Let's Get Scotland Walking

Walking Strategy

Action Plan 2016-2026

Revised March 2019



Table of Contents

Ministerial Foreword	4
Let's Get Scotland Walking	5
The Action Plan	6
The Delivery Forum	7
A More Active Scotland: Scotland's Physical Activity Delivery Plan	8
A Step Change for Scotland	9
Strategic Context	10
Strategic Aims and Themes	12
Strategic Aim 1: Develop a daily walking culture – everyone, everyday	13
Strategic Aim 2: Develop walkable places and spaces for everyone	14
1. Walking supports Health and Wellbeing	15
2. Walking supports Education	17
3. Walking supports Communities	19
4. Walking increases Productivity	21
5. Walking increases Active Travel	23
6. Walking supports the Economy	25
7. Walking improves Air Quality	27
8. Walking as part of Research and Innovation	29
9. Walking influences the Built Environment	31
10. Walking supports Green Infrastructure	33
11. Walking improves Path Networks	35
12. Walking increases Active Travel	37
13. Walking supports Communities	39
14. Walking Supports the Economy	41

Delivery Forum Member Logos

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Healthier Scotland Scottish Government		Central Scotland Green Network Trust	pas building active citizenship	ramblers scotland atthe heart of walking
RTPI Scotland Royal Town Planning Buttlute	Scottish Canals	Scottish Land&Estates Laserware Wirking for the Countryside	양소중 Scottish Natural Heritage Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba nature.scot	Cairngorms NATIONAL PARK Pàirc Nàiseanta a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh
open space	SITIP SCOTLAND'S TOWNS PARTNERSHIP	SUSTRANS JOIN THE MOVEMENT	THE UNIVERSITY	TRANSPORT SCOTLAND COMHDHAIL ALBA
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The National Walking Strategy for Scotland and the delivery of the Action Plan is supported by all the members of the National Walking Strategy Delivery Forum and is facilitated by Paths for All



Being physically active is one of the very best things we can do for our physical and mental health. It helps to prevent heart disease, strokes, diabetes, and a number of cancers; it plays an important part in helping us maintain a healthy weight; and reduces the risk of developing depression.

INDEX

We know that that there are many ways we can be active and regular walking is one of the way's we are tackling Scotland's physical and mental well-being. But it is important that we make walking easy, accessible and part of our normal routine.

Walking can have a transformative effect on communities, by providing opportunities for people to connect with their neighbourhoods and come together in shared activities which will inspire and motivate. We want to build well-connected and attractive 'walkable' public places, routes, greenspaces and streets to encourage more people to walk and make active travel choices in their daily routines. We have a truly exceptional outdoor environment, and world-leading access legislation that ensures everyone is able to enjoy its many benefits and we continue to invest in activity and infrastructure to address inequalities. This Action Plan will support and drive our ambition for a Scotland where everyone can walk as part of their everyday journeys, where places are well designed for walking and everyone can enjoy walking outdoors. This is a fantastic resource that commits us to systematically work across boundaries to do all we can to ensure everyone can benefit from everyday walking. I am determined that the health and wellbeing of our population improves by getting Scots more active, more often.

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Joe FitzPatrick MSP Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing

Let's Get Scotland Walking

Let's Get Scotland Walking: The National Walking Strategy was launched in 2014 and was one of the first national walking strategies in the world.

Our vision is for: A Scotland where everyone benefits from walking as part of their everyday journeys, enjoys walking in the outdoors and where places are well designed to encourage walking.

There are many benefits from getting Scotland walking, including: more people will use active travel more often and will walk more for pleasure and for recreation; children will have safer routes to school and local facilities; older people will feel more connected with their communities; employers will have a healthier and more productive workforce; Scotland will reduce its use of carbon; and local economies will benefit from increased footfall. Scotland has outstanding opportunities for walking both in urban and rural areas. Our spectacular scenery, our range of green spaces (including parks), our walkable urban centres and worldclass cities, our community routes, our long distance route networks and our world-class access rights all combine to give Scotland a unique set of 'walking-friendly' factors. Walking can contribute positively to areas such as planning, regeneration, economic development, mental and physical health and wellbeing, transport, climate change and education.

The huge benefits and contribution of walking require much more recognition and promotion than they currently receive. Increased walking opportunities contribute to the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework by helping to deliver all the Scottish Government's eleven National Outcomes and a large number of the National Indicators.

We want people to walk more everyday – to work, to school, for health and wellbeing, to enjoy being outdoors and just for fun! This will enable a step change towards making Scotland a 'walking friendly' country.

N.B. Walking in this context includes the use of wheelchairs, buggies and similar mobility aids with the aim of ensuring easy and convenient independent mobility for all.



The Action Plan

This Action Plan is a high level plan that has been developed to assist in the delivery of Let's Get Scotland Walking - the National Walking Strategy (NWS) and its vision.

We know that there are significant health and economic gains from getting inactive people to become active, and the easiest way for individuals to achieve this is by increasing walking. Walking should be as pleasant, safe and convenient as possible. Improving conditions for walking can bring a range of benefits to everyday lives; to health, safety, access to services and social contact, including a sense of community whether in an urban or rural area. Walking, along with cycling, is the most sustainable means of daily travel for short journeys. Walking requires only a fraction of the space needed for a car, is more economical, both for the individual and in terms of investment in public infrastructure and causes no noise or air pollution. For longer journeys, it is the most carbon-friendly link to and from public transport. It is affordable for everyone and therefore is the most financially equitable of all transport modes. The NWS sits within the context of A More Active Scotland Delivery Plan, Active Scotland Outcomes Framework, National Planning Framework and the Long-term Vision for Active Travel in Scotland 2030.

We want people to walk more on a daily basis – from their early years across their life course into active ageing.

