



Programme For Engagement Update April 2020

In January 2020 the Scottish Government published its Programme for Engagement for the pre-engagement phase of the development of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). It set out a range of opportunities for people to become engaged in the development of this long term plan for the future development of Scotland.

This document provides an update on the engagement so far and sets out plans for engagement over the next few months.

Timetable for NPF4

During the early engagement phase, we were working towards submitting a draft NPF4 to Parliament in September, and carrying out formal public consultation at that point. To reflect the different environment and pressures that we and our stakeholders are now working in, we now expect to lay the draft NPF4 in Parliament in 2021. We will provide further detail on revised timescales when we can.

Participation Achievements (January to March 2020)

The main focus of our work between January and March 2020 has been to give people an opportunity to tell us their aspirations for a future Scotland and also set out how the planning system can help deliver those aspirations.

- **Call for Ideas** – on 9 January 2020, we opened our Call for Ideas. We encouraged all individuals and stakeholders to participate in our engagement events, and invited people to send their ideas to us. We have now extended the closing date for the Call for Ideas by a month to 30 April 2020.
- **Resource pack** – we provided materials aimed at a range of audiences to help people engage. These resources included:
 - the first edition of our Programme for Engagement.
 - a set of questions to help people focus on some key themes
 - a leaflet summarising the call for ideas process
 - a self-read presentation
 - details of a community grant fund
 - a doodle map and ideas postcards for stakeholders to submit ideas
 - blog articles
 - an overview video
 - a guide on how to hold your own community workshop
- **Think Pieces** – we asked a variety of our stakeholders to provide [think piece](#) contributions on Scotland 2050 to stimulate discussion. We received 35 contributions which we have published on our website.

- **National Developments** – we opened our [invitation to submit](#) suggestions for projects to be considered as national developments within NPF4 and are inviting comments by 30 April. We published a factsheet setting out background information on the role and purpose of national developments as well as an online response form for submitting proposals.
- **Housing Technical Paper** – we published a [Housing Technical Discussion Paper](#) which sets out our current thinking on setting targets for the use of land for housing. Comments are invited by 30 April and a stakeholder group has been ‘virtually’ convened to discuss the paper in more detail.
- **Scottish Planning Policy Background Information Notes** – to assist stakeholders we published [information notes](#) on 32 policy areas that need to be addressed by NPF4. Each note sets out the existing policy, what has changed, and issues to consider. The aim of the policy note package was to inform stakeholders to assist with early engagement and their contributions through the call for ideas.
- **Supporting Regional Spatial Strategies** – we have been liaising with planning authorities to support the development of interim regional spatial strategies to feed into NPF4. We have offered financial resource to assist the facilitation of their discussions. We are discussing scope for further support with Heads of Planning Scotland.
- **Digital Mapping** - We have provided access to authorities to an online mapping portal to assist in their regional spatial strategies.
- **Impact Assessment** – we published a [guide to NPF4 impact assessment](#) alongside our [Integrated Impact Assessment Scoping Report](#) and we are inviting comments and evidence to support the range of statutory and non-statutory assessments which will inform NPF4 by 30 April.
- **Research** - we published research on [Rural Planning](#) Policy to 2050.
- **NPF4 Scotplan 2050 Roadshow** – We organised a programme of events across the country to give people the opportunity to consider key questions on the NPF. We undertook events in Aberfeldy, Aviemore, Buckie, Dumfries, Hawick, Helmsdale, Inverness, Kyle of Lochalsh, Mallaig, Oban, Paisley, Rothesay, and Stirling. In addition, we were able to undertake workshops with Buckie High School and Breadalbane Academy. 192 participants contributed to workshop sessions and we had conversations with over 96 people at our drop in sessions. Thanks to all who participated – your contributions are really valuable to us. We apologise to those who were signed up to one of the 7 events that we had to cancel. To assist we have issued a [blog](#) article showing how you can still get involved in a similar way to contributing at a workshop.
- **Meetings / Seminars / Conferences** – We attended events organised through: Built Environment Forum Scotland; Central Scotland Green Network; Children in Scotland; Orkney Islands Council; Scottish Environment Link; Scottish Renewables; Grangemouth Investment Zone; NHS Health Scotland, Scottish Government Rural Communities Division; Mackay Hannah; the key agencies; SNIFFER; Environment and Economy Leaders Group; Scottish Cities Alliance; Scottish Property Federation; the Gathering and the Cross Party Group on Rural Policy.
- **Community Grant Scheme** – We offered small grants to community groups to engage in the call for ideas. Four communities applied for the grant and funding was issued to them in March 2020.

