

NPF4 RTPI Scotland Chapter Workshops – Central

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On Thursday 27 February at Falkirk Business Hub, RTPI Scotland and the Scottish Government (SG) hosted the second of a series of Scotland wide chapter workshops providing planning professionals with the opportunity to influence preparatory stages of NPF4. The main purpose of the event was to generate ideas for NPF4 that could radically accelerate the reduction of carbon emissions.

Background

The event began with a SG presentation outlining ongoing work to refresh the National Planning Framework and produce the NPF4. RTPI Scotland outlined the responses to their recent members' survey regarding priorities for NPF4, the outcomes of which are as follows: climate change, theme format, ongoing inclusive engagement, deliverability and future proofing.

Discussion Groups

Participants were split into five groups, each reflecting diverse professional interests. Each group was asked to produce *climate emergency* focussed 'big ideas' for potential inclusion in NPF4, under the headings of People, Work or Place. A short presentation by each group concluded with an interactive vote, the top three then appraised for synergies with other national strategies.

Whew!

Key Outcomes

1. Town Centre First (Salvation of planet!)
 - Dispense with sequential test
 - Co-ordinate public investment to encourage co-location e.g. new FE institutions
 - Synergise with public and mental health strategies, e.g. culturally vibrant town centres would reduce social isolation
2. Prioritise Local Energy Opportunities (One solution!)
 - Require carbon statements with planning applications
 - Strengthen place-making objectives, e.g. support walkable neighbourhoods linked to travel hubs and workplaces
3. Zero Carbon Place (What would Greta do!)
 - Set energy consumption targets for individual local authorities
 - Encourage and support 'smart' energy systems, e.g. EV's storing surplus energy
4. Flood Risk (Flooded with ideas!)
 - Re-evaluate flood risk management benefits of upland catchments
 - Recognise contribution of smaller urban site to manage flood risk
 - Synergy with multiple benefits of CSGN

5. Low Carbon Investment (Ensure just transition!)

- Support transition of Grangemouth petro-chemical industries to low carbon investment zone
- Synergy with multiple benefit objectives of 'landscape scale' transformation programmes, e.g. Inner Forth Futures

Final Medal Rankings

Gold - Town Centre First

Silver - Low Carbon Investment

Bronze - Flood Risk

Conclusions

The event concluded with SG staff fielding questions from the floor, including timing of RSS's vis-à-vis NPF4 National Developments; Agents of Change and level of detail in NPF4 relating to housing targets. A well-deserved round of applause for Kate and Lisa rounded off a successful and thought provoking evening.

Special Thanks

Kate Houghton and Lisa Davison from RTPI Scotland for event management and facilitating discussions.

SG's Andy Kinnaird, Graham Robinson and Eric Dawson who participated in discussion groups and responded to detailed questions on format, content and programme for NPF4.

All (super enthusiastic) attendees from a broad range of professional backgrounds that made the event such as success.