The Delivery Forum

The National Walking Strategy Delivery Forum oversees the development and delivery of the NWS Action Plan.

The group is chaired by Craig McLaren (RTPI Scotland) who was appointed in 2014 by Shona Robison, the then Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport. The Chair will report to the National Strategic Group for Sport & Physical Activity chaired by the Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing. Progress on the NWS will be reported through this mechanism.

The Delivery Forum comprises senior representatives from the key organisations who are involved in delivery of the Action Plan. Paths for All provides the Secretariat for the NWS Delivery Forum. It meets 3 times per year. 'I am delighted that we have a broad group of people who are committed to act as 'walking champions' and use their knowledge, ideas and networks to ensure that walking is embedded into how we think and what we do. Given this, I believe that the action plan and the delivery forum give us a fantastic opportunity to work together to make the step change we want on walking in Scotland.'

Craig McLaren, Chair, National Walking Strategy Delivery Forum.

A More Active Scotland:

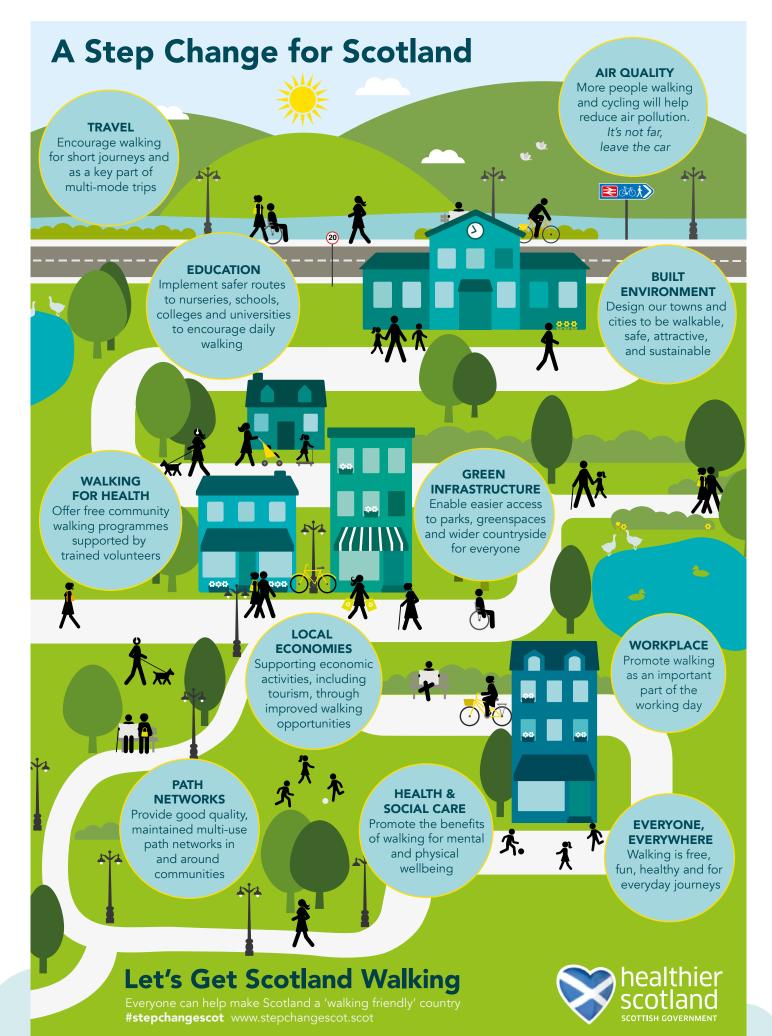
Scotland's Physical Activity Delivery Plan

The World Health Organization published 'More Active People for a Healthier World', the new Global Action Plan on Physical Activity 2018-2030 in June 2018, to guide and support countries scale up policy actions to promote physical activity. It sets out four objectives and recommends 20 policy actions that are applicable to all countries, and address the cultural, environmental and individual determinants of inactivity.

Scotland is one of the forerunner countries to respond to this challenge by setting out its own plans to address these objectives. Crucially, the **Active Scotland Delivery Plan** presents a wide-ranging set of concrete actions across multiple sectors to encourage physical activity and reduce inactivity. It embraces many different approaches to physical activity including walking, cycling, active recreation, sport, and play - and seeks to achieve the 'whole-ofsystem' approach WHO believes is necessary, working across, for example, the transport, education, health, and planning sectors. The whole-of-community 'systems-based' approach is a key feature of the WHO Global **Action Plan on Physical Activity** and is reflected in the Active **Scotland Delivery Plan.**

The Active Scotland Outcomes Framework sets out the shared vision and goals which have shaped the approach the Scottish Government and a wide range of partner organisations have taken to supporting and enabling people in Scotland to be more physically active. This has enabled us to build a cross-government commitment to the importance of physical activity and sport in achieving a wide range of outcomes, gaining international recognition for this integrated and ambitious approach. Our work to date in developing and working to implement the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework means that Scotland is particularly well-placed to meet the challenges set out in the World Health Organization's Global Action Plan on Physical Activity. This Delivery Plan sets out how the actions to achieve our shared outcomes align with the objectives set out in the WHO Global Action Plan.

"The most common activity in 2017 was walking for at least 30 minutes (for recreational purposes), reported by 70% of adults." Scottish Household Survey





We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial inclusive and sustainable economy

We are creative d our vibrant and diverse expressed and

We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment

> We are healthy and active

We have thriving and with quality jobs and fair work for everyone

We are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally

OUR PURPOSE To focus on creating a more successful country with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish through increased wellbeing, and sustainable and inclusive economic growth

We are well

educated, skilled and

contribute

to society

able to

OUR VALUES We are a society which treats all our people with kindness, dignity and compassion, respects the rule of law, and acts in an open and transparent way

> respected so that we realise our full potential

<u>6</u>]6 We tackle poverty by

wealth and power more equally

> We live in 000 [በ] that are inclusive, empowered, and safe

We grow up loved, safe and

Strategic Context

The National Walking Strategy cannot be delivered in isolation. It sits within the context of the National Performance Framework, the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework and Delivery Plan, the Public Health Priorities for Scotland and the Long Term Vision for Active Travel in Scotland amongst others.

