

BRIEFING

Place and Wellbeing Outcomes





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Introduction

What are the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes?

The Place and Wellbeing Outcomes provide a consistent and comprehensive focus for where place impacts on the wellbeing of people and planet.

The Outcomes support all sectors to focus decision-making and implementation on a [common set of evidenced features](#) that will enable each place to have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people and planet while reducing inequality.

Drawing on the principles recommended by the Christie Commission for the future of public services, the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes are:

- ▶ preventative in nature.
- ▶ drive collaborative actions to deliver them.
- ▶ require the participation and meaningful involvement of those with local lived knowledge of the place.

The Place and Wellbeing Outcomes are underpinned by three principles:

- ▶ Equitable outcomes for all
- ▶ Achieving net zero, sustainability and biodiversity
- ▶ Supporting the system

More information on these Principles, can be found in [Appendix 1](#).



Why do we need the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes?

Scotland faces reducing healthy life expectancy, a climate crisis and the worst inequalities in Western Europe. We are navigating increasing demand for services at a time of reduced funding and budget cuts. We do not have the luxury of time or resource to deal with each of these crises at a time from the safety of our silos. We need to deliver change and think differently about public services to help reduce demand and tackle the significant challenges we face. We need to invest in early intervention and prevention measures, to invest in a sustainable future and coordinate our actions to ensure they contribute to a 'triple win' of enhancing the wellbeing of our planet and our people and creating greater equity.

This paper explains the importance of the places where we live, work, and relax as a significant contributor to our preventative interventions to achieve that triple win. It introduces Scotland's [Place and Wellbeing Outcomes](#): a consistent and comprehensive set of Outcomes that every place needs to enable those who live, work, and relax there to stay healthy and thrive. Crucially, it highlights that to help in reducing Scotland's significant inequalities, every sector needs to be working together to take actions that deliver all the Outcomes in every place. The incorporation of these Outcomes throughout the National Planning Framework 4 has ensured their consistent use across Scotland.

Finally, it explains the crucial role of the Outcomes as part of a place-based approach. Doing so enables us all to critically question whether we are being consistent across Scotland and taking the right collective actions to bring about the change people need from our places.



The background to developing the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes

The Place and Wellbeing Collaborative

Before the introduction of the National Planning Framework 4 in February 2023, and at a time when reform of Scotland's planning system was taking place, recognition of the role of successful places in delivering Scotland's National Outcomes grew. It became clear that the finalised version of the fourth National Planning Framework would introduce new outcomes for the planning system and the places those who work in the system aim to manage. The introduction of these new outcomes, particularly to support health and wellbeing and to reduce inequality, led to a collaborative group forming to consider the challenges and opportunities within this new ask.

This group became the [Place and Wellbeing Collaborative](#). It is made up of representatives from the Improvement Service, Public Health Scotland, Directors of Public Health, Heads of Planning Scotland, COSLA and the Health Improvement Managers Network.

One crucial challenge identified during this collaboration of organisations was the lack of a consistent and comprehensive list of what every place needs for people to thrive: a set of Outcomes for every place to enable wellbeing. Conversations with other public health bodies in the UK confirmed that establishing, upfront, a set of outcomes for every place would give more confidence to all sectors and disciplines. It would enable more consistency and equity in our ask of every place and ensure all the evidenced elements for a successful place have been taken into account. It could reinforce stronger collaboration as each sector manages change in our existing and entirely new places.

The Place and Wellbeing Collaborative looked to similar work and evidence by the World Health Organisation and other UK public health bodies to pull together a set of Place and Wellbeing Outcomes for Scotland. Evidence about the determinants of health and wellbeing in Scotland's places had already been used when shaping the Place Standard and this same evidence base supported the development of the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes. While the [Place Standard tool](#) is used to provide a structure for a comprehensive, considered conversation about a place between stakeholders, the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes provide a consistent and comprehensive set of outcomes for all stakeholders to take collaborative action on delivering in every place.

The resulting Place and Wellbeing Outcomes fall into five overarching themes of Movement, Spaces, Resources, Civic and Stewardship. The Outcomes are interlinked; interventions in one Outcome will have a knock-on impact on achieving other

Outcomes, and therefore a collaborative approach is crucial to enable their delivery. They support all sectors to focus decision making and implementation on a common set of evidenced features that make every place. They provide a consistent foundation for measuring and a platform for learning about how we can all make changes in our systems to support better places. Doing so provides a solid foundation for systems thinking to improve the health of our communities and to also support climate targets and reduce inequalities.

