

National Planning Framework 4

Delivery Programme v2: September 2023

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A. Introduction

1. Delivering National Planning Framework 4

National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) sets out the Scottish Ministers' policies and proposals for the development and use of land. It details our long term spatial strategy, spatial principles, priority actions and National Developments, looking ahead to 2045. It also provides national planning policy to guide decision making on planning applications.

NPF4 and any relevant Local Development Plan (LDP) form the statutory development plan for any given area of Scotland. Along with Regional Spatial Strategies (RSSs) and Local Place Plans (LPPs) this creates a spatial framework for decision making that will support the delivery of a wide range of strategic priorities. In particular, climate change, nature recovery, inclusive growth, the wellbeing economy and child poverty have shaped the approach.

The planning system in Scotland is plan-led and decisions on planning applications must be made in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.



Figure 1 – Spatial plans and the statutory development plan

NPF4 sets out an ambitious vision for what we want Scotland to look like in 2045. This Delivery Programme aims to create the conditions under which place-based collaboration can underpin the implementation of that vision. By clearly setting out strategic actions, responsibilities and ways of working, the Delivery Programme will guide how NPF4 will be implemented by all relevant stakeholders.

The Delivery Programme is underpinned by the Place Principle and eight key delivery principles:

- governance;
- collaboration;
- delivery mechanisms;
- investment prioritisation;
- design and sustainability;
- finance;
- risk management; and
- monitoring and evaluation.

Delivery of NPF4 is not the sole responsibility of one organisation or sector. Implementation of the proposed actions will support leadership and collaborative working across national and local government, regional bodies, key agencies, businesses, voluntary organisations and communities throughout Scotland. It will also be important to build synergies between investors, recognising the benefits of joint working towards common goals.

Planning will play a crucial leadership role by co-ordinating and choreographing the activities and decisions required. Stakeholder and community engagement will be needed to both inform and contribute to the programme as it evolves and to support delivery on the ground. This will help to address delivery risks and identify opportunities for innovation.

The Delivery Programme focuses efforts across the Scottish Government to ensure alignment across national plans and programmes. This alignment will be an iterative process, building over time.

The Place Principle

The implementation of NPF4 is founded on the Place Principle:

‘[The Place Principle] promotes a shared understanding of place, and the need to take a more collaborative approach to a place’s services and assets to achieve better outcomes for people and communities. The Principle encourages and enables local flexibility to respond to issues and circumstances in different places.’

The governance structures that the Delivery Programme puts in place are designed to improve existing and create new communication channels and pathways across sectors, both within and outwith government. The deepening and widening of this network will help to make it easier for stakeholders to identify and act collectively on shared interests. The delivery of NPF4’s National Developments, spatial strategy and national planning policy will require input from a number of partners, and the Delivery Programme aims to make it easier for these partners to work together towards achieving shared place-based goals. Several of the actions in this Delivery Programme for which the Scottish Government is responsible will help to create the guidance and regulations needed to frame a system in which stakeholders are able to make place-based decisions with confidence.

Delivery will be pursued through multi-sector and multi-agency implementation of NPF4 policy, and by aligning its spatial strategy with wider public and private sector plans and programmes, including spending plans. As part of this, the Scottish Government will seek to identify and align activities and spending where benefits can be achieved across the National Outcomes. In support of this the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) has developed a [Place Guide](#) to assist stakeholders as they embed place-based principles in their decision making.

Delivery principles

To support the development of the Delivery Programme, [SFT undertook research](#) to establish a set of key principles and themes for the delivery of critical infrastructure projects. The research included a literature review followed by a programme of stakeholder workshops. A series of case studies examining the delivery approach of a sample of the proposed National Developments was also developed. The literature review focused on relevant policies, statutory documentation, publications, articles and guidance notes. Stakeholder workshops and one-to-one meetings validated and challenged the literature review, and further developed the ideas that had emerged.

The primary focus of the work was infrastructure, and the National Developments specifically. Involvement in the stakeholder workshops reflected this, with participants representing a cross-sector of the infrastructure industry. The good practice themes identified are, however, also broadly applicable to NPF4’s spatial strategy and national planning policy. The output from this work provides a tool in support of developing programmes and projects, which will be used as part of this Delivery Programme. The principles identified all underpin the content of the ‘Support for delivery’ and ‘Actions’ sections of the Delivery Programme. The principles and their

subthemes, which can help to support their implementation, are illustrated in Figure 2, extracted from the [SFT research](#).



Figure 2 – Principles for good practice delivery

Delivery Programme content and review

There is no statutory requirement to prepare a Delivery Programme for NPF4 and no prescribed period for its review. This Delivery Programme will be continually reviewed and formally updated by the Scottish Government as implementation progresses. The first iteration was published in November 2022. This second iteration was published in September 2023. We will update the Delivery Programme at least annually.

Many work strands come together to set the context within which the spatial strategy, National Developments and national planning policy can be successfully delivered. Details of these are set out in Part B, Support for Delivery. Part C outlines the achievements since version 1 of this Delivery Programme. Part D sets out the corresponding Actions, which will be required to progress these. Each Action is organised by:

- theme;
- specific support measure;
- Scottish Government role;
- delivery partners;
- Scottish Government latest steps; and
- timescales.

Monitoring and review of the actions will be undertaken through the NPF4 governance structure.

2. Policy outcomes and connections

In line with the statutory purpose of planning, NPF4 aims to facilitate sustainable development that is consistent with Scotland's National Outcomes.

Figure 3 below sets out the read-across from United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals](#) and the Scottish Government [National Outcomes](#) to the spatial principles which underpin NPF4.

Individual policies and National Developments are framed in relation to the three overarching themes of Sustainable places, Liveable places and Productive places. Cross cutting policies which have shaped the strategy and will in turn be informed by the spatial perspective provided by NPF4 are also highlighted.

NPF4, and the planning system as a whole, are expected to act as key levers for supporting the delivery of these high level goals and outcomes as well as related policies, by enabling the delivery of development and infrastructure in appropriate locations.

