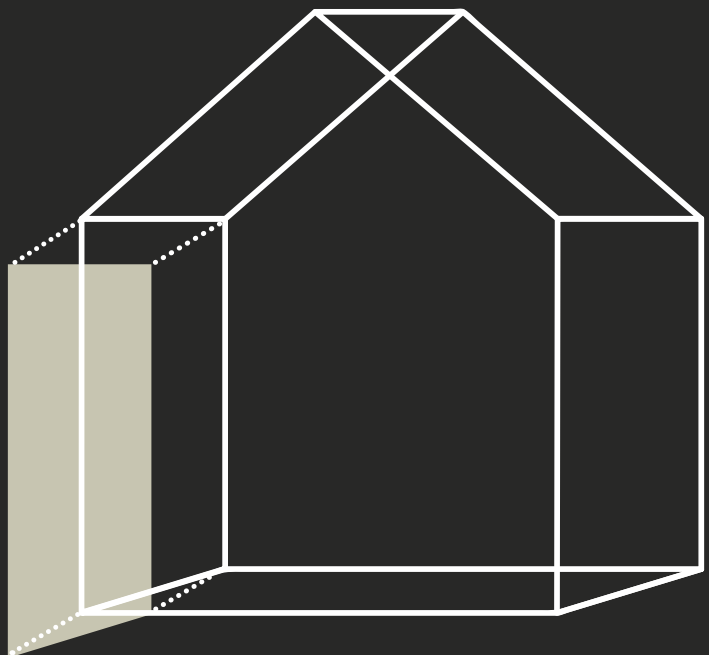


5 Neighbourhood

The neighbourhood dimension of the Living Home Standard was introduced because the public believed that was important to their understanding of home. Issues around location were originally discussed as part of affordability, as the area that people live in is often constrained by housing costs. However it became clear during the discussions with the public that neighbourhood deserved to be considered separately, as it contained elements that people considered extremely important.



Essentials

- **Feel reasonably safe and secure in the local neighbourhood**

Feeling safe was a very important part of what home meant to the public. When we discussed what this meant, it referred to both feeling secure within the home and in the neighbourhood in which they lived. Both of these attributes were rated as particularly important in the quantitative research, something that people were rarely willing to compromise on.

“A good neighbourhood for me is one where I feel safe. In practice this means having neighbours who you get along with, having a sense that people look out for one another, respect one another’s property and where there is a sense of shared values about what is and isn’t acceptable.”

Tradables

A home must meet 1 of 3 of these statements to meet the Living Home Standard.

- **Amenities such as grocery shops, schools and/or a doctor’s surgery, are within reasonable reach of the home**

What might be considered a reasonable distance to reach local amenities depended on whether people lived in an urban or rural location, and their access to transport. Nevertheless, it was considered important that people had the choice of being able to live close to basic facilities that are regularly needed such as schools, shops and healthcare.

- **The home is close enough to family, friends or other support networks**

Whilst not everyone wanted to live near their families, having that option was important to many people. As well as the social and emotional benefit, there were often practical advantages such as being able to contribute to childcare or provide support for older relatives. Other support networks could also serve similar social and practical functions.

“When I first had my house with my kids, it was near my parents. I deliberately wanted them near so they could help, but now I’m older and they are older so I don’t need to rely on them.”

- **Anyone in the household who works outside the home can usually reach their place of work in an hour or less**

Being unable to afford to live in reasonable proximity to a place of work could make it challenging to sustain employment without an expensive commute or sacrificing family or leisure time. However, it was recognised that some people choose to live longer distances from a workplace, for example for the benefits of living in an area which is more affordable or more desirable to their personal preferences e.g. somewhere rural. For this reason, meeting this condition was not an essential requirement of the Living Home Standard.