

Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme

Dunoon Project Town

Dunoon Waterfront Proposal

Place and Wellbeing Assessment Report



About the report

This is a report of a Place and Wellbeing Assessment held in October 2022 to consider the Dunoon waterfront proposal, which is part of the Argyll and Bute Western Seaboard Marine Gateways Initiative – Dunoon and Rothesay. This proposal was submitted as part of a Levelling Up Bid by the Economic Growth team in Argyll and Bute Council in July 2022. The assessment will contribute to the next stage of the proposal’s development.

We know that the places we create impact on those who live, work and relax in them and can have a positive or negative influence on their health and well-being. The process applied during the workshop takes a place-based approach considering the consequences of our actions on creating a place that has a positive impact for those who live, work and relax there.

Participants were asked to use their knowledge and expertise to consider how the proposals were likely to impact on creating a place that enabled wellbeing. Using the data gathered by Public Health Scotland’s Local Intelligence Support Team (LIST), as part of the Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme, discussions also considered population groups highlighted in this data as being impacted by inequality. This included:

- Women of working age
- Children under 3
- People affected by income inequality

This report begins with a Report Summary of the key points in the discussion. It highlights where further development of the proposal could consider its impact on place to enable a positive influence on people’s contribution to addressing climate change and improving their health and wellbeing. It includes a brief summary of the Dunoon waterfront proposal, how this session links to the Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme and lists those participating in the assessment session. The remainder of the report outlines the discussions that took place including recommendations to consider when further developing the proposal. To assist our understanding, we also include relevant research and evidence that supports the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes.



Report Summary

The Dunoon Waterfront Proposal contributes to delivering and supporting many of the aspects of a place that enable the wellbeing of those who live, work and relax in Dunoon and the wider Argyll and Bute Council area. Ongoing work to develop and implement the Dunoon waterfront proposal is an opportunity to broaden the contribution of place to both overall wellbeing and to reducing inequality in some communities.

The following broad themes were identified:

1. Importance of engaging people in the development of the proposal

This was a key discussion across a number of themes. It focused on the importance of having an increased understanding of how people are currently using the area and what people need from the spaces, streets and buildings within the proposal. The benefits to this were seen as positively identifying with the area, increasing use and how people will care for the spaces and ensuring that it delivered for women, young children and their carers, people with disabilities and their carers and those impacted by income inequality.

2. Adaptability of the design for the context

The specific rural and coastal context of the proposal and the need to be adaptable to changing weather and fluctuating use are important considerations for implementation. This includes acknowledgement that private vehicle use needs to be accommodated in a rural area, and discussion of how access could be improved for specific groups, while managing the impact on active travel and safety. The impact of weather conditions were seen as an important consideration in how the spaces will function. The focus of this discussion was on shelter for people using the spaces and people with access needs transferring between different types of transport.

3. How the proposal links with the wider area

It was felt that the proposal could detail more about how it linked with the wider area in terms of connections to the town centre, other destinations and local businesses and organisations. This could include how buildings, such as the waiting room and on the pier, could link with local initiatives in the area and involve community organisations delivering relevant services and projects. It could also encompass how people might navigate within and beyond the proposal area between buildings and facilities through street design and wayfinding.



4. Potential ways to activate the area

Given the proposal area doesn't currently have services located in the area beyond transport services there was discussion about other ways to increase footfall and support those experiencing inequality. This would have the benefit of supporting social interaction, enhancing access to learning and employment opportunities on the mainland, improving perceptions of safety especially on early mornings/ late evening and increasing overall sense of belonging for the whole community.

Considerations would include how the proposal could support a wider range of activity to take place in both the buildings and surrounding spaces, particularly around the pier and waiting room. This could include entrepreneurial activities for retail, the service sector and sport and leisure. Supporting infrastructure would also be needed to facilitate activities. This might include outdoor power supply for pop-ups, storage capacity for travellers, indoor and outdoor shelter, toilets, informal exhibition space etc.



