

## 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](#)

## 20 minute neighbourhood

A flexible approach to assessing our places against the concept of local living. A method of achieving connected and often compact neighbourhoods designed in such a way that people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home preferably by sustainable and active travel methods. The principle can be adjusted to include varying geographical scales from cities and urban environments, to rural and island communities. Housing would be planned together with local infrastructure including schools, community centres, local shops and health and social care to significantly reduce the need to use unsustainable methods of travel, to prioritise quality of life, help tackle inequalities, increase levels of health and wellbeing and respond to the climate emergency.

Support measure	Scottish Government (SG) role	Delivery partner(s)	Scottish Government (SG) next steps	Short-term action – 2023	Medium-term action – 2024 - 2028
Update Designing Streets	PARD to lead, Transport Scotland partner	Architecture & Design Scotland (A&DS), Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS)	Collaborate to commence preparation of guidance.		
Local Living Guidance on 20 minute neighbourhoods	SG responsible for guidance	Stakeholder engagement, local authorities, community organisations	Consultation to be launched following laying of NPF4. Consideration of responses and finalisation of guidance in 2023.		

