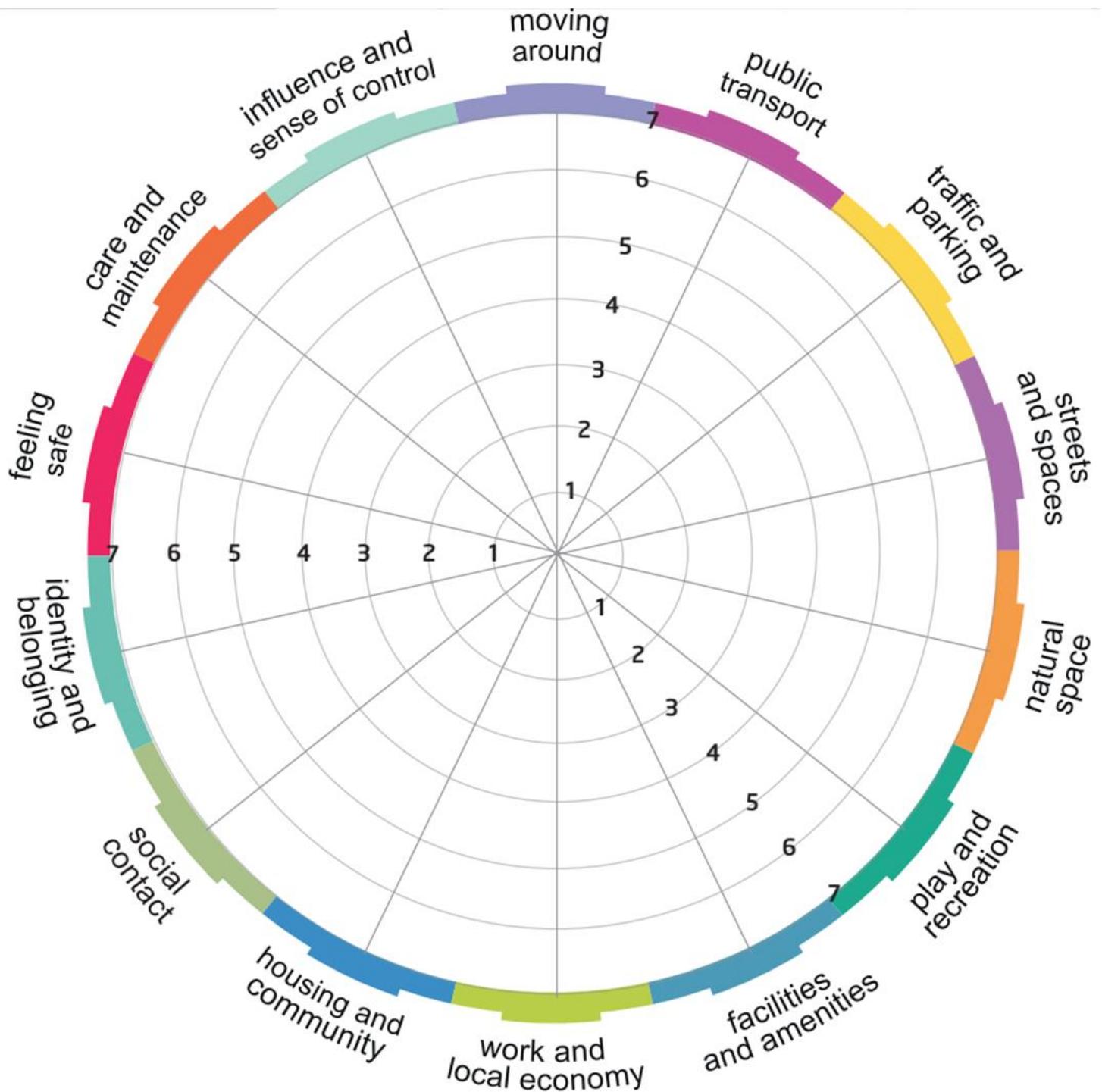


Place Standard – How good is Old Aberdeen?



The Place Standard is a tool to evaluate the quality of a place. It can evaluate places that are well-established, undergoing change, or still being planned. The tool can also help users to identify their priorities.

The tool is simple and free to use. It consists of 14 questions which cover both the physical and social elements of a place. Prompts are provided to help users answer the questions. When all 14 questions have been completed, the results are shown in a simple diagram.

