

Have your say on a new National Planning Framework for Scotland

The National Planning Framework is a long term plan for development and investment across Scotland.

The fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) will consider what Scotland should look like in 2050, set out national planning policies and guide where future development should take place.

The draft NPF4 will be laid in the Scottish Parliament around September 2020 and at that stage there will be formal parliamentary scrutiny and wide public consultation. A revised version will be brought back to Parliament in 2021 for them to approve, before it can be adopted by the Scottish Ministers. Before that, to help shape the draft, we want to stimulate an open conversation, involving a wide range of people and organisations, about what we will need to plan and build in the future.

Priorities for planning in Scotland

To get the conversation on NPF4 started, the Scottish Government has identified a number of priorities that planning could focus on in the future:

- We have already made a commitment to ensuring that planning responds to the global **climate** emergency.

In addition, planning is about:

- **People** - planning can support wellbeing ensuring communities have access to services and facilities;
- **Work** - effective and efficient planning can support inclusive growth;
- **Place** - planning can maintain and enhance the unique character and identity of our natural and built environment.
- The strategy will also need to be supported by a clear plan for **delivery**. We will align NPF4 with Scotland's Infrastructure Investment Plan and our second Strategic Transport Projects Review.

What changes do we need to plan for in the coming years?

The purpose of planning is to manage the development and use of land in the long term public interest. We cannot fully predict what will happen in the future, but past trends and future projections give us an idea of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

As a result of **climate change**, we know that Scotland's weather will become more variable, with hotter and drier summers, and milder and wetter winters. Sea level rise will affect our coastline. More summer heat waves, extreme temperatures and drought are expected. There will be more and heavier rainfall and less frost and snowfall. Our built environment will need to change to adapt to this, and we will need to do much more with the built environment to help reduce carbon emissions.

We expect the **population** of Scotland to grow by around 5% by 2041, as a result of migration from other parts of the UK and overseas. Our population will also age considerably over the next 20 to 30 years, with the number of people over 75 increasing 25% by 2041. The number of children in Scotland will fall by around 2% and our working age population will only increase by 1% in the same period. As a result, planning will need to consider what is needed to meet the future everyday needs of people of all ages and in particular to plan for older people.

Our **economy** relies on our significant natural resources and key sectors including food and drink, tourism, energy and financial services. The impact of Brexit on our future economy cannot be fully predicted, and in the long term we need to respond to global restructuring, including the influence of new and emerging markets and technological change. Investing in infrastructure, growing our most successful sectors, and maintaining a highly skilled workforce will help us to respond to these changes. The quality of Scotland's places and planning that actively enables good quality development could play a key role in supporting inclusive growth.

Our **places** continue to evolve and we can expect continuing challenges such as vacant and derelict land, changing town centres, rural depopulation and pressures on natural resources. Climate change will compound and complicate these pressures. Over the long term the distribution of future development and the balance between rural and urban living will need to be carefully planned to ensure we can meet changing needs and expectations.

What do you want planning to do for your place?

Taking into account these long term changes, we are now keen to hear your views on the future of planning in Scotland, focusing on the following questions:

1. What development will we need to address climate change?

think about... what we will need to do to reach the target of net zero emissions by 2045; the opportunities that this could provide to support jobs and the economy; how places can be made more resilient to the long term impacts of climate change; what climate change-friendly places might look like in the future.

2. How can planning best support our quality of life, health and wellbeing in the future?

think about... where we might want to live in 2050; how many and what types of homes we will need; how we can encourage more people to live in rural Scotland; whether we could target development to address longstanding differences in health and quality of life; whether and where we might need new settlements, and regeneration of existing communities; how places could be more inclusive, diverse, creative, vibrant, safe, resilient and empowering.

3. What does planning need to do to enable development and investment in our economy so that it benefits everyone?

think about... what our economy might look like in 2050; how planning can anticipate and respond to the economic challenges of Brexit; what the key sectors might be and what infrastructure they may need to support them; how planning could stimulate and distribute growth; what type, scale and distribution of business and industrial land and premises will be needed; where significant investment sites might be; how economic opportunities could improve, or be accessible from, places where deprivation is concentrated.

4. What policies are needed to improve, protect and strengthen the special character of our places?

think about... what special places will need protection in the future.; what the future might be for our rural, coastal and island communities; how we could unlock the potential of vacant and derelict land; what our city and town centres might look like in the future; whether we need to think about the concept of green belts; how we can get the most out of our productive land; how we can protect and restore peatland; how we can plan blue and green infrastructure; what we can do to protect and enhance biodiversity; and how we can strengthen the character and heritage of our many different places.

5. What infrastructure do we need to build to realise our long term aspirations?

think about... what infrastructure we will need in the future; how we can make better use of existing infrastructure capacity, including through innovation; where transport connections will be needed to support future development; where our international gateways, hubs and links will be in a post-Brexit world; how we can sustain our lifelines; how digital connectivity could change the way we live and work; where our natural resources for energy are; and what emerging and future technologies we will need to plan for.

Call for Ideas

Our call for ideas is now open and we want to hear from you. Please submit your ideas to us at scotplan@gov.scot along with a copy of our Respondent Information Form. The form and further information on the Call for Ideas and the NPF is available at www.transformingplanning.scot. Our website also contains details of events and other opportunities where you can come along and talk to us.

Get Involved

For more information and other resources



www.transformingplanning.scot



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