

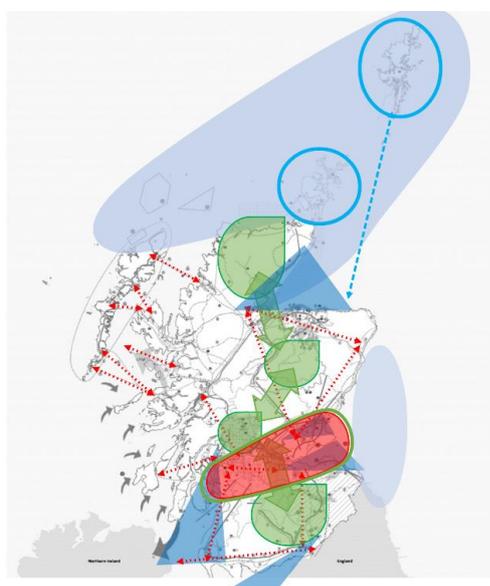
# NPF4 / RSS EVENTS

'People' – 25 May 2021



This note provides a summary of the 'people' themed event held on 25<sup>th</sup> May, attended by 40+ participants from RSS groupings, stakeholder interests, SG policy leads and key agencies.

Kevin Murray gave an overview update and introduced a summary of [the previous day's output](#) on the theme of 'carbon' which starts to explore spatial strategy options; a draft diagram is shown below.



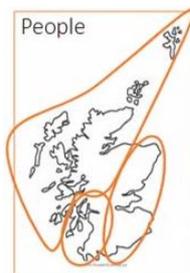
A series of presentations set the context for the workshops:

- Liam Kearney, SG, [population strategy](#)
- Lisa Bullen, SG, [Housing 2040](#)
- Digital Narrative - ['People'](#)

Key presentation themes included:

- The importance of creating places that are attractive, welcoming, sustainable and people friendly.
- Pressures on services resulting from increasing / decreasing populations.
- The challenge of catering for an ageing population across diverse urban and rural geographies.
- Whilst population trends may be declining, household numbers are increasing, with implications for house type, tenure, location and affordability.

## Breakout workshop group sessions

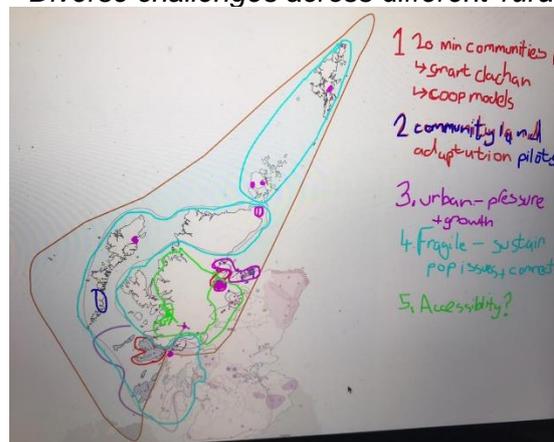


Attendees moved into sub-groups to reflect on significant patterns from the combined RSS mapped outputs and to discuss what strategic contribution each area might make to a national spatial strategy?

Feedback was provided from each of the sub-groups as follows:

### 1. Rural north

*Diverse challenges across different 'rural'*



Key points:

- **Not all rural is the same**  
Urban areas + networks of towns / communities; Accessible rural; Rural networks; Remote / peripheral rural.
- **Housing**  
Need new approaches to provide right homes; Pilots that test new ways of living and a rural model of 20MN communities – “smart clachans” – relates to typologies above; increase quality of housing; fuel poverty, choice.
- **Fragility in Peripheral Areas**  
Multi-agency support create conditions for sustainable communities; Address depopulation + ageing / retirement.
- **Equalities**  
Access to services / facilities and to land; Choice of where to live and work / what type of work; Connectivity - digital and physical.



## 2. West

Quality of place = quality of opportunity



Key points:

- **Opportunity** to live in + enjoy benefits of quality environments and existing assets (e.g. former commuting settlements) = high quality of life.
- **Make use of untapped potential** of quality places. Market unique sense of place and heritage eg. Clyde Coast.
- **Glasgow city centre** future difficult to define - future will shape and influence dynamics within the region.
- **Action needed** to address VDL. Tackle inequality and disadvantage (e.g. coalfield communities).
- **Turn around low market demand** - create good jobs to create demand for private market = circular economy principles influence where people want to live, work and spend.

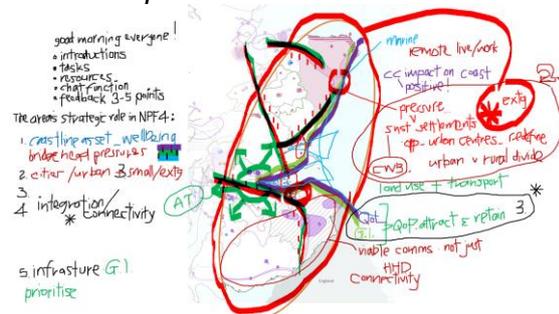
- **Repurpose / redefine city centres** as more liveable, wider range of services, managing transition through the NPF.
- **Manage pressure for growth** in and around cities (e.g. Edinburgh and Aberdeen); avoid car reliant suburbia.
- **Opportunities for smaller existing settlements** – quality of life + quality of accessibility to services and cities.
- **Infrastructure** – not just 'large / urban' but also 'small / varied' – e.g. active travel + green infrastructure + housing + etc – responsive to individual characteristics of place and to help address inequality across settlements.

### Other points arising from discussion:

- Reference and benchmark good practice from elsewhere.
- Importance of density – appropriate to both urban and rural settings.
- Importance of accessing greenery, especially post COVID.
- Need to balance population – at national, regional and local levels.
- Urban policies not appropriate for islands and / or rural communities.
- Quality of place + quality of opportunity needed to attract and retain people and investment.
- Need for, and to retain, community anchors (e.g. local school) to attract.
- Critical mass required to support service provision.
- Capitalise on exiting assets and strengthen existing communities.

## 3. East

Multiple linked and networked assets



Key points:

- **Strong coastal assets** - link with marine / estuary planning, natural and cultural assets, opportunities for green infrastructure integrated with coastal edge communities.

Note: Self-read versions of the four digital narratives – carbon, people, work, place – are available on the [resource platform](#) – Password = NPF4document - the link will expire on Wednesday 30 June 2021.

**Feedback will be summarised at the next day's event and will help to inform the development of spatial strategy options for the national spatial strategy in NPF4.**