



Origins of the Place Standard

How Good is Our Place?

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#placestandard

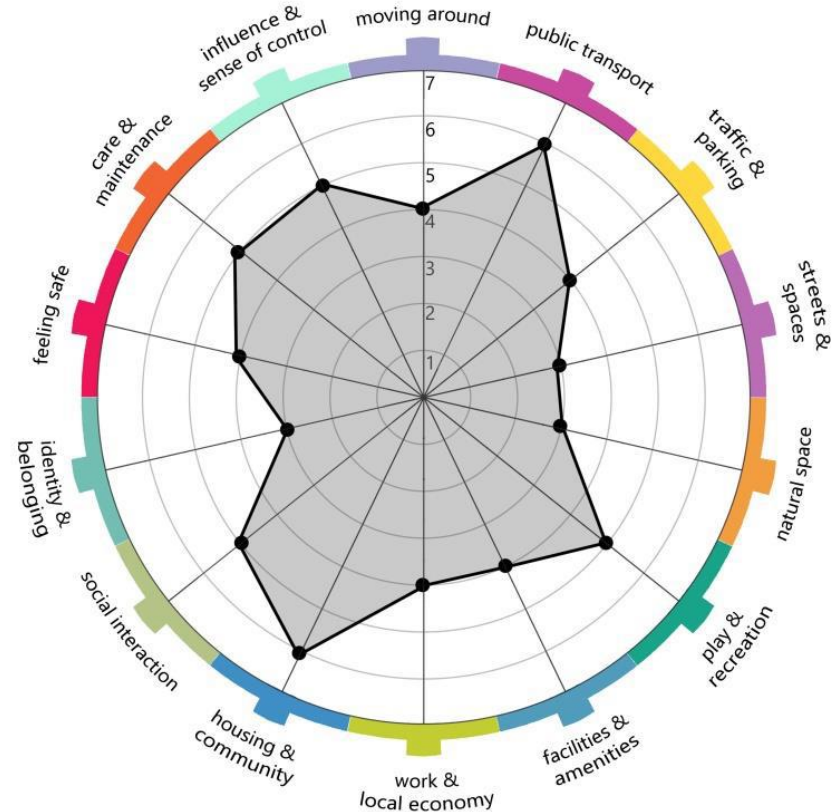


Architecture &
Design Scotland

Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba

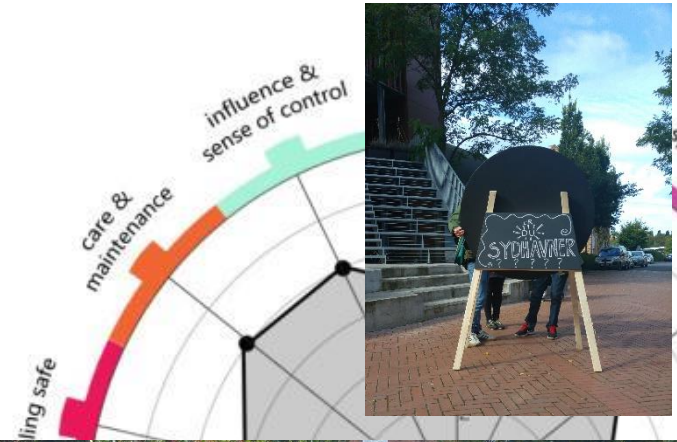


The Scottish
Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba



Topics

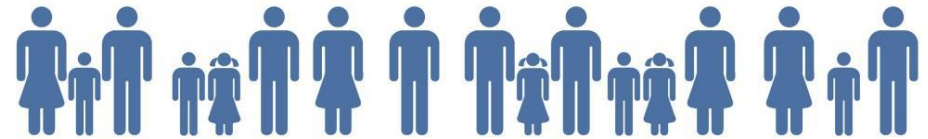
- Background and origins of the tool
- Pilot applications
- Lessons



place

- the **environment** in which we live
- the **people** that inhabit these spaces
- the **quality of life** that comes from the interaction of people and their surroundings

• *Source: Creating Places – Scottish Government*



impacts of place

ANY development
ALWAYS 'makes
places'

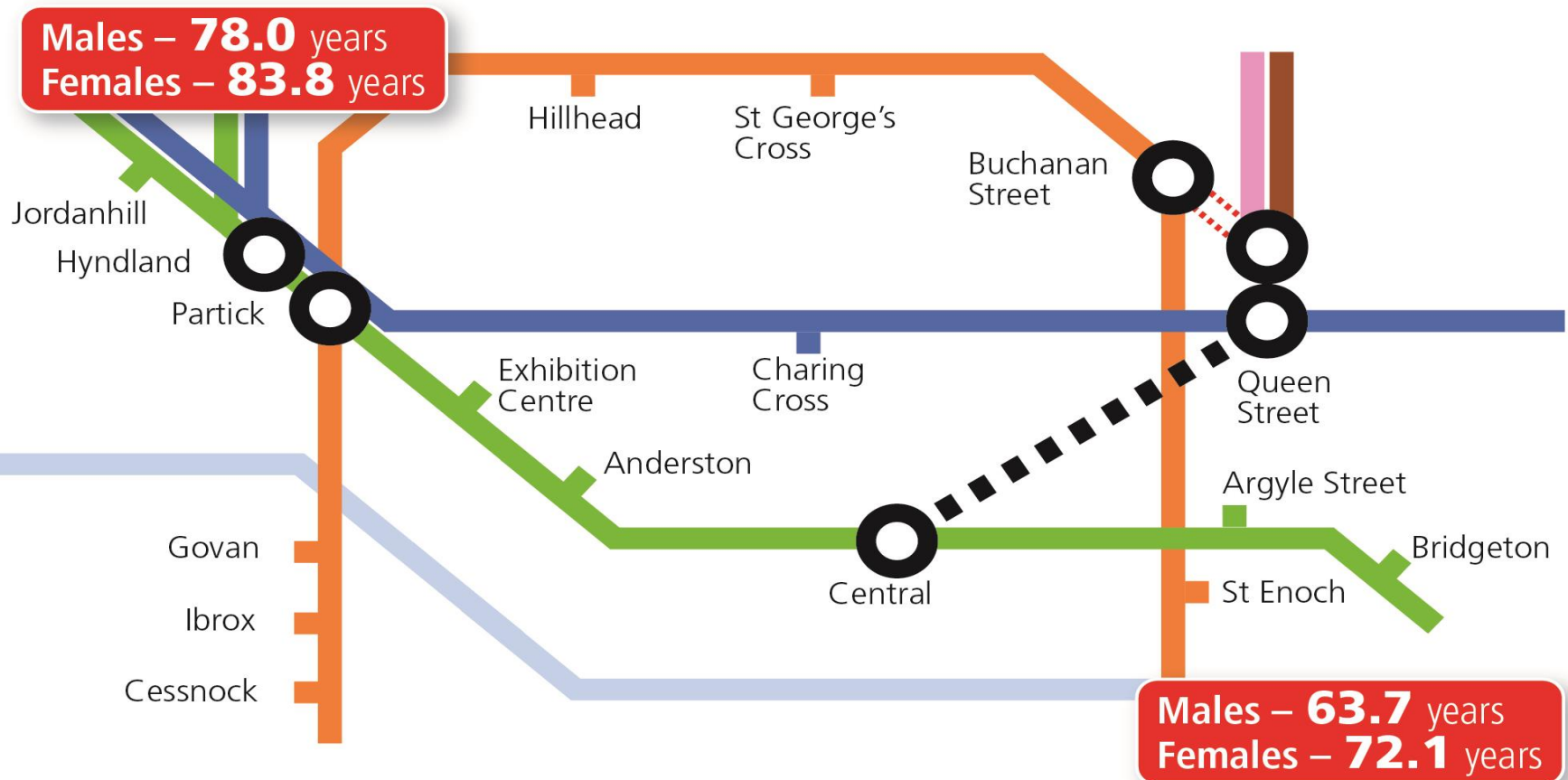
The question is
whether they
contribute positively,
have little impact, or
lead to negative
outcomes



