



Photo by Ross Campbell

Neighbourhood Scale

Case studies of the Place Standard tool being used for planning at neighbourhood scale.

INTRODUCTION

This series of case studies from Architecture and Design Scotland illustrates how the Place Standard tool has been used in a wide variety of ways and at a range of scales for the purpose of informing spatial planning, community planning, design and development.

The practitioners and organisations featured explain their reasons for using the tool, the methods they applied when doing so, their approach to empowering local communities and the impact that this has had. They also share their perceptions of the tool, the knowledge gained in using it, as well as any valuable lessons learned and worth sharing with others.

PLACE STANDARD - NEIGHBOURHOOD SCALE

Some of the more in-depth work and the closest focus on community empowerment in planning is being carried out using the Place Standard at neighbourhood scale. These case studies demonstrate use of the tool in a number of ways and for a range of purposes:

- As part of a design charrette to develop a community-led regeneration brief for East Pollokshields, Glasgow
- In a 'grassroots' consultation to guide priorities for a Community Council in Perth & Kinross
- As a framework for a learning workshop to share experiences of regeneration in a GoWell study area of Glasgow
- Embedded in local authority engagement to inform spatial policy for neighbourhoods across Edinburgh.

Benefits for the respective communities have been manifold: getting a range of people – including young people and those from ethnic minorities – involved in planning; identifying gaps and prioritising areas for improvement, and using the structure and accessibility of the tool as a mechanism to share learning.

Key learning points identified by A&DS

- Community participants were mostly engaged at this scale by working together in small facilitated groups or by completing a Place Standard compass diagram by hand with one to one support available. The tool was also used online as an alternative way to engage
- In East Pollokshields, it delivered useful 'hyper-local' data as respondents' perceptions of the place varied from street to street
- The simplicity and accessibility of the tool made it particularly suitable for use with young people in schools (in Edinburgh) and youth groups such as Brownies (in Portmoak)
- Its flexibility and adaptability saw the tool used in drop-in sessions and on-street, and also translated into Urdu (in East Pollokshields)
- In the Glasgow GoWell study area, St Andrews Drive, it was applied in a neighbourhood setting but adapted for use outside of the planning process, namely to share learning and challenge perceptions of regeneration
- On a cautionary note, it is clear from both the Portmoak Community Council and City of Edinburgh Council case studies that the tool should not be treated as an end in itself and the ability to follow up is important. Limitations affecting the ability to take actions need to be understood from the outset to avoid the risk of raising expectations that cannot then be met.

EAST POLLOKSHIELDS

Planning Stage	Local Development Plan
Leadership	Pollokshields Community Council with Collective Architecture and Dress for the Weather.
Participants	54 completed Place Standard Compass out of 250 public participants in Design Charrette process, representing a wide demographic spectrum.



“The Place Standard was introduced to give consistency and clarity to an intensive and varied process, but also because it allows flexibility in how people can engage with the tool.”

Jude Barber, Architect-Director, Collective Architecture

Pollokshields Community Council commissioned Collective Architecture and Dress for the Weather at the end of 2015 to lead a design charrette for East Pollokshields, which would engage the community in identifying key areas for long-term improvement. Architect Jude Barber explains how Place Standard helped the conversation.

What were you trying to achieve by using the Place Standard?

Named Make Your Mark, the main aim of the project was to complete the East Pollokshields and Port Eglinton Planning Study as a masterplan document that, as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the new City Development Plan, would help guide the next two decades of development in this multicultural area.

The Place Standard tool formed an integral part of the wider charrette process – it was used to structure and facilitate engagement in a holistic and clear way, and to highlight positive aspects of living and working in the area.

How was the Place Standard tool applied?

The week-long charrette process, which ran in February 2016, used the Place Standard tool in a range of settings and in different ways, so that local residents could participate and contribute regardless of how much time they could spare.

