Local Living and 20 Minute Neighbourhoods.

Planning Guidance - Draft for Consultation

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Local Living and 20 Minute Neighbourhoods Planning Guidance

Consultation Draft
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Contents

Executive Summary

The complex challenges we face - from the climate and nature crises to poverty and disadvantage, and stark health inequalities – require a joined-up and collaborative approach to deliver positive outcomes for people and the environment.

Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods can help to deliver the healthy, sustainable and resilient places required to support a good quality of life and balance our environmental impact.

The Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhood concepts aim to create places where people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home, by walking, wheeling or cycling.

Local Living
Local living provides people with the opportunity to meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home.

20 minute neighbourhoods
The 20 minute neighbourhood concept is one method of supporting local living.

The 20 minute neighbourhoods concept aims to provide access to the majority of daily needs within a 20 minute walk, wheel or cycle.

Benefits

- **Climate and environment**
  Local living can play an important role in balancing our relationship with nature and the environment. Providing good quality opportunities to walk, wheel or cycle to the places we need to access most regularly can help to reduce the reliance on private car use, help to cut emissions, improve air quality and provide more space for nature and biodiversity. Retrofitting and repurposing existing buildings reduces the emissions associated with new construction and retains the embodied carbon within existing structures.
- **Health and wellbeing**
  Local living can help to improve wellbeing, increasing the opportunity for people to move around in healthy ways, encouraging physical activity and social interaction and providing access to good quality greenspace.
- **Local economy**
  Planning and designing places which support a good range of local services can provide access to employment and training opportunities, increase footfall for existing businesses, help support regeneration of our town and local centres and support effective community wealth building.
- **Quality of life**
  Providing places which are attractive, vibrant and that meet the needs of local communities enhances quality of life, helping to improve social interaction, building social capital and creating resilient and diverse places.

Key characteristics of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) Policy 15 sets out a range of services and amenities that should be considered by development proposals in contributing to local living.

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:
To encourage, promote and facilitate the application of the Place Principle and create connected and compact neighbourhoods where people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home, preferably by walking, wheeling or cycling or using sustainable transport options.

Policy Outcomes:
- Places are planned to improve local living in a way that reflects local circumstances.
- A network of high-quality, accessible, mixed-use neighbourhoods which support health and wellbeing, reduce inequalities and are resilient to the effects of climate change.
- New and existing communities are planned together with homes and the key local infrastructure including schools, community centres, local shops, greenspaces, health and social care, digital and sustainable transport links.

Local Development Plans:
LDPs should support local living, including 20 minute neighbourhoods within settlements, through the spatial strategy, associated site briefs and masterplans. The approach should take into account the local context, consider the varying settlement patterns and reflect the particular characteristics and challenges faced by each place. Communities and businesses will have an important role to play in informing this, helping to strengthen local living through their engagement with the planning system.

Policy 15
a) Development proposals will contribute to local living including, where relevant, 20 minute neighbourhoods. To establish this, consideration will be given to existing settlement pattern, and the level and quality of interconnectivity of the proposed development

with the surrounding area, including local access to:
- sustainable modes of transport including local public transport and safe, high quality walking, wheeling and cycling networks;
- employment;
- shopping;
- health and social care facilities;
- childcare, schools and lifelong learning opportunities;
- playgrounds and informal play opportunities, parks, green streets and spaces, community gardens, opportunities for food growth and allotments, sport and recreation facilities;
- publicly accessible toilets;
- affordable and accessible housing options, ability to age in place and housing diversity.

Policy impact:
- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Local living
- Compact urban growth
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:
Tackling the climate and nature crises
Climate mitigation and adaptation
Sustainable transport
Design, quality and place
Infrastructure first
Quality homes
Blue and green infrastructure
Play, recreation and sport
Community wealth building
City, town, local and commercial centres
Retail

Extract from NPF4 – Policy 15 Local Living and 20 Minute Neighbourhoods

To support application of NPF4 policy, and the broad consideration of daily needs within communities, a Local Living Framework has been developed. This framework is intended to act as a consistent structure to consider the key characteristics of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods in development planning, decision-making and in design proposals.

The Framework sets out 14 key themes, derived from the Place Standard tool, grouped into 5 overarching categories as the key considerations for local living. The categories are; Movement; Space; Resources; Civic, Stewardship.
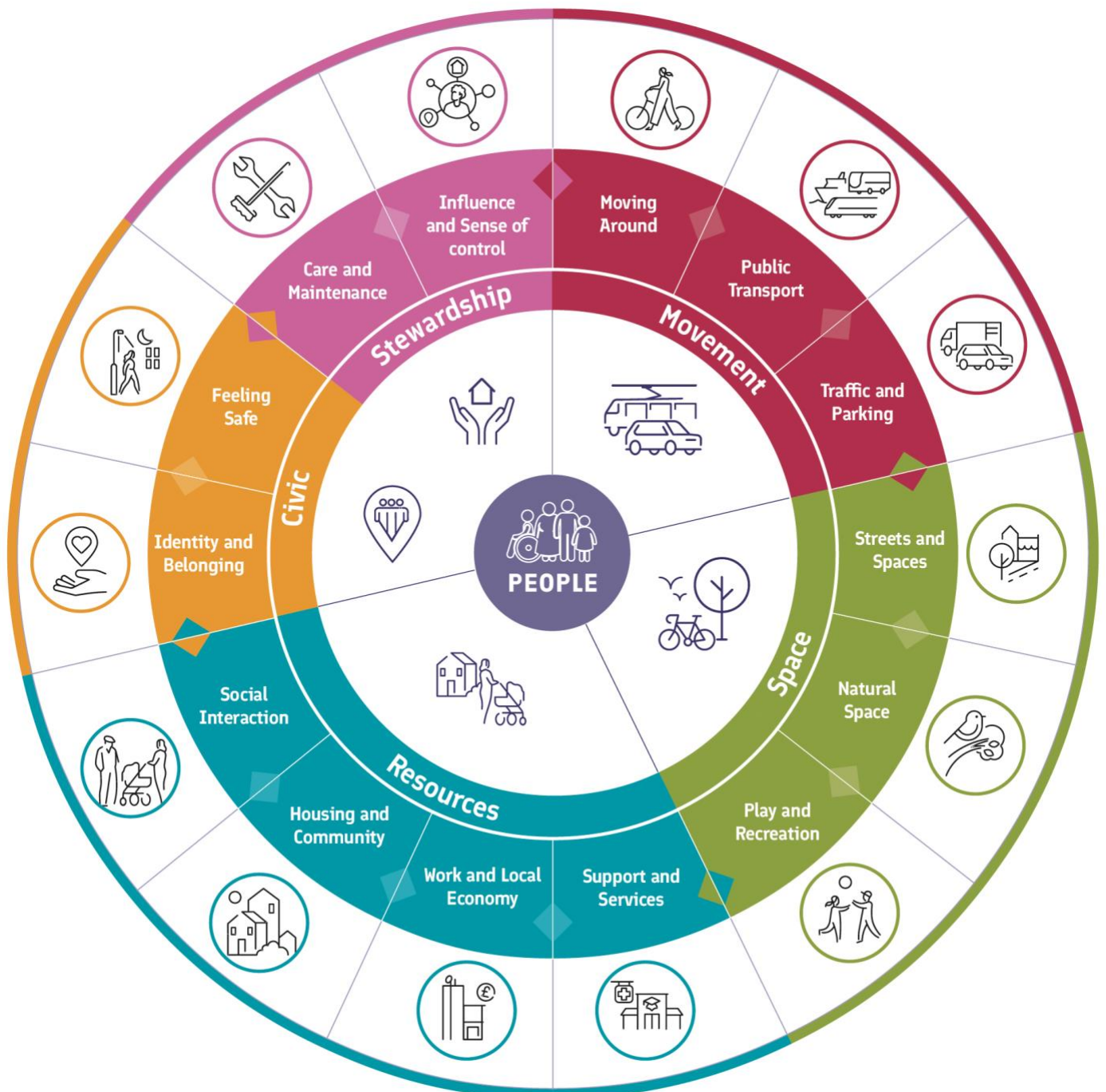

Fig 1; Local Living Framework diagram

Delivering local living

Local living is a place-based approach that requires a full understanding of the context and consideration of all the assets, opportunities and needs in a place.

Many existing places already operate as 20 minute neighbourhoods, some may require change to improve their liveability and new and emerging places should be designed with local living at their heart.

Delivering a structured approach to local living can be supported through the following steps:

1. **Understand context** - understanding the context of the place through the use of quantitative and qualitative information.
2. **Collaborate, plan, design** - developing collaborative models of working to inform place-based planning and design processes.
3. **Implement and review** - aligning investment, developing delivery capacity and embedding in ways of working.
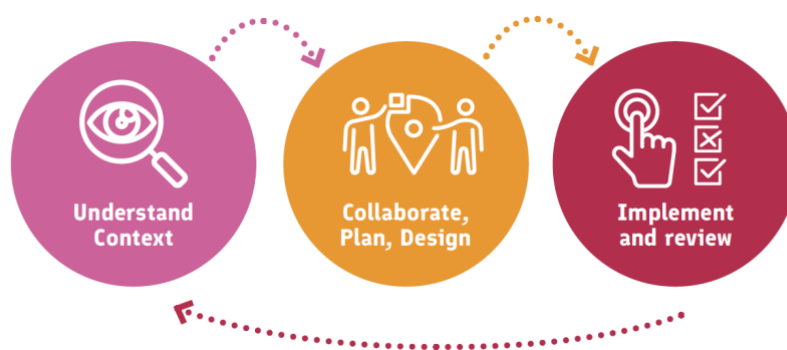

Fig 2; Steps for a structured approach to local living

Local living is a flexible concept and should be adapted to support the context, local needs and aspirations of communities. For example, communities in remote rural or island locations may not be able to easily access the majority of daily needs within a 20 minute walk, wheel or cycle. However, engaging directly with local communities to understand pressures and opportunities can help develop approaches to local living that are appropriate and that help to maximise the benefits for local people and the environment.

Collaboration, participation and place-based working are essential components to deliver local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods. Local liveability requires that places are inclusive and enable everyone to live well locally and to participate and contribute to decisions about their places.

Place making is incremental and the tools and approaches noted in this guidance are suggested as a means to gather the type and quality of information needed to inform strategies, decisions and actions that can be useful in supporting sustainable, healthy and resilient places.

Introduction

The fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) sets out a clear commitment to think differently about our places, putting climate and nature at the forefront, tackling long standing challenges and inequalities, and leading the transition to stronger, greener, fairer and healthier communities across Scotland.

A key element of this agenda is the need to plan, design and deliver places that support local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods, where people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home.

Local living can support our health and wellbeing, tackle inequality, increase climate resilience and deliver vibrant local economies. Providing better access to more of the services and facilities that people need on a daily basis can reduce the need to travel unsustainably, increase opportunities for social connections and help to build a positive sense of belonging and community resilience.

Delivering local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods requires an understanding of the specific context of a place. Whatever the context - cities, town, village, rural and island communities - the views and interests of local people must be at the forefront of the decisions made about a place. Local living and the 20 minute neighbourhood concept should respond to the assets, opportunities and needs of a place. It is a flexible approach rather than a template and does not restrict movement or impose boundaries, but rather is a way of supporting communities to have more of their daily needs met locally, enabling healthy and sustainable lifestyles.

This document provides further detail to support the NPF4 policy framework on Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods. It aims to encourage, promote and facilitate the application of the Place Principle and create connected and compact neighbourhoods which prioritise environmental, social and economic sustainability.

The guidance is intended to assist and support planning authorities, communities and others with an interest in local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods. It is expected to be of particular relevance in the preparation of Local Development Plans (LDPs), Local Place Plans (LPPs) and to support planning decision making. Planning authorities are expected to consider how the guidance can be applied in a proportionate and place-based way and to use their discretion in deciding which components of the advice are relevant to their processes.

This guidance sets out:
- The benefits and context for local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods
- What local living looks like - the key considerations of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods
- Ways to support the delivery of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods, including case studies

Part 1 – Local Living

The benefits of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

People, place and planet

The [National Performance Framework](), the United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs)]() and [NPF4]() all recognise that the places where we live and spend our time have a direct impact on health and wellbeing, quality of life and environmental balance.

NPF4 sets out a series of spatial principles for Scotland 2045; Just Transition, Local Living, Compact Urban Growth, Rebalanced Development, and Rural Revitalisation These spatial principles support the planning and delivery of 'Sustainable Places', 'Liveable Places', and 'Productive Places'. Creating places that support local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods will play an important role in contributing to national and global sustainability outcomes.

The current environmental, social and economic circumstances bring multiple, interrelated challenges and require us to rethink how we plan and deliver places.

Research[1] into 20 minute neighbourhoods in a Scottish context identified the opportunity for the concept to support:

- Climate action
- Decreased health inequalities
- Improved local economy
- Improved liveability/quality of life

Places with high quality housing, the right local infrastructure, good access to services, employment, education and sustainable travel options can help to break cycles of disadvantage and poverty, promote healthy lifestyles and support physical and mental wellbeing. They can also help to build thriving local economies and support community wealth building, strengthening local resilience as well as playing an important role in supporting environmental sustainability.

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[1] [Research into 20 Minute Neighbourhoods in a Scottish Context by Climatexchange and Ramboll]()

Fig 3; Outcomes of a 20 minute neighbourhood: Ramboll, Climatexchange
Report

Climate and environment

Addressing the challenges of the twin climate and nature crises requires change in the framework for decision-making, in individual and collective behaviours and in the physical environment. The Climate Change Plan update sets out the Scottish Government's pathway to new and ambitious targets set by the Climate Change Act 2019 and is a key strategic document on our green recovery from COVID-19.

Local living can play an important role in lowering emissions through promoting sustainable and active travel, as well as developing the wider resilience of our communities against the impacts of climate change. Creating walkable places with easily accessible shops, services and employment will play an important role in reducing reliance on car use. An approach that focusses on a less intensive use of the road network also provides opportunity to repurpose land for people and nature, helping to enhance our environment and providing space for greater biodiversity. The focus on local living can also provide opportunities for community food production and local enterprises, reducing embodied energy in the foods we eat and the goods we buy.

Local living can also help to focus on existing assets and what future uses they may have, supporting the reuse and regeneration of our town and local centres. Retrofitting and repurposing existing buildings reduces the carbon associated with new construction and retains the embodied carbon within existing structures.

Health and wellbeing

Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods have an important role to play in supporting wellbeing creation and reducing health inequalities. Local living provides increased opportunity for people to move around in healthy ways, encouraging physical activity and social interaction and access to good quality greenspace. Reducing the reliance on private vehicles can also help to improve air quality and the safety of neighbourhoods, creating attractive places which encourage social interaction and opportunities for play and activity.