Image Flickr goatsgreetings

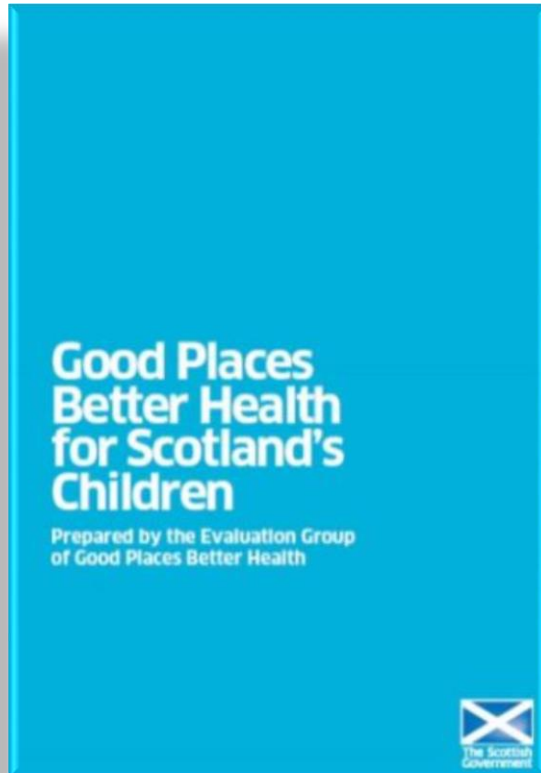
....inequality

...difference of 14.3 years life expectancy for men and 11.7 years for women between affluent Jordanhill and deprived Bridgeton...



.... identity





"We wish to see a Scotland where a Scottish Neighbourhood Quality Standard is used for neighbourhood asset development."

CREATING PLACES

1. ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

The planning process plays a fundamental role in shaping the quality of our architecture. It is crucial that these two disciplines are closely aligned. There are a range of design issues related to architecture policy influenced or regulated by the planning process.

POLICY

Everyone responsible for Scotland's built and natural environment must recognise that architecture and places are not simply elements of the planning process – they are among the most important outcomes that the process exists to support, and their quality should be a priority.

Setting the Framework for Planning and Architecture

- 1.1 We will embed design and placemaking as a priority within a revised Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) to be published by the end of 2023. This will put the design requirements for architecture and placemaking at the heart of the decision making process and ensure that the policy has a greater focus on outcomes.
- 1.2 We will fully integrate the principles of Designing Places into the revised SPP. Designing Streets will remain the national planning, architecture and
- 1.3 We will develop a Place Standard assessment tool, which will be the hallmark of well-designed places. This standard will be aimed at creating greater certainty around quality of place and it is intended to support the private and public sectors and communities. It will address quality in relation to places that support healthy and sustainable lifestyles. We will develop this in collaboration with

the design and development sectors and it will be applicable to new and existing places.

1.4 We will promote and encourage the use of the Place Standard within public housing developments. Its use will be an expectation of the award of subsidies provided through the Affordable Housing Supply Programme.

1.5 To support the outcomes of the Town Centres Review, we will develop a Masterplanning Toolkit, specific to town centres that includes guidance on specific transport and design details, focusing on the development of quality, accessible public realm and the use of town assets.

Supporting Place-Based Decision Making

1.6 Working with partners, we will develop training resources tailored for elected members, senior council managers, communities, public sector officers and Registered Social Landlords on the value and importance of fully accessible, well-designed buildings and places.

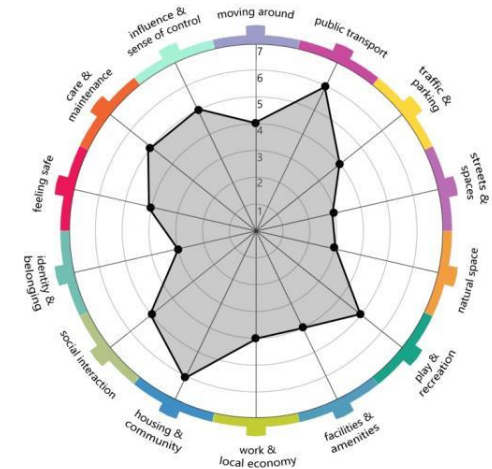


Supporting the Framework for Planning and Architecture

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A PLACE STANDARD FOR SCOTLAND



- Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
- Place Standard launched December 2015

Key Partners:



Architecture & Design Scotland
Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba



We looked at:

People's experience of a place

A word cloud of terms related to the experience of a place. The terms are arranged in a non-uniform, overlapping manner. The largest and most prominent words are 'social capital', 'physical activity', 'perception of safety', 'neighbourhood attractiveness', 'walkability', and 'social hubs'. Other significant words include 'local services', 'density', 'maintenance', 'housing tenure', 'economic investment', 'employment opportunities', 'neighbourhood incivilities', 'alcohol outlets', 'trust', 'leisure facilities', 'leisure', 'density', 'active travel', 'cars', 'crime', 'social', 'hubs', 'Natural spaces', 'lighting', 'connections', 'shops', 'community gardens', 'greenspace', 'paths', and 'local stories'. The words are in various sizes and orientations, creating a dynamic visual effect.

local services
social capital
walkability
community gardens
density
greenspace
trust
neighbourhood attractiveness
employment opportunities
neighbourhood incivilities
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leisure facilities
leisure
economic investment
perception of safety
local stories
housing tenure
maintenance
physical activity

PHYSICAL | SPATIAL TOOLS

By Design 2000

Centre for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE)

Objectives of urban design – character, continuity and enclosure, quality of the public realm, ease of movement, legibility, adaptability, diversity.