A number of active local residents signed up as Charrette Champions, to support the process alongside the community council and the consultant team. These champions represented a cross-section of the local community and were able to encourage participants into the project thanks to their local links.

The week began with informal, on-street ‘mobile charrette’ consultations, which saw the project team go out onto the streets of East Pollokshields and Port Eglinton with plans and models. This mobile charrette used a simple, one-page version of the Place Standard compass diagram with a small comments section to obtain thoughts from passers-by on the street.

Then followed a series of four focused group discussion workshops structured around the Place Standard topics. The setting was a specially arranged ‘Charrette HQ’ on Shields Road with

a welcoming atmosphere, workshop space, presentation area and a large-scale model, as well as social spaces with hot drinks.

Each of the four half-day workshops covered three to four of the Place Standard themes, so that everything was covered over the two days and participants who took part in all four sessions had a completed questionnaire by the end of the process. Key headings and questions were also translated into Urdu. These were displayed in the main workshop and handed out at events. Discussions around them were facilitated by the project's Urdu-speaking engagement team member.

The consultant team was on hand, with each specialism giving a presentation at the start of every workshop. These presentations were designed to provide a framework of constraints and topics for the conversation, inspire discussion and give a deeper understanding of the local context. Following the presentations, attendees were divided into groups of between five and ten people, with the consultants chairing each discussion.

The Charrette Champions helped to keep discussions on topic as well as take notes. The workshops revolved around maps of the area with note-taking and sketching overlaid. Discussion was prompted by the Place Standard questions, which allowed for consistent themes across all engagement, but also for participants to express specific concerns.

To conclude each workshop, the groups would gather around the large city model and present their discussion to fellow participants. Groups were then encouraged to 'draw up' their findings and leave a record of their discussion over the maps and model.

All completed forms were transferred digitally using the Place Standard app and assessed together relative to location and key themes and feedback. The data was collated into a report and distributed to all key stakeholders for review. The outcomes were distilled into a five-point plan for the area and a schedule of activities for the short, medium and long term.

What influence did the work have and how is it being followed up?

Through the Make Your Mark charrette process, the local community informed and developed a clear and concise five-point Vision that addressed

existing challenges, proposed viable solutions and set out a positive future for the area. It seeks to build on existing infrastructure and to better support the local community in shaping and influencing the development of East Pollokshields.

The process also helped to shape and develop a realistic and deliverable community action plan – a series of short, medium and long-term actions through which the five-point Vision could be achieved in a dynamic, phased manner.

The five-point Vision and resultant actions were presented to residents, stakeholders and locally elected representatives, including Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, at a public meeting on 20 March 2016 and were well received.

The process led to formation of a Community Trust which has been active since and is taking forward the aims and objectives identified in the study. A Community Engagement Officer is now in place on a part-time basis. The trust has also arranged a three-year lease with an existing landowner to allow access and use of a disused bowling site. Plans and ideas for how this might be used by the local community are currently being developed.

What lessons would you wish to share?

"Make Your Mark was one of the first charrettes to use the Place Standard tool as a means for structuring community engagement and gathering comment from local people. It was introduced to give consistency and clarity to an intensive and varied process, but also because it allows flexibility in how people can engage with it. Translated into Urdu and made widely available, we found that people readily engaged with the tool's themes, and understood its format and its value.

Our team soon realised that it was important to review the Place Standard responses relative to residents' locations – it became clear that the issues people experienced varied from street to street.

We found it a challenge using the tool during our on-street workshops and touring bike. Instead, we used that process to share information about Make Your Mark, raise awareness and present the overarching themes that might be further discussed. In hindsight, the project would have benefitted from more time – and people – to sit down with participants to further interrogate their ideas and responses more fully for qualitative information.

Since taking part in Make Your Mark, our Edinburgh studio has adapted the tool to create an A3, one-page version that is more versatile for drop-in engagement events or on-street workshops. This allows participants to complete the Place Standard compass diagram and also leave short comments to support their answer as required.