The Place and Wellbeing Outcomes support local living and the delivery of the 20-minute neighbourhood concept and provide a consistent and comprehensive focus for how place can positively influence the wellbeing of people and planet.

The COVID-19 pandemic saw communities required to meet their daily needs more locally and helped to develop a greater understanding of the benefits of local living. It also highlighted the ability of places to be resilient or vulnerable to external pressures depending their physical characteristics and social capital. Access to good quality greenspace, high quality homes, the availability of local, good quality employment, and social capital and connectedness can make the difference between communities and individuals thriving or facing significant challenges that impact negatively on wellbeing.
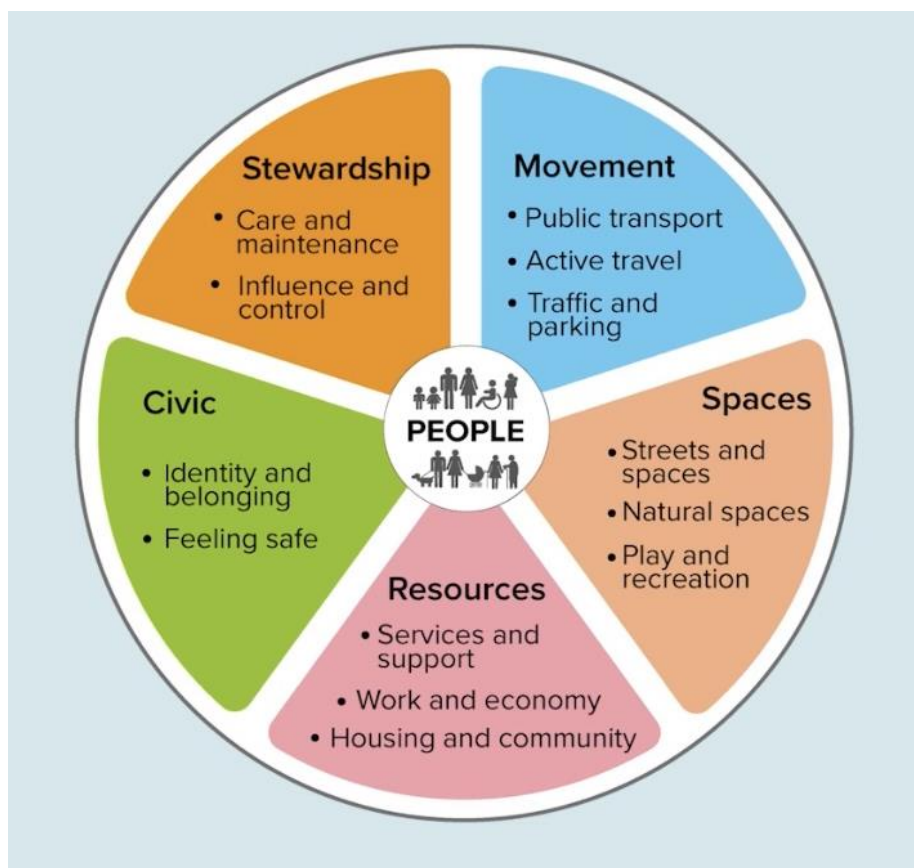

Fig 4; The Place and Wellbeing Outcomes
diagram, The Improvement Service

Local economy

Active and vibrant local centres are important not only in the services and facilities that they provide to the community, but also in terms of the employment opportunities that they offer. Places that are designed for local living can help to concentrate activity in local centres, providing important footfall and helping to sustain existing business as well as encouraging new enterprise and community wealth building. Many approaches to local living may seek to redevelop brownfield, vacant and derelict land, helping to bring land back into productive use, reducing blight and encouraging investment in our communities.

Quality of life

Having convenient access to the things we need to access most regularly supports people to live well within their local areas. A positive sense of place can encourage people to interact more with their surroundings and with each other, helping to combat social isolation and loneliness and building social capital and resilience. Access to good quality greenspace and vibrant, attractive public spaces that support and encourage community life are important elements in supporting community wellbeing and quality of life.

The Policy Context

The role of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods as part of a reformed planning system has been set out in Scottish Government strategic documents, including the Programme for Government.

National Planning Framework 4

National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) sets a clear policy agenda throughout the document that encourages local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods. Although delivering local living requires wide consideration of NPF4 principles and policies, specific Policy Intent and Policy Outcomes are set out in NPF Policy 15, as follows:

Policy Intent:
- To encourage, promote and facilitate the application of the Place Principle and create connected and compact neighbourhoods where people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home, preferably by walking, wheeling or cycling or using sustainable transport options.

Policy Outcomes:
- Places are planned to improve local living in a way that reflects local circumstances.
- A network of high-quality, accessible, mixed-use neighbourhoods which support health and wellbeing, reduce inequalities and are resilient to the effects of climate change.
- New and existing communities are planned together with homes and the key local infrastructure including schools, community centres, local shops, greenspaces, health and social care, digital and sustainable transport links.

The delivery of NPF4 is supported by a wider programme of planning reform that will contribute towards local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods. Supporting the delivery further, we have embedded the principles of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods in a range of wider policy initiatives including Housing to 2040, the Town Centre Action Plan, the Getting the Right Change - A Retail Strategy for Scotland and NTS2 National Transport Strategy.

Public Service Reform

Public services touch on many aspects of everyday life – including health, social care, education, early years, community justice, enterprise and skills – and play a crucial role in ensuring people's wellbeing. Integration, collaboration and a shift towards prevention are key elements of the public service reform agenda. The long-term and holistic approach of good placemaking and local living provides planning with an opportunity to play an important role in supporting public service reform and improved outcomes for communities. To achieve this, collaborative working across and between all sectors is required, including empowering communities and focussing multiple policy areas and services on an outcomes-based approach.

The Place Context

Understanding the place context is central to for designing and delivering interventions with the aim of supporting local living. By 'place context' we mean the physical, social, and economic context. We know that places are influenced by physical issues such as location, built form and connections, but places are also defined and influenced by social and economic contexts. Understanding the interrelationships between these elements is central to delivering good places and successful local living.

How local living operates will rely heavily on the place context. An urban area may have greater density to support walkable access to a wider range of facilities than a remote rural or island location. However, even in the context of wider geographies involved in rural locations, the fundamental principles of planning and designing places to support good quality, sustainable access to facilities and promote meaningful social interaction remain.

The Place Principle

The [Place Principle](#) provides the overarching policy context for place-based working, by encouraging a participative approach to planning places, services, infrastructure, land uses and buildings. It encourages collaborative, partnership working with a range of stakeholders, including local communities and community groups, businesses, transport providers, health, and education providers, and across local authority structures.

The application of the Place Principle is key to the delivery of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods. Taking a place-based approach involves dealing with complexity and the [Place Based Framework](#) provides a mechanism to support collaborative and contextual working. It recognises that to achieve real change demands tackling multiple issues and provides a consistent approach to help support increased impact and multiple benefits.

The Six Qualities of Successful Places

The six qualities of successful places are the guiding principles underpinning the Scottish Government's approach to delivering good places.
The six qualities of successful places are set out as:
- Healthy;
- Pleasant;
- Connected;
- Distinctive;
- Sustainable; and
- Adaptable.

Further details on delivering the six qualities of successful places are set out in Annex D of [NPF4](#).

Rural and Island Context

Scotland's diverse urban and rural geographies require flexibility of approach in relation to 20 minute neighbourhoods and this is reflected in NPF4 through a wider emphasis on local liveability.

Accessing the majority of daily needs within a 20 minute walk, wheel or cycle in remote rural or island areas may not always be achievable. However, it is still possible to support local living through planning for connected, attractive, sustainable places that respect the character and context of rural places.

Where populations and services are distributed more widely, it is important to consider the relationships between settlements and the opportunities to support a network of local places where daily needs can be met. Creating local hubs with good transport links and improved digital connectivity can help to reduce the need for rural communities to travel longer distances and provide local employment opportunities. Capitalising on digital infrastructure to support remote and home working reduces the need to travel and the associated costs, time and environmental impact.

Joined-up planning and design approaches based on providing good quality, sustainable access to the majority of daily needs can help to support the quality of life in rural communities, increasing opportunities for business, providing well connected housing, enhancing local character and reducing transport costs. Local input and participation will be important in shaping what local living looks like in rural areas and to support finding the right solutions that offer a net zero and sustainable approach to rural living.

Across our rural and island landscape, there are many examples of projects supporting local living principles. This study [Living Well Locally, 20 Minute Communities in the Highlands and Islands](#) commissioned by Hitrans looks at what a 20 Minute Neighbourhood could look like in a rural and island context and what would need to happen for a rural settlement to become a 20 minute community.

Part 2 - What Local Living Looks Like

Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Part 2 of this guidance describes what local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods look like in a Scottish context. The objective of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods is to provide everyone with easy, sustainable and equitable access to the key facilities and services needed on a daily basis.

Local living
Local living supports people to meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home.

20 minute neighbourhoods
The 20 minute neighbourhood concept is one method of supporting local living.

The 20 minute neighbourhood concept aims to provide access to the majority of daily needs within a 20 minute walk, wheel or cycle.

Research shows that 20 minutes (roughly 10 minutes out and the same to return home) is generally the threshold time-period that people are willing to walk to access key destinations. The distance covered in a 20 minute round trip, by walking, will vary according to multiple conditions and factors. The quality of

surrounding environment, the different circumstances, age and ability of individuals and their communities, the location, and the topography, are contributory factors in the distance people are willing or able to travel actively to access service.

In rural and island settings, where the geographical context is complex and varied, the aspiration and focus needs to be on enabling people to have access to the services, amenities and facilities needed for a full life. The 20 minutes should not be considered as the defining or limiting factor in for local living in any context but as a useful gauge of the aspiration around access and proximity to services within a neighbourhood to enable people to live well locally.

Key considerations for local living

The concept of local living should not be understood or applied as a template or tick box exercise. It is a flexible approach which can adapt to support the context, local needs and aspirations of communities.

Whatever the context - cities, town, village, rural and island communities - the views and interests of local people must be at the forefront of the decisions made about a place. Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods are not restrictive on people's behaviour and are simply a way of supporting and encouraging communities to access more of their daily needs locally, enabling healthy and sustainable lifestyles.

Daily needs can be defined in terms of the services, amenities and facilities required in a community for daily living. How people's daily needs are met in dispersed, rural and island communities, small towns and larger towns or cities is likely to look quite different. Some core daily needs will remain constant, such as ability to work, eat healthy food, access health services, go to school and spend time outdoors, irrespective of the settlement size and location. Establishing the daily needs in collaboration with a local community is a good starting point when planning or designing for local living.

A Local Living Framework diagram has been developed to provide a consistent structure to consider local living and the daily needs in a place. The framework sets out 14 key themes, derived from the Place Standard tool, grouped into 5 overarching categories as the key considerations for local living. The categories are: Movement, Space, Resources, Civic and Stewardship.
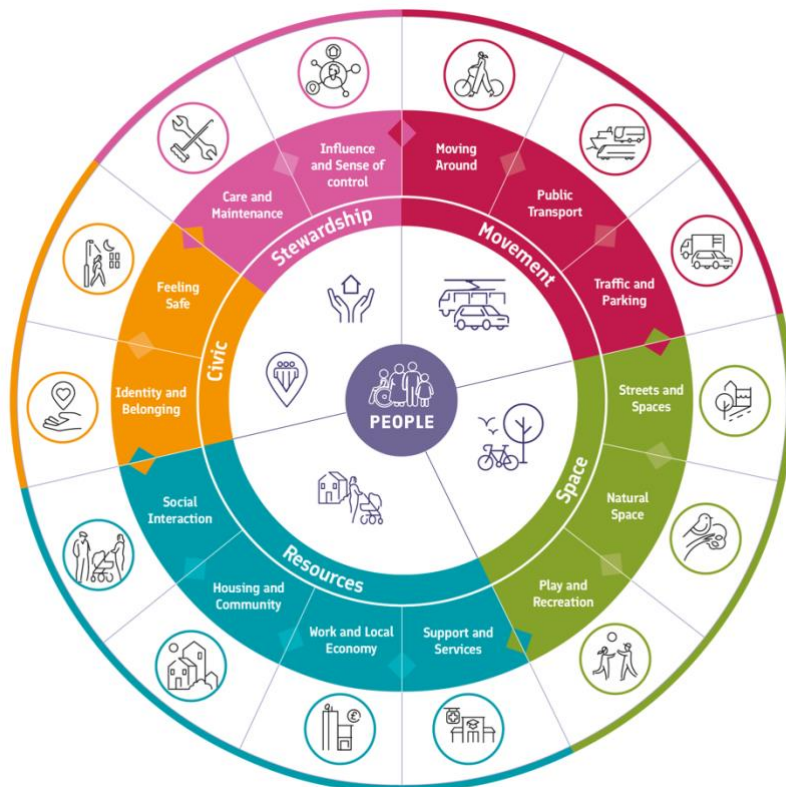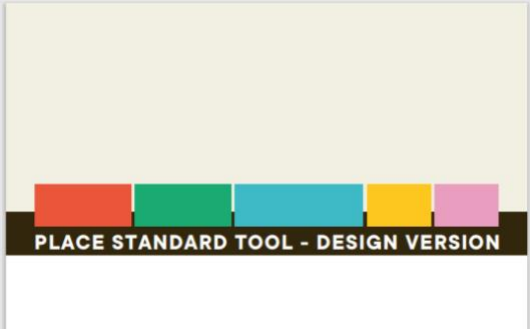

Fig 5; The Local Living Framework

The Local Living Framework reflects the structure of existing tools and resources for good placemaking and an outcomes-based approach, including the Place and Wellbeing outcomes and the Place Standard Design version. The Place Standard Design version was specifically created to support the development planning, development management and design processes, and considerations within the framework of the 14 Place Standard themes.

The images below are taken from the Place Standard tool Design Version. The full content of the Place Standard Design version provides detail on how plans and proposals can be developed within the Local Living Framework.