The table highlights how walking can deliver and links across these strategic areas.

Walking helps deliver on the individual National Outcomes within the National Performance Framework (NPF). The flower diagram shows each national outcome with its associated symbol.

The NPF symbols have been used against each delivery theme within the NWS Action Plan to highlight where walking can have an impact.

Let's Get Scotland Walking: The National Walking Strategy for Scotland (NWS)

Our vision is for 'A Scotland where everyone walks as part of their everyday journeys, places are well designed for walking and everyone enjoys walking in the outdoors.'



The NWS delivers on and is delivered by the Scottish Government's Active Scotland Outcomes Framework and Delivery Plan

'Our vision is of a Scotland where more people are more active, more often.'

We encourage and enable the inactive to be more active	We encourage and enable the active to stay active throughout life	We develop physical confidence and competence from the earliest age	e We improve our infrastructure – per places		We support wellbeing and resilience in communities through physical activity and spore	ough participate, progress and achieve
	The NWS delivers on and is delivered by the Public Health Priorities for Scotland					
					A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active	

The NWS delivers on and is delivered by Transport Scotland's 'Long-term Vision for Active Travel in Scotland 2030

'Our vision is that 'Scotland's communities are shaped around people, with walking or cycling the most popular choice for shorter everyday journeys'

Strategic Aims and Themes

We aspire to achieve levels of walking on a par with the best performing countries such as the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland. In the latter, well over 30% of journeys are walked. We want people to walk more on a daily basis – from their early years across their life course into active ageing. This strategy covers different types of walking, e.g. walking for health including managing long-term conditions, walking to work and school and walking for recreation and sport. It seeks to identify the barriers to walking which need to be addressed and makes clear the benefits that walking provides.

To realise our vision of a Scotland where places are well designed for walking, an increased number of people enjoy the outdoors and more people walk as part of their everyday journeys.

- The NWS Action Plan has 2 strategic aims (please note the Strategy states three which have now been combined into two)
- For each Strategic aim there are several Delivery Themes which then have outcomes and actions against them.

Key principles within the NWS

- Access and availability there must be equal opportunity for all people to participate in activities, and access infrastructure, programmes and services regardless of their gender, age, disability or cultural background. This will address disparities and reduce inequalities.
- **Quality** create the highest possible quality environment, with a focus on supportive infrastructure to create walkable communities.
- Adaptability provide for flexibility and adaptability to suit changing community needs. This can be achieved through a commitment to integrated approaches to planning and provision.



Strategic Aim 1:

Develop a daily walking culture - everyone, everyday

To deliver on creating a culture of walking where everyone walks more often as part of their everyday travel and for recreation and wellbeing.

Delivery Themes

INDEX



Strategic Aim 2:

Develop walkable places and spaces for everyone

To achieve better quality walking environments with attractive, well designed and managed built and natural spaces and places for everyone.

Delivery Themes



9. Walking influences the Built Environment (Planning and Development)



10. Walking supports Green Infrastructure



11. Walking improves Path Networks



12. Walking increases Active Travel



13. Walking supports Communities



14. Walking supports the Economy

1. Walking supports Health & Wellbeing

Increasing the number of people walking in Scotland is key to tackling our inactivity issue. A third of us in Scotland aren't currently active enough, which has a huge impact on our health and wellbeing. Walking is the best way for many of us to be more active.

There is a clear need for everyone to work together to promote more physically active lives and health and social care professionals can play a key role.

Walking is the cheapest and easiest means of being physically active.

Walk for physical health

Walking can help to prevent a range of health conditions including heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, obesity, some cancers and Alzheimer's. It can help reduce falls in older adults, help you sleep better, help to manage pain and a wide range of long term conditions.

Walk for mental health

It's been proven to have a positive effect on our mental health too. especially if we get into green spaces to do it. Walking can increase feelings of self-esteem, improve mood, and reduce anxiety and depression.

Walk for social health

Walking is a great way to improve your social health. It's been shown to combat loneliness, increase your connections with other people and help you feel connected in your community.

'Walking is man's best medicine' Hippocrates

Walking supports Health & Wellbeing

DT1	NPF Delivery Areas) (P)	
1.1	Outcome	More people are aware of the physical, mental and social benefits of walking		
	Objective	Increase the availability of in visitors to Scotland	formation on the benefits of walking to residents and	
	Action		Delivery Lead	
	Champion walking as an everyday activity		 Paths for All Scottish Government (Active Scotland) Living Streets Scotland 	
	Increase awareness of local walking opportunities		 Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) – Natural Health Service Local Authorities National Park Authorities Scottish Forestry Central Scotland Green Network Trust (CSGNT) 	
	Promote walking as key deli delivery of the National Phys Active Scotland Delivery Pla Priorities	sical Activity Pathway, the	Scottish Government (Active Scotland)NHS Health Scotland	

Priorities

1.2	Outcome	More people have the op
	Objective	Increase the number of p

Action

Increase the number of walking programmes particularly disadvantaged areas and in areas with no current provisi

Support the training and development of co-ordinators and volunteers to deliver walking programmes

Promote and increase walking activity within groups who do not currently walk regularly e.g. through BME; disabled ramblers

