

# Crown Estate Scotland Corporate Plan (2020-23): Consultation with children and young people

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February 2020



# Thank you

Children in Scotland would like to thank the schools who took part in this consultation process:

- St Matthew's RC Primary School, Rosewell, Midlothian
- Irvine Royal Academy, Irvine, North Ayrshire
- Park Primary School, Oban, Argyll And Bute

November-December is a busy time in schools and we do appreciate the support and welcome we received from staff and pupils.



**“A healthy environment underpins our very existence.”**

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## Executive summary

In 2019 Crown Estate Scotland commissioned Children in Scotland to deliver a consultation exercise with children and young people, regarding Crown Estate Scotland's Draft Corporate Plan 2020-23.

From November 2019-January 2020, the views and experiences of 97 children and young people were gathered through three workshops held in Midlothian, North Ayrshire and Argyll and Bute (ages 7-14) and via an online survey (ages 10-25).

After gathering evidence from the engagement activities, Children in Scotland staff analysed the feedback to identify key findings. This report provides Crown Estate Scotland with key learning from the children and young people and recommendations for next steps.

With this in-depth qualitative piece of work the sample was small and results cannot be viewed as representing those of all children and young people. However, the feedback is from 18 different local authority areas and the commonality across the views expressed indicates that these findings offer useful evidence to inform the development of Crown Estate Scotland 2020-23 Corporate Plan.








Children in Scotland staff have synthesised the findings from the direct sessions and feedback gained from the online survey. The findings have been divided into eight subheadings reflecting, where appropriate, the content of the draft Corporate Plan, including the Strategic Objectives:

- Environment
- Crown Estate Scotland
- Sea and seabed
- Coast, foreshore and harbours
- Renewable and sustainable energy
- The built environment and communities
- Land
- Partnerships.

Based on the findings from this consultation process Children in Scotland would like to make the following recommendations to Crown Estate Scotland:



**Recommendation 1** – Crown Estate Scotland could develop a more accessible Corporate Plan (with a video) explaining the key priorities and planned actions. This will not only support children and young people's engagement, but that of the wider community.

-  **Recommendation 2** – the redrafted Corporate Plan should reflect the findings from this consultation with children and young people, including the content they have suggested, thus reflecting what is important to them in terms of what makes good environmental asset management. These suggested changes will have a positive impact on the Corporate Plan, the work of Crown Estate Scotland and thus support Scotland to flourish.
-  **Recommendation 3** – consultation with children and young people should continue as an ongoing process to ensure that more children and young people have opportunities to engage. As key stakeholders they have a right to have their voices heard on matters that impact on their lives. A wider range of young voices will ensure a more nuanced understanding. For example, it may be beneficial to work with The Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs (SAYFC) to discover the thoughts and opinions from young farmers' perspectives.
-  **Recommendation 4** – Crown Estate Scotland should continue to adopt a rights-based approach to its work. A rights-based approach involves working to uphold children's human rights. As a result, Crown Estate should engage with children and young people in a wider ongoing process and consider exploring options such as:
- Encourage young people to apply to be non-executive Board members
  - Advisory group of children and young people
  - Specific project-based work
  - Partnerships with children and young people-centred organisations to develop information for schools and youth settings regarding the role and remit of Crown Estate Scotland. This could be designed and developed in partnership with young people.
-  **Recommendation 5** – the corporate plan should make more explicit reference to the role that community engagement will have on decision-making, thus reflecting the commitment to the development of a community engagement strategy.
-  **Recommendation 6** – Crown Estate Scotland should develop enhanced partnership working with environmental organisations, such as the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), to keep environmental protection high on the agenda.
-  **Recommendation 7** – Crown Estate Scotland should work with the Scottish Government to help secure continued funding post-Brexit to ensure a sustainable future, especially for the farming and fishing sector.
-  **Recommendation 8** – Crown Estate Scotland should work in partnership with national farm, land and sea bodies to ensure they are engaged and involved in planning for the future of Scotland and the planet.



# Introduction

## Children in Scotland

Giving all children in Scotland an equal chance to flourish is at the heart of everything we do.

By bringing together a network of people working with and for children, alongside children and young people themselves, we offer a broad, balanced and independent voice. We create solutions, provide support and develop positive change across all areas affecting children in Scotland.

We do this by engaging, listening, gathering evidence, applying and sharing, while always working to uphold children's rights. Our range of knowledge and expertise means we can provide trusted support on issues as diverse as the people we work with and the varied lives of children and families in Scotland.

In line with Article 12 of the United Nations Convention Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Children in Scotland engages with children and young people in meaningful, ongoing dialogue to enable them to have effective and fulfilling participation in all areas of our work, ensuring that their voices influence the decisions and practices of policymakers and practitioners.

We share the vision of Crown Estate Scotland to include children and young people in decisions that affect them, their families and communities. We are very pleased to be able to support children and young people to be a central part of this important process for the management of land and property across Scotland. This is especially pertinent as Scotland will incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into law, which will have an impact on all public bodies and how they work and engage with children and young people.

## Report background

In 2019 Crown Estate Scotland commissioned Children in Scotland to deliver a consultation exercise with children and young people, focused on Crown Estate Scotland's Draft Corporate Plan 2020-23.

Specific requirements were as follows:

- To examine the views and experience of young people regarding Crown Estate's Scotland's draft 2020-23 Corporate Plan
- To provide insights into young people's ambitions for future land, coastline and seabed management
- To identify any potential improvements that should be reflected in the final Corporate Plan.

Specific outputs were as follows:

- Three workshops (10-15 participants in each), one to be held in each of Highlands & Islands, Central Belt, and West Scotland
- An online survey
- Final report.

After gathering evidence from the engagement activity, Children in Scotland staff have analysed the feedback to identify key findings. This report provides Crown Estate Scotland with key learning from the children and young people and recommendations for next steps.

## Limitations

The group involved in this consultation was relatively small, therefore the results cannot be viewed as representing those of all children and young people. Meaningful engagement with children and young people takes time, particularly for younger aged groups and those with additional support needs.

