

National Planning Framework 4

Scotplan 2050 Roadshow Workshop Ideas



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Context

During February and March the NPF4 team hosted a series of roadshow events across Scotland. Community and school events were held in Aviemore, Aberfeldy, Buckie, Dumfries, Foxbar, Hawick, Helmsdale, Inverness, Kyle of Lochalsh, Mallaig, Oban, Rothesay, Stirling and at The Gathering in Glasgow.

Participants were asked to use postcards to share their ideas for how NPF4 can deliver positive change in Scotland under the themes of **Climate Change, People, Work, Place, Delivery**. People were also asked to name their '**One Big Thing**' that they want to see change in Scotland.

The postcards gave space for people to write:

- What they would like to see
- Because...
- Who can best make this happen?

Method

This informal analysis has focused on the data collected about ‘what I would like to see happen’, as this is the part of the postcards that was consistently completed. The data has been reviewed and categorised according to the themes that emerged.

Following initial review the categories were refined both in relation to an overview understanding of the data, and planning policy areas as grouped in current SPP/NPF4 review.

All data was then grouped into one of sixteen final categories. This presentation makes a mostly descriptive qualitative analysis of the data in those categories, and highlights some sample quotes which illustrate common or particularly pertinent issues.

There is some quantitative analysis of the ‘One Big Thing’ category. It was felt it wasn’t appropriate to analyse numbers and incidence in other categories, as people were not asked to prioritise their suggestions, but to be creative and propose as many ideas as they liked.

This summary is provided in addition to a list of all the postcard ideas gathered at www.transformingplanning.scot

Categories



OVERVIEW

Where did people focus their ideas?

We had 180 participants and received 1110 ideas from 13 events. The distribution of ideas across the six postcard themes is shown opposite.

As can be seen, ideas under Climate Change and People alone make up almost half of the total of ideas submitted.