Summary of the Dunoon Waterfront proposal, links with Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme Context and Participants

Summary of background of the Dunoon Waterfront proposal

The proposal is being led by the Economic Growth team for Argyll and Bute Council as part of the Argyll and Bute Western Seaboard Marine Gateways Initiative – Dunoon and Rothesay.ⁱ

The proposal seeks to:

- Improve the marine gateway areas, visitor arrival areas and associated infrastructure in Dunoon and Rothesay.
- Compliment recent regeneration efforts, transforming the experience of arriving or leaving these two important, but fragile, Clyde-waterfront town centres.
- Make improvements to key heritage assets, infrastructure, public realm and green spaces combined with active travel and net zero interventions.
- Positively change the visitor experience, increase dwell-time and visitor numbers.
- Address localised inequalities and positively impact on income, land values and health and wellbeing – providing places that meet local needs.

It was agreed to undertake an assessment of the proposal as submitted to the Levelling Up Bidⁱⁱ for the steering group to learn about the assessment process and to make recommendations which could be fed into the next stage of the development of the proposal.

The session focused on the Design Proposal document, pages 44-57, produced for the Council by consultants Stantec, and put together by Austin Smith Lord. The outcome of the bid is expected by the end of year and would need to progress fast if successful. If the bid is not successful there is still an intention to seek other sources of funding to pursue elements of the proposal.



Links to Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme

In line with the Place Principle the Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme ambition is to improve Scotland's wellbeing by reducing the significant inequality in the health of its people. The Programme objective focusses on the evidenced impact that the places where we live, work and relax have on our health and wellbeing. This impact can be positive or negative and this Programme aims to ensure these unintended consequences are fully considered when we make decisions about a place.

All of the evidenced features that a place needs to exhibit for it to have a positive impact on health and well-being are set out in the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes. Our objective is to support delivery of these outcomes. A process used for doing so is a Place and Wellbeing Assessment. This paper is the output of one of these assessments.

A Place and Wellbeing Assessment involves a workshop pulling together expertise and perspectives from attendees to consider a plan, policy or decisions impact on delivering a place that enables wellbeing. It asks attendees to consider each of the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes with a lens on who is experiencing the most significant impact from inequality in that place.

The Place and Wellbeing Assessment process used to produce this paper was a small group of steering group members. This was decided on, to introduce the process and raise awareness of how the role of place can be considered when developing a proposal for investment. A broader range of expertise and perspectives would provide a richer level on insight into impact and could be considered for assessment of any future stages of the proposal.

Inequalities data

To get a better understanding about inequalities in the Project Towns, the Public Health Scotland's Local Intelligence Support Team (LIST) has been gathering data. This data will be used during the Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme to highlight the people within each town who are being impacted most by poor health and wellbeing.

As well as having focused discussions on each of the five Place and Wellbeing Outcomes, the Place and Wellbeing Assessment also aims to place emphasis on the key groups/areas highlighted in the data in order to ensure strategic decision making considers the impact on those experiencing inequalities.



The LIST data for Dunoon has highlighted four key areas of focus. These are yet to be finalised but for the purposes of the assessment we used:

- Women of working age
- Children under 3
- People affected by income inequality

Participants

- Rona Gold, Community Planning, Argyll and Bute Council
- Takki Sulaiman, Third Sector Interface
- Samantha Campbell, Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership
- Claire Hallybone, Development and Economic Growth, Argyll and Bute Council
- Irene Beautyman, Shaping Places for Wellbeing, Programme Lead
- Alex Wilde, Shaping Places for Wellbeing, Project Lead for Dunoon
- Jennifer Robertson, Shaping Places for Wellbeing, Programme Manager



Outline of Discussion and Recommendations by Place and Wellbeing Outcome

Movement

Active Travel

Everyone can:

- easily move around using good-quality, accessible, well-maintained and safe segregated wheeling, walking and cycling routes and access secure bike parking.
- wheel, walk and cycle through routes that connect homes, destinations and public transport, are segregated from, and prioritised above, motorised traffic and are part of a local green network.

Evidence and research:

- Active travel has been associated with reduced risk for all-cause mortality and improvements in mental health.¹
- Evidence that older people appeared to have greater benefits if they started undertaking active travel compared to younger people.² This is particularly relevant given the high rate of deaths from coronary heart disease in Dunoon.
- Active travel can increase social interactions.³
- Active travel has the potential to provide benefits to local economies.⁴
- Protected bike lanes and secure bike parking increases diversity and inclusion.⁵

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/active-travel-a-briefing-for-local-authorities>

² Health impact assessment of active transportation: A systematic review <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25900805/>

³ Boniface S, Scantlebury, R, Watkins SJ, et al. Health implications of transport: Evidence of effects of transport on social interactions. *Journal of Transport & Health*, 2015. **2**(3): p. 441-446