Outcome		Walking increasingly used to promote good health, prevent ill health and manage long-term conditions by Health and Social Care Partnerships		
Objective	Walking opportunities increa delivery programmes	ase and are promoted within Health and Care Service		
Action		Delivery Lead		
	ss raising and education programmes to rity for walking within health and social strategy	 NHS Health Scotland Area health Boards (via Green Health Partnerships) CAPA (Care about Physical Activity) 		
	lement walking infrastructure, opportunities hin a range of healthcare settings	 NHS Health Scotland NHS Boards Care Inspectorate Health and Social Care Partnerships 		
	nber of exercise referral/ social emes that signpost walking opportunities	 NHS Health Scotland NHS Boards Allied Health Professionals Health and Social Care Partnerships 		
Ensure walking is Physical Activity	a key delivery element within the National Pathway (NPAP)	NHS Health Scotland		

opportunity to walk more often

people attending managed walking programmes

	Delivery Lead
ly in sion	 Paths for All Health and Social Care Partnerships Local Authorities Sporta
ors	Paths for AllRamblers Scotland
<u>;</u>	Paths for AllRamblers ScotlandAllied Health Professionals

2. Walking supports Education

A generation ago, 70% of us walked to school now it's less than half.

Sedentary lifestyles increase the risk of health problems such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease. One of the easiest ways to increase physical activity is to include walking in the daily routine. We want children to be energised and empowered, and to make walking to school their natural choice. Children should get 60 minutes of physical activity a day. Walking to school can go a long way to achieving this goal.





It's been proven that children who do some form of exercise, especially a walk before school, do better in class because they arrive refreshed, fit and ready to learn. Children who walk to school have been found to have higher academic performance in terms of attention/alertness, verbal, numeric, and reasoning abilities; higher degree of pleasantness and lower levels of stress during the school day; and higher levels of happiness, excitement and relaxation on the journey to school.

The Daily Mile initiative has shown significant benefits to school children, from nursery onwards, across Scotland. The benefits they gain are physical, emotional, social and mental.

"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken adults." F. Douglas

Walking supports Education

DT2	NPF Delivery Areas			
2.1	Outcome	More young people walk as	More young people walk as part of their daily routine	
	Objective	Increase the support and resources for nurseries, primary and secondary schools, colleges, universities and youth organisations to get young people to walk as part of their everyday commuting and learning activity		
	Action	Delivery Lead		
	Increase the capacity of existing initiatives that promote walking to school for children through Active Schools and youth organisations		Sportscotland (Active Schools)Living Streets ScotlandYoung Scot	
	Increase the reach and number of initiatives that support walking as part of the everyday commute and learning activity in preschool, primary, secondary and community settings		 Living Streets Scotland Local Authorities Education Scotland Sportscotland (Active Schools) 	
	Increase and support initiatives in secondary, further and higher education settings that support everyday walking and modal shift		 Local Authorities Universities Further Education Colleges Community Learning and Development 	
	Increase the walking opportunities within school grounds i.e. walking tracks and loops		Local Authorities	
	1		1	
2.2	Outcome Schools have good walking i		infrastructure	
	Objective Increase support for safer rol		ute to schools	
	Action		Delivery Lead	

Living Streets Scotland programmes to improve walking routes to school

Sustrans community links safe routes to school delive

	Delivery Lead
g	Living Streets Scotland
ery	Sustrans Scotland

3.

3. Walking supports Communities

All communities are different and have different aspirations, ambitions and abilities. Communities are made up of individuals and groups of people with common interests or characteristics. Communities can be defined by geography where a group of people live in the same locality (i.e. neighbourhood, village, town or region), by culture (e.g. religion, language, ethnicity), or by social network (e.g. education setting, workplace, occupational group, membership of a club).

Increasing physical activity in urban and rural environments in Scotland has the potential, on a population scale, to increase wellbeing and quality of life, improve health and the environment, and support local communities. As well as

the physical benefits, walking regularly in local places also enhances people's social connections and mental health.

Community Planning Partnership's, Health and Social Care Partnerships and the Joint Health Improvement Partnerships have a vital role to play in developing, managing and supporting people to become more active through



Walking supports Communities

ТЗ	NPF Delivery Areas		
.1	Care Partnerships and Joint polices which support a bett		mmunity Planning Partnership's (CPPs), Health and Social nt Health Improvement Partnership's (JHIPs) developing atter walking environment and increase participation
			often in their local communities
	Action		Delivery Lead
	Review existing plans to assess walking conte opportunities and gaps		Community Planning PartnershipsGreen Health Partnerships
Resources and support to encourage Co Planning Partnerships and others to high actions to generate higher levels of walk communities		others to highlight clear	Scottish Government (Communities)
	Promote best practice / exemplars to Community Planning Partnerships and local authorities		Improvement Service

3.2	Outcome	Increase older adult participa	ncrease older adult participation in walking sports		
	Objective	Widen the participation base of walking sports, particularly in older adults			
	Action		Delivery Lead		
	Promote walking related sports activities through existing networks, services and information provision		SportscotlandScottish Sports Association		
	Support and integrate walking football and other walking sports into sport and community initiatives		SportscotlandScottish Sports Association		
	Support the development of walking sport provision in an increased range of sports		SportscotlandScottish Sports Association		



4. Walking increases Productivity

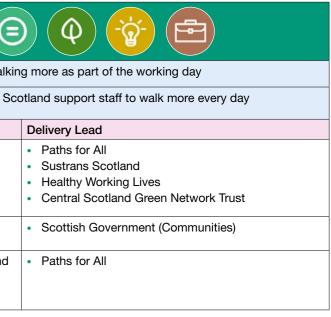
Walking is good for business. Evidence suggests that active employees take 27% fewer days sick leave than inactive employees. Physical activity programmes in the workplace can also reduce staff turnover by between 8% and 13% and reduce industrial injuries by 25%.