Movement	→	Moving Around	Strategic cycle routes, local cycle routes, footpaths, pavements, active travel networks, connectivity, desire lines, destinations, permeability, surfaces, experience, accessibility, catering for different needs.
	🚌	Public Transport	Local, regional, interconnection, commuting, infrastructure, sustainable travel, interchange between public transport & active travel, modal shifts in transport.
	P	Traffic and & Parking	Public realm experience, integrated, safe, controlled, vehicular speed & noise, perceptual barriers, pedestrian priority, technology, deliveries, uplift, loading, cycling, charging, types & organisation of parking.
Space	📍	Streets and Spaces	Quality of public realm, public space, legibility, orientation, wayfinding, street hierarchies and experience, character, vibrant, usability, inclusivity, multi-functionality, street frontage, thresholds, materials, boundaries.
	🌲	Natural Space	Parks & open space, natural landscape, visual connection, existing features or landforms, access & connectivity, climate resilience, ecosystems, blue & green infrastructure, biodiversity, growing, productive spaces, educational benefits.
	☺	Play and Recreation	Variety & quality of play & recreation provision across age groups, care & maintenance, site features, indoor & outdoor sport, health & fitness, seating, social.
Resources	+	Facilities and Services	Education, health facilities, social care, lifetime support, access & connectivity, mixed use, range & variety, associations, quality of services, sustainable provision, adaptation, healthy food, utilities, communications, repair, waste & recycling.
	£	Work and Economy	Active local economy, quality of employment, training opportunities, work spaces, working from home, access to education, community enterprise, third sector, entrepreneurship, wider impact, local businesses.
	🏠	Housing and Community	Relationship with local area, range of tenures, types & sizes, adaptability, social integration, shared resources, ongoing management, community assets, provision of communal facilities, energy & sustainability.
	👤	Social Interactions	Social spaces (indoor & outdoor), local groups & organisations, public spaces, informal social space, communal activities, welcoming spaces, tackling inequalities, cohesion.
Civic	♥	Identity and Belonging	Culture, heritage, topography, landscape, landmarks, gateways, design codes, local architectural styles / distinctiveness, perception, legibility, encouraging diversity, sharing networks.
	🗝	Feeling Safe	Passive surveillance, reactivation of derelict spaces, weather, climate emergency, routes & access, boundaries, play, connections, trust, care.
Stewardship	⚙	Care and Maintenance	Rights & responsibilities, public & private, housing management, climate emergency, weather events, long-term occupation, operational costs, procurement, longevity, fitness for purpose, communication, everyday care.
	💬	Influence and Control	Consultation, self-initiation, long-term management, community ownership, community capacity building, evaluation & ongoing improvement.

Fig 6; The Place Standard Tool, Design Version

The following key considerations provide detail on the important issues that should be considered and where appropriate, addressed in delivering successful local living around the categories of Movement, Space, Resources, Civic, and Stewardship.

Movement – key considerations

The local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods concepts support low carbon lifestyles. Local living requires sustainable means of transport to be prioritised, complementing local circumstances and reflecting the National Transport Strategy sustainable transport hierarchy. Implementing the concept nationally, across diverse urban and rural geographies requires flexibility, with focus, in every case, on optimising how we meet and access those daily needs.

The Scottish Government is working towards an ambitious national target to reduce car kilometres by 20% by 2030, with means to achieve this detailed in the route map. Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods contribute to this goal, helping to improve opportunities for walking, wheeling and cycling, improving access to local shops and services and thereby reducing the need to travel unsustainably. The route map sets out system-level interventions that will support people at the individual level to reduce car use, but also four key sustainable travel behaviours for people to consider when planning a journey, acknowledging that how that happens will vary between individuals and communities across Scotland.

The ways in which we access and fulfil our daily needs locally, through active and sustainable travel, must be considered alongside the means of accessing wider services and amenities, such as those that are further afield, perhaps in a town or city or a neighbouring settlement. NPF4 Policy 13 (Sustainable Transport) (B vii) states that proposals should take into account, at the earliest stage of design, the transport needs of diverse groups including users with protected characteristics to ensure the safety, ease and needs of all users.

Advances in digital technology can improve opportunities to access services remotely for communities. Planning and decision-making to support local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods should consider digital accessibility alongside physical accessibility and spatial proximity, focussing on the range, types and quality of services that are accessible, rather than solely how far an individual is required to travel and how quickly. It is also important to consider and carefully balance the opportunities to access services or facilities remotely with encouraging social and economic activity, to deliver thriving and active neighbourhood, village, town, or city centres.

Movement

	Place Standard tool theme	Key considerations for local living
	Moving Around	Strategic cycle routes, local cycle routes, footpaths, secure cycle storage, shared transport, care share/trip share, inclusive of variety of pedalled vehicles, pavements, active travel networks, connectivity, desire lines, destinations, permeability, surfaces, experience, accessibility, safety, inclusive.
	Public Transport	Local, regional, interconnection, commuting, infrastructure, sustainable travel, interchange between public transport & active travel, mobility hubs, modal shifts in transport.
	Traffic and Parking	Public realm experience, integrated, safe, controlled, low vehicular volume, speed & noise, perceptual barriers, pedestrian priority, technology, deliveries, uplift, loading, cycle parking, charging, low and no parking provision, types & organisation of parking.

Additional information to support the key considerations on the Movement category is contained in Annex B.

Spaces – key considerations

Buildings, landmarks, greenery, views and natural landscape can help to create attractive places that are important to community life, can enhance wellbeing, encourage investment and create a positive sense of place.

Distinctive streets and spaces support local identity and wayfinding and the location and design of key buildings, including public services, shops and hospitality plays an important role delivering successful local living.

Access to natural spaces and greenspaces for recreation, relaxation, play, and informal sports is essential to support an active and healthy lifestyle and to promote wellbeing as well as supporting environment sustainability and biodiversity.

Spaces

	Place Standard tool theme	Key considerations for local living
	Streets & Spaces	Quality of public realm, public space, legibility, orientation, wayfinding, street hierarchies and experience, character, vibrant, usability, inclusivity, multifunctionality, street frontage, thresholds, materials, boundaries.
	Natural Space	Parks & open space, natural landscape, visual connection, existing features or landforms, access & connectivity, climate resilience, ecosystems, blue & green infrastructure, biodiversity, growing, productive spaces, educational benefits
	Play & Recreation	Variety & quality of play & recreation provision across age groups, care & maintenance, site features, indoor & outdoor sport, health & fitness, seating, social.

Additional information that may be useful to support the key considerations on the Spaces category can be found in Annex B.

Resources – key considerations

Local living focusses on convenient access the resources, facilities and amenities in an area are an essential element of achieving a liveable and successful community.

Access to public services such as healthcare, education and libraries, as well as shops, cafes, leisure facilities, local employment opportunities and social spaces should be considered alongside the level and type of housing provision. Whether town centre regeneration or new housing developments, creating the conditions for local living requires a holistic focus on creating places and supporting healthy, sustainable lifestyles, not simply on the development and allocation of land.

Resources

	Place Standard tool theme	Key considerations for local living
	Facilities & Services	Education, health facilities, social care, lifetime support, access & connectivity, mixed use, range & variety, associations, quality of services, sustainable provision, adaptation, healthy food, utilities, communications, repair, waste & recycling.
	Work & Economy	Active local economy, quality of employment, training opportunities, work spaces, working from home, access to education, community enterprise, third sector, entrepreneurship, wider impact, local businesses
	Housing & Community	Relationship with local area, range of tenures, types & sizes, accessibility, adaptability, social integration, shared resources, ongoing management, community assets, provision of communal facilities, energy & sustainability.
	Social Interaction	Social spaces (indoor & outdoor), local groups & organisations, public spaces, informal social space, communal activities, welcoming spaces, tackling inequalities, cohesion.

Additional information that may be useful to support the key considerations on the category 'Resources' can be found in Annex B.

Civic – key considerations

Civic activities involve local people coming together to engage in community activities specific to their local area and/or common interests. The identity of a community or neighbourhood is intrinsically linked to civic activity within that area.

Civic identity, activities and capacity is complex and influenced by a number of factors. Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods has an important role to play in supporting civic life, through creating successful places with strong, positive identities and spaces for public life.

Civic

	Place Standard tool theme	Key considerations for local living
	Identity & Belonging	Culture, heritage, topography, landscape, landmarks, gateways, design codes, local architectural styles / distinctiveness, perception, legibility, encouraging diversity, sharing networks.
	Feeling Safe	Passive surveillance, reactivation of derelict spaces, weather, climate emergency, routes & access, boundaries, play, connections, trust, care.

Additional information that may be useful to support the key considerations on the Civic category can be found in Annex B.

Stewardship – key considerations
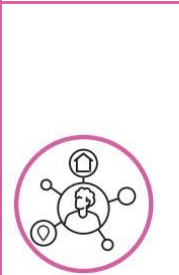
When places work well for communities, the local population is more likely to be engaged and able to influence decision-making processes. Places that are cared for promote positive and secure connections, while those that are not looked after properly can adversely affect people's wellbeing.

The social and physical environment helps to shape ways in which community resilience is built and maintained, and local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods can help to create places where people feel connected and are encouraged to participate in community life.

NPF4 sets out as a cross cutting outcome, the vision of a fair and inclusive planning system that helps to eliminate discrimination and promote equality. The planning system provides opportunities to engage in development planning and decisions about future development and this engagement should be early, collaborative, meaningful and proportionate.

Stewardship

	Place Standard tool theme	Key considerations for local living
	Care & Maintenance	Rights & responsibilities, public & private, housing management, climate emergency, weather events, long-term occupation, operational costs, procurement, longevity, fitness for purpose, communication, everyday care.
	Influence and Sense of control	Consultation, self-initiation, long-term management, community ownership, community capacity building, evaluation & ongoing improvement.

Additional information that may be useful to support the key considerations on the Stewardship category can be found in Annex B.

Part 3 - Ways to Support Local Living and 20 Minute Neighbourhoods

Structuring the approach

In delivering local living, whether through the planning system or more broadly, three key steps are recommended:

1. **Understand context** - understanding the context of the place through the use of quantitative and qualitative information.
2. **Collaborate, plan, design**- developing collaborative models of working to inform place-based planning and design processes.
3. **Implement and review** - aligning investment, developing delivery capacity and supporting new ways of working.

Delivering local living will most often be part of an incremental approach and the above steps may be repeated as part of an ongoing, iterative process.
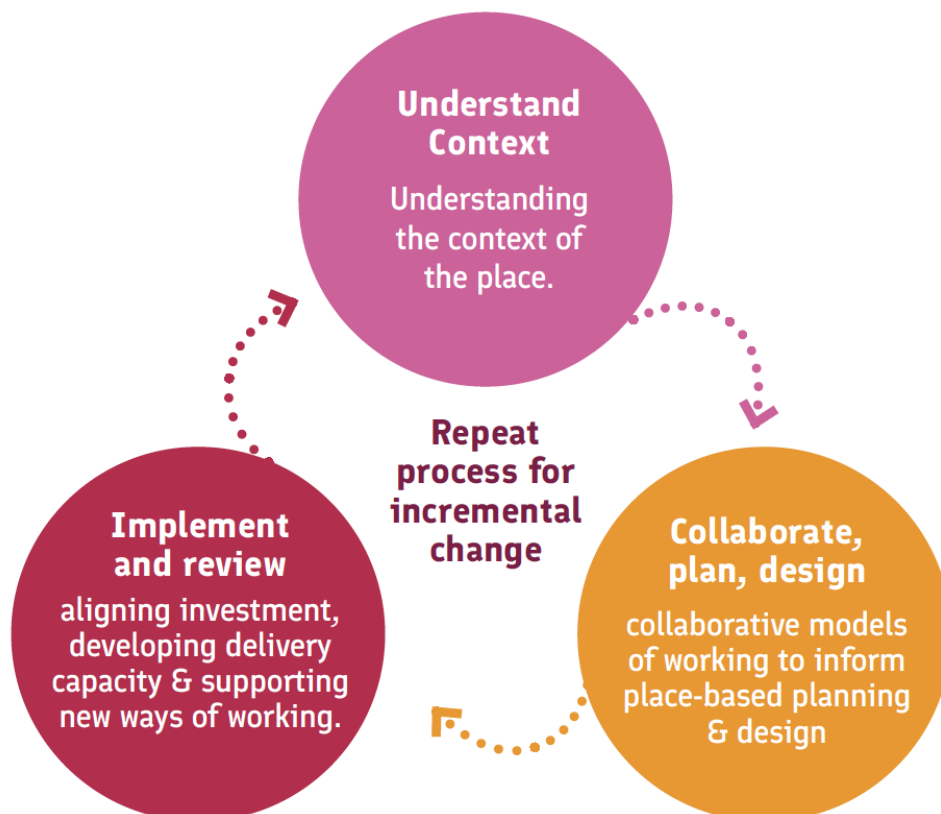
Fig 7; Steps for a structured approach to local living

Understand context

To improve, develop and change a place there first must be a thorough understanding of the context as a starting point. This can be developed through the study of the unique circumstances and characteristics of a place; the settlement patterns; the density and scale; connectedness or remoteness; historical, natural, physical and social assets; existing resources, services and facilities, including any changes that are planned and the policy context.

Once gathered this information can be referenced by the LDP Evidence Report, to help inform decisions about future development.

Fig 8; How the understanding of place can inform decisions about actions.

Data collection is essential in understanding the context of our places. Data should be both quantitative and qualitative, to ensure that local views are considered alongside statistics and hard data.

Multiple quantitative data sources are available and can be layered, overlapped and cross referenced to offer valuable information about a place. Gathering qualitative data enhances the range and depth of information, helping to understand community perspectives.

The following types of data can be utilised to build the picture of a place and in the measuring of progress against an initial or established baseline:

- **Quantitative data:** to assess existing, previous and future land uses, transport connections and patterns of behaviour in relation to daily needs.

This often involves spatial mapping and digital resources such as GIS - Geographic Information Systems.

- **Qualitative data:** to collect the views of the local community, businesses and service providers in an area. This can provide an important picture of the experience of people living within an area and views on the quality of the local environment. Assessment methodologies such as the Place Standard tool and other community engagement processes can be useful in gathering qualitative data, helping to capture the picture of lived experience in a place.

The following sections provide further detail on place-specific qualitative and quantitative information gathering in support of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods.

Quantitative data

Quantitative data gathering in relation to local living is a way of identifying and mapping what already exists to meet people's daily needs sustainably. This includes:

- **Facilities, services, and amenities** required for daily life.
- People's ability to **access** these features locally using safe, high-quality walking, wheeling, and cycling networks and sustainable modes of transport.

Some of the facilities, services and amenities will be buildings or places that people visit and can therefore be located precisely using GIS mapping, for example, schools, play parks, food shops and GP surgeries. Other qualitative data important to consider in delivering local living includes:

- Access to **work:** employment opportunities can take many forms including working from home, utilising local office and workshop space, co-working space, and business support functions.
- Access to **housing:** building a picture of the housing mix, demand, tenures and quality in an area is an important consideration for local living. This supports planning to deliver appropriate good quality housing at appropriate scales and densities, can help tackle rural depopulation and enable people to be able to be remain in their community as they grow older.
- Access to **digital services:** the provision of services using digital methods and means is increasing and becoming increasingly vital in supporting home working and businesses.
- Access to **transport and connectivity:** mapping can record the location, type and frequency of sustainable transport options and walking distances to key locations as well as providing important information on public transport access and car use.

Digital mapping can illustrate the range of daily needs accessible to particular streets or areas within a reasonable walk, wheel or cycle. This valuable data can then be used to develop options to improve access to services and to help direct investment in future facilities or projects.