⁴ Pedestrian Pound, Living Streets www.livingstreets.org.uk/media/3890/pedestrian-pound-2018.pdf

⁵ [Women and Biking: A Case Study on the use of San Francisco Bike Lanes. University of California, Berkley.](#)



Summary of discussion:

It was agreed that the proposal would make a positive contribution to facilitating active travel in the area, though this wasn't its primary purpose. The discussion acknowledged that key functions of the space are visual, i.e. as a place to be viewed or experience the view from and for use as transport intersection. It was noted though that use of the esplanade for active travel, particularly walking, came out strongly in the 2019 Place Standard assessment of Dunoonⁱⁱⁱ.

Connections from the waterfront to other facilities within the town were seen as important and questions were raised about how the proposal relates to the town centre in terms of creating active travel links. It was noted that the weather conditions and people travelling long distances to connect to the ferry will impact on the frequency of people taking up active travel.

The proposal is infrastructure focused and it was agreed that it would benefit from including information about strengthening connections to communities especially those experiencing inequality e.g. bike hire schemes. Segregated cycle paths were seen as important for providing a sense of safety for women in particular, to consider cycling.

Recommendations to consider:

- Include more information on how the proposal could support active travel through linking with community initiatives, specifically the Castle Gatehouse active travel hub and Dunoon Development Trust active travel plans.
- Consideration in the next stage of the proposal of how supporting infrastructure can encourage a wider range of people to be able to take up active travel, particularly families with young children. This could include storage to accommodate buggies for example as well as adapted bikes.
- In the next stage of the proposal review active travel connections to other services and destinations outwith the proposal area including the Castle Gatehouse and Queens Hall.
- Further research may be needed in next stage of developing the proposal to increase understanding of how people are currently and would like to use the spaces for active travel.



Public Transport

Everyone has access to a sustainable, affordable, accessible, available, appropriate, and safe public transport service.

Evidence and research:

- Rural and island areas often rely more on public transport because they have to travel further to access services and employment.⁶
- Certain groups such as women, students and older people are likely to be at higher risk of transport poverty.⁷
- Some people can find it necessary to purchase a car even when they cannot afford it, which can lead to further debt.⁸
- Public transport has the potential to improve access to services and facilities and connect communities.⁹
- Public transport has the potential to reduce carbon emissions.¹⁰

Summary of discussion:

The proposal supports connections between several different modes of transport and the discussion focused on how to make those connections easy and comfortable to encourage use of public transport where possible. It was acknowledged that use of private vehicles is often likely to form part of someone's journey in a rural setting.

It was highlighted that the ferry is an important link for many people for healthcare, employment, education, social connections. There was agreement on the importance of a warm, comfortable, safe waiting area for those waiting on the ferry, particularly for families

⁶ Scottish Government. Building the evidence base on tackling poverty www.gov.scot/publications/drivers-of-poverty/

⁷ Transport and inequality: an evidence review for the Department for Transport https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/843487/Transport_and_inequality_report.pdf

⁸ Transport and inequality: an evidence review for the Department for Transport (link as above)

⁹ Transport, health, and wellbeing: An evidence review for the Department for Transport https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/847884/Transport_health_and_wellbeing.pdf

¹⁰ Evidence Review of the Potential Wider Impacts of Climate Change Mitigation Options: Transport sector <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/research-and-analysis/2017/01/evidence-review-potential-wider-impacts-climate-change-mitigation-options-transport/documents/00513155-pdf/00513155-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/00513155.pdf>



with young children, people travelling for hospital appointments and older people. This includes toilet provision which is particularly important for families, older people and those with disabilities. It was discussed whether consideration should also be given to an outdoor covered area by the terminal building in case it gets too crowded.

The discussion extended to consideration of whether other waiting spaces may need some shelter. For example, it is unclear from the designs about the extent of the bus shelter and a question was raised about consideration of continuous covered walkways.

Recommendations to consider:

- Consideration should be given in the next stage of the proposal to the ferry terminal building as an important place of shelter, providing information and socialising. Could explore options for a changing places facility through engagement with disability groups.

Traffic and parking

Everyone can benefit from:

- reducing traffic and traffic speeds in the community.
- traffic management and design, where traffic and car parking do not dominate or prevent other uses of space and car parking is prioritised for those who don't have other options.