Building for Life 2012

Design Council/CABE

National standard for well designed homes and neighbourhoods - 20 themes down to 12

Designing Places 2001/Designing Streets 2010

Scottish Government

6 qualities of successful places – a sense of identity – safe and pleasant – ease of movement – a sense of welcome - adaptability – making good use of resources.

Jan Gehl

Humanist planning built around analysis and observation of city life followed by action.

SOCIAL TOOLS

Health Impact Assessment:

NHS Health Scotland

Principles of predicting outcomes, consulting communities and informing decision making.

Healthy Sustainable Neighbourhoods

Glasgow Centre for Population Health, Eive Currie

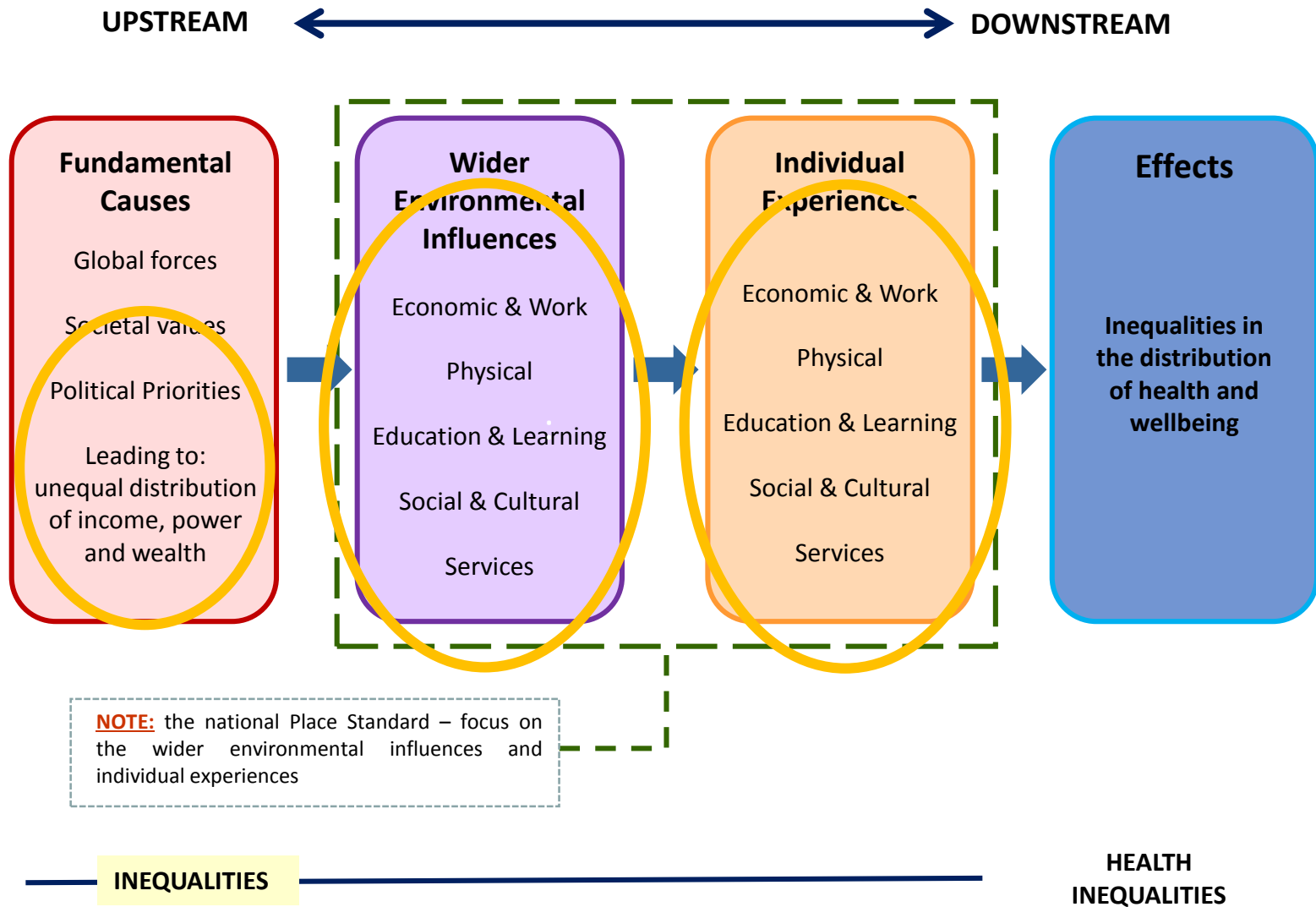
Healthy Sustainable Me

Course for Communities Equally Well

Creating Strong Communities

Social Life/Young Foundation with Berkeley Homes
Measures for Social Sustainability.

