



National Developments – Response Form

Please use the table below to let us know about projects you think may be suitable for national development status. You can also tell us your views on the existing national developments in National Planning Framework 3, referencing their name and number, and providing reasons as to why they should maintain their status. Please use a separate table for each project or development.

Name of proposed national development	The Energy Transition Zone
Brief description of proposed national development	A dedicated Energy Transition Zone in the area immediately adjacent to the Aberdeen Harbour South expansion where there will be a presumption in favour of the development, production, assembly, storage and/or distribution of infrastructure required to support energy transition, including renewable energy related industries (offshore wind, tidal, hydrogen and solar).
Location of proposed national development (information in a GIS format is welcome if available)	Adjacent to the Aberdeen Harbour South Extension which is included in NPF3.
What part or parts of the development requires planning permission or other consent?	Developments within the proposed site allocations will require planning permission.
When would the development be complete or operational?	The first phase will coincide with ScotWind licensing and developments in 2021/22.
Is the development already formally recognised – for example identified in a development plan, has planning permission, in receipt of funding etc.	Yes, both an Energy Transition Zone Policy and Site Allocations are included in the recently approved Proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2020.

Contribution of proposed national development to the national development criteria (maximum 500 words):

The proposed Energy Transition Zone in Aberdeen has the potential to be a transformational project for Scotland. It recognises the monumental changes taking place in the oil and gas sector in recent years, and the opportunity for Scotland to continue to play a major economic role in the energy sector where affordable, and low carbon energy is required. The ETZ will harness Scotland and the city region's expertise to help deliver the transition to net zero, will fast track the development and deployment of offshore wind and hydrogen and increase the pace and scale of investment into the existing, fast growing integrated energy cluster. It is focused on using land and infrastructure to bring together the industries, assets, businesses and people that will help deliver a sustainable, fair and inclusive transition to net zero.

In response to the developing Offshore Wind rounds and increased focus on other energy vectors such as hydrogen, Aberdeen City Council, Scottish Enterprise and ONE have been working with Aberdeen Harbour to determine how best the city region can attract new investment to accelerate delivery of net zero solutions and create a strong economic future as an integrated energy cluster. In response, the Energy Transition Zone concept has been developed and in February this year Aberdeen City Council identified land around South Harbour in the emerging Local Development Plan (Proposed Plan) as an Energy Transition Zone.

Some 58 Ha of developable land for the Zone has been identified to establish a designated area south of the city, that promotes new investment in a defined 'special economic area'. This will facilitate the expansion of an energy transition cluster in the immediate vicinity of Aberdeen Harbour South expansion, where there will be a presumption in favour of the development, production, assembly, storage and/or distribution of infrastructure required to support energy transition, including renewable energy related industries (offshore wind, tidal, hydrogen and solar).

Climate Change

The delivery of the Aberdeen ETZ, when seen as a central part of the broader electrification of the North Sea, will assist in realising the Scottish Government's climate change ambitions by significantly encouraging the sustainable delivery of offshore wind, green hydrogen and other low carbon solutions to Scotland and further afield.

The project specifically addresses Infrastructure Commission Scotland's objective of maximising and maintaining existing infrastructure. Specifically, land within the ETZ has been chosen to expressly allow for interconnectivity with existing and emerging infrastructure, and in particular South Harbour, but also to address declining industrial areas that will be uniquely regenerated as a result of the ETZ.

Making the best use of existing nearby industrial areas and creating an integrated energy cluster avoids road based movements, creating reduced carbon footprints between ETZ operators and their corresponding supply chains.

People

The City, and its people, has embraced the energy transition agenda and given its track record in Oil and Gas, would be the ideal exemplar in leading this worldwide process. Practically, Aberdeen is a good choice for business wishing to invest in offshore wind and other renewables. As well as its obvious geographical strength, people in and around Aberdeen possess skills that are immediately transferable to this sector. The existing Oil and Gas supply chain has already transformed itself into an energy supply chain. The physical infrastructure (including the new South Harbour) exists. Therefore, gradually transferring all of the components to accommodate a new ETZ sector will be a key priority for this project.

Inclusive Growth

Ever since the production of the Bay of Nigg Development Framework (BNDF) Supplementary Guidance (SG) there have been priorities to ensure that the design and delivery of future development within this area involves local communities, and in particular the residents of Torry, to ensure that tangible benefits are provided to local people stemming from such projects.

The ETZ relies upon the same objectives and seeks to incorporate such benefits to the local residents within this area to create an inclusive and mutually beneficial regeneration project for both local people and economic development within this area.

Supporting this, one of the key priorities for the ETZ will be the regeneration of East Tullos.

This will include the transition of East Tullos from a low-grade industrial estate with multiple vacancies to a thriving 'renewable energy park' within the heart of the ETZ core.

Place: The energy Coast

Our vision for the ETZ is to create an entirely self-sufficient carbon neutral exemplar development that balances the physical needs of the ETZ with an important recreational environment and a rich coastal landscape.

A fundamental part of this is the creation of an Energy Coast Park woven through the ETZ. The 'Energy Coast' will be developed through an extensive masterplan process with local people and community groups heavily involved. It will create priorities to enhance local landscape character, heritage, open space and biodiversity interspersed throughout the ETZ area.

Specifically, it will provide extensive opportunities for landscape and open space enhancements that will complement the more rugged and industrial character of the ETZ.

The key priorities for protecting and enhancing place within the ETZ is that this project will take cognisance and value of the existing cultural and local assets within this area as equally important as the economic development priorities.

Supporting information is provided as the 'The ETZ NPF4 Submission Document'