Evidence and research:

- Lack of suitable parking has the potential to affect health.¹¹
- Parking should be prioritised for people who don't have other options.¹²

¹¹ Armitage R, Monchuk L and Rogerson M. It Looks Good, but What is it Like to Live There? Exploring the Impact of Innovative Housing Design on Crime. *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research* 2011;17(1):29–54

¹² Transport use, health and health inequalities: The impact of measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. <https://publichealthscotland.scot/downloads/transport-use-health-and-health-inequalities-the-impact-of-measures-to-reduce-the-spread-of-covid-19/>



- Cars can help people to access services and communities.¹³
- Motorised transport has the potential to reduce levels of physical activity and social interactions.¹⁴
- High levels of speeding traffic and long commutes, especially in cars, can also cause stress.¹⁵
- One third of Scotland's households do not own a car and this increases to half the households in deprived areas.¹⁶

Summary of discussion:

It was highlighted that people will be travelling from all around the Cowal peninsula, not just in and out of Dunoon and the need for parking will vary a lot depending on time of day, season etc. It was acknowledged there is need for private vehicles in a rural context for some journeys where public transport is not available or suitable, therefore there will be a requirement for parking. A query was raised as to whether car clubs had been considered.

There was a lot of discussion about the importance of facilitating parking for particular groups of people. It was agreed that parking for disabled people and family parking should be close to the buses and ferries for good access and that this is particularly important in wet and windy weather. It was also raised that consideration should be made for people arriving early for work, doing nursery/school runs etc.

There was discussion about the affordability of parking, given evidence shows that people can already be stretched financially by having a car but reliant on it for training, work etc. It was suggested that parking subsidies for locals may be something to consider. However, it was agreed parking in the proposal should be balanced with facilitating use of space by pedestrians. It was raised that there is a perception of traffic speeding in this area and acknowledged that people's perception of safety can increase when vehicles are less dominant. There was discussion about the crossings in the proposals and if they were in the most appropriate position to facilitate safe and direct access across the road.

¹³ Transport, health, and wellbeing: an evidence review for the Department for Transport https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/847884/Transport_health_and_wellbeing.pdf

¹⁴ Mueller N, Rojas-Rueda D, Cole-Hunter T, et al. Health impact assessment of active transportation: A systematic review. *Preventative Medicine* 2015;76:103–114

¹⁵ INHERIT: exploring triple-win solutions for living, moving and consuming that encourage behavioural change, protect the environment, promote health and health equity www.inherit.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/INHERIT-Report-A4-Low-res_s.pdf

¹⁶ Scottish Household Survey, 2018



Recommendations to consider:

- The proposal should review the balance of parking and pedestrian movement in the design to meet this outcome more fully.
- Review the position of the crossing points in relation to perceived speed of traffic in the next stage of the proposal, including conflict with cars exiting the car parks and access to facilities such as an active travel hub and Queens Hall
- The proposal should include information about car ownership and usage amongst different demographics and what the needs are of people using private vehicles

Space

Streets and spaces

Everyone can access:

- buildings, streets and public spaces that create an attractive place to use, enjoy and interact with others.
- streets and spaces that are well-connected, well-designed and maintained, providing multiple functions and amenities to meet the varying needs of different population groups.

Evidence and research:

- Evidence that mental wellbeing and quality of life was higher if the residents perceived their neighbourhood, including the buildings, as attractive.¹⁷
- Navigable streets and spaces allow people to move around easily, safely and access facilities and services.¹⁸
- Inadequate or poor spaces can lead to reduced social interactions.¹⁹

¹⁷ Bond L, Kearns A, Mason P, et al. Exploring the relationships between housing, neighbourhoods and mental wellbeing for residents of deprived areas. BMC Public Health 2012;12:48.

¹⁸ Quality of Life Foundation. Quality of life literature review; 2019. www.golf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Literature-Review-of-Quality-of-Life-in-the-Built-Environment-Publica-4-1.pdf

¹⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-action-on-health-inequalities-reducing-social-isolation>



Summary of discussion:

This was a strong element of the proposal and discussion focused on the range of different public spaces in the proposal, how they could support multiple functions and the needs in terms of climatic conditions and adaptability due to most likely fluctuating user numbers.

