

Young Planners NPF4 Roundtable 4 – Delivery

11 August 2020

This event was organised as part of a wider engagement programme undertaken by RTPI Scotland and commissioned by the Scottish Government for the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). The four young planner roundtables aimed to engage planners in the first ten years of their career and enable them to provide new thinking and ideas for the new NPF.

Context

This session was based on the delivery of NPF4 and was 'kick-started' by Brian Evans to initiate creative thinking on the topic and challenge and expand the ideas from the young planners during the discussion. Craig McLaren provided an overview of important changes to the National Planning Framework format and content.

Kick-starter Introduction

- Visualising the future of Scotland with hope is important for planning professionals, as is understanding and recognising the links between lots of different elements e.g. climate change, migration, inequalities. Learn from the past and take these lessons forward for the future.

Format

- NPF3 was accused of being ambiguous. NPF4 should therefore be well designed, written in Layman's terms and must update relevant aspects of its data over its lifetime to remain current and clear.
- NPF4 should be a narrative driven story, in other words a human document that is user friendly and tells the story of the NPF.
- NPF4 should be an enabling document, telling you what you can do and not what you cannot do. It must be positive, visual and inspiring.
- Rename the NPF the 'Plan for Scotland' and link it to the government's National Performance Framework and outcomes.
- Join the land use plan and marine plan together.
- There is a need to ensure that NPF4 supports other Government strategies, and, that they support the NPF. It should be a two-way relationship.

Support

- NPF4 must have political backing at an early stage i.e. a 'first minister's document'. This support means it is easier to materialise the big ideas on the ground.
- Making the business case for the importance of planning needs to be made clearer.



Funding

- Strong funding gives NPF4 the opportunity to deliver the visionary outcomes it contains. NPF4 should be more inventive about getting investment.
- Policies only work on new developments demonstrating that we can link up planning with capital investment priorities.
- Use funding mechanisms from regional spatial strategies e.g. city region deal money.
- NPF4 should be accompanied by a capital investment programme that sets out how the government will resource the ambitions it contains and help lever in private sector investment in appropriate services.

Delivering Outcomes

- Planning performance statistics need to be broader. NPF4 needs to have an outcomes based performance management system that measures its success in delivering its outcomes. A baseline needs to be agreed but a quantifiable outcome may not always be possible, in which case a more holistic view of what the outcomes should look like should be in place. A set of guiding principles would be helpful as well as building in review phases to make sure NPF4 is delivering successfully.
- The government should have a 'Department for the Future' to horizon scan on key issues and trends and where planning links non-planning parts of government to assess and agree what is required make Scotland resilient.
- NPF4 should contain a roadmap of delivering outcomes i.e. how they will be delivered and where it's going to happen and this should be have an oversight group to check trends and possible changes that may be required.

Big Ideas from roundtable:

- NPF4 should be a narrative driven story.
- NPF4 should be an enabling document - positive, visual and inspiring.
- Rename the NPF the 'Plan for Scotland'.
- Join the land use plan and marine plan together.
- NPF4 must be a 'first minister's document'.
- NPF4 should be accompanied by a capital investment programme.
- NPF4 should contain a roadmap of delivering outcomes.