

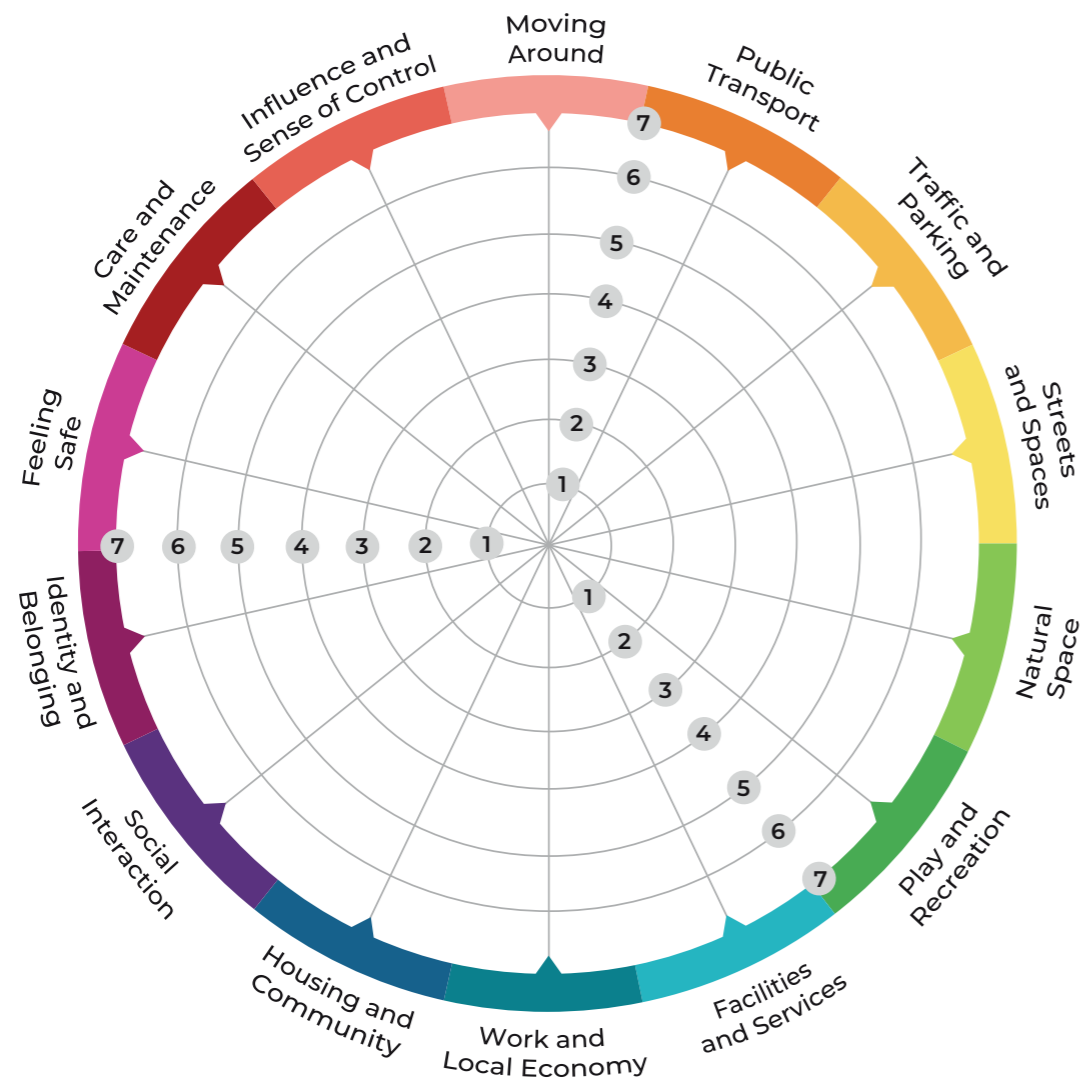
# Place Standard Tool

How Good is Our Place?



# What is the Place Standard Tool?

The Place Standard is a simple tool to structure a conversation about a place. It helps people to think about both the physical and social aspects of places, and the important relationship between them. It has 14 themes, each with a main question and further prompts to support conversations, inform the assessment and identify issues for improvement.



