

HOW TO CONDUCT AN ENVIRONMENTAL VISUAL AUDIT



An Environmental Visual Audit (EVA) is when community members, police and representatives of other relevant agencies conduct a walk-through together of their neighbourhood to identify issues of concern.

During the walk, visual observations are made and often photographs are taken to highlight the issues first hand.

A record is kept of the problems

so whichever agency is responsible for them can subsequently be tasked with taking action to address them.

These audits are intended to produce, through partnership working, detailed community reports to support crime reduction and encourage

environmental improvements that enhance the quality of life for residents.

They also create the opportunity for residents to highlight to partners how these issues make them feel about where they live.

They are most effective if accompanied by photos or detail to give a genuine, accurate snapshot of the neighbourhood.



PREPARATION STEPS

1 Engage as wide a range of relevant partners as possible as you plan your Audit so they are aware of what you are doing, have the opportunity to participate and can ensure that your findings are actioned afterwards

2 Talk to a range of residents to help identify the areas to focus on and the issues in the area from their perspective

3 Plan your walk-around route and agree this with the partners who are to be involved

4 Take a digital camera or mobile phone to capture pictures of issues you identify

5 Ensure that people with different needs and perspectives are consulted or included in the Audit as they may well be able to identify areas of concern that are not immediately apparent.

For example:

- Overhanging bushes may create a problem for people who are blind or have impaired sight
- The lack of dropped kerbs or vehicles parked on pavements may restrict access for people using disability scooters or pushing prams
- Children may identify areas that make them feel unsafe during their journey to school
- A lack of lighting in parks may make them more risky areas for young people to gather in
- Lack of street lighting may make lone women feel more vulnerable
- Vandalism, such as broken windows, which is not dealt with may make people feel more fearful of crime and less connected to their community.



RECORDING YOUR FINDINGS



It is a good idea to use a collection sheet to record environmental incidents by street, location and issue. Recording the issues that are observed during the audit under specific headings will assist partners to identify which agency is best placed to address them. The sheets also enable you to identify community groups or individuals within the community that could help to manage the issues.

TO SUPPORT YOU IN RECORDING YOUR FINDINGS, YOU CAN DOWNLOAD AN EXAMPLE OF AN [ENVIRONMENTAL VISUAL AUDIT](#) DOCUMENT AND A [PARTNERSHIP TASKING SHEET](#)

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