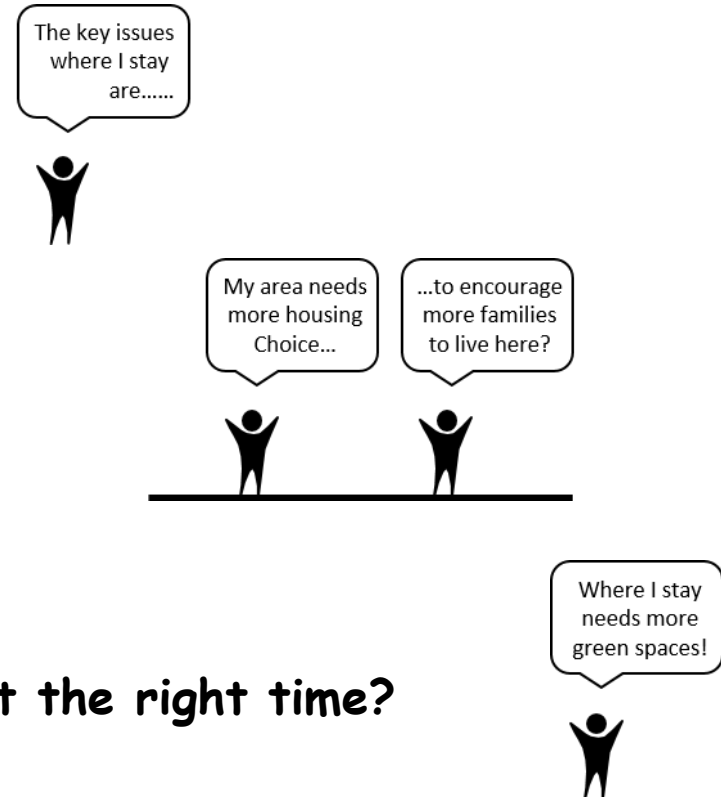
Public health science background.....



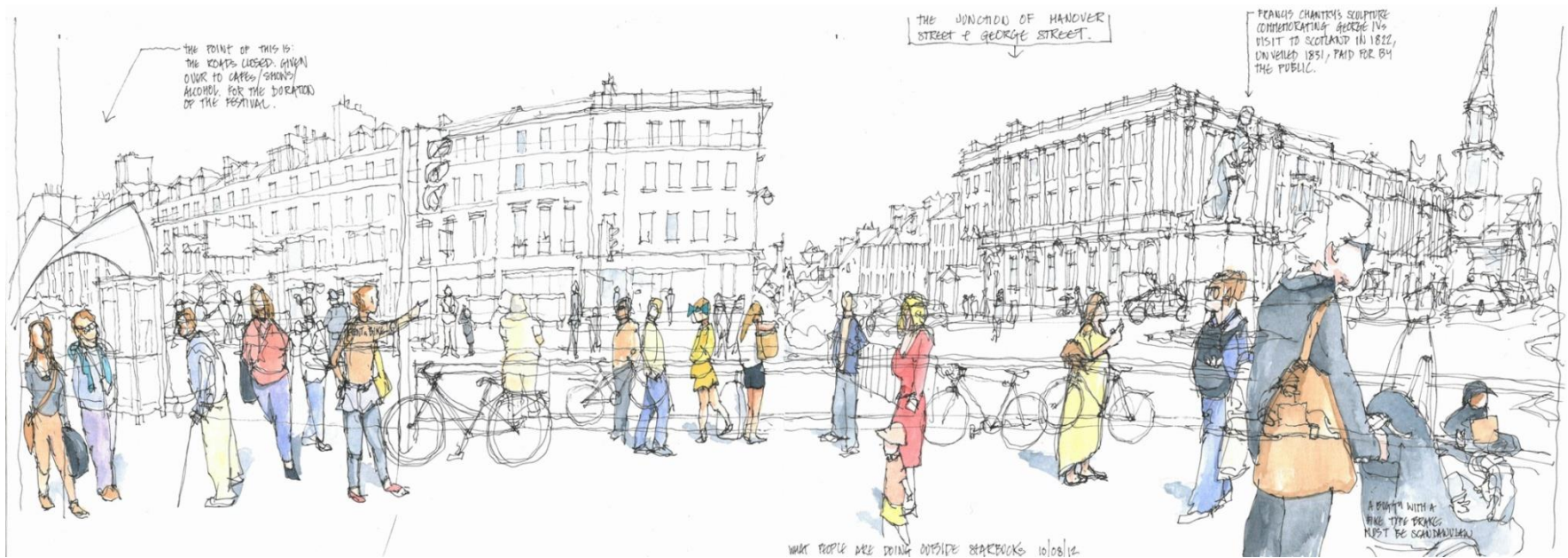
Mindset

'Doing things With People'

- ⚙️ What is it like to live here?
- ⚙️ What makes this place unique?
- ⚙️ What do I need to live my life?
- ⚙️ Are we talking to the right people at the right time?



A Purpose.....



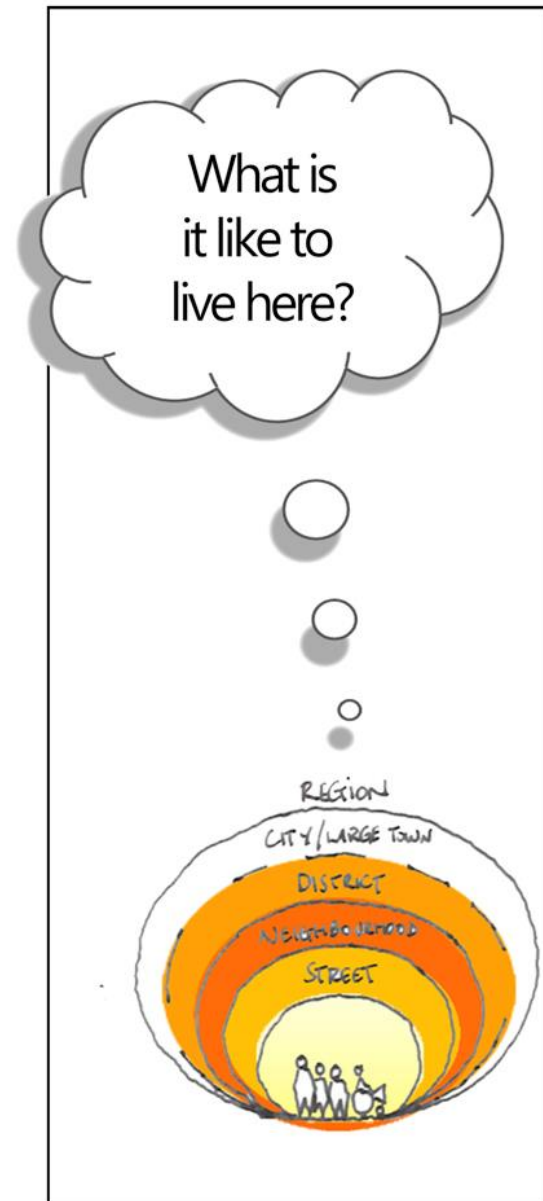
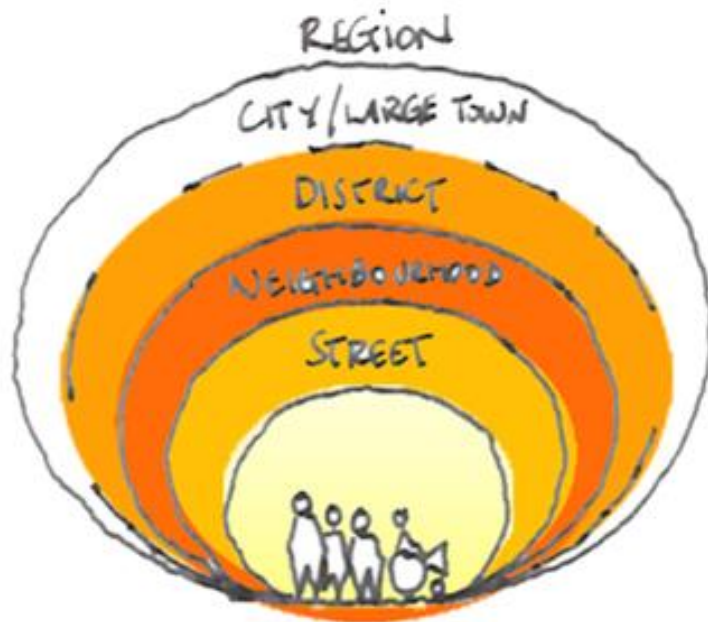
...to support the delivery of high quality places in Scotland and to maximise the potential of the physical and social environment in supporting health, wellbeing and a high quality of life.