Although this consultation was small, the findings gathered do illustrate the authentic views and experiences of children across Scotland. The commonality across some of the views expressed indicates that these findings offer useful evidence to inform the development of the Crown Estate Scotland 2020-23 Corporate Plan.



Considering aspects of Crown Estate Scotland's work



## Methodology

Children in Scotland believes it is essential to include a range of perspectives from children and young people living in Scotland in our work. Therefore, for this consultation process we heard from a diverse range of children and young people in terms of age, gender, additional support needs, faith, geography (rural/urban) and experiences of deprivation. Consultation was delivered through workshops and an online survey.

### Direct delivery

Children in Scotland's staff delivered a full-day workshop in three school settings in November-December 2019:

- St Matthew's RC Primary School, Rosewell, Midlothian
- Irvine Royal Academy, Irvine, North Ayrshire
- Park Primary School, Oban, Argyll And Bute.

Fifty children and young people engaged in the consultation through the direct sessions:

- St Matthew's RC Primary School: 6 (P3-P5)
- Irvine Royal Academy: 23 (S1-S3)
- Park Primary School: 21 (P5/6).

These schools are located in the geographical areas Crown Estate Scotland identified as preferred locations and provide a diverse range of children and young people's voices, as outlined above. Locations selected included a mixture of rural and urban locations. These communities were located near the coast, harbours and rural estates.

The direct workshops offered the children and young people an opportunity to:

- Experience positive relationships with Children in Scotland staff and more indirectly with Crown Estate Scotland
- Have a positive experience of consultation and be upskilled and gain confidence in sharing their feelings and opinions, based on their lived experience.

The children and young people gave informed consent to take part in the process through use of a consent form, in line with Children in Scotland's practice principles and within GDPR guidelines.



Crown Estate Scotland's draft Corporate Plan is too large and complex a document for children and young people to look at in detail in one session. To support their understanding and engagement the direct delivery sessions were split into four sections:

- The first section supported and developed the children and young people's understanding of the whole process and the purpose of their input (including their right to have their voices heard in matters that impact on their lives)
- The second section supported and developed their understanding of Crown Estate Scotland's work
- The third section supported them to consider the content of the draft Corporate Plan (sea and seabed, coasts and harbours, renewable energy, land, buildings, communities, partnerships)
- The fourth section was an opportunity for them to evaluate the process and the specific session.

Through our extensive programme of participation work, Children in Scotland has developed innovative approaches to support the effective participation of children and young people. During our three direct delivery sessions a wide range of participative approaches were used to ensure all children and young people were able to engage, regardless of age, additional support needs etc. The activities were visual and interactive and included opportunities to work as a whole group, in smaller groups, in pairs and individual work. The activities offered opportunities for discussions, creating characters, arts and crafts, physical games, mapping and voting.

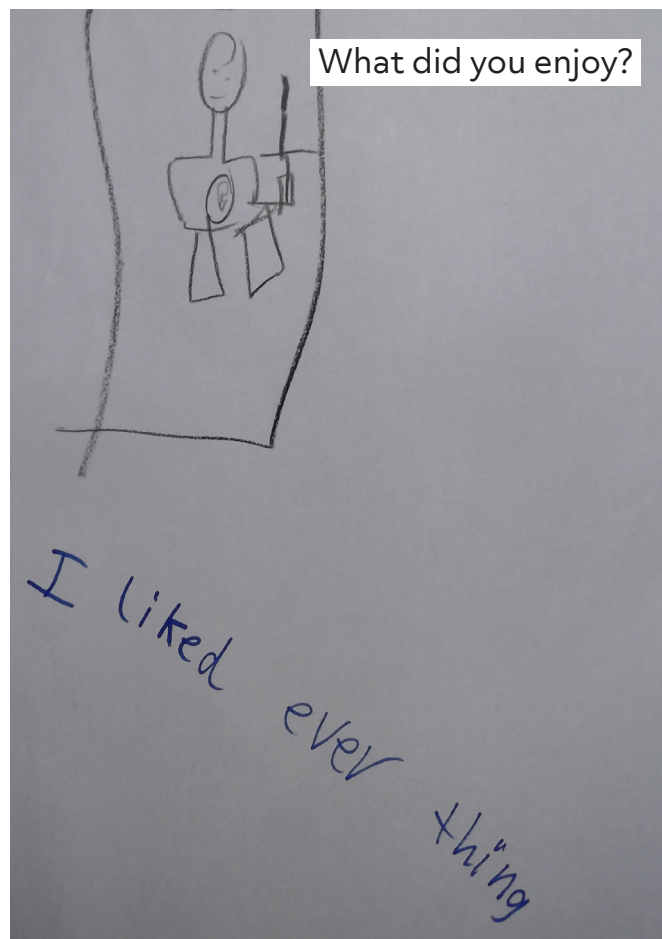


Creating a character



Feedback gained from the participants was 100% positive regarding their enjoyment of the sessions, the activities involved and feeling included, with feedback comments including **"I loved it"**, **"I liked everything"** and **"It was awesome."**

Feedback on a direct delivery session 



## Online survey

To reach a wider audience within the timeline of the consultation process, Children in Scotland developed an online survey aimed at those aged 12-25. The content of the survey mirrored the themes covered in the direct delivery sessions, such as the values of Crown Estate Scotland, renewable energy, buildings, community projects, employment, coasts and fishing.

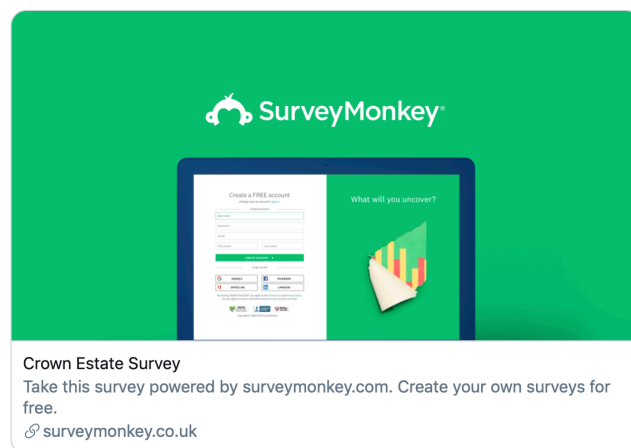
The online survey was open for four and a half weeks (December 2019-January 2020) and was promoted through Children in Scotland and Crown Estate Scotland's wide-reaching online presence and networks. Children in Scotland staff also shared the link with contacts in schools before the Christmas holidays.