Walking is the simplest activity to encourage and promote in the workplace. It fits easily in and around the working day. It's free. No special equipment is required, and most people can take part. It can also improve mental health – regular walking can reduce your risk of depression and dementia by 20-30%, improve your sleep, and prevent and reduce anxiety and stress. There are many ways to walk more during the working day including; walk all or part of the way to or from work, organise a walking meeting with colleagues, use a standing desk, take the stairs instead of the lift or head out for a lunchtime walk. By valuing and developing a walking culture within the workplace businesses can benefit from the promotion of an active workforce.

Walking increases Productivity

DT4	NPF Delivery Areas	
4.1	Outcome	An increase in people walking
	Objective	More workplaces across Scot
	Action	
	Deliver initiatives that suppo workplace and as part of the	
	Support and deliver Walk to	Work Week
	Promote the Walk at Work A celebrates employers who a walking in their workplace	

22



5. Walking increases Active Travel

By supporting more people in Scotland to walk and cycle for everyday short journeys, we will change behaviours, improve health, create safer communities and reduce environmental impacts.

> Active travel simply means making journeys by physically active means - like walking, cycling, or scooting. With over 50% of all driven journeys in Scotland being less than 5km, and 26% less than 2km, there is plenty of scope for achieving a significant shift to walking and cycling as the most sustainable forms of transport.

Walking is key to getting more people choosing to not use cars as it is ideal for shorter trips. Walking also forms part of public transport journeys - walking to and from buses, trams and trains.

The Scottish Government, Local Authorities and Regional Transport Partnerships should continue to develop and support modal shift and encourage active travel, in particular walking, at national regional and local levels

Walking increases Active Travel

DT5	NPF Delivery Areas		
5.1	Outcome	More walking initiatives supp	oort mode shift from driven to walking journeys
	Objective	Develop and mainstream initiatives that support mode shift from driven to walkin journeys	
	Action		Delivery Lead
	National Transport Strategy supports and delivers on transport hierarchy		Transport Scotland
	Maximise grant funding for active travel projects to improve infrastructure and increases walking as a mode share		Transport Scotland
	Promote walking as a viable alternative for short everyday journeys		 Transport Scotland Paths for All Sustrans Scotland Living Streets Scotland Central Scotland Green Network Trust
	Increase walking within multi modal journeys		Transport Scotland

5.2	Outcome	Walking is embedded in active travel plans at local, regional and national levels		
	Objective	More walking initiatives delivered through Active Travel Plans in Regional Transport Partnerships and Local Authorities		
			Delivery Lead	
			 Sustrans Scotland Regional Transport Partnerships Local Transport Strategies Local Outcomes Improvement Plans 	
			Transport Scotland	
	Ensure the National Transport Strategy prioritises walking		Transport Scotland	



6. Walking supports the Economy

The visitor economy in Scotland supports many jobs across Scotland. For some, the visitor economy is a cornerstone of its local economy.

In order to remain competitive, it is vital that the quality of our natural environment is mirrored in the quality of our built environment within those villages, towns and cities which attract visitors. As well as the ongoing conservation of our heritage, there is a need to consider the overall visitor experience which is offered. Whether it's wandering on a local path network or on one of the long-distance routes or bagging one of the country's 282 impressive Munros, Scotland is renowned for its memorable walking opportunities. This market generates up to £1.26 billion to the Scottish economy.

The research by VisitScotland found that in 2015, 4 million trips by visitors

from the UK included walking as an activity, with figures broken down into short walks (up to 2 miles) and long walks (minimum of 2 miles). The latter increased by almost a fifth (18%) on the previous year.

Encouraging our local, domestic and international visitors to spend more time in Scotland and walk more has a significant impact on our economy.

Walking supports the Economy

DT6	NPF Delivery Areas			
6.1	Outcome	More visitors walking in S		
	Objective	Increase the number of v		
	Action			
	Promote walking to domestic and international visitors			
	Development and promotion of local path networks			
	Development and promotion day walking routes	n of long distance and mul		



26



Scotland

visitors (including domestic) to Scotland who come to walk

	Delivery Lead
rs	Visit Scotland
	 Local Authorities National Park Authorities Community Development Trusts Central Scotland Green Network Trust
ulti-	 Scottish Natural Heritage Sustrans Scotland Scottish Canals Visit Scotland

7. Walking improves Air Quality

We want to see walking and cycling become the natural choice for short journeys, creating a healthier, socially inclusive, economically vibrant, environmentally friendly Scotland. We believe that:



- Air pollution is damaging our environment and our health.
- Walking and cycling can be an important part of the solution.
- Ambitious targets for modal shift to walking, cycling and public transport must be set and supported by significant long term investment to achieve them.

We must prioritise shifting everyday trips away from motor vehicles to walking, cycling and public transport. This has the potential to dramatically reduce the amount of pollution we create, improving air quality in Scotland, while bringing health benefits to those that switch their journeys.

Walking improves Air Quality

DT7	NPF Delivery Areas		
7.1	Outcome	More short journeys are n	
	Objective	Promote everyday walking emissions and pollutants	
	Action		
	Promote walking for short journeys or part of multimod journeys		
	Ensure initiatives to tackle ai for short journeys	ir quality promote walking	



28



made by foot

hg for short journeys to help reduce greenhouse gas **Delivery Lead** dal • Transport Scotland • Scottish Government (Greener Scotland)

- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Local Authorities
- Scottish Government (Greener Scotland)

8. Walking as part of Research and Innovation

In the past health studies, linked to physical activity, often collated results from several activities so it was difficult to extrapolate the specific benefits of walking. Transport research often undervalued the indirect benefits of walking as walking is low cost therefore low status. There is now a significant and growing body of research from Scotland and across the world that is focusing on walking. It is vital that this work continues and can be easily accessed by practitioners on the ground.