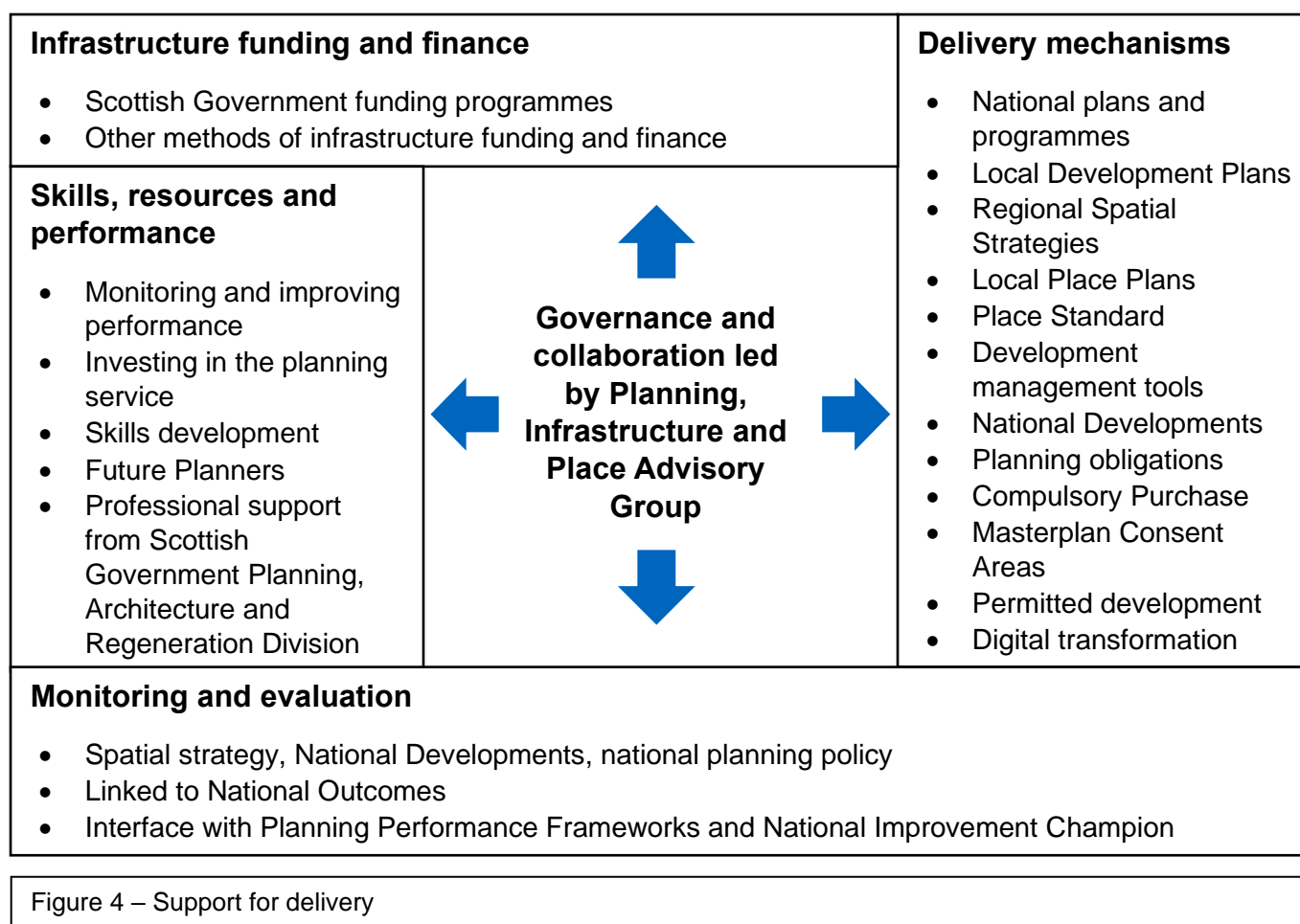
	Spatial principles	National Developments	Policies	Key policy links	Cross cutting policies
Sustainable places SDGs: 7, 11, 12, 13 National outcomes: Environment, communities, economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just transition Conserving and recycling assets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Innovation Development on the islands. Pumped Hydro Storage Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tackling the climate and nature crises Climate mitigation and adaptation Biodiversity Natural places Soils Forestry, woodland and trees Historic assets and places Green belts Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings Coastal development Energy Zero waste Sustainable transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Use – getting the best from our land: strategy 2021 - 2026 Making things last: a circular economy strategy for Scotland Scotland's Energy Strategy Scotland's Environment Strategy Scotland's Forestry Strategy Scottish Biodiversity Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Adaptation Programme Just Transition Plans National Transport Strategy Infrastructure Investment Plan Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 National Islands Plan National Marine Plan Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan
Liveable places SDGs: 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11 National outcomes: Communities, culture, human rights, children and young people, health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liveable places Compact urban growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Scotland Green Network National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network Edinburgh Waterfront Dundee Waterfront Stranraer Gateway A Digital Fibre Network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design, quality and place Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods Quality homes Rural homes Infrastructure first Heat and cooling Blue and green infrastructure Play, recreation and sport Flood risk and water management Health and Safety Digital infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Connected Scotland A Healthier Future: Scotland's diet and healthy weight delivery plan Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 Creating Places Culture Strategy Heat in Buildings Strategy Housing to 2040 Learning Estate Strategy / Learning Estate Investment Programme Public Health Priorities for Scotland Remote, Rural and Islands Housing Action Plan (pub. Spring 2023) Scotland's Population Strategy 	
Productive places SDGs: 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, 14 National outcomes: Fair work and business, economy, poverty, communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebalancing development Rural revitalisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clyde Mission Aberdeen Harbour Industrial Green Transition Zones Hunterston Strategic Asset Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment High Speed Rail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community wealth building Business and industry City, Town, Local and Commercial Centres Retail Rural development Tourism Culture and creativity Aquaculture Minerals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Strategy for Economic Transformation Retail Strategy for Scotland Report of the City Centre Recovery Taskforce Scottish land rights and responsibilities statement Town Centre Action Plan 2 	

Figure 3 – National Planning Framework 4 outline and policy connections

B. Support for delivery

This section of the Delivery Programme provides an overview of action to be taken to support delivery of NPF4, specifically:

- governance and collaboration;
- delivery mechanisms;
- infrastructure funding and finance;
- skills and resources; and
- monitoring and evaluation.



1. Governance and collaboration

Successful collaboration requires clear governance. The governance structure outlined below recognises the close connection and interdependence of spatial planning, infrastructure investment and broader place-based working. Consistent with the Place Principle that seeks better joined up actions to deliver improved outcomes, the governance structure will bring together key delivery partners and will be a focus for identifying opportunities for aligned working.

The proposed governance structure will:

- provide robust oversight for NPF4 implementation and delivery;
- support incorporation of NPF4 into Scottish Government and wider stakeholder decision making (applying a NPF4 lens to decision making);
- promote and progress alignment between relevant land use, infrastructure and place programmes and strategies from across sectors, to support NPF4 delivery;
- through greater alignment, seek to achieve wider benefits for Scotland beyond the immediate specific sector interest;
- provide a framework through which delivery partners can communicate, identify barriers to delivery of NPF4 (in the round) and be solution focused; and
- support the monitoring and evaluation of NPF4.

Planning, Infrastructure and Place Advisory Group

The Scottish Government has established a new Planning, Infrastructure and Place Advisory Group (PIPAG) in collaboration with the Scottish Futures Trust.

This is a cross-cutting external stakeholder group whose primary focus will be to strengthen the alignment of NPF4, the Place Based Investment Programme and infrastructure investment.

The new advisory group is supported by a secretariat.

The purpose of the group is to provide advice on, for example:

- integration of place-based and spatial thinking into public and private sector decision-making;
- prioritisation and targeting of investment to optimise outcomes and achieve place-based transformational change;
- overcoming barriers to development and infrastructure delivery and gaps in funding and finance;
- strategic input to the development of the next infrastructure investment plan; and
- identifying and promoting innovation and best practice.

The core group comprises 20 individuals, invited for their individual experience and expertise. They are supported by a larger reference group of organisations who

have a direct role in infrastructure delivery and will provide specialist input as and when required.

The group will meet at least quarterly and will initially be co-chaired by the Scottish Government Chief Planner and the Scottish Futures Trust Director of Strategy, Place and Economy.

Reporting

Outputs from the Advisory Group will be reported to relevant existing and future Scottish Government Boards and advisory groups relating to land use, infrastructure, construction and place policy development. Information about *Relationship with established groups*, below, outlines key existing groups of particular relevance. An annual summary of progress will be agreed by the group and be reported to relevant Scottish Ministers.

The liaison between the Advisory Group and other groups will be facilitated by the secretariat. This could include identifying actions for further investigation, making appropriate connections across government/agencies or other stakeholders to seek support or solutions to blocks or barriers to development.

The output from the Advisory Group will inform the ongoing review of the Delivery Programme.

Relationship with established groups

In addition to creating a new structure to support governance of NPF4 delivery, we will work with existing arrangements to advance progress towards shared goals. This includes participation in and linking with internal Scottish Government Boards and Groups, as well as making connections to hybrid internal and external, and external, Advisory Groups. Further detail is provided below on groups of particular relevance to delivery of NPF4. An early task for the Planning, Infrastructure and Place Advisory Group co-chairs will be to review its relationship with these groups in particular.

High Level Group

The High Level Group on Planning Performance was established in 2013. The group is jointly chaired by the Minister with responsibility for Planning and the COSLA Spokesperson for Environment and Economy. It meets on a quarterly basis, with the chair alternating between Scottish Government and COSLA. The group's remit is to:

- champion and promote improvements to the performance, quality and effectiveness of the Scottish planning system, to enable all stakeholders to create better places;
- support planning to be a more corporate and collaborative part of central and local government;
- maintain and develop planning's contribution to inclusive growth and fairness;

- give strategic direction for priority actions on performance improvement and resourcing;
- promote an inclusive and positive approach to change; and
- monitor blockages in the system and identify opportunities to address them.