Why Place is important

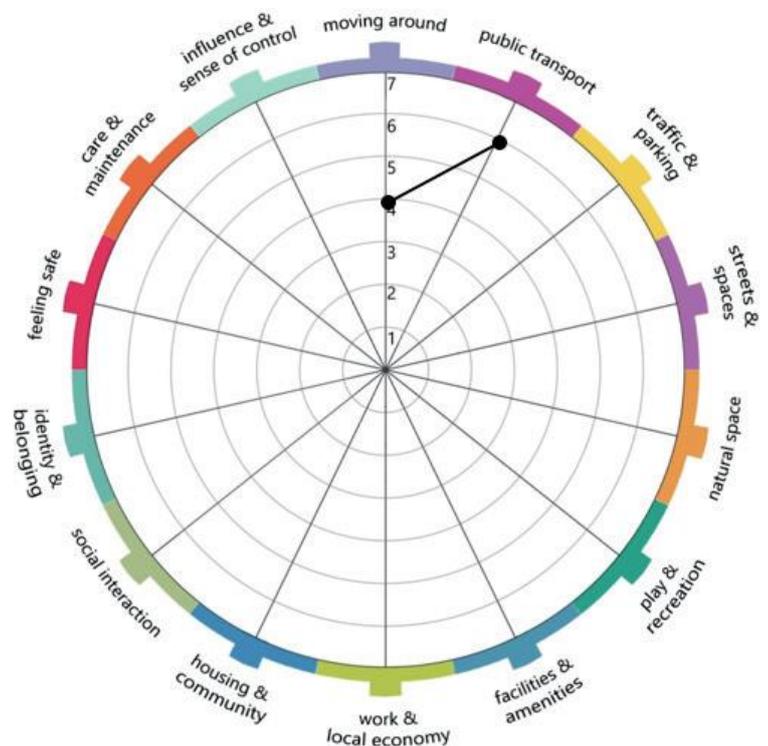
Research shows that the places where we spend our time have an important impact on our lives. The way a place looks, functions and feels can influence our health and wellbeing, and the opportunities we have access to. Improving the quality of places can help to tackle inequalities.

Understanding the existing and potential strengths of a place can inform good decision making, allowing resources to be targeted to where they are most needed. This approach can deliver better results over the long term.

The tool can also support the design and delivery of successful places, creating quality development where people want to live.

How to use

- Answer each question by recording a rating on a scale from 1 to 7. Some prompts are provided as a starting point for discussion. The rating should be agreed amongst the group carrying out the assessment. Space is provided to record the reasons for your answers.
- When you have answered all the questions, plot each rating on the 'compass diagram' - on the front page. In the example shown on the right the "Moving Around" question was rated as '4'. The next question, Public Transport, was rated a "6". A line should be drawn between each point. Continue plotting the score for each question in this manner.



There may be occasions where the question does not seem relevant or where you feel you do not have enough information to answer. In these cases you should think about the area that is being evaluated as part of a larger place or ensure that there is a way in which community views can properly be taken into account.

The diagram that is produced is easy to understand. It shows at a glance the areas where a place is performing well and where there is room for improvement. Where a place has been assessed as good, the shape will be fuller, reaching towards the edge of the circle. Where it is viewed as performing poorly the shape will be smaller, remaining towards the centre.

How good is Old Aberdeen?

TABLE:

Let's get started!

In the box below, please provide the following anonymous information about yourself and those who are completing this with you (Postcode, age and gender) as it will help us to demonstrate that the workshop conclusions are the voice of a broad range of residents and friends of Old Aberdeen.

		<i>Please circle the appropriate category</i>	
	Postcode	Age	Gender
1		10-20 / 21-40 / 41-60 / 61-100+	Male / Female / _ _ _
2		10-20 / 21-40 / 41-60 / 61-100+	Male / Female / _ _ _
3		10-20 / 21-40 / 41-60 / 61-100+	Male / Female / _ _ _
4		10-20 / 21-40 / 41-60 / 61-100+	Male / Female / _ _ _
5		10-20 / 21-40 / 41-60 / 61-100+	Male / Female / _ _ _
6		10-20 / 21-40 / 41-60 / 61-100+	Male / Female / _ _ _

Once you have completed the questionnaire and provided a score between 1 and 7 for each of the questions, you can fill in the 'Compass Diagram' on the front page which helps to demonstrate where you, or your group, have identified the weaknesses and strengths of Old Aberdeen.