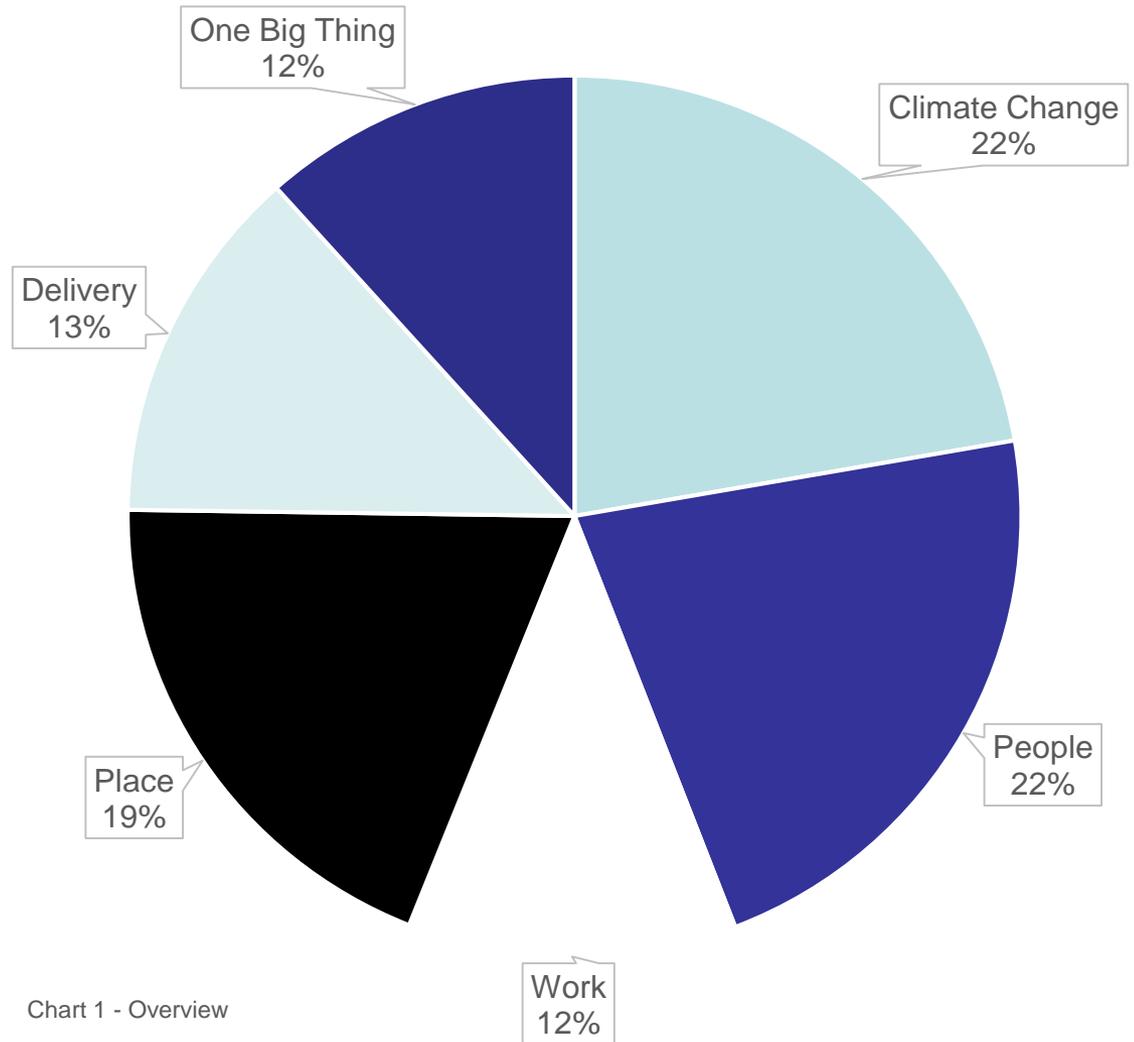


Chart 1 - Overview

Climate Change ^{1/3}

247 ideas for tackling climate change were received. The ideas proposed, perhaps unsurprisingly, most commonly fell into the Energy Reform, Transport and Rewilding/Biodiversity/Pollution categories.

Energy Reform

- There is frequent support for expansion of renewable energy generation, and this tends to focus on localised energy networks, including district heating
- Wind, solar and hydro technologies are those most commonly mentioned
- There is support for Scotland seeking to be an innovation leader in renewable energy generation

Transport

- Taking all of the ideas together there is very strong consensus for an integrated transport system, that prioritises active travel infrastructure and free or low cost public transport. There is frequent support for limiting car access to towns and cities
- Support for electric vehicle infrastructure is widespread



Climate Change ^{2/3}

Rewilding/Biodiversity/Pollution

- There is consensus across ideas that habitat and biodiversity should be enhanced, not just protected. The particular reference to peatlands and native forest is notable.
- There is support for biodiversity net gain in new development
- Several comments regarding agricultural methods were made

Building fabric

- There is strong support for improving the energy efficiency of buildings, both via funding incentives and standards

Decision making

- There are a huge number of diverse ideas about changing the way decisions are made, including the ways in which different weights and values are ascribed in those decisions. There is consensus that consistency of information is important, as is attaching high significance to natural environment requirements/standards.

Climate Change ^{3/3}

Strategic land use

- Flooding, and flood mitigation and defence, are the most commonly proposed ideas in this category. Consensus that development should be directed away from areas at risk of flooding, and for natural flood management to be preferred to engineered responses

Climate Change – Sample quotes

What would you like to see in Scotland in 2050?

“Housing driven towards zero carbon through higher quality - new builds and better renovations. Incentives for people to encourage them to go green.” – Inverness

“Every development must have at its heart the idea of improving the environment and society - not causing harm is not enough.” – The Gathering

“A policy framework which makes it easier for local authorities to push the climate change policy and requirements for change.” – Inverness

“An integrated renewables energy model for transport, industry and housing with the participation of communities in decision making.” – The Gathering

“No large scale wind development. Very much approve of micro and very small hydro schemes. Create power more where it may be used.” – Mallaig

“International co-operation to promote conservation, restoration and management of wetlands, peatlands, forests and agriculture land, including banning of windfarms on peatland.” – Foxbar

“More sustainable land use - sustainable farming, sustainable forestry.” – Dumfries

