

## NPPG4 - Scottish Government's Call for Ideas

### Climate Change

- What we need to do to reach the target of net zero emissions by 2045
  - (i) Electrify all transport - cars, lorries and buses*
  - (ii) Insulate all properties - residential, commercial and leisure*
  - (iii) Ensure that public transport is easier, more comfortable, cheaper and integrated*
- The opportunities that this could provide to support jobs and the economy
  - All of the above will create jobs and enhance the economy*
- How places can be made resilient to the long term impacts of climate change
  - The long term negative impacts of climate change centre on increased rainfall and the prospect of more flooding. New development should not be permitted in flood plains and farming and forestry practices that reduce the incidence of flooding should be encouraged financially. NPF4 should promote an approach to planning which links the 3 goals of conserving the natural and historic environment, responds to the climate emergency and sustains more resilient rural communities.*
- What climate change-friendly places might look like in the future.
  - (i) All places will be quieter and more healthy*
  - (ii) Electric vehicle charge points will be common place*
  - (iii) Cars will largely have been replaced by efficient public transport*
  - (iv) Flooding of properties will have become a feature of the past*
  - (v) Smoke from chimneys will have been eliminated except in areas off mains gas where biomass may contribute to renewable energy generation although the dilution effect will mitigate air pollution concerns.*

### People

- Where we might want to live in 2050
  - City living will be a thing of the past as much new development will be in rural areas because they are quieter and healthier.*
- How many and what types of homes we will need
  - As household size gets smaller the demand for larger 3- and 4- bedroom homes will reduce although the demand for more homes will increase. All new homes will be to certified Passivhaus standard and all existing homes retrofitted to certified Enerfit standard.*
- How we can encourage more people to live in rural Scotland.
  - People need no encouragement to live in rural Scotland but housing developers and developers of economic activity need more encouragement through the planning system to build there. For example planning should rely more on fine-grained approaches in rural areas to identify untapped housing demand and place less reliance in these areas. Planning should also recognise and develop housing policies suited to rural areas especially where new housing is perceived as a transformational form of development in relation to the wider economic and societal needs. NPF4 should offer explicit encouragement to place-sensitive approaches to settlement which determine the development of existing and new settlements in response to the particular challenges, needs and opportunities of different areas. Furthermore, planning should provide a more supportive framework for mixed developments in rural areas. In addition, rural planning should be more permissive where there is a need for diversification as part of a proactive process that identifies key examples of development that will support diversification and meet the needs of rural communities and businesses.*

Whether we could target development to address longstanding differences in health and quality of life

*If all new homes were built to certified Passivhaus standard, that would address both health and quality of life issues. The development of these homes in rural areas would have a positive impact on health and quality of life as would widespread electrification of both private cars and public transport.*

- Whether and where we might need new settlements and regeneration of existing communities  
*New settlements and economic activity in rural areas would give a tremendous boost to the regeneration of villages and support the local shop, pub and village hall.*
- How places could be more inclusive, creative, vibrant, safe, resilient and empowering  
*See above.*

### Work

- What our economy might look like in 2050  
*A strong economy is one that is profitable, pays its taxes and supports local businesses. The strongest economies are those that are resilient to market shocks through inherent diversity and are not dependent on a single sector.*
- How can planning anticipate and respond to the economic challenges of Brexit  
*By encouraging diversity in both size and type of enterprise.*
- What the key sectors might be and what infrastructure they may need to support them  
*The key to a successful economy is diversity in both size and type. Communication by road is critical in rural areas as is access to high speed internet.*
- How planning could stimulate and distribute growth  
*Planning needs to be much more flexible and less demanding especially in rural areas. NPF4 should encourage local authorities to balance the need for tourism-related development with the need to ensure there is adequate and appropriate housing for rural populations. Supporting small businesses, and helping them survive and grow, is essential in rural areas. Particular recognition should be given to the retention and attraction of value-adding processes in rural areas.*
- What type, scale and distribution of business and industrial land and premises will be needed  
*Brownfield land will be used for both business activity and the generation of renewable energy.*
- Where significant investment sites might be  
*Anywhere with good road and rail transport links and an ample electricity supply.*
- How economic opportunities could improve, or be accessible from, places where deprivation is concentrated  
*See above.*

### Place

- What special places will need protection in the future  
*What is meant by 'a special place' - it should be defined in NPF4. NPF4 should also provide a clear steer on planning policy in regard, for example to renewable energy development, to areas that are identified as having significance in terms of their landscape, biodiversity and/or carbon sequestration values.*
- What the future might be for our rural, coastal and island communities  
*The future for these communities lies in their long term sustainable economic activity. See also remarks above.*
- How we could unlock the potential of vacant and derelict land

*There is a resistance from house buyers to purchasing a home in schemes that have been crammed into sites that were former derelict land. The future of these sites lies in their development for renewable energy as this will also be close to areas of energy deprivation and where relatively cheap energy is needed most.*

- What our city and town centres might look like in the future  
*City and town centres could evolve, given the right planning policy environment (see comments above) into places where people both live and work but are much quieter and more pollution-free*
- Whether we need to think about the concept of green belts  
*The concept of green belts hasn't worked and should be abandoned.*
- How we can get the most out of our productive land  
*Getting the most from the most productive land requires long term policy support*
- How we can protect and restore peatland  
*Firstly by identifying the peatland that no requires no restoration and secondly by identifying that peatland that can be restored at economic cost. It is pointless identifying peatland that cannot be restored at economic cost.*
- How we can plan blue and green infrastructure  
*The best way to plan blue and green infrastructure is not to plan for it as it will emerge unscathed and protected if development is profitable - 'the wood that pays is the wood that stays'*
- How we can strengthen the character and heritage of our many different places  
*Land-based industries play an important role in managing Scotland's environment and in providing a range of benefits for wider society. They also have potential as part of the future diversification of the rural economy. Planning and other policy areas impacting on land-based industries should support their viability and growth wherever possible*

### Delivery

- What infrastructure we will need in the future  
*(i) Electric charging points for all vehicles*  
*(ii) All homes have higher energy efficiency*
- How we can make better use of existing infrastructure capacity, including through innovation  
*Building all new homes to certified Passivhaus standard requires no new infrastructure.*
- Where transport connection will be needed to support future developments  
*Electric charge points must come as a requirement for all new development*
- Where our international gateways, hubs and links will be in a post-Brexit world  
*Where they are just now.*
- How we can sustain our lifelines  
*Digital connection can sustain lifelines.*
- How digital connectivity could change the way we live and work  
*It is already and will continue, unstopably to do so. Living and working in rural Scotland will be easier and more efficient as a result. Development of the digital fibre network was designated a national development in NPF3 and NPF4 should continue to support its ongoing national roll-out.*
- Where our natural resources for energy are  
*Wind (both on- and off-shore), wave and tide.*
- What emerging and future technologies we will need to plan for  
*(i) Renewable energy from wind, wave and tide*  
*(ii) Digital connectivity, especially in rural areas and the many advantages that brings (see comments above).*