Finally, but crucially, as people are at the centre of the Outcomes, their wording is tailored to make sure that everyone is being considered. Their wording was also refined through a set of three pilot Rapid Scoping Assessments involving local and national input from local government and the public health system.

The Place and Wellbeing Outcome wording, the three principles that underline their use and population groups they should be applied to are in [Appendix 1](#).

Using the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes

Why place matters

Every place is a different blend of physical, social, and economic characteristics that interact and influence each other. A place-based approach is about considering the physical, economic, and social elements that make up a place collaboratively. Thinking about how an intervention to improve one of these characteristics can have unintended positive or negative consequences on another. It takes account of these different interconnections and relationships in a joint working collaborative approach that focuses all the action, effort, and investment in a place to maximise the opportunity for positive consequences and minimise negative ones.

Given the importance of place, it is crucial that we create ones that contain all the features that evidence tells us will have a positive impact. At times decision makers, with the best of intentions, do not consider the unintended consequences of their activity and can inadvertently have a negative impact on the features we need to get right in every place.

The way to prevent this unintended impact is to take a place-based approach. This means combining three key elements:

1. Knowing what **people** in an area are experiencing
2. Understanding the evidenced features every **place** needs
3. Considering the impact of the **decisions we are making** on both of these.

People, place and **decision-making** are the key elements to take a place-based approach. This approach was developed through the Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme.



People

What they are experiencing

Data - inequality
Quantitative
Qualitative



Place

All the features that have a positive impact

Place and Wellbeing Outcomes



Decisions

How they impact people and place

Leadership
Governance
Assessing impact

Embedding the Outcomes as part of the second element the Shaping Places for Wellbeing place-based approach provides evidenced consistency and clarity on what is needed for our places to impact positively on those who use them. They enable all stakeholders in a place to critically question whether they are taking the most appropriate action to bring about the change people need from that place. Their use enables coordinated action and investment to create successful places that improve the lives of people while protecting the planet and supporting inclusive economies.

One way the Outcomes can be used in the third key element of a place-based approach is by using them in a [Place and Wellbeing Assessment](#). A Place and Wellbeing Assessment brings together a group of stakeholders in a structured half day process to identify how a plan, policy or proposal will affect a place and its impact on the wellbeing of people and planet. The purpose of an Assessment is to inform decision making about a specific, defined plan or proposal. It should be carried out as early in the decision-making process as possible and always before the proposal has been implemented. A [Place and Wellbeing Assessment: How to Guide](#) has been published that provides the context to consider when determining whether to undertake a Place and Wellbeing Assessment as well as being a practical guide to the process for completing one.

The [Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme](#), jointly delivered by Public Health Scotland and the Improvement Service, grew from the ambition to ensure that everyone in Scotland can live in a place that has all the factors that will nurture health and wellbeing. As such, the Programme was anchored in using the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes to improve Scotland's Wellbeing and reduce inequality.

Between 2022 and July 2024 the Programme worked in [seven Project Towns](#) (Alloa, Ayr, Clydebank, Dalkeith, Fraserburgh, Dunoon and Rutherglen) supported by Project Leads and Community Link Leads. It supported and enabled a place-based approach, facilitating the opportunity for people to come together to think, learn and plan in a way that considers the collective impact of their decisions on a place and those who use it.


The support has focused on enhancing an understanding of the three key elements to undertaking a place-based approach as described above.

Between 2022 and 2024, the Programme completed [over 30 Place and Wellbeing Assessments](#) covering a range of plans and strategies across different stakeholders. They contribute to delivering all of the successful features a place needs for those using it to thrive.

After participating in a Place and Wellbeing Assessment, Fiona Davies, Chief Officer for Argyll & Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, had the following to say about the process:

“[It’s] really valuable to think in different way. What can I put in this strategy that will help my allies to do what they need to but that’s not in my gift to include in my strategy?”

Head over to the Shaping Places for Wellbeing [Testimonials](#) page, where you can hear from others who have taken part in the Place and Wellbeing Assessment process.



How do the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes fit in the wider policy landscape?

Place and Wellbeing Outcomes and Scotland's National Planning Framework

The fourth National Planning Framework has the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes embedded throughout the document. The Outcomes ensure a comprehensive and consistent approach is used across Scotland when delivering the Framework as a formal part of the Development Plan for all 32 Planning Authorities. The Place and Wellbeing Outcomes promote collaborative action via a clear set of linked policy interventions to create places that promote equality, where people can stay healthy, and experience wellbeing. Furthermore, their incorporation into the framework also ensures that decisions to address climate change and biodiversity take full account of any opportunity for our places to deliver a triple win.