It is important to remember that the 20 minute journey time may vary locally between communities, according to circumstance. What matters is enabling local liveability, convenience and accessibility for local people in a sustainable manner.

The realities of longer travel times and distances in remote locations, and expectations of accessibility, may differ from more densely populated areas. Digital mapping can be useful in providing various scenarios to help inform and engage communities on the opportunity and limitations to access to daily needs and support local living.

Digital mapping can also be used to make comparisons with other datasets such as Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, Census data and many other national and local spatial datasets.

Fig 9; Successful local living – it is not just the existence of an amenity or service, it is equally how people experience accessing it.

Qualitative data

When considering local living it is important not only to capture information on the range, diversity and access to daily needs within an area, but also to understand the extent to which services meet local need and the experience involved in accessing them.

For example:

- There may be access to shops, but do they provide for local needs; healthy food where there is a deficit, for example?
- Services and facilities may be accessible, but are the routes to them safe and attractive? Does the quality of the environment encourage people to walk.
- Are services inclusive and accessible to all members of the community? Are there hidden barriers that prevent people accessing their needs?

Through approaches that involve gathering of qualitative information we can assess how well people's daily needs are met. Qualitative data may be more complex to gather, but it can draw out key information about the things in a place that are important and contribute to ability of a community to thrive. Issues such as the identity and sense of belonging, history and culture, community aspirations,

30

perceptions of safety and opportunities to participate effectively in community life are all important considerations in supporting local living.

Community engagement

Many communities will already have been part of or undertaken community engagement relating to the future of their place. This might be through:

- Community action plans
- Locality Plans and other Community Planning exercises
- the Local Development Plan
- regeneration work such as town centre plans, area masterplans and community-led design processes
- community development initiatives

The results of previous engagement exercises like these can form a valuable starting point for qualitative information on people's access to daily needs, minimising duplication and cost.

The qualitative data and information gained through tools such as the Place Standard, combined with new and prior community engagement exercises, is an essential complement to quantitative data to create a rounded picture and a baseline for how well daily needs can be accessed sustainably in any community.

Developing a good understanding of the relationship between quantitative and qualitative information is crucial to successful delivery of local living and supports informed and joined-up planning and design processes.

Collaborate, plan, design
Informed decision making and integrated processes

Collaboration

The daily needs of people in a place do not fit neatly within one service, department or sector. Local living requires input from a broad range of stakeholders and a cross sector commitment to collaborative working, including supporting;

- **the Place Principle,** eradicating silo working and aligning investment, development delivery capacity and resources.
- **community engagement** to understand and shape local priorities to deliver the benefits of local living.
- **collaboration** between local communities, local authorities and Community Planning Partners.
- **flexibility and adaptability** to accommodate shifting priorities.
- **public service reform,** to deliver effective preventative spend and partnership working.

Fig 10; The Place Principle – all sectors working together

Planning and design

Land-use planning is a fundamental tool for embedding local living and 20 minute neighbourhood principles in our places. NPF4 provides a new approach to planning by combining the long term spatial strategy with national planning policies to form part of the statutory development plan.

Policy 15 of NPF4 sets out an expectation for local development plans to support local living, including 20 minute neighbourhoods within settlements, through the spatial strategy associated site briefs and masterplans.

Planning authorities are ideally placed to gather the quantitative and qualitative data that is essential to plan and deliver local living as part of the Evidence Report stage of LDP preparation. LDP policies, proposals and allocations, informed by the principles of good place making, can help to focus investment in buildings and places that deliver sustainable and healthy communities.

This information can then help to inform the development of the plan's spatial strategy and associate allocations of sites for development, at the proposed plan stage. Options and alternatives could be used to explore how best to achieve local living in a way that responds appropriately to the context and characteristics of the plan.

Collaborative approaches can also realise opportunities for combining investment to improve outcomes through locational choices within a plan, for example;

- Climate adaptation work in a place may provide opportunities to improve active travel or deliver multifunctional greenspace and biodiversity benefits;
- The location of new public buildings such as schools or council offices may support town centre regeneration and increase footfall for local businesses. The clustering and concentrating of services may reduce overall travel distances costs and times in accessing services.
- Can the location and density of new housing improve the viability of local services as well as meeting local housing need?

The principles of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods will be important considerations in community-led initiatives including Local Place Plans and, in turn, will play a key role in supporting local living in LDPs.

Leadership at a local level is a strategic component in the delivery of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods as evidenced in many of the recent examples of successful roll out of similar concepts across the world.

Implement and review

As well as understanding context and planning accordingly, delivering local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods involves coordination across investment plans and opportunities.

The commitment to support local living has been bolstered with the alignment of a number of cross government policies, strategies and investments that can support local delivery including NPF4, the Place Based Investment Programme, the Empowering Communities Programme, Town Centre Action Plan and Town Centre First Principle, Community Wealth Building, Housing to 2040, Climate Action Towns, the Infrastructure Investment Plan, investment for Active Travel and the Work Local Challenge Programme.

Different organisations and sectors have knowledge and skills and the ability to tap into resources and funding that others cannot. Community organisations and the third sector have essential local knowledge, insights and capacity. Local authorities have professional expertise, statutory powers and responsibilities, and regulatory roles related to many daily needs. The private sector is highly effective at making things happen, creating jobs and realising opportunities.

Each sector can support others to access resources and help share capacity and knowledge. Not only is this vital to make effective use of limited resources and capacity for delivery, it will also help to maximise the benefits of local living, developing co-benefits and supporting community wealth building.

| Home | School | Family Care | Business/Services | Work |
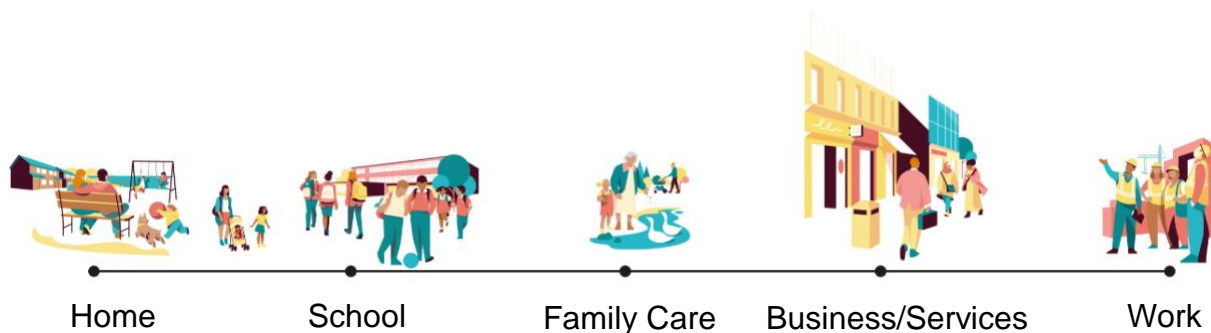
Fig 11; Trip chain diagram illustrates a possible daily journey that can be achieved using sustainable transport when amenities and key sector services are planned together.
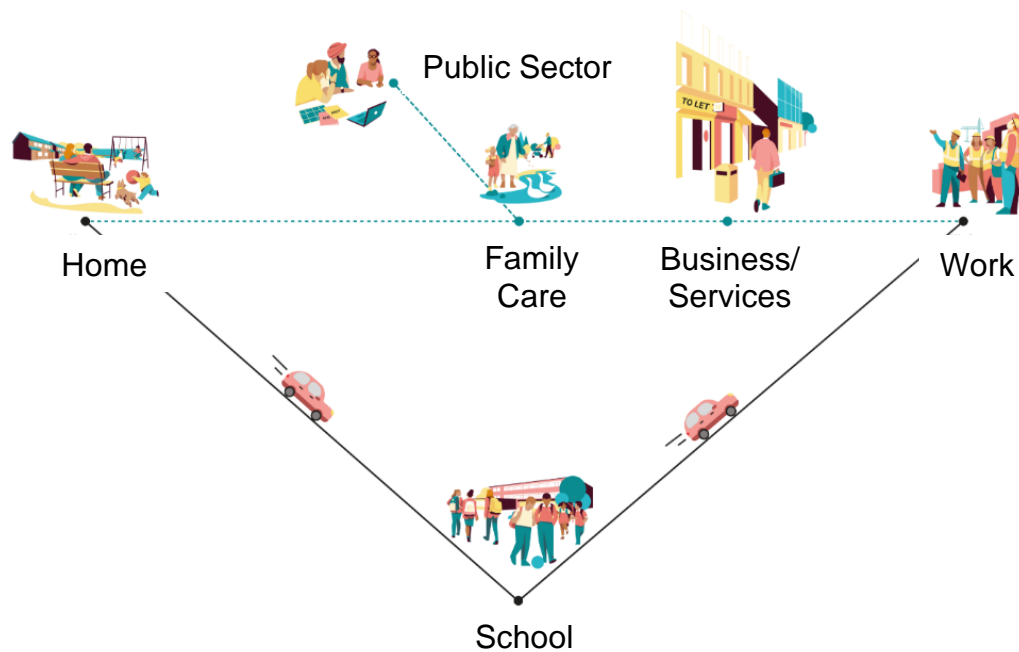
Fig 12; Diagram illustrates negative impacts on daily life and possible additional burdens placed on public services and town centres when amenities and key sector services are not planned together.

Everyone involved in making decisions about a place should ensure that actions are informed by considering the wider impacts and capturing co-benefits.

The concept is also applicable (where relevant) to planning decisions. Planning authorities are expected to apply planning judgement in determining whether or not planning applications are supported, or not, by Policy 15. To assist with this, applicants should be prepared to demonstrate how the proposal responds to its context including the existing settlement pattern and the level and quality of interconnectivity of the proposed development with the surrounding area. Policy 15 also sets out a list of considerations to help establish this, but it is recognised that their relevance will vary between applications and contexts. Over time, local living will be embedded within local development plans, providing a further steer on expectations for applications.

Review and monitoring should be undertaken to understand where further action is required, to listen and respond to feedback, to update plans and delivery models and to take advantage of new opportunities. This involves revisiting and updating the assessment of context and quantitative and qualitative data, as well as taking into account emerging community plans and activity. The most appropriate solutions for monitoring and review are likely to emerge through sharing of good practice and experience during the lifetime of this guidance.

Part 4 - Case Studies

This part of this document presents a range of case studies on how local living is being implemented in a variety of contexts across Scotland.

Aberdeenshire: building a network of urban and rural 20 Minute Neighbourhoods

Settlement range; City and urban to rural and remote rural

Key Initiatives; Facilitating Living Well Locally across diverse settlement patterns

Key challenges; rural depopulation, high levels of reliance on private car, quality of facilities.

Strategies employed; GIS data, national combined with local, Reviewing existing strategies and plans, The Place Standard Tool, Academy Towns and Smart Clachans, The Place Principle - aligning all policy, investment and service delivery

Aberdeenshire has a population of over 260,000 residents from the Cairngorms to the suburbs of Aberdeen. How do you tackle the challenge of facilitating local living across such diverse communities?

The Council's response is strategic, purposeful and data driven. It aims to create an overall Place Strategy for Aberdeenshire to provide a living local place framework for all individual communities, however large or small their place.

The starting point is **data**. Aberdeenshire already has a dataset developed , the Rural Facilities Monitor that has been used since 1981 to audit essential daily facilities such as shops, schools and surgeries across the local authority area. This is being expanded and updated to incorporate other daily needs and used to create GIS-based individual settlement profiles that will be publicly available. This will enable local communities throughout Aberdeenshire to access essential data for producing Local Place Plans which implement the Living Well Locally agenda and tackle other policy objectives such as stemming rural depopulation.

In considering data for 20 Minute Neighbourhoods, one of the major challenges is how to measure the quality of facilities, like shops or active travel routes, rather than simply whether they exist or not – because that can make the difference between whether people have access to healthy rather than poor quality food, or safe and attractive active travel options rather than poor quality routes.

The Place Standard was already being used in Aberdeenshire, to gather qualitative data before 20 Minute Neighbourhoods were proposed in draft NPF4. For example, Huntly Town Team used the Place Standard in 2021 to inform an update of their Room To Thrive town strategy.
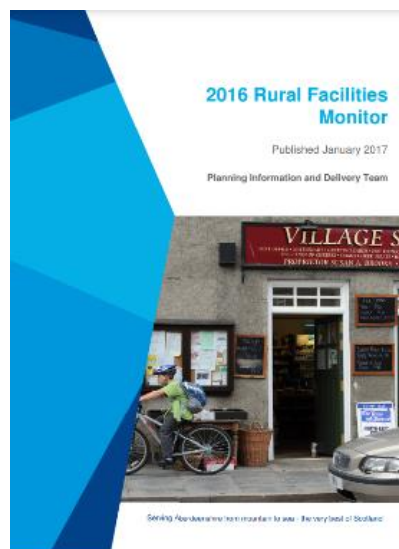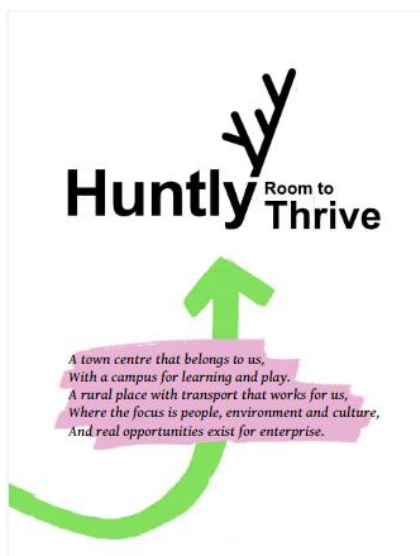
In 2021, the Council began the ambitious task of applying local living principles in Aberdeenshire's largest settlement, Peterhead. Whilst the precise details should vary with each town, certain common tasks are being worked through in Peterhead:

- Gathering and analysing the quantitative and qualitative evidence base, through desktop research and community engagement.

- Auditing the range of strategies and plans that already exist from children's services, police, fire and rescue to planning policy and community-led action plans
- Mapping existing projects and proposals.
- Identifying gaps, barriers and opportunities in Living Well Locally.

The focus is of course to enable long term collaborative action and delivery of living local principles across the town, over a 15 to 20 year period, in line with the Place Principle. It will also test and establish a model for other Aberdeenshire towns to use and adapt.

Ultimately, the aim is to align all policy, investment and service delivery – not just planning and land use - around 20 Minute Neighbourhood principles, so that all action poverty, inequality, learning, health and climate change is co-ordinated through the lens of Living Well Locally.

Aberdeenshire Council's approach to local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods was also presented in 2022 to the SURF 20 Minute Neighbourhood Practice Network.

Edinburgh: embedding 20-Minute Neighbourhoods as a new approach to service delivery and regeneration

Settlement range; Large Urban

Key Initiatives; 20-minute neighbourhood strategy, developed to embed working to the Place Principle for improved outcomes.