A Principle

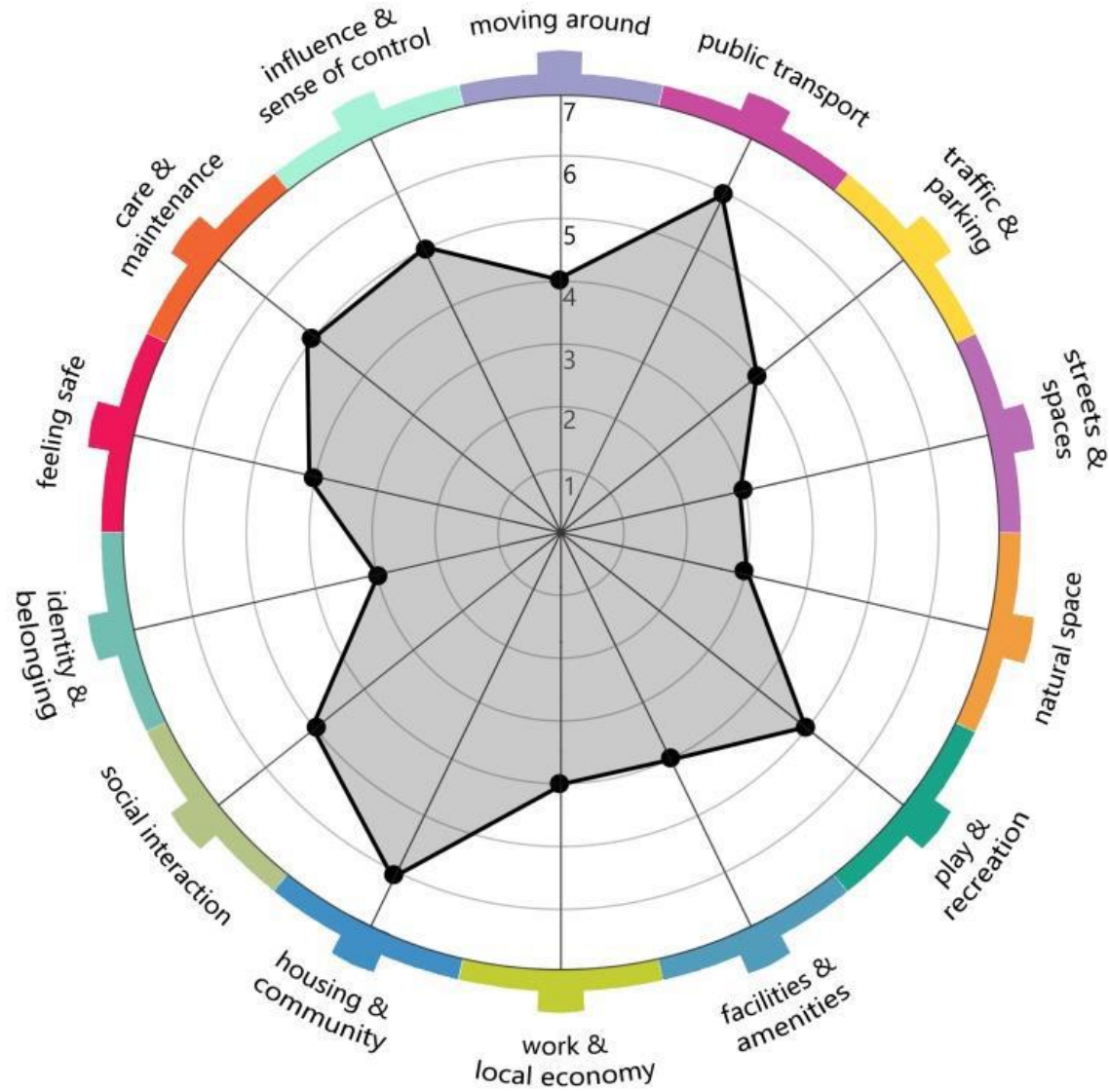


Are we having the right conversations with the right people at the right time to change things for the better?

A Scale and Perspective.....



Themes and a Framework



CarnegiePilot 2015: Before

Tested application of early model of tool in 3 communities in small focus groups, e.g. within Greenock: population 44,000

Aims:

- Testing capacity of non-professional community members to use the tool.
- Testing the tool on site with a walk-about.
- Testing application at small scale: community gardens and a school playground.
- Testing use for local stewardship



Carnegie Prize for Design and Wellbeing

- Pathead Primary School, Kirkcaldy
- Belville Community Garden Greenock
- Auchencairn Link Park, Dumfries

Carnegie Pilot 2015: Before

“The overall message is the value of the tool as an enabler. The language is good and clear – it promotes a positive conversation.”

Douglas White, Carnegie UK Trust

Outcomes:

- Enthusiasm about a process which fostered interesting discussion about the area.
- Tested involvement aged from 8 – 65+.
- Produced evidence for future grant applications

Learning:

- Stimulates dialogue for small groups.
- Need to improve accessibility for young people.
- Relevance of scale of place.