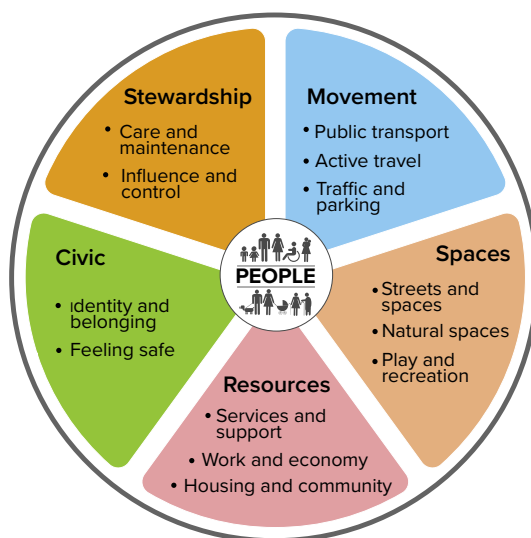
The Place and Wellbeing Outcomes align with other approaches, strategies and policies, which you can find more about in the links below:

- ▶ [Place Principle](#)
- ▶ [Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- ▶ [National Performance Framework](#)
- ▶ [20 Minute Neighbourhoods](#)
- ▶ [A New Future for Scotland's Town Centres](#)
- ▶ [Covid Recovery Strategy](#)
- ▶ [Public health priorities](#)
- ▶ [Net zero emissions targets](#)

More information about the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes can be found on the Planning for Place web pages and for more information about the Shaping Places for Wellbeing place-based approach, visit the [Improvement Service website](#).

Appendix 1

Place and Wellbeing Outcomes



The principles of equality, net-zero emissions and sustainability underpin all of these themes, and all themes should be embedded in policy and action

The Outcomes are underpinned by three principles:

Equitable outcomes for all

Each Outcome takes account of the needs of different populations and geographies and is applied in a way that ensures they achieve equitable outcomes for all. The impact of policy and practice on the experiences of these different populations within Scotland must be considered. Population groups such as those at the end of the table.

Achieving net zero, sustainability and biodiversity

Each Outcome takes account of climate impacts in Scotland and globally. They also consider the need to achieve net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as well as enhancing broader environmental sustainability and biodiversity, and are applied equitably in a way that contributes to both greater climate resilience and reduced GHG emissions.

Supporting the system

Each Outcome becomes embedded in the right policies and plans both nationally and locally.

Theme	Outcome
Movement	Active Travel Everyone can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • easily move around using good-quality, accessible, well-maintained and safe wheeling, segregated 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.
	Public Transport Everyone has access to a sustainable, affordable, accessible, available, appropriate, safe, and public transport service.
	Traffic and Parking Everyone can benefit from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Spaces	Streets and Spaces Everyone has access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • buildings, streets and public spaces that create an attractive place to use, enjoy and interact with others. • streets and spaces that are well-connected, designed for climate resilience and maintained, providing multiple functions and amenities to meet the varying needs of different population groups.
	Natural Spaces Everyone can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access good-quality natural spaces that support biodiversity and are well-connected, safe, maintained, designed for climate resilience and provide 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.

Theme	Outcome
	Play and Recreation <p>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.</p>
Resources	Services and Support <p>Everyone has access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. Work and Economy <p>Everyone benefits equally from a local economy that provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • essential goods and services produced or procured locally. • good quality paid and unpaid work. • access to assets such as wealth and 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. Housing and Community <p>Everyone has access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

Theme	Outcome
Civic	Identity and Belonging <p>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.</p>
	Feeling Safe <p>Everyone feels safe and secure in their own home and their local community taking account of the experience of different population groups.</p>
Stewardship	Care and Maintenance <p>Everyone has access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
	Influence and Control <p>Everyone is empowered to be involved a place in which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

Each Outcome takes account of the needs of different populations groups such as the following:

- ▶ Older people, children and young people
- ▶ Women, men (including trans men and women and issues relating to pregnancy and maternity)
- ▶ Disabled people (including physical disability, learning disability, sensory impairment, cognitive impairment, long term medical conditions, mental health problems)
- ▶ Minority ethnic people (including Gypsy/Travellers, non-English speakers)

- ▶ Refugees & asylum seekers
- ▶ People with different religions or beliefs
- ▶ Lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual people
- ▶ People who are unmarried, married or in a civil partnership
- ▶ People living in poverty/ people of low income
- ▶ Homeless people
- ▶ People involved in the criminal justice system
- ▶ People with low literacy/numeracy
- ▶ People in remote, rural and/or island locations
- ▶ Carers (including parents, especially lone parents; and elderly carers)
- ▶ Staff (including people with different work patterns e.g. part/full time, short term, job share, seasonal)

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