Key Agencies Group

The Key Agencies Group (KAG) has representation from across a range of public bodies. It focuses on supporting delivery through improved joint working. KAG meets quarterly to review progress and engages with all sectors in the planning system. KAG's core commitments are focused around:

- providing clear and practical planning advice and policies;
- identifying areas to improve culture change;
- working together on development plan engagement;
- supporting the delivery of culture change through improved joint working;
- promoting pre-application discussions;
- developing skills across the various sectors to improve performance; and
- engaging with planners, developers, trade bodies and Scottish Government.

Infrastructure Delivery Group

The Infrastructure Delivery Group (IDG) was established by the Scottish Government in 2018 and there has been strong participation from a range of infrastructure providers and stakeholders.

A key objective of the IDG was to strengthen the relationship between infrastructure providers and the planning system, and to provide a forum for infrastructure providers to discuss issues being experienced in the planning system.

There is strong engagement and participation by stakeholders through the IDG, and significant value therefore remains in maintaining access to the activities of the group. It is proposed to move to a different format, reflecting the emerging governance structure for NPF4 and streamlining participation to avoid duplication or additional calls on stakeholders' time. On that basis the IDG becomes a virtual reference group, inputting to the Planning, Infrastructure and Place Advisory Group on specific issues or if requested for expert views.

2. Delivery Mechanisms

National plans, programmes and strategies

The NPF4 governance structure will aim to strengthen the alignment between NPF4 and these national plans and strategies, with the aim of mainstreaming spatial thinking across the organisation. NPF4 will be delivered in parallel with a number of other key plans and strategies:

Capital Investment Plan	National Marine Plan 2
Climate Change Plan	National Strategy for Economic Transformation
Digital Strategy – A Changing Nation: How Scotland Will Thrive in a Digital World	National Transport Strategy 2
Housing to 2040	Our Place in Time: Scotland’s Strategy for the Historic Environment
Infrastructure Investment Plan	Remote, Rural and Islands Housing Action Plan (publishing 2023)
Islands Connectivity Plan	Scotland’s Climate Change Adaptation Programme
Just Transition Plan	Scottish Energy Strategy
Land Use Strategy	Strategic Transport Projects Review 2
Learning Estate Strategy	Town Centre Action Plan 2
National Islands Plan	

Of particular importance in the delivery of NPF4 are the Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP), the Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 (STPR2) and the National Strategy for Economic Transformation, more details of which are outlined below.

Infrastructure Investment Plan

The Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP) sets out infrastructure commitments across Scotland (2021/22 to 2025/26), to deliver against three core themes: transition to net-zero emissions and environmental sustainability; delivering inclusive economic growth; and building resilient and sustainable places.

NPF4 will, alongside other work streams, inform the preparation of the next IIP, beyond 2025. NPF4 will, alongside the implementation of the Infrastructure Commission for Scotland’s [recommendations](#), improve understanding of national infrastructure requirements and the actions needed to support delivery.

Strategic Transport Projects Review 2

Strategic transport interventions for Government are identified in the Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 (STPR2), which is accompanied by a [Delivery Plan](#), that is aligned with this programme.

Investment through STPR2 has an important role to play in supporting the delivery of the national spatial strategy, National Developments and national policy set out in NPF4. NPF4 has also informed prioritisation of STPR2 recommendations.

National Strategy for Economic Transformation

The National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET) identifies six priority policy programmes to support Scotland's transition to a wellbeing economy.

The focus on just transition to net zero, community wellbeing and productivity is particularly relevant to delivery of NPF4. There is a Delivery Programme for NSET which offers an opportunity to build strategic alignment between delivery of NSET and NPF4, so that the planning system acts as a key lever to facilitate development which supports our future economy.

Local Development Plans

Planning authorities must prepare a Local Development Plan (LDP) for their area, which must take into account the NPF and any registered Local Place Plan (LPP) in the area it covers. It must also have regard to the authority's adopted Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and any Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) for the area it covers.

Following the implementation of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, the statutory development plan for any given place in Scotland is the NPF together with any relevant LDP.

Given their plan-making and development management responsibilities, planning authorities are key stakeholders in the delivery of NPF4. There is an opportunity for both NPF4 and LDP delivery programmes to promote aligned and complementary delivery.

Planning transformation has sought to strengthen LDPs, enabling planning authorities to have more opportunity to focus on delivery of their plans. The new enhanced focus on the evidence base is intended to support this. New style plans are expected to be place-based: there should be greater emphasis on maps, site briefs and masterplans, with minimal policy wording. It is envisaged that the policies and proposals within the LDP will be focused on places and locations, working within the context provided by NPF4.

New [regulations](#) and [guidance](#) provide more detail on how the new LDP system will work in practice.

With the introduction of the new development plan system through the 2019 Act, there will be a period of transition as plans prepared under the previous system are completed and adopted, but also as previously adopted LDPs are replaced by new style plans. Further information on the transition provisions can be found [here](#).

Regional Spatial Strategies

The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 introduced a new approach to strategic planning which aims to stimulate innovation by encouraging more flexible and collaborative ways of working. The new arrangements for strategic planning are expected to support better alignment with other strategies and decisions at a regional and sub-national scale. This places RSSs in a strong position for supporting the implementation of NPF4.

Consistent with the new statutory purpose of planning, RSSs will enable planning authorities to work with others to guide future long-term strategic development and use of land in the long-term public interest. They can provide a place-based strategy that guides future development across an area. Key aspects could include identification of networks of regionally significant centres, and ensuring the spatial strategy identifies and responds to nationally and regionally recognised natural and historic areas and assets.

Throughout Scotland, places are coming together to develop Regional Economic Strategies underpinning City Region and Regional Growth Deals, Regional Economic Partnerships, Regional Land Use Partnerships, and to provide regional input to STPR2. RSSs have a crucial role to play in expressing the spatial ambitions of this work.

Work on drafting RSS statutory guidance will commence in 2024, bringing together a range of interests in working at this regional scale.

Local Place Plans

[Planning Circular 01/2022 Local place plans](#) provides detailed guidance for communities looking to make proposals for the development and use of land in a LPP.

‘Local place plans offer the opportunity for a community-led, collaborative approach to creating great local places. Local place plans can support community aspirations on the big challenges for a future Scotland, such as responding to the global climate emergency and tackling inequalities. It is vital that local people have the opportunity to engage meaningfully and have a positive influence in the future planning of development in their areas.’
Planning Circular 01/2022 Local Place Plans.

LPPs set out a community’s aspirations for its future development. They will be required to have regard to the adopted NPF: given its status as part of the statutory development plan, the NPF is an important part of the wider strategic framework within which communities will work to articulate their vision at the local level. New guidance on the new local development planning system, currently being finalised, will provide further important context about how LPPs will work alongside the statutory development plan (the NPF and any relevant LDP(s)) and RSSs to support delivery of community ambitions.

LPPs will work alongside other community tools, such as asset transfer, to help communities bring forward their own proposals for the development and use of land.

Place Standard

[The Place Standard](#) is a simple tool for anyone to assess the quality of a place. Each of its dimensions links to one or more of the National Performance Framework outcomes. It allows people to think about the physical elements of a place (for example its buildings, spaces, and transport links) as well as the social aspects (for example whether people feel they have a say in decision making). The tool provides prompts for discussions, allowing groups or individuals to consider all the elements of a place in a methodical way with outputs that can shape priorities for action.

The tool will be an important resource for communities undertaking the preparation of LPPs, and for supporting community engagement in LDPs and RSSs. It is already widely used by local authorities, organisations and community groups across Scotland in many other engagement processes such as Community Planning and climate action planning. It can therefore support alignment between spatial planning and other local planning processes. The Place Standard is a key tool for supporting collaborative place-based working and implementation of the Place Principle.

A range of resources exist to support Place Standard engagement. These range from guidance and learning resources to versions aimed at improving accessibility for particular groups, for example, Children and Young People, community languages, and the Inclusive Communications Toolkit. There are additional toolkits available to support Place Standard conversations around particular aspects of place, such as the Climate Lens and the Air Quality Lens. Use of all of these resources in appropriate contexts will support implementation of national planning policies. The Design Version is a further addition which supports users to structure design considerations and decisions around an emerging development proposal.

