



Council Executive

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

15 December 2022

A hybrid meeting of the **Council Executive** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Council Chambers, West Lothian Civic Centre, Livingston** on **Tuesday 20 December 2022 at 10:00am**.

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

Public Session

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest - Members must declare any interests they have in the items of business for consideration at the meeting, identifying the relevant agenda items and the nature of their interests.
3. Order of Business, including notice of urgent business, declarations of interest in any urgent business and consideration of reports for information.

The Chair will invite members to identify any such reports they wish to have fully considered, which failing they will be taken as read and their recommendations approved.

4. Confirm Draft Minutes of Meeting of Council Executive held on Tuesday 06 December 2022 (herewith)

Public Items for Decision

5. Community Council Special Project Grants - Report by Head of Corporate Services (herewith)
6. Short-Term Let Licensing Scheme - Policy and Fee Structure - Report by Head of Corporate Services (herewith)

7. Introduction of Tariffs for Electric Vehicle Charging - Report by Head of Finance and Property Services (herewith)
8. Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan - Cycle 2 Local Plan - Report by Head of Operational Services (herewith)
9. Remembering Together - Phase 1 Update and Phase 2 Plan - Report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith)
10. Voluntary and Third Sector Funding 2023/24 - Report by Depute Chief Executive, Education, Planning and Economic Development (herewith)
11. Place Based Investment Programme 2022/23 Town Centre Capital Fund - Report by East Livingston and East Calder Local Area Committee Lead Officer (herewith)

Public Items for Information

12. Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Annual report 2021-22 - Report by Chief Executive (herewith)
13. Mid Year Procurement Report - 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022 - Report by Head of Corporate Services (herewith)
14. WL2028 Your Council Your Say - Public Consultation - Report by Depute Chief Executive (herewith)
15. Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete Roofs Update - Report by Head of Finance and Property Services (herewith)
16. Bus Partnership Fund Update - Report by Head of Operational Services (herewith)
17. Revised Draft National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4): Update - Report by Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration (herewith)
18. Older People Day Care Provision - Report by Head of Social Policy (herewith)

NOTE **For further information please contact Anastasia Dragona on tel. no. 01506 281601 or email anastasia.dragona@westlothian.gov.uk**



CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (2021)

This form is a reminder and an aid. It is not a substitute for understanding the Code of Conduct and guidance.

Interests must be declared at the meeting, in public.

Look at every item of business and consider if there is a connection.

If you see a connection, decide if it amounts to an interest by applying the objective test.

The objective test is whether or not a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard your connection to a particular matter as being so significant that it would be considered as being likely to influence your discussion or decision-making.

If the connection does not amount to an interest then you have nothing to declare and no reason to withdraw.

If the connection amounts to an interest, declare it as soon as possible and leave the meeting when the agenda item comes up.

When you declare an interest, identify the agenda item and give enough information so that the public understands what it is and why you are declaring it.

Even if the connection does not amount to an interest you can make a statement about it for the purposes of transparency.

More detailed information is on the next page.

Look at each item on the agenda, consider if there is a “connection”, take advice if necessary from appropriate officers in plenty of time. A connection is any link between the item of business and:-

- you
- a person you are associated with (e.g., employer, business partner, domestic partner, family member)
- a body or organisation you are associated with (e.g., outside body, community group, charity)

Anything in your Register of Interests is a connection unless one of the following exceptions applies.

A connection does not exist where:-

- you are a council tax payer, a rate payer, or a council house tenant, including at budget-setting meetings
- services delivered to the public are being considered, including at budget-setting meetings
- councillors’ remuneration, expenses, support services or pensions are being considered
- you are on an outside body through a council appointment or nomination unless it is for regulatory business or you have a personal conflict due to your connections, actions or legal obligations
- you hold a view in advance on a policy issue, have discussed that view, have expressed that view in public, or have asked for support for it

If you see a connection then you have to decide if it is an “interest” by applying the objective test. The objective test is whether or not a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard your connection to a particular matter as being so significant that it would be considered as being likely to influence your discussion or decision-making.

