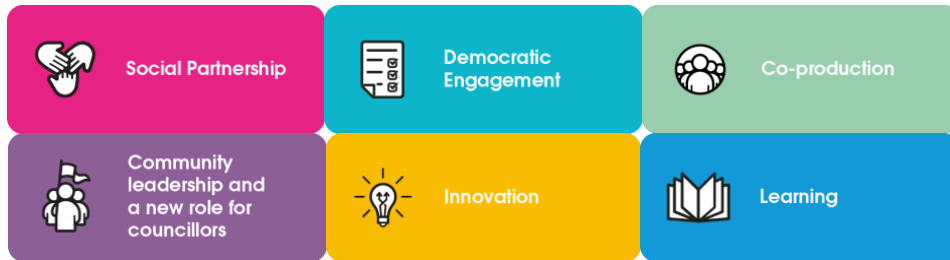




Co-operative Councils

Innovation Network

YOUNG PEOPLE



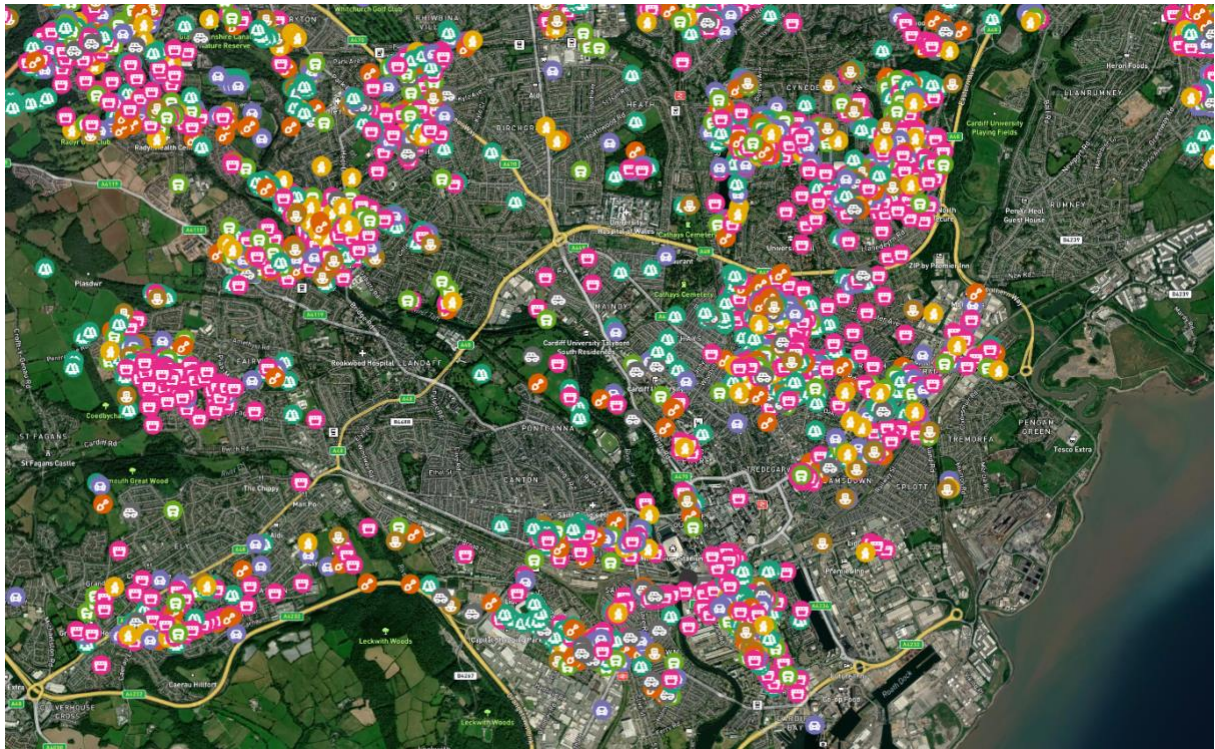
Cardiff Council

Planning Pioneers

As one of the first cities in the UK to apply for UNICEF Child Friendly City Status, Cardiff Council wants to create a city where all children and young people can share their voice and have an input on decisions being made that will affect them. This approach will seek to ensure that the rights of children and young people are respected by all.

As part of the Council's work on the replacement Local Development Plan (LDP), a project was developed to embed child rights into the process and provide children with an opportunity to become informed citizens. The aim of the project was to understand children's views regarding different aspects of the LDP and their local area through different engagement activities.

When looking for tools to gather data from engagement activities, it became evident that it would be beneficial to move away from using online forms and use a more interactive engagement tool. This approach enables children and young people to communicate more effectively and maximise pupil engagement. Several different options were considered and after careful research, the online platform 'Maptionnaire' was selected as it also provided an innovative gamified element.