Development management tools

National planning policy will largely be implemented through land use decision making. This will be undertaken directly by planning authorities and other decision makers through development management. However, this will also be heavily influenced by local development planning stakeholders including key agencies, developers, applicants, land owners and communities.

In June Scottish Ministers laid a [statement](#) before Parliament setting out the possible circumstances in which they would consider calling in applications.

National Developments

Designated National Developments have been selected due to their potential to support the national spatial strategy and spatial principles within NPF4, but also to act as a catalyst for development beyond their boundaries. National Development status establishes the need for the development, therefore the principle of it does not require to be agreed at the consenting stage.

NPF4 is clear that National Developments are intended to be examples of the Place Principle and placemaking approaches. They should be delivered in a way which helps to apply the principles, opportunities, challenges and policy identified in NPF4 in the round. Their contribution to addressing the global climate emergency and nature crisis, community wealth building and just transition will be of particular importance.

Such contributions may be through physical aspects of development, such as heat networks and designing for biodiversity, protected assets, net zero emissions and climate risk adaptation. It may also be in the operational aspects of delivery not directly controlled through the planning system. For example, providing opportunities for particular communities of people and reaching out to organisations and groups to support skills development, as well as collaboration with the local community to achieve common goals through partnership working.

The National Developments are also expected to interface with, and contribute to, strategies beyond NPF4, including marine plans, transport, islands, heat and energy amongst others. Delivery partners are expected to:

- design and progress National Developments in a way which supports community wealth building;
- manage known and predicted climate risks arising from the development and its location;
- improve biodiversity and restore habitats as far as possible;
- consider how the development interacts with the provision of heat for the surrounding area, potentially in connection with a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy;
- ensure alignment with Scotland's National Marine Plan, as well as any relevant sectoral and regional marine plans;
- ensure that associated transport interventions to facilitate access to or from the locations are in line with sustainable transport and the sustainable investment hierarchy, as defined in NTS2; and
- make a difference to people's lives and enable them to access opportunities, services and the infrastructure they need.

National Development delivery templates

To support the implementation of National Developments, delivery templates have been prepared. The initial versions establish a baseline of where National Developments are in relation to good practice delivery principles and the infrastructure lifecycle. The templates will be used to inform the work of the Planning, Infrastructure and Place Advisory Group (PIPAG). Collaborative working between lead partners and delivery stakeholders will be required to identify key steps for delivery.

SFT template criteria include the following:

Project details	Costs and funding
Spatial context – synergies with other National Developments	Risk strategy
Project vision and objectives	Monitoring and evaluation
Current status	Key good practice themes
Programme management and timeframes	Gap analysis
Policy context	Next steps
Governance and stakeholders	

National governance

National Development delivery will be supported through the NPF4 governance structure, for example, seeking solutions where barriers to delivery emerge. The Scottish Government will provide tailored support to each National Development, including where relevant by facilitating liaison between lead partners and the wider Scottish Government and agencies, and feeding progress into the NPF4 Delivery Programme governance structure.

Planning obligations

Planning obligations have a key role to play in mitigating the impacts of development and ensuring proposals are acceptable in planning terms. Where the [relevant tests](#) are met this can include contributions to, or provision of, infrastructure. We are taking forward a review of developer contributions to evaluate the effectiveness of existing mechanisms, which will inform our consideration of new approaches, taking into account the powers introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 to introduce an infrastructure levy for Scotland.

Compulsory Purchase

Taking a positive and proactive approach to land assembly, including the use of [compulsory purchase powers](#), can help to achieve planning and placemaking objectives by supporting the delivery of a range of development, infrastructure and regeneration projects in the public interest.

We have committed to reform and modernise compulsory purchase in Scotland, to make the system quicker, fairer and more effective. In 2023-24 we intend to establish an advisory group to help develop proposals for change.

Masterplan Consent Areas

We will implement the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended to introduce new regulations for Masterplan Consent Areas. Partners will be able to propose Masterplan Consent Areas that essentially secure up-front planning permission for development which accords with a detailed scheme proactively adopted by planning authorities. This has significant potential to enable large scale infrastructure projects including green freeports and development required to support Scotwind, as well as town centre regeneration and smaller scale

proposals including for housing. Work to put in place regulations and guidance is now underway.

Permitted Development Rights

We will continue to progress our comprehensive review of Permitted Development Rights (PDR). The review programme is being implemented in phases, with each phase focusing on new or extended PDR for particular development types. The phasing of the review will be monitored to ensure that it reflects and promotes the strategic objectives of the Scottish Government.

Phase 2 came into force in May 2023 and introduced new and extended PDR and changes to the use classes order in relation to changes of uses in centres, electric vehicle charging infrastructure and operational port development. Phase 3 focuses on new or extended PDR for domestic and non-domestic renewable energy equipment. The Phase 3 consultation ran from May to August 2023.

3. Infrastructure funding and finance

Scottish Government funding programmes

NPF4 supports alignment of multidisciplinary and cross-sector priorities, with the goal of facilitating delivery of the places that Scotland needs to be successful. Rooted in the Place Principle, it provides a framework for choreographing sectoral strategies and funding programmes, so that different parts of the public sector are progressing in the same direction towards shared goals. This also gives confidence to the private sector about the direction of public investment.

The governance structure for NPF4 will enhance cross working between relevant funding programmes. By coordinating identification of, and focus on, shared priorities, it is intended that the most value possible will be extracted from capital spending. This will ultimately help to strengthen alignment with the focus on enabling sustainable places found in the most recent IIP.

NPF4 does not directly allocate funding: the usual due processes for the award of public funding will require to be followed. The current [Capital Spending Review](#) provides capital allocations to Scottish Government portfolios and public bodies for the years up to 2025-26, subject to the annual budget process. This funding includes allocations to the funding programmes outlined below. Where National Developments, or other policies within NPF4, require funding over and above these allocations, these will need to be agreed and factored in to the approach to setting the allocations within the next Spending Review (i.e. for years beyond 2025-26) or at each annual Budget.

A read across of current Scottish Government funding programmes demonstrates that investment in places is already underway. NPF4 will help to further prioritise where this spending is targeted. Funding programmes of particular relevance to the delivery of NPF4 include:

- [Place Based Investment Programme](#)

The £325m Place Based Investment Programme is designed to accelerate delivery of ambitions for place, town centre revitalisation, 20 minute neighbourhoods, community-led regeneration and community wealth building. This will contribute to the aims and objectives of NPF4, with a focus on disadvantaged and fragile rural communities.

- [Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Programme](#)

Delivery of the £50 million low carbon Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Programme will help with tackling persistent vacant and derelict land as part of a 'just transition' to net-zero, and contributing to the aims and objectives of NPF4.

- Strategic Transport Funding

Funding for active travel in Scotland is now at record levels with the Scottish Government committed to spend at least £320 million, or 10% of the total transport budget, on active travel by 2024-25 (up from £39 million in 2017/18).

The Future Transport Fund budget allocation supports a wide range of initiatives within the Low Carbon Economy Directorate including:

- the ongoing development of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and EV provision across Scotland (including support for developing the ChargePlace Scotland Network and supporting electric towns through our Switched on Towns and Cities Initiative);
- fleet transformation within public sector and blue light organisations;
- acceleration of behavioural change; support for public awareness of low carbon transport options and consumer incentives; and
- grant support for a range of zero emission mobility innovation and supply change initiatives (including through the Hydrogen Accelerator).

As part of its response to the climate emergency, the Scottish Government committed to providing a long-term investment to deliver targeted bus priority measures on local and trunk roads. This is intended to reduce the negative impacts of congestion on bus services and address the decline in bus patronage.

- [Affordable Housing Supply Programme](#)

The Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) comprises a range of funding mechanisms to enable affordable housing providers to deliver homes for social rent, mid-market rent, and low cost home ownership in communities across Scotland to support local authorities' Local Housing Strategies.