There was particular acknowledgement of the importance of considering weather conditions that would impact on when and how people might use the spaces. Wet and windy conditions limit amount of time during the year people may use them. It was also noted that in coastal areas seagulls can be an issue for solar panels and other structures. It was felt that the design for Argyll Gardens doesn't offer shelter or protection from the weather. It was noted that some other designs produced by a local design company might offer some solutions.

As in the previous discussion about movement, it was not clear how the proposal facilitated connections to the town centre and other facilities. Queens Hall is the key facility in close proximity to the waterfront and it was felt to be unclear how the street design makes that connection. It was noted that the current lack of signage does not assist visitors in navigating from the area to spending time in other parts of the town.

It was highlighted that involving people in process is important so they have a sense of belonging and will use the spaces. This was a point reiterated across the different themes.

Recommendations to consider:

- Review what the spaces in the proposal offer, how they are connected and adaptable to changing use and weather conditions. Particularly ensure that detailed consideration is made for the types of shelter available for the local weather conditions and if they meet the needs of equality groups. The next stage of the proposal should also revisit the designs for Argyll Gardens.
- The next stage of the proposal should include further understanding about who will use the space, when and how would be beneficial and engagement with potential users.



Natural Space

Everyone can:

- access good-quality natural spaces that support biodiversity and are well-connected, well-designed, safe, and maintained, providing multiple functions and amenities to meet the varying needs of different population groups.
- be protected from environmental hazards including air/water/soil pollution or the risk of flooding.
- access community food growing opportunities and prime quality agricultural land is protected.

Evidence and research:

- The type, size, quantity, quality, accessibility and proximity of natural spaces to where people live can influence whether infrastructures and spaces are used.²⁰
- There are wider environmental benefits to increasing natural space which can protect population health.²¹
- Natural spaces can encourage social interactions and the development of stronger or more cohesive communities and can provide a sense of community and belonging.²²

Summary of discussion:

While this wasn't a key aspect of the proposal, there are a number of natural spaces within or close to the waterfront. The discussion focused on the potential for incorporating more greenspace at the waterfront beyond the green roofs and planters indicated in the design. There was seen to be wider benefits to including more green infrastructure such as trees providing shelter and windbreaks. The example of Newquay was noted as having a great wildflower garden at the seafront.

²⁰ Public Health England. Improving access to greenspace https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904439/Improving_access_to_greenspace_2020_review.pdf

²¹ INHERIT: exploring triple-win solutions for living, moving and consuming that encourage behavioural change, protect the environment, promote health and health equity www.inherit.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/INHERIT-Report-A4-Low-res_s.pdf

²² Hartig T, Mitchell R, de Vries S, et al. Nature and health. Annual Review of Public Health 2014;35:207–228



While food growing wasn't immediately obvious as an opportunity, it was noted there are good examples from other seafront places. I was raised that in Gourrock there are planters all along the sea front where there's fruit and veg you can pick and the incredible edible trail in Rothesay.^{iv}

Recommendations to consider:

- Review the amount of greenspace in the next stage of the proposal and investigate options for adding more within the design of the seafront area.
- Consideration should be given within the proposal to providing productive greenspace with opportunities for community gardening / foraging.

Play and recreation

Everyone can access a range of high quality, safe, well-maintained, accessible places with opportunities for play and recreation to meet the varying needs of different population groups and the community itself.

Evidence and research:

- Perceptions of poor design, quality and safety can lead to children and young people not using the play and recreation spaces.²³
- Play and recreation is beneficial for the health of both adults and children through the encouragement of physical activity and social interactions.²⁴
- There are health benefits of undertaking play and recreation in outdoor environments, in particular natural spaces. There are specific benefits for children such as the development of motor skills, understanding risk and environmental awareness.²⁵

²³ NHS Health Scotland. Place and communities. www.healthscotland.scot/publications/place-and-communities

²⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-action-on-health-inequalities-reducing-social-isolation>; <http://www.playscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/Power-of-Play-an-evidence-base.pdf>

²⁵ Play Scotland. Getting it right for play power of play: an evidence base. www.playscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/Power-of-Play-an-evidence-base.pdf



Summary of discussion:

Discussion focused on the potential to increase opportunities for informal play and recreation opportunities, particularly given that those experiencing income inequality may not be able to afford formal facilities. It was noted that another benefit of this could be to encourage the waterfront to be used more as a social hub.