There are results from walking studies and programmes which cover e.g. mental, physical and social health and links to climate change, infrastructure, transport etc. Some examples are:

- Walking increased creative output by an average of 60 percent.
- Walking for depression or depressive symptoms: Walking has a statistically significant, large effect on symptoms of depression.
- Walkability around primary schools and areas of deprivation across Scotland highlights disparities in walkability according to deprivation.
- Walking has been shown to improve memory and prevent the deterioration of brain tissue as we age.
- Traffic management and public realm improvements in Kelso increased town centre footfall by 28%

In Scotland we now have SHaRE. This was launched in October 2018 and is an online repository and website designed to facilitate the sharing and use of walking related research. This will significantly help the awareness and dissemination of walking research in Scotland

Walking as part of Research and Innovation

DT8	NPF Delivery Areas		\$
8.1	Outcome	Public and professional a research	
	Objective	Support research lookin implementation to incre	
	Action		Delivery L
	Delivery of research partnerships relating to walking		 Physica
	Promote research findings to wider cross sectoral audience to influence policy and practice in appropriate formats		Physics



30



awareness of the benefits of walking is increased through

g at the benefits of walking and walking sports and ase participation

Lead

cal Activity for Health Research Centre (Edinburgh University)

cal Activity for Health Research Centre (Edinburgh University)

9. Walking influences the Built **Environment Planning** and **Development**

Nearly 70% of the world's population will live in urban areas by 2030. A town or city needs to be easy and accessible for people to get around, whether that is by road, rail, bike or on foot. Walking is an important mode of transport in its own right, and as part of other journeys i.e. by bus. Walking needs to be at the heart of all urban planning projects. Walkable towns and cities are better places for everyone.

It is important the that we create environments that encourage healthier choices. We need to design physical activity back into our everyday lives by encouraging and facilitating walking as a regular daily transport choice.

In moving towards a more walkable world we will need to see a transformative change in our towns and cities. The time to design around the car has gone and we need to place 'walkability' at the centre of our future planning. Walking must become a lever for social change, for everything from healthier neighbourhoods to a more sustainable planet- and walkability needs to be imbedded into the DNA

Planners, engineers, politicians and communities all have a vital role to play in helping to evolve our towns and cities to evolve and become more walkable and put walking first and at the centre of new developments.

of urban planning.

The National Planning Framework and subsequent Development Plans must prioritise walking and walkability within place making and delivery.

"If you plan cities for cars and traffic, you get cars and traffic. If you plan for people and places, you get people and places."

Fred Kent, Project for **Public Spaces**

Walking influences the Built **Environment Planning and Development**

DT9	NPF Delivery Areas	
9.1	Outcome	Places are designed to inc
	Objective	Support developers, planr and create walkable place
	Action	
	Walking is embedded across Places	s NPF4 and within Creating

Support planning authorities and developers to use the Place Standard

Ensure Designing Streets is used within projects by planning authorities and developers

Develop and promote exemplar case studies

9.2 Outcome Local Development Plans and planning decisions prioritise everyday walking Objective The Planning System prioritises and supports everyday walking and walkable communities Action Support town centre first approach for all major developments Support built environment professionals to improve awareness and skills to ensure everyday walking environments are delivered Prioritise pedestrians in the design of our towns and cities to be walkable, safe, attractive and sustainable Support town centre first approach for all major developments

Support built environment professionals to improve awareness and skills to ensure everyday walking environments are delivered

Prioritise pedestrians in the design of our towns and cities to be walkable, safe, attractive and sustainable

crease everyday walking

ning authorities and communities to enhance walkability es and communities

	Delivery Lead
ng	 Scottish Government (Planning) Royal Town Planning Institute (Scotland) Architecture & Design Scotland
he	Place Standard AllianceRoyal Town Planning Institute (Scotland)
	Transport ScotlandScottish Government (Planning)
	 Transport Scotland Paths for All Sustrans Scotland Living Streets Scotland Green Health Partnerships Central Scotland Green Network Trust

Delivery Lead
 Scottish Government (Regeneration) Scotland's Towns Partnership Local Authorities Partners in Planning
Scottish Government (Planning)Local AuthoritiesRoyal Town Planning Institute (Scotland)
 Scottish Government (Regeneration) Scotland's Towns Partnership Local Authorities Partners in Planning
 Scottish Government (Planning) Local Authorities Royal Town Planning Institute (Scotland)

10. Walking supports Green Infrastructure

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There is a wide variety of types of open and green space in Scotland. They include areas of greenery such as local parks, woodlands, public gardens and playing fields, but also 'spaces' such as streets where there are trees planted, and paths and cycle ways. 'Accessible' green space is that which is located close to residents' homes, easy to walk to, physically accessible, safe to use, and provides well maintained facilities. This Green Infrastructure helps to deliver environmental and quality of life benefits

Green active travel routes create attractive places and journeys for people and improve the environment. The deliberate choice to combine natural planting or water systems together with paths for people on foot or bike delivers a range of benefits. From environmental improvements such as increased habitat and biodiversity to improved health and wellbeing for people.

By retrofitting new active travel routes to existing green corridors, introducing or enhancing green infrastructure along an existing active travel route, or by newly planning both active travel routes

and green infrastructure together from the start, this integrated approach can lead to more coordinated management approaches that view green active travel routes as coherent pieces of infrastructure.

Walking supports Green Infrastructure

DT10	NPF Delivery Areas		
10.1	Outcome	More people benefit from access to greenspace	
	Objective	Reduce the number of hous	eholds that don't have access to attractive greenspace
	Action		Delivery Lead
	Ensure the provision of high quality greenspace is embedded in NPF4		 Greenspace Scotland Central Scotland Green Network Trust Scottish Government (Planning) Scottish Natural Heritage
	Ensure Local Development Plans include Open Space Strategies		Greenspace Scotland
	Ensure the provision of accessible greenspaces when assessing planning applications where possible		Planning Authorities
	Promote CSGN Green Active Travel case studies		Central Scotland Green Network Trust
	Ensure local authorities have access to and prioritise long term resources to maintain and improve existing path networks within green spaces, including urban parks and country parks.		Scottish GovernmentLocal Authorities
	Ensure local authorities have access to and prioritise long term resources to maintain and improve existing path networks within green spaces, including urban parks and country parks.		Scottish GovernmentLocal Authorities



11. Walking improves Path Networks

Paths play an important part in providing people with opportunities for enjoying the outdoors, for physical activity and for active travel throughout Scotland. Through proper provision they can be enjoyed by everyone and provide a key tool for managing land and access together.