Like any tool, the Place Standard should be used, tested and adapted over time. Importantly, it should be used alongside other design methods and engagement processes to ensure a holistic and textured approach to development over time."

Find out more online

www.collectivearchitecture.com/projects/make-your-mark

www.dressfortheweather.co.uk/make-your-mark/



Analysis of green space and links in East Pollokshields

Care and maintenance
حفاظت اور مرمت

Facilities and amenities
سہولیات

Feeling safe
محفوظ محسوس

Housing and community
ہاؤسنگ اور کمیونٹی

Identity and belonging
شناخت اور تعلق رکھنے والے

Influence and sense of control
اثر و رسوخ اور کنٹرول کا احساس

Work and local economy
کام اور مقامی معیشت

Play and recreation
کھیل اور تفریح

Public transport
پبلک ٹرانسپورٹ

Social interaction
سماجی تعلقات

Streets and spaces
گلیاں اور خالی جگہوں

Traffic and parking
ٹریفک اور پارکنگ

Natural space
قدرتی خلائی

Moving around
کے ارد گرد منتقل

PORTMOAK PARISH

Planning Stage	N/A
Leadership	Portmoak Community Council
Participants	Community Council members, Brownies, Primary School Pupil Council, group of 17-year-olds, Woodland Group, Kinnesswood in Bloom Group, Village Hall Committee



“We now have a clearer view of what matters most to people in our community, where we may look for improvement and, conversely, what is successful and appreciated.”

Malcolm Strang Steel, Chairman, Portmoak Community Council

The parish of Portmoak extends for five miles along both the eastern and southern banks of Loch Leven. The 1,400 or so residents live mainly in the principal settlements of Kinnesswood, Scotlandwell, Wester Balgedie and Glenlomond. Here, members of Portmoak Community Council (PCC) reflect on how it used the Place Standard tool to guide its priorities.

What were you trying to achieve by using the Place Standard?

In autumn 2016, we wished to review and clarify our priorities as a community council for the years ahead. On the advice and with the support of officers at Perth and Kinross Council (PKC), we decided to use the Place Standard tool for this. We felt this could guide a proactive rather than simply a reactive approach to supporting the community, and we wanted to ensure this reflected a wider range of the population than those usually engaged via meetings or correspondence.

How was the Place Standard tool applied?

PCC councillors formally agreed to try the tool, and completed it themselves at a meeting, achieving a consensus for each item. Between October 2016

to January 2017, a delegated councillor contacted representatives from a range of community groups, inviting them to participate. Also participating were a large Brownie pack and one individual.

The delegated councillor explained the process to each group – some completed the tool as a group; others asked one member to complete it on their behalf. The Pupil Council did it over a few sessions, facilitated by a school staff member (resident outside the parish).

The resulting responses represented a spectrum of ages and interests, though tended to exclude business interests. There was a fairly high rate of consistency for several items (Moving around; Natural spaces; Play and recreation; Identity and belonging; Feeling safe; Care and maintenance; Influence and sense of control), and greater range for others (Public transport; Traffic and parking; Streets and spaces; Facilities and amenities; Work and local economy; Housing and community; Social interaction).

The two most highly rated factors were Natural Spaces and Feeling Safe. The two lowest rated were Public Transport, and Traffic and Parking. In

fact, this endorsed some of the work PCC tended to spend a fair bit of time on, and helped councillors to appreciate that most residents were pleased with many aspects of local life.

What influence did the work have and how is it being followed up?

The consultation exercise using the tool certainly gave us a clearer view of what matters most to people in our community, where we may look for improvement and, conversely, what is successful and appreciated. We used the outcomes to guide priorities in our dealings with the local authority. For example, we worked on trying to address parking in a number of ways, and tried to explore solutions for public transport with PKC.