“Climate change is thoroughly mitigated by natural means rather than hard built flood defences.” – Aviemore

“Much better, integrated, carbon-neutral travel.” – Foxbar

“Make Scotland a centre of excellence creating green jobs in bigger numbers.” - Stirling



People ^{1/4}

243 ideas were put forward under the ‘people’ theme’. Community support, infrastructure and housing are especially common categories. ‘Community support’ and ‘infrastructure’ were particularly hard to maintain separately in this respect - the categorisation has been judged so that ‘Community support’ covers ideas that relate more to either how development can enable provision of services, or that direct provision of services (beyond the remit of planning). Infrastructure covers those ideas that directly propose providing a particular type of community building, e.g. a health centre.

Community support

- This category captures a huge range of community infrastructure and facilities, as well as the resources (beyond the remit of planning) to deliver programmes and activities
- Ideas span education (all ages and stages), wellbeing, healthcare, specialist housing and communities, culture and sport
- There is strong consensus of support for development and design that fosters diverse and integrated communities



People ^{2/4}

Infrastructure

- There is strong support for green infrastructure, including food growing space, in rural and urban Scotland
- Digital infrastructure is viewed as promoting inclusion and better quality of life
- There is support for integrated infrastructure that meets community needs

Housing

- There is wide support for more affordable or 'cheaper' housing
- Mixed and intergenerational housing provision is mentioned a number of times, across different locations
- The need for rural housing that better suits people's needs in rural areas is mentioned several times

People ^{3/4}

Decision making

- There is a significant consensus for taking better consideration of community views in planning decisions, including through citizens' panels/assemblies

Ways of working

- There is a strong focus on creating better job opportunities in rural areas
- It is especially notable in the current context, there is support for decentralising economic activity, and reducing the need to commute

People ^{4/4}

Other categories

- The People theme is notable for having ideas spread across a large number of categories
- Land reform, and particularly greater community ownership is mentioned several times
- Similar ideas to those that emerge under the climate change theme are also repeated here, including more energy efficient homes, support for enhancing the natural environment, avoiding housing development on flood plains, and support for public transport and enabling active travel. This implies that policies primarily associated with tackling climate change are also perceived as an opportunity to improve quality of life

People – Sample quotes

What would you like to see in Scotland in 2050?

“Building regulations are a minimum standard - we need to go beyond compliance to encourage best practice...” – Stirling

“People meeting to take part in physical sport activities as well as creative and cultural experiences.” – Foxbar

“Communities where people feel they belong and are valued.” – Oban

“More collective living, working and playing where all ages learn from each other and grow together.” – Hawick

“Health and wellbeing as a core element of town planning healthy homes and buildings plus social spaces and areas for community connection.” – Dumfries

“More affordable housing.” – Buckie High School

“Some rural areas are structurally fragile [...] Immediate steps to build community capacity to start to remedy this.” – Dumfries

“Greater community input and taking responsibility and ownership of climate change. Better and effective community engagement.” – Stirling

“Innovative + affordable schemes to encourage + enable younger people to own their own properties in rural areas.” – Mallaig

“Sustainable development - support people by having good (green) housing and jobs in our rural communities.” – Hawick

“15 minute towns + cities everything you need for daily life can be reached by bike or on foot in 15 minutes.” – Dumfries



Work ^{1/2}

132 ideas were submitted in the Work theme. The category including ideas around business and employment has been denoted 'Ways of working' to reflect that most ideas are about how places should enable working patterns that support wellbeing, climate change goals, and more even distribution of opportunity, rather than ideas about development to support specific types of business or industry.

Ways of working

- There is widespread support for increasing opportunities for homeworking. 'How' this could be done focuses on digital infrastructure
- A greater diversity of job opportunities in rural areas is frequently proposed
- There is a recurrent theme of 'green' and 'sustainable' work, and recognising the economic potential of the natural environment
- Several postcards highlight the importance of allocating business land in locations close to supporting infrastructure (especially transport)



Work ^{2/2}

Circular and local economy

- There is support for a circular economy approach from across roadshow locations that also supports local economic opportunity and community wellbeing

Infrastructure

- The need for infrastructure - transport, digital, green, flexible workspace - to support economic activity clearly emerged

Decision making

- There is some consensus about the need for flexibility and responsiveness in planning
- This is alongside support for strong leadership from NPF4

Placemaking

- The role of regenerated high streets and town centres is highlighted several times under this theme - frequently tied in with infrastructure and transport issues

Work – Sample quotes

What would you like to see in Scotland in 2050?

