

# Making Places

Support for community-led design in local areas  
2018-2019



# **INTRODUCTION**

## **The Importance of Place**

The places where we spend our time have an important impact on our lives. The way a place looks, how it makes us feel, and the way it works can strongly influence our health, wellbeing, and the opportunities we have access to.

The Scottish Government wants to support the delivery of places that enable a high quality of life, help tackle inequalities and allow communities to flourish.

## **Design Support for Communities**

Since 2011, the Scottish Government Making Places initiative and Charrette Mainstreaming Programme have supported 80 design processes in local communities across the country. The programme has encouraged communities to actively and positively take part in developing ideas for the future of their towns, villages and neighbourhoods.

The Making Places initiative offers funding for communities, public sector organisations and third sector groups to come together, talk about the issues in their local areas, and develop plans and design for the future.

Making Places can provide support to communities who are keen to take the first step in discussing issues in their local area to those who are ready to have a more detailed conversation and to design and develop a vision for the future.

This funding is for events and projects that will be completed by 31st March 2019.

## What type of Support is Available?

Making Places aims to support a wide range of processes.

We want to make sure that conversations that happen locally capture the individual and shared experience that exists in all communities.

Different communities have different needs, skills and resources, and to reflect this, different types of support are offered through the initiative:



### Place Standard Conversations

Grant funding for communities keen to develop their understanding of their place and build their skills and confidence using the [Place Standard Tool](#)



### Community-Led Design

Grant funding to support communities to participate in and lead design processes, such as workshops and charrettes

In all cases, projects coming forward to access support should be able to demonstrate a strong emphasis on tackling inequality, and will have a clear ambition to combat disadvantage through community activity and creative thinking.

This animation gives further information on the Place Standard Tool:  
<https://www.placestandard.scot/guide/resources>

There are also case studies on using the Place Standard Tool here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfsxGPGF4RU>

For more information on funding for Place Standard Conversations [click here](#)

For more information on funding for Community-Led Design [click here](#)



# Place Standard Conversations

## Overview

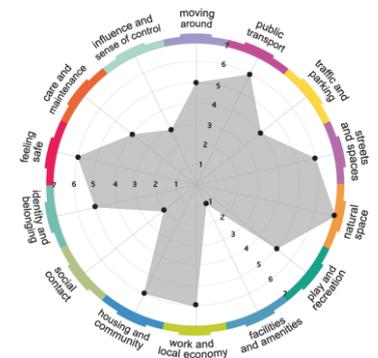
Support for communities to have meaningful conversations about the quality of their place and to help set priorities for their future.

This will provide small grants directly to community groups. The grants do not require match funding.

A key focus is on supporting applications from areas of multiple deprivation where communities may have fewer resources and opportunities, and from areas affected by poverty.

## What is it?

The Place Standard Conversations element of the Making Places fund aims to support communities to begin thinking about their place and how it affects their life. The fund is particularly aimed at communities that may not have the experience or confidence to begin these types of processes. The funding is for community-based groups, to support them in the use of the Place Standard to help evaluate their local area and to prioritise areas for action



The [Place Standard](#) is a popular and free to use tool that is already being used by communities across Scotland to structure conversations about their local place. Making Places support is intended to:

- Increase the ability for disadvantaged communities to come together and begin discussions about their place.
- Capture lessons directly from communities on how using the Place Standard can help to bring people together, identify strengths in the local area and help to plan priorities.

More detail on how the funding can be used is in the information for applicants section.



# Place Standard Conversations

If you are successful in securing support then we want to hear about how the work is taken forward in your community. We are keen that this is reported in the voice of the community and encourage projects to capture their work in whichever way suits them best, including the use of creative, innovative and distinctive approaches. For example, we are interested in hearing about the work through methods such as video content blogs, vlogs, social media feedback, quotes from individuals attending or any other creative ways in which you wish to report how things worked out for you.

There will also be a very short reporting form to complete but this will be straightforward and will record some of the practical elements, such as how many people took part, and where and when any events took place.

## Is it right for you?

This might be the right option for you if you fall into any of the following categories:

- you would like to bring people together to discuss the quality of your local area but you don't know how to begin
- you want to encourage discussion with a wide range of people in a structured way
- your community is experiencing disadvantage or the effects of poverty and needs some support to cover practical expenses to bring people together.

## How to Apply

Please read the information for applicants before completing the application form that is available on the [website](#). Please contact us at [architecture@gov.scot](mailto:architecture@gov.scot) if you would like more information.



# Community-led Design

## Overview

Support to deliver a range of participative design and place-based workshops (including charrettes) – enabling communities to develop a vision for their place and make the best use of their local assets.

Provided by match-funded grants to support design processes in local areas. The total fund available for this initiative is £275,000. The level of each grant will be determined by the nature of the project. In most cases, the Scottish Government will fund 50% of the total cost.

There will be a particular focus on community design processes that support the development of local place plans. We would especially encourage applications that cover areas of multiple deprivation where people may have fewer resources and opportunities, and from areas affected by poverty.

## What is it?

The Community-Led Design support provides grant funding for community groups, third sector organisations and public authorities to take forward design processes relating to a particular place, or an aspect of a place. Proposed design processes must allow communities to either lead the process, or to participate fully and be central to decision making on future plans for the place.

Design processes can take many forms, from intensive working over a few days to projects that adopt a slower pace over a longer timescale. 'Charrette' style working is eligible for funding and we are also open to funding other types of community-led design processes.