Informal leisure activity suggested included open access equipment such as an outdoor gym, similar to what is available in Sandbank. There also was a suggestion that this could include static bikes that generated electricity and link with solar panels for lights on the bike stores. Using the spaces for skating and rollerblading was also raised as a possibility and it was noted that young people in particular might chose this type of exercise and agreed it would be good to include them in the design so it could be managed safely.

Recommendations to consider:

- Further consideration in the next stage of the proposal of how the spaces might be used for and facilitate play and recreation through the design of the space and the inclusion of additional equipment.
- In particular it is recommended that in the next stage of developing the proposal to engage with young people who may want to use the space for recreation

Resources

Services and support

Everyone can access:

- health enhancing, accessible, affordable and well-maintained services, facilities and amenities. These are informed by community engagement, responsive to the needs and priorities of all local people.
- a range of spaces and opportunities for communities to meet indoors and outdoors.
- information and resources necessary for an included life in a range of digital and non-digital formats.



Evidence and research:

- People need local facilities and services to live and enjoy healthy independent lives.²⁶
- Accessibility to services can be exacerbated by poor transport links and safety of wider environment.²⁷

Summary of discussion:

While it was noted that the proposal doesn't include the provision of services, questions were raised about what other services could potentially be located in the area and how the buildings on the pier will be used. Discussion focused on how the proposal could support a wider range of activity in the different spaces, which would increase footfall and the infrastructure that would be needed to support pop up activity such as shelter, storage and toilets.

It was agreed that the new harbour building will provide an important meeting space and had lots of potential as a local facility. It was reiterated that toilet facilities would be important and should consider the needs of older and disable people using them.

Recommendations to consider:

- Consider in the next stage of the proposal what infrastructure could be put in place to support pop up activity in spaces throughout the area.
- In the next stage of developing the proposal, engage with local groups about needs related to toilet facilities, consideration of a changing spaces facility in the harbour building and its value as a local facility.
- To support the proposal in the next stage, produce a business plan or feasibility study to look at how the existing buildings and pier area could be utilised to maximise its potential for Dunoon.

²⁶

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10511482.2014.900102>; <https://www.instituteoftheequity.org/resources-reports/spatial-planning-and-health-nice>

²⁷ <https://www.transport.gov.scot/our-approach/national-transport-strategy/>



Work and economy

Everyone benefits equally from a local economy that provides:

- essential goods & services produced or procured locally
- good quality paid and unpaid work
- access to assets such as wealth & capital and the resources that enable people to participate in the economy such as good health and education
- a balanced value ascribed across sectors such as female dominated sectors and the non-monetary economy
- the resources that enable people to participate in the economy such as good health and education.

Evidence and research:

- Unemployment can be harmful to health and the longer unemployed the worse the health outcomes.²⁸
- Volunteering has been associated with improved self-rated health; mental health; decreased depression; decreased mortality, life satisfaction; and wellbeing.²⁹

Summary of discussion:

Providing employment is not a direct impact of this proposal but it was highlighted that there could be opportunities through the project construction. A suggestion was made that supporting apprenticeships for local people should be included in the proposal.

It was agreed that there were opportunities for the proposal to support the economy through encouraging use of the spaces by local businesses and organisations. This would also have the benefit of increasing footfall to the area. There was a discussion about facilitating sports clubs to make use of the spaces and a specific suggestion was that between the pier building and promenade there could be water sports similar to provision in the Dundee Waterfront – kayaking, paddle boarding etc. It was noted that there is currently no access to the water in the proposal.

²⁸ Local Government Association. Nobody left behind: maximising the health benefits of an inclusive local economy. www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/22.15%20inclusive%20growth_04.1.pdf

²⁹ Volunteering and health: what impact does it really have? www.researchgate.net/profile/Rachel-Casiday/publication/228628782_Volunteering_and_Health_What_Impact_Does_It_Really_Have/links/56339fab08aeb786b7013877/V



There was a wider discussion about what activities the pier and immediate area surrounding it could support and questions about the use of the buildings on the pier. There was a suggestion that there be an opportunity for showcasing local produce at the pier to capture the people passing through who are not necessarily going to go into town. Example was raised of a vending style facility in Arran^v. It was agreed that a business plan and ideas session would be helpful to pull together opportunities and income generating ideas.

