

# Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting, 2022 (Session 6)

Tuesday 25 January 2022

## National Planning Framework 4

### Background

1. The draft fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) work was published on 10 November 2021—

- [Scotland 2045 – fourth National Planning Framework – draft: consultation](#)

2. The following were also published—

- [National developments assessment summary report](#)
- [Housing Land Figures: Explanatory Report](#)
- [Regional Spatial Strategies](#)
- [Data insights for each of the 5 Action Areas](#)

3. On 29 November 2021, an Integrated Impact Assessment was published—

- [Integrated Impact Assessment](#)

4. The following accompanied the Impact Assessment—

- [Research Project: Lifecycle Greenhouse Gas Emissions of NPF4 Proposed National Developments Assessment Findings](#)
- [Habitats Regulations Appraisal of NPF4 – Initial Screening Record](#)
- [Habitats Regulations Appraisal of NPF4 – Updated Baseline Information Report](#)

5. The Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth made a [statement to Parliament](#) on 10 November 2021 on the laying of the draft fourth National Performance Framework.

6. The Scottish Parliament Information Centre has established a hub for information and blog posts on NPF4:

- [SPICe hub on NPF4](#)

## Background

7. The National Planning Framework is the spatial expression of Scottish Government policy.

8. The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended by the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 and the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, provides the legislative framework for the National Planning Framework (NPF).

9. It requires that a strategy for spatial development<sup>1</sup> be created and should include a statement of what Scottish Ministers consider to be priorities for development<sup>2</sup>. It should also contain—

- Targets for the use of land in different areas of Scotland for housing<sup>3</sup>
- An assessment of how proposed national developments<sup>4</sup> and the strategy as a whole<sup>5</sup> will impact on the achievement of greenhouse gas emission targets;
- An indication of how the strategy will meet housing needs<sup>6</sup>, improve health and wellbeing<sup>7</sup>, repopulate rural areas<sup>8</sup>, improve equality<sup>9</sup> and secure "positive effects for biodiversity"<sup>10</sup>.

10. The NPF4 will—

“incorporate [Scottish Planning Policy \(SPP\)](#) which contains detailed national policy on a number of planning topics. For the first time, spatial and thematic planning policies will be addressed in one place.”<sup>11</sup>

## Scottish Parliamentary Scrutiny

11. The Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee considered its approach to consideration of the framework on 2 November 2021 and 16 November 2021. It agreed to propose a collaborative approach to scrutiny and [wrote](#) to the following committees—

- Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
- Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee
- Economy and Fair Work Committee
- Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
- Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

<sup>1</sup> Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, section 3A(3)(a)

<sup>2</sup> Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, section 3A(3)(b)

<sup>3</sup> Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, section 3A(3)(d)

<sup>4</sup> Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, section 3A(3)(e)

<sup>5</sup> Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, section 3A(3A)(e)

<sup>6</sup> Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, section 3A(3A)(a)

<sup>7</sup> Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, section 3A(3A)(b)

<sup>8</sup> Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, section 3A(3A)(c)

<sup>9</sup> Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, section 3A(3A)(d)

<sup>10</sup> Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, section 3A(3A)(f)

<sup>11</sup> Scottish Government [“What is the National Planning Framework”](#) on transformingplanning.scot, accessed 25 October 2021

12. The Committee also [wrote](#) to the following committees informing them of its upcoming inquiry—

- Social Justice and Social Security Committee
- Public Audit Committee
- Finance and Public Administration Committee

13. The Committee also [wrote](#) to the Scottish Parliamentary Bureau on the timescales for consideration of the final Framework.

14. The collaborative approach includes—

- That the subject committees take the lead in scrutinising policies and proposals within their remit;
- To run a single call for views for all committees
- To maximise the time available for scrutiny by each committee taking evidence on issues within their remit (which will allow time for committees to take evidence from their Cabinet Secretaries);
- To invite committees to write to relevant Cabinet Secretaries and the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee with their conclusions;
- To include the correspondence of other committees in the report of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, along with detail of common threads; and
- To seek to lodge a motion in the names of all committees who reported on the draft NPF4 for a Chamber debate.

### **Call for views**

15. The Call for Views on NPF4 ran from 17 November 2021 to 10 January 2022. You can read the responses [here](#).

- [Read the responses to the Call for Views](#)

## **Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee scrutiny**

16. The Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee has agreed to hold evidence sessions on the NPF4. These will be on—

- 18 January 2022 – Scottish Government Officials
- 25 January 2022 – Planning
- 1 February 2022 – Housing
- 8 February 2022 – Local Government

- 22 February – Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth

17. At this meeting, the Committee will be hearing from—

**Panel one -**

- Robbie Calvert, Policy, Practice and Research Officer, RTPi Scotland
- Clare Symonds, Founder and Chair, Planning Democracy
- Ailsa Macfarlane, Director, Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS)
- Barbara Cummins, Vice Chair, Planning Aid for Scotland
- Christina Gaiger, President, The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland

**Panel two -**

- Dr Caroline Brown, Lecturer in Environmental Planning & Healthy Environments Heriot Watt University
- Professor Cliff Hague, Emeritus Professor of Planning and Spatial Development at Heriot-Watt University and Chair of the Cockburn Association
- Professor Leigh Sparks, Deputy Principal and Professor of Retail Studies at the Institute for Retail Studies, University of Stirling

18. Written submissions from these organisations can be found at **Annexe A**.

19. In addition, the Committee will be meeting with stakeholders locally and at an online event hosted by the Committee to enhance its understanding and scrutiny of the framework.

20. The Committee is also inviting members of the public, and in particular young people, to share their priorities for planning and the spaces around them using the hashtag #bestplace. These priorities will be included in the Committee's report.

**Clerks**

**Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee**

## Submissions

- [RTPI Scotland](#)
- [Planning Democracy](#)
- [Built Environment Forum Scotland \(BEFS\)](#)
- [Planning Aid for Scotland](#)
- [Christina Gaiger, President, The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland](#)