The 20-Minute Neighbourhood in the Programme for Government

Euan Leitch, SURF
Revitalise local communities through development of 20-minute neighbourhoods, investment in town centres and a new focus on place – improving local services and infrastructure, and aiding our ambition to ‘live well locally’ and achieve a 20% reduction in car kilometres driven by 2030. p.14

The upcoming National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) will define 20-minute neighbourhoods, setting out priorities on planning our places with a new emphasis on living locally, giving life to the Place Principle, supporting public health and wellbeing, reducing inequality, and strengthening community resilience to the impacts of climate change. We will lay a draft of NPF4 in the Scottish Parliament this autumn for scrutiny and carry out extensive public consultation on it. We will support planners with spatial data, research and tools to work collaboratively in delivering 20-minute neighbourhood principles. We will continue to promote the Place Standard Tool for community engagement in placemaking, including spreading learning from our climate lens Place Standard to help inform the roll out of 20-minute neighbourhoods across Scotland. Once approved and adopted, NPF4 will have development plan status, meaning its policies have a stronger role in informing day to day decision making in planning. p.56
A green transport revolution
There are significant opportunities to be had in our moves towards a green, sustainable and active transport system, with climate action and reducing inequality as core priorities of National Transport Strategy (NTS) 2, helping to deliver inclusive economic prosperity and improving health and wellbeing. Investing in greener and more efficient transport will secure the necessary emissions reduction and enable technological adaptation, boosting business and industry. It is also at the heart of our wider ambitions to create connected communities and deliver 20-minute neighbourhoods. p.59

We will make a generational shift in funding over this Parliament to ensure that at least £320 million or 10% of the total transport budget goes on active travel by 2024-25 – making it more attractive for people to walk, wheel and cycle. p.97
Being grounded in our neighbourhoods has pressed home the importance to our health, wellbeing and prosperity of ensuring that those homes are well-connected and well-serviced. Over the course of this Parliament, we will deliver on our vision for “20-minute neighbourhoods”: places where people can have their needs met locally within a 20-minute walk from their homes, reducing emissions and encouraging active travel. Our fourth National Planning Framework will ensure that all future planning decisions support meeting this ambition, and in September we will launch a new ‘Our Place’ website. This will provide information, tools and resources to help support the development of places and services that improve our health, prosperity, and quality of life, and protect our environment. We are continuing to deliver the Work Local Challenge Programme, working with partners including the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre and Scottish Futures Trust on innovation and deployment of local work hubs and office space solutions to enhance workplace choices. p.96
From this year, we are delivering our **Place Based Investment programme, backed with £325 million over the next five years**. This will provide financial support and a focus for government, local authority and other sectors to facilitate, coordinate and deliver place based collaboration and action. Through repurposing of land and buildings, the investment will revitalise town centres, provide new space for local businesses and jobs, and support the resilience and wellbeing of communities across Scotland. The programme of investment includes continued delivery of the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund, our ongoing sponsorship of Clyde Gateway, funding that is being allocated directly to Scotland’s local authorities and providing support to communities to shape local action to accelerate our shared ambitions for place, and 20-minute neighbourhoods. *p.97*

**SURF appraisal of A Fairer, Greener Scotland: Programme for Government 2021-22**