

## **COASTS**

Draft NPF4 supports the long-term resilience of Scotland's coastal areas and their communities, particularly in view of the potential impacts of climate change. The planning system should consider the long term impacts of climate change, and provide a framework for protecting coastal communities.

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

- consider how to adapt coastlines to the impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels and extreme weather events, taking particular account of opportunities to use nature-based solutions.

### **Development proposals:**

- which require a coastal location should be supported in areas of developed shoreline where they do not give rise to the need for further coastal protection measures or increase the risk to people of coastal flooding or erosion and can be supported in the long term;
- in undeveloped coastal areas should only be supported if they are necessary to support the blue economy, net zero emissions or if they would contribute to the economic regeneration or wellbeing of coastal communities, and meet certain additional criteria;
- for coastal defence measures should be supported if:
  - the proposal is consistent with relevant coastal or marine plans;
  - nature-based solutions are utilised and permit managed future coastal change wherever practical; and
  - any in-perpetuity hard defence measures can be demonstrated to be necessary to protect essential assets.
- should address, in any design statement submitted to support them, appropriate issues regarding long term coastal vulnerability and resilience.

## **Responses to the Position Statement**

There was support for the focus on protecting coastal communities and assets against the potential impact of coastal erosion and flood risk, and a recognition of the need to align terrestrial and marine planning. There was also recognition of the role that the marine environment can play in tackling both the climate and nature crises.

## **Policy changes**

The proposals in NPF4 build on the recognition in NPF3 of Scotland's coastal areas, marine environment and natural resources, as outstanding assets which support quality of life and underpin important economic sectors like tourism, outdoor recreation and food and drink. Draft NPF4 takes that forward and focusses on the

protection and enhancement of coastal areas, using nature-based solutions to improve resilience.