Children in Scotland  
@cisweb

We are working with [@CrownEstateScot](#) to help them include the voices of children and young people as they decide their new three-year plan.

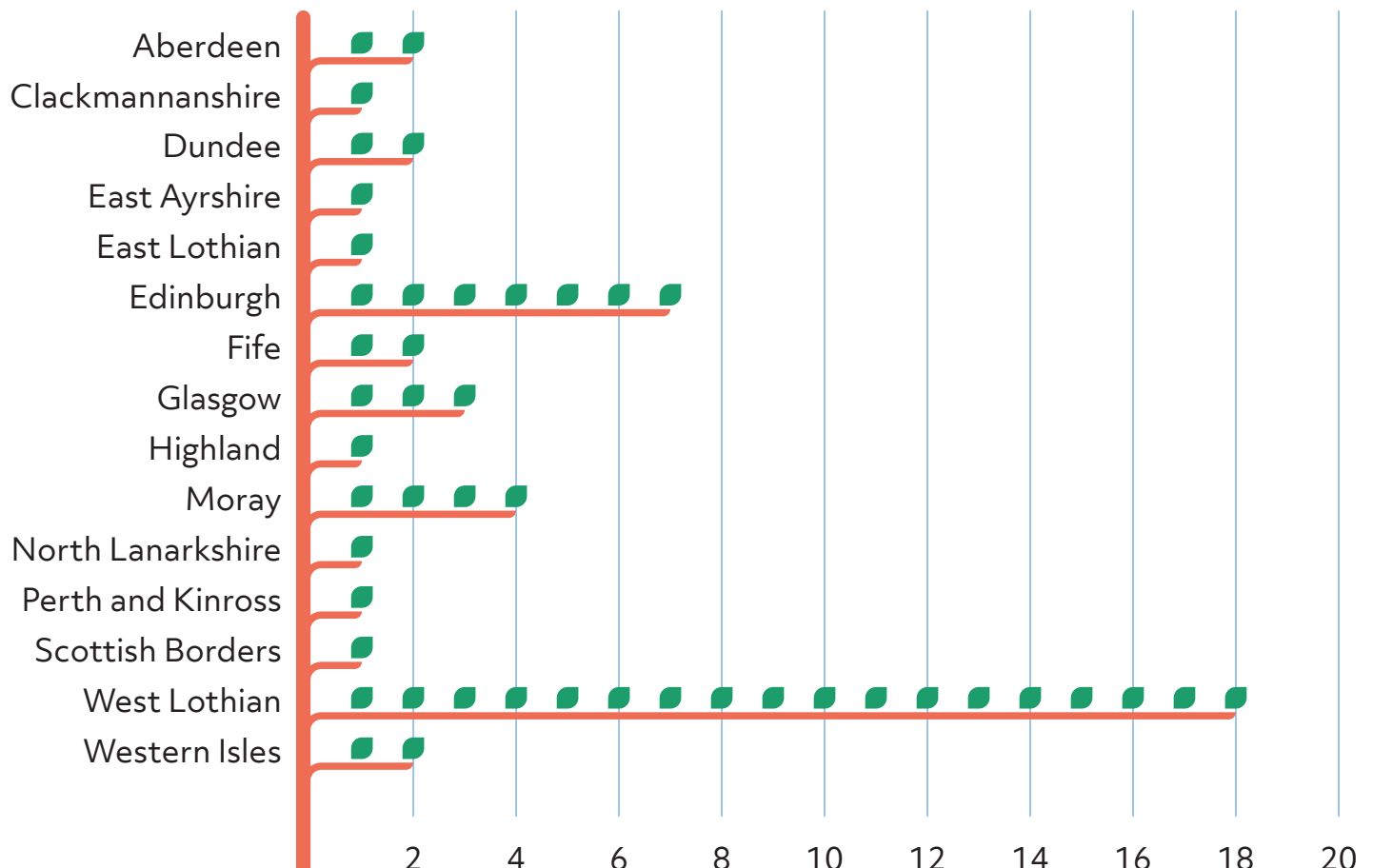
You can help us by supporting the young people you work with to complete this survey to tell us what they think.



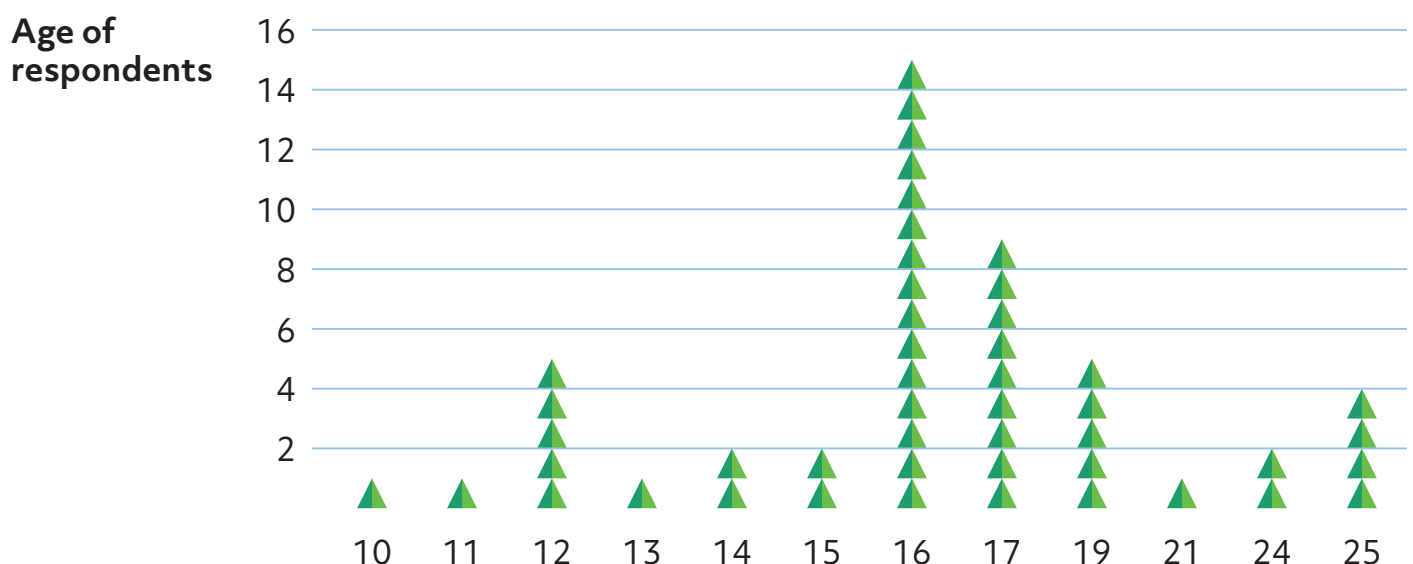
3:12 pm · 12 Dec 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