- [City Region Deals](#) and [Regional Growth Deals](#)

City Region Deals and Regional Growth Deals are packages of funding and decision making powers, agreed between the Scottish Government, the UK Government and local government, designed to bring about long-term strategic approaches to improving regional economies. City Region and Growth Deals are delivered by regional partnerships led by local authorities working with the private sector, education and skills providers, and our enterprise and skills agencies. They are overseen by the [Scottish City Region and Growth Deal Delivery Board](#). The aim of these collaborations is to drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

As shown in Figure 5, below, every part of Scotland is covered by either a City Region Deal or a Regional Growth Deal.

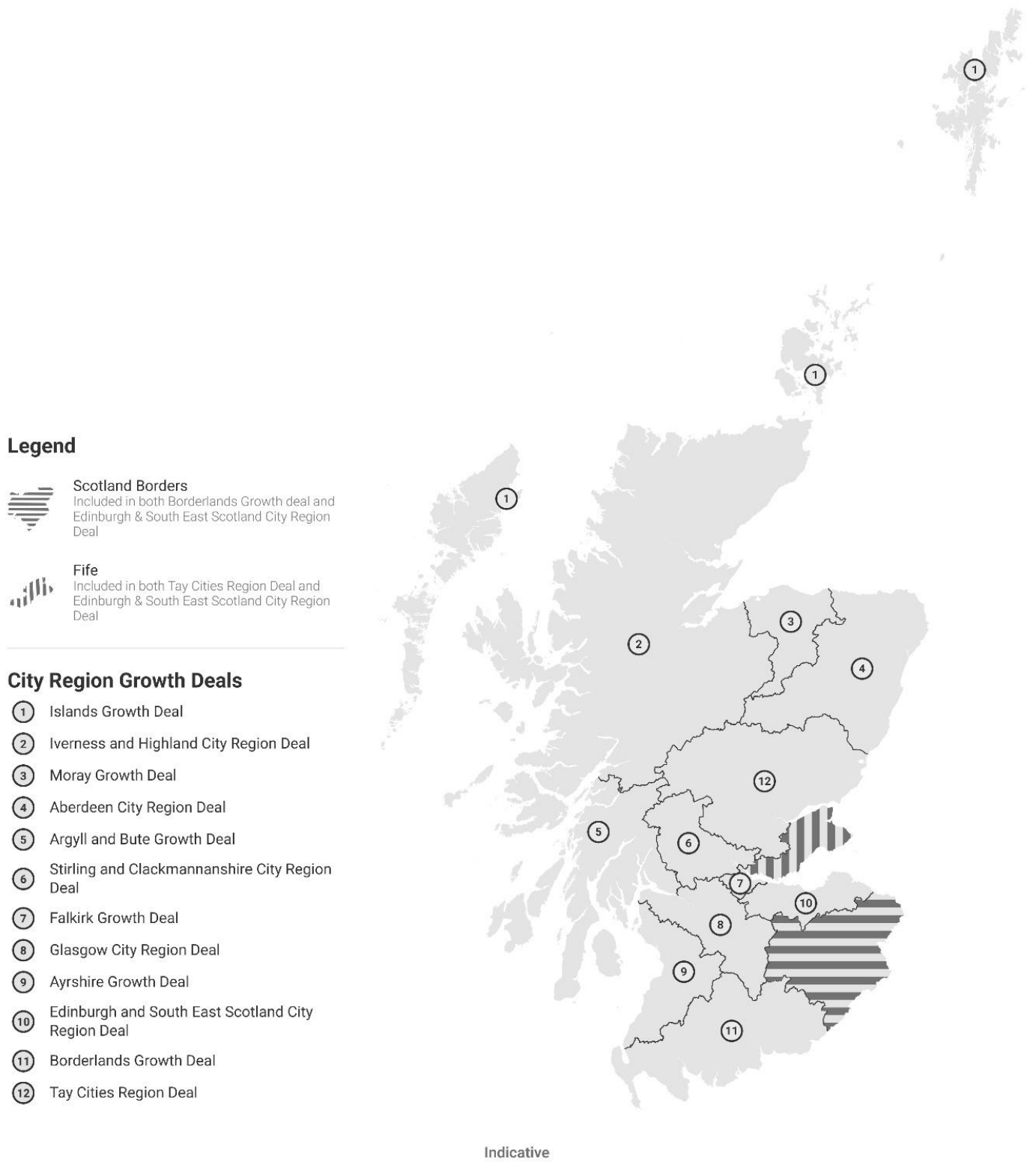


Figure 5 – City Region Deals and Regional Growth Deals

Other methods of funding and financing infrastructure

Delivery of NPF4 will not just rely on national funding programmes. Further information on a range of mechanisms and approaches available for the funding and financing of infrastructure can be found as part of the [research undertaken by SFT](#) that informs this Delivery Programme. The research report highlights the ‘*spectrum of options across public and private investment and the sectors they often support*’.

Figure 6, extracted from the [SFT research](#) and shown below, complements the range of government led funding options outlined previously in this section, and shows the spectrum of financing options with ownership and delivery as part of the decision-making when considering funding and finance. Moving from left to right across the diagram the risk increases, with a resultant increase in the cost of finance. The SFT research provides further information on these options.

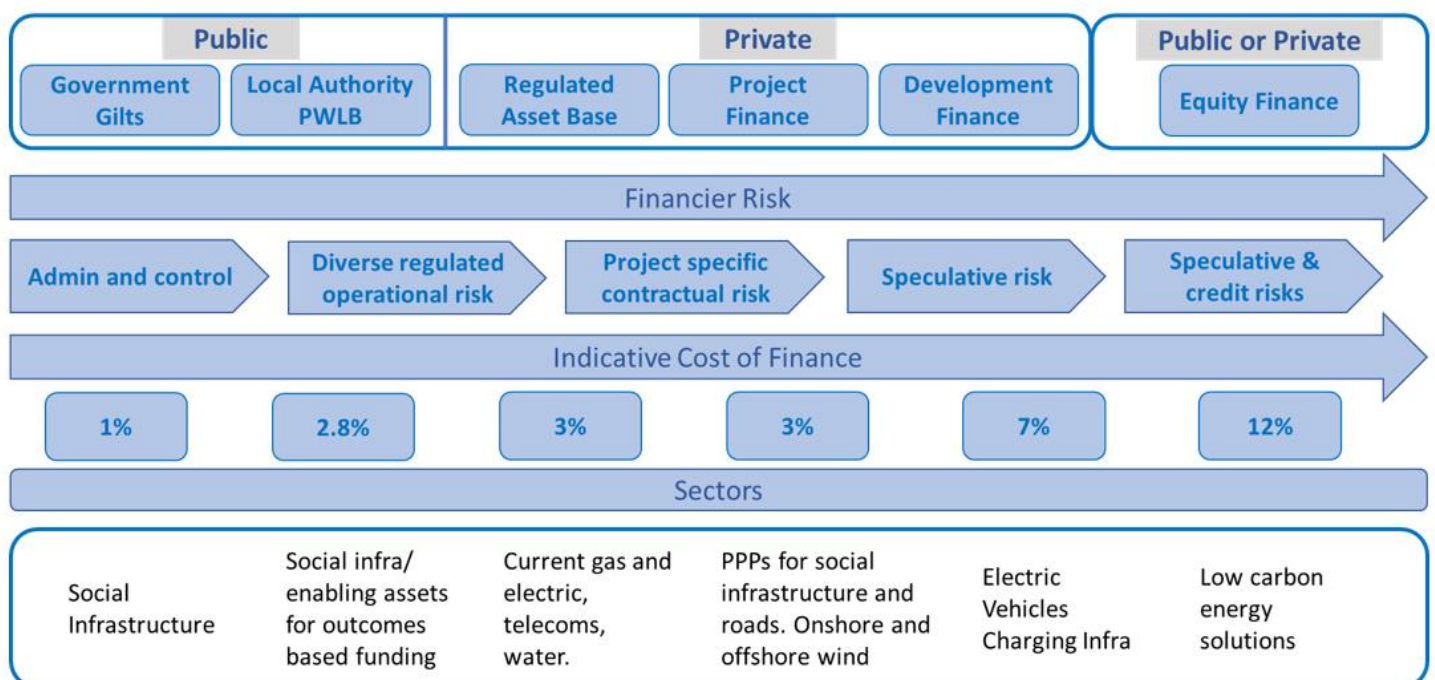


Figure 6 – Sources of infrastructure funding and finance

4. Skills, resources and performance

We need a well-resourced planning system to support the delivery of NPF4 and implement its policy aspirations. Delivery is influenced not only by aligning resources, but also by having a sufficient scale of resources in place, where and when they are required.

