

TAYSIDE AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE****26 JUNE 2023****LOCAL LIVING AND 20 MINUTE NEIGHBOURHOODS: PLANNING GUIDANCE –
DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION****REPORT BY STRATEGY OFFICER (STRATEGIC CONNECTIVITY)**

This report seeks approval of a proposed response to Scottish Government consultation on ‘Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods: planning guidance - draft for consultation.’

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Executive Committee considers and approves the proposed consultation response to the ‘Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods: planning guidance - draft for consultation’ as detailed in Appendix A.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 27 April 2023 Scottish Government published consultation on planning guidance for [Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#) to support the implementation of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), with the consultation period ending on 20 July 2023.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 13 June 2023, the Partnership delegated authority to the Executive Committee to consider and approve a response to the Scottish Government’s consultation on Local living and 20-minute neighbourhoods (Report RTP/23/15 refers).

3 DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The Scottish Government note that the complex challenges faced, from the climate and nature crises to poverty and disadvantage and stark health inequalities, require a joined-up and collaborative approach to deliver positive outcomes for people and the environment.
- 3.2 [Local living and 20-minute neighbourhoods](#) draft planning guidance aims to help to deliver the healthy, sustainable and resilient places required to support a good quality of life and balance our environmental impact. The Local Living and 20-minute neighbourhood concepts aim to create places where people can meet most of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home, by walking, wheeling or cycling.
- 3.3 Tactran welcomes the guidance, although it remains rather high level.

- 3.4 The recognition that the application of the principle will depend on the locality, especially within distinctively rural communities is welcomed. However, the Partnership considers that the term 20-minute neighbourhood is rather misleading and can lead to misunderstanding of the concept. Consideration should, subsequently, be given to only using Local Living, as this appears to be a better description.
- 3.5 Transport or Movement play a key role in enabling the delivery of the Local Living Framework. However, we would recommend including bus, DRT and community transport in the list of related key considerations.
- 3.6 Tactran welcomes the development of the Local Living Approach focusing on creating places that are pleasant, safe and attractive, where noise, air pollution, accessibility and lack of seating and shelter are not barriers that prevent people - particularly our most vulnerable people - from getting out and about.

While the diagram supports and encourages flexible place-based approach, we would recommend complementing the diagram with a Local Living check for developers, providing a spreadsheet tool to support developers, similar to that adopted in other parts of the UK e.g. Transport for London Healthy Streets Indicators.

- 3.7 Tactran agrees that both qualitative and quantitative data are important in establishing a baseline for a place. While qualitative research will help to provide an understanding of the existing facilities and current and future needs is required to develop an appropriate approach to supporting local living in each locality, there might be a role for Scottish Government to establish a quantitative Scottish dataset to audit essential daily facilities such as shops, schools and surgeries across the local authority areas in Scotland. This will support consistency in application of the policy across Scotland. In parts, the guidance seems to orientate towards developing 20-minute neighbourhoods in areas that are not experiencing disadvantage. This calls in to question the context of local living for SIMD deprivation areas.
- 3.8 Tactran welcomes the cross section of case studies and the inclusion of distinctively rural places, as well as urban.
- 3.9 It is noted that one of the case studies includes a funding link to Place Based Investment Programme. If this funding continues to be available, Tactran recommends this to be included in the main text rather than as part of one case study.
- 3.10 The Executive Committee is asked to consider and approve the proposed Tactran response, as detailed in Appendix A to allow submission by the deadline of 20 July 2023.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

5 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Equality Impact Assessment and no major issues have been identified.

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NOTE

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report.

Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods: planning guidance - draft for consultation, Scottish Government, 27 April 2023

Report to Partnership RTP/23/15, Director's Report, 13 June 2023

Respondent Information Form

Please Note this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

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Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual
 Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

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

- Publish response with name
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Information for organisations:

The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

- Yes
 No

Questionnaire

Question 1

How helpful is Part 1 of the guidance to further the understanding of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods in a Scottish context?

Additional information for question 1:

Part 1 - Local living, the benefits of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods.

Part 1 of the guidance explains that local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods in Scotland have the potential to contribute to global, national as well as local goals around climate action, decreased health inequalities, improved local economy and improved liveability/quality of life.

It explains how local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods can be a means of tackling the interrelated environmental, social and economic challenges we face in Scotland through the alignment with policy context, the place context and the rural and island contexts.

More information can be found in part 1 of the guidance document.

- Very helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Not at all helpful

Please explain your response explaining what else could be helpful

Part 1 gives a good policy context, but perhaps some recognition should be given to other policies that need to be implemented to meet the desired outcomes i.e. climate emergency - local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods only part of solution.