Sixty-four responses were received in the four and half week period. Six had to be discounted immediately as the participants were above the age limit. A further eleven did not answer the age question so their responses were discounted too. This left forty-seven confirmed respondents within the right age range. There was a disproportionately higher number of responses in West Lothian due to the survey being completed by a Higher Geography class as part of a class project. Respondents were from fifteen Scottish local authorities as follows:

### Location of respondents



Their age range covers 10-25 as follows:



## Key findings

Children in Scotland staff (and their partners in schools) found all of the children and young people involved in the consultation process to be very interested in thinking through and discussing issues related to land, seabed and coastline. They welcomed the opportunity to share their thoughts and experiences, **“So you can hear what we think”** and stated, **“it’s always adults that get asked their opinions”**.

Children in Scotland staff have synthesised the findings from the direct sessions and feedback gained from the online survey. The findings have been divided into eight subheadings reflecting, where appropriate, the content of the draft Corporate Plan, including the Strategic Objectives.



## The environment

**“A healthy environment underpins our very existence.”**

From this consultation process we know Crown Estate Scotland understands it is important to hear children and young people’s perspectives and opinions so they can act on this and it can inform future work.

Over the past few years the environment has been highlighted as a key area of concern for young people, particularly in relation to the climate emergency. The youth-led climate strikes have seen unprecedented numbers of young people taking to the streets to urge the UK Government to commit to a specific target of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

**“People such as kids are the ones mainly getting involved and less are adults.”**

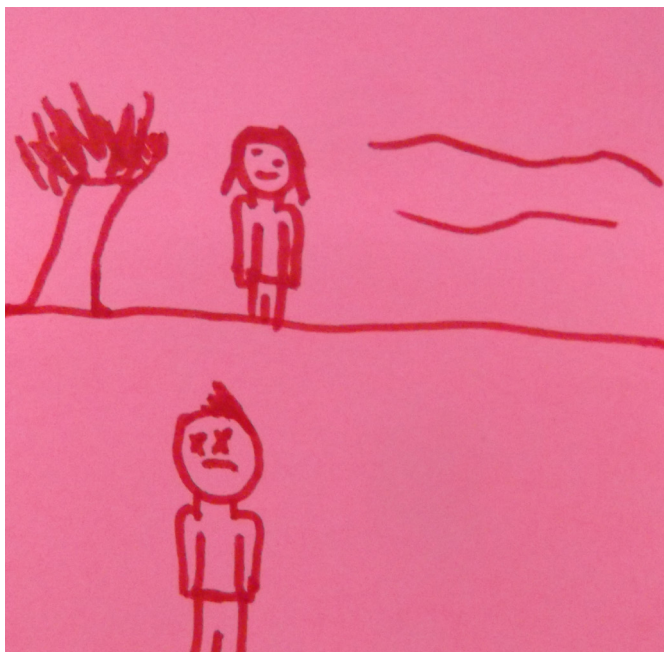
Additionally, the 2019-20 Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) national campaign Pack it up, Pack it in was concerned with reducing pollution levels which contribute to climate change.<sup>1</sup> To encourage engagement with the work of Crown Estate Scotland the engagement work was framed around the theme of the environment and discussed in relation to the work of Crown Estate Scotland.

The children and young people participating in the direct delivery sessions demonstrated a keen awareness of their local and global environment and the current climate emergency. For example, locally they are concerned about litter and the need for a **“beach clean”** and globally they recognise that **“trees are special because they give you oxygen”** and **“without coral we are not going to have enough air to keep going.”**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://syp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Pack-it-up-Pack-it-in-Report-.pdf>





➔ Drawing showing the importance of trees

**“Trees are special because they give you oxygen.”**

They shared that the environment is important in helping children to feel happy, healthy and safe. Indeed, children expressed that worries and concerns about damage to the environment are having an impact on how they are feeling. Young people are worried about the impact that climate change will have on their lives in the future stating they are, **“More scared about the future”** because **“kids really care and worry.”**

This was also reflected in data collected from the survey. Respondents were asked which of the following themes were most important to them: economy, environment or local community. Most of the young people who responded to the survey indicated that the environment was significant to them. Environmental protection was key to ensuring that local communities were supported and that we have a successful economy: **“A healthy environment underpins our very existence, without this, you can have no local communities or economy.”**

One young person explained why it must be a priority: **“We are currently in a climate crisis with global warming which makes it (in my eyes) an urgently more pressing issue than most things regarding economy and local communities”.** **“If we don’t look after the environment, especially in rural/coastal areas, then there is nothing for local communities to base their economies on.”**

Children and young people expressed that when they felt empowered or able to **“take action”** to combat the issue this helped them to feel better: **“Young people can feel better by getting involved rather than not panicked.”**

They also expressed that it was important for organisations like Crown Estate Scotland to take measures to help tackle environmental problems.