Place Standard compass diagram above (see page 5 for more details).

# Why is place important?

Where we spend our time has an important effect on our lives and our wellbeing. Improving the quality of places and the opportunities we have access to can help to tackle inequalities.

Understanding what is good about a place now, and what could be better, can help us make good decisions and allow us to target resources where they are needed most. Global health challenges, including the climate emergency, mean it is more important than ever for us to think about how we can make our places more sustainable, for both people and the environment, now and for the future.

The Place Standard tool can support the design and delivery of successful places, creating good-quality places where people want to live. The 14 themes have been carefully chosen based on evidence about their combined influence on our health and wellbeing.

## Who is the Place Standard tool for?

The tool is for everyone to use. It is for both communities and professionals, letting everyone work together over time using a common approach. It can be used for parts of cities, whole towns or neighbourhoods, and in urban, rural and island settings.



# What is the purpose of the Place Standard tool?

The tool is a way of assessing places – whether the place is well-established, undergoing change, or is still being planned, the tool can help to identify the strengths of the place and where improvements may be needed. Research shows that the way a place functions, looks and feels can influence our health and wellbeing.

## We can begin to understand this by asking:

- How does this place make me feel?
- What do I need to live my life?
- Can I access what I need locally?
- What makes this place good now?
- How could it be better in the future?

Local knowledge and a shared understanding of a place help people to make good decisions and target resources.

The tool allows you to assess and re-assess a place in a consistent way over time to see if improvements have been made as well as to identify any new areas for improvement.

When you have reached an agreement about the main issues for improvement in your place, you can use the results to get started on developing your actions. For example the results might help you to develop a local place plan.

A Place Standard assessment is part of a process, not the end – see the guidance [www.placestandard.scot/guidance](http://www.placestandard.scot/guidance) for more detail. When considering what you might do afterwards, you should think about how you can build on the conversations and relationships that have started from using the tool.



# How to use the tool

You can complete the tool on your own or in discussion with others in a group. Agree the area you are going to assess. The feedback can be gathered on paper or online at [www.placestandard.scot](http://www.placestandard.scot)

## Record a score for each theme:

The tool uses a **1 to 7 scoring system**, where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little improvement needed. Capture the scores and key points from each theme.

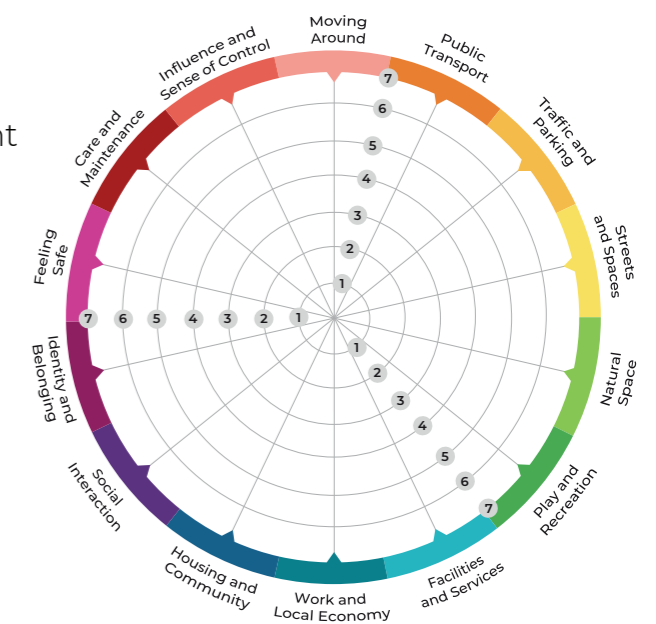
If you are answering as a group agree the rating between you but also record where there is agreement or differences of opinion. Plot your 14 scores on the compass diagram (page 22) and join the dots.

