


# ISO 25553:
# Smart Multigenerational Neighbourhoods Part 1

## What is it?

A global blueprint for change, ISO 25553 transforms neighbourhoods into intelligent, human-centred multigenerational ecosystems.

Underpinned by ISO, the world's leading developer of international standards, ISO 25553 integrates human-centric design; digital infrastructure; 'cognitive housing'; redistributed health and care facilities; smart preventative systems; connected services; placemaking, neighbourhood-wide intelligence and governance into a single, scalable framework. Developed through international consensus, the framework sets out how neighbourhoods can foster intergenerational solidarity and defines how trusted, AI-enabled living moves from promise to practice.

## Why it matters

Modern models for housing, health, care, and investment have evolved in isolation, producing fragmentation, inefficiency, and environments that struggle to support ageing populations across the life course.

ISO 25553 establishes the neighbourhood as the primary domain where physical space, social life, services, and digital systems must work together in harmony; not occasionally, but by default.

**By providing a shared, standards-based framework, ISO 25553 enables societies to move beyond short-term, siloed solutions toward neighbourhoods that can reliably support living well over time. It mitigates risk, enables coordination across sectors and regions, and allows learning, investment, and innovation to compound, creating places that are not only functional, but resilient, inclusive, and worth sustaining.**

## Who should use it

ISO 25553 is intended for all those involved in planning, delivering, operating, and evaluating neighbourhoods as long-term civic infrastructure, including:

- **Public sector:** local and national governments, planners, housing authorities
- **Built environment:** developers, architects, designers
- **Health and care:** health systems, social care providers, service commissioners
- **Technology and infrastructure:** developers, solution aggregators, AI, IoT, utilities, and service providers
- **Academia and research:** evaluators, social scientists, innovation leaders

## What are the benefits?

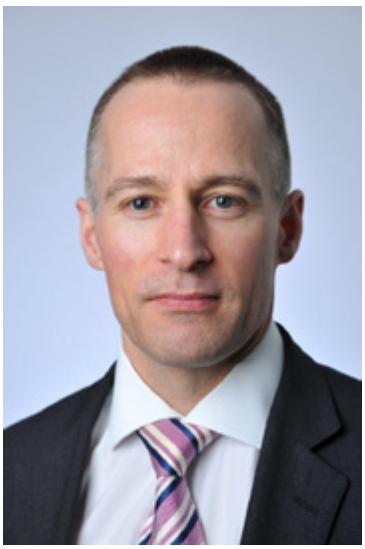
For people and communities, ISO 25553 enables neighbourhoods that adapt as lives change. Homes and everyday environments are shaped to preserve independence, wellbeing, and dignity, while health, care, and related services are embedded more closely in daily living. By strengthening social infrastructure and intergenerational connection, the framework helps reduce social isolation and maintain continuity of living over time.

For regional government, local authorities, and delivery partners, this framework provides a shared operating model for planning, governing, and scaling neighbourhoods as long-term civic infrastructure. It enables innovation to move beyond pilots, reduces risk, and sets clear expectations for how digital systems support care, dignity, and human connection.

"One of the hardest challenges we see – across health, housing, care and local systems – is not whether innovation works, but whether it ever truly scales. Too many pilots succeed once... and then quietly fade because they never become part of the system. Standards like ISO 25553 are how innovation moves from proof to practice; from "it worked there" to "this is how it's done, everywhere". Turning good intent and local brilliance into repeatable, investable, sustainable infrastructure.

The focus on real neighbourhood demonstrators, evidence and socioeconomic impact is exactly what's needed if we're serious about preventative, place-based models and multigenerational living that actually endure. If you care about delivery over theory, systems over silos, and impact over pilots, this is a moment worth leaning into. I strongly encourage anyone working across local authorities, housing, health, tech, finance or research to get involved. This is how innovation becomes infrastructure, not a footnote."

**Barrie Davison, National Sector Head,** NatWest & Royal Bank of Scotland



## How it addresses key priorities

ISO 25553 addresses the priorities that matter most to people and communities:

- **Safety** – Intelligent environments that protect physical, emotional, and digital wellbeing
- **Access** – Services designed to remove barriers and widen inclusion
- **Information** – Transparent systems and data control for consumers
- **Representation** – Consumers as co-creators, shaping neighbourhoods
- **Loneliness** – Design that fosters connection and belonging
- **Sustainability** – Smart, climate-resilient, self-sufficient systems

## Neighbourhoods that care

ISO 25553 sets out a globally applicable framework for co-creating human-centred neighbourhoods that care. Rather than being defined by levels of need, these multigenerational communities are shaped by their capacity to support continuity of living across the life course.

By aligning physical design, social infrastructure, and digital coordination, ISO 25553 creates the conditions for people of all ages and abilities to remain present in their own lives, participating, contributing, and belonging on their own terms.

Led by ISO convenor Professor Ian Spero, founder of the Agile Ageing Alliance, the framework brings together public, private, and community leaders with residents, housing, infrastructure, services, and trusted digital systems to deliver meaningful, measurable benefits.

We are now convening partners to shape ISO 25553 Parts 2 and 3, focused on neighbourhood demonstrators, quantifiable evidence, and socioeconomic impact, turning shared ambition into repeatable, investable practice.

Get engaged at www.agileageing.org

Agile Ageing Alliance

**How to get a copy of the standard**

Visit the website of your national standards organisation.

In the UK, this is the British Standards Institution (BSI) website.

bsi.

Inspiring trust for a more resilient world.