If the connection amounts to an interest then:-

- declare the interest in enough detail that members of the public will understand what it is
- leave the meeting room (physical or online) when that item is being considered
- do not contact colleagues participating in the item of business

Even if decide your connection is not an interest you can voluntarily make a statement about it for the record and for the purposes of transparency.

The relevant documents are:-

- [Councillors’ Code of Conduct, part 5](#)
- [Standards Commission Guidance, paragraphs 129-166](#)
- [Advice note for councillors on how to declare interests](#)

If you require assistance, contact:-

- James Millar, Interim Monitoring Officer and Governance Manager, 01506 281613, james.millar@westlothian.gov.uk
- Carol Johnston, Chief Solicitor and Depute Monitoring Officer, 01506 281626, carol.johnston@westlothian.gov.uk
- Committee Services Team, 01506 281604, 01506 281621
committee.services@westlothian.gov.uk

January 2022

MINUTE of MEETING of the COUNCIL EXECUTIVE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON, on 6 DECEMBER 2022.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), Kirsteen Sullivan, Alison Adamson (substituting for Councillor Damian Doran-Timson), Pauline Clark (substituting for Councillor Janet Campbell), Tom Conn, Robert De Bold, Carl John, Danny Logue, Andrew McGuire, Anne McMillan, Sally Pattle and George Paul

Apologies – Councillors Janet Campbell, Angela Doran-Timson and Damian Doran-Timson

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 15 - Older People Day Care Provision

Councillor Tom Conn stated a connection as a member of the Linlithgow Day Care Centre Committee.

Agenda Item 9 - West Lothian Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2023/24 to 2027/28

Councillor Andrew McGuire stated a connection as an employee of Wheatley Homes East which were mentioned within the report as Dunedin Canmore. However, having applied the objective test he considered that this did not amount to an interest and so took part in the item of business.

Councillor Danny Logue stated a general connection in that he was an employee of NHS Lothian.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair sought agreement for consideration of Agenda Item 15 (Older People Day Care Provision) to be deferred to the meeting of Council Executive on 20 December 2022 in order to provide clarity with regards to the legal relationship between West Lothian Council and the Integrated Joint Board. The Council Executive agreed to defer consideration of the report to 20 December 2022.

Council Executive agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 8(3), that agenda items 13, 14 and 16 were to be taken as read and their recommendations noted without further consideration.

3. MINUTES

The Council Executive confirmed the minute of its meeting held on 15 November 2022 as a correct record. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair

4. BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND - REVIEW OF UK

PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCIES

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Chief Executive advising of the Boundary Commission for Scotland's publication of revised proposals for UK Parliamentary constituencies in Scotland, and a period of public consultation on these revised proposals.

It was recommended that the Council Executive:

1. consider the revised proposals; and
2. agree any further comments to be submitted to the Boundary Commission for Scotland.

Decision

To approve the contents of the report.

5. PROCUREMENT APPROVAL REPORT

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Corporate Services seeking approval to enter into contracts where committee authorisation was required by Standing Orders.

It was recommended that Council Executive approve an exemption from Contract Standing Orders for:

1. a direct award of a contract to Acuma Solutions Ltd, providing secure scheduled reports for the council reporting, for a period of two years, with the option to extend for one further year, effective from 1 January 2023 until 31 December 2025 with an estimated total value of £165,000;
2. a direct award of a contract to Heriot Watt University, providing membership to the Scholars Forum, for a period of two years effective from 1 April 2023 until 31 March 2025 with an estimated total value of £56,159; and
3. a direct award of a contract to Red Sky IT Ltd for a period of one year for support and maintenance of the job costing and management system from 31 January 2023 to 30 January 2024 with a total estimated cost of £40,912.

Decision

To approve the contents of the report.