However, despite plenty of effort and time subsequently spent by the PCC, many of the matters raised remain unresolved – largely because we as a Community Council do not have the power to change them. Nevertheless, we found the experience productive and well worth the effort. The tool is not perfect but it does allow us as a community council to focus our efforts better.

What lessons do you wish to share?

“The local groups who participated liked the format of the diagram and generally found the tool very straightforward to use. It offered the real opportunity to obtain input from the young and very young, and from other parts of the community that seldom comment on local matters.

However, there is always a risk that consultation that does not lead to improved outcomes and positive change increases community disenchantment rather than empowerment. This would be a pity, especially as the teenagers were very pleased to be asked and involved in local planning matters.

We feel there is a lesson to learn here about how this type of consultation is presented to residents: a Community Council should make it clear that it may not have the power to change things, but will use the consultation to help focus its energies and highlight the community’s agreed priorities to the local authority. Even a leaflet afterwards saying why nothing is happening would help and encourage participation.

And, instead of the Community Council taking sole ownership of addressing the outcomes, there should also be a way of formally recording these with the local authority, with some actions agreed on the part of the local authority.

Lastly, it would be interesting to see the exercise repeated within a community at a later date, to get a sense of the internal consistency of the tool and the population’s views, and whether it is sensitive enough to reflect changes that have taken place.”

Find out more online

www.portmoak.co.uk/

In September 2016 Portmoak Community Council decided to review priorities using the Place Standard tool, devised by NHS Health Scotland, The Scottish Government and Architecture and Design Scotland. This is a simple framework where we asked groups to rate each of the 14 factors on a scale of 1-7. We received responses from a range of groups which represent a range of ages and interests, each of which was probably made up of 4-6 representatives, plus a large Brownie pack and one individual response. The Table below indicates a fairly high rate of consistency for several items (Moving around; Natural spaces; Play and recreation; Identity and belonging; Feeling safe; Care and maintenance; Influence and sense of control) and a greater range of responses for others (Public transport; Traffic and parking; Streets and spaces; Facilities and amenities; Work and local economy; Housing and community; Social interaction). The two most highly rated factors were **Natural Spaces** and **Feeling Safe**. The two lowest rated factors were **Public Transport** and **Traffic and Parking**.

GROUP	17 yr olds	KIB	CC	Mid aged person	Pupil Council	Woodland Group	Hall com	Brownies	Min	Max	Mean
Moving around	6	6	5	6	4	4	6	4.5	4	6	5.19
Public transport	3	4.5	3	4	1	2	2	5	1	4.5	3.06
Traffic and parking	6	4	5	6	1	2	4	3.5	1	6	3.94
streets and spaces	6	7	6	6	2	4	7	5	2	7	5.38
Natural spaces	7	7	7	7	6	6	7	6.2	6	7	6.65
play and recreation	6	7	7	6	7	4	7	5.5	4	7	6.19
facilities and amenities	4	7	6	6	3	3	5	5	3	7	4.88
work and local economy	5	5	5	7	2	1	5	5	1	7	4.38
housing and community	6	5	4	6	7	1	4	5	1	7	4.75
social interaction	5	7	7	6	5	3	7	4.5	3	7	5.56
identity and belonging	6	7	5	7	7	5	7	5	5	7	6.13
feeling safe	7	6.5	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	7	6.44
care and maintenance	5	6	5	6	4	3	5	5	3	6	4.88
influence and sense of control	6	5	3	3	5	3	5	5	3	6	4.38
TOTAL	78	84	75	83	60	47	77	70.2	47	84	

Portmoak Community Council prioritisation exercise.

“We have plans to initiate the Place Standard in two areas that have been highlighted in the Local Development Plan as needing further community involvement in design-based workshops.

We are also supporting a community group who successfully secured ‘Making Places: Place Standard Conversations’ funding. This group is exploring issues around the siting of a new health centre, and the wellness needs of the community.”