## For each theme you should also record:

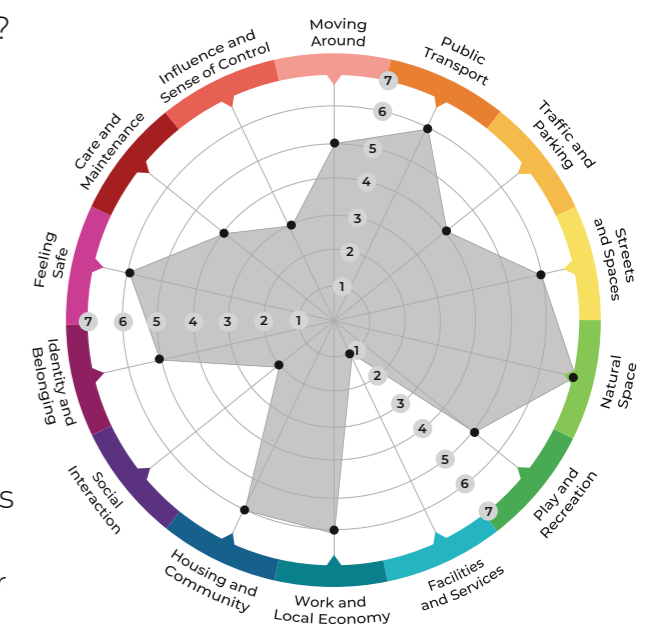
- What is good now?
- How could we make it better in the future?

There may be instances where the question does not seem relevant to you or where you feel you do not have enough information to answer. In these cases it may help if you think about the place from the point of view of others, or think about the area as part of a larger place.

Once you have completed each of the 14 themes remember to look at the final sections – Review and Next Steps. You may want to consider these immediately or you may prefer to come back to these at a later date, either on your own or as part of a group.



Compass diagram before ratings



Compass diagram with ratings plotted

# Key principles for the assessment

Think about your place now and in the future – what could change and what impact would that have on your place?

Think about your place in different contexts, for example time of day, day of the week, seasons or weather conditions.

Think about your place from your own perspective but also from the point of view of others that may be different to you, for example people that are disabled/non-disabled, hearing/ vision impaired, older/younger.

- You **DO** need to answer all of the main questions for all themes – capture the score and keypoints.
- You **DO NOT** need to answer every ‘think about’ question – these are prompts that may or may not be appropriate in your place.
- You **MAY** want to think about other things that are not included but are important in your place and add your own questions.



## PLEASE NOTE

There is a small element of duplication in the content of some themes across the tool – if you find you have already covered a topic, feel free to score and move on.

# Respondent details

Different people think about places in different ways. Some people may face unique issues and have special needs, or may face specific barriers, for example on accessibility – whether physical, visual, hearing, language or cultural.

Please provide some key data about yourself to help the organiser of this assessment analyse the results and identify whether there are specific issues for some people in your place.

This information will only be used by the organisers of your Place Standard assessment to analyse the results. It will also help the organiser to know if the feedback represents the people that live and work in your place, or if there are some people missing.

## Which area are you assessing

## Your postcode (first part only)

## Group ID [if relevant]

## Age

- Under 16     16 - 24     25 - 44  
 45 - 64     65 - 74     75 and over

## Gender

- Male     Female  
 Non-binary     Other

## Date of assessment

## Reason to Assess

Please describe the reason you are completing the Place Standard Tool e.g. is this part of a community consultation, a workshop or to support a development



## MOVING AROUND

Pleasant and safe routes can encourage people to move around by walking, wheeling and cycling without relying on cars or public transport – this is good for health, and for the environment and air quality. This can include off-road paths, wide pavements, quiet streets with reduced speed limits, and walking and cycling routes that can be used by people in wheelchairs, mobility aids, prams or adapted bikes.

### How easy is it to move around and get to where I want to go?

**i Here are some things to think about:**

- Are paths and routes suitable? (walk, wheel, or cycle, adapted bikes)
- Are there enough routes for people to get to where they want to go? (shops, school, work, parks, public transport)
- Are routes attractive and safe? (good surfaces, well-lit, seating, continuous, clean and clear, free from pollution, all weathers)
- Can everyone use them? (all ages and mobility, vision/ hearing impaired, pushchairs and prams, mobility aids, bikes)
- Are there any barriers? (pavement parking, traffic volume/ speed, overgrown hedges, refuse bins; lack of dropped kerbs or tactile paving, no safe crossing points, no safe mobility aid/bike parking or storage)

Please rate the place on a scale from 1 to 7



What is good now?