6. AUTUMN STATEMENT AND SCOTTISH BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENTS 2022

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services providing an update in relation to the announcements contained in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's UK Autumn Statement and on Scottish budget announcements and updating on the council's projected budget gap for the five years 2023/24 to 2027/28.

It was recommended that the Council Executive:

1. note the latest economic position outlined in the Autumn Statement 2022;
2. note a Scottish budget for 2023/24 would be announced on 15 December 2022;
3. agree that the Head of Finance and Property Services should report to the Council Executive on 17 January 2023 on the outcome of the Scottish Budget and local government finance settlement, ensuring that information contained in UK and Scottish Government announcements were taken into account when updating the council's financial plans for 2023/24 to 2027/28;
4. note the adverse movements in the projected budget position since the commencement of phase 2 of the public consultation, with a current estimated budget gap for 2023/24 to 2027/28 of £57.7 million and the risk areas which may have resulted in additional costs and a further increased budget gap;
5. agree that the one-off amounts identified in Appendix 1 were reprioritised and held in contingency for supporting delivery of the five year revenue financial plan, noting that further details on the amounts relating to service concessions would be reported to Council in January 2023 as required by legislation;
6. agree that officers should consider the scope to use revenue funding flexibilities as outlined in the Deputy First Minister's letter of 1 November 2022;
7. agree that officers should further consider council tax options following conclusion of phase 2 of the consultation and provide an update in the council tax scenario report to Corporate Policy and Resources PDSP on 3 February 2023;
8. agree that officers review the phasing of saving options to bring forward, as far as reasonably practicable, savings into the first three years with phasing being incorporated into the PDSP reports on potential saving options in January 2023;
9. agree that officers implement temporary cost reductions as soon as possible in 2022/23, including considering necessary changes to workforce planning, to assist with the financial crisis facing the council;

10. agree that officers undertake work to identify additional recurring budget saving options to balance the revenue budgets in years two to five and that new measures would be incorporated into phase 3 of the public consultation to take place in 2023; and
11. agree that the Head of Finance and Property Services should continue to report to Council Executive on relevant UK and Scottish Government funding and spending announcements.

Decision

To approve the contents of the report.

7. FREE SCHOOL MEAL PAYMENTS DURING PERIODS THAT PUPILS ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL DUE TO INDUSTRIAL ACTION

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services seeking approval to make a £3 payment per day to pupils in receipt of free school meals and P1 to P5 pupils who received a school clothing grant due to low income, on days where pupils were unable to attend school due to industrial action.

It was recommended that the Council Executive:

1. approve payment of £3 per pupil per school day when pupils were unable to attend school due to industrial action, with payment being made to pupils in receipt of free school meals and P1 to P5 pupils who received a clothing grant due to low income for the remainder of the academic year 2022/23; and
2. note that SO31 (Urgent Business) procedures were used to approve payments for the industrial action planned for 24 November 2022.

Decision

To approve the contents of the report.

8. WEST LOTHIAN STRATEGIC HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2023/24 TO 2027/28

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services reporting on the main points of West Lothian Council's Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2023/24 to 2027/28, seeking approval for the Plan and its submission to Scottish Government.

In response to a request for the split of properties provided by the Council and those of RSL partners for the 3,000 affordable homes detailed within section B2 of the report, officers provided approximate figures and

advised accurate numbers would be sought and circulated to members.

Discussion continued and it was queried if the location of the 30 homes noted for the Linlithgow area, within section D3 and table 2 of the report, was available. Members were informed that there were a number of possible sites which were not yet in the Local Development Plan. The Plan was to be reviewed and would dictate the specific location following which an update would be provided.

It was recommended that the Council Executive:

1. approve the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2023/24 to 2027/28 attached as Appendix 1;
2. note that over a 10-year period from 2012 to 2022, the council and RSL partners successfully delivered the 3,000 affordable homes programme with the majority being council houses;
3. note that the council was planning a future new build programme over the next five years, the scale of which would be dependent on the outcome of the rent consultation and available funding, and that indicative sites for 508 homes had been identified and were included in this SHIP;
4. note that the level of grant funding for affordable housing delivery for the period 2022-2027 had increased from previous years and that in 2021/22 West Lothian received additional grant funding of more than £6.776 million for the affordable homes programme; and
5. approve submission of the SHIP to the More Homes Division of the Scottish Government.