You can keep the first page as a record, then, if you are attending a workshop, just pass this questionnaire to a member of the team.

If you have completed the document at home, keep the first page as a record, then send the rest of the document; that's from this page 3 to the end, back to the Old Aberdeen Community Council.

- > You could post it to 107 High Street, Old Aberdeen AB24 3EN
- > Or you can scan the pages then email it to mail@oacc.org.uk

We will add your data to that which we collect at our Workshops.

But please ensure it reaches us by 6th April at the latest!

The place standard tool is part of a process, not the end result. We will add this input to that which was collected during the two workshops and others which have been sent in.

The information received will be used to identify priorities in the area and we will issue a summary of the findings and our proposals in our next newsletter. The complete data will be on our website, all anonymous, of course.

Right, here come the questions now;-

1. Moving around

Walking and cycling are good for both our health and the environment. The design and layout of a place can encourage walking and cycling by providing pleasant and safe routes that connect people to where they want to go.

➤ Consider the question:

Can I easily walk and cycle around using good quality routes?

Now rate Old Aberdeen on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.

Record your rating in the box below and on the compass.

Here are some things to think about as you consider your rating:

- Are there enough routes for walking and cycling?
Are these given priority over cars and other traffic as much as possible?
- Do routes provide obvious and direct links with the places that people want to go, such as schools, shops, parks and public transport?
- Are routes of good quality, in an attractive environment and pleasant to use?
- Do routes meet the needs of all people regardless of age, mobility or disability? Is seating available for those who may need it?
- Do routes feel safe to use all year round and at different times of the day?

Now, note your score and why you rated your answer the way you did below:-

SCORE	NOTES

2. Public transport

Access to an affordable, reliable and well-connected public transport service is important for communities in any place. Good public transport allows people to get around in a sustainable way which in turn is good for the environment.

➤ **Consider the question:**

Does public transport meet my needs?

Rate Old Aberdeen on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.

Record your rating in the box below and on the compass.

Here are some things to think about as you consider your rating:

- Are public transport services frequent and reliable? Do they take people to the places they need to go?
- Is public transport accessible for all regardless of age, mobility or disability?
- Are bus stops and stations in convenient places and within walking distance of people's homes? Is seating available for those who may need it?
- Are public transport services affordable for all?
- Are facilities and vehicles of a good quality and well maintained? Do they encourage use and help people to feel safe?
- Do public transport hubs offer good facilities such as toilets, secure parking and cycle storage?

Now, note your score and why you rated your answer the way you did below:-

SCORE	NOTES

3. Traffic and parking

Places that are dominated by traffic and parked cars can have a negative impact on our daily lives. Appropriate arrangements for traffic and parking that allow people to move around safely can help people to get the most out of a place.

➤ **Consider the question:**

Do traffic and parking arrangements allow people to move around safely and meet the community's needs?

Rate Old Aberdeen on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.

Record your rating in the box below and on the compass.

Here are some things to think about as you consider your rating:

- Do people take priority over cars and other traffic?
- Does the amount and location of parking affect how people feel about the place and how they use it?
- Are there any aspects of the place that are adversely affected by the levels of traffic and parking? You might want to think about access, noise and air quality.
- Are there appropriate road safety measures in place to ensure everyone can get about safely regardless of age, mobility or disability?
- Are traffic calming measures used effectively to benefit the community?
- Is parking in a safe and secure location?

Now, note your score and why you rated your answer the way you did below:-

SCORE	NOTES

4. Streets and spaces

Buildings, landmarks, greenery, views and natural landscape can all help to create an attractive, distinctive place that people enjoy being in. These features can also help people to find their way around.

➤ **Consider the question:**

Do buildings, streets and public spaces create an attractive place that is easy to get around?

Rate Old Aberdeen on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.

Record your rating in the box below and on the compass.

Here are some things to think about as you consider your rating:

- Is being in or passing through this place a pleasant experience?
- Are there positive features such as local landmarks, historic buildings, public squares or natural features that make the place feel distinctive?
- Are there distinctive features and routes that help you to find your way around?
- Do buildings, features and public spaces look interesting and attractive?
- Are there negative features such as derelict buildings, vacant land or excessive noise? Does the design of the area help to lessen their impact?
- Is the experience of the place positive both day and night and in different seasons or weather conditions?