“Business valuing the local environment - move to circular economy - minimising resource use.” – Dumfries

“Planning needs to act as an integrator - not as end to itself - to build a sustainable country - health provisions, business, housing, transport with the optimum mix for a sustainable future.” – Stirling

“Improved connectivity for businesses to be set up across the country (digital + road improvements).” – Kyle

“Nationwide access to high speed broadband.” – Hawick

“Economic regeneration that is place focused, which doesn't result in either/or options which promote short term growth. Link to local place plans.” – Dumfries

“Recognise the value of the natural environment as an economic asset and resource - place to work/place to provide work.”

“An economy not based on pure financial return. Focus on wellbeing and community. Products sourced locally. All business based on considerations of social and global benefits - no harm to the environment.

Local people involved in local business rather than working for big remote chains

Circular economy - waste is reduced because new materials are no longer being brought in

Costings take into account things other than money - tender processes focus on social/environment benefits over financial” – Oban

“Less focus on major centres/facilities - support rural community regeneration.” – Dumfries

“I think many people should work from home so they stay close to their family.” – Breadalbane Academy



Place ^{1/3}

213 ideas were proposed under the Place theme. The volume of ideas promoting either the role of the natural environment or green infrastructure in fostering good quality places is especially notable. The role of community infrastructure in general, and involvement of communities in decision making are also frequent suggestions.

Rewilding/Biodiversity/Pollution

- There is strong agreement between ideas proposed about the role of the natural environment in creating good places.
- The large majority of ideas focus on promoting natural habitats and biodiversity, through new national park designations or stronger policy protections for existing 'wild' land, native woodland, and marine designations.
- Also proposed is the use of green infrastructure to create biodiversity corridors, and improve quality of urban places.

Place ^{2/3}

Empty/Vacant land and buildings

- There is strong support for focusing on reuse of brownfield land. Specific suggestions include targeted funding, incentives for landowners, and new powers for local authorities.

Placemaking

- There is strong consensus on the role of town centres in supporting good places. This is especially notable alongside the focus on reuse of brownfield and derelict land and buildings.

Decision making

- There is strong consensus that communities should be more involved in decision making, including through direct community control over land and assets, preparation of local place plans, and devolution of budgets.



Place ^{3/3}

Infrastructure

- Infrastructure of all types and scales is proposed as a way of improving the quality of places
- There is especially strong consensus about the importance of green infrastructure (from local scale tree planting to regional scale networks)
- Infrastructure to support sustainable tourism is proposed several times

Place – Sample quotes

What would you like to see in Scotland in 2050?

“Culture proofing as a core part of the planning process.”
– Inverness

“Active citizens + genuine participation.” – The Gathering

“Better incentives or toolkits for private sector to bring derelict land back into use and prioritise projects with a climate/energy or biodiversity.” – Stirling

“More people living in city centres & public transport supporting this.” – The Gathering

“Every citizen is in walking distance of meeting space for hubs; libraries; community centres; cultural eco-system; creative industries.” – Foxbar

“Stop building on flood plains.” – Stirling

“Improving infrastructure and transport to attract visitors and workers to rural areas.” – Hawick

“More greenery in town and city” – Breadalbane Academy

“More powers to the planning authority to CPO or take enforcements against landowners who are not engaged in the betterment of the community area.” – Rothesay

“Multi purpose town centres - not just retail. Green space, community spaces, play, entertainment and space to gather and share.” – Dumfries

“Place making must prioritise climate change/environmental improvement/enhancements to be present in every decision / aspect of development.” – Inverness



Delivery ^{1/2}

146 ideas were proposed under the Delivery theme. Notwithstanding that quantitative analysis has been judged unsuitable in general for this dataset, the overwhelming majority of ideas in this theme fall into either the transport or infrastructure categories.