Diane Cassidy
Senior Community Capacity Builder
Housing & Environment Service
Perth & Kinross Council

“Portmoak Community Council has been one of the more proactive community councils in seeking community views. Previously they had concentrated on looking at single issues, however this is an excellent example of how the community itself has used the Place Standard tool to identify and highlight its priorities and needs across a broad range of topics and issues.”

Peter Marshall
Strategy & Policy Manager
Planning & Development
Perth & Kinross Council

ST ANDREWS DRIVE, GLASGOW

Planning Stage	N/A
Leadership	GoWell Panel with Glasgow Centre for Population Health, Glasgow City Council and NHS Health Scotland
Participants	35 participants in groups of five. Participants were drawn from the GoWell Panel's local community organisations across study areas in Glasgow.



“The Place Standard was chosen for the values it promotes – it provides a framework for exploring diverse views, experiences and aspirations for a place with a group of people. This inclusive approach matched the GoWell Panel’s values, so it was a useful tool for workshop participants to explore how this group had worked together.”

*Cat Tabbner, Community Engagement and Empowerment Manager,
Glasgow Centre for Population Health*

GoWell is a research and learning programme, led by Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH), that investigates the impact of investment in housing, regeneration and neighbourhood renewal in Glasgow on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities.

Nineteen citizens from community organisations in GoWell study areas volunteered to participate in the GoWell Panel. The purpose of the Panel was to share knowledge between citizens and the GoWell research team to strengthen the evidence base and contribute to community empowerment. Here, Cat Tabbner of GCPH explains how the Place Standard was used to share learning.

What were you trying to achieve by using the Place Standard?

GoWell Panel members wanted to report back their findings, learning and achievements to their local community organisations. They especially wanted these organisations to gain first-hand experience of the collaborative ways they had worked, and the

insights they had gained about regeneration as it is practiced and evidenced.

To achieve this goal, the GoWell Panel decided on a workshop format. A practical activity was devised using the Place Standard tool as the basis for a walking tour of St Andrews Drive, to demonstrate the sort of learning and collaboration that the Panel had generated.

St Andrews Drive was chosen as it was an existing GoWell study area which the Panel members had visited as part of their work together. They felt it was suitable for this demonstration of learning for two reasons. Firstly, since their local groups had not previously visited the area, it would give them a ‘fresh perspective’ on the regeneration topics the Panel had explored and help them reflect differently about their own neighbourhoods.

Secondly, the study area was small compared to other GoWell areas and it was feasible to explore it during a half-day workshop.

How was the Place Standard tool applied?

We organised the learning workshop in collaboration with key organisations and individuals: the GoWell Panel, Nan McKay Community Hall (who hosted it in their venue), NHS Health Scotland, Glasgow City Council and GCPH colleagues. The workshop was held in July 2016 at the Nan McKay Community Hall in Pollokshields, Glasgow.

Participation was by invitation, and delegates were drawn from the GoWell Panel's community organisations, our learning partner Glasgow Kelvin College, stakeholders and research team: Kingsway Court Health and Wellbeing Centre, Cassiltoun Housing Association, Townhead Village Hall, Green GP Practice in Govan/National Links Worker Programme, Bead and Blether (part of Plantation Productions), Wheatley Group, Ardenglen Housing Association, Southside Housing Association, Pollokshields Community Council.

Participants completed the paper version of the tool in groups of five during the tour as they made their way round four stations on St Andrews Drive chosen by GoWell Panel members. After the tour, scores were reviewed and discussed. Participants worked in their groups to identify what they wished to see happen in the area to support a thriving community hub. The whole workshop was documented by a local photographer.

What influence did the work have and how is it being followed up?

Participants completed evaluation forms and took part in interviews with GCPH staff to comment on the usefulness of the workshop. Their feedback is summarised in the next section.