Map showing where pupils identified that they like to play

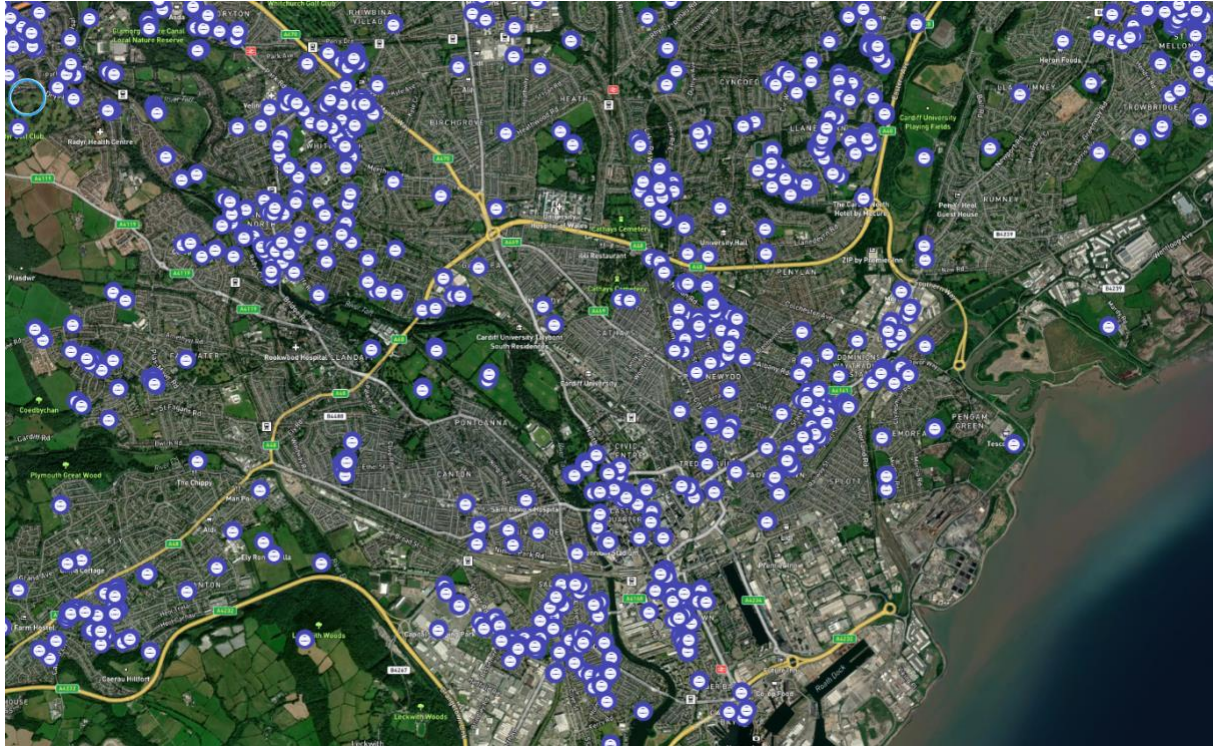
A survey using Maptionnaire was designed collaboratively with teachers from three focus primary schools; Tim Gill, an independent consultant on child friendly planning; Cardiff Planning Department; and the Cardiff Curriculum Team. Initially, the survey was trialled with 180 pupils from the three focus primary schools. Based on the pupil and teacher feedback, small amendments were made to the survey. The survey utilised map-based and traditional survey questions in a format that was appealing to pupils. This enabled survey data to be collected using a map, such as asking pupils to drop a pin on their favourite place in their local area, where they play in their local area, etc. This then provided us with a map showing all of the pins the pupils had dropped across the city relating to certain questions and the exact locations. The gamified element developed this further, with pupils being allocated an amount of money that they could spend on public realm improvements for their local area. This enabled us to visualize the data collected and identify exactly where pupils would like improvements as well as hot spots across the city.

Feedback from pupils in relation to Maptionnaire has shown that it allowed them to confidently share their own views about their community. Feedback included:

- “I really enjoyed using Maptionnaire because I had the wonderful feeling of being responsible and I felt very grown up using it, I really thought about my decisions.”
- “I really loved Maptionnaire as it gave me the freedom to express my opinion.”
- “I loved using Maptionnaire because it put my opinions about Cardiff out in the world.”
- “The budget game at the end was fantastic, as I considered my choices and thought about what all the space could be used for which made me feel responsible.”

Another aspect of the engagement work with children and young people has included visits to local schools by Planning Officers where children were given the role of ‘Planning Pioneers’ and led the officers on walks around their local areas to give their views on what worked well

and what could be improved. Pupils were able to share their views with the planners about specific parts of their local area, as well as having an opportunity to ask questions, and the planners had the rare opportunity to hear the children’s ideas first-hand. This helped to create a dialogue with the children and empower them, as their opinions were being listened to by changemakers.



Map showing where pupils would spend their budgets

In June 2022 the survey was launched as part of Cardiff’s first Virtual Grand Council which was open to all pupils in the city in Years Five and Six. During the virtual meeting, the Council’s Head of Planning spoke about the importance of involving children in the LDP process. Participation in this event was high and over 300 questions were asked during the session. A suite of resources such as lesson plans, videos and presentations were created to further develop teaching opportunities within the project. These all link to the new Curriculum for Wales and support teachers in providing rich, dynamic learning experiences, set in an authentic context.

In total, over 1,500 pupils completed the survey from 39 different schools across Cardiff sharing their views on their local areas. Feedback from teachers involved in the project was extremely positive. One teacher stated “The project was excellent and was closely aligned with the new Curriculum for Wales providing opportunity to give pupils a voice and share their views in an authentic, meaningful context.”

For further information contact:

Lee Patterson

Child Friendly Co-ordinator – Cardiff Council

Lee.Patterson@cardiff.gov.uk | 07976 056135 | www.childfriendlycardiff.co.uk