Having access to good quality, well maintained community paths close to where people live is essential for encouraging everyone to be active.

Welcoming, safe and accessible outdoor environments can improve our physical, mental and social health by allowing people to be physically active outdoors and helping people to connect with and get closer to nature.

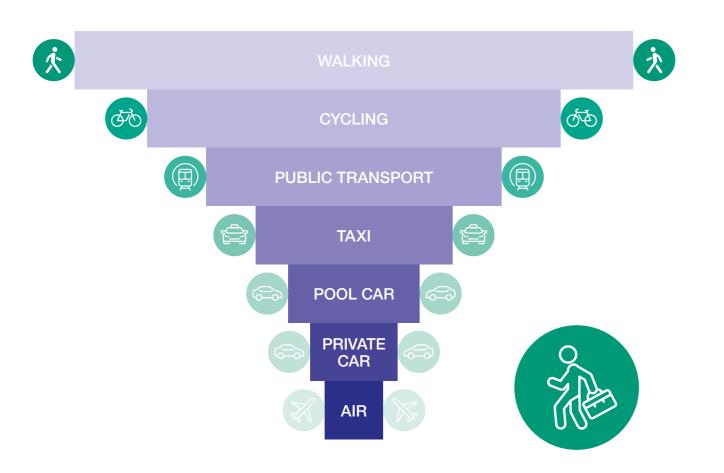
Access authorities are encouraged to keep overall path provision under review and community groups play a vital role in managing and maintaining many local path networks. They can often access funding not available to the local authority and can help achieve their priorities.

Development plans should promote 'walkability' in settlement design, while master planning approaches and the use of developer contributions can help translate these policies into practice.



DT11		\sim		
DT11	NPF Delivery Areas			
11.1	Outcome	More new and improved paths are delivered		
	Objective	Increase the support to deliv local authority area	er high-quality, well-maintained path networks in every	
	Action		Delivery Lead	
	Increase the funding availab impact improvements to the		Local AuthoritiesScottish Natural HeritageTransport Scotland	
	Increase awareness and capacity to make best use of resources by professional staff and communities		 Paths for All Sustrans Scotland Scottish Outdoor Access Network Living Streets Scotland 	
	Advocate for long-term supp maintenance of paths netwo		 Scottish Outdoor Access Network National Access Forum Ramblers Scotland Paths for All 	
	Promote the Path Grading N	lanual	Paths for AllScottish Natural HeritageScottish Forestry	
11.2 Outcome National Path Grading System adopted across Sc		m adopted across Scotland		
	Objective Local authorities, national pa adopt the National Path Gra		rk authorities, path promotors and other land managers ding System	
	Action		Delivery Lead	
	Provide Path Grading trainin	g	Paths for All	
	Advocate for and secure commitment from the public sector to adopt the system		Scottish Natural HeritageScottish ForestryPaths for All	
	Promote shared use principles to the public		 Scottish Natural Heritage Sustrans Scotland (NCN) Local Authorities 	
	Provide Path Grading trainin	g	Paths for All	
11.3	Outcome	Reduce conflict between diff	erent user groups when using shared spaces	
	Objective		l responsible shared use practices on and rural recreational and paths and trails	
	Action		Delivery Lead	
	Promote shared use good practice design and guidance for access and land managers		 Paths for All Scottish Natural Heritage Scottish Outdoor Access Network Local Authorities 	
	Local Access Forums help resolve local issues		Local Authorities	
	National Access Forum provides guidance and good practice		National Access Forum	
	National Access Forum provides guidance and good practice		National Access Forum	

12. Walking increases Active Travel



The National Transport Strategy and the Strategic Transport Projects Review need to deliver on the transport hierarchy (as above) and prioritise walking and active travel. This must then be reflected in local authority delivery, their active travel strategies and delivery.

Investments in the walking environment are good value for money and encourage more active travel and mode shift. Investing in infrastructure and support for walking and cycling can increase economic growth and vibrancy. Those walking and cycling tend to spend more money locally than drivers. Increasing walking and cycling (active travel) can stimulate economic growth in urban areas and benefit local shops. Good infrastructure for walking and cycling is important, but people also need encouragement, support and guidance to change their behaviours and switch their journeys to on foot or by bike.

In comparison with other transport projects, investments in walking are value for money. As expenditure increases for projects the benefitcost ratios tend to decrease. The highest value for money transport projects are smarter choices, pedestrian and cycle schemes, local safety schemes and some bus schemes. This suggests that investment in the walking environment is likely to be at least, if not better, value for money than other transport projects. There are likely to be substantial benefits arising in these areas where investment in walking leads to modal shift and associated environmental benefits.

Walking increases Active Travel

DT12	NPF Delivery Areas	())	
12.1	Outcome	The Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) prioritises walking infrastruct	
	Objective	Ensure existing and developing active travel plans deliver good quality wal environments within multimodal options at local, regional and national leve	
	Action		Delivery Lead
	Ensure walking is a significant element within the National Transport Strategy		 Transport Scotland Active Travel Delivery Partners Scottish Government (Active Scotland)
	Increase the prominence of walking within Active Travel Plans		 Transport Scotland Regional Transport Partnerships Sustrans Scotland
	Increase the number of walking initiatives being developed through Community Links, Smarter Choices Smarter Places and other national schemes		 Transport Scotland Sustrans Scotland Paths for All Living Streets Scotland

13. Walking supports Communities

If we want healthy communities, you need to create a sense of place and space, of belonging; we need to build inclusive, diverse spaces, where walkers, runners and cyclists, parents pushing buggies, older people with walking aids, people using wheelchairs, shoppers, business owners and office workers all feel at ease moving about and intermingling.