Participants also requested more learning, so a second workshop, held at Barmulloch Community Centre in early December 2016, shared further learning, including: applying best practice in addition to the Place Standard (the National Standards for Community Engagement); engaging citizens in action across multiple neighbourhoods (Community Planning Partnerships and the Balornock and Barmulloch Initiative).

Eight members of the GoWell Panel subsequently created projects with their local groups using learning they had generated with GoWell, as well as from use of the Place Standard. Projects included:

- Developing a school uniform bank with local parents, carers and the primary school to reduce waste and support local families
- Mentoring local groups to achieve Community Achievement Awards and strengthen capacity
- Fundraising and organising open days and a gala as a response to budget cuts to a community centre.

What lessons would you wish to share?

Using the Place Standard as the basis for this workshop helped participants to experience for themselves some key learning points that the GoWell Panel wished to share:

1) Discovering local knowledge and common experiences across the city

According to participants, the Place Standard tool brought out common experiences of regeneration and issues across Glasgow. It also highlighted the importance of local knowledge – participants reported that the questions required them to turn to a local citizen for their daily experiences and views.

Overall, participants said that they found that the tool also provided a platform for dialogue about what could change and how the regeneration process could be improved.

2) Promoting curiosity to gain understanding

Touring the area and going through the tool's prompts promoted curiosity, and participants gently challenged each other to think in-depth about topics. In particular, participants felt they were encouraged to ask 'why', which opened up dialogue to explore local contexts and talk about regeneration.

3) Learning as a route to relationships and change

Workshop participants said that it was a "deep" learning experience: through participating in the Place Standard activity with the GoWell Panel members, they worked constructively together. They felt that the workshop exercises enabled views to be expressed and positively received.

Participants also reported that they benefitted from the experience, and intended to use the Place Standard to plan change, whether as employees or citizens. This appeared to highlight that how

participants rated the experience of using the tool was as important as what changes they thought it could achieve.

4) Challenging assumptions and understanding diverse views

The workshop enabled participants to reconsider their view of regeneration, because it allowed them to observe aspects of a neighbourhood and assess what was good about the place from different perspectives, what needed to change and why.

The Place Standard supported participants to express their views, which enabled facilitators to promote challenging dialogue. Here is what some of the participants had to say:

"I loved that people were challenging each other and saying 'well, why do you think it's unsafe?' or 'why do you think this is a good bus service?'"

"It was putting a different perspective on things and making me challenge a lot of the stuff I'd thought, 'Oh, I'd never thought of that.'"

"Interesting to see the work and learning the [GoWell Panel has] been involved in. Good to be able to chat to members of the Panel. The Place Standard tool will be helpful to use in our own area with community members."

Find out more online

www.gowellonline.com/about/components/community_engagement



Photo from Place Standard assesment walking tour

CORSTORPHINE AND EDINBURGH SOUTHSIDE

Planning Stage	Local Development Plans; Locality Improvement Plans; Place Briefs
Leadership	Planning and other departments of City of Edinburgh Council with Community Councils and community groups
Participants	30 – 500+ people engaged in groups of five to six; mostly community members with some representatives.



“A great way of engaging with local communities that produces a rounded picture of what it’s like to live there. With it being easy to understand, it also offers a very effective way of successfully engaging young people with the planning process – a demographic we might otherwise find hard to reach.”

Will Garrett, Spatial Policy Manager, City of Edinburgh Council

Will Garrett at City of Edinburgh Council explains how the Place Standard is now embedded in the local authority’s strategic placemaking process, with particular reference to two early neighbourhood consultations.

What are you trying to achieve by using the Place Standard?

As a service provider, the local authority seeks to understand the needs of its communities. We have plenty of statistical data to help with this, but the Place Standard provides a picture from the community’s perspective. It is all about what people think and how they feel about an area – and it is those things that drive behaviour. To have an understanding of this is really valuable for the local authority.

