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# Planning at a Local Authority Scale

Examples of how the Place Standard tool has been used for planning.

# INTRODUCTION

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Architecture and Design Scotland has developed a series of Case Studies to illustrate how the Place Standard tool has been used. The case studies also provide information about the perceptions of, and knowledge gained in, using the tool.

Each case study demonstrates how the Place Standard has been used including spatial planning, community planning, design and development.

The groups and individuals involved have shared their approach and lessons learned with A&DS via a survey and interviews. In the case studies participants explain their reasons for using the tool, their approach to empowering local communities and the impact that this has had.

We illustrate the methods used and the perceptions and knowledge gained, showing how this was mapped into processes of spatial planning, community planning, design and development.

## PLACE STANDARD - LOCAL AUTHORITY SCALE

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A number of local authorities have applied the tool across the whole geography of a council area, this set of case studies includes examples of this at Local Authority Scale.

A linked focus piece compares the individual perception for community planning and spatial planning work for the 2017 consultation in Argyll and Bute, one of the largest authorities in Scotland.

Case studies are based on survey inputs from the following Local Authorities:

- Shetland Island Council
- West Dunbartonshire
- South Lanarkshire

These examples show variety in the methods and approaches used; they show joint working between community planning and spatial planning; they show the relevance of the tool for communities in diverse geographic contexts.

### Key learning points

- Most examples took place at the Main Issues Report stage of the planning process, underpinning the preparation of Local Development Plans, Main Issues stage consultations or Locality Plans.
- A cross-service approach is typical, going beyond planning to include Economic Development, Housing and Transportation. Other public services have typically been involved such as NHS or Police Scotland. Joint involvement in a single exercise is perceived to have widened participation and reduced consultation fatigue.
- Experiences are diverse and whilst some Local Authorities found that the tool worked at a population-wide scale, others developed a preference for building up evidence place by place at settlement scale.
- Community Planning officers and Community Councils typically provided a link between planners and local communities.



# SHETLAND ISLANDS

<b>Planning Stage</b>	Main Issues Report Consultation Locality Plan
<b>Leadership</b>	Community Planning Partners
<b>Participants</b>	939 - on line (16-24 yrs old) 7.6%, (25-34 yrs old) 12.8%, (35-44 yrs old) 22.0%, (45-54 yrs old) 26.2%, (55-64 yrs old) 19.2%, (65-74 yrs old) 9.3%, (75+ yrs old) 3.0%



*“Mindful of the need not to overburden the population with too many consultation exercises, the breadth of the Place Standard approach is especially valuable due to the range of information it produces. This makes the Place Standard directly relevant to a wide range of services across the public, private, community and voluntary sectors.”*

*Iain McDiarmid: Executive Manager – Planning*

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

Joint work between services who traditionally consult separately saved the council time and money and reduced “consultation fatigue” for the public.

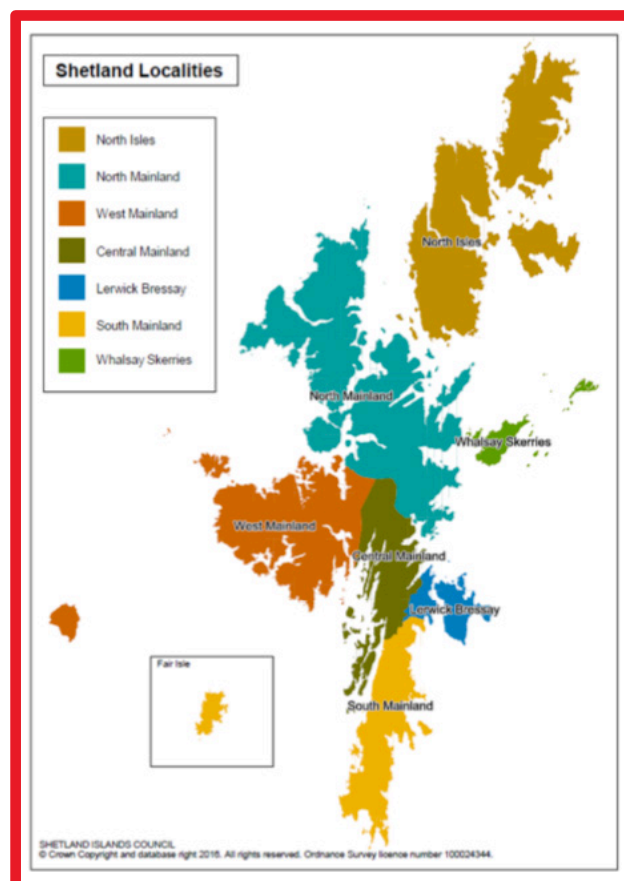
The Place Standard tool was used to facilitate: Engagement, Corporate Dialogue, Community Empowerment, Decision-making and Place-based actions.