We recognise the concerns raised through different forums, including through the Draft NPF4 consultation process, over a lack of resources in terms of headcount and skills, to implement and support the delivery of NPF4.

This section outlines the existing and forthcoming measures to support the system.

Monitoring and improving performance

Performance is not the sole responsibility of planning authorities. Every party (authority, consultees and applicants) has a role to play in ensuring that applications are determined effectively and efficiently. Prior to 2020, planning statistics showed sustained improvements, year on year, in average timescales for determining applications. However, the pandemic has had an unavoidable impact on the planning service and individual authorities' performance remains variable.

We have established an applicant stakeholder group who feed into the High Level Group on Planning Performance in order to identify priority areas for action. Early discussions have focused on skills, communication between applicants and authorities and pre-applications discussions.

The Planning Act 2019 includes provisions which require authorities to prepare, publish and submit to Scottish Ministers a report on their performance on an annual basis. It is intended that performance reporting will seek to monitor outcomes as well as processes and timescales for determining applications and build on existing Planning Performance Frameworks. This will help with monitoring the implementation and effect of NPF4 and improvements to the planning system more generally.

National Planning Improvement Champion

The Planning Act 2019 includes provisions which provide that the Scottish Ministers may appoint somebody to act as the National Planning Improvement Champion.

The purpose of this role is to support improvement within the Scottish planning system, by providing constructive input which promotes a measurable outcomes-based approach. The Champion will achieve this by monitoring performance, looking at overall trends to identify and share good practice, supporting improvement within planning authorities, and where appropriate, providing tailored advice to organisations within the sector including authorities, Scottish Government, agencies, community groups and applicants.

The Champion post is embedded within the Improvement Service and funded by the Scottish Government. Recruitment has now taken place and the successful candidate started their role in September 2023.

Investing in the planning service

Planning Fees

Increased planning fees came into effect on 1 April 2022 with fees for most types of development increasing between 25% and 50%. The new regulations also introduce the ability for authorities to charge fees for additional services such as pre-application discussions, to waive or reduce fees, and apply a surcharge to retrospective applications.

We are continuing to discuss through the High Level Group how planning fees can cover the full cost of determining applications.

Skills development

Elected member training

The Planning Act 2019 includes provisions which make the training of elected members who sit on a planning committee mandatory. Following engagement with the public, private and community sectors in 2022, we have published a [consultation](#) to formally seek views on elected member training. The consultation closes on 26 October 2023.

Skills in planning

The Scottish Government is engaging closely with COSLA and Heads of Planning Scotland (HOPS) to understand the pressures faced by the planning service and to promote a high performing system which can deliver on the ambitions for planning set out in NPF4.

Consideration of capacity and skills in planning has been informed by research commissioned by Skills Development Scotland, undertaken by EKOS and published by Partners in Planning.

The [research report](#) provides an independent perspective on the challenges faced and a series of proposed actions. Scottish Government is working with other key stakeholders to take forward the proposed actions to help ensure the future pipeline of planners needed to deliver on our ambitions, in particular through the Future Planners project referred to below.

The responses to Draft NPF4 called for a resource and skills strategy to be prepared. We are working with Partners in Planning to develop a skills strategy which will identify the specialist skills required to address the requirements of NPF4, and the wider skills required to ensure we have planners with the expertise to deliver on our ambitions for Scotland.

Future Planners project

The Scottish Government supported this short project in 2022 by HOPS and the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) to explore options and set out proposals to help increase the numbers of people entering the planning profession. This important

piece of work identifies how we can ensure that the planning system is resourced with the necessary skilled people to deliver on our ambitions.

A short term working group including the Scottish Government, the RTPI and the planning schools was established by HOPS for an initial period of 12 months to drive forward implementation of the recommendations. We are continuing to support the implementation of the report's recommendations and working to take forward the actions where the Scottish Government is identified as the key lead.

Work is well underway to implement the actions of the report. Milestones include SG funding for 10 x £2,000 RTPI bursaries for students undertaking post graduate planning degrees in Scottish planning schools in 2023-24. RTPI and the Scottish Government have promoted the case for a planning apprenticeship or practice-based planning degree and will continue to support delivery of such routes into the profession.

Professional support from Planning, Architecture and Regeneration Division

Within the Planning, Architecture and Regeneration Division (PAR), the adoption of NPF4 will also be supported by a change in organisational structure, moving from a focus on policy development to policy delivery.

A key element of this will be the re-introduction of a dedicated official in PAR. This will provide all planning authorities with a single point of contact for support with the transition to the new planning system.

Digital transformation of planning

The Scottish Government has backed this programme with substantial investment, to digitally transform the planning and building standards process. The work has been collaborative throughout, and we have phased delivery of the missions set out in our [Digital Planning Strategy](#) to ensure that new systems can be developed and adopted by planning authorities in a manageable way.

At present the programme is focused on the delivery of the Payment and Apply systems with roll out of the first new products expected in 2024 and a range of new systems rolling out over the subsequent years towards the expected programme completion in March 2027.

Alongside this, we are undertaking extensive work to develop opportunities to support the use of data in a way which is fit for purpose, helping ensure that information is available in a format which can be easily consumed and referenced by new digital services. Our emerging Data Strategy will set out how we will help planning authorities transition the planning system from documents to data. This will explore the extent to which commonly used and shared datasets can be brought together to provide a single source of reliable and consistent evidence which will be easier to maintain and is accessible to all users of the planning system. This will create significant efficiencies and bring together information on land use and development to form a more reliable and complete picture of Scotland's spatial development in the future.

Further opportunities to streamline development planning through digital innovation will support the delivery of NPF4 and we expect to see change in the coming years which will allow for greater join-up and consistency across Scotland's system of development plans. This includes the evidence and monitoring which was deployed to inform NPF4, so it can be used at a regional scale in future RSSs and also support LDPs.

Digital planning has significant potential to support the monitoring and evaluation of NPF4 itself, as well as in the long-term monitoring of outcomes from the planning service as a whole. It will also play an essential role in streamlining current and future processes, supporting the efficiency of the planning service and ensuring better and wider engagement with communities, applicants and members of the public. Our Delivery Programme will therefore reflect, and be informed by, developments in our digital planning programme as it progresses.

5. Monitoring and evaluation

Since the adoption of NPF4, we have been listening to stakeholders to gather intelligence about implementation and experiences from a range of networks and sources. In response to those discussions we have had further engagement with Heads of Planning Scotland on implementing the policies in NPF4 relevant to rural homes and have hosted a training event on biodiversity. Monitoring of NPF4 is a long term commitment. We will continue to engage with a range of stakeholders to progress an effective monitoring programme that allows us to assess progress on desired outputs and outcomes and take action where required.

The monitoring will draw on research undertaken by the RTPI into how best to measure outcomes from the planning system.

We are exploring how all three elements of NPF4 can be taken into account: the spatial strategy; National Developments; and national planning policy. Given the breadth of issues addressed by NPF4 and the multidisciplinary nature of delivery, it will be important to ensure that the activity required at both a national and local level is proportionate and effective. There is an opportunity for monitoring to be linked to future changes to planning authority performance reporting, which is currently undertaken on an annual basis.

Spatial strategy

It will be important to monitor long-term change. Given the significant lead-in time for development projects, trends may not emerge for some time. The nature of spatial change also means that it will not be wholly attributable to the impact of NPF4.

In the interest of proportionality, it is proposed that the monitoring approach will reflect and read-across to relevant data that is already gathered and reported on in relation to the National Outcomes set out in the National Performance Framework.

