

Responses to Fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) Call for Ideas

Report by: Keith Winter, Executive Director (Enterprise and Environment)

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

To seek approval for submissions to the fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) Call for Ideas. There are two relevant submissions: a Fife Council response (Appendix 1); and a regional submission relating to the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region area (Appendix 2).

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) approves the Fife Council response to the NPF4 Call for Ideas (as set out in Appendix 1 to this report) and remits to the Head of Planning to submit the Fife response to the Scottish Government on or before 31st March, 2020;
- (ii) endorses the regional response to the NPF4 Call for Ideas (as set out in Appendix 2 to this report), noting that Fife Council has worked with regional partners to develop this;
- (iii) notes that both responses pertain to the whole of Fife, including North East Fife; and
- (iv) notes that there will be further opportunities to engage with Scottish Government on the development of NPF4 over the coming months. It is expected that the draft NPF4 will be laid in the Scottish Parliament around September 2020, the draft will be consulted on and brought back for Parliamentary approval in 2021.

Resource Implications

There are no direct financial or staff resource commitments relating to the proposed submissions. The responses do set out a position in respect to managing both economic and demographic growth. Proactive management of growth is critical to dealing with the associated infrastructure demands and revenue pressures that this inevitably creates.

Legal & Risk Implications

The proposed submissions to the Call for Ideas do not commit Fife Council to any actions and do not have any legal or risk implications. However, failing to submit a

response at this stage may result in it being more difficult to engage in future stages of the development process for NPF4.

Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment does not require to be carried out at this stage as this report does not propose any change to existing Council policies. An Equality Impact Assessment may be required later in the NPF4 development process for more detailed Fife Council and/or regional submissions.

Consultation

The Head of Finance and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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 approval, before it can be adopted by the Scottish Ministers.
- 1.3 Before that, to help shape the draft, the Scottish Government wishes to stimulate an open conversation, involving a wide range of people and organisations, about what they will need to plan and build in the future. The “Call for Ideas” is an early part of this process.
- 1.4 The Call for Ideas consultation focuses on 5 key issues as set out below: -
 1. What development will we need to address climate change?
 2. How can planning best support our quality of life, health and wellbeing in the future?
 3. What does planning need to do to enable development and investment in our economy to benefit everyone?
 4. How can planning improve, protect and strengthen the special character of our places?
 5. What infrastructure do we need to plan and build to realise our long-term aspirations?

2.0 Planning for the Future

Overview

- 2.1 The purpose of planning is to manage the development and use of land in the long-term public interest. Past trends and future projections provide an idea of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. NPF4 will seek to take account of key environmental, demographic and economic change forecast during the lifetime of the framework as set out below.

Climate Change

- 2.2 As a result of climate change, consensus of scientific research is that Scotland's weather will become more variable, with hotter and drier summers and milder and wetter winters. Sea level rise will affect Fife's coastline. More summer heat waves, extreme temperatures and drought are expected. There will be more and heavier rainfall and less frost and snowfall. The 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.

Population

- 2.3 It is expected that the population of Scotland will grow by around 5% by 2041, as a result of migration from other parts of the UK and overseas. Scotland's 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.

Economy

- 2.4 Fife's economy relies on our significant natural resources and key sectors including food and drink, tourism, energy and financial services. The impacts and opportunities arising from Brexit on our future economy cannot be fully predicted and, in the long-term, there will be a 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.

Places

- 2.5 Fife's 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.

3.0 Further Information

- 3.1 Further information on the Call for Ideas and NPF4 is available at www.transformingplanning.scot. The website also contains details of events and other opportunities to get involved in consultation and discussion.

4.0 Conclusions

- 4.1 The proposed submissions to the NPF4 call for ideas set out an early position for Fife, both as a stand-alone authority and in its regional context, in relation to NPF4. Further updates will be brought to a Fife Council strategic committee as the consultation and development process progresses.

List of Appendices

1. Fife Council response to NPF4 Call for Ideas
2. Regional submission to NPF4 Call for Ideas relating to the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region area

Background Papers

- National Planning Framework 3, 2014
- Fife Development Plan
- SESplan Strategic Development Plan and TAYplan Strategic Development Plan 2017
- FIFEplan Local Development Plan, 2017
- Fife Economic Strategy, 2017
- Plan 4 Fife Local Outcome Improvement Plan, 2017
- Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Deal, August 2018
- Tay Cities City Deal, April 2019
- 'Climate Fife' Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan, 2019
- Regional Transport Strategies (SEStran 2015 and Tactran 2015) and Local Transport Plan/s
- Mid Fife Economic Action Plan (Emerging)
- Tay Cities Economic Strategy, September 2019
- Infrastructure Commission Report, January 2020

- [Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee](#), Friday, 6th March, 2020 (Item 5.4)

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