We have used the tool at different scales within our local authority area – in helping to frame issues for the forthcoming city plan, for a site-specific consultation on new developments in South Queensferry (see separate case study<link>), to gauge perceptions of the management of the city centre World Heritage Site, and also for

neighbourhood areas such as Southside and Corstorphine.

For Southside and Corstorphine, we wanted to engage residents in discussions about what’s good about their neighbourhood and what could be improved.

For the Southside, the idea was to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the neighbourhood as a place to live, work and visit, to help shape future actions for the area. This was being carried out as part of the activities relating to the Locality Improvement Plan.

For Corstorphine town centre, we specifically wished to consult local residents on our proposed amendments to the Corstorphine Supplementary Guidance and how we could improve it further. In addition, the Community Council had a strong desire to engage on the issue of air quality along St John’s Road, which runs through the heart of Corstorphine. It was keen to use the Place Standard as a mechanism for having this discussion with the local community.

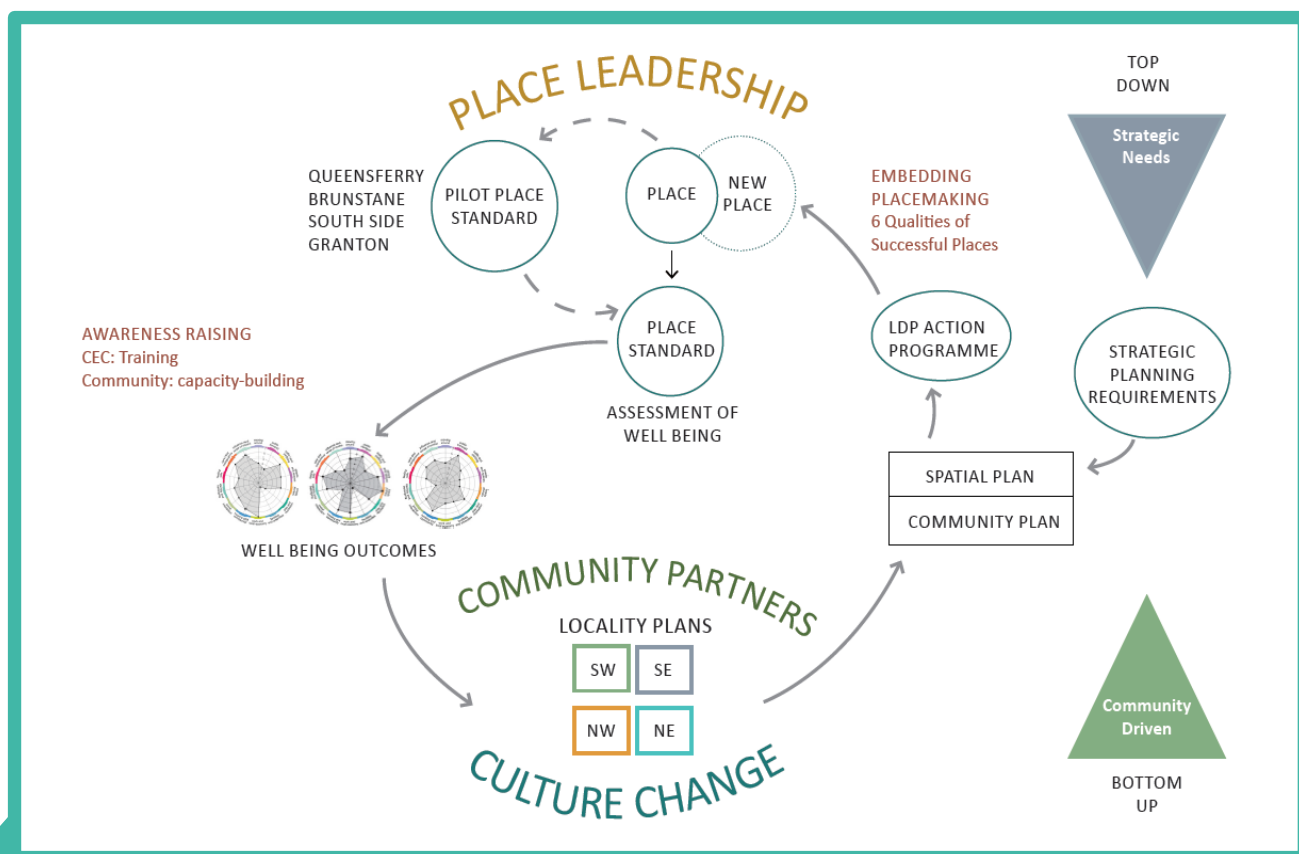


Diagram illustrating where the Place Standard tool informs and supports Place Leadership.

How has the Place Standard tool applied?

Consultations are promoted to residents with the help of Community Council contacts, via Facebook and Twitter, the Council website, Councillor communications as well as flyers distributed to households. In each area, we have also involved schoolchildren and reached out to specific groups, such as ethnic minority groups – for example via contacts linked to Southside mosque.

We have used both the online and paper version of the Place Standard tool, working with groups in local venues and a diverse range of busy settings where people tend to congregate – for example a school in South Queensferry, a McDonald's car park in Corstorphine, a community meeting room in the Southside, and at the Meadows Festival.

For the Southside, two Place Standard events were held in a community meeting room in November 2016, followed by an online survey. Participants generally completed the tool in groups of five to six people, but that varied. Discussion was facilitated and views were recorded by staff around tables at focus groups. Responses to the consultation were consolidated and transferred to sheets that set out all comments by theme.

A similar process took place in Corstorphine, using a community space as well as the local McDonald's car park. The questionnaire was also available online.

As part of our early engagement on the City Plan 2030, we visited eight high schools across the city, running nine sessions with S3-S5 pupils. This resulted in 33 Place Standard questionnaires being completed, involving around 215 pupils.