Now, note your score and why you rated your answer the way you did below:-

SCORE	NOTES

5. Natural space

Natural space includes a wide variety of different environments from parks, woodlands, fields, streams and rivers to green space alongside paths and roadways and tree lined streets. These spaces are good for wildlife, can improve air quality and benefit our health and wellbeing.

➤ **Consider the question:**

Can I regularly experience good quality natural space?

Rate Old Aberdeen on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.

Record your rating in the box below and on the compass.

Here are some things to think about as you consider your rating:

- Are there a range of natural spaces that are readily available to people and can be used for a variety of purposes?
- Are there opportunities for people to experience and have contact with nature?
- Is natural space accessible to all regardless of age, mobility or disability? Is seating available for those who need it?
- Is the available natural space attractive, well maintained and free from hazards? Is it affected by negative features such as excessive noise or poor air quality?
- Is the natural space used, and felt safe to use, by all regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religious belief, sexual orientation or disability?
- Will the available natural space continue to meet people's needs in the future?

Now, note your score and why you rated your answer the way you did below:-

SCORE	NOTES

6. Play and recreation

Good places encourage children to play and allow adults to enjoy leisure and sporting activities. Opportunities for play and recreation can improve the quality of our lives and our health.

➤ **Consider the question:**

Do I have access to a range of space and opportunities for play and recreation?

Rate Old Aberdeen on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.

Record your rating in the box below and on the compass.

Here are some things to think about as you consider your rating:

- Are there opportunities and spaces for all to engage in play and recreation? You might want to think about some specific groups like teenagers, children with disabilities and older people.
- Are there appropriate spaces and facilities to support play and recreational activities? Are these used to their full potential?
- Are the available spaces and facilities of good quality and well maintained?
- Are the available spaces and facilities accessible for all? And are they affordable to use?
- Are children able to challenge themselves during play and build confidence through exposure to and experience of judging and managing risk? Is the presence of children playing outdoors welcomed by the community?
- Do the available spaces and facilities feel safe to get to, be in and use? Is this affected by the time of day or year?

Now, note your score and why you rated your answer the way you did below:-

SCORE	NOTES

7. Facilities and amenities

Facilities and amenities are the things that we need to live and enjoy life; this can include local shops, schools, nurseries, libraries, GPs and places to eat, drink and meet friends. Access to good quality facilities and amenities is important in supporting people to lead healthy, fulfilling lives.

➤ *Consider the question:*

Do facilities and amenities meet my needs?

Rate Old Aberdeen on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.

Record your rating in the box below and on the compass.

Here are some things to think about as you consider your rating:

- Is there a range of facilities and amenities available to meet a variety of different needs?
- Are these accessible and used by all regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religious belief, sexual orientation or disability?
- Do the available facilities and amenities help to support a healthy lifestyle?
- Are they within a reasonable distance and easily accessible by walking, cycling or public transport?
- Are facilities and amenities good quality and well maintained?
- Are the available facilities and amenities being used to their full potential? Will they continue to meet people's needs in the future?

Now, note your score and why you rated your answer the way you did below:-

SCORE	NOTES

8. Work and local economy

Good quality work can offer important benefits through the income, activity, social networks and sense of identity and satisfaction that it can bring. A thriving local economy can provide work opportunities and help create lively and attractive places where people want to spend time.

➤ **Consider the question:**

Is there an active local economy and the opportunity to access good quality work?

Rate Old Aberdeen on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.

Record your rating in the box below and on the compass.

Here are some things to think about as you consider your rating:

- Is there an active local economy that helps to create a thriving place?
- Are there job opportunities that are available and accessible to local people regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religious belief, sexual orientation or disability?
- Are effective services that help people to find and keep work, such as Jobcentres, recruitment agencies and affordable childcare, available locally?
- Are there opportunities for people to gain skills for work such as education, training and volunteering?
- Are there opportunities and spaces for local businesses to start up and grow?

Now, note your score and why you rated your answer the way you did below:-

SCORE	NOTES

9. Housing and community

The housing on offer can determine who lives in an area and how a place looks and feels. Good places have a well-integrated mix of quality homes that support a range of household sizes and people of different ages and incomes.

➤ **Consider the question:**

Does housing support the needs of the community and contribute to a positive environment?

Rate Old Aberdeen on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.

Record your rating in the box below and on the compass.

