



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.

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| Name of proposed national development | Scotland’s Energy Transition Zone |
| Brief description of proposed national development | A dedicated Energy Transition Zone which will enable the growth of an integrated energy transition cluster focused on industries in energy generation and its associated supply chain that will make a major contribution to net zero. |
| 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? | Development will be phased. 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) | |
| <p>The Energy Transition Zone is a major transformational project for Scotland which will help accelerate the energy transition and drive to net zero, as well as playing a major role in the economic recovery required post Covid 19. The additional impact of the significant drop in oil price is having on the oil and gas sector, a major contributor to Scotland’s economic performance, reinforces the importance of such a project.</p> <p>The ambition is to create a world leading Energy Transition Zone (ETZ) to accelerate the delivery of net zero solutions and secure a strong economic future built on offshore wind: hydrogen and carbon capture, usage and strong (CCUS). Aberdeen’s proximity to the North Sea; global energy supply chain, skills and knowledge of major offshore projects, investment in research and</p> | |

technology development and ongoing investments including new Aberdeen Harbour South, combine to make the region a major player in energy transition.

The Energy Transition Zone will strengthen North East Scotland's position as a global integrated energy cluster and make a significant contribution to Scotland's international reputation as a major energy player and leader in climate change. The ETZ will assist in realising Scottish Government's climate change ambition by significantly encouraging the sustainable delivery of offshore wind, hydrogen and other low carbon solutions to Scotland and further afield. It will:

Harness the region's natural assets, physical infrastructure, business investment and expertise to help deliver the transition to net zero

Fast track the development and deployment of offshore wind and hydrogen and other renewable energy sources

Increase the pace and scale of investment into existing, fast growing integrated energy cluster

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. It will create priorities to enhance local landscape character, heritage, open space and biodiversity interspersed throughout the ETZ area. It will provide extensive opportunities for landscape and open space enhancements that will complement the more rugged and industrial character of the ETZ.

The ETZ will also be at the heart of innovation and technological advances within Scotland's energy sector – creating for cutting edge research into carbon reduction and low carbon solutions associated with energy related industries. The partners are committed to provide retraining and employment opportunities for the local community with a whole range of skills needed for the energy transition activities. This is a community that believes it has not benefited from oil and gas in the way other areas of the city has. This is a chance to address that.

Ultimately, the ETZ will not only be about transforming low carbon energy related industries within Scotland, but it will be about encouraging the regeneration of the neighbouring communities and ensuring local people are benefitting from national development opportunity. This proposal supports Inclusive Growth and directly supports the need for Scotland's Just Transition ensuring people and places are not disproportionately affected by the change needed to secure a low carbon future.

The ETZ will lever the significant investment in the new Aberdeen South Harbour, which as a new deep water port is in a unique position in Scotland to offer offshore wind assembly, deep water transit facilities and to lead on innovative marine transport energy solutions. It will create a place to attract and develop green energy related R&D, innovation and manufacturing, build on the strengths of the existing supply chain and the City's Universities, the industrial innovation capability that exists in the region and provide a focal point for the skills that are needed to support energy transition activities. Engaging the local community in the ETZ development and ensure they benefit from it through reskilling, upskilling and job creation is a key element of the proposal.

Ultimately, the entire ETZ could be both a significant contributor to Scotland's renewable energy production and an exemplar for carbon neutral development that will greatly assist Scotland in achieving its net zero target by 2045. At the same time, it has the potential to anchor energy supply chains, jobs and expertise in the region and Scotland