## How was the Place Standard tool applied?

The Shetland Place Standard Consultation took place between 14th June - 10th July 2016. Primarily it was an on-line exercise. The tool was applied across all island localities. There was also some use of paper version at local venues.

The Place Standard tool was used alongside the National Standards for Community Engagement.

The survey results were analysed and presented in a final report, some of which can be seen on the next page.



Map of the seven Shetland localities.

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

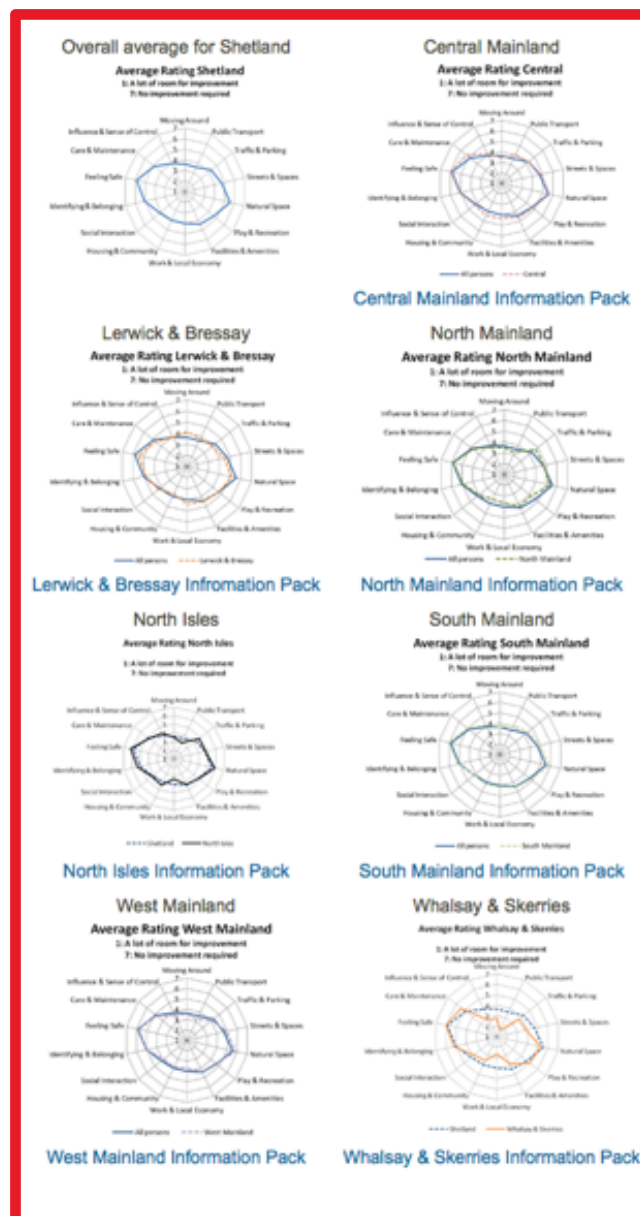
Results were shared via reports to councillors, further focus meetings with community groups, published online and via press release. Outputs provided an evidence base for Main Issues Reporting, Making Places initiative and masterplanning engagement.