- **RTPI Chapter events** – we attended events facilitated by the RTPI’s Chapters in Aberdeen, Dumfries, Falkirk, Grantown on Spey and Glasgow. Further events were cancelled.
- **MSPs** - Parliament will have an enhanced role in NPF4. Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning wrote to the Convenor of the Local Government and Communities Committee advising them that the Programme for Engagement had been published and inviting them to participate in early engagement.
- **Joined up Government** - We continue to liaise with officials within the Scottish Government and its agencies responsible for a wide range of relevant policy areas, including those identified in the 2019 Planning Act. Regular discussions involving officials from across government will also take place through established policy forums, groups and boards.

Next Steps (April – September 2020)

We are continuing to prepare for the consultation on the draft NPF4. Over the next few months our primary aims are to:

- Continue to **encourage participation** to our Call for Ideas.
- **Analyse and publish information** received through our Call for Ideas. We will:
 - contract a consultant to analyse the responses.
 - publish the consultant’s findings.
 - record and publish the ideas expressed through our roadshow events on our Scotland 2050 postcards.
 - publish the maps annotated by stakeholders in the roadshow events.
- Start to **develop our Participation Statement** which will accompany the consultation draft of NPF4. We remain committed to using innovative techniques to engage with a wide range of stakeholders in the public, community, voluntary and private sectors, as well as academics, experts and professional bodies.
- Learn from our early engagement period – we will **reflect on feedback** from our roadshow events and build on that as we draft our Participation Statement for the formal consultation period.
- We will **evaluate the ideas for national developments** that will help deliver the aims of the NPF4. We will also consider how best to support communities which may be impacted by a national development proposal and set this out in the Participation Statement.
- Impact Assessment Evidence – following consideration of the responses to the Call for Ideas, we will consider what, if any, gaps remain in the **impact assessment evidence base**. We will take the opportunity to identify such evidence with stakeholders. We will publish our emerging assessment findings in the Integrated Impact Assessment Report(s) alongside the consultation draft NPF4.
- **Support development of Regional Spatial Strategies** – we will liaise with authorities to support the development of indicative regional spatial strategies to feed into NPF4.

- **Further develop the digital platform** – We will use feedback from Regional Spatial Strategy leads to inform improvements to the digital mapping we provided for early use and testing.
- **Liaise with the Royal Town Planning Institute Scotland** over the best way to take forward events for young planners and to share international practice. Both events had been due to take place in the spring.
- **Research** – progress and publish research on: low car neighbourhoods; air quality in response to the review of the Cleaner Air for Scotland Strategy; and development of national approach to Section 3F planning policy (requirement for low and zero carbon generating technologies on new buildings).
- **Housing Stakeholder Group.** We have convened a group comprising a cross-section of housing interests and will work with them over the coming weeks to develop a collaborative approach to addressing the requirement for targets for the use of land for housing in NPF4.
- **Planning Convenors** – we will identify an effective way to involve planning convenors in the NPF4. We had previously intended to arrange an event in the spring.
- **Joined up Government** - We will continue to liaise, subject to Scottish Government priorities, with officials within the Scottish Government and its agencies responsible for a wide range of relevant policy areas, including those identified in the 2019 Planning Act.

More information and other resources:



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