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How could we make it better in the future?



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Good public transport is affordable, reliable and well connected. This can reduce reliance on cars and encourage people to get around in ways that are better for the environment and for their health.

### What is public transport like in my place?

**i Here are some things to think about:**

- Is public transport a good option? (safe and convenient, frequent and reliable, affordable, clean and comfortable, easy to change between services)
- Can everyone use services? (wheelchairs, prams, vision/ hearing impaired, cyclists, all weathers, all times)
- Do facilities and services have what people need? (toilets, seating, shelter from weather, car parking, visual/ audio help points, green/ low emissions, cycle storage, car parking)
- Is there information on services? (easy to find, easy to use, clear and accessible)
- Does the public transport system allow people to get to where they need to go if they can't get there by walking, wheeling or cycling? (health centre, shops, to meet friends, parks)

Please rate the place on a scale from 1 to 7



What is good now?

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How could we make it better in the future?





## TRAFFIC AND PARKING

Traffic and parking affects how people move around. Good arrangements can help people to get the most out of their place.

### How do traffic and parking affect how I move around my place?

**i Here are some things to think about:**

- Do people have priority over vehicles? (traffic calming measures, good pedestrian routes, safe road crossing points)
- How does traffic affect people? (congestion, speed, pollution, noise, fear of vehicles or bicycles, delivery vehicles)
- What impact does parking have? (on walking, wheeling and cycling, accessibility of pavements, attractiveness of the area)
- What is parking like? (safe and secure, in a convenient location, accessible for blue badge holders, cars/ bicycles, inconsiderate parking)
- Are there options for lower carbon travel? (bike hire or sharing schemes, e-bikes, park and ride, car clubs, car sharing schemes, electric vehicle charging)

**Please rate the place on a scale from 1 to 7**

1
  2
  3
  4
  5
  6
  7

What is good now?

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How could we make it better in the future?



## STREETS AND SPACES

Buildings, landmarks, greenery, views and natural landscape can help to create an attractive place that people enjoy being in. Distinctive streets and spaces can help people to find their way around, and greener streets and spaces are not just good for wellbeing but also for the environment and for biodiversity.

### What are the buildings, streets and public spaces like in my place?

**i Here are some things to think about:**

- What are streets and spaces like? (welcoming, distinctive, pleasant, accessible, fun, sheltered, shaded, places to rest, adaptable)
- Are there points of interest? (local landmarks, historic features, public squares, parks and gardens, trees)
- Is it easy to find my way around? (good surfaces, visual features, well signposted, direct and easy routes to follow)
- How accessible are spaces for everyone? (pavement width, crossing points, tactile surfaces, dropped kerbs)
- Are there any challenges? (flooding, derelict buildings, vacant land, pollution, litter, lighting, busy roads, pavement clutter, illegal parking)

**Please rate the place on a scale from 1 to 7**

1
  2
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  4
  5
  6
  7

What is good now?

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How could we make it better in the future?



## NATURAL SPACE

Good quality natural spaces provide many benefits – improving health and wellbeing, supporting wildlife, reducing flooding, and improving air quality. This includes parks and woodlands, fields, streams, canals and rivers, the coastline, green spaces alongside paths and roads, and tree-lined streets.

### How easy is it for me to regularly enjoy natural space?

**i Here are some things to think about:**

- What kind of natural spaces are there? (welcoming, easy to get to, accessible, safe and secure, well-connected, meets my needs)
- Can everyone use the spaces? (disabled people, dog walking, prams and buggies, walking and cycling, local food growing, playing, places to rest)
- Are spaces looked after? (clean, safe, in good order, community volunteers)
- What stops people using spaces? (litter, noise, dog fouling, surface mud/ dirt, air quality, flooding, no seating, overcrowding, no toilets)
- How can natural spaces work better for us? (drainage, rewilding, protect and encourage wildlife and nature, tree planting, cleaner air, shade)

Please rate the place on a scale from 1 to 7

1
  2
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  6
  7

What is good now?