↓ Issues young people care about passionately

## Crown Estate Scotland

**"It should be a priority to do things properly and effectively."**

Most of the children and young people spoken to expressed that they had not heard of Crown Estate Scotland. This was also reflected in the survey findings, with 61% indicating that they had not heard of Crown Estate Scotland before undertaking the survey (see chart below).

Before taking part in this survey had you ever heard of Crown Estate Scotland before?



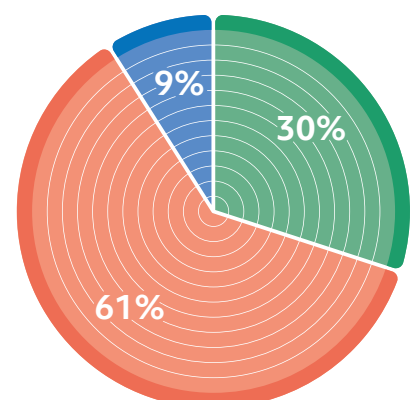
Yes



No



Not Sure



The participants in the direct delivery sessions related well with all areas of Crown Estate Scotland's work and were clear that it is important that children and young people should be asked their opinions.

It was possible to show Crown Estate Scotland's recent short film to one of the schools during the direct work. The children enjoyed learning "what they're saving" and seeing images local to them. They struggled, however, with text (subtitles) that was too fast to read and some of the vocabulary used, such as 'economic'.

They would like information from Crown Estate Scotland to be made more accessible as they felt it was too "complicated". They felt they required more knowledge and awareness about the work of Crown Estate Scotland to enable them to share their views in an informed way.

Crown Estate Scotland should be open to a range of communication methods to accommodate a range of needs. The participants offered suggestions including:

- Put into simpler words
- Activities
- Videos
- An accessible film for a younger audience
- Pictures
- Games
- Everyone gets a chance to have a say in making big decisions (e.g. voting using thumbs up/down).

Reflecting Strategic Objective 4: build partnerships for people and the planet in Crown Estate Scotland's draft Corporate Plan, survey respondents also felt that children and young people should be included in a range of different ways in the work of Crown Estate Scotland. One respondent suggested that the way children and young people are involved will be dependent upon the area they are from. For example, children from more rural or remote areas may engage digitally. Survey respondents were offered a range of options about how the Crown Estate could improve engagement with children and young people'. The most popular option selected was:

- **Working with organisations who work with children and young people including helping them visit land, sea and coast to learn.**

Another respondent commented:

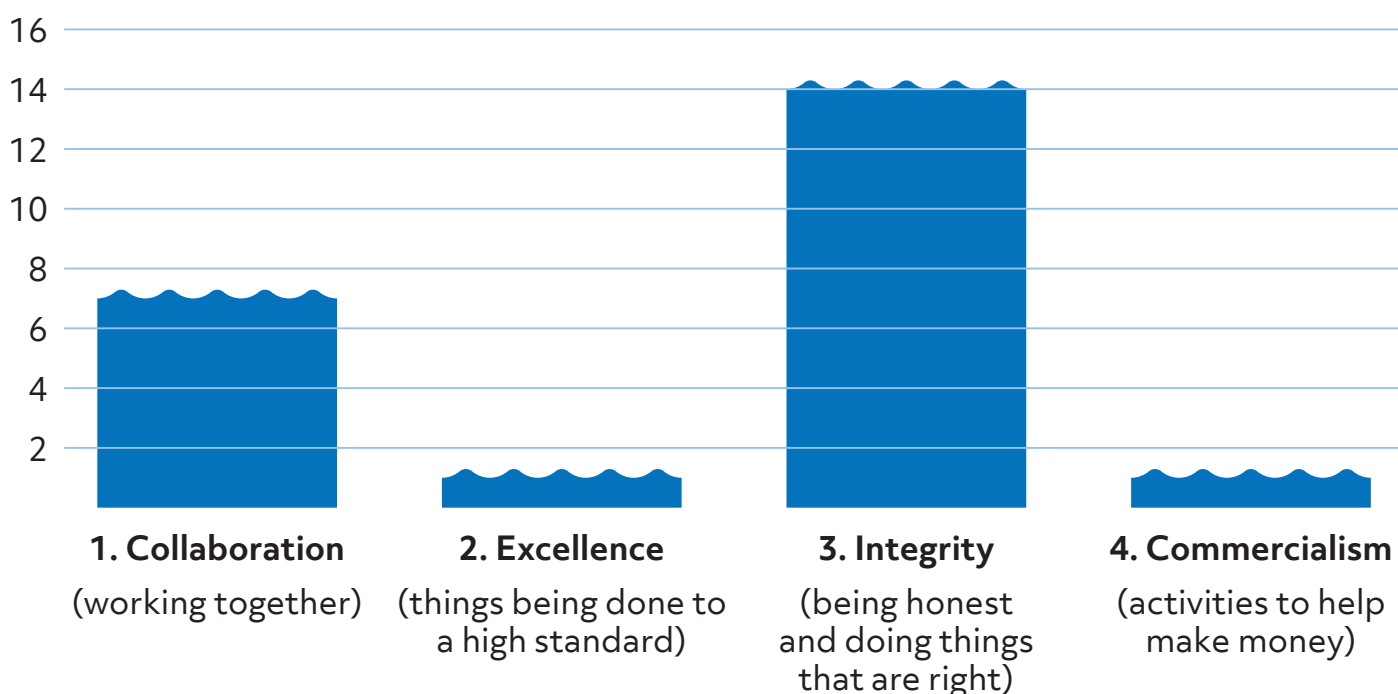
**"I think educating children in land use and giving them the opportunity to visit coastal areas (for example) is vital for instilling the importance of how land is used. Getting young people involved allows their voices and concerns to be heard."**

However, the following options also received high responses:

- **Sending out surveys to schools and youth groups**
- **Creating class materials so teachers and youth workers can explain more about Crown Estate Scotland and how it impacts children's lives**
- **Creating projects with children and young people to look at different themes and topics**
- **Having a young person/people on the board of directors (directors are people who help make decisions about how an organisation is run)**
- **Creating an advisory group of children and young people to help Crown Estate Scotland make decisions to help children.**

In the direct delivery sessions the children and young people explored the skills and qualities Crown Estate Scotland should embody to act as an environmental defender. Respondents undertaking the survey were also asked to think about the current values which underpin Crown Estate Scotland and think about which ones felt the most important to them (see chart below).