Within towns and cities streets are the original and ultimate social network; you need to construct them not only for business, but for culture and community-building. Walking has to become a lever for social change, big and small – for everything from healthier neighbourhoods to a more sustainable planet– and walkability needs to be imbued into the DNA of urban planning. It is important the that we create environments that encourage healthier choices. We need to design physical activity back into our everyday lives by encouraging and facilitating walking as a regular daily transport choice. Having good quality, accessible paths and routes lets people experience enhanced wellbeing because of time spent in our parks, woods and greenspaces. If more people walked more often, there would be a reduction in traffic congestion and pollution and children will have safer routes to school.

LIVING STREETS

Walking supports Communities

DT13	NPF Delivery Areas		
13.1	Outcome	More communities are s	
	Objective	Increase the number of s	
	Action		
	Promote the Place Standard to communities to support planning for walking		
	Use street audit process to inform planned spend		
	Promote funding opportunities to communities		
	Increase the range of grant funders that support walk projects		
	Those working with and within communities promote development of walking projects		

13.2	Outcome	More community organisa
	Objective	People enabled to walk m
	Action	
	Encourage community councils, community development trusts and planning groups to have walkin developments as a standing item on their agendas and in community action plans	
	Promote walking related training to community-based organisations and groups	

supported to increase and encourage walking

small-scale high impact improvements that encourage walking

	Delivery Lead
ort	NHS Health Scotland
	Living Streets Scotland
	 Paths for All Sustrans Scotland Scottish Natural Heritage Community Planning Partnerships
king	Scottish Government (Active Scotland)Paths for All
the	Community Planning PartnershipsCommunity Development TrustsPaths for All

sations champion walking

more in their communities				
	Delivery Lead			
lking nd	 Paths for All Greenspace Scotland Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) Central Scotland Green Network Trust 			
d	 Paths for All Community Development Trusts Living Streets Scotland Local Authorities 			

14. Walking Supports the Economy

Public realm improvements which support walking have a role to play in increasing inclusion and reducing inequality. A third of households do not have access to a car in the UK, rising to two thirds for the poorest households.

There is an increasing need to focus on improvements to the public realm in our city and town centres to combat the challenges arising from the changing nature of shopping and making their town centre more attractive, more active, and more accessible. A thriving local resident population can be a positive force for change and the maintenance of quality within town centres. Wellplanned improvements to public spaces can boost footfall and trading by up to 40%. Funding mechanisms need to continue to evolve to ensure that the place attractiveness of Scotland continues to be delivered. Investing in better streets and spaces for walking can provide a competitive return.

In order to remain competitive, it is vital that the quality of our natural environment is mirrored in the quality of our built environment within those villages, towns and cities. As well as the ongoing conservation of our heritage, there is a need to consider the overall visitor experience which is offered.

Better streets and places are good for everyone: raising self-esteem for residents, encouraging visitors and promoting confidence in inward investment.

"The economic value of walking has been described as the walking economy. There is a direct link between the city's economic prosperity and the safety and convenience of the pedestrian experience."

City of Melbourne, 2012

LIVING STREETS

42

Walking Supports the Economy

DT14		\sim	
DT14	NPF Delivery Areas	(((((((((((
14.1	Outcome	Developers, businesses and investors value and support walkable environments	
	Objective	Developers and businesses and investors understand the value of investing in creating walking environments	
	Action		Delivery Lead
	Developers, including house builders incorporate the Place Standard into development planning Developers use Designing Streets for all developments		Place standard AllianceHomes for ScotlandScottish Property Federation
	All local authorities undertake regular Footway Condition Surveys		Local AuthoritiesCOSLAVOCAL
	Developers, including house builders incorporate the Place Standard into development planning Developers use Designing Streets for all developments		 Place Standard Alliance Homes for Scotland Scottish Property Federation
	All local authorities undertake regular Footway Condition Surveys		Local AuthoritiesCOSLAVOCAL
14.2	Outcome	Pavements (Footways) are in	creasingly well maintained by local authorities
	Objective	Increase the percentage of for	potways that are deemed in good condition
	Action		Delivery Lead
	All utility companies reinstate, to a high quality and or improve footways and paths		Local AuthoritiesRoad Works Commissioner
	Implementing the Pavement parking legislation		Local AuthoritiesPolice Scotland
	Promote walking information to domestic and international visitors		Visit ScotlandLocal AuthoritiesNational Park Authorities
	All utility companies reinstate, to a high quality and or improve footways and paths		Local AuthoritiesRoad Works Commissioner
14.3	Outcome	More high-quality walking experiences will contribute to local priorities and economies and support inward investment.	
	Objective	Improve the walking experient to Scotland	nce for communities, domestic and international visitors
	Action		Delivery Lead
	Invest in local walking infrastructure initiatives for local and visiting markets		Local Authorities
	Promote walking festivals to a wide audience		Local AuthoritiesVisit Scotland
	Promote National Walking and Cycling Network (NWCN)		 Scottish Natural Heritage Visit Scotland Sustrans Scotland Scottish Canals
	Promote local walking networks		Local AuthoritiesCommunity Development Trusts

41

Lets get Scotland Walking



The National Walking Strategy

How to get in touch

Website: www.stepchangescot.scot Tel: 01259 218888



This Action Plan was developed by Paths for All on behalf of, and with the support and input of, the Scottish Government and the National Walking Strategy Delivery Forum

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