Tactran welcomes the recognition that the application of the principle will depend on the locality, especially within distinctively rural communities. Reference is made to research into the concept of 20 Minute Neighbourhoods in a rural context and what would need to happen for a rural settlement to successfully apply the concept. While this reference is welcomed, it is considered that the term 20 minute neighbourhood is rather misleading and can lead to misunderstanding of the concept. Consideration should be given to only using Local Living, as this appears to be a better description.

Question 2

Please refer to the Local Living Framework Diagram on page 19 of the guidance. How helpful is the framework diagram in encouraging flexible, place-based approaches to support local living?

Additional Information for question 2:

Part 2 of draft guidance - local living framework diagram

20 minute neighbourhoods are one method of achieving 'local Living' and the benefits that flow from it. The way in which 'local living' works will vary from place to place and

should evolve, over time as a result of place-based activity with communities and across sectors.

The local living framework diagram was developed to support and encourage the type of flexible, place-based approach when considering the daily needs in a place that supports local living - whilst avoiding tick box approaches.

More information can be found in part 2 of the guidance document.

- Very helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Not at all helpful

Please explain your response explaining what else could be helpful

Figure 5 on page 19 makes it clear that all 5 categories and 14 place based themes need to be considered together with local people at the heart of the decision making process. Good to see public transport included in this – as elsewhere in the document reference is only to walking, wheeling and cycling. Public Transport, particularly road based public transport (bus, DRT, community transport) as part of the sustainable transport hierarchy has a significant role to play and is more inclusive than wheeling and cycling.

Tactran welcomes the development of the Local Living Approach focusing on creating places that are pleasant, safe and attractive, where noise, air pollution, accessibility and lack of seating and shelter are not barriers that prevent people - particularly our most vulnerable people - from getting out and about.

While the diagram supports and encourages flexible place-based approach, we would recommend complementing the diagram with a Local Living check for developers, providing a spreadsheet tool to support developers, similar to that adopted in other parts of the UK e.g. Transport for London Healthy Streets Indicators.

Such a tool will help developers to make sure any proposed development result in improvements in line with the Local Living Approach, scoring the proposals against the identified Local Living indicators.

Such an assessment could be used to show planning authorities and the public alike how development will result in improvements. While such a check might not hold formal status in guidance and decision making, it will encourage developers and decision makers to actively consider the identified indicators and will advise on how a project fits with the Local Living policy agenda.

Question 3

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

Additional Information for question 3:

Part 2: Categories and key considerations

The 'categories' - Movement, Space, Resources, Civic, and Stewardship, and the related key considerations support the local living framework and are detailed in part 2 of the guidance. They provide detail on the important issues that should be considered and where appropriate, addressed for successful local living.

More information can be found in part 2 of the guidance document.

- Very helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Not at all helpful

Please explain your response explaining what else could be helpful

It is useful to get an overview of all the considerations with a brief description and further information in the annex and gets across the need for integrated collaborative working across all aspects of designing for local people. While in a presentational context it may make sense to use annex for more detail, it does give the impression that the guidance is very high level and theoretical.

Tactran agrees with the key consideration. Transport or Movement play a key role in enabling the delivery of the Local Living Framework. However, we would recommend to include bus, DRT and community transport in the list of related key considerations. It is noticeable that the case studies for '*Edinburgh: embedding 20-Minute Neighbourhoods as a new approach to service delivery and regeneration*' includes using public transport as part of the 20 minute round trip (diagram page 39) and '*Living well locally – 20 Minute Communities in the Highlands and Islands*' includes community transport.

Question 4

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

Additional Information for question 4:

A structured approach to delivering local living.

Part 3 of the draft guidance offers a structured approach that can assist with delivering local living. Three 'key steps' are detailed that can be repeated for incremental change. These are:

1. understand context - understanding the context of the place through the use of quantitative and qualitative information
2. collaborate, plan, design- developing collaborative models of working to inform place-based planning and design processes
3. implement and review - aligning investment, developing delivery capacity and supporting new ways of working

More information can be found in part 3 of the guidance document.

- Very helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Not at all helpful

Please explain your response explaining what else could be helpful

Tactran considers that the structured approach helps identify all groups required, the data needed and the importance of a collaborative approach and is supportive of the criteria set out in Part 3.

Question 5

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

Additional Information for question 5:

Part 3 - Ways to support local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods; key step 1 - understand the context

Part 3 of the draft guidance offers a structured approach to support local living. Three 'key steps' are detailed that can be repeated for incremental change.

Key step 1: Understand context - understanding the context of the place through the use of quantitative and qualitative information.

This step explains that gaining a full understanding of the context of a place, at the outset, is critical for forming a baseline and for understanding a place.

This part of the guidance aims to communicate and emphasise that while quantitative data is important in this regard, the gathering of qualitative information and the way in which this informs action is equally as critical.

More information can be found in part 3 of the guidance document.

