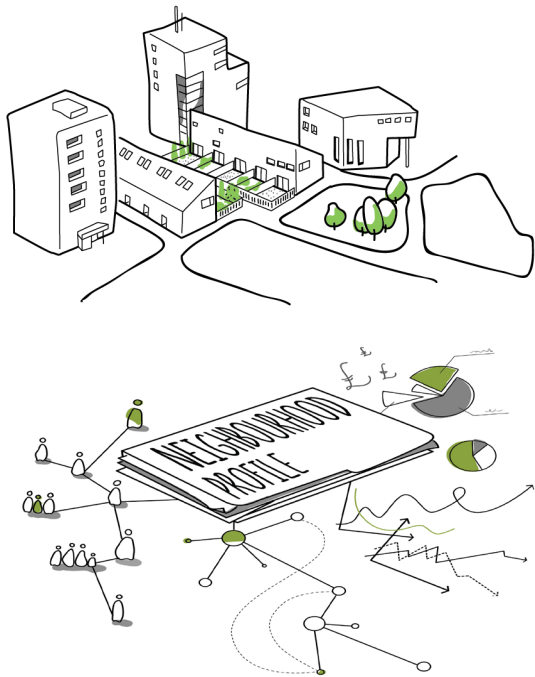


Neighbourhood Analysis Pack

Building the evidence to develop robust local planning policies



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The Neighbourhood Analysis Pack

The first step towards defining a neighbourhood plan is to explore the evidence base. This entails gathering data as well as local knowledge from residents. Mapping Futures have teamed up with APMGeo to help community groups and local authorities collect, analyse, map and evaluate the evidence. This will provide the basis to develop your neighbourhood vision and policy themes as we work with you to define your final plan. Our offer can be tailored to meet the requirements of the area and be proportional to the resources available.

The Importance of the Evidence Base

The Government's National Planning Policy Framework requires neighbourhood planning policies to be based on clear rationale and proper understanding of the place they relate to. If the policies are to be relevant, realistic and work towards addressing local issues effectively, then these must be based on a strong evidence base and robust and effective community engagement; otherwise the plan is more likely to reflect the assumptions and prejudices of those writing it rather than reflecting the needs of the wider area and community. By spatially mapping the evidence, a clearer understanding of the neighbourhood area and policy issues and opportunities emerge.

Methods

We use a variety of methods to help communities map out the right evidence, allowing them to:

- Make a stronger case for development options
- Assess whether their ideas and aspirations are feasible
- Convert the evidence into an actionable plan

We carry out engagement and participation events to ensure we capture the invaluable local knowledge. We undertake site surveys, interviews, questionnaires, desktop research and spatial analytics, using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), to overlay and combine data layers to reveal spatial patterns of issues. This helps to localise the policies and target the solutions and interventions.

Analysis

We have experience mapping and analysing numerous data types, including:

- Policy reviews
- Socio-economic profile of the local population
- Population trends
- Local employment, industry opportunities
- Predominant land uses
- Housing stock assessments
- Community facilities and assets of community value
- Transport connections and mobility by foot and bike
- Accessibility to services and facilities
- The health of the environment

