A Place Standard for Scotland

Scottish Government
NHS Health Scotland
A+DS

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Place means different things to different people....

place is subjective

places for people? ...................... or cars?

monoculture lacks resilience......
The biology is very clear, chaotic, difficult circumstances lead to an increased risk of physical ill health

So lets not spend a fortune trying to find drugs to fix that; lets change the chaotic and difficult circumstances.
Effective nurturing, consistent parenting allows a sense of control to develop. The environment becomes structured and understandable.

Opportunity through education allows social networks to become richer, self-esteem to develop and a sense of control is further enhanced. Resources to manage the environment become established.

Through having a sense of purpose, health related behaviours become easier to adopt.

Psychological resilience – ‘Sense of Coherence’.

Elevated markers of stress -- associated with elevated risks of chronic ill health.

This is about ‘Doing things With People’.

Source: Aaron Antonovsky
What causes health inequalities?

**Fundamental Causes**
Global forces, political priorities, societal values
Leading to: unequal distribution of income, power and wealth

**Wider Environmental Influences**
- Economic & Work
- Physical
- Education & Learning
- Social & Cultural Services

**Individual Experiences**
- Economic & Work
- Physical
- Education & Learning
- Social & Cultural Services

**Effects**
Inequalities in the distribution of health and wellbeing

Source: NHS Health Scotland – ‘Theory of Causation of Health Inequalities’.
Place and Health Inequalities.....

The environment that surrounds us has substantial influence over our health and wellbeing.

It provides us with basic needs.

It can be hazardous.

It can be detrimental to health.

It can create and nurture health.
Estimates put the cost of obesity to Scotland in 2030 at up to £3 billion.


20% of people walk for 20 minutes, less than once a year, or never.

*Department for Transport – National Travel Survey – 2009.*
Smokadiabetes is reaching epidemic proportions. BUT low fitness still kills more Americans than smoking, diabetes and obesity combined.

Source: Blair, INMJ, 2014.
Research shows that making places better for walking can boost footfall and trading by up to 40%.

Good quality urban design can raise retail rents by up to 20%.

Pedestrians spend up to six-times more than people arriving by car.

Retailers overestimate the number of customers arriving by car by almost 100%.

*Source: Scottish Government*
Purpose of Place Standard:

- Support the Delivery of High Quality Places
- Maximise the Potential of the Physical and Social Environment in Supporting health & Wellbeing
- Improve the Quality of Life for All Citizens in Scotland

Place Standard Will:

- Demonstrate what Makes A Good, Sustainable Place
- Set a Framework for Processes which Deliver Places of High Quality

Intended Outcomes:

- An assessment Framework for Place quality
- Provide a Framework for Structured Conversations
- Provide a Consistency on Design Issues Across Scottish Planning Authorities
- Maximise contribution of Place to Reducing Health Inequalities across Scotland

Supporting Public, Private, Third Sector and communities

Increase certainty for the Development Sector
Does the layout of my neighbourhood make the most of location, setting and climate?

Does my neighbourhood have an appropriate level of car parking that is integrated in a way that avoids detrimental impact(s)?

Does the housing in my neighbourhood contribute to a positive social and physical environment?

Does my neighbourhood provide a range of spaces and opportunities for play?

Do I have opportunity to experience good quality greenspace and natural features within walking distance of my home?

Do I have facilities and amenities that support my everyday needs?

Do I have a convenient public transport system that supports my everyday needs?

Does my neighbourhood have a positive identity and do I feel I belong here?

Do I feel safe here?

Am I able to participate in making my neighbourhood as good as it can be?

Is my neighbourhood well maintained with appropriate refuse storage and collection arrangements?

Do I have opportunities and spaces within my local area to meet people and engage in community activities?

Do I live in an attractive neighbourhood with a positive and welcoming character?

Does the layout of my neighbourhood make the most of location, setting and climate?

Does my neighbourhood have an appropriate level of car parking that is integrated in a way that avoids detrimental impact(s)?

Place Tool Concept...
This tells us that this particular place has:

**Really Good for Moving Around** – people can easily walk & cycle here.

**Great Public transport** – really good train and bus links.

**Really Good Facilities** – easy to get to the shops; community centre; etc.

**Average Green space** – ok parks; kick-about spaces, walking routes, etc.

**Below Average Play Opportunities** – natural and formal play spaces are poor.

**Average Housing Mix** – doesn’t meet the needs of everyone.

**Average Parking** – it does the job but isn’t as good as it could be.

**Good Streetscape & Setting** – looks right, good proportions, density, etc.

**Good Visual Character** – this place looks good, clean, tidy, etc.

**Not so Good Social Interactions** – limited opportunities to stop & chat.

**Very Poor Engaged Communities** – people not included in future.

**Average Maintenance & Servicing** – ok but could be better.

**Poor Perceptions of Safety** – people don’t feel safe in this place.

**Good Community Identity & Sense of Belonging** – people like living here.
Feedback Snapshot: What People have told us so far......

♦ Where and When would you use this tool? Case studies would be helpful to demonstrate how to use the tool

♦ Questions need reframed – so that they don’t invite a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ response

♦ Don’t make it a ‘Standard’ – we don’t need a Place Rule Book

♦ Some of the themes and questions need to be changed or re-worked -- Housing Mix; Engaged Communities; Facilities & Amenities and Parking are seen as being particularly problematic.

♦ New themes should include Local Economy; Sustainability; Heritage; Inequalities and Climate Change

♦ Also ‘What makes this place special?’ was seen as a key question we should be asking.

♦ Language needs to be more accessible to a wider audience and jargon free.

♦ We should also be asking something around “what else is missing that is important to this place?”

♦ Scoring system is not clear and there is now weighting, so how can you tell what is good or bad in terms of place quality?
What Happens Next...

- Review Feedback
  - Missing themes
  - Suggestions relating to the questions set
  - Additional themes
  - Combining themes
  - Clustering similar themes
  - New ideas
  - Etc.

- Create Revised Toolkit
  - Work with consultants to develop electronic version of the toolkit
  - Bring on experts in their field to make sure the toolkit will work.

- Present to Project Board
  - Report on consultation process.
  - Report on proposed changes
  - Get advice and input from board members on revised toolkit
  - Discuss and review rolling out and testing the toolkit
  - Monitoring and evaluation of project

- Launch Revised Toolkit
  - Electronic
  - Mobile App
  - Paper Version
  - Launched by Scottish Government.

- Testing toolkit – with a number of different groups and stakeholders.