

## **CULTURE AND CREATIVITY**

Draft NPF 4 supports the expansion of Scotland's creative industries and seeks to ensure that there are equitable opportunities available for local communities to participate in artistic and cultural activities.

### **Local Development Plans should:**

- recognise and support opportunities for jobs and investment in the creative sector, culture, heritage and the arts.

### **Development proposals should:**

- make provision for public art where they change or create new public open spaces;
- be supported where they will utilise vacant spaces or property for creative workshops or other cultural uses;
- should not be supported where they would result in the loss of an arts or cultural venue, unless specific tests are met.
- reflect the Agent of Change principle by confirming that development should only be supported if it can be demonstrated that any arts venues in the vicinity can continue to operate without additional restrictions being placed on them.

## **Responses to the Position Statement**

There was support for a stronger focus on culture and the creative industries, particularly those that make a contribution to health and wellbeing and have potential to support the regeneration of deprived areas.

Reference was also made by some respondents to the importance of ensuring clear links between NPF4 and A Culture Strategy for Scotland, which includes the historic environment as a key element of the country's cultural assets.

Some respondents felt that NPF4 should provide more detailed guidance for developers, investors and planning authorities, on issues such as:

- emphasis on the role of community-led approaches to stimulating culture and creative industries;
- the specific aims of the Culture Strategy;
- emphasis on cultural heritage and assets, including a requirement for clearer policy and guidance; and
- culture being a clear thread running through NPF4 and in planning across Scotland.

## **Policy changes**

The proposals in Draft NPF4 expand on NPF 3 and SPP's recognition of our cultural heritage and the contribution it makes to our identity, economy and quality of life. Our policies confirm that the planning system should support our cultural and artistic sector and ensure that assets are better protected whilst, for the first time, introducing the agent of change principle into national planning policy.