Which of the qualities or values do you think is the most important for Crown Estate Scotland?



Integrity was selected as the most significant value for most of the children and young people undertaking the survey. This is something that was also discussed during the direct delivery sessions. Words and themes were identified and discussed that relate to this value including being honest, open and trustworthy. Young people shared that it is important that the



organisation is undertaking work for the right reasons:

**“There is no benefit in running projects if it isn’t being done for the right reason or if there isn’t honesty behind it.”**

**“These are relevant values, especially honesty as not many building companies are good with this.”**

Young people were clear that Crown Estate should take strong positions on issues and act as a role model. They shared that an organisation should be ‘resilient’ enough to continue to champion issues even when challenged such as, **“Speaking up for what is right”** and **“Standing up for what they believe in.”**

Another key quality identified was that of being a good listener. It was important that Crown Estate Scotland hears from lots of different groups and, “Listen to other people’s opinions and take it into consideration” when making decisions. Young people felt that as an organisation Crown Estate Scotland needs to be open and receptive to lots of different views and opinions.

This reflects the value of collaboration which was the next most popular value selected by survey respondents. It was felt that working together will lead to better decision-making and will help to build stronger communities. Again, reflecting Strategic Objective 4 in Crown Estate Scotland’s draft Corporate Plan, young people identified a range of different groups that they thought should be involved, these included: Scottish Government, local authorities, fishermen, farmers, scientists, people who work with the land, people living by the coast and children and young people. Responses from both the direct delivery sessions and survey suggested that people who are directly affected by Crown Estate Scotland’s work need to be involved and listened to: **“Collaboration is also important as you are working with other people with their communities and lives which shouldn’t be done without their input.”**

Additionally, the young people felt that Crown Estate Scotland needs to be able to influence and instigate change. As a result, they thought that Crown Estate Scotland should work to help change policy and legislation in order to help protect the environment, for example calling for legislation to stop overfishing.

Children and young people had mixed views about commercialism. Whilst it was regarded as an important value it was felt that greater emphasis needs to be placed on integrity and collaboration in the first instance: **“Whilst getting money in is important it should be a priority to do things properly and effectively even if that means less as it will make more of an impact to do a few jobs well rather than a lot that didn’t help.”**



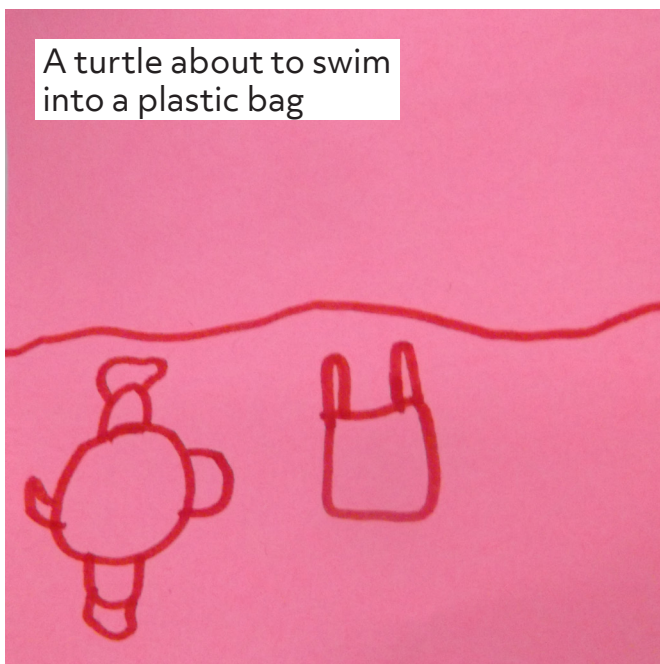
## Sea and seabed

**“Don’t catch too many fishes so there’s still some in the sea.”**

This area aligns with Crown Estate Scotland’s Strategic Objective 1: Support the sustainable expansion of Scotland’s blue economy, focusing on marine and coastal development.

A specific focus was taken on this area with Park Primary School, Oban, due to its close proximity to the sea. Many pupils had connections who work in or around the sea such as scallop divers and those who work on ferries. The children and young people in the other two direct delivery sessions and through the online survey were also able to share their opinions and experiences on this area.

When considering the questions ‘why is it important to look after the sea and the seabed?’ the children were able to share that the effects of pollution are a major concern: **“I’d be sad because I love going in the water”, “to make it safe for children who go into the sea” and “make sure there is no plastic in the water, make sure the sea life are healthy.”**



Young people participating in the workshops expressed concern around plastic pollution and levels of waste, aligning closely with actions under support new ways to prevent marine litter in Crown Estate Scotland’s draft Corporate Plan. Children were concerned about the impact this is having on sea-life and the fishing industry. **“Soon there will be more plastic than fish”, “fish eat small things... fish die”.** They understood aspects of wider sea and seabed management and the health of fish. They made clear we can do this by making sure, **“nothing falls**

**in from the surface”** so we can **“protect the fish from eating plastic”** such as **“Get rid of microbeads.”**

They were also concerned about protecting sea-life. Suggestions to help achieve this include: **“keep the water clean and help the animals”** and perhaps Crown Estate Scotland **“... could set up a house [under the sea] to look after the sea creatures!”**

With regards to shellfish they stated, **“make sure people don’t take and kill them for ornaments.”** They understood the negative impact of sea lice because they **“infect fish”** and there is a need **“to be less... so they don’t kill fish.”** There was a discussion around seaweed and they want to, **“make sure it’s protected by the Crown Estate.”**

With regards to fishing specifically, the direct session work focused on this area with the Park Primary School pupils, due to their close proximity to the sea. Feedback was also received on this from the online survey and other direct work sessions.