What influence does the work have and how is it being followed up?

Our public consultations using the Place Standard influence spatial policy (place briefs and area masterplanning), transport policy and Development Management work. Data and lessons are also discussed and shared across Council services, and included in action planning.

On a citywide scale, the Place Standard is now embedded in City of Edinburgh Council's strategic placemaking process. In a number of cases we have also successfully used it in schools to inform the Main Issues report.

For the Southside, the outputs fed into the Locality Improvement Plan and further detailed work is now taking place in targeted areas.

For Corstorphine, the consultation showed the public was largely supportive of the proposed changes to the town centre Supplementary Guidance. Some suggestions for minor alterations and clarifications were incorporated into the final version.

What lessons would you wish to share?

"We have found the Place Standard is simple to use and is an enjoyable way for communities to take part in a holistic assessment of their area. With it being easy to understand, it offers a very effective way of successfully engaging young people with the planning process – a demographic we might otherwise find hard to reach.

Though the tool is easy to use, it is resource intensive to do as a round table exercise, however I value that approach. It takes anything from one to two hours to complete with a group.

We have started comparing the online results with round table results to see how they differ. We do not have enough data yet to draw any conclusions other than that online responses produce more extreme results.

Southside and Corstorphine were two early examples of consultations we conducted using the Place Standard. In a sense, we were finding our feet and experimenting, and since then, we have used it much more widely. With hindsight would do some things slightly differently now.

The tool definitely helps local residents to participate in the planning process, giving them a say and a sense of feeling empowered. However, I would say that there is a risk of raising expectations if the Place Standard is used without an end result in mind. By this, I mean that it is a tool and not an end in itself, so it should be used to a specific purpose.

Conversely, it has the benefit of providing information that can have many uses for a local authority. Typically, a local authority may run a number of simultaneous consultations and, if carefully managed, the Place Standard can help reduce the number of separate consultation exercises."

Find out more online

Southside: <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/the-southside-place-standard-online/>

Corstorphine: <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/corstorphine-town-centre/>