Transport

- There is strong consensus between ideas for integrated and accessible public transport, and improved active travel infrastructure.
- Public transport suggestions tend to focus on rail - although it is notable that ideas tend to discuss new stations or services, rather than new lines.
- Ideas also support a switch to electric vehicles, both for public transport and private use
- Several comments specifically oppose the building of new motorways or trunk roads.

Infrastructure

- The majority of proposals support expanding digital infrastructure.

Delivery ^{2/2}

Decision making

- A significant diversity of themes is discussed under this category, ranging from greater community influence on decision making, to monitoring implementation of NPF4, and ensuring close ties between NPF4 and the Infrastructure Investment Plan.

Delivery – Sample quotes

What would you like to see in Scotland in 2050?

“Policy is to decant tasks/responsibility from local government to community groups - this requires adequate funding.” – Hawick

“Central and local government departments and all agencies working in harmony with development industry and communities in understanding needs and addressing them together, and investing in them. Delivery Programme has a coordinating role.” – Inverness

“Much more renewable energy - the future economy is all going to be driven by green energy.” – Stirling

“Connectivity (digital and transport) to a level that enables all regions to participate.” – Inverness

“Better transport in rural area.” – Breadalbane Academy

“Robust enforcement of placemaking principles prioritising people and enabling social and community living.” – The Gathering

“Planning needs to reflect the economic reality of local authority budget reductions and seen to enable and allow development in efficient ways to maximise use of infrastructure i.e. higher town centre density and less urban sprawl/expansion.” – Dumfries

“Connections - blue and green and grey to connect habitats, build resilience to flooding and connect people locally with the environment, and connect heritage assets.” – Rothesay

“All infrastructure planned and built with community + environment in mind. This has to start in 2020.” – Oban



One Big Thing

129 ideas were submitted under this postcard theme. The categories break down as shown opposite.

Ideas fitting in the Decision Making, Energy Reform, Transport and Rewilding/Biodiversity/Pollution categories notably dominate the submissions.