Recommendations to consider:

- In the next stage of the proposal, investigate what infrastructure could support showcasing of local produce for example incorporating vending style services.
- As part of a business plan or feasibility study to support the next stage of the proposal, Consider the functions of the buildings on the pier and how they support employment and local business.

Housing and community

Everyone has access to:

- a home that is affordable, energy efficient, high quality and provides access to private outdoor space.
- a variety of housing types, sizes and tenancies to meet the needs of the community. And of a sufficient density to sustain existing or future local facilities, services and amenities.
- a home that is designed and built to meet need and demand, is adaptable to changing needs and includes accessible/wheelchair standard housing.
- new homes that are located and designed to provide high levels of climate resilience and use sustainable materials and construction methods.
- homes that are designed to promote community cohesion.

Evidence and research:

- Provision of good quality affordable housing is associated with improved physical and mental health outcomes including quality of life.³⁰

³⁰ www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/the-marmot-review-10-years-on



Summary of discussion:

There was limited discussion on this theme as there isn't a direct link between the proposal and housing. It was noted that housing security is closely linked with wider financial security.

Recommendations to consider:

- There were no recommendations to consider under this theme.

Civic

Identity and belonging

Everyone can benefit from a place that has a positive identity, culture and history, where people feel like they belong and are able to participate and interact positively with others.

Evidence and research:

- Landmarks or something distinctive about the neighbourhood can also help to create a sense of place and belonging, which is beneficial for health.³¹
- Social isolation and fewer social interactions can be exacerbated by a poor physical environment.³²
- If neighbourhoods are attractive this can improve mental wellbeing.³³
- A sense or feeling of belonging to a community is associated positively with mental health, and an improved quality of life.³⁴

³¹ Design for social sustainability – a framework for creating thriving new communities. <https://youngfoundation.org/publications/design-for-social-sustainability/>

³² <https://vhscotland.org.uk/the-zubairi-report/>

³³ Bond L, Kearns A, Mason P, et al. Exploring the relationships between housing, neighbourhoods and mental wellbeing for residents of deprived areas. BMC Public Health 2012;12:48.

³⁴ Quality of life literature review www.golf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Literature-Review-of-Quality-of-Life-in-the-Built-Environment-Publica-4-1.pdf



Summary of discussion:

The proposal strongly contributes to this outcome and it was agreed on the importance of the waterfront area in terms of providing a positive identity for those living in the town and as a welcome to visitors. It was also acknowledged the benefits of people having a sense of identity and belonging to positive mental health. A question was raised about the design of the harbour building and if it will be considered as a landmark, given its location and height.

It was agreed that engagement in the development of the proposal was important to ensure a sense of ownership for the local community and make it more likely they will use the spaces. Also, to understand how the public realm spaces will be used at different times of day. It was agreed that the spaces need to be adaptable, so capturing the potential different uses, frequency and timing is important. Linking with the ferry times for example.

Recommendations to consider:

- The next stage of developing the proposal should engage with a range of potential users of the spaces, particularly about what would encourage a sense of ownership.

Feeling safe

Everyone feels safe and secure in their own home and their local community taking account of the experience of different population groups.

Evidence and research:

- Perceptions of place feeling unsafe can lead to negative impacts on health, for example mental wellbeing and can reduce outdoor activities.³⁵
- Some groups within the population can have limited access to safe and well-maintained environments.³⁶
- Safety is a key barrier to increasing women's use of active travel.³⁷

³⁵ Lorenc T, Clayton S, Neary D, et al. Crime, fear of crime, environment, and mental health and wellbeing: mapping review of theories and causal pathways. *Health Place* 2012;18:757–765.

³⁶ INHERIT: exploring triple-win solutions for living, moving and consuming that encourage behavioural change, protect the environment, promote health and health equity. www.inherit.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/INHERIT-Report-A4-Low-res_s.pdf

³⁷ [How Women Travel Around our City – A Case Study on Active Transport across Sydney. City of Sydney Council](#)



Summary of discussion:

This topic was also discussed under public transport in terms of personal safety and in traffic and parking in terms of perceptions of safety around moving vehicles.

The importance of lighting was highlighted in the discussion, particularly for women and other equalities groups. Also, for those travelling through the area to go to work when there is limited natural light.

Recommendations to consider:

- In the next stage of the proposal, further consider the impact of the proposal on the safety of women and other equalities groups using the area by specifically engaging with potential users.

