
Planning, Infrastructure & Place Advisory Group

Paper 1: Proposed Scope, Structure & Priorities

BACKGROUND

National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) was adopted by the Scottish Ministers and published on 13 February 2023, following approval by the Scottish Parliament on 11 January 2023. Published alongside NPF4, the Delivery Programme¹ (version 1 - November 2022) demonstrates the clear ambition to deliver on NPF4. The Delivery Programme will guide how NPF4 will be implemented by all relevant stakeholders.

Planning, infrastructure and place are clearly interdependent. Recognising this, the Delivery Programme commits to establishing a new advisory group which will play a critical role in supporting collaboration, alignment and delivery.

PURPOSE

Consideration has been given to the form that such a group could take, to enable both wider consultation and input, as well as focused discussion, challenge and debate.

This paper has been prepared for discussion at the first meeting of the group which will be known as the Planning, Infrastructure and Place Advisory Group (PIPAG). Members are asked to consider and agree the group's:

1. Scope
2. Governance and structure
3. Initial priority work areas

¹ <https://www.transformingplanning.scot/media/3136/national-planning-framework-4-delivery-programme-for-publication-2-november-2022.pdf>

1. SCOPE

Purpose and objectives

Being clear from the beginning what success will look like for PIPAG will provide a framework to measure and assess priorities and progress. This requires considering its purpose and objectives, as well as key areas for collaborative working.

The strategic purpose of the group is to support joined-up, place-based delivery of development and infrastructure in Scotland.

Its objectives are to:

- advise on the delivery of **National Planning Framework 4**;
- provide strategic input to the development of the next **infrastructure investment plan**;
- advise on prioritisation and targeting of investment to optimise outcomes and achieve **place-based transformational change**;
- guide **improved alignment and integration** of place-based and spatial approaches in public and private sector decision-making;
- promote **innovation and best practice**.

To achieve this, the group will:

- review progress in delivering the spatial strategy, National Developments and national planning policy set out in NPF4;
- visibly champion delivery and challenge decision-makers to consider new ways of working, in the spirit of public service reform;
- identify issues and blockers to development, regeneration and implementation of an infrastructure first approach in practice;
- identify, explore and share solutions and scope for innovation to overcome barriers to development and infrastructure delivery, including by applying the Place Principle in practice; and
- reflect on the impacts and opportunities arising from wider change, including the implications of wider Scottish Government policy and programmes as they evolve.

It is proposed that in parallel to the development of the initial programme of works (see point 3 below), that the group establish some key measures of success and a summary monitoring and evaluation framework to support achieving the group priorities.

Action: The group are asked to discuss and agree:

- the above purpose, objectives and key areas for collaborative working.
 - what success would look like for the group; and identify a nominee to work with the Secretariat to develop a summary monitoring and evaluation framework.
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2. GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

Chair and Secretariat

The group will initially be co-chaired by Fiona Simpson, Chief Planner and Director of Planning Architecture & Regeneration Division, and Tony Rose, Director of Strategy, Place & Economy, Scottish Futures Trust. Chairing will be held under review as the programme develops, with potential for rotation to involve other directly relevant senior officials as appropriate.

SG and SFT will jointly resource a secretariat to organise meetings, co-ordinate reporting and any other administrative duties. This support will extend to appropriate workstreams as needed. Members are expected to be available to support targeted and specific activity in between meetings and at times lead on or support the drafting of meeting papers.

Membership

The group has intentionally been established with a smaller core group of members, based on expertise. The membership is attached at **Appendix A**. However, depending on the breadth of the programme of activities, additional short-life groups or time-limited membership may allow the work of the group to explore specific issues in more detail - a 'core and hub' approach to delivery. Where a short life working group is required to take forward more detailed and wide-ranging work, the membership collectively will consider the appropriate make up of working groups, likely to be drawn from a wider supporting reference group.

Meeting Schedule

The group will meet quarterly, with workplan activities progressing, including through smaller / extended / subject-focused sub-groups between meetings as needed. Options such as site visits and having scheduled in-person meetings to balance online meetings are also suggested as valuable. This may also allow members to draw on wider issues and experience to develop a better understanding and possible solutions.

Reporting

Reporting will be lean and purposeful. The Secretariat will draw upon the group's activities to provide regular reports to relevant Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers (recognising the work extends across a number of portfolios). Outputs will also be shared with relevant senior officials across the Scottish Government including through existing and future internal SG Boards and external groups as appropriate. Boards and external groups could include those relating to land use, infrastructure, transport, energy, housing, construction and place policy development.

Action: Members are asked to agree:

- the above governance approach including the proposed 'core and hub' approach and meeting preferences.
 - dates for subsequent meetings to help ensure attendance.
 - to discuss a fuller paper on reporting which outlines relationships with wider groups at the second meeting.
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3. INITIAL PRIORITY WORK AREAS

Given varying timescales and programmes of work on planning, infrastructure and place, the group is expected to focus on different programmes and policies at different points in time. Prioritisation and phasing of the work programme will be required.