Key challenges; improving outcomes City wide, empowering collaboration and participation in the definition, design and delivery of public services, designing green and people focused local centres, improving mobility City wide.

Strategies employed; Place Principle - stronger partnership working including to combat loneliness and isolation, GIS data, creation of Strategy, use of Place Standard Tool, community engagement activities, Local Place Plans, town centre first principle, creation of multi-purpose hubs, brownfield site regeneration, reimagining service delivery, active travel.

The City of Edinburgh Council approved its 20-Minute Neighbourhood Strategy in June 2021. The primary focus is to enable the city's residents to meet most of their essential needs within a short walk, wheel or cycle from their home. It is a new approach for the city which aims to deliver more sustainable places, improve public services, and build on the local sense of community across the city.

Delivery of the strategy is seen as a long-term endeavour. It is described as an "ongoing process of change for working with communities": a new way of working, signalling a conscious decision to plan and deliver public services more locally to create more social, inclusive, and accessible places across the whole city.

Every neighbourhood in Edinburgh has its own unique set of circumstances, which means that places need to be considered individually. Delivery of the strategy involves the Council working closely with empowered communities, partner organisations and the third sector to achieve its goals.

Funding support derives from aligning the Scottish Government Place Based Investment Programme to the priority areas identified in the strategy. To support the new way of working, the Council has established:

- A 20-Minute Neighbourhood Board comprising key representatives from different services, which acts as a dedicated forum for discussion and collaboration.
- A dedicated multi-discipline 20-Minute Neighbourhood Programme Team, encompassing skills and knowledge in urban design, planning, transport, property and communications. The team's role is to implement parts of the Strategy, support other Council services to embed 20-minute principles into projects, and make sure that investment and development considerations take account of the Strategy.

The strategy identifies the eight local town centres from the emerging City Plan 2030 (in support of the Town Centre First Principle) and 11 other areas which have gaps in their service provision and/or no natural town centre as priorities. These 19 areas are mapped in the City of Edinburgh Council's strategy document.

Work is initially focussing on areas where need is greatest, whether that is due to deprivation or poor connectivity, or where there are opportunities to capitalise on work that is already planned. Initial priorities include Local Place Planning in Wester Hailes (see separate case study), new school investments with wider community uses in Liberton and Currie, town centre and high street improvements in Craigmillar, Muirhouse and Gorgie Dalry, and affordable housing delivery on key regeneration sites across the city. The strategy, including updates on these and other projects can be found in the City of Edinburgh Council's 20 Minute Neighbourhood Strategy

The affordable housing element is part of the Council's ambitious programme to deliver 20,000 affordable homes in the city over a decade. 20-Minute Neighbourhood principles are being embedded in Council-led regeneration work on key brownfield sites across the city.

At Powderhall, for example, regeneration of the Council's former waste transfer station was originally proposed as an open market sale to a volume housebuilder, but evolved into the Council taking forward a major mixed-use regeneration project. The regeneration will now deliver not only 260 new homes (35% affordable, compared to the city's 25% target) but also a nursery, older people's housing, commercial units, artist's studios and community space. The development is proposed to be effectively zero parking, with close involvement of Sustrans to ensure active travel is the primary mode of transport for residents.

Meanwhile, the Granton Waterfront regeneration will deliver a new coastal town with an ambitious 20-minute neighbourhood vision over the next 10-15 years. This regeneration will deliver around 3,500 new net zero carbon homes (over 35% of them affordable); a primary school and health centre, commercial, creative, and community space, and a new coastal park. Early Action housing projects are well underway at Western Villages, Silverlea and the Demonstrator site (Granton D1) at Waterfront Avenue.

New active travel and public transport infrastructure will be created throughout the regeneration area, including new cycle paths and a mobility hub. The project will create new employment opportunities, meaning residents of this fast-growing area

will be able to access work locally, while partner organisations will deliver substantial new cultural and educational assets over the regeneration timeframe.

Stewarton, East Ayrshire: using 20 Minute Neighbourhood principles to help inform a Local Development Framework

Settlement range; Accessible small town

Key Initiatives; Utilising 20 minute neighbourhood thinking; Using context and place based collaborative approaches to inform decision making

Key challenges; Growth of town v's infrastructure capacity, compact growth and town centre, housing site release, infrastructure first approach to health and education capacity.

Strategies employed; Place Principle working:- Key Agencies Groups, communities and local authority working together, Infrastructure first, Active Travel, Use of qualitative and quantitative data, GIS data, national combined with local, reviewing existing strategies and plans, community engagement, place standard with climate lens.

Stewarton lies between Kilmarnock (10km) and Glasgow (40km). Due to the rail link and its proximity to Glasgow, the town has been steadily growing in recent decades from about 6,500 residents in 2001 to an estimated 7,700 residents in 2020.

As the town grows, and more housing sites are released, there will be increasing pressures on the existing infrastructure such as roads, water, drainage, education, health and social care, and recreation and leisure. In line with the Place Principle, the local authority has been working with the Key Agencies Group, with support from Architecture and Design Scotland, to understand how to address these constraints.

The 20 Minute Neighbourhood principles were used as a guiding framework for gathering both quantitative and qualitative information. Quantitative data was mapped using GIS and analysed to explore key considerations such as facilities and services, open space, connectivity and walkability. This information   began to identify more clearly the constraints and emerging opportunities.
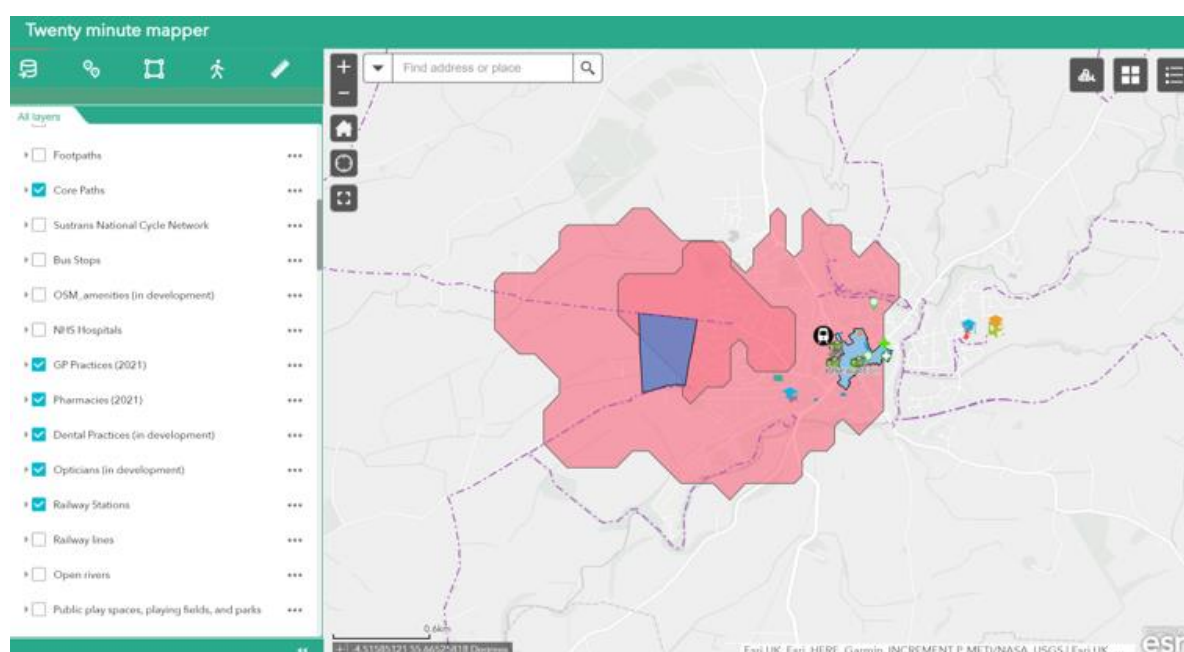
Qualitative data was gathered, piloting use of the Place Standard through community workshops which prompted conversations around mitigation and adaptation actions that could happen in Stewarton to help address the Climate and Biodiversity crises. A 'living local' survey was then carried out to gain further insights into walking distance thresholds, frequency of using services and the quality of routes to move around. The evidence from the survey and workshop, community aspirations expressed in the Community Action Plan and speaking to relevant council services fed into the Local Development Framework teams understanding of the quality of people's experiences in Stewarton.

Thinking about existing facilities and services in Stewarton, from the list below, which of these do you use and how often?

Answered: 11   Skipped: 0

Legend: Daily | Weekly | Monthly | Never
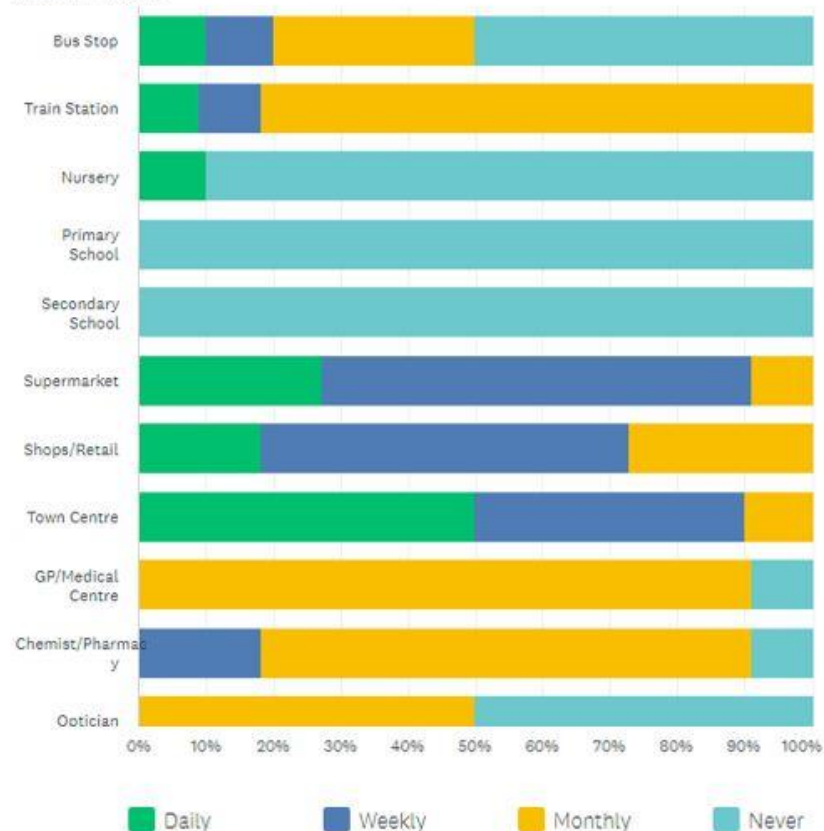
Combining the use of data, mapping, community engagement and cross departmental involvement has helped to foster a whole place collaborative approach for Stewarton to be adopted. These methods when combined have led to further conversations around future investment and are currently providing place-based evidence to important decision making at a whole town scale across services.

Fundamentally, this is allowing the local authority to take a collaborative 'infrastructure-first' approach to investment in schools and healthcare capacity, through the lens of 20 Minute Neighbourhoods and Living Well Locally. The progress is ongoing however it is clear that this has allowed greater emphasis to be placed on the importance of active travel accessibility when considering locations of future investment such as new health and education facilities.

The scope was not, however, limited to the location of health and education facilities.A framework of actions has been drawn up which encompass improvements to the walking and cycling network, investment in the town centre, affordable housing and homes for older people, and much more besides.

During the process additional support was provided by consultants who were commissioned by the Council to aid the preparation of the new Local Development Framework for Stewarton building on the support work from KAG and Architecture and Design Scotland. Part of this involved the creation of a Place making map which

sets out the proposed interventions. Further information can be found in the
[Stewarton Placemaking Pack](#).

Lessons learned from the process include:

- The value of pairing digital mapping analysis with the lived experience of life on the ground, for example to produce combined data not only walking and cycling journey times but also accounting for the quality of place/the journey.
- The challenge of implementing and retrofitting the 20 Minute Neighbourhood principles into existing settlements and infrastructure should not be underestimated.
- The 20 Minute Neighbourhood principles are a new concept to many. This presents challenges towards institutional decision making and will require collaborative working to realise delivery and implementation.
- When multiple organisations are asked to commit and co-ordinate their activities, in line with the Place Principle, issues will arise around timing of budgets and delivery therefore a whole placed collaborative approach is needed.

Wester Hailes, Edinburgh: community and local authority collaboration

Client: Wester Hailes Community Trust
Designers: UrbanPioneers (Landscape Architects) with Dress for the Weather (Architects)

Settlement range; Accessible small town

Key Initiatives; Collaborative working to tackle strategic and local thinking around 20 minute neighbourhoods.

Key challenges; Capacity and resources for Local Place Planning, combining the long term regeneration programme with Local Place Planning aspirations, timing and complex funding streams. Confidence building through early action projects.

Strategies employed; Place Principle working:- communities and local authority working together, Local Place Plan, Place Standard, Early action project identification, community led regeneration, community ownership, community hubs.

Wester Hailes, on the western edge of Edinburgh, was initially constructed in the early 1970s with extensive redevelopment in the 1990s and 2000s. In around 2019, two new initiatives began: the local community began to prepare a Local Place Plan and the Council embarked on a 10–15-year regeneration programme. Both initiatives shared a common goal: to create a model 20 Minute Neighbourhood.

The two pieces of work support each other, each tackling different aspects of the 20 Minute Neighbourhood concept.

The community-led Wester Hailes Local Place Plan focusses on community aspirations: using the Place Standard as a tool for discussion helped the Local Place Plan to identify what the community can do for itself, and what they would like others to do.

There are dozens of actionable projects in the Local Place Plan which will help bring about a 20 Minute Neighbourhood a reality for Wester Hailes residents, from projects for community hubs, play spaces and paths to strategies for work, learning, food, and health and wellbeing.

Those initiatives complement the Council-led regeneration programme, which includes investment in housing, transport, greenspaces, schools and health centres. 'Early action' projects include a new high school, housing and cycle links.

To make sure the two processes mutually supported each other, the community and the Council needed to work together in tandem. That isn't always easy when funding comes from different sources. So, during 2020-21, when the community was struggling with capacity and resources to complete the Local Place Plan, the Council helped secure Place Based Investment Programme funding to pay for professional facilitation and support to complete the Local Place Plan. That made sure that the Council's investments – with an established spend programme and funding deadlines – did not run ahead of the Local Place Plan process, which would have meant that the Council-led programme might have focussed on the wrong things or lacked community support.

New North-South Link*:
Establish safe and direct connection from Healthy Living Centre and Rail Station through local centre.

Housing Developments:
See guidance for new developments p.60

Shopping Centre Future*:
Shopping centre should support and encourage more local businesses, respond more to local community needs, and connect better with adjacent civic space.

More Active Civic Space*:
Strategy for local markets and events in civic space.
Change to community use in surrounding buildings.