It influenced policy and strategy including:

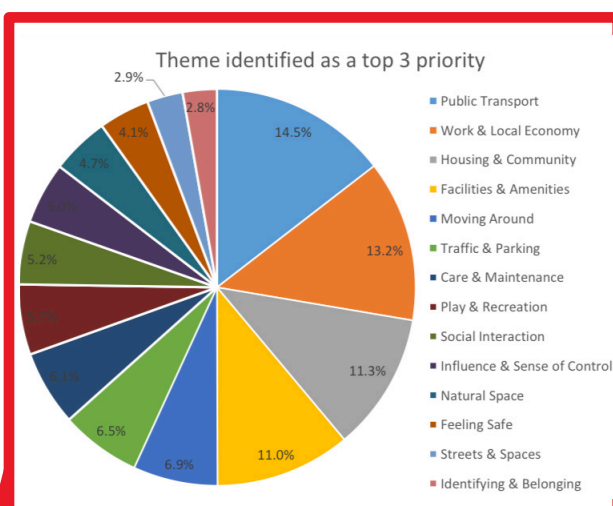
- Local Outcomes Improvement Plan
- Local Development Plan
- Shetland Local Housing Strategy
- Shetland Transport Strategy
- Shetland Islands Health and Social Care Partnership: Joint Strategic Commissioning Plan

## Further Reading

<https://www.shetland.gov.uk/placestandard.asp>



The Place Standard themes were grouped into four categories – Community, Economy, Connectivity and Environment allowing related themes to be considered together and across the localities



Prioritisation of Place Standard themes for Shetland.

	Shetland Average	Central	Lerwick & Bressay	North Mainland	North Isles	South Mainland	West Mainland	Whalsay & Skerries
<b>Community</b>								
Housing & Community	4.0	4.4	3.7	3.5	4.4	4.2	3.9	3.5
Facilities & Amenities	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.3	3.9
Play & Recreation	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.2	4.7	4.8	4.6	5.0
Social Interaction	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.3	4.2	3.9	3.8
Influence & Sense of Control	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.8	4.3	4.1	3.6	2.7
Identifying & Belonging	5.0	5.1	4.8	4.9	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.2
Feeling Safe	5.8	6.0	5.4	5.8	6.2	6.1	6.0	6.0
<b>Average</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.3</b>

Table showing how different localities in Shetland scored the Place Standard themes relating to Community

# WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

<b>Planning Stage</b>	Local Development Plan Main Issues Report Consultation with six Locality Plans.
<b>Leadership</b>	West Dunbartonshire Council Planning and Community Planning Partnership
<b>Participants</b>	100 people were involved in Main Issues Report focusing around community groups and community councils with a spread of ages.



*“The use of the Place Standard within the Your Place, Your Plan consultation resulted in substantially more people being engaged in the Main Issues Report, Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plan and providing comments on those documents. Specifically, over 100 people were engaged in the Main Issues Report with the same number or more being involved in completing the place standard. This was an early success for the alignment of the plans and teams.”*

**Antony McGuinness: Team Leader – Forward Planning**

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

The Council has moved to basing everything we do around place. The Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) is entitled: Plan for Place and sets the direction for how we will take forward what we do around place. The ambition is to make better lives and align budgets around a place-based approach to achieve more.

The Your Place, Your Plan brand encapsulates all our Plans about Place. As part of the lead practice work with the Scottish Government, we are integrating Community Planning and Spatial Planning and build capacity within our communities to plan for their own area.

We chose Place Standard as an easy-to-use tool and conversation starter to undertake a discussion around place and to collate information on what our communities thought about their place.

## How was the Place Standard tool applied?

We built up our strategic approach in several stages. In the first stage, the Improvement Service

provided Place Standard Facilitator training for our Forward Planning Team, the Performance and Strategy Team, the Communities Team and other services within the Council and Community Planning Partners.

In the next stage we carried out several consultation events to engage our communities in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, Local Development Plan 2 and Locality Plans which was undertaken during a 12 week consultation period. Events were jointly managed by our Forward Planning, Performance and Strategy, Communities and Regeneration teams and our community planning partners. At each of the seven events there were a variety of ways for people to fill out the tool. Some school children ran through it in 10 minutes.

Options ranged from simple sheets for people to complete using the Place Standard diagram, asking for three top priorities; to all Place Standard questions and think about points pinned on the wall for people to complete themselves if they had slightly longer; right through to full facilitated sessions with groups which were usually



undertaken in 1 hour.

Postcode data was recorded to allow for place based analysis of responses.

Outputs were converted into a database which was jointly used for the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, Local Development Plan 2 and Locality Plans

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

The work has been endorsed by the Local Authority Chief Executive, Strategic Director and Council Leader and Community Planning Partners. The Community Planning West Dunbartonshire Management Board oversee the integration of the community and spatial planning.