Most design processes will involve an element of professional design input, perhaps involving a team of designers, planners, artists, professional facilitators or other experts. However, some processes may only require input from an individual or a small number of professionals, and some may utilise the expertise and talents of those living or working within the community. Processes should not simply be consultation events, but should allow for meaningful input from the wider community to be central to the development of plans and designs.



## Local Place Plans

The Community-Led Design fund particularly encourages applications from projects that can support the development of local place plans.

The Planning Bill currently before the Scottish Parliament seeks to introduce a new right for communities to produce plans for their places, with scope for those plans to become part of the statutory development plan. This effectively empowers a community to play a proactive role in defining the future of its place.

There is no set format to a local place plan and the Making Places Community-Led Design fund aims to explore the challenges and opportunities arising from the preparation of these community-led plans.

## The Design Approach

Whatever the type of design process used, it must be right for the particular community, and their context. It is important that the outcomes of the design process are realistic and useful in developing the ambitions and opportunities of the community.

In most cases, the type of design process that is appropriate will be dependent on:

- the scale and complexity of the project
- the level of detailed output that is required
- the community involved and the local context

An important part of a successful community-led design process is ensuring that all parts of the community are able to participate effectively. We are particularly keen that processes reduce the barriers faced by many local people in taking part in community discussions and planning events. The approach to encouraging engagement and participation in a design-led process should be a fundamental element of any proposal. We are keen to support projects that allocate time and effort to engaging with as wide a range of the community as possible, in ways that are genuinely effective and that are tailored to the individual community.

Engagement work in advance of a community-design event should be seen as a key part of the overall design-process to ensure the widest representation from the local community. Early engagement should focus on widening participation and should be tailored to the context of the community. This engagement needs to be planned as part of the process in advance of a design workshop or charrette and will be evaluated in the application process.

Tools such as the Place Standard can help start discussions and set priorities in local areas.



Examples of design processes include:

### **Large scale and complex projects**

If you are considering the a detailed local place plan, the design of town centres, regeneration projects, or contributing to Local Development Plans (LDPs) – the intensive and collaborative approach of charrette-style working may be appropriate. This will involve a design team, working with the community, the local authority, and other stakeholders who have an interest in the place. The charrette method of working is intensive, and will usually occur over 3-5 consecutive days. A typical charrette output is likely to be a masterplan or design, action plan, and/or comprehensive set of priorities for the place, with substantial background material, research and detailed drawings. Large scale and complex projects may also adopt a design approach that is spread over a longer time, if that best suits the needs of the place.

### **Smaller sites and exploring opportunities**

You may be considering a small site or exploring initial options for a place – in which case a design workshop, or a series of workshops held over a longer period of time might be a more suitable approach. You will still require design input, however the range of skills required at any one time may not be as broad as in larger, complex projects.

### **Issues/aspects of place**

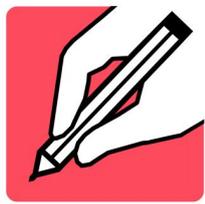
You may not be considering a particular physical asset within your place at all, but an issue, for example, safe streets or social isolation within a community. You may choose to explore the issue at a one-off workshop event, or hold several events to involve the whole community. The number of events you choose to hold will depend on the size and nature of the community, the complexity of issue(s) you are exploring, and how well developed the community's thinking already is on the subject.

You should consider the skills required to deliver the whole process, including the early engagement work that will be required. This may include more support on facilitation to complement the design skills in the team. It is important that the process focusses on how design decisions and thinking about place can improve the quality of life in that area.

### **Community context**

The type of process that you choose is likely to be influenced by the type(s) of community involved. For example, in rural settings, where communities are dispersed over large areas it may be beneficial to hold a number of design events, spread over a longer period of time, in order to ensure that everyone can contribute. Whereas, in an area where the community is very active, has a high level of understanding of what needs to change, and everyone is located in one area, then you may choose to run the design event in one venue, and generate intensity and local interest over a short period of time.

The above are offered purely as suggested guidelines to help you think more about the type of project you might want to take forward and how to do this. What is important is the approach that you choose should be appropriate to the project and that consideration is given to how to best engage with everyone in the community.



## Application Requirements

Whatever the focus of your project, all applicants must set out:

- how the design process will support the positive development of the place;
- how the project will contribute to an improved understanding of local needs;
- reasons why the particular approach has been chosen;
- how the chosen approach will offer value for money;
- how the approach will help tackle inequalities;
- how the project will reduce barriers to involve disadvantaged groups, for example BME groups, people with disabilities, areas affected by poverty;
- all proposals must involve communities directly in some element of a creative design process with a physical output such as plans, drawings, action plans as well as feedback to the community.

## Grant Funding

All projects are required to set out a requested grant amount. This should relate to the scale of the project and the design process proposed. Costs do not require to be finalised, but you should provide a realistic indication of the likely grant required. If a project is selected for in-principle funding then the Scottish Government will request additional cost information before grant is finalised.

Awards are made on the basis of match funding. Therefore, the maximum grant the Scottish Government will offer will be 50% of the total cost of delivering the design event (exclusive of VAT).

The level of grant support may be increased where the applicant is a community group. In such instances, the community group should provide details on what proportion of funding is sought and explain why an increased level of funding is required. The total amount of funding any one project will receive is dependent on the nature of the project.

## How to Apply

To apply for Community-Led Design support, please read the information for applicants and complete the application form on the [website](#). The closing date for applications is the 28th September 2018.

# Making Places

