


Attachment

NPF4 Call for Ideas

 responses to your questions

1. What development will we need to address climate change?

The Committee on Climate Change has concluded that, in order to deliver net zero by 2050, electricity generation in the UK will need to double and low carbon electricity quadruple, compared to current levels. This will require a major expansion of low carbon electricity infrastructure in Scotland, including distribution and transmission networks, as well as new generation assets. These major development projects to address climate change will need to be delivered while respecting the needs of local communities and the environment.

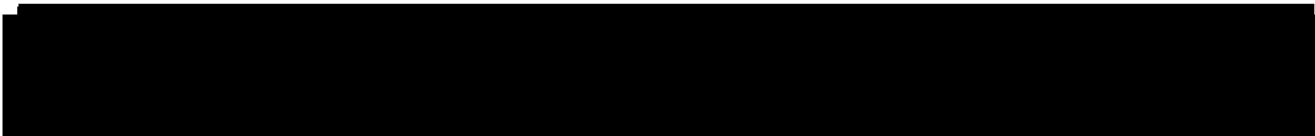
In order to deliver the developments required to achieve net zero, Scotland will need a planning system that is both effective in enabling development to proceed efficiently and fair to all stakeholders. That in turn will require a combination of adequate funding, efficient processes and appropriate resourcing. It is important to take opportunities such as the current consultation to consider the future challenges for planning in Scotland and how these will be met.

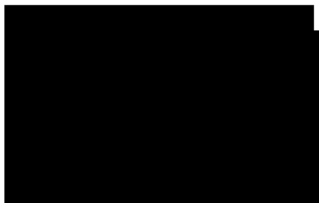
Last year the First Minister Of Scotland declared a climate emergency and the Scottish Parliament passed a new Climate Change Act, which set stronger, legally binding targets of a 75% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (on 1990 levels) and reaching net-zero emissions by 2045. The climate crisis is deepening and it is time for the Scottish Government to set out its plans for delivering on these commitments. Alongside the revised Climate Change Plan and Energy Strategy, NPF4 is a central pillar of the Scottish Government's response to the climate emergency, as it should enable appropriate development to address climate change.

Following the passing of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, the next NPF will now cover a ten year period – the decade which the IPCC has identified as the crucial period for tackling the climate crisis if we are to succeed in limiting global temperature rise to 1.5C. Substantial changes to planning policy are required to meet our new climate targets and accelerate Scotland's transition away from fossil fuels towards a 100% low carbon future. There should be a requirement to consider the climate impact of every development in the planning system, beyond just energy generation projects, including at local planning authority level. The necessary guidance and resources must be created to support decision makers in this assessment.

Announcing the 2019 Programme for Government, the First Minister highlighted that “the global climate emergency means that the time is right for wide-ranging debate on more radical planning policy options” and the need for planning policy to “more radically reduce emissions”. NPF4 needs to create the framework for that radical reduction in emissions in every area.

A clear, positive vision for the planning framework in Scotland would be welcomed across the energy industry to ensure that climate change mitigation is prioritised and significant weight in the





planning balance is given to proposals that contribute to Scotland's targets. In order to facilitate the timely delivery of substantial volumes of new low carbon energy infrastructure to meet Net Zero, [REDACTED] considers that The NPF4 should reduce the weight attached to visual impacts in planning decisions in order to allow the development of renewable energy projects and enable Scotland to reach the net zero emissions target by 2045. Also, the new NPF should include a 'presumption in favour' of repowering and life extension (using larger and more efficient turbines) for onshore wind, and planning policy should clearly support proposals for long-term use of windfarm sites, as well as the co-location of compatible technologies such as storage and solar.

The review of the climate change plan (due to be laid before parliament in April 2020), the 2020 energy statement and NPF4 will be opportunities where the Government can display leadership in how the environment, climate, energy and planning portfolios are all working towards the same (net zero) goal by supporting technologies such as pumped storage, solar, hydrogen and on and offshore wind, noting the potential of projects to expand.

2. How can planning best support our quality of life, health and wellbeing in the future?

No comment.

3. What does planning need to do to enable development and investment in our economy so that it benefits everyone?

Planning recommendations to enable development and investment in the Scottish economy to benefit everyone

In relation to energy, current Policy states that "the planning system should recognise the national benefit of indigenous coal, oil and gas production in maintaining a diverse energy mix and improving energy security." This statement is outdated and planning policy must now be amended to reflect the climate emergency which the First Minister has declared and the Scottish Government has committed to tackling.

For the planning system to support the national objective of delivering net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, NPF4 must signal the transition from fossil fuel to low carbon developments in Scotland and create an enabling framework for full deployment of a low carbon mix across Scotland. This particularly requires grid scale commercial developments, energy storage, and community renewable energy projects.

In order to transition away from burning fossil fuels in heat and transport, there will be greater reliance on electrification in these sectors in the future. The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) has suggested that low carbon electricity generation must quadruple in order to meet the new climate targets. NPF4 must enable a rapid scaling up of renewable electricity generation in Scotland over the next decade. It should also be noted that the Government has committed to reviewing Scotland's Energy Strategy in light of the new climate targets, and has indicated that the current

