

Response of Cramond & Barnton Community Council to NPF4 Consultation (responses in yellow)

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. Increased investment in newer forms of power generation (solar farms, wave energy, hydrogen power) and technology (e.g. self-driving people movement pods). Increased planting of woodlands. Require all new homes to be zero carbon and financially support sustainability measures in existing homes of less affluent owners.
- The opportunities that this could provide to support jobs and the economy. Scotland has increasing water collection/storage opportunities with potential for export of water to drier countries including South of England. Also energy export opportunities
- How places can be made more resilient to the long term impacts of climate change. More planting for sun/heat shelter in towns and green walls. Stop new development in flood plains and low lying coastal areas.
- What climate change-friendly places might look like in the future. As above

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. More rural living in rural towns/villages, supported better digital and public transport communications. Greener cities.
- How many and what types of homes we will need. Housing requirements need to be derived from population and economic forecasts at national, regional and local levels. Homes which are healthier – i.e. not adjacent to airports and major roads (noise, pollution). Homes with nearby outdoor space. Homes with integral workspaces (more people working from home due to digital technology). Integration of workspaces and housing. Zero carbon buildings.
- How we can encourage more people to live in rural Scotland. Providing small scale workspaces in/close to homes taking advantage of digital communications and remote working trends. Developing mixed use developments around rural towns and villages, not just house building as current practice. Enhancing and providing low cost rural public transport.
- Whether we could target development to address longstanding differences in health and quality of life. Stop growth of Edinburgh conurbation which is sucking wealth, jobs and leisure opportunities from other, often less advantaged, areas of Scotland
- Whether and where we might need new settlements, and regeneration of existing communities. New settlements (new towns/villages) in Central, West and North Scotland to achieve above. Need for strategic planning at Central Scotland level, including settlement, infrastructure and economic development planning.
- How places could be more inclusive, diverse, creative, vibrant, safe, resilient and empowering. Requiring developers of major housing developments (i.e. 500+ homes) to provide on-site office/workspaces, retail and community facilities – not just housing as in West Edinburgh.

3. What does planning need to do to enable development & investment in our economy to benefit everyone?

Think about:

- What our economy might look like in 2050. Need to plan for robots taking jobs. Potential for Scotland to be rejoin Europe and grow services for European markets thereby taking some jobs from South of the Border! More home working
- How planning can anticipate and respond to the economic challenges of Brexit. Pick key sectors in new technologies (e.g. biotech food production, fintech) where Scotland can lead and invest in these sectors, rather than trail behind other countries.
- What the key sectors might be and what infrastructure they may need to support them. As above
- How planning could stimulate and distribute growth. Strategic planning to develop new centres of technology and business in new/growth towns/villages rather than in main cities, which are already at limits of sustainable growth – especially Edinburgh
- What type, scale and distribution of business and industrial land and premises will be needed.
- Where significant investment sites might be. As above
- How economic opportunities could improve, or be accessible from, places where deprivation is concentrated. Focus investment and attraction of industry, etc. in less advantaged areas, with economic incentives (e.g. former SDA initiatives), rather than focusing development on growth areas in well established more affluent and congested cities (e.g. Edinburgh's International Business District and Crosswinds developments).

4. How can planning improve, protect and strengthen the special character of our places?

Think about:

- What special places will need protection in the future. Green spaces within and around cities – especially green belts/wedges and green corridors, country, regional and national parks, all our coastline – including need for environmental improvements to low quality coastal areas. Cultural sites, with investment to protect sites under threats from over-tourism.
- What the future might be for our rural, coastal and island communities. Good future if investment in communities, employment and infrastructure is increased. Bio-tech industrial food production and energy production opportunities
- How we could unlock the potential of vacant and derelict land. Enhance legal powers and funding to enable local authorities or state agency to take over and develop such sites at current use values. Focus planning policies on development of such sites rather than new green field and green belt sites.
- What our city and town centres might look like in the future. More user friendly – less congestion and better design. Need for stronger, design based, planning powers. City/town/local centres should be designed to provide shelter from wind and rain and include green walls and roofs.
- Whether we need to think about the concept of green belts. Need to make green belts more sustainable and useful to society – e.g. through increased investment in parklands, woodlands, development of more allotments and 'urban crofting' sites. Change legislation to enable purchase of developers' land banks by national housing agency (cf. SSHA, Scottish Homes) at current use (e.g. agriculture, non-use) values.
- How we can get the most out of our productive land. Create more allotments around cities. Increase protection of best agricultural land from development and land banking.

- How we can protect and restore peatland. Stop development of wind farms on peatland.
- How we can plan blue and green infrastructure. Establish arms-length public agency with robust powers and strong funding to plan and support development of blue/green infrastructure (e.g. powers, functions and funding of former Countryside Commission for Scotland in 1970s), when new country and regional parks were developed.
- How we can strengthen the character and heritage of our many different places. Provide more funding for community-based heritage initiatives, including those outwith disadvantaged areas, rather than reliance on declining Lottery funding, which is more difficult to source especially for heritage initiatives in more affluent areas, where heritage sites are often located.

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

Think about:

- What infrastructure we will need in the future. Infrastructure to support Zero Carbon policies and healthy lifestyles. Better inter-changeability between public transport services. Expansion of park-and rides and subsidised public transport services. More use of commuter and other fast ferry services across our main Firths – e.g. Clyde, Forth, Tay and Moray Firths. Roads suitable for self-driving vehicles and more segregated cycle paths. Modern high-speed railway networks throughout Scotland. Tram/light railway/self-driving bus networks in cities. Increased power and water supply infrastructure/networks to transfer power and water from remote areas to centres of demand in Scotland, UK and overseas.
- Need to adopt and ensure an Infrastructure First approach to all new development.
- How we can make better use of existing infrastructure capacity, including through innovation.
- Where transport connections will be needed to support future development. As above
- Where our international gateways, hubs and links will be in a post-Brexit world. New high tech international gateway/hub/new city in Central Scotland or Borders to relieve pressures on Edinburgh and Glasgow.
- How we can sustain our lifelines.
- How digital connectivity could change the way we live and work. Less need for city-based large scale office spaces – opportunities for dispersion of workspaces and jobs. Public sector agencies (e.g. HMRC, Scottish Government, Edinburgh City Council) should lead way in dispersing back-office jobs to more rural areas and out-of city locations (e.g. less advantaged towns in Lothians, Lanarkshire, Highlands, etc.). Provide office spaces and require proportion of homes in major development to provide home workspaces
- Where our natural resources for energy are. As above
- What emerging and future technologies we will need to plan for. Reduction in jobs through robotization – especially of agriculture and manufacturing industries. Bio-tech food production, etc.