- Very useful
- Somewhat useful
- Not at all useful

Please explain your response explaining what else could be useful

Tactran agrees that both qualitative and quantitative data are important in establishing a baseline for a place. Part 3 of the guidance underlines the importance.

While qualitative research will help to provide an understanding of the existing facilities and current and future needs is required to develop an appropriate approach to supporting local living in each locality, there might be a role for Scottish Government to establish a quantitative Scottish dataset to audit essential daily facilities such as shops, schools and surgeries across the local authority areas in Scotland. This will support consistency in application of the policy across Scotland.

The access to work bullet point seems to be very white collar orientated and calls in to question the context of local living for SIMD deprivation areas.

Question 6

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

Additional Information for question 6:

Part 3 - Ways to support local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods - key step 2 - collaborate, plan, design

Key step 2: Collaborate, plan, design - developing collaborative models of working to inform place-based planning and design processes.

Land-use planning is a fundamental tool for embedding local living and 20 minute neighbourhood principles in our places. National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) provides a new approach to planning by combining the long term spatial strategy with national planning policies to form part of the statutory development plan.

This section explains the context for the delivery of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods beyond planning mechanisms.

Local living requires input from a broad range of stakeholders and a cross sector commitment to collaborative working, informing place based planning and design. It involves coordination across investment plans and opportunities and the bringing together of the knowledge and skills of different organisations and sectors.

More information can be found in part 3 of the guidance document.

- Very helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Not at all helpful

Please explain your response explaining what else could be helpful

Tactran considers this to be a very high level view on the proposed approach but is supportive of the criteria set out in Part 3.

Question 7

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

Additional Information for question 7:

Part 3 - Ways to support local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods - key step 3 - implement and review

Key step 3: implement and review - aligning investment, developing delivery capacity and supporting new ways of working.

This is the stage at which the action identified in the previous steps could be taken forward or planned for.

This section of the guidance explains that while a number of cross government policies, strategies and investments are aligned to support local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods, there needs to be a cross sectoral alignment of knowledge, skills and resources, local knowledge, insights and capacity to maximise the benefits of local living.

The 'trip chain' diagrams in this section demonstrate the issues that can arise for local services when decisions about key infrastructure are made and local living is not prioritised.

More information can be found in part 3 of the guidance document.

- Very helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Not at all helpful

Please explain your response explaining what else could be helpful

Tactran agree that there is a need to implement and review as good practice, but consider that this section and figures 11 and 12 do not particularly add anything in the way of good practice examples of how this could be done.

Question 8

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

Additional Information for question 8:

The case studies in part 4 of the document are included to demonstrate real place-based action being undertaken that helps support local living and 20 minute neighbourhood principles.

More information can be found in part 4 of the guidance document.

- Very useful
- Somewhat useful
- Not at all useful

Please explain your response explaining what else could be useful

Tactran welcomes the cross section of case studies and the inclusion of distinctively rural places, as well as urban. As noted in response to question 3 the case studies seem to include public transport as part of the living locally sustainable transport, which is welcomed.

It is noted that one of the case studies includes a funding link to Place Based Investment Programme. If this funding continues to be available, this should be included in the main text rather than as part of one case study.

Question 9

Looking at the impact assessment update report: do you have any views about the initial conclusions of the impact assessment update report that accompany and inform this guidance?

Additional Information for question 9:

The impact assessment report update relates to the draft guidance on Local living and 20 Minute Neighbourhoods, produced to support the fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4).

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods are included within the policy framework of NPF4, adopted by Scottish Ministers on 13th February. The concept of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods is intended to support places where people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home, preferably through active travel modes or by public transport.

NPF4 was the subject of extensive consultation and parliamentary scrutiny and an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA), involving a number of statutory and non-statutory assessments, was prepared for NPF4 and is available on the [Transforming Planning](#) website.

The policy intent and outcomes for Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods were included within this assessment process. Therefore, the impact of the policy has already been assessed and this updated report summarises key content relevant to local living

and 20 minute neighbourhoods gathered as part of the previous impact assessment process. Additional content on the impacts of the draft guidance has been added where relevant or necessary.

Read the impact assessment update report.

Yes

No

Please tell us here

Tactran does not have a particular view on the Impact Assessment Update Report, but notes that for a number of reasons the implementation of local living is likely to be more difficult in areas of deprivation.

Question 10

Please provide any further comments on the draft guidance document in the box below.

With transport being a key consideration in the application of the concept of Local Living, the role of appropriate and effective transport appraisals undertaken in line with relevant transport appraisal guidance should be strengthened. In line with NPF4, proposals should be informed by evidence of the area's transport infrastructure capacity, and an appraisal of the spatial strategy on the transport network. This should identify any potential cumulative transport impacts and deliverable mitigation proposed to inform the plan's infrastructure first approach. Policy 12 of the NPF4 refers.