Improve Connections:
New cycle infrastructure planned; ensure centre links in to this.

Transport*:
Establish new green transport hub.
Give pedestrian priority across main road as part of new North-South link.

Alternative Housing Models*:
Explore floating accommodation along canal, away from tow-path.

Community Hub*:
Develop 'Petrol Station Site' into new hub space; linked to green spaces, growing and food.

New North-South Link*:
Pedestrian bridge across the canal to link local centre to green space.

* engagement feedback

20 Minute Neighbourhood principles are being embedded into both the regeneration masterplan and the Local Place Plan. Although Wester Hailes already has many of the features that you would expect in a 20 Minute Neighbourhood, there was specific deficiency that was laid bare during the COVID pandemic: the lack of indoor community spaces where local people and groups can meet and socialise. So, as part of the collaboration, three community hubs are now proposed. The delivery of each is being led by a community organisation.

Drymen, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park: piloting Living Well Locally in a rural community

Settlement range; Accessible rural

Key Initiatives; Planning and delivering local living/20 minute neighbourhood through Local Place Plans for improved outcomes.

Key challenges; Movement, reimaging mobility for rural areas through active travel, exploring priorities within village and working with neighbouring villages and towns as network, Improving access to essential services beyond walking distance.

Strategies employed; Place Standard Tool and community engagement to form qualitative data, physical onsite assessment of place, Mobility through active travel, Local Place Plan.
Place Principle working; Communities and local authority working together and identifying collaborative partnerships.

Creating 20 Minute Neighbourhoods in a rural area creates distinct challenges. Where community facilities are inevitably more dispersed and population density lower, how is it practically possible to enable everyone to be within 20 minutes walk or cycle of all their daily needs?
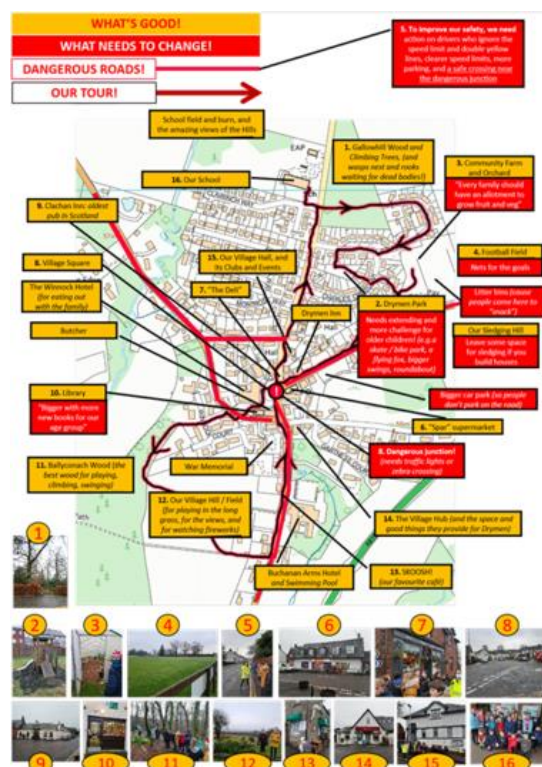
This was the starting point for a pilot project in the village of Drymen and the neighbouring villages along the east of Loch Lomond, where the National Park wanted to run a pilot to look at how 20 Minute Neighbourhoods might work for rural communities and appointed Forth Environment Link to deliver the pilot.

The pilot scheme was an opportunity to test the Place Standard as a tool for community engagement on 20 Minute Neighbourhoods.

This enabled the community to consider and record not only whether its daily needs were satisfied, but also qualitative data about how well those daily needs were met. The work also wanted to examine how rural villages share services and are connected so the engagement and baseline information looked beyond just the village boundary and undertook joint working with other neighbouring communities.

The work also explored how the concept could be collaboratively planned and delivered through the medium of a Local Place Plan. It produced valuable insights into how rural Local Place Plans can use the principles of local living and 20 Minute

Neighbourhood to provide dual focus; exploring the priorities within a village and also with neighbouring villages and towns; how to improve access to essential services that feel beyond a reasonable walking distance and, the reimagining of mobility for a wider rural area where there are shared users of services and a shared need for access

The pilot produced a community vision for how people can meet their daily needs locally in Drymen and the surrounding villages. More information can be seen in this report published in 2022 by the National Park Authority: Living Well Locally: Vision and Route Map.

Living Well Locally - 20 Minute Communities in the Highlands and Islands commissioned by HITRANS at the same time investigated how 20 Minute Neighbourhoods might be made workable across a variety of challenging rural and island contexts.

Potential solutions included broadening the focus from walking and cycling to other sustainable travel modes such as community transport, treating 20 minutes as a guide time rather than an absolute, and embracing established technological solutions to delivering services and goods such as online services and drone deliveries of prescriptions and post.
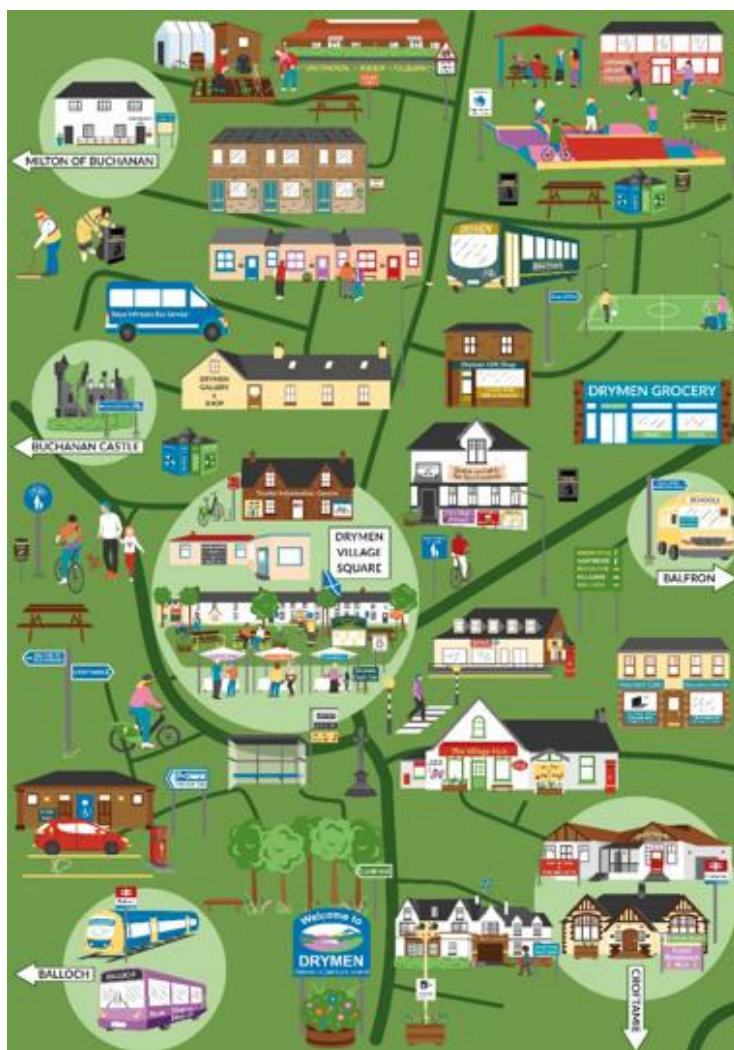
Shetland: 20 Minute Neighbourhoods as the basis for joined-up planning and transport policy

Settlement range; Rural and Island settlements

Demonstrates local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods are about good planning and collaboration

Key Initiatives; new approach proposed within Main Issues Report

Key challenges; application of the '20 minute metric', reliance on private car use, decentralising services,

Strategies employed; town and village centre enhancement, approach, rural locality hubs, local living, local living/20 minute neighbourhood thinking.

Shetland Local Development Plan Main Issues Report, published in 2022, proposes a new approach to enhancing town centre and village retail areas across Shetland. The preferred option put forward in the Main Issues Report is for 20 Minute Neighbourhoods to form the basis of a new concept of rural Locality Hubs or service hubs, such as Brae, Scalloway and Baltasound for example.

These Locality Hubs, and preferred areas for future growth, were identified through the lens of 20 Minute Neighbourhoods.

The Main Issues Report highlights that, in the Shetland context, being able to meet daily needs within 20 minutes walk of your home should not be applied too rigidly.

Many of Shetland's more rural and remote rural communities have established retail centres and services that could not be reached by walking within 20 minutes from homes on the edge of, or outwith, more loosely scattered settlements.
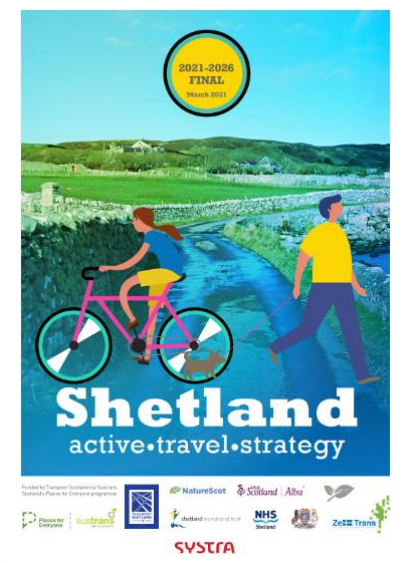
The intention is that the next Local Development Plan (LDP2) will recognise that access to service hubs by our more remote communities is undertaken primarily by car. However, by continuing to focus development and services on Locality Hubs, reliance on travelling into Lerwick for basic retail services can be reduced – in line with 20 Minute Neighbourhood principles. The Main Issues Report suggests that 20 Minute Neighbourhood principles should form the basis of assessing new developments, to help implement this approach.

The Main Issues Report explains that Locality Hubs play an important role in the provision of business and retail services across Shetland's many communities: the local shop, for example, often plays a vital economic and social role in community life.

The village of Brae, on North Mainland, is an example of a Locality Hub. It contains a wide range of education, leisure, health and retail services which serve not only the population of Brae but the wider North Mainland locality too. It is also a significant employment hub for North Mainland. People can make one car or public transport journey to Brae to access a number of services in close proximity to each other and not available within their community, rather than have to continue 40km south to Lerwick.

The 20 Minute Neighbourhood approach outlined in the Main Issues Report seeks to consolidate and enhance Brae's nature as a 'hub' by strengthening its vitality and viability.

LDP2 will also support the continued development of public transport networks and active travel measures that enable easy access to and within Shetland's many service hubs. This reflects a co-ordinated approach to land use and transport planning, with Shetland Active Travel Strategy also taking a 20 Minute Neighbourhood approach to focus on improving accessibility of local destinations.

Shetland Active Travel Strategy 2021 - 2026

Settlement audits

All settlements with local services and amenities will be audited to identify measures to make them more attractive places to walk and cycle, and accessible to all.

Measures to improve cycling conditions will be identified within 20min cycling (about 5km) of settlements. Cycle routes will be designed with the needs of disabled cyclists and non-conventional bikes in mind.

Within the 20min walking range (about 1.6km), the priority will be to make the environment more accessible and attractive to pedestrians through better, safer walking infrastructure and public spaces.

Sustainable transport hub options (eg: sheltered cycle parking, upgraded bus stop facilities, park & ride, EV charging, etc.), within towns (▲), at "road ends" (▲) at ferry piers (▲), and at airports (▲).

Routes proposed by Community Councils to be considered as part of settlements audits and for short term delivery.

Local destinations to be accessible to all on foot or cycling within 20min walking and cycling

- Primary school
- Secondary school
- College / University
- Public hall
- Health centre
- Shop
- Restaurant / Bar / Hotel
- Leisure and visitor destination (leisure centre, park, beach, historic site, nature reserve)
- Major employement site
- Ferry pier
- Aiport / Airfield
- Bus station (other bus stops not shown on the map for clarity)
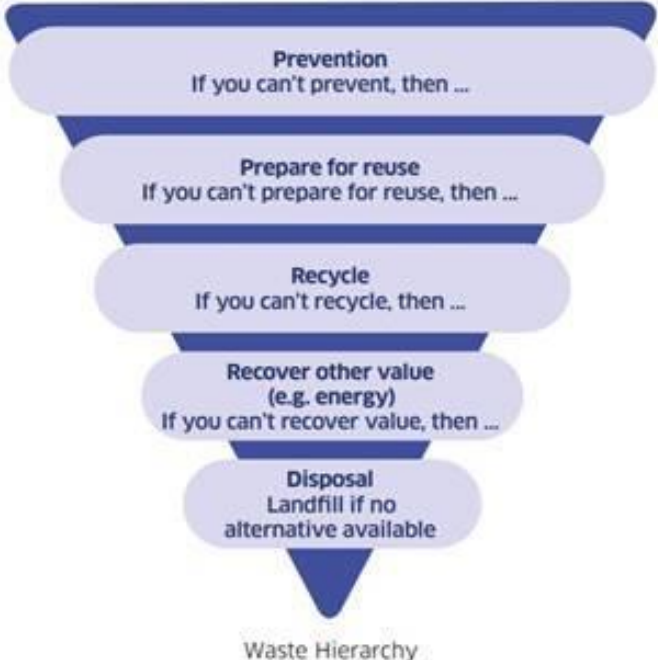
Long distance routes

To support longer rides and cycle tourism, the entire former NCN1 route, along the same or equivalent alignment, will be audited and upgraded to National Cycle Network latest standards in the longer term.
The shorter term focus will be on sections within and between nearby settlements.

Haroldswick
Baltasound
Cullivoe
Uyeasound
Fetlar
North Roe
Mid Yell
Ollaberry
Eshaness
Urafirth
Burravoe
Hillswick
Mossbank
Sullom Voe
Sullom
Out Skerries
Firth
Brae
Vidlin
Voe
Symbister
Papa Stour
Aith
Sandness
South Nesting
Walls
Bixter
Skeld
Whiteness
Tingwall

See Lerwick and Scalloway zoom

Foula

Lerwick and Scalloway zoom

Scalloway
Lerwick

Hamnavoe
Cunningsburgh

Fair Isle
To Sumburgh

Sandwick
Bigton

Dunrossness
Sumburgh

To Fair Isle

0 2.5 5   10 Kilometers

Glossary

Please click on weblinks for further information.

Active travel	Making journeys in physically active ways, including walking, wheeling, (wheelchair or mobility aid) or cycling. About Active Travel | Paths for All
Circular economy	A circular economy is one that is designed to reduce the demand for raw material in products; to encourage reuse, repair and manufacture by designing products and materials to last as long as possible in line with the waste hierarchy.
Community Planning Partnerships	A community planning partnership (CPP) is the name given to all those services coming together to take part in community planning. There are 32 CPPs across Scotland, one for each council area.
Community transport	Providing flexible and accessible community-led solutions in response to unmet local transport needs. What is Community Transport? | Community Transport Association (ctauk.org)
Community wealth building	A people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people.