24 themes down to 14

Theme	Question
 Moving Around	Can I easily walk and cycle around using good quality routes?
 Public Transport	Does public transport meet my needs?
 Traffic And Parking	Do traffic and parking arrangements allow people to move around safely and meet community needs?
 Streets & Spaces	Do buildings, streets and public spaces create an attractive place that is easy to get around?
 Natural Space	Can I regularly experience good quality natural space?
 Play & Recreation	Do I have access to a range of spaces and opportunities for play and recreation?
 Facilities & Amenities	Do facilities and amenities meet my needs?
 Work & Local Economy	Is there an active local economy and the opportunity to access good quality work?
 Housing & Community	Does housing support the needs of the community and contribute to a positive environment?
 Social Interaction	Is there a range of spaces and opportunities to meet people?
 Identity & Belonging	Does this place have a positive identity and do I feel I belong?
 Feeling Safe	Do I feel safe?
 Care & Maintenance	Are buildings and spaces well cared for?
 Influence & Sense of Control	Do I feel able to participate in decisions and help change things for the better?

Arbroath Pilot 2015: Before

Tested with groups of local authority managers. Key Partners – Angus Community Planning Partnership. Arbroath population 24,000.

Aims:

- To share knowledge through focus on a place Arbroath town centre.
- To use tool structure to help break down professional silos.
- To inform the council's brief for a design and improvement
- Test scoring scale 1:7 versus + 3/ - 3

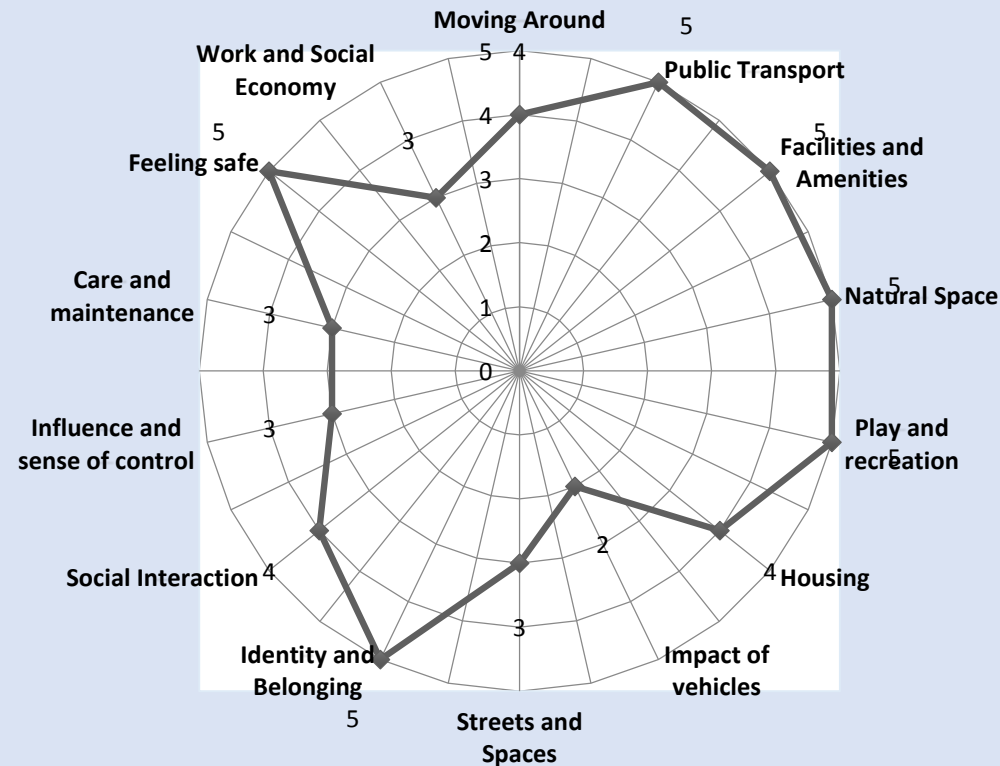


Arbroath Pilot 2015: Before

Results – Action Priorities

- Maintenance of buildings in the town centre
- Adequate lighting in all areas
- Improvements needed for cycling provision
- Improve pedestrian only spaces
- Improve signage
- Greenspace in central areas
- Review town centre traffic management
- Promote opportunities to engage with community members
- Reduce the impact of dual carriageway and improve access points
- Improve safety and access to town centre using public transport
- Better linkage between the Abbey and Harbour
- Improve employability
- Improve the shopping experience
- More spaces to do shared activities
- Improve facilities for the community
- Remove poor quality housing

OUR ASSESSMENT CHART



Arbroath Pilot 2015

“A tool which can be used to develop conversations at all levels including corporate and community which will therefore lead to an overall better collaborative approach to talking about “place”. – Lead officer

Outcomes:

- The output “stimulated a way of inviting and directing discussion with community participants” at a series of locality events considering urban and rural areas.

Learning:

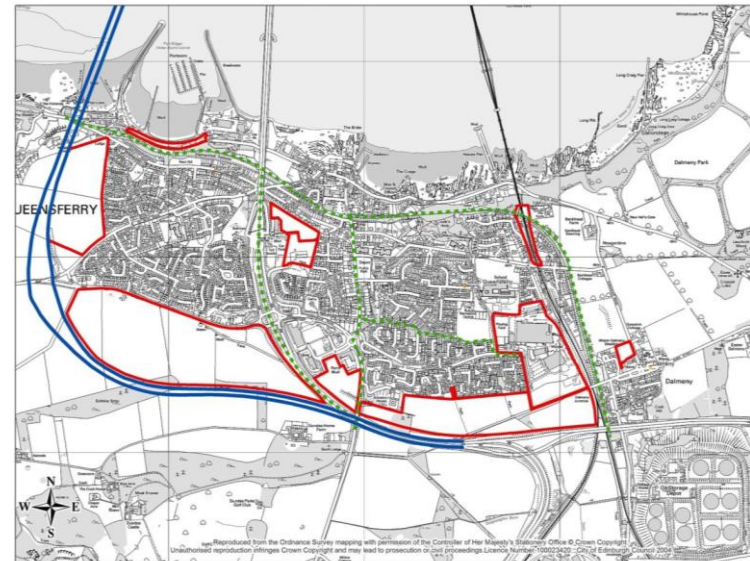
- 1:7 scoring scale adopted.
- Use for professional corporate working.
- Use to identify actions, design and investment briefs

South Queensferry Pilot 2015: During

Tested application of tool through group work managed by City of Edinburgh Council and Queensferry & District Community Council at 3 events. Town population 9000

Aims:

- Involving a community in managing a major change – Forth crossing.
- Build confidence in local authority within the community.
- Link community issues or needs directly with new developments.
- Take place-based views to other services.