There was a clear understanding of, **“Making money from fish farms”** but that **“Not just people matter, fish do too”** with a call for **“Don’t kill the fish – help us save the environment!”**. The children and young people suggested that this could be managed by having rules about how many fish and shellfish can be caught, **“Not to catch too many fish”**, **“we want less to be caught with fishermen/woman so less waste. MORE LIFE!”**



Discussing sea/seabed management



## Coast, foreshore and harbours

**“They should make more stuff for kids like mini golf, cinema, trampoline park or bowling.”**

This area also aligns with Crown Estate Scotland’s Strategic Objective 1: Support the sustainable expansion of Scotland’s blue economy, focusing on marine and coastal development.

A specific focus was taken on this area with Irvine Royal Academy pupils, due to their close proximity to the coast and Irvine harbour area. However, the children and young people in the other two direct delivery sessions and through the online survey were also able to share their opinions and experiences on this area.

The children and young people shared the concerns they have around coastal areas and a common theme was pollution and its impact. They acknowledged

that to tackle this issue requires **“some people to do monthly cleans and get rid of all plastic that comes to the beach.”**

A priority they identified must be to “keep the bad stuff out and the good stuff in” and shared an example of what organisations that care for and manage these areas could do such as “get bins with flags so that litter cannot blow in the wind and end up in the sea” and “It will help by maybe having a beach clean-up more frequently”, “to make the beach more environmentally friendly.”

The children and young people also shared their opinions on possible uses for the coastal area. In one workshop there was a discussion about new housing being built near the coast but the young people felt this was not going to be affordable for local people and felt the local area was actually missing more social areas/buildings, especially for young people.

Discussions took place on places in the community that help us to feel happy, healthy and safe. Young people identified outside spaces such as parks, forests, harbours and moors. They also identified inside spaces including home, school, shopping centres and cafes. They identified the following as their preferred options for places that would make them feel happy and safe by the coast/harbour:

- An arcade for all ages
- A cinema
- A gaming centre with bowling, cinema, laser tag, arcade and soft play with wind power
- Making a volleyball court
- A park
- Science centre
- Water sports centre, buildings boats powered by wind, sun power to save gas/electricity
- Beach cleaners, youth centre to learn about marine biology and how to save the ocean from pollution etc.
- A big fun house including a beach/marine lab; bowling alley; elderly help; cinema; soft play; offices; youth places; baby care
- A place that sells boats nets and that you can go into the sea and get the plastic out.





When discussing their ideas and suggestions for future projects that would be good for the community and the environment the young people, without prompting, often suggested ideas that incorporated renewable energy into their plan, such as wind-powered machinery used beside the coast that can recycle the litter found on/near beaches (including plastic).



## The built environment and communities

**“Community spaces for people to come together in a broad sense are good.”**

This area aligns with Crown Estate Scotland’s Strategic Objective 2: Develop built environment that strengthens communities and benefits businesses.

The direct delivery sessions in St Matthew’s RC Primary School and Irvine Royal Academy focused on this area. Again, young people were also able to share their thoughts in the third session and through the online survey.

Young people were clear that any decisions around community spaces and land use will need community input and involvement. This is in line with the Community Empowerment Scotland Act 2015 which has a focus on empowering communities to participate and engage with local decision-making.<sup>2</sup>

The children and young people shared that local buildings should be designed and used primarily to meet the needs of local people in partnership with the community; **“Something that is actually used and wanted by the community”** because **“This is a question for the community and should be asked on a case by case basis as it will likely vary between locations. Community spaces for people to come together in a broad sense are good.”**

Young people were able to identify several disused and neglected buildings in their local area. They felt that these buildings could be better utilised to help support local people and the community. Broad themes, identified both through the direct delivery sessions and survey, included housing, local business support, education and training and leisure and recreation.

Housing was identified as a key concern by young people participating in the direct delivery sessions. They felt it was important that everyone had access to safe, warm and dry housing. This aligns with one of the actions under Strategic Objective 3: Increase local involvement in decisions relating to land through evidence-based estate plans.

Homelessness was identified as a key area of concern for communities and young people emphasised that housing needs to be **“affordable**

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<sup>2</sup> [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5943c23a440243c1fa28585f/t/5c000b516d2a737f69d510e7/1543506813945/NSfCE+online\\_October.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5943c23a440243c1fa28585f/t/5c000b516d2a737f69d510e7/1543506813945/NSfCE+online_October.pdf)



**for everyone**". For example, young people highlighted new housing developments in their local area which were too expensive for local people. One survey respondent explained it as, **"Ensuring that homes are for the people in the community, not bought by investors."**

Survey respondents also highlighted that housing should be energy efficient: **"Using existing buildings can be fantastic and can be less costly (economically and environmentally) than a new build. However, I would say that they should be modernised to ensure they are energy efficient and fit for purpose."**

Community buildings and spaces were perceived as being beneficial for local people and business. Young people felt that the creation of local business could help cater to the needs of local people: **"Somewhere for small businesses to set up and grow is a great idea"** such as **"Cafes and gift shops and places for organisations to rent for classes."**

The creation of multipurpose venues focused on providing education on the environment was identified as important by young people. During one of the direct delivery sessions young people spoke about buildings near the coast which concentrated on how to tackle environmental damage including plastic pollution. Additionally, survey respondents also felt that spaces should be created to bring the community together to educate and inform about climate change and the environment: **"Places to teach people about different things about climate change", "Youth centre to learn about marine biology and how to save the ocean from pollution."**



Regenerating a disused building to support people

One of the survey respondents suggested that community spaces could be used to help support local people back into employment. This was particularly important for industries linked to the coast and sea. It was suggested that fishermen may need to be supported to change career and adapt to different sectors: **"You should be able to do so without having a loss in pay or feeling unqualified for anything else. All workers must feel**

**valued in whatever role they have to do.”** Another suggestion was around teaching people how to use and cook with food.

Discussions revealed that there is currently a lack of spaces and places for young people within their local areas. Having spaces for young people to meet and hang out with friends was recognised as beneficial for their health and wellbeing.

