



Programme For Engagement Update November 2020

In January 2020 the Scottish Government published its Programme for Engagement for the pre-engagement phase of the development of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). It set out a range of opportunities for people to become engaged in the development of our long term plan for the future development of Scotland.

This document provides a further update on engagement so far and sets out plans for engagement in the future.

Timetable for NPF4

During the early engagement phase, we were working towards submitting a draft NPF4 to the Scottish Parliament in September 2020, and carrying out formal public consultation at that point. To reflect the different environment and pressures that we, and our stakeholders are now working in, we now expect to lay the draft NPF4 in Parliament in Autumn 2021, with a position statement being published in November 2020.

Participation Achievements (January to March 2020)

The main focus of our work between January and March 2020 was to give people an opportunity to tell us their aspirations for a future Scotland and also set out how the planning system can help deliver those aspirations.

- **Call for Ideas** – on 9 January 2020, we opened our Call for Ideas. We encouraged all individuals and stakeholders to participate in our engagement events, and invited people to send their ideas to us. We extended the closing date for the Call for Ideas by a month to 30 April 2020.
- **Resource pack** – we provided materials aimed at a range of audiences to help people engage. These resources included:
 - the first edition of our Programme for Engagement
 - a set of questions to help people focus on some key themes
 - a leaflet summarising the call for ideas process
 - a self-read presentation
 - details of a community grant fund
 - a doodle map and ideas postcards for stakeholders to submit ideas
 - blog articles
 - an overview video
 - a guide on how to hold your own community workshop

- **Think Pieces** – we asked a variety of our stakeholders to provide [think piece](#) contributions on Scotland 2050 to stimulate discussion. We received 35 contributions which we have published on our website.
- **National Developments** – we opened our [invitation to submit](#) suggestions for projects to be considered as national developments within NPF4 and invited comments by 30 April. We published a factsheet setting out background information on the role and purpose of national developments as well as an online response form for submitting proposals.
- **Housing Technical Paper** – we published a [Housing Technical Discussion Paper](#) which sets out our current thinking on setting targets for the use of land for housing. Comments were invited by 30 April and a stakeholder group was ‘virtually’ convened to discuss the paper in more detail.
- **Scottish Planning Policy Background Information Notes** – to assist stakeholders we published [information notes](#) on 32 policy areas that need to be addressed by NPF4. Each note sets out the existing policy, what has changed, and issues to consider. The aim of the policy note package was to inform stakeholders to assist with early engagement and their contributions through the call for ideas.
- **Supporting Regional Spatial Strategies** – we have been liaising with planning authorities to support the development of indicative regional spatial strategies to help inform the development of the draft NPF4. We offered financial resource to assist the facilitation of their discussions. We discussed scope for further support with Heads of Planning Scotland.
- **Digital Mapping** - We provided access to authorities to an online mapping portal to assist in their regional spatial strategies.
- **Impact Assessment** – we published a [guide to NPF4 impact assessment](#) alongside our [Integrated Impact Assessment Scoping Report](#) and we invited comments and evidence to support the range of statutory and non-statutory assessments which will inform NPF4 by 30 April.
- **Research** - we published research on [Rural Planning](#) Policy to 2050.
- **NPF4 Scotplan 2050 Roadshow** – We organised a programme of events across the country to give people the opportunity to consider key questions on the NPF. We undertook events in Aberfeldy, Aviemore, Buckie, Dumfries, Hawick, Helmsdale, Inverness, Kyle of Lochalsh, Mallaig, Oban, Paisley, Rothesay, and Stirling. In addition, we were able to undertake workshops with Buckie High School and Breadalbane Academy in Aberfeldy. 180 participants contributed to workshop sessions and we had conversations with around 100 people at our drop in sessions. We apologised to those who were signed up to one of the 7 events that we had to cancel and issued a blog article showing how to get involved in a similar way to contributing at a workshop.
- **Meetings / Seminars / Conferences** – We attended events organised through: Built Environment Forum Scotland; Central Scotland Green Network; Children in Scotland; Orkney Islands Council; Scottish Environment Link; Scottish Renewables; Grangemouth Investment Zone; NHS Health Scotland, Scottish Government Rural Communities Division; Mackay Hannah; the key agencies; SNIFFER; Environment and Economy Leaders Group; Scottish Cities Alliance; Scottish Property Federation; the Gathering and the Cross Party Group on Rural Policy.

- **Community Grant Scheme** – We offered small grants to community groups to engage in the call for ideas. Four communities applied for the grant and funding was issued to them in March 2020.
- **RTPI Chapter events** – we attended [events](#) facilitated by the RTPI's Chapters in Aberdeen, Dumfries, Falkirk, Grantown on Spey and Glasgow. Over 100 planning professionals attended these workshop events to brain storm ideas and discuss issues and challenges. Further events were cancelled.
- **MSPs** - Parliament will have an enhanced role in NPF4. Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning wrote to the Convenor of the Local Government and Communities Committee advising them that the Programme for Engagement had been published and inviting them to participate in early engagement.
- **Joined up Government** - We continued to liaise with officials within the Scottish Government and its agencies responsible for a wide range of relevant policy areas, including those identified in the 2019 Planning Act. Regular discussions involving officials from across government will also take place through established policy forums, groups and boards.

Participation Achievements (April – September 2020)

Our focus in this period has been to digest the outputs from the Call for Ideas and prepare for the publication of the NPF4 position statement.