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How could we make it better in the future?

Please use page 25 if you wish to add further comment referencing the question.



## PLAY AND RECREATION

Play and recreation can improve the quality of our lives and our health and wellbeing. Good opportunities for play are essential for children’s development. Places with a range of formal and informal indoor and outdoor spaces and events encourage children, teenagers and adults to play and to enjoy leisure, culture and sporting activities.

### How good are the spaces and opportunities for play and recreation in my place?

**i Here are some things to think about:**

- What opportunities are there? (play, sports, culture, arts, leisure)
- Are there places that everyone can enjoy? (children and young people, adults and older people, non-disabled and disabled, vision/ hearing impaired, locals and visitors)
- Are spaces and facilities well used? (easy to get to, free or affordable, safe and well maintained, fun and welcoming, different times of day or year)
- How else could we make the most of what we have? (streets close to home, vacant and derelict land, playgrounds, natural spaces, libraries and public buildings, hosting activities and events)
- Are there any issues? (access, location, lighting, noise, cost, public toilets, traffic, weather, play not welcomed by the community)

Please rate the place on a scale from 1 to 7

1
  2
  3
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  6
  7

What is good now?

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How could we make it better in the future?

Please use page 25 if you wish to add further comment referencing the question.



## FACILITIES AND SERVICES

When facilities and services in a place, such as schools, doctors, shops, libraries, social care and community groups are easy to access locally, this can help people to live independent, healthy and fulfilling lives. It can be difficult for some people where there is a lack of local facilities, the quality of those facilities is poor, or where the services and support available in the community is limited.

### How well do facilities and services in my place meet my needs?

**i Here are some things to think about:**

- What facilities and services are there? (schools and education, health facilities, social care, shops, library and culture, community centres and halls, recycling and repair, healthy food, leisure, gas, electricity and water)
- What other support is available? (charities and clubs, welfare support, community food groups, places of worship, housing and employment advice)
- Do the facilities and services meet local needs, now and in the future? (affordable, all ages, different needs and abilities, responsive to emergencies)
- Are facilities and services easy to get to and use? (within a reasonable walking, wheeling or cycling distance, for disabled people, available online, linked to other services)
- Are there other barriers for people? (unwelcoming, limited healthy choices, language, internet access)

Please rate the place on a scale from 1 to 7



What is good now?

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How could we make it better in the future?



## WORK AND LOCAL ECONOMY

A strong local economy with a mix of businesses can help to make places feel active and attractive – most people enjoy spending time in lively places. Access to good quality jobs, volunteering and training can help us to stay active and healthy, provide social connections, a sense of identity and satisfaction, and an income where paid.

### How active is the local economy in my place and are there good opportunities for work, volunteering and training?

**i Here are some things to think about:**

- Is there an active local economy? (able to spend locally (shop/ eat/ drink), mix of businesses, including local and community-owned, opening days/ times)
- Is there work available in the local area for those that want it? (a mix of jobs, paid work and volunteering, temporary and permanent, seasonal and part-time positions)
- Are there opportunities for people to build skills? (education, training or retraining, community work, local or accessible nearby)
- What support is available? (for people with different needs, employment advice, starting and growing a business, childcare, travel)
- Are there any challenges? (pollution, noise, reliance on a few major employers, broadband, working conditions, closed businesses)
- How does the local economy affect how I feel about my place? (thriving or declining, lots of activity or empty streets, boarded up or attractive buildings)

Please rate the place on a scale from 1 to 7



What is good now?

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How could we make it better in the future?





## HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

Good places have a mix of housing in attractive, safe and connected communities for different types of families and people. Where we live and call home affects our health and wellbeing.