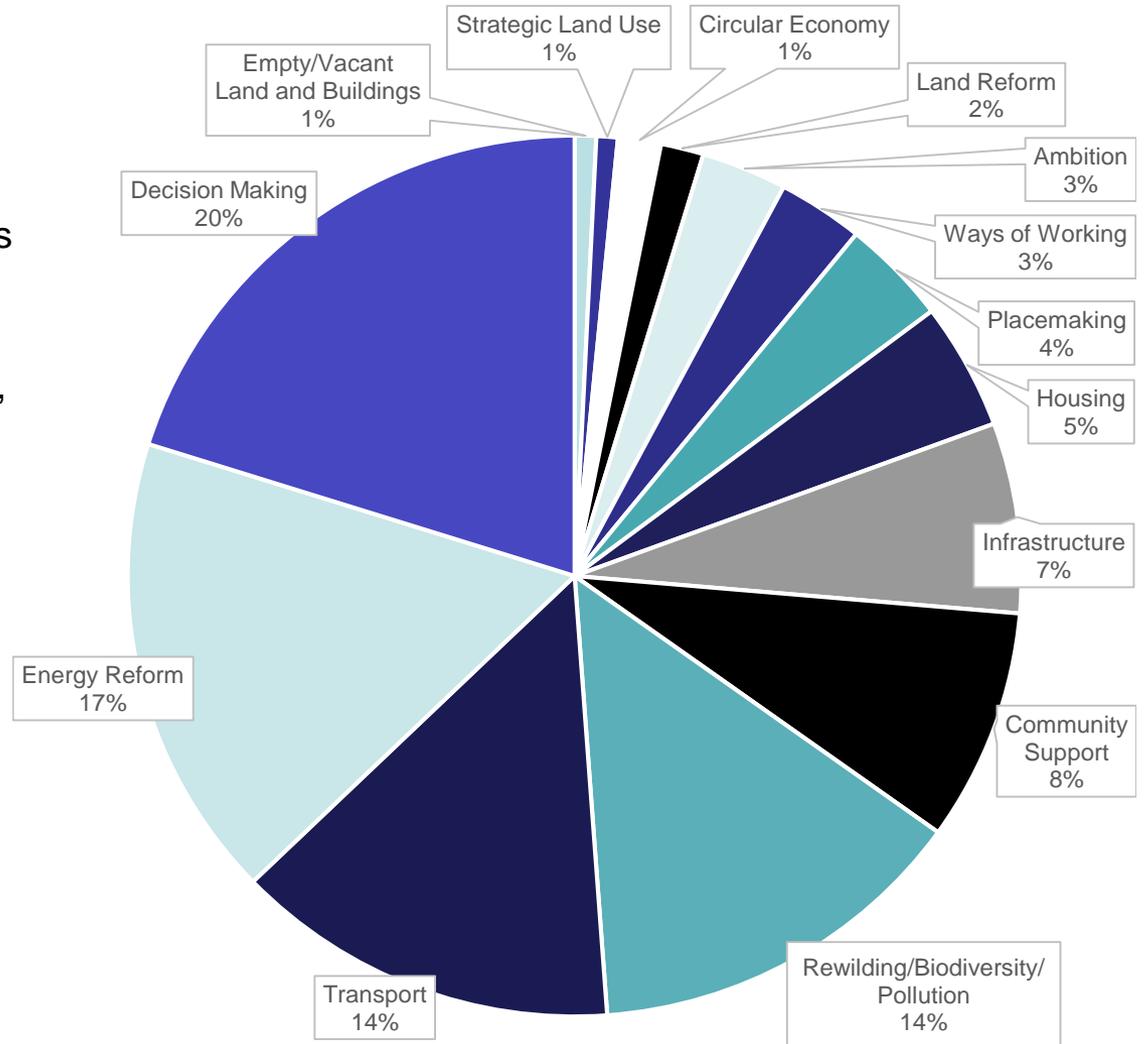


Chart 2 – One Big Thing



One Big Thing ^{1/2}

The chart on the previous slide, which categorises ideas proposed as the ‘One Big Thing’ that people would like to see happen in Scotland by 2050, reflects the major themes that emerged in the analysis of the data as a whole. The way that decisions are made, both in terms of who influences decisions, and how policies and initiatives are linked, is clearly a major priority for those people who participated in the roadshow. In terms of policy areas energy and the natural environment are perceived as important elements of the Scotland that people want to see emerge by 2050. In particular:

Energy reform

- There is consensus of support for renewable and carbon neutral energy generation. This tends to focus on smaller scale generation, in preference to e.g. large scale windfarms.

Rewilding/Biodiversity/Pollution

- Protection of peatland, native forest, and other support for biodiversity is frequently mentioned.

One Big Thing ^{2/2}

Transport

- Transport is also a key issue, and notably amongst school pupils and rural communities who participated in the roadshow. As with the rest of the data, ideas focus on public transport and active travel.

Ways of working

- It is worth noting given our current circumstances regarding remote working due to the COVID-19 crisis that there is support for enabling greater homeworking, and therefore reducing the need for regular commuting.

One Big Thing – Sample quotes

What would you like to see in Scotland in 2050?

“More communities working together to share ideas and experience to better their areas for both locals and visitors” – Mallaig

“...so clear that implementation isn't always consistent so I'd like to see more on implementation and monitoring and reporting” – Stirling

“Move to affordable clean power speeded up greatly” – Foxbar

“No more large scale on shore windfarms. Proper support for small scale sustainable energy systems, owned and managed by local communities” – Helmsdale

“Vibrant communities in rural areas with a range of ages” – Kyle

“Maintenance of great wild space, especially those with scientific distinction and peatlands with wildlife corridors through built-up areas.” – Foxbar

“Integrated affordable public transport.” – Foxbar

“A fundamental change from an office working environment to one where people are encouraged to stay in their own community and work remotely. Travel issues associated with rush hour traffic world gone and local economies would benefit.” – Stirling



For more information and other resources:



www.transformingplanning.scot



<https://blogs.gov.scot/planning-architecture>



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