The examples below are datasets that are already linked to indicators identified by the National Performance Framework, and which could be relevant to this scale of monitoring:

Sustainable places	Liveable places	Productive places
Scottish Greenhouse Gas Inventory	Population change by area	Business in Scotland
Condition of protected nature sites	Perceptions of local area	Labour Force Survey (ONS)
Marine and terrestrial species indicators	Places to interact	Numbers of businesses in Scotland
Waste generated	Access to green and blue space	Economic participation
Journeys by active travel	Satisfaction with housing	Wealth inequality
Energy from renewable sources	Housing statistics	Persistent poverty
State of historic sites	Physical activity	
	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation	

We will also make use of the geographic datasets that were used to inform development of the spatial strategy to track spatial change over time.

National Developments

Progress on delivery of National Developments will be a key focus for monitoring the impact of NPF4. The Scottish Futures Trust has worked with key partners to prepare delivery templates for each national development. This initial baseline information will enable monitoring of progress and inform action to support delivery.

The Planning, Infrastructure and Place Advisory Group could provide an influential forum for discussing and sharing good practice and issues arising from implementing National Developments. To inform this we will build and maintain consistent monitoring information for each of the National Developments over time using the templates prepared.

National planning policies

At a national level monitoring will initially focus on reviewing appeal decisions and reflecting on the progress of new LDPs in the system. For the latter, it will be useful to identify how plans have responded to and aligned with the policies set out in NPF4, including the extent to which tailored local policies and approaches are considered necessary and any areas where there are frequent incompatibilities with NPF4.

In the interest of proportionality, we propose to monitor NPF4 policies that introduce significant change and represent the strategic aims of the document as a whole. These key indicator policies could include the following:

- Policy 1 Tackling the climate and nature crisis – to establish how the weighting is applied in practice.
- Policy 2 Climate mitigation and adaptation – to monitor the application of methodologies to assess greenhouse gas emissions.
- Policy 3 Biodiversity – to ensure the effectiveness of accompanying guidance and good practice, and identify links with wider environmental monitoring.
- Policy 11 Energy – to establish issues frequently arising from renewable energy applications as a result of the policy changes.
- Policy 15 Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods – to establish the impact on placemaking, ensure community involvement is encouraged and share good practice.
- Policy 16 Quality homes – to track Local Housing Land Requirements and implementation of housing delivery pipelines and Community Benefit Statements. There is a statutory requirement for Scottish Ministers to report on housing needs of older people and disabled people.
- Policy 25 Community wealth building – to build best practice in aligning planning with local strategies and priorities and establish additionality for local economies.

- Policy 27 City, town, local and commercial centres – to reflect change in town centres for example vacancy rates and conversions to residential uses.

To establish a fuller picture of local progress, the monitoring approach will complement, and potentially combine, wider planning performance work including Planning Performance Frameworks and RTPi work on monitoring outcomes. We are also liaising with Heads of Planning Scotland and the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals to discuss issues and identify skills gaps.

C. Achievements

November 2022 - September 2023:

- NPF4 was adopted by the Scottish Ministers on 13 February 2023, following approval by the Scottish Parliament on 10 January 2023. NPF4 is now part of the statutory development plan, giving clear direction of a change in planning priorities for decision making and giving investors' confidence.
- The Planning, Infrastructure and Place Advisory Group has been established. Membership includes a core group of individuals who have experience and expertise in infrastructure delivery. They are supported by a reference group covering a wide range of organisations who have a role in infrastructure delivery. [Membership details are available online.](#) The Group first met on 14 June to start discussions on their purpose, remit and future priority actions. They met again in September to discuss infrastructure first in detail using a case study scenario at Winchburgh.
- New Local Development Plan [Regulations](#) are now in force.
- [Local Development Planning Guidance](#) has been published setting out expectations for implementing new style, place-based, people-centred and delivery focused plans.
- The Key Agencies Group are taking forward [collaborative Local Development Plan](#) work with 6 authorities (Dundee, Fife, Highland, Midlothian, Renfrewshire, Eilean Siar). The Group will provide support to these authorities with the preparation and implementation of new-style Local Development Plans. The [initial focus](#) is on supporting a place-based approach to evidence gathering and reporting, laying the foundations for potential ongoing collaborative work on spatial strategies, place briefs and masterplans at proposed plan stage.
- Permitted development rights have been extended. Phase 2 Regulations came into force on 31 March 2023 and covered change of use in centres, operational port development and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. A consultation on Phase 3 was launched on 31 May with the consultation running to 23 August 2023.
- We have published a [Circular](#) and [Guidance](#) on Short Term Lets and Planning.
- We laid a [Statement in Parliament](#) which sets out the circumstances where Scottish Ministers will consider calling in a planning application for their own consideration.
- Scotland's first National Planning Improvement Champion has been appointed and took up post in September 2023.

- An Applicant Stakeholder Group, who will work with the High Level Group on Planning Performance, has been established.
- A [consultation](#) on the training of elected members in planning was launched in July.
- We have committed to funding 10 bursaries for students undertaking post graduate planning education in Scotland in the coming year.
- We brought together Key Agency Chief Executives to discuss priorities for delivery with the Minister for Local Government Empowerment and Planning. A follow up meeting will take place by the end of 2023.
- We consulted on [local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods guidance](#). Responses are currently being analysed to inform the final version of the guidance.
- Three stakeholder engagement sessions to help drafting of the Housing Land Audit Guidance were held. The guidance will be published by end 2023.
- NatureScot published [Developing with Nature Guidance](#) in February. We convened an advisory group to support drafting of biodiversity guidance. We also hosted a biodiversity information sharing event to share practice amongst public sector planners. The guidance will be published later in 2023.
- Scottish Futures Trust have completed delivery templates for all national developments. These provide a means of monitoring progress and issues arising.
- [Play Sufficiency Regulations](#) are now in force.
- We consulted on [Effective Community Engagement in Local Development Planning Guidance](#) to inform final guidance later in 2023.
- We engaged with COSLA, Heads of Planning Scotland, SOLACE and RTPi on the content of Statutory Guidance for Chief Planning Officers.
- We completed development of a prototype payment solution to provide a simplified interface and enable multiple payments for planning and building standard applications.
- We have developed an alpha prototype for a new Apply service for submitting planning and building standard applications to planning authorities.

D. Actions

Theme	Support measure	Scottish Government (SG) role	Delivery partner(s)	Scottish Government (SG) next steps	Short-term action – 2023	Medium-term action – 2024 - 2028
Governance and collaboration	Planning, Infrastructure and Place Advisory Group	SG to provide secretariat for Advisory Group SG Board role in NPF4 governance	Public, private and third sector Requires stakeholder engagement	Confirm priorities and actions for the first 6 months. Produce first annual summary of progress in summer 2024.		
	National Developments (NDs)	Support delivery of prioritised NDs	Lead partners, SFT will also continue to support the delivery of the National Developments through their key infrastructure role	Collaborate with lead partners. Monitor progress and drive delivery. Work with planning authorities to identify sites for NDs within the broad locations indicated by the statements of need. Initial baseline delivery templates will support the meetings of the Planning, Infrastructure and Place Advisory Group.		
	Monitoring and evaluation	Work with key stakeholders to ensure robust monitoring and review of NPF4	High Level Group on Planning Performance, COSLA, planning authorities, HOPS, KAG, RTPi	Liaise with key stakeholders to scope out a 5 year framework for monitoring NPF4 by end 2023.		
	Key Agencies Group (KAG)	Work with KAG to embed NPF4 delivery	KAG members	By end 2023, agree KAG work programme and contribution to NPF4 and wider service delivery. Key Agency Group have provided a Collaborative Local Development Plan Offer and are working with 6 local authorities. Key Agency Chief Executives met with the Minister for Local Government Empowerment and Planning and Chief Planner in May and are due to meet again by the end of 2023.		
	Progress alignment of IIP and NPF4	SG internally		SG Chief Planner and SG Deputy Director Infrastructure and Investment liaising regularly.		