### How well do the homes in my place meet the needs of my community?

**i Here are some things to think about:**

- Is there a good mix of housing types? (different sizes, various prices, privately owned, rented, specialist housing, supported living, multi-generational)
- Are residential areas attractive? (well maintained homes, private and community gardens, well laid out, communal areas)
- Are homes and places able to adapt to changing circumstances? (changing climate, population changes, global health challenges, energy efficiency)
- Is there a good community spirit? (local activities and events, friendly neighbours, welcoming neighbourhoods, intergenerational mixing)
- Are there any challenges? (damp/ draughty homes, secure boundaries, flooding, noise and disturbance, homelessness, anti-social behaviour, no storage)

Please rate the place on a scale from 1 to 7



What is good now?

How could we make it better in the future?

Please use page 25 if you wish to add further comment referencing the question.



## SOCIAL INTERACTION

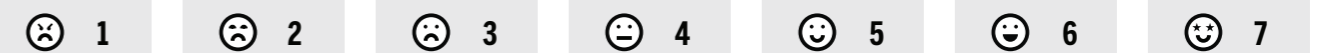
Good places have a mix of spaces and opportunities to meet and spend time with other people. Some places also have active websites or social media networks to help people meet and take part in the local community. Feeling isolated can be damaging to our health and wellbeing.

### How good is the range of opportunities which allow me to meet and spend time with other people?

**i Here are some things to think about:**

- Where do people get together? (local halls and centres, schools, places of worship, food and drink outlets, streets, outdoor seating, online)
- How do people find out what's happening? (friends/ family/ neighbours, social media, advertising and posters, local radio and newspapers)
- Can everyone join in and mix? (accessible, friendly, inclusive, welcoming, free or affordable, digital access and skills)
- Is there a mix of activities? (indoor and outdoor groups, kids clubs and pensioner clubs, community activities, events, specialist groups)
- Would people come together in a crisis? (networks, support groups, resources)
- Are there any gaps? (type of activities, type of spaces, use of spaces)

Please rate the place on a scale from 1 to 7



What is good now?

How could we make it better in the future?

Please use page 25 if you wish to add further comment referencing the question.



## IDENTITY AND BELONGING

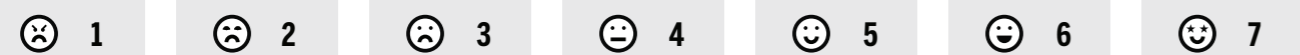
How a place looks, its history and what other people think of it can affect how we feel. A positive identity can also attract people and businesses to move into an area.

### To what extent does my place have a positive identity that supports a strong sense of belonging?

**i Here are some things to think about:**

- How strong is the sense of identity and belonging? (pride, neighbourliness, traditions, local groups)
- How does the community celebrate? (history/ heritage/ arts/ music/ culture, sports, public events, social media, our uniqueness, our inclusiveness)
- How involved are people in the community? (volunteering, sharing experiences, support networks, different groups, come together in a crisis)
- How welcoming are people in this place? (friendliness, tolerance and openness, all ages and ethnicities, for disabled people, language, culture)
- What do others think of the place and community? (reputation, profile, community)

Please rate the place on a scale from 1 to 7



What is good now?

How could we make it better in the future?



## FEELING SAFE

How safe a place feels can support community activity, affect people's wellbeing and influence how and where we spend our time. Good design and maintenance can make places feel safe by reducing crime and antisocial behaviour.

### How safe does my place make me feel?

**i Here are some things to think about:**

- Does everyone feel safe in our place? (daytime, evening and night-time, children and teenagers, adults and older people, women)
- Are there physical barriers or areas that feel unsafe? (lighting, derelict buildings, empty homes, vacant land, flooding, clean/ clear paths, flooding)
- Are there social issues? (freedom of speech, anti-social behaviour, hate crime, inequality, lack of diversity)
- How do we share our concerns? (neighbourhood watch, reporting crime, social media)
- Are there other issues? (litter and graffiti, hidden or unreported crimes, unsafe at specific times/ certain places, traffic speed and volume)

Please rate the place on a scale from 1 to 7



What is good now?

How could we make it better in the future?



## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Places that are cared for can make us feel positive and secure, while those that are not looked after properly can affect people's wellbeing.