Here are some things to think about as you consider your rating:

- Is housing a positive feature of the area?
- Does the variety of housing allow people to stay in the area even as their needs change?
- Is there a range of house types, sizes and tenures (i.e. rented, privately owned, etc.) to meet different needs and are these well-integrated with each other.
- Is there a range of good quality housing available for people, regardless of their income.

Now, note your score and why you rated your answer the way you did below:-

SCORE	NOTES

10. Social interaction

Feeling isolated can be damaging to our health and wellbeing. Good places provide a variety of spaces to meet and spend time with others.

➤ **Consider the question:**

Is there a range of spaces and opportunities to meet people?

Rate Old Aberdeen on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.

Record your rating in the box below and on the compass.

Here are some things to think about as you consider your rating:

- Are there spaces that provide opportunities for people to meet and interact?
- Is there a range of different spaces for interaction; these could be indoor, outdoor, purpose built and more informal?
- Can they be used at different times of the day and year or in different weathers?
- Does the place encourage people from across the whole community to mix and get to know each other?

Now, note your score and why you rated your answer the way you did below:-

SCORE	NOTES

11. Identity and belonging

How people feel about a place can be influenced by many factors, including how the place looks; how other people view the place; and the place's culture and history. Places with a positive identity, and where people feel they belong, can help to build strong communities.

➤ **Consider the question:**

Does this place have a positive identity and do I feel I belong?

Rate Old Aberdeen on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.

Record your rating in the box below and on the compass.

Here are some things to think about as you consider your rating:

- Do people perceive the place positively?
- Are the history, heritage and culture of the place apparent and celebrated?
- Do people feel connected to their neighbours and the community?
- Do all people in the place feel like they belong regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religious belief, sexual orientation or disability?
- Are people positively engaged in their community? Are there groups and networks that help strengthen a sense of community?

Now, note your score and why you rated your answer the way you did below:-

SCORE	NOTES

12. Feeling safe

How safe a place feels can affect people's wellbeing and how they spend time there. Good design and maintenance can help make places feel safer and minimise crime and antisocial behaviour.

➤ **Consider the question:**

Do I feel safe?

Rate Old Aberdeen on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.

Record your rating in the box below and on the compass.

Here are some things to think about as you consider your rating:

- Is the area safe for all regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religious belief, sexual orientation or disability?
- Are routes and spaces overlooked by buildings and are these well used, adding to a feeling of safety?
- Are routes and spaces safe and well used at different times of the day and throughout the year?
- Do people feel safe both at home and when out and about?
- Is the area free of negative features, such as empty or derelict property, crime, or anti-social behaviour?

Now, note your score and why you rated your answer the way you did below:-

SCORE	NOTES

13. Care and maintenance

Places that are well cared for can make us feel positive, while those that are not looked after properly can have the opposite effect. Having proper maintenance arrangements in place, and ways in which residents can get support when needed, allows people to feel positive about their environment.

➤ **Consider the question:**

Are buildings and spaces well cared for?

Rate Old Aberdeen on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.

Record your rating in the box below and on the compass.

Here are some things to think about as you consider your rating:

- Are public areas, facilities and properties well maintained?
- Are there any specific problems in the area, such as litter, vandalism or dog fouling?
- Are there good facilities for refuse storage and collection? Are recycling facilities available and easily accessed?
- Do local authorities, housing associations, landlords and residents all know their roles and responsibilities? Is action taken when necessary?
- Is communication clear and effective? Residents should be kept informed of any change to services and be able to easily report problems if they arise.
- Is there a local residents association? Is it effective?

Now, note your score and why you rated your answer the way you did below:-

SCORE	NOTES

14. Influence and sense of control

Having a voice in decision making and feeling empowered to make changes can help to build stronger communities and better places. Having this sense of control can make people feel positive about their lives.

➤ **Consider the question:**

Do I feel able to participate in decisions and help change things for the better?

Rate Old Aberdeen on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.

Record your rating in the box below and on the compass.

Here are some things to think about as you consider your rating:

- Are people able to contribute to decisions that affect them?
- Are all people able to contribute regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religious belief, sexual orientation or disability?
- Do organisations such as local authorities, health services and housing associations actively work with the community to understand their needs?
- Do people feel listened to?
- Are there local community services or groups that allow people to get involved?

Now, note your score and why you rated your answer the way you did below:-

SCORE	NOTES

Phew. You've finished! You can now plot your scores on the 'compass diagram' on the front page and pass the score sheets to the Old Aberdeen Community Council.

Thank you for your help!