Demand responsive transport	A flexible service that provides shared transport to users who specify their desired location and time of pick-up and drop-off.
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	Software that blends the power of a map with the power of a database to create, manage and analyse information, particularly information about location. What is GIS mapping | OS Tools & Support (ordnancesurvey.co.uk)
Local Development Plans	Local Development Plans (LDPs) set out how our local places will change into the future, including where development should and should not happen. They form part of the statutory 'development plan' and will, alongside the National Planning Framework, be the main basis for all decisions on planning applications.
Local Place Plans	Community-led plans setting out proposals for the development and use of land and a community's aspirations for its future development. Once completed and registered by the planning authority, they are to be taken into account in the preparation of the relevant Local Development Plan. Planning circular 1/2022: Local Place Plans - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)
Mobility hubs	A recognisable place with an offer of different and connected transport modes supplemented with enhanced facilities and information features to both attract and benefit the traveller. Strategic Transport Projects Review 2
National Performance Framework	A framework which measures Scotland's progress against the National Outcomes. It uses 'National Indicators' which give a measure of national wellbeing and include a range of economic, social and environmental indicators. What it is | National Performance Framework
Net zero	Scotland has set a target to become ' Net Zero ' by **2045**. This means the amount of greenhouse gas emissions we put into the atmosphere and the amount we are able to take out will add up to zero.
Participatory Budgeting	A democratic process in which citizens decide directly how to spend part of a public budget. Participatory budgeting - Community empowerment - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

Place and Wellbeing Outcomes	Based on the Place Standard Tool, they provide a consistent and comprehensive focus for where place impacts on the wellbeing of people and planet. They match the key 20 minute neighbourhood features being identified and pursued internationally and fall under five overarching themes of movement, spaces, resources, civic and stewardship. Place and Wellbeing Outcomes	Our Place
Place Based Framework	A common framework for considering place-based working. Provides a mechanism for how place-based working can be implemented effectively, with the goal of making sure that efforts, investments and resources are brought together for the greatest overall benefit. Place Based Approaches	Our Place The Place Based Framework	Our Place
Place Based Investment Programme	A programme to link and align all place-based funding initiatives to create a coherent approach to building resilient communities, addressing inequalities and supporting an inclusive, wellbeing economy in local settings. Place Based Investment & Infrastructure	Our Place
Place Principle	All those responsible for providing services and looking after assets in a place need to work and plan together, and with local communities, to improve the lives of people, support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and create more successful places.
Place Standard	A tool that used to assess the quality of a place. Quick Guide - Place Standard
Shared transport	Schemes such as car clubs and bike share where people can use a mode of transport without having to own it.
Sustainable travel hierarchy	The National Transport Strategy 2 Sustainable Travel Hierarchy should be used in decision making by promoting walking, wheeling, cycling, public transport and shared transport options in preference to single occupancy private car use for the movement of people. The efficient and sustainable freight transport for the movement of goods, particularly the shift from road to rail should also be promoted.
Town Centre Action Plan	The Town Centre Action Plan 2 published in April 2022 Joint Response to the Review of the Town Centre Action Plan was developed jointly with COSLA to respond to the recommendations of A New Future

	[for Scotland's Town Centres](), which was commissioned by Ministers. TCAP2 builds on and reaffirms our commitment to the town centre first principle approach and develops a refreshed vision for our towns and the means to achieve it. It is a call to action and sets out some of the ways in which we can all seek to do our part, locally and nationally, in rebuilding, reenergising and reimagining our towns to meet place and country ambitions. https://www.gov.scot/policies/regeneration/town-centre-regeneration/
Town Centre First Principle	The Town Centre First Principle asks that government, local authorities, the wider public sector, businesses and communities put the health of town centres at the heart of decision making. It seeks to deliver the best local outcomes, align policies and target available resources to prioritise town centre sites, encouraging vibrancy, equality and diversity.

Annex A
Local Living Framework additional information

The below provides additional information supports the key considerations on the categories within the Local living Framework

Additional information on Movement category

Moving Around
The quality of the physical environment can influence the range and type of activities that go on in a place. It can impact frequency of use and thereby limit or promote opportunities for interaction and connection with the place and between community members.

Places where local living is prioritised are designed to be safe, accessible, and well connected. Streets and public realm are well overlooked, safe for all to use, and free of clutter. Clear signage, vistas and landmarks helps legibility, adding to feeling safe and are designed to maximise positive pedestrian experience. Routes are engaging, inviting and attractive with human-scale detail in the buildings and landscape features along the way, with several points of interest, places to stop and rest, with benches and seating. Routes segregated from vehicles are often more inviting and have better air quality. Such measures result in a willingness and desire to walk, wheel and cycle, make it easier to make sustainable choices about mobility, encourage physical activity and social interaction.

The quality of the walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure in an urban environment can be adversely impacted if there is a lack of human-scale detail in the buildings and landscape features, few points of interest and little activity along the route or if that route is in poor condition. The same logic can be applied in a rural environment where people are often willing to walk, wheel or cycle a little further if the quality and the interest along the route is engaging, inviting and attractive.

Large scale urban environments may boost physical accessibility by adapting urban blocks to increase connectivity through utilising lanes and alleyways such as with Glasgow City Council's Avenues project; or by prioritising pedestrians as with the Barcelona Superblocks .

In some rural and remote rural areas of Scotland it may not be possible for people to access all their daily needs by walking, wheeling and cycling, and a flexibility of approach is required that considers a broad range of solutions. In such contexts, the people living there are best placed to inform how settlements might work across the unique geography in a rural place to assemble and connect networks of settlements to enable movement and fulfil their daily needs, particularly where settlements are small and remote from others.

In addition, where appropriate, encouraging concentrations of facilities and services within well-planned local centres, such as town, city and neighbourhood centres, can

help achieve the benefits of local living and 20 minutes neighbourhoods that larger settlements enjoy, reducing unsustainable travel, increasing social interaction and to help develop local economies.

Public Transport

Public transport links, bus shelters, cycle parking are key elements of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods. These support increased movement by sustainable travel modes, reducing the reliance on private car use and providing connection to facilities and services that may be outwith the immediate neighbourhood area.

Public transport stops should be located and designed to be easily accessible by all pedestrians, to be safe and attractive and to integrate with the surrounding environment and land uses. Locating public transport stops near junctions or specific passenger destinations (schools, shops, etc.), can improve accessibility and help to create natural gathering points.

Successful 20 minute neighbourhoods and models of local living will consider the ability of the place to connect to high quality, reliable, safe and connected public transport or, in rural and island areas, for planned alternatives where viability may be more challenging. Further strategies such as public and community transport provision and services that reduce the need to travel, such as peripatetic public services (health visitors for example), digital services such as health consultations and government services, and deliveries can be particularly supportive for local living in rural and island communities.

In rural and island contexts, the viability of public transport can be challenging, often relying on subsidies. Community transport, demand-responsive transport, car clubs, volunteer-run car sharing,   can contribute to the mix of alternative and demand responsive mobility.

Traffic & parking

NPF4 promotes a place-based approach to consider how to reduce car-dominance. Car dominance can be reduced through measures such as low traffic schemes, shared transport options, designing–in speed controls, bus/cycle priority, cycling and pedestrianisation and minimising space dedicated to car parking. A Mobility As A Service (MAAS) scheme operating Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAVs) could be the alternative for public transport in rural and island contexts.

Reducing car use and dominance can also be achieved by ensuring that routes connect to and offer easy access to services and amenities and are at least, as easy and convenient to access as by car.

Planning and design approaches can be adopted to encourage vehicular movement at safer speeds where car dominance, speed and volume are controlled through integral elements of the place, such as building alignment, location and amount of car parking, road narrowing, surfaces, landscaping and other public realm design features.

Provisions for vehicular parking, especially for people with specific needs, for home deliveries and short term visitors such as health care providers should be

incorporated sensitively to ensure the streets and spaces in the neighbourhoods are accessible and inclusive.

Additional information on Spaces category

Streets & Spaces
The layout and design of new streets and spaces, or building proposals and interventions should respond to and/or enhance the existing context, using location, form, block structure, frontages, aspect and topography to create places that are welcoming and distinctive and enable local living.

The streets and spaces that we use to access our services and facilities have the potential to incorporate multifunctional space to integrate nature-based solutions to issues such as flooding or urban heat. Increasing the multifunctionality of streets and spaces is an important function of planning in helping to address the climate emergency and to support social, civic and economic activity and local living. Integrating elements such as street trees, urban swales and raingardens can provide attractive and sustainable solutions to issues such as air quality, urban heat and flooding.

Consideration should also be given to how negative impacts of streets and spaces are reduced and/or eliminated including blight from vacant and derelict land or poorly maintained areas that may lead to anti-social behaviour and stigmatise communities.

Natural Space
Local access to high quality natural space or greenspace is an essential feature of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods. Spending time in natural spaces or greenspaces improves health and wellbeing, provides opportunities for connections with nature and for play and activities outdoors, fundamental in physical, cognitive, social and emotional development.

Planning to maximise exposure and access to nature and green space can increase exposure to wellbeing benefits as well as our sense of place. Nature contributes to over-all attractiveness and quality of a space or a route which can potentially lead to an increase in people travelling actively. For example, safe and attractive routes through greenspace as part of everyday travel to schools or nurseries can benefit children, young people and caregivers, improving access to cleaner air, providing opportunities for socialising, limiting exposure to traffic and providing protective physical and mental wellbeing effects.

The design-led incorporation of place specific, nature-based solutions can assist with identifying the strategies and actions required to improve climate resilience and the sustainability credentials in a place. Multifunctional solutions can deliver multiple benefits. Everyday water management and flooding attenuation strategies should also consider the multifunctional benefits that integrated solutions can bring about. Design of such schemes should be centred on increasing biodiversity and on the protection, restoration and re-instating of nature in a place.

Careful planning and design of spaces to incorporate nature rich, blue/ green spaces is also crucial in supporting nature and biodiversity, providing habitat for wildlife and

pollination, as well as helping to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of the climate emergency.

Play & Recreation
Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods should integrate safe, accessible and attractive play and recreation opportunities that support all members of the community. This may be formal or informal play opportunities for children and young people, as well as access to sports, culture, art activities and leisure activities.

Play and recreation facilities may be formal, such as equipped children's play areas or sports facilities, or they may be more informal spaces that invite more creative play responses, particularly from children and young people. Supporting informal, multifunctional spaces for play and recreation has multiple benefits for communities including positive uses of land, helping adapt to and mitigate climate change, managing surface water runoff and reducing flooding.

Productive spaces, such as community food growing and allotments can also be important elements of local living, providing benefits for health, wellbeing and social interaction as well as access to healthy, affordable food.

Facilities and Services
The range of services supporting local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods are best informed by the specific context and the daily needs as identified and established with the local community. These services could range from picking up a daily newspaper and essential groceries; accessing a pharmacy or visiting a GP; paying bills or banking; attending school or participating in training and volunteering; as well as opportunities for local employment and child care provision. Other services may be access to local library service, community hub, youth club, gym or crèche.

The viability of access to services will be dependent on issues such as population density, layout, historical land uses and street patterns as well as specific community needs. A thorough qualitative and quantitative understanding of the existing facilities and current and future needs is required to develop an appropriate approach to supporting local living through new development and regeneration.

Subject to the size of settlement, concentrating services and facilities within an area, or areas, can help to create local centres of activity. Depending on the area a local centre serves, and its location and connectivity with neighbouring centres, there should be a range and mix of uses, services and facilities that meet the daily needs of the community and generate footfall to support long-term vitality and viability.

Planning and maintaining an appropriate range of services, facilities or amenities requires engagement with local residents. Greater engagement may be required between partners in rural communities, where the delivery of services and extent of local infrastructure may be dispersed and not necessarily be supported by the immediate density of population.

Digital and technological innovation and advancements in science are helping providers consider the design of service provision in our communities. Health and social care provision, for example, can be delivered through a combination of peripatetic services (such as health visitors, home care workers and visiting clinics) and digital services (such as online consultations).

Work & Local Economy
Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods involve planning and design approaches that respond to local economic priorities and that identify, locate and deliver sustainable employment, encourages local spend and incentivises investment through establishing thriving, active environments. The type and distribution of facilities and services within an area has a significant impact on the ability to source good local employment and to sustain local economic activity that positively supports the community.

Planning for local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods that supports a positive approach to local economic activity is an important element in delivering Community Wealth Building. Community Wealth Building is an approach adopted in Scotland designed to harness the economic leverage of local 'anchor' organisations (such as local councils, health, universities, colleges, housing associations, or large local

private sector employers) to tackle long standing systematic challenges and structural inequalities within our communities. It seeks to transform our local and regional economic systems to enable more local communities and people to own, have a stake in, access and benefit from the wealth our economy generates. Community Wealth Building can deliver more and better jobs, business growth, community-owned assets and shorter supply chains creating greater resilience and supporting net zero ambitions.

Housing & Community
Housing is the building block of our neighbourhoods and communities and is an essential part of local infrastructure and identity. Housing density, numbers, typologies, layouts and connectivity are key determinants in achieving successful local living. Increasing the quantity quality city, town and local centre living is a key outcome of the Town Centre Action Plan in order to deliver the Town Centre Vision and the Town Centre First Principle and is aligned with NPF4 policy 27 on City, Town, Local and Commercial Centres.

New housing should be planned to integrate with and support existing homes and communities and local infrastructure including schools, community centres, local shops, greenspaces and health and social care services.

Homes should be planned to meet local needs. Consideration should be given to the mix of house type, tenure and size available to ensure there are accessible options and choices to meet people's physical and financial circumstances and their lifestyles, including the ability to age in a place. Providing a range of housing options can support people to remain within the same neighbourhood or community as life circumstances change.

Social Interaction
Providing formal and informal opportunities for good quality social interaction is central to improving health and wellbeing outcomes as well as improving the resilience of communities. This interaction may take place in a variety of ways, such as in indoor facilities (local clubs, community facilities, places of worship, hospitality venues) and in outdoor settings including parks, squares and civic areas, attractive streets, and natural spaces. Social interaction can also be encouraged by planning that minimises car use and that promotes pedestrian footfall. Housing layouts, densities and connections are important considerations in supporting social interaction that are supported through local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods.

Good quality social interaction requires planning and design that supports passive supervision of public areas, increases footfall and limits physical barriers to deliver places that feel safe and that are inclusive.

The design and location of infrastructure such as outdoor seating, cycle parking and play areas is important to encouraging social interaction as part of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods, and issues such orientation, sun, shading or shelter are important considerations in creating attractive and successful neighbourhoods.

Good social networks can offer a range of supports, giving people a way to cope with problems and reduce stress levels. Importantly, living in a supportive and inclusive

community may benefit those in lower income groups more than others and can be an important factor in reducing health inequalities.