### How well is my place looked after and cared for?

**i** Here are some things to think about:

- Are buildings, streets and spaces maintained? (clean and safe, quick repairs, loved and cared for, accessible to everyone)
- Who helps to maintain our place? (council, community, businesses, others)
- Are there any challenges? (litter and fly-tipping, vandalism, pavement surfaces, changes to services, flooding, extreme weather)
- Do we report issues? (who to, online or to a person, is it easy, how responsive, does this lead to action)
- What are local services like? (cleaning, recycling, property maintenance)

Please rate the place on a scale from 1 to 7



What is good now?

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How could we make it better in the future?



## INFLUENCE AND SENSE OF CONTROL

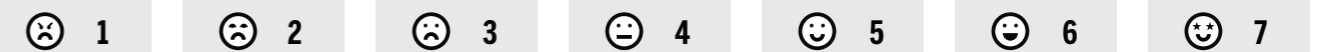
Having a voice in decision-making can help to build stronger communities and better places. Having a sense of control can make people feel positive about their lives.

### When things happen in my place how well am I listened to and included in decision-making?

**i** Here are some things to think about:

- Does the community have a voice? (confidence to take part, getting involved, influencing decisions, doing things ourselves, do we know and successfully exercise our rights)
- Is the community listened to? (are our needs understood, who do we talk to, how are we consulted, more or less consultation)
- Are there effective local groups? (community council, residents' association, business groups, charities or lobby groups, building/ user forums, social media)
- Do I feel able to take action on my own or with neighbours? (litter picking, local improvements, working together to take action)
- Are there barriers for some people? (clear language, online/ digital tools, hearing/ vision needs, disabled people, can everyone take part)