Stewardship

Care and maintenance

Everyone has access to:

- buildings, spaces and routes that are well cared for in a way that is responsive to the needs and priorities of local communities.
- good facilities for recycling and well organised refuse storage and collection.

Evidence and research:

- If people perceive their neighbourhoods as being poorly maintained with high levels of environmental incivilities they are likely to experience worse health outcomes such as lower levels of mental wellbeing.³⁸

³⁸ [https://www.gcph.co.uk/assets/0000/4174/BP_11 - Built environment and health - updated.pdf](https://www.gcph.co.uk/assets/0000/4174/BP_11_-_Built_environment_and_health_-_updated.pdf)



- If people are involved in helping to design and maintain the places they live in this can build a sense of ownership, belonging and attachment.³⁹
- If a place is not well maintained this can lead to negative perceptions of a place, which can lead to investors disinvesting and people not wanting to go to that place.⁴⁰

Summary of discussion:

It was agreed that involving people in the development of the proposal will increase the likelihood of them looking after it. The importance of responding to and being adaptable to community need was also discussed under other topics.

There was a question raised about the quality of materials as this isn't mentioned in the proposal. This was seen as important for user experience and maintaining footfall and where possible the public should be involved in consideration of finishes and configuration of the space.

Recommendations to consider:

- In the next stage of developing the proposal, Further consideration should be made of how people can be involved in the detail of design process and the ongoing care of the spaces.

Influence and sense of control

Everyone is empowered to be involved a place in which:

- Local outcomes are improved by effective collaborations between communities, community organisations and public bodies.
- Decision making processes are designed to involve communities as equal partners.
- Community organisations co-produce local solutions to issues.
- Communities have increased influence over decisions.
- Democratic processes are developed to be accessible to all citizens.

³⁹ Quality of life literature review www.golf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Literature-Review-of-Quality-of-Life-in-the-Built-Environment-Publica-4-1.pdf

⁴⁰ A connected Scotland: our strategy for tackling social isolation and loneliness and building stronger social connections. www.gov.scot/publications/connected-scotland-strategy-tackling-social-isolation-loneliness-building-stronger-social-connections/



Evidence and research:

- Sense of control can be beneficial for mental health and quality of life.⁴¹
- Empowerment can help to reduce isolation and can be beneficial for mental health and wellbeing.⁴²
- People living in more socio-economic deprived areas felt less confident about being involved in decision-making compared to less deprived areas.⁴³

Summary of discussion:

A key point in discussion was the need for early and ongoing consultation and the benefits of involving local people in the development of the design including being more likely to use the spaces when they are completed. This has been raised under other themes as well. Additionally, feedback has indicated that people in Dunoon want to have a say on their town, which came out strongly in the 2019 Place Standard Assessment.

It was noted that the proposals haven't had public consultation at this stage and are predominantly using consultation outcomes from 2017 to complement stakeholder engagement. It was also acknowledged that consultation is impacted by the timescales for funding applications and there is an opportunity for proactively working with communities irrespective of the funding application outcome.

Further discussion identified that the proposal area includes a mix of public and private spaces including small businesses, harbour authority and local authority. It was felt to be important that they all work together to ensure people have a say.

Recommendations to consider:

- Consideration of what can be progressed just now in terms of engagement to prepare for potentially short timescales for the next stage of the proposal when the outcome of the funding application is known.

⁴¹ <https://vhscotland.org.uk/the-zubairi-report/>

⁴² What works to boost social relations. What Works Centre for Wellbeing; 2015. <https://whatworkswellbeing.org/blog/what-works-to-boost-social-relations/>

⁴³ Scottish Household Survey 2018. Edinburgh: Scottish Government; 2019. www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-people-annual-report-results-2018-scottish-household-survey/documents/



ii <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/news/2022/feb/bids-progress-levelling-funding-argyll-and-bute>

ii <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/b35328/Supplementary%20Pack%201%20Thursday%2030-Jun-2022%2010.30%20Argyll%20and%20Bute%20Council.pdf?T=9>

iii <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cpp/BC/Dunoon%20Responses%202019.pdf>

iv

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1W4Ehiu9pHavgWgey4nqEGCyqH8cmE7Mk&ll=55.836555720843%2C-5.054281450000002&z=16>

v <https://www.hie.co.uk/latest-news/2021/may/07/arran-social-enterprise-puts-fresh-produce-on-the-menu/>

