Friarton – Around 2.8km span so significantly larger than an ideal 10 minute walkable neighbourhood. The majority of the residential areas are within 1.4 km as Friarton is largely employment uses. This whole area is within 10 min cycling travel time and is largely (excluding Friarton) within a 10 min public transport travel time. The area has 2 primary schools (Inchview and Moncreiffe), and a local centre on Glengarry Road, and other shopping facilities at Edinburgh Road (Tesco's). The neighbourhoods within this area also function separately in terms of walkable distance.

Bertha Park – Around 2.5km span so significantly larger than an ideal 10 minute walkable neighbourhood, but with employment areas planned to the east, the main residential areas will be much closer. Once developed, it will have a primary school and it already has a local centre and this whole area should be within 10 min travel time (cycling), and largely within a 10 min travel time (public transport).

Almondbank, Huntingtower and Ruthvenfield – Around 3km so significantly larger than an ideal 10 minute walkable neighbourhood but main residential areas are much closer. Once developed, this whole area should be within 10 min travel time (cycling), and a 10 min travel time (public transport). The Almond Valley development will have local centre facilities within Almondbank/Ruthvenfield close to the Ruthvenfield primary school, whilst Almondbank has distinct identity, and facilities with a shop, cafes, post office and primary school.

Perth West – Around 1.5km so significantly larger than a 10 minute walkable neighbourhood. The southern part (subject to a masterplan), identifies East and West Mid Lamberkine will both have their own neighbourhood facilities, but will share a new primary school. Once developed, this whole area should be within 10 min cycling travel time.

Map 2: Perth Local living neighbourhoods (also showing community council areas)



Map 2 shows both community council and local living neighbourhoods, there are correlations between them, as community council areas have been used where possible. However, the Letham community council area has been simplified. The City South community council area was too large so Craigie formed a local living neighbourhood together with Moncreiffe and Friarton. Tulloch community council includes Inveralmond which it has a limited relationship with, so Tulloch was kept separate as a local living neighbourhood. Inveralmond instead joined up with Almondbank, Huntingtower and Ruthvenfield as a local living neighbourhood. Central community council includes the harbour and Friarton, whereas the city centre is discrete, and serves all the neighbourhoods of Perth, so the city centre forms a separate local living neighbourhood. It was also decided to combine North Muirton and North Inch and Muirton community council into one local living area, due to size, and the relationships between these communities.

The planned communities (Bertha Park, Almond Valley, and Perth West) on the edge of Perth lie within two wider community councils (Luncarty Redgorton and Moneydie, and Methven) rather than having their own community council, as they are emerging communities. However, these planned communities will form their own local living neighbourhoods. Using the Local Development Plan Perth West allocation boundary was not appropriate however due to significant travel distances across a largely residential area, so the area as far south as Newhouse Farm cottage was included within a Almondbank, Huntingtower and Ruthvenfield local living area. This split allows the residential areas of the three planned communities to be a similar size. It also follows the boundary of the Strathtay ward. Map 1 on page 1 shows how the ward boundaries relate to the Perth local living areas.