

Submitted to Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods: draft planning guidance
Submitted on 2023-07-19 14:02:20

Questions

1 How helpful is part 1 of the guidance in furthering the understanding of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods in a Scottish context?

somewhat helpful

Please explain your response by adding what else could be helpful:

SEStran, having recently published the new 2035 Regional Transport Strategy, have a good understanding of local living and 20-minute neighbourhoods. Part 1 is helpful to cover the benefits and express that there is no 'one fit' across all settlements, with differences particularly when the focus is between urban and rural areas.

2 How helpful is the framework diagram in encouraging flexible, place-based approaches to support local living?

somewhat helpful

Please explain your response adding what else could be helpful:

Building on the place standard tool, the framework diagram provides a clear vision for local living with the key themes that need to be considered with each community. Again, there is no 'one fit' but this framework illustrates the minimum requirement that should be aspired to in order to truly achieve a local living neighbourhood.

3 Looking at part 2 of the draft guidance: how helpful are the 'categories' and 'key considerations for local living' that are captured within this part of the document?

somewhat helpful

Please explain your response adding what else could be helpful:

As stated in the previous question the categories are well placed and the key categories lay out a clear pathway for encouraging local living. The information in the key considerations should be nothing new to local authorities as the Place Standard tool was launched in 2015 to support the delivery of high quality places. However, the considerations do not lay out a quality standard needed to reach a minimum expectation of service even within the additional information provided in the Appendix. While understanding the guidance is laid out to not be a tick box exercise the understanding of a minimum level of amenity has not changed for some time. Additionally, there is no specific guidance as to the potential retrofit of amenities into existing development which is key to integration of policy and planning for communities.

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

somewhat helpful

Please explain your response adding what else could be helpful:

The approach appears sound though lacks any emphasis on timescales throughout the process. Whilst acknowledging that data will have been collected within the LDP evidence report, communities will need to be engaged and crucially informed of clear next steps in the process and how long before trial measures could be implemented and reviewed.

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

somewhat useful

Please explain your response adding what else could be helpful:

Part 3 sets out clearly the need for both types of data gathering though there is no referencing to representative sampling or taking note of previous engagement levels. There is evidence that those who engage locally would continue to do so but that there are groups who will remain isolated unless engaged in a different way to ensure that all voices are heard. The typical response rates to local engagements in the UK sits between 8-12% (1 <https://www.placechangers.co.uk/blog/planning-consultations/measure-what-matters-for-successful-community-consultation/>) showing the clear need for more robust processes to capture an accurate picture of what might be required in a local area.

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

somewhat helpful

Please explain your responses adding what else could be helpful:

This section does not explicitly lay out any new detail that a planning authority shouldn't already be considering as part of the planning process. The eradication of silo working is still very slow with decisions inhibited by differing budget timescales and lack of capacity in operational departments. While the guidance acknowledges the importance of local leadership, those in these positions may not have effective decision making powers to elicit change in a timely manner.

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

not at all helpful

Please explain your response adding what else could be helpful:

This section does not explicitly lay out any new detail that a planning authority shouldn't already be considering as part of the planning process. In this respect it is not adding value in helpfulness, as it refers the reader to the Policy in respect of support application and how this is perceived to change over time.

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

Yes

If yes, please tell us about it:

The case studies provide a clear insight into the processes and policy involved in engaging communities for the purposes of 20-minute neighbourhoods. However, there is still little detail of Scottish exemplar locations as recognised in the Ramboll Climate Exchange report, with a number of deficiencies in the available data that skews quantitative or qualitative scoring.

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?

yes

Please tell us here:

Agreement with conclusions made with the impact report.

10 Additional information: please provide any further comments on the draft guidance document.

Please let us know here:

About you

What is your name?

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What is your email address?

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Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SEStran)

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

Publish response only (without name)

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

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:

Slightly dissatisfied

Please enter comments here.:

While some detail in the guidance may be presented to a number of stakeholders for the first time, the content is not yet robust enough to deliver effective results without meaningful examples that can be evidenced in Scotland. This was picked up within the SG sanctioned report by Ramboll and should elicit further research.

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:

Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

Please enter comments here.: