



Creating homes and neighbourhoods
that work well into the future
and don't cost the Earth

Neighbourhood Sustainability

What We've Measured

Why We've Bothered

Where it Might Lead

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Creating homes and neighbourhoods
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Today I want to:



- Comment on:
 - why neighbourhood sustainability is important
 - what makes neighbourhoods work
- Describe Beacon's neighbourhood sustainability framework and assessment tools
- Comment on neighbourhoods as a pathway to: dwelling, settlement, regional and national sustainability

Why worry about neighbourhoods?



- They are where people live
- Represent huge investment in the built environment:
 - Dwellings
 - Neighbourhood and city infrastructure
- Significant impacts on social, environmental and economic outcomes

Neighbourhoods that work

- Housing satisfaction and acceptable physical appearance
- Allows for belonging, identity, interaction and action
- Safety and low noise disturbance
- Accessible facilities and services
- Connectivity to wider settlement
- Low tenure mix

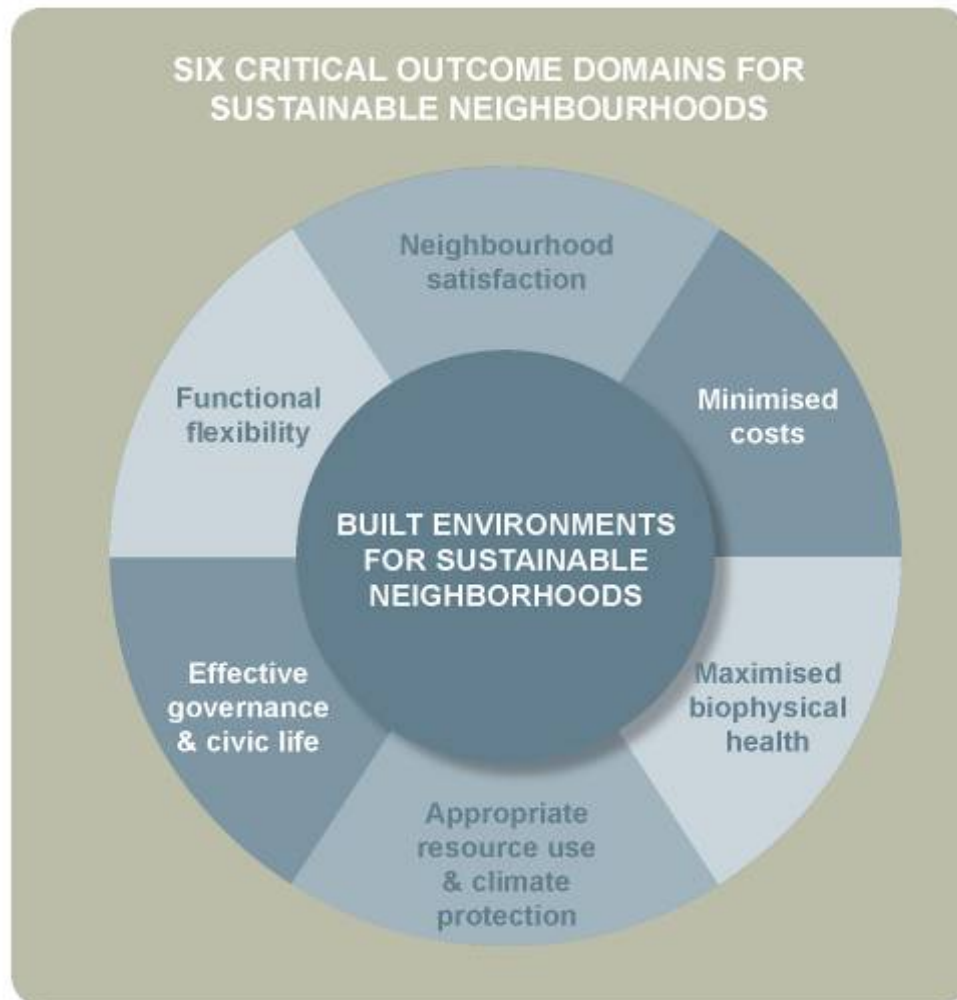


The Neighbourhood Sustainability Framework



- Designed to be outcome oriented
- A built environment that is designed, constructed and managed to generate neighbourhoods to:
 - Be adaptive
 - Be resilient
 - Allow people to create rich and satisfying lives
 - Respect the limitations of the environment

Six Critical Domains of Neighbourhood Sustainability



(Saville-Smith et al, 2005)

Neighbourhood Built

Environments – Critical Impacts



- Motor vehicle – greenhouse gases, stormwater and air pollution, high \$ cost, social marginalisation
- Quality and nature of public space – habitat, stormwater mechanisms, creative and physical recreation, social interaction
- Flexibility and adaptability – mixed use, various typologies and sizes, local facilities, public transport
- Higher density – less sprawl, population mass, local business viability, increased use of public transport

Beacon Neighbourhood Sustainability Assessment Tools





- Built Environment Observational Assessment
- Resident Self-Report



Observational Assessment Key Drivers



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking Access to Every Day Basic Facilities • Access to Public Transport • Efficient Use of Space and Viability of Local Centres • Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment • Dwelling Sustainability 		<p>Measured Credits</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of Space • Diversity and Resilience • Appropriate Street Network • Innovation 		<p>A Mixture of Measurement and Professional Judgement, within Tight Guidelines</p>

Resident Self-Report



- Collects data on:
 - Travel habits
 - Use of local facilities
 - Community participation
 - Resource consumption
 - Natural environment
 - Neighbourhood satisfaction
- Calculates sustainability by reference to The Place Where You Live Survey

Applying Neighbourhood Built Environment Assessment Tools



- Identifies priorities for optimising sustainability by:
 - Indicating strengths and weaknesses
 - Targeting built environment or social interventions
- Helps to prioritise in the consenting process
- Supports house level interventions

Neighbourhood Pathways



- Sustainable neighbourhoods are critical to:
 - achieving higher densities
 - sustainable settlements and regions
- Neighbourhoods present opportunities for:
 - House retrofit
 - New design and construction awareness/desirability

Neighbourhood Pathways



- Neighbourhoods present opportunities for:
 - Distributed reticulation systems – electricity and water
 - Improved stormwater management
 - Improved connectivity and mixed use