

LOCAL LIVING

Draft NPF 4 supports the creation of 20 minute neighbourhoods, connected and compact neighbourhoods where people can meet the majority of their needs within a reasonable walk, wheel or cycle (approximately 800 metres) of their home. The planning system should support development that using place based approaches will contribute to the creation of walkable, liveable and thriving places that encourage sustainable travel options and provide communities with local access to a wide range of facilities, services, and opportunities for work, socialising and leisure.

Local Development Plans should:

- support the principle of 20 minute neighbourhoods through the spatial strategy, development proposals, site briefs and masterplans.

Development proposals:

- that are consistent with the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods should be supported. To inform this, relevant development proposals should give consideration to:
 - local, good quality, affordable and reliable public transport and safe and pleasant walking, wheeling and cycling networks;
 - local employment opportunities and wider links using public transport to jobs and services within the region;
 - local and affordable shopping that allows people to meet their daily shopping needs where they live;
 - traffic movement and parking locations that contribute positively to a place, that supports and encourages pedestrian movement by active travel modes;
 - local health and social care facilities;
 - local childcare, schools and lifelong learning opportunities;
 - local playgrounds and incidental play opportunities, parks, green streets and community gardens promoting increased biodiversity and local food production;
 - sport and recreation facilities;
 - safe streets and spaces;
 - affordable housing options, housing diversity allowing the ability to age in place;
 - local opportunities for social interaction to take place;
 - support for retrofit and repurposing of existing buildings, assets and vacant and derelict land before demolition is considered;
 - the contribution of the development to the identity and sense of belonging for those living there; and
 - interconnectivity with surrounding neighbourhoods.
- should demonstrate how the development will relate to, and enhance, the local area and its identity.

Responses to the Position Statement

There was support for the principle that underpins the concept of 20 minute neighbourhoods, with many respondents noting the connections between the concept and the Place Principle. Other respondents commented on the concept's positive emphasis on resilience, community health and wellbeing and reducing carbon emissions. The connection with infrastructure first was noted, and the fact that the approach will help create a focus on reuse of brownfield sites and vacant and derelict land.

Policy changes

The proposals in Draft NPF4 build on the vision expressed in NPF3 for pedestrian and cyclist friendly settlements and neighbourhoods, unifying and expanding that vision by means of the concept of 20 minute neighbourhoods, which applies to our towns, cities and rural areas. The concept can link with many other concepts, policies and aspirations, delivering connectivity, sustainability and more efficient land use to make it an important part of the country's response to the climate emergency.