The intention is to distribute the findings of the consultation events to the various departments within the Council to use the information to inform the delivery of services and the wider formulation of Plans and Strategies.

It is informing the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans, as well as LDP 2. We are intending that Locality Plans will become part of the Proposed Plan as Supplementary Guidance. These may be combined with local Place Plans to keep a place focus and to help link to resources supporting communities to implement Place Plans.

This process is already starting with work on a Clydebank Waterfront locality plan, supported by Scottish Government, and will be informed by a pilot project we are undertaking which is part funded by the Scottish Government under their Making Places initiative.

This will include specific actions to improve wellbeing, to tackle inequalities and disadvantage focused on a small geographic area around the Forth and Clyde Canal and Clydebank Town Centre. For information on this project can be found on the Clydebank Can Facebook and Twitter pages.

Further targeted consultation is planned with community councils and other community groups. Participatory Budgeting work is also intended using the place focus to target resources.

### **What lessons would you wish to share?**

We needed to embed our wider alignment approach across the council and community planning partners and this has brought a strategic level of knowledge and buy-in. However at the next stage we intend to use the tool for more focused, place-based work.

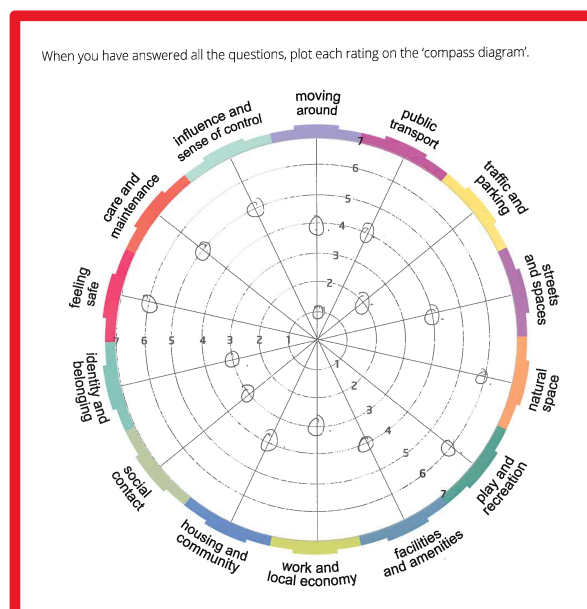
We can now be more precise in our targeting of specific geographies that people identify with and methods of engagement for target groups.

We have recognised that we need to go where local groups meet and engage more directly to move beyond typical participants and widen representation. For example we are now working with a Housing Association in Dumbarton, one of our Community Planning Partners, to involve tenant groups as a way of reaching disadvantaged communities. We would like to engage more with young people and adults of working age.

We experienced difficulties with the stability of the on-line platform for use with the numbers of participants we had. We would recommend conducting smaller scale trials before embarking on use of the on-line tool for large consultations. Whilst we understand that the on-line platform has subsequently been improved we have had good experiences using both the paper version of the tool and the questions presented via Survey Monkey.

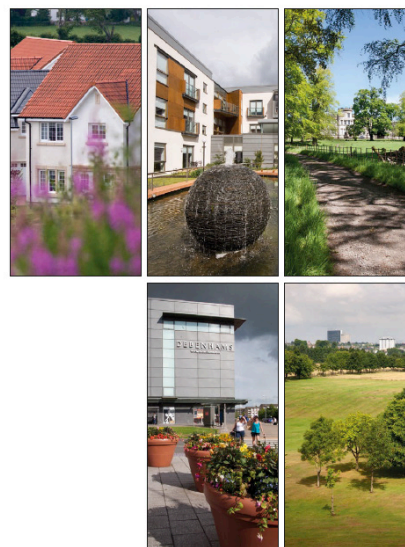
### **Further Reading**

<https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/planning-building-standards/your-place-your-plan/>



Sample of a completed Place Standard compass diagram.

<b>Planning Stage</b>	Pre Main Issues Report Public Consultation
<b>Leadership</b>	South Lanarkshire Council
<b>Participants</b>	80 Community Councils, Local residents, School pupils, Seniors, Public. All ages/genders were encouraged to take part.



