

Good morning,

The National Planning Framework 4 call is most welcome. Please kindly add the following three-part response. Many thanks.

Need for one-two bed dwellings: It takes a pandemic for politicians to call for AirBnB to have 'corporate responsibility', but here's to 'corporate responsibility of governments and planners' which ensures replenishment of smaller dwellings in the many communities long-stifled by second homes and short-term lets. Stifling arises as: young local people have to move out of the area as they cannot find somewhere to live within it; local workplaces cannot expand or replace staff, as potential workers/partners cannot relocate into the area so to take up offers of paid work; local people who wish to downsize once their families are away can only leave the area or remain in over-large properties; and people with increasing needs cannot stay in their community, when wishing to move closer to facilities or away from isolated, ill-adapted or inaccessible homes. This all undermines 'community/public engagement', as local properties are left empty for weeks, or used by many visitors who abuse or ignore the place. It also all undermines options for cost-effective home-based social care so leading directly to local people 'bed blocking' (i.e. remaining in hospital after their discharge dates) often far away.

Need for charities to start offering useful, kind services: Charities need to be nudged into offering services as required by people who wish to stay independently home-based, and away from call on emergency services and hospitalisation. The need is overdue because many charities exclusively deliver only large amounts of service as can be monitored for the purposes of state funding. One example much-needed small service (in return for a donation) comprises some ad hoc hours of respite care so to free an unpaid carer of a person at home with special needs or with increasing dementia. Another example is for people being discharged from hospital, who simply need a lift to get home and then two hours of help in each of the first two weeks at home so to get straight and build confidence.

Need for a central steer, with clearer National Performance Indicators in regard to 'communities': The pandemic proved the need for a central steer to local authorities on which jobs were to be designated as 'key workers', as that would have saved much unfair confusion and fear. This need was also raised by recent evaluation of regeneration projects: www.gov.scot/publications/evaluation-regeneration-capital-grant-fund-community-involvement-social-outcomes-success-factors/ which noted that community involvement is valued initially but little thereafter, and that targets/gains to be achieved are unclear. Response to the need is another key to successful 'planning and architecture' endeavour to redevelop fast-increasing amounts of derelict and underused town centres and out of town industrial and retail areas. Successful endeavour does not act in isolation from local communities and economic interests, otherwise the nation will be even more split into gentrified, exclusive areas, of executive homes, second-homes and short-term lets; and ghettos of financially- and socially-excluded people, especially when these have many energies and interests to harness. Successful endeavour also is not undermined by the profit motives of builders and contractors, even if they reap most from always flogging executive-sized dwellings. Consequently, success of any effective co-production and co-design endeavour now wholly depends upon instigating a centrally-steered initiative:

- To stem the anticipation by agencies that Freedom of Information Qs will be vexatious, often because agencies deliver policy without seeing necessity to enable communities to harness local interests, energies and assets; and without recognising where citizens and community groups constructively endeavour to remedy unresolved conflicts of interests and shoddy work. And
- To stem the lack of consensus within public partners and joint boards on strategic direction or on what is an 'improved service', since partners feel pressure to act unfairly to the public purse and to communities, due to fear of losing income.

With best wishes,