

Grampian Chapter NPF4 Workshop

12 February 2020, Woodhill House, Aberdeen

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Background and Attendance

This event was organised as part of a series of NPF4 events with RTPI Scotland Chapters organised for Scottish Government across Scotland in early 2020. The purpose of each two hour event was to give planning professionals an opportunity to voice their suggestions for National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) in a workshop setting, as well as discuss the issues and challenges in taking these ideas forward. This allowed Scottish Government to gather professionals' views to support them as they draft NPF4. Representatives from Scottish Government Planning and Architecture were on hand to outline the background, timeline and main goals of NPF4, and answer any questions.

Participants took part in facilitated discussions, having been asked to come up with a policy or project for NPF4 that would contribute to achieving Scotland's becoming a zero carbon society by 2045. These policies or projects were fit under the theme of People, Work or Place. Presentation of ideas, discussion and voting followed, to pick the 'best' project – judged on innovation, effectiveness and deliverability.

The Grampian NPF4 Chapter event had 25 participants from a range of professional backgrounds. The main ideas generated are discussed below:

People

Group 1 – Common heat

- Focussed on district heating (low carbon heat supply)
- Usually delivered by local authorities and housing associations → these are usually limited to council and social housing
- To change this, this group wanted to create a project to scale up district heating beyond its current implementations (i.e. roll it out on a large scale)
- Wanted to connect lots of different systems to make it more resilient
- Think it is important to develop the role of anchor developments to include this i.e. hospitals, swimming pools etc.
- But mainly need to look into how to persuade owner occupiers to change energy supply. Placing it in the NPF4 will highlight it as a priority
- Understand that there is a conflict with transport infrastructure so wanting to improve compatibility between both developments



This was the 'winning' idea in the world cup. Positives include:

- Could help reduce fuel poverty, therefore addressing inequality and promoting inclusion
- Improves air quality
- Can be a community led project

Group 2 – Implementing ecosystems services and functions

- Looking at how much carbon we can save by highlighting the importance of ecosystem services in local planning systems
- This group wanted more data to be gathered and understood on how individual developments will affect different ecosystems and utilise this research to inform planning, e.g. we know that green infrastructure is a carbon sink, but we don't have much if any data to quantify this in the Scottish context
- More questioning and understanding of the ecosystems impact by government could enable more effective solutions

Work

Group 3 – Connectivity

- This group looked at the increasing requirement for connectivity in all forms
- Suggested having a new framework for the provision of this on a regional and national scale

Group 4 – District heating

- Looked into tackling fuel poverty
- In Denmark, district heating is very common and leads the way
- District heating is a way of using heat from waste plants and taking away combi boilers

Positives include:

- No waste
- Uses renewable heat
- Once it is captured it is used and you can choose an area to give it to should there be any excess
- It is a passive way of reducing your carbon footprint

Place

Group 5 – Invested place

- This group focused on making the best use of existing infrastructure and buildings as possible, i.e. making the best use of embodied carbon.
- This included repurposing and reusing resources to create 'new' infrastructure rather than building an entirely new development
- This will invest in and build for communities and the environment rather than building for profit





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Group 6 – Green infrastructure standards

- This group wanted to merge various green and blue infrastructure into one green standard (or policy) that is cohesive and easy to understand
- Examples of elements included: self-composting sites, carbon offsetting and food growing
- In terms of NPF4, the group wanted everything in NPF4 to adhere to this standard or policy



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