- **Call for Ideas Promotion** - We continued to encourage participation to our call for ideas. We wrote a blog to assist those that were unable to come to cancelled events to participate. We set out details of how the roadshow events worked and how to participate in a similar way.
- **Call for Ideas Submissions** – we received nearly 350 [written responses](#) to the Call for Ideas which we have published on our website.
- **Call for Ideas Analysis** - We published an [Analysis of Responses Summary Report](#) which summarises the written evidence received.
- **Roadshow outputs** - 180 people participated in our Scotplan 2050 roadshow and we spoke to around 100 people in our drop in sessions. The outputs from the [workshops and discussions](#) were published on our website.
- **RTPI Chapter Events** – we published the RTPI's summaries of their [Call for Ideas Chapter Events](#). Over 100 people participated.
- **RTPI Young Planners Event** – we commissioned the RTPI to facilitate discussions with members of the Young Planners Group. Events were held on 6 and 11 August to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on 4 planning topics – the implications for transport and land use planning, the opportunities for the built environment, particularly around societal impacts; the challenges of rural repopulation; and the priorities for placemaking in town centres. Outputs were published on <https://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/>.
- **RTPI International Events** - we commissioned the RTPI to hold 3 events to discuss international practice relevant to NPF4. On 1 September an event took place to discuss how Finland aims to resource and deliver the country's carbon neutral by 2035 target (52 attendees). On 3 September an event took

place to discuss why Melbourne is one of the most liveable cities in the world (43 delegates). Also on that day an event took place to discuss Ireland's Project 2040 (22 attendees). Outputs were published on <https://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/>.

- **Indicative Regional Spatial Strategies** (iRSS) – in collaboration with HOPS, we have provided a range of support to authorities as they worked towards developing iRSS. We commissioned KMA Associates to help support authorities to prepare developmental videos from four contributing authorities / groupings, co-host six themed discussion sessions, and reflect on learning at a final plenary session.
- We commissioned KMA Associates to co-host an **indicative regional spatial strategy 'show and tell' event** to share learning and preliminary outputs. An update has been published on <https://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/>.
- **Joined up Government** - We have continued to liaise, subject to Scottish Government priorities, with officials within the Scottish Government and its agencies responsible for a wide range of relevant policy areas, including those identified in the 2019 Planning Act.

Next Steps (November 2020 – February 2021)

We will continue to prepare for the consultation on the draft NPF4 which we aim to lay in Parliament in Autumn 2021. Over the next few months our primary aims are to build on the previous engagement by saying more about the emerging direction of travel and understanding stakeholder views on our approach. We will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to consider the Position Statement over the next few weeks and will begin our proactive engagement in the new year. Further details will be made available at www.transformingplanning.scot We will:

- **Publish a Position Statement** that will update stakeholders on our current thinking in advance of the draft NPF4 in 2021.
- **Invite comments** on the direction of travel on the Position Statement by 19 February 2021. We will undertake an independent analysis and publish information received via our website.
- **Publish a map** showing how **indicative Regional Spatial Strategies** are integrating to provide a national overview.
- Undertake further work to develop the regional spatial strategy mapping and consider how this may scale up and help to inform the development of a national spatial strategy.
- Provide access to a **mapping portal** that shows all of **the national developments** suggested through the Call for Ideas and links to the submission documents on our website.
- **Continue to assess the ideas for national developments** that will help deliver the aims of the NPF4. We will also consider how best to support communities which may be impacted by a national development proposal and set this out in the Participation Statement.

- Commission the RTPI to **facilitate 5 themed roundtable discussions** to discuss the Position Statement.
- Commission facilitators to support **open discussion sessions targeted at communities** to explore the issues raised in the position statement.
- Engage with a range of representative groups to bring together a broad cross section of stakeholder perspectives and help us to consider the policy position and wording for the draft NPF4, particularly for areas where we have identified evidence gaps.
- **Planning Convenors** – we will identify an effective way to involve planning convenors in the consideration of the NPF4 Position Statement..
- Continue to consider our **Participation Statement** which will accompany the consultation draft of NPF4. We remain committed to using innovative techniques to engage with a wide range of stakeholders in the public, community, voluntary and private sectors, as well as academics, experts and professional bodies. We will also reflect on feedback from the Scotplan roadshow as we draft our Participation Statement.
- **Blogs and Website updates** – we will continue to use Scottish Government e-alerts, our [blog platform](#) and website (www.transformingplanning.scot) to update stakeholders on progress towards the consultation draft.
- **Research** – we will publish research on air quality in response to the review of the Cleaner Air for Scotland Strategy; and development of national approach to Section 3F planning policy (requirement for low and zero carbon generating technologies on new buildings).
- **Impact Assessment Evidence** – following consideration of the responses to the Call for Ideas, we have considered what, if any, gaps remain in the impact assessment evidence base. We have published an Integrated Impact Assessment Update alongside our Position Statement. We will take the opportunity to work further with stakeholders. We will publish our emerging assessment findings in the Integrated Impact Assessment Report(s) alongside the consultation draft NPF4.
- **Housing Stakeholder Group.** We have convened a group comprising a cross-section of housing interests and will continue to work with them over the coming months to consider the practical issues arising from our proposed approach to addressing the requirement for targets for the use of land for housing in NPF4 and inform our preparation of a Technical Report to accompany the draft NPF4 next year.
- **Joined up Government** - We will continue to liaise, subject to Scottish Government priorities, with officials within the Scottish Government and its agencies responsible for a wide range of relevant policy areas, including those identified in the 2019 Planning Act.

More information and other resources:



www.transformingplanning.scot



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



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