

Development Plan Working Group
Note – 2 December 2019

Collated Sub-groups Feedback

Relationship between spatial documents

- Can guidance be provided that sets out how LDP's fit with RSS and NPF, how will things fit together?
- Difference between 'take account of' and 'have regard to'?
- LDP's change through modifications, if done at officer level not the 'settled view' of the Council?
- What does plan led system, mean now?
- How do the relevant documents speak to each other, what is the hierarchy?
- Guidelines on what a plan can be? Paper / digital format? Used for different audiences?
- LDP – more guidelines rather than policy. Working with landowners and developers.
- Transition from Gatecheck to the plan – now what is co-production?
- What is going to be the form and content of NPF (need more detail)
- Relationship between NPF and RSS – LDP's Relationship between LDP-LPP
- Can Scottish Government define the role of NPF – LDP – LPP's
- NPF can be changed by Parliament, this will result in uncertainty for preparation of LDP's.
- LDP preparation process – consultation draft v modified?

Guidance on new system

- Could 'how to' guide be prepared, possibly produced by PAS, HoPS etc, in relation to new elements of the new system?
- Could Scottish Government outsource some of the guidance work to be submitted to them, e.g. HoPS, RTPI, consultants group, community groups?
- How can we look at LDPs when we don't yet know what NPF will require?
- Early advice would be helpful to promote consistency and avoid everyone inventing their own wheels.
- Is there still a need for the LDP to be on paper, or can you go full electronic? (s.20A still requires 2 copies to Scottish Ministers and a copy in each public library, although "publish" can mean electronically. Can that be amended?)

Local Place Plans

- What is the relationship between LPP's and community engagement to LDP's?
- It would be useful to have details around the timing of LPP's and community engagement;
- Draft guidance on LPP's needed from Scottish Government early in the transition to the new system;
- How do community groups know where to find information, policies etc (NHS/Council etc);

- LPP's are a material consideration, therefore, Local Authorities need to be careful not to prejudice potential involvement in LPP's;
- How do Local Authorities 'register' and 'validate' LPP's? Is it by officers or members? Need national consistency.
- LPP guidance – what role do Local Authorities have? What information do they offer/need etc?
- Taking rural communities as an example, where can they get information and assistance to inform where community facilities should be re-opened / created?
- LPP's need to be effective / potential for communities to engage but then if they see no positive outcome, then they may be disengaged;
- Need advice on what is possible to do regarding engagement, and accept LPP's that have been prepared, before the legislation is commenced – when the evidence report or LPP is submitted, then it will be assessed whether the requirements have been met, but the work to meet them can be done before the requirement is in force.

Evidence Report / Gatecheck

- Evidence Report – how to make it readable / accessible?
- Evidence Report – land / infrastructure, it needs to consider all;
- What engagement is there at ER stage?
- Needs to be shared ownership of ER
- Avoid too much focus on data, link to SEA and Climate Change targets?
- Needs be clear about outcomes – Climate Emergency? Can it address the housing numbers question?
- Effective and efficient / proportionality
- Scope, what is sufficient? Baseline / enough scrutiny and revised later
- Who is it for? Spatial aspects – how? How far?
- What do people need / expect from it? Importance of timescales – how does it reflect changes over time, updated data etc?
- What is it going to contain / take account of? City region deals etc. Can lessons be learned?
- Consistent approach, template / framework? Evidence will become out of date, can it be refreshed?
- Important to have agreement of what evidence base should be;
- Evidence Report will have resource implications / will need significant engagement / sharing of data;
- If it's largely factual, could there be a template for evidence reports? Could there be a national template?
- How do you consider rural repopulation? It's not just about housing, how do you determine what you need for people to want to live in an area?
- Authorities have existing processes – assessment criteria for sites etc – how do we build on that existing knowledge?
- Questions about collaborative approach to the Gatecheck, it should be a way of reaching consensus rather than a single person's decision;
- Could Evidence Report use digital mapping to show Infrastructure show capacity of infrastructure.
- How collaborative is the preparation of the evidence report, and when does engagement happen? Is it a consultation on a paper drafted by the authority, or are stakeholders involved in the drafting?

- What is “evidence”? Is it just factual data on the area, using existing information, statistics, demographics etc – and if so, where does engagement come in? How much interpretation or strategy is involved?

Housing Figures

- How are housing targets to be determined? Are they just dictated from NPF – but drawing on information from authorities and RSS?
- Housing statistics in NPF – how? Timescales of LHS etc? To what extent can NPF take account of housing?
- Act says plan can’t be adopted if it doesn’t have effective housing land supply – concern over this as would this apply even if there is a small shortfall?

Other Issues

- Implications of Brexit need to be considered, if situation changes can plans respond to that? Can this also be reflected in NPF?
- When can Infrastructure Levy be used by Local Authorities?

Agreed Output from Working Group

- The Working Group will meet again, either as a whole group or in sub-groups;
- It was agreed that it would be beneficial if sub-groups were set up.
- The potential sub-group topics (or topics for the next session) should address:
 - Evidence Report (including Gatecheck)
 - Co-production (engagement / collaboration – for Plans)
 - Joint sub-group on inter-relationship between LPP’s and LDP’s
 - How will the system hang together (from LPP’s - LDP’s – NPF – RSS)
 - Scope and Format of LDP’s
 - Delivery focus – engagement with IDG / IC
 - Timeline to Regulations – preparation of templates (ER), pilots, draft for comment, - - key milestones, Commission externals, allocate group tasks.
- It was agreed that there was an overarching need for PAD digital team to be involved in the key workstreams of the Working Group.

Next Step

- Scottish Government to prepare indicative work programme for progressing DP work streams to be agreed with Working Group.