Additional information on Civic category

Identity and Belonging
Traditionally, local, village, town or city centres are where the civic, commercial, and cultural activities located. The centre of any scale of settlements, whether it is of a city, town, village or neighbourhood, should be connected, welcoming, distinctive, accessible, vibrant and resilient, for people to live, work, visit and enjoy.

Centres are a natural focus of civic life and of 20 minute neighbourhoods, providing communities with an identifiable and convenient location to access the goods, services and recreational opportunities they need for everyday living. Local centres should be well-connected and accessible by a range of sustainable transport modes and active travel links.

The consideration of contextual information such as culture, heritage, topography, existing built form and landscape character is important to deliver successful local living. Re-purposing of existing underused buildings, buildings at risk, spaces or landmarks can help preserve the local identity and character of a place. Buildings and spaces should create positive and distinctive places with landmarks that assist with wayfinding and reinforce and respond to local character.

Identity and belonging are supported by natural features as well as buildings and the role of greenspace in supporting a positive identity is important. Nature-based solutions can provide environmental benefits, help to create positive physical environments, and also reflect changing contemporary approaches to how places are designed, managed and maintained.

Greater levels of neighbourliness and a sense of belonging to the community are likely to nurture community wellbeing and to stimulate community activities aimed at improving the local environment. Such activities can in turn help to reinforce and develop further feelings of neighbourliness and community capacity.

Feeling safe
Movement, activity, and engagement in places requires the community to feel safe and secure. Perception of safety is related to a wide variety of factors including the effects of vehicle traffic, the level of passive supervision and the presence of other people, anti-social behaviour, play spaces, lighting and derelict or vacant areas.

Areas for play and recreation should be well positioned for safety and security, and easy to access in a safe manner, such as being positioned to avoid high traffic routes or to minimise requirements to interact with traffic or cross roads. People may be less inclined to access areas that are poorly lit or where they feel exposed or vulnerable.

The quality of the immediate environment can play an important role in ensuring that places feel safe. Active ground floor areas, whether where primary residential frontages or commercial space can provide active and positive edges that feel safe and welcoming. The design and specification of edges, boundaries and landscaping can also be an important factor and can support strong connections between buildings and the public realm.

Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods can also encourage social interaction, increased trust and security within a community. Places must also be inclusive and enable everyone to live well locally and to participate and contribute to decisions about their places. The consideration of how people move around and the opportunities for them to connect and interact with other people and their places and other people is a key consideration when thinking about access and inclusion.

Care and maintenance
Addressing the climate emergency and nature crisis requires us to ensure that existing assets are maintained and capitalised on, limiting adverse environmental impacts and waste. Land and buildings that are vacant and derelict can be a blight on communities and disincentivise investment. NPF4 sets out a policy intent to encourage, promote and facilitate the reuse of brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings, and to help reduce the need for greenfield development. Community activity and ownership can also encourage and allow local people to participate in the care and maintenance of their local areas and buildings.

How well a place is maintained can influence neighbourhood satisfaction, perceptions of safety and the future investment. It can also have a significant impact on supporting social connections and neighbourliness within communities. Poor maintenance can create negative perceptions of a place, damage community resilience and lead to the erosion of physical and social assets.

Influence and sense of control
The influence and sense of control that individuals feel over their lives can have important impacts on health and wellbeing, as well as on the ability of people to develop their potential.

Social isolation and a lack of support can be major causes of stress, particularly for those living on low incomes and for those with children. For people living in difficult or chaotic circumstances, where they may feel they have little control of influence over their lives, the effects of living with stress for long periods of time can have an adverse, and often significant, impact on their wellbeing.

Delivering local living that meet everyone's needs requires a process that ensures that the ideas and views of our most vulnerable groups are considered and addressed. Communities that experience disadvantage may lack capacity to engage and participate in local processes, take action, access funding and deliver change in their local areas.

Addressing this capacity gap is essential if inequalities are to be addressed. Some population groups may be particularly marginalised, and it is often those who experience barriers to engaging with public services that would benefit most from participation in decision-making. Collaboration and innovative engagement in place-based activity can capture the important knowledge and views of diverse groups and help guide processes that are truly inclusive and most likely to be effective.

Engagement should cover all members of a community in order to understand the physical, social and economic context and to deliver local living that fully addresses the needs and assets in a place. It is essential, and a statutory requirement, that people with protected characteristics, and including people from a range of socio-economic backgrounds, are given particular support to express their views on plans and decisions, with consultations designed to meet the communication needs of people.

Annex B

Useful resources;

Our Place Website - https://www.ourplace.scot/

The Place Standard Tool - https://www.ourplace.scot/About-Place-Standard

The Place Standard Tool – Design Version - https://www.ourplace.scot/sites/default/files/2021-10/210929%20-%20PSTDV%20SPREADS%20VERSION_0.pdf

The Place Standard Tool – Children and Young People's versions - https://www.ourplace.scot/place-standard-tool-children-and-young-people

The Place Standard Tool with Climate Lens - https://www.ourplace.scot/Place-Standard-Climate

Research on 20 Minute Neighbourhoods in a Scottish Context by Climatexchange and Ramboll - https://www.climatexchange.org.uk/research/projects/20-minute-neighbourhoods-in-a-scottish-context/

Rural Scotland Key Facts 2021 - Rural Scotland Key Facts 2021 (www.gov.scot) https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/statistics/2021/02/rural-scotland-key-facts-2021/documents/rural-scotland-key-facts-2021/rural-scotland-key-facts-2021/govscot%3Adocument/rural-scotland-key-facts-2021.pdf

Planning for Place programme at the Improvement Service; supports local authorities apply the place principle and collaborate on place based approaches. http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/planning-for-place-programme.html

The Alliance Health and Social Care Academy has worked closely with the Mobile Access Committee Scotland (MACS) and Disability Equality Scotland and with partners to publish a report on Exploring Scotland's 20-minute neighbourhoods. This report examined the benefits and challenges of a 20 minute neighbourhood through the lens of inclusivity, diversity, and accessibility.

Responding to this Consultation
We are inviting responses to this consultation by 20th July 2023

Please respond to this consultation using the Scottish Government's consultation hub, Citizen Space (http://consult.gov.scot). Access and respond to this consultation online at https://consult.gov.scot/planning-architecture/draft-local-living-and-20-minute-neighbourhoods. You can save and return to your responses while the consultation is still open. Please ensure that consultation responses are submitted before the closing date of 20th July 2023.

If you are unable to respond using our consultation hub, please complete the Respondent Information Form to:

Architecture, Place and Design Innovation
Planning Architecture and Regeneration Division (PARD)
Scottish Government
2f South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh,
EH6 6QQ

Handling your response
If you respond using the consultation hub, you will be directed to the About You page before submitting your response. Please indicate how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are content for your response to published. If you ask for your response not to be published, we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

If you are unable to respond via Citizen Space, please complete and return the Respondent Information Form included in this document.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy:
https://www.gov.scot/privacy/

Next steps in the process
Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public, and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, responses will be made available to the public at http://consult.gov.scot. If you use the consultation hub to respond, you will receive a copy of your response via email.

Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help us. Responses will be published where we have been given permission to do so. An analysis report will also be made available.

Comments and complaints
If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to the contact address above or at locallliving&2mn@gov.scot

Scottish Government consultation process
Consultation is an essential part of the policymaking process. It gives us the opportunity to consider your opinion and expertise on a proposed area of work.

You can find all our consultations online: http://consult.gov.scot. Each consultation details the issues under consideration, as well as a way for you to give us your views, either online, by email or by post.

Responses will be analysed and used as part of the decision making process, along with a range of other available information and evidence. We will publish a report of this analysis for every consultation. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise the responses received may:

- indicate the need for policy development or review
- inform the development of a particular policy
- help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals
- be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented

While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body.

Local Living and
20 Minute Neighbourhoods.
Planning Guidance - Draft for Consultation
Respondent Information Form

Please Note this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy:
https://www.gov.scot/privacy/

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

☐   Individual

☐   Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Phone number

Address

Postcode

Email Address

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

☐   Publish response with name

☐   Publish response only (without name)

☐   Do not publish response

Information for organisations:

The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

☐   Yes

☐   No

Questionnaire

Question 1
How helpful is Part 1 of the guidance to further the understanding of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods in a Scottish context?

Additional information for question 1:

Part 1 - Local living, the benefits of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods.

Part 1 of the guidance explains that local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods in Scotland have the potential to contribute to global, national as well as local goals around climate action, decreased health inequalities, improved local economy and improved liveability/quality of life.

It explains how local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods can be a means of tackling the interrelated environmental, social and economic challenges we face in Scotland through the alignment with policy context, the place context and the rural and island contexts.

More information can be found in part 1 of the guidance document.

☐ Very helpful

☐ Somewhat helpful

☐ Not at all helpful

Please explain your response explaining what else could be helpful

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Question 2
Please refer to the Local Living Framework Diagram on page 19 of the guidance. How helpful is the framework diagram in encouraging flexible, place-based approaches to support local living?

Additional Information for question 2:

Part 2 of draft guidance - local living framework diagram

20 minute neighbourhoods are one method of achieving 'local Living' and the benefits that flow from it. The way in which 'local living' works will vary from place to place and should evolve, over time as a result of place-based activity with communities and across sectors.

The local living framework diagram was developed to support and encourage the type of flexible, place-based approach when considering the daily needs in a place that supports local living - whilst avoiding tick box approaches.

More information can be found in part 2 of the guidance document.

☐ Very helpful

☐ Somewhat helpful

☐ Not at all helpful

Please explain your response explaining what else could be helpful

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Question 3
Looking at part 2 of the draft guidance: how helpful are the 'categories' and 'key considerations for local living' that are captured within this part of the document?

Additional Information for question 3:

Part 2: Categories and key considerations

The 'categories' - Movement, Space, Resources, Civic, and Stewardship, and the related key considerations support the local living framework and are detailed in part 2 of the guidance. They provide detail on the important issues that should be considered and where appropriate, addressed for successful local living.

More information can be found in part 2 of the guidance document.

☐ Very helpful

☐ Somewhat helpful

☐ Not at all helpful

Please explain your response explaining what else could be helpful

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Question 4
How helpful is the proposed 'structured approach' for use?

Additional Information for question 4:

A structured approach to delivering local living.

Part 3 of the draft guidance offers a structured approach that can assist with delivering local living. Three 'key steps' are detailed that can be repeated for incremental change. These are:

1. understand context - understanding the context of the place through the use of quantitative and qualitative information
2. collaborate, plan, design- developing collaborative models of working to inform place-based planning and design processes
3. implement and review - aligning investment, developing delivery capacity and supporting new ways of working

More information can be found in part 3 of the guidance document.

☐ Very helpful

☐ Somewhat helpful

☐ Not at all helpful

Please explain your response explaining what else could be helpful

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Question 5
Does part 3 of the guidance clearly communicate the importance of both qualitative and quantitative data in establishing a baseline for a place?

Additional Information for question 5:

Part 3 - Ways to support local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods; key step 1 - understand the context

Part 3 of the draft guidance offers a structured approach to support local living. Three 'key steps' are detailed that can be repeated for incremental change.

Key step 1: Understand context - understanding the context of the place through the use of quantitative and qualitative information.

This step explains that gaining a full understanding of the context of a place, at the outset, is critical for forming a baseline and for understanding a place.

This part of the guidance aims to communicate and emphasise that while quantitative data is important in this regard, the gathering of qualitative information and the way in which this informs action is equally as critical.

More information can be found in part 3 of the guidance document.

☐ Very useful

☐ Somewhat useful

☐ Not at all useful

Please explain your response explaining what else could be useful

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Question 6
How helpful is the 'collaborate, plan, design' section of part 3 in supporting collaborative practices?

Additional Information for question 6:

Part 3 - Ways to support local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods - key step 2 - collaborate, plan, design

Key step 2: Collaborate, plan, design - developing collaborative models of working to inform place-based planning and design processes.

Land-use planning is a fundamental tool for embedding local living and 20 minute neighbourhood principles in our places. National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) provides a new approach to planning by combining the long term spatial strategy with national planning policies to form part of the statutory development plan. This section explains the context for the delivery of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods beyond planning mechanisms.

Local living requires input from a broad range of stakeholders and a cross sector commitment to collaborative working, informing place based planning and design. It involves coordination across investment plans and opportunities and the bringing together of the knowledge and skills of different organisations and sectors.

More information can be found in part 3 of the guidance document.

☐ Very helpful

☐ Somewhat helpful

☐ Not at all helpful

Please explain your response explaining what else could be helpful

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Question 7
How helpful is the 'implement and review' section of part 3 in assisting the delivery of collaborative approaches to support local living?

Additional Information for question 7:

Part 3 - Ways to support local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods - key step 3 - implement and review

Key step 3: implement and review - aligning investment, developing delivery capacity and supporting new ways of working.

This is the stage at which the action identified in the previous steps could be taken forward or planned for.

This section of the guidance explains that while a number of cross government policies, strategies and investments are aligned to support local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods, there needs to be a cross sectoral alignment of knowledge, skills and resources, local knowledge, insights and capacity to maximise the benefits of local living.

The 'trip chain' diagrams in this section demonstrate the issues that can arise for local services when decisions about key infrastructure are made and local living is not prioritised.

More information can be found in part 3 of the guidance document.

☐ Very helpful

☐ Somewhat helpful

☐ Not at all helpful

Please explain your response explaining what else could be helpful

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Question 8

Looking at part 4 of the draft guidance: do the case studies provide a useful and appropriate range of examples of good practice?

Additional Information for question 8:

The case studies in part 4 of the document are included to demonstrate real place-based action being undertaken that helps support local living and 20 minute neighbourhood principles.

More information can be found in part 4 of the guidance document.

☐ Very useful

☐ Somewhat useful

☐ Not at all useful

Please explain your response explaining what else could be useful

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Question 9

Looking at the impact assessment update report: do you have any views about the initial conclusions of the impact assessment update report that accompany and inform this guidance?

Additional Information for question 9:

The impact assessment report update relates to the draft guidance on Local living and 20 Minute Neighbourhoods, produced to support the fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4).

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods are included within the policy framework of NPF4, adopted by Scottish Ministers on 13th February. The concept of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods is intended to support places where people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home, preferably through active travel modes or by public transport.

NPF4 was the subject of extensive consultation and parliamentary scrutiny and an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA), involving a number of statutory and non-statutory assessments, was prepared for NPF4 and is available on the Transforming Planning website.

The policy intent and outcomes for Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods were included within this assessment process. Therefore, the impact of the policy has already been assessed and this updated report summarises key content relevant to local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods gathered as part of the previous impact assessment process. Additional content on the impacts of the draft guidance has been added where relevant or necessary.

Read the impact assessment update report.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please tell us here

Question 10

Please provide any further comments on the draft guidance document in the box below.