South Queensferry Pilot: During

Feeling Safe

- General feeling that Queensferry is a safe place to live and travel around.
- However, the lack of a visible police presence was raised by a number of respondents, and seen as a concern with the rising population.
- The recent spate of burglaries was mentioned a number of times.

Work and Local Economy

- The overwhelming view was that Queensferry is a dormitory town for Edinburgh and other settlements, and that access to work in these places is good – if you have a car.
- There is an active local economy, but it is centred on the tourist trade and service sector roles – restaurants, hotels, Tesco etc.
- A number of respondents highlighted the lack of 'professional'-type jobs locally, and how big employers (eg Hewlett Packard) previously located there had left.

Moving Around

- General feeling Queensferry is easy to move around on foot.
- Most groups mentioned the poor state of the High Street.
- Views on cycle paths were mixed – some commented on their increased quality due to recent improvements and others commented on they are not well connected.

Public Transport

- Generally the bus services are seen as poor, both within Queensferry and for connections to other places. Comments centred on their prices, irregularity, and the withdrawal of services into Fife and West Lothian.
- There was also a view that some areas in Queensferry are much better serviced than others.
- Train services are viewed more positively, but are seen as expensive and overcrowded.

Facilities and Amenities

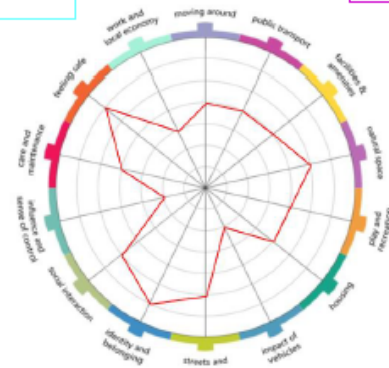
- Concern over the capacity of existing school and medical facilities being reached.
- Leisure facilities are limited, and those available (e.g. the pool at Queensferry High School) are in poor condition. Facilities are available in surrounding settlements, but usage depends on access to a car.
- The town has a fair number of shops, but they are seen as catering more towards tourists than residents.

Care and Maintenance

- Buildings are generally well maintained.
- There are problems with litter, dog fouling and graffiti in streets and parks.
- Gritting in winter can be selective
- Issues with cobbles on the High Street

Influence and Sense of Control

- Many respondents felt their opinions were lost within the system.
- There was a view that public involvement in important issues has been lacking in the past, and where their views would not make a difference.
- Generally respondents felt they had little control or influence over events (particularly young people).



Natural Space

- Although there are few natural spaces within the town, Queensferry benefits from being surrounded by publicly accessible estates.
- However, access to these is dependent on having a car.
- There is concern that access to a lot of these will be lost with the new housing developments.

Play and Recreation

- While there are play parks within Queensferry, they are not distributed evenly. Some families have trouble accessing them.
- There is a general lack of recreational facilities (e.g. bowling alley, quality swimming pool, cinema).
- Teenagers and younger people are poorly catered for in terms of activities.

Social Interaction

- Queensferry offers a lot of clubs and organisations.
- Some felt there was a lack of facilities for these organisations, e.g. no dedicated community centre.
- Others identified the High School as a good space for such activities.

Identity and Belonging

- Queensferry is seen as having a strong community identity, separate from Edinburgh.
- However, some respondents felt this was more tied to their local area than Queensferry as a whole.
- There is a fear this sense may be lost with the new housing developments.

Streets and Spaces

- Queensferry has a number of quality historic buildings, making it pleasant to walk around.
- However, the signage is quite poor in the centre, and should be improved to assist tourists with finding their way around.
- The poor quality of pavements and roads (e.g. potholes) was raised.

Impact of Vehicles

- Traffic congestion is seen as a problem across the town, especially along the High Street and the schools along Station Road. This is increased when there is an incident on the Forth Road Bridge.
- The High Street needs better traffic management, as it is constantly blocked by delivery trucks and tourist coaches.
- There is a lack of parking along the Waterfront.

Housing

- The existing housing mix caters mainly for families, and there is a lack of smaller 1 or 2 bedroom properties for those seeking either an affordable first home or to downsize.
- Lack of a care home and sheltered accommodation.
- There was a general concern that the new housing sites will not cater towards these needs and provide more large and expensive family housing.

South Queensferry Pilot

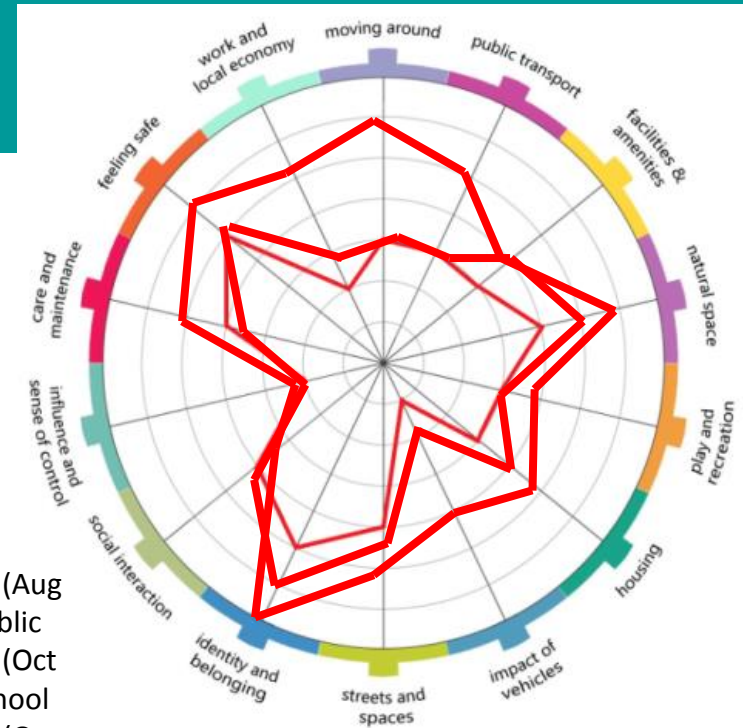
"I have never experienced this number of Council Services around one table talking about Queensferry and don't just welcome it, I am inspired by it"
Keith Giblet, Queensferry & District Community Council

Outcomes:

- In terms of usefulness 85% of participants said the event was "good" or "really good".
- Actions by council services - Parks and Environment - Economic development - Education – Housing.