In the first year, the following initial focus areas are proposed:

1. **The broad issues and opportunities for alignment of planning, infrastructure and place could form an initial focus for discussion.** This could consider the range of issues involved; known good practice and opportunities for cross-sectoral alignment; ways of promoting spatial and place-based priorities into wider programmes and projects; and scope to embed wider current and future investment programmes and initiatives into planning and place.
2. It is suggested that the group could also usefully explore and develop a fuller understanding of **'infrastructure first'** building on work previously undertaken to consider this and reflecting the wide interest and sectoral breadth of this area. Within this, there is scope to consider, for example: priority areas to focus on; steps to achieving certainty and deliverability; options for front-funding / cost recovery; and the role of digital transformation to support good practice.
3. **Given the recent publication of NPF4 and its comprehensive role in supporting both place and infrastructure development, it is suggested that the immediate focus could usefully be on supporting its delivery.** As part of this:
 - a. **Funding and financing of NPF4** could be considered further. This could explore for example: public sector funding programmes; private sector investment prospects and opportunities for leveraging funds; consideration of novel or innovative solutions; and identification of key gaps.
 - b. The group could focus on **national developments**. This could include stimulating collaborative working; exploring scope to align public and private priorities and investments; opportunities for de-risking and securing commitment to delivery; scope for added value and place-based benefits.
 - c. The group could focus on gathering **regional perspectives**, by convening discussion sessions across Scotland to explore how issues vary regionally and identify regional scale approaches to partnership working, to support delivery.
 - d. The group could also create a **medium-long term workplan proposal for the NPF4 delivery programme**, unpacking what could be done, including reflecting locational and sectoral priorities.

Action: The group are asked to consider and agree the proposed priority work areas to be progressed over the first year, and to identify further areas where they could add value over the longer term.

RECOMMENDATIONS / NEXT STEPS

As noted, the following should be confirmed: -

- Finalise group scope;
- Identify a member to support the development of a monitoring and evaluation paper including final measures of success;
- Agree governance approach, group structure, meeting schedule and reporting; and
- Agree priority workstreams and longer term areas for the group to focus on.

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APPENDIX A: PIPAG MEMBERSHIP

PIPAG includes a **core group** and a wider **reference group**.

Members of the core group have been selected on the basis of their personal experience and expertise in a range of areas including: construction, regulation, place-based work, community development, sustainability, financial expertise and on the ground delivery. A range of geographical interests were also included. The core group provides a focal point for defining and taking forward a prioritised and phased work programme, which the broader reference group can contribute to as appropriate. Their input is expected on a personal basis, rather than in a representative capacity.

- Richard Ballantyne, British Ports
- Susan Campbell, Scottish National Infrastructure Bank
- David Cowan, Scottish Government
- Iain Docherty, Stirling University
- Pam Ewen, Heads of Planning Scotland
- John Hamilton, Winchburgh Developments
- Soren Jensen, Infrastructure Transparency
- Scott Matheson, Scottish Power Energy Networks
- Martin McKay, Clyde Gateway
- Francesca Osowska, NatureScot
- Ailsa Raeburn, Community Land Scotland
- Tony Rose, Scottish Futures Trust
- Fiona Simpson, Scottish Government
- Rachel Skinner, WSP
- Pauline Smith, Development Trust Association Scotland
- Sara Thiam, Scottish Council for Development and Industry
- Hamish Trench, Scottish Land Commission
- John Trower, Optimity
- Kat White, Scottish Government
- Jane Wood, Homes for Scotland

The reference group brings together representative bodies and members of the previously convened Infrastructure Advisory Group and other interested parties. It will primarily run as a virtual group through correspondence, with members being invited to join specific meetings of the core group as appropriate. This can evolve and reach beyond the organisations below – for example it is expected that it will be useful to draw in further expertise in areas such as funding and finance.

Representatives from the following organisations have agreed to participate in the reference group:

- Greenspace Scotland
 - Homes for Scotland
 - Institution of Civil Engineers
 - John Muir Trust
 - Key Agencies Group
 - Mobile UK
 - Moray Estates
 - Network Rail
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- Openreach Ltd
 - Planning Aid Scotland
 - Royal Town Planning Institute
 - Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
 - Salmon Scotland
 - Scottish Environment Protection Agency
 - Scottish Power Energy Networks
 - Scottish Property Federation
 - Scottish Renewables
 - Scottish Water
 - Society of Local Authority Lawyers & Administrators in Scotland
 - Tactran
 - Transport Scotland
 - UK Infrastructure Bank
 - Virgin Media
 - Zero Waste Scotland

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