

## **BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT**

Draft NPF4 promotes sustainable and inclusive economic success that supports the health and wellbeing of our communities and environment. The planning system has a central role to play in our ambition to build a wellbeing economy that maximises economic, social and environmental wellbeing for everyone. It should enable investment that supports the just transition to a net zero, nature-positive economy.

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

- set out proposals to meet requirements for employment land, infrastructure and investment in a way which supports a green, fair and inclusive economy

### **Development proposals should:**

- be supported for business and employment uses in sites allocated for these uses, provided the environmental impacts are acceptable;
- be supported for home-working, live-work units and micro-businesses where they are compatible with the surrounding area;
- be supported for business, general industrial and storage and distribution uses where they are compatible with the primary business function of the area, and other proposed uses in such areas should be supported if they do not prejudice, and are compatible with, the primary business function of the area;
- only be supported for business, general industrial and storage and distribution uses outwith areas identified for such uses where the nature and scale of the activity does not have unacceptable impacts on neighbouring uses and the natural environment;
- take account of surrounding residential amenity, population health and wellbeing, environmental quality and historic environmental assets, access, parking and traffic generation, and air quality.

## **Responses to the Position Statement**

There was support for the recognition of the role of natural capital in supporting a green recovery, but most comments raised concerns or issues about the difficulty of balancing purely economic benefits with health and wellbeing, inclusivity and equality. There were suggestions that there is a tension between a commitment to continuing economic growth wellbeing economy outcomes; some respondents suggested that placing wellbeing at the centre of economic recovery would require a commitment to removing inequalities and poverty which would not necessarily identify continuing economic growth as a key focus. It was also suggested that the target of net-zero emissions may not be achievable alongside economic growth.

Some respondents wished to see further detail on how the wellbeing economy will function in Scotland and how its success will be measured.

### **Policy changes**

The proposals in Draft NPF4 build on the policy principles outlined in SPP and referenced in NPF3 and go further, by explicitly linking support for a green, fair and inclusive economy with economic growth. They do so by building in checks and balances to the development of new employment creating uses within the context of Local Development Plans, and by supporting the transition and recovery of Scotland's economy by supporting home working, live-work units and micro-businesses where they are compatible with their surroundings.