Learning:

- Value for council and developers.
- Presentation of analysis – ideas and variables.
- Settlement scale more perceptual.



Stages of Use

Before Change

Identifying needs and assets
Aligning priorities and investments
Empowering communities

During Change

Co - Design

After Change

Monitoring changes and improvements
Shared Learning

Gathering community priorities
Informing CPP considerations
Identifying needs
Reviewing impact of initiatives
Business planning
Baseline data
Development planning
Planning consultation
Regeneration planning
Capacity studies for places
Needs assessments
Asset mapping
Data for consultant briefing
Design charrette briefing
Development briefs
Participatory budgeting
Development frameworks
Masterplanning
Option appraisals
Desktop review
Design and access statements
Design review
Cross sector working
Community action planning
Development management

Shetland Islands Pilot 2015 – 16: After

Tested application of tool through a survey of the community of the Shetland Islands. Islands population 23,000.

Aims

- Web-based survey format across dispersed population.
- Managed jointly across council services.
- Test suitability of language for rural communities.



Locality	Population (Census 2011)	% Population by Locality	Place Standard Responses	% Responses by Locality
Central	3905	17%	175	19%
Lerwick Bressay	7331	32%	242	26%
North	3282	14%	113	12%
North Isles	1659	7%	82	9%
South	4046	17%	197	21%
West	1809	8%	76	8%
Whalsay Skerries	1135	5%	54	6%
Total	23167	100%	939	100%

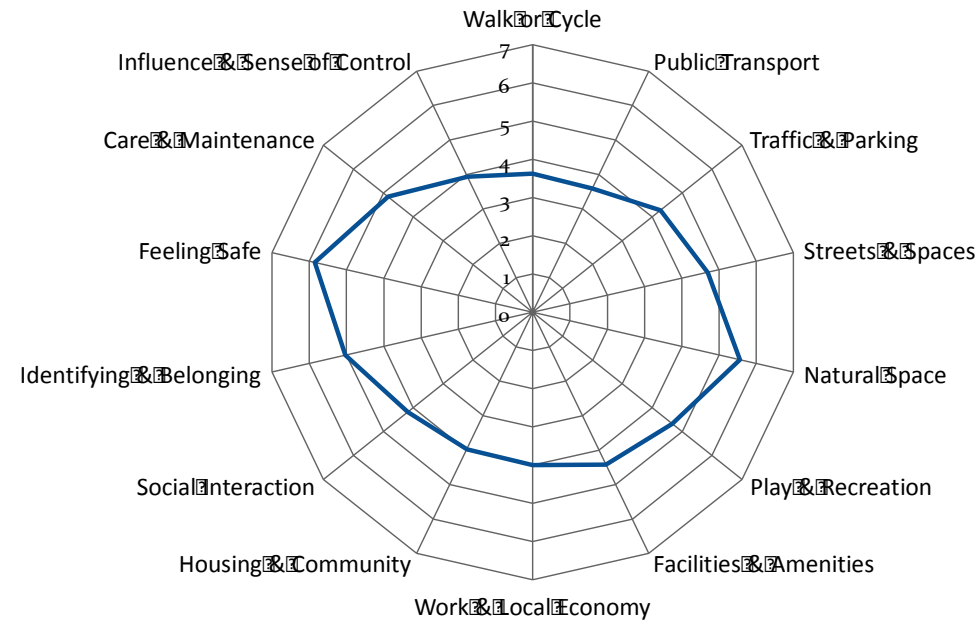
Shetland Islands Pilot: After

“The tool has allowed departments to work together to avoid consultation fatigue.”

Lead officer.

Outcomes:

- 900 responses representing all localities.
- Follow-up community forums tested and refined findings in each locality
- Overall report will form the basis of the locality plans and feed in to a range of strategic documents :
 - Local Outcome Improvement Plan
 - Local Development Plan
 - Local Housing Strategy
 - Shetland Transport Strategy



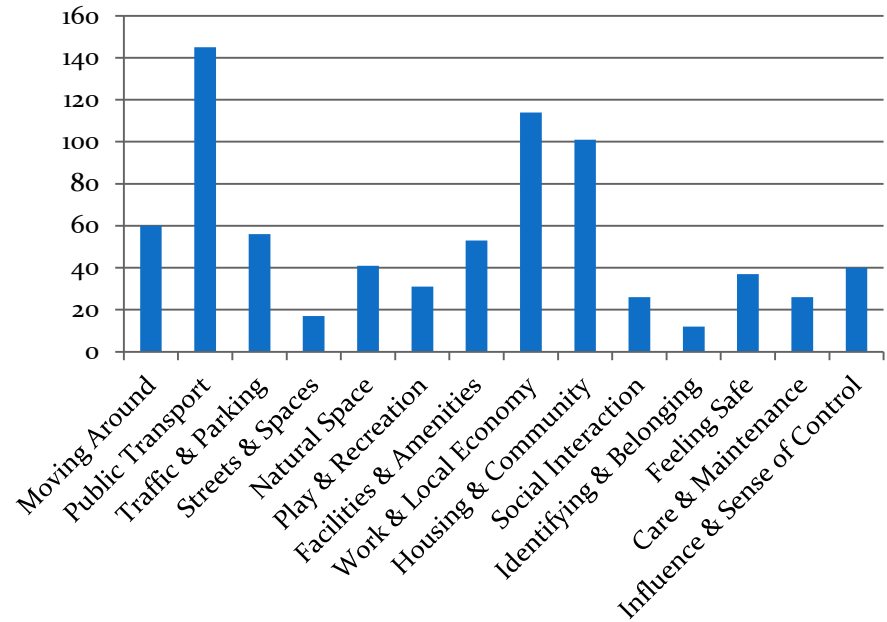
Shetland Compass

Shetland Islands Pilot: After

“A powerful tool” – Local Councillor.

Learning:

- Prioritisation process
- No response from U16 – led to new formats and App
- Resource intensive analysis process led to new on-line version with collated results



Thank you

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