They felt it was important that community spaces were able to cater to the needs of young people by providing leisure and recreational activities. Suggestions included out of school care facilities, cinema, drama venues, youth club, sports centre and outdoor activity clubs; **“It would also be great to have more facilities for young people to hang out, where it is warm and safe”, “Definitely more parks and places for young people.”**

In one area young people discussed the lack of facilities has led other young people to engage in unsafe behaviours. As a result, areas like the beach were perceived as being unsafe. This discussion also came up when exploring new opportunities to bring tourists to the area.

The need for more outdoor and community spaces was emphasised. Young people suggested that improving outdoor spaces would benefit the community by bringing more people together. Improvements suggested included the following: more green spaces and access to the natural environment; planting more trees; more pedestrian areas and more of a focus on **“active pursuits.”**



## Land

**“Our wildlife and natural environment are in crisis and we need to work with farmers.”**

This area aligns with Crown Estate Scotland’s Strategic Objective 3: Invest in innovation and work with tenants to enable sustainable natural resource use.

Feedback on this area was gained from the young people who completed the online survey.

First and foremost, young people felt it was important that efforts are made to protect the natural environment. For example, survey respondents felt that it was the responsibility of farmers to ensure that their practices are not damaging the environment. The use of organic pesticides was mentioned. This also extended to the protection of animals: **“making sure any animals being farmed are being kept and farmed ethically.”**



Supporting local and small farmers was also emphasised by survey respondents. Buying locally and organically was perceived as being beneficial for protecting the environment and supporting local farmers.

Young people also believe it is important that farming was considered as a viable career option: **“Making sure that people who want to can work as farmers (or farmhands) or crofters and providing support for them when they do this.”** They suggested that the farming industry should recruit a diverse range of people:

**“Getting a range of people into farming roles including those with no farming background.”**

It was emphasised that funding needs to be provided in order to ensure that farming is sustainable. This aligns with one of the recommendations from the Children and Young People’s Panel on Europe, for the farming and fishing industries to receive the same amount of funding post-Brexit currently provided by the European Union.<sup>3</sup>

## Partnerships

**“Listen to farmers, the Queen, fishermen, police and people of the coast.”**

This area aligns with Crown Estate Scotland’s Strategic Objective 4: Build partnerships for people and the planet.

As stated in the above section on Crown Estate Scotland, through the online survey young people identified a range of different groups that they thought should work in partnership with Crown Estate Scotland.

Towards the end of the direct delivery session, the children at Park Primary School, Oban shared their opinions in more detail on who Crown Estate Scotland should partner with in their work, who should be ‘at the table’. They suggested:

- People from fish farms
- Ferries – people who work at ferries
- Ranger for a forest
- A scientist
- The Council
- Explorer and diver
- Schools from small places that don’t get a say much
- Boris Johnson, Nicola Sturgeon.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://childreninscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Brexit\\_FINAL\\_nobleed.pdf](https://childreninscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Brexit_FINAL_nobleed.pdf)

This (and the feedback gained from the survey respondents) reflects the understanding the children have about how important it is to include a broad range of communities, stakeholders and organisations in meaningful collaboration, especially those who live locally. They suggested a mixture of those with expertise and power in decision-making and those with lived experience.

The Park Primary pupils were also able to suggest how partners should work well together:

- Respect
- Be confident
- Discuss with each other
- If disagree find something in the middle.



Who should Crown Estate Scotland work with?

## Conclusions and recommendations

Children in Scotland welcomes the opportunity to have children and young people's voices and perspectives on the management of land and property in the consultation process for Crown Estate Scotland's draft Corporate Plan 2020-23. This is in line with Article 12 of the United Nations Convention Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Children in Scotland staff very much enjoyed working with the children and young people to explore what they thought was important in relation to land, seabed and coastlines.

Children and young people have a clear vision of the values, commitments and actions they want from adults and organisations in this area of their lives. Through this consultation process they gained an insight into the work of Crown Estate Scotland and were able to share children and young people's concerns on the environment more generally.

With varying degrees of support the children and young people were well able to share their opinions on the work of Crown Estate Scotland and aspects of the Strategic Objectives, as outlined in the findings. However, they were clear that they would like Crown Estate's plans, projects and proposals to be more accessible to them in the future.

Based on the findings from this consultation process Children in Scotland would like to make the following recommendations to Crown Estate Scotland:




**Recommendation 1** – Crown Estate Scotland could develop a more accessible Corporate Plan (with a video) explaining the key priorities and planned actions. This will not only support children and young people's engagement, but that of the wider community.




**Recommendation 2** – the redrafted Corporate Plan should reflect the findings from this consultation with children and young people, including the content they have suggested, thus reflecting what is important to them in terms of what makes good environmental asset management. These suggested changes will have a positive impact on the Corporate Plan, the work of Crown Estate Scotland and thus support Scotland to flourish.



**Recommendation 3** – consultation with children and young people should continue as an ongoing process to ensure that more children and young people have opportunities to engage. As key stakeholders they have a right to have their voices heard on matters that impact on their lives. A wider range of young voices will ensure a more nuanced understanding. For example, it may be beneficial to work with The Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs (SAYFC) to discover the thoughts and opinions from a young farmer's perspective.


 **Recommendation 4** – Crown Estate Scotland should continue to adopt a rights-based approach to its work. A rights-based approach involves working to uphold children’s human rights. As a result, Crown Estate should engage with children and young people in a wider ongoing process and consider exploring options such as:

- Encourage young people to apply to be non-executive Board members
- Advisory group of children and young people
- Specific project-based work
- Partner with organisations to develop information about Crown Estate Scotland for use in schools and youth settings.

 **Recommendation 5** – the corporate plan should make more explicit reference to the role that community engagement will have on decision-making, thus reflecting the commitment to the development of a community engagement strategy.

 **Recommendation 6** – Crown Estate Scotland should develop enhanced partnership working with environmental organisations, such as the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), to keep environmental protection high on the agenda.

 **Recommendation 7** – Crown Estate Scotland should work with the Scottish Government to help secure continued funding post-Brexit to ensure a sustainable future, especially for the farming and fishing sector.

 **Recommendation 8** – Crown Estate Scotland should work in partnership with national farm, land and sea bodies to ensure they are engaged and involved in planning for the future of Scotland and the planet.