Please rate the place on a scale from 1 to 7

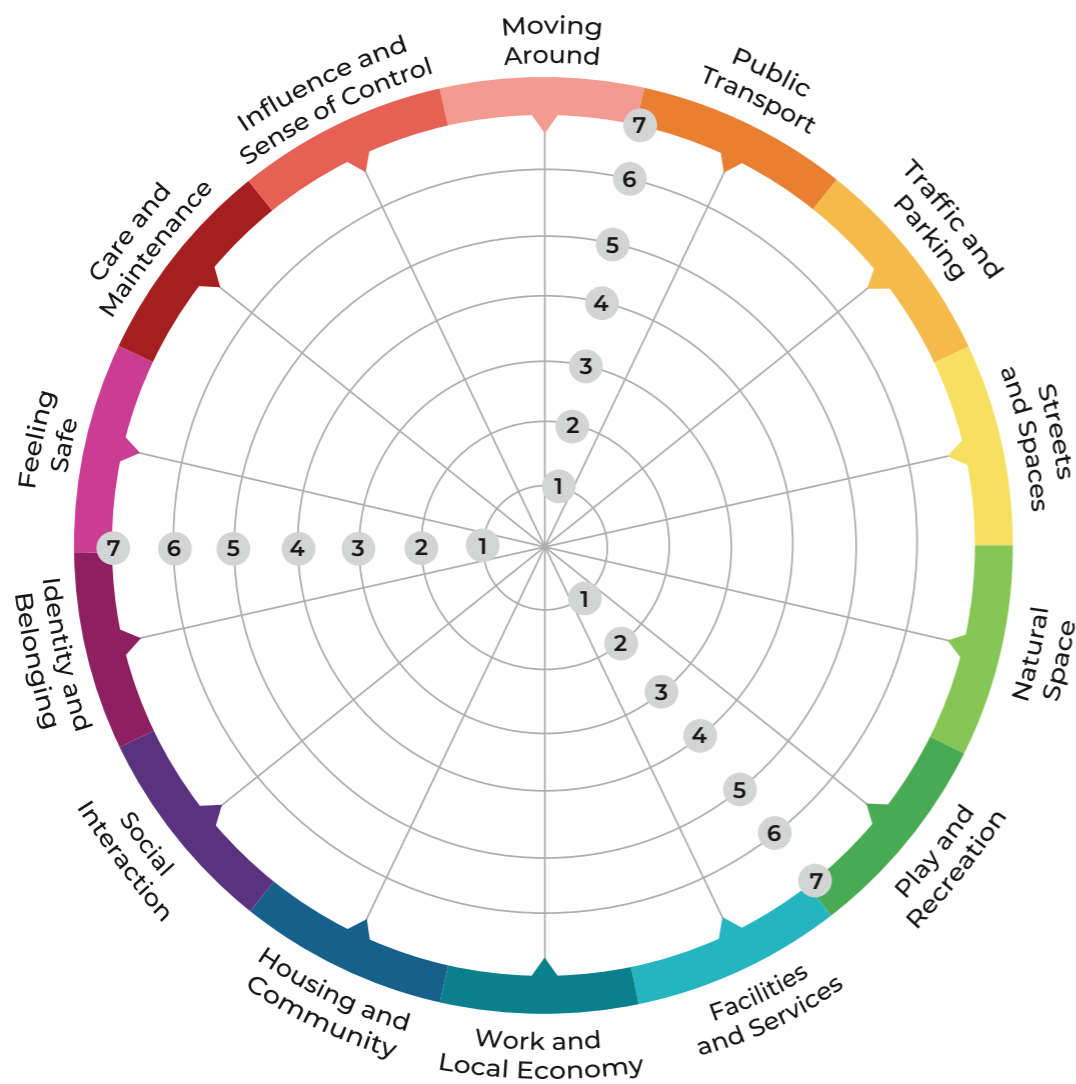


What is good now?

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How could we make it better in the future?

**When you have answered all the questions, plot each score on the compass diagram.**



## Review

It is important to identify and agree the main issues for improvement in your place from your assessment. It may be useful to start thinking about this while it is still fresh in your mind, or you may prefer to come back at a later date to complete on your own or as part of a group. If there have been several Place Standard assessments the organiser may wish to analyse all of the feedback and bring results together before sharing the findings.

**i Here are some things to think about when reviewing your assessment:**

- Are all of the 14 themes of equal importance or do you think some have a higher priority?
- Which themes scored well and why? Thinking about this might help you to identify opportunities for improvements in other themes.
- Have you considered issues that may be raised by other people in different groups such as people with specific needs or barriers?
- Have you thought about how your place can both help to combat climate change and adapt to a changing climate?
- Is your place well prepared to adapt to a global health challenge?
- Can people access the majority of their daily needs locally?
- Do some themes require a more detailed assessment?

**i If you are in a group setting, here are some additional things to think about:**

- Are there any areas for improvement that everyone agrees on?
- Are there any areas where there is disagreement? Is further discussion needed to identify the main issues?

**i Here are some things to think about when identifying the main issues for your place:**

- What do people need to enjoy a good quality of life, now and in the future?
- What would make the biggest difference in your place?

Which theme has the highest score?

Which theme has the lowest score?

Please use page 25 if you wish to add further comment referencing the question.

Record the main issues for improvement in your area.

Please use page 25 if you wish to add further comment referencing the question.

# Next Steps

The process of assessing places and identifying the main issues for improvement should give groups the tools they need to work together and start thinking about how to take action. The results might help you to develop a local place plan.

Often, smaller actions can be taken forward quickly but other things may need more planning and time to deliver. Small steps at the start can help to build support within the local community for bigger changes in the future.

**i Here are some things to think about to get started on taking action:**

- What are the immediate opportunities to improve your place?
- What actions can be taken forward in the medium and longer term?  
Are there any specific priorities?
- Is there a vision emerging for the future? Has everyone in your community helped to shape it, or have some people been missing from the discussion?
- What skills and knowledge are needed to make positive changes?
- What role can local people play – what skills and knowledge do you/they have?
- Which organisations and people should be involved? Are there any groups that haven't been involved so far that you want to include in future discussions?
- What resources are needed to deliver our actions – time, people, skills, money?

**Record the main issues for improvement in your area.**

# Additional information

**You can use this extra space to record any more comments around any of the themes.**



**Additional information continued.**

**Additional information continued.**



Public Health  
Scotland

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Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba

is  
improvement service



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