Theme	Support measure	Scottish Government (SG) role	Delivery partner(s)	Scottish Government (SG) next steps	Short-term action – 2023	Medium-term action – 2024 - 2028
Delivery mechanisms (regulations and guidance)	NPF4 amendment regulations	SG responsible for regulations	Stakeholder engagement	Drafting to commence Autumn 2023, followed by consultation and laying in Parliament before coming into force in 2024.		
	LDP amendment regulations	SG responsible for regulations	Stakeholder engagement	Drafting to commence Autumn 2023, followed by consultation and laying in Parliament before coming into force in 2024.		
	Open Space Strategy (OSS) regulations	SG responsible for regulations	Supporting role - Greenspace Scotland, NatureScot, Play Scotland	Lay regulations, with them coming into force in 2024.		
	Masterplan Consent Areas regulations	SG responsible for regulations SG lead development of pilot work led by local authorities	Pilot local authorities	Commence work, including identification of delivery partners in autumn 2023.		
	Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) guidance	SG responsible for guidance	Stakeholder engagement including collaboration with HOPS and regional partners	Commence drafting in 2024.		
	Regional Land Use Partnership (RLUP) pilots	Lead integration with Regional Spatial Strategy statutory guidance	Pilot RLUPs	Reflect on scope for strategic alignment and where appropriate build into RSS guidance to maximise opportunities to guide long term sustainable land use.		
	Housing Land Audit (HLA) guidance	SG responsible for guidance	HOPS, planning authorities, Homes for Scotland, development industry	Engagement underway with stakeholders. Guidance to be published by end 2023.		
	Local Place Plan (LPP) 'How to' guidance	SG responsible for guidance	HOPS, planning authorities, Partners in Planning	Draft guidance is available online. We will finalise this guidance in 2024. Continue roll out of 'Placebuilder', a community engagement tool supporting the development of Local Place Plans.		

Theme	Support measure	Scottish Government (SG) role	Delivery partner(s)	Scottish Government (SG) next steps	Short-term action – 2023	Medium-term action – 2024 - 2028
	Effective community engagement guidance	SG responsible for guidance	Stakeholder engagement	Consultation launched on 24 May, closing 13 September. Final guidance to be published by end 2023.		
	Guidance to support Biodiversity policies	SG lead	NatureScot	Develop draft guidance on NPF4 policy 3 (excluding 3c). An Advisory Group was convened in March and roundtable discussion held in May to inform biodiversity guidance. The group have also provided comments on a draft which will be published in 2023. Biodiversity information sharing event held on 21 June to share practice amongst public sector planners.		
	Planning and climate change guidance	SG responsible for guidance	Stakeholder engagement	Commence preparation of guidance in autumn 2023.		
	Update Designing Streets	PARD to lead, Transport Scotland partner	Architecture & Design Scotland (A&DS), Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS)	For action in 2024.		
	Local Living Guidance on 20 minute neighbourhoods	SG responsible for guidance	Stakeholder engagement, local authorities, community organisations	Consultation ran from May to July. Consideration of responses and finalisation of guidance in 2023.		
	Play sufficiency assessments guidance	SG responsible for guidance	Greenspace Scotland, NatureScot, Play Scotland	Guidance to be published by end 2023.		
	Open Space Strategy guidance	SG responsible for guidance	Greenspace Scotland, NatureScot, Play Scotland, HOPS	For action in 2024.		
	Masterplan Consent Area guidance	SG responsible for guidance	Pilot local authorities	Work commenced. To be taken forward alongside work on associated Masterplan Consent Area Regulations.		
	Digital Telecommunications Planning Advice Note (PAN) 62	SG responsible for PAN	SFT, stakeholders and HOPS	To be published by end 2023.		

Theme	Support measure	Scottish Government (SG) role	Delivery partner(s)	Scottish Government (SG) next steps	Short-term action – 2023	Medium-term action – 2024 - 2028
	Our Place Website	SG responsible for website	Public Health Scotland, A&DS, Glasgow City Council, Improvement Service	Promote as a tool for sharing good practice.		
	Place Standard	SG working alongside Public Health Scotland, A+DS, Glasgow City Council, Improvement Service	Local authority Place Standard leads, national organisations, Place and Wellbeing Alliance, WHO Healthy Cities Network	Ongoing support and promotion.		
	Review Right Tree Right Place Guidance	Scottish Forestry lead, supported by PARD	HOPS, COSLA	Progress a review of guidance to support planning authorities to produce Forestry and Woodland Strategies.		
	Permitted Development Rights Review Phase 2 and 3	SG responsible for consultation and regulations	Stakeholder engagement	Analyse responses to the Phase 3 consultation which focuses on small scale renewable energy development and is designed to support businesses as well as households in response to the cost of living crisis. We will finalise the proposals with a view to introducing new measure early in 2024.		
	Publication of planning obligations/annual reporting	SG responsible for regulations and guidance	Planning authorities, HOPS	Engage with planning authorities to determine consistent approach to publication and reporting.		
	Compulsory Purchase reform and modernisation	SG responsible	Compulsory Purchase Association	Appoint advisory board and develop options for reform. Commence engagement and policy development 2023-24.		
Skills, resources and performance	Planning Fees	SG lead responsibility	COSLA, HOPS	Investigate mechanism to move to full cost recovery with stakeholders, linking with fiscal framework. Host workshops in late 2023 with a range of stakeholders to discuss resourcing the planning system. Consult on planning fees in 2024.		

Theme	Support measure	Scottish Government (SG) role	Delivery partner(s)	Scottish Government (SG) next steps	Short-term action – 2023	Medium-term action – 2024 - 2028
	Statutory Annual Performance Reporting	National Planning Improvement Champion	High Level Group on Planning Performance	Consultation undertaken in 2019. Develop in collaboration with stakeholders, including the National Planning Improvement Champion, the content of performance reports which will be informed by consultation responses, research and experience of PPFs.		
	Mandatory Elected Member Training	SG lead responsibility	High Level Group on Planning Performance	Consultation live and running to 26 October 2023.		
	Statutory Guidance for Chief Planning Officers	SG lead responsibility	RTPI, COSLA, HOPS, The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (Solace)	Engagement ongoing with key stakeholders. Publish Guidance in 2023.		
	Future Planners report recommendations	SG lead responsibility	HOPS, RTPI	Working with HOPS and RTPI to take forward recommendations from report.		
	Planning apprenticeship	SG support to RTPI as lead partner	RTPI lead	SG PARD liaising with SG Skills to provide support to RTPI in development of a new graduate apprenticeship scheme.		
	Support work to enable and facilitate the roll-out of onshore development across Scotland to enable the major expansion in offshore wind necessary to meet our net zero ambitions	SG lead responsibility	All planning authorities, HOPS	Working with internal and external partners we will develop and progress a package of practical measures to ensure the planning system enables and facilitates the roll out of offshore wind. Progress planning advice on hydrogen production.		
	Dedicated official point of contact to support local / planning authorities	SG lead responsibility	All planning authorities, HOPS	Discuss options and opportunities with Heads of Planning Scotland.		

Theme	Support measure	Scottish Government (SG) role	Delivery partner(s)	Scottish Government (SG) next steps	Short-term action – 2023	Medium-term action – 2024 - 2028
Targeted programmes	£325m Place Based Investment Programme	SG responsible	COSLA	Deliver programme to accelerate ambitions for place, town centre revitalisation, 20 minute neighbourhoods, community-led regeneration and community wealth building. This will contribute to the aims of objectives of NPF4, with a focus on disadvantaged and fragile rural communities.		
	Regeneration Capital Grant fund	SG responsible	COSLA and local authorities	Deliver fund in partnership, and support locally developed place based regeneration projects that involve local communities, tackle inequalities and support inclusive economic recovery. 23 projects are being supported in the financial year 2023/24.		
	£50 million low carbon Vacant & Derelict Land Investment Programme	SG responsible	COSLA	Deliver programme to help with tackling persistent vacant and derelict land as part of a 'just transition' to net-zero, and contributing to the aims and objectives of NPF4. 15 projects are being supported in the financial year 2023/24.		
	Town Centre Action Plan 2	SG responsible	COSLA	Implement TCAP2, including establishing a bi-annual forum to support and challenge delivery partners and share learning.		