2017

Place Standards

*“Works particularly well at smaller scales - villages/neighbourhoods. Very useful as a way of starting a ‘structured’ dialogue on spatial issues. Noticeable differences between young people and older about how they see their place.”*

*Gordon Cameron: Planning and Building Standards Services*

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

Our work with the Place Standard provided assistance with policy formulation and identification of issues across different areas. This was suggested by Scottish Government and identified as a potentially useful tool.

### How was the Place Standard tool applied?

The tool was used alongside National Standards for Community Engagement. Structured discussions were managed with people at stalls in public locations, opinionometers and an online questionnaire. Illustrations from the process are included on the next page.

The tool was used online and with the paper version at meetings. The main focus was work with Community Councils and residents. The tool was applied to town centres, villages and neighbourhoods.

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

An output report was produced to underpin the Main Issues Report and went on to influence spatial policy.

### What lessons would you wish to share?

The Place Standard exercise highlighted the different perceptions people across South Lanarkshire have of their communities. These can arise because of location, particularly the contrast between urban and rural areas; but also differences dependent on the age and circumstances of the persons completing the assessment.

Two examples illustrate this: one for a relatively isolated rural village (Lamington) and one for a suburb of East Kilbride (Greenhills). The rural village is seen as a good place to stay but is heavily reliant on car transport. This impacts on social interaction and access to facilities. The urban area has better transport links but is not such an attractive or safe place to live.

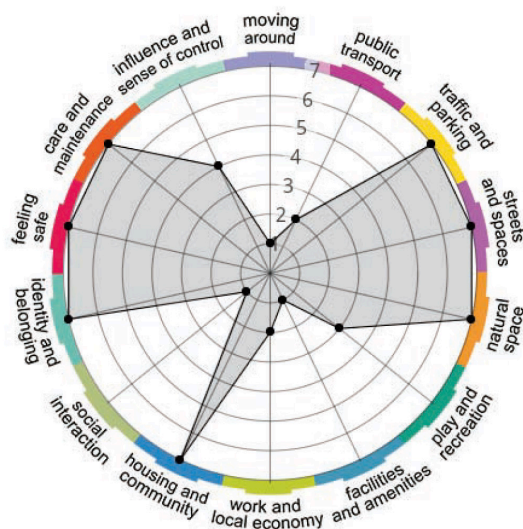
## Lamington

Issue with

- Moving around,
- Public transport,
- Opportunities for social interaction,
- Access to facilities and amenities

Benefits from

- The quality of streets and spaces creating an attractive place,
- Having appropriate measures for dealing with traffic and parking,
- The quality and range of accessible natural spaces,
- Sense of identity and belonging,
- Feeling safe,
- The availability of accessible natural spaces,
- The availability of a range of housing,
- Care and maintenance of the settlement



Sample of Place Standard assessment and summary of Lamington.

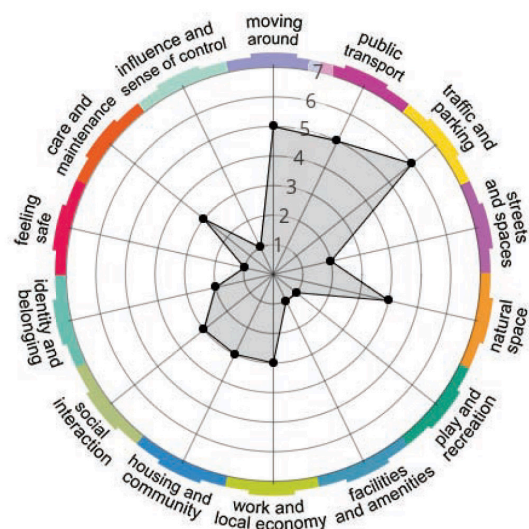
## Green Hills, East Kilbride

Issue with

- Feeling safe,
- Influence and sense of control,
- Sense of identity and belonging,
- The quality of streets and spaces and lack of distinctive character,
- Access to facilities and amenities, and
- The availability of a range of housing

Benefits from

- Being an easy place to move around with links to schools, shops etc.
- Availability of public transport,
- The quality and range of accessible natural spaces, and
- Having appropriate measures for dealing with traffic and parking.



Sample of Place Standard assessment and summary of Green Hills in East Kilbride.

## Further Reading

[http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/11089/place\\_standards\\_technical\\_report\\_internetpdf](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/11089/place_standards_technical_report_internetpdf)