

# NPF4 / RSS EVENTS

## PLENARY – 3 JUNE 2021

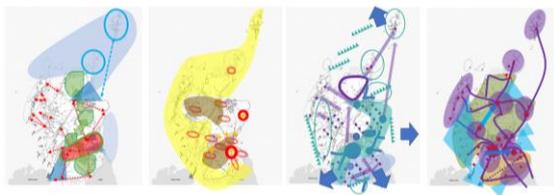
This note provides a summary of the Plenary session which was attended by 84 delegates from across RSS groups + Scottish Government policy interests + national agencies + key stakeholder representatives.

The event reflected on the output from a programme of 'charrette-style' themed workshops that comprised:

- 20<sup>th</sup> May - Introduction
- 24<sup>th</sup> May - 'Carbon'
- 25<sup>th</sup> May - 'People'
- 26<sup>th</sup> May - 'Work'
- 27<sup>th</sup> May - 'Place'
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Plenary

The purpose of this activity has been to consider how indicative Regional Spatial Strategies might scale up to inform options for a national spatial strategy to be incorporated in NPF4.

An [overview of outputs from each of the themed sessions](#) provided a basis to explore spatial strategy options.



This was followed by a [review of how the mapping might converge to distil options for a national spatial strategy](#).

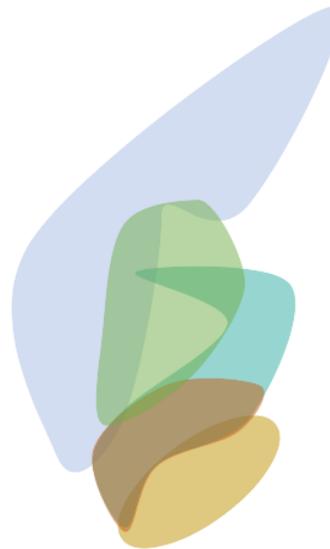


(Further explanation of these images is described in the embedded links.)

This work is being supported by  
Kevin Murray Associates (KMA)

Kevin  
Murray  
Associates

From this, feedback is invited about a suggested preferred option that focuses on 5 areas for shared action:



1. Islands + coast
2. North rural core
3. North urban
4. Urban core
5. South

The next steps were outlined as:

- The national spatial strategy will be based on this collaborative work.
- There is an invitation to provide feedback on the work to date.
- Further thoughts are invited from regions on emerging focus areas.
- In Autumn 2021 there will be:
  - Parliamentary scrutiny.
  - Public consultation.
  - A chance to reconvene regional groupings to explore the draft.
- Statutory guidance to be produced that will enact the Duty to produce Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS).

We welcome your views on these points, or on the general process, and look forward to receiving feedback which should be sent to [scotplan@gov.scot](mailto:scotplan@gov.scot) by Friday 12 June.



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A range of [panellists provided their reflections](#) on what was generally seen as having been a positive process. Headline points included:

## **Katherine Lakeman, SEPA and Chair of Key Agencies Group**

- Good shared ambition and buy-in about challenges and opportunities.
- Recognise the challenge to translate into deliverable action.
- Maintain momentum; make it happen; underpinned by evidence.
- Key Agencies can contribute to assisting the RSS process.

## **Stuart Tait, Clydeplan**

- A chance to 'marry up' national, regional and local planning.
- Good to focus on areas for shared action + note regional identity.
- Links with regional strategy – transport + economy + health.
- Align spatial mapping with policy and national developments.

## **Vanessa Halhead, Scottish Rural Action**

- Complexity of turning process into action + delivering outcomes.
- Consider how to link with local action and Local Place Plans.
- Take forward this inclusive approach (+ into local issues).
- NPF4 vehicle to achieve outcomes.

## **Craig McLaren, RTPI Scotland**

- Partnership – good collaborative working to be taken on further.
- Place – embrace complexity; focus on delivering (spatial) outcomes.
- Priorities - NPF4 builds confidence; a key role in attracting investment.
- Positive / Proactive – front load; consider 'big and small'.

## **Q&A + discussion points included:**

- *Potential of each idea to all areas.*
- *Beware skewed meaning of labels – urban / rural; carbon / climate change; repair / repurpose.*
- *How does spatial planning policy support different areas?*
- *Make the most of existing assets.*
- *Opportunity for RSS and NPF4 to work together going forward.*
- *Complexity of how focus areas relate to LA / iRSS boundaries.*
- *Categorise ideas? - consider local / regional / national significance?*
- *Green core vital at Scotland heart.*
- *People + wellbeing needs to be seen as overall themes.*
- *Need for an integrated approach to energy and waste?*
- *Post-Covid recovery - dovetailing strategic funding / support is key.*
- *Guidance to support need for 'alignment' across delivery + bottom-up / top-down.*
- *Twin crises of biodiversity loss + carbon / climate change need to be seen as cross cutting themes.*
- *Views from reps from all sectors is key to a practical delivery of NPF4.*
- *Are 20MN ambitious enough to deliver our low carbon aspirations?*
- *Challenge to ensure regional perspectives are translated 'up' to NPF + 'down' to LDPs.*
- *Policy - one size doesn't fit all!*
- *Economic growth dependent on social + env resilience. Public will expect holistic considerations.*
- *Connecting to outcomes – there are other ways of describing value beyond monetary terms.*
- *'Experiential' important – consider the impact on peoples' lives!*