Decision

1. To approve the contents of the report;
2. To note officers undertook to circulate to members the distinction between properties provided by the Council and those of RSL partners with regards to the 3,000 affordable homes detailed within section B2 of the report; and
3. To note that an update would be provided when sites were identified which were not yet detailed in the Local Development Plan.

9. PROPOSAL TO RE-STRUCTURE AND RAISE THE PROFILE OF THE WEST LOTHIAN LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services seeking to re-structure and raise the profile of the Local Access Forum (LAF) for the West Lothian council area.

During presentation of the report members were informed that Councillors Tom Conn and Alison Adamson had been appointed as the elected members to sit on the LAF.

Following the opportunity for questions and comments, the Chair requested the title of the Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel (PDSP), detailed within the final recommendation of the report, be amended to that of the Environment and Sustainability PDSP and that Council Executive also agree the amendment of the Scheme of Delegation to include authority for the appointment of LAF members.

It was recommended that the Council Executive approve:

1. the terms of reference, aims and purposes of the West Lothian Local Access Forum;
2. the support to be provided to and the procedures and Standing Orders to be followed by the West Lothian Local Access Forum; and
3. that reports of the operation of the West Lothian Local Access Forum would be brought annually to the Environment and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel for noting.

Decision

1. To approve the contents of the report;
2. To agree to amend the Scheme of Delegation in accordance with the report, including the power to appoint LAF members;
3. To note the elected members appointed to the LAF were Councillors Tom Conn and Alison Adamson; and
4. To note the timescale detailed within section D2.15 relating to the press release and mailing to existing mailing list should have read “by 31 December 2022”.

10. REVIEW OF BUILDING STANDARDS DISCRETIONARY FEES

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advising of the outcome of a review of non-statutory discretionary fees for services provided by a number of local authorities through their building standards service, and seeking agreement on proposed building standards discretionary fees for implementation from 1 April 2023.

It was recommended that the Council Executive:

1. note the comparison of existing fees between West Lothian Council and neighbouring Councils for providing a copy document service

(Appendix 1);

2. note the comparison of existing fees between West Lothian Council and neighbouring Councils for providing a Letter of Comfort service (Appendix 1); and
3. agree the proposed revised fee scale (Appendix 2).

Decision

To approve the contents of the report.

11. SCHEDULE OF LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE VENUES

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration seeking agreement of venues for the Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh ward Local Area Committee (LAC) meetings which could not be decided by the LAC.

It was recommended that the Council Executive:

1. note that the Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh Local Area Committee on 21 October 2022 was inquorate when it came to deal with the report on Schedule of LAC venues;
2. note the terms of that report in the appendix (Appendix 1);
3. note the members preference for meetings to be held in community venues deemed suitable by the Lead Officer, in Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh, to allow attendance by local community representatives; and
4. agree that meetings be held in suitable community venues, in Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh.

Decision

To approve the contents of the report.

12. COMPLIANCE WITH DIRECTIONS FROM WEST Lothian INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive (Health and Social Care Partnership) informing of the progress made in complying with the Directions issued to the council by West Lothian Integration Joint Board (IJB).

It was recommended that the Council Executive:

1. note the council's legal duty to comply with the Directions;
2. note the reporting arrangements to ensure compliance with the Directions; and
3. note the progress in delivery of the commission plans.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

13. SOCIAL POLICY CONTRACT ACTIVITY UPDATE

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy which in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders provided an update on contracting activity for the provision of care and support services for the period 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022.

It was recommended that the Council Executive:

1. note the contracting activity for the provision of care and support services for the period 1 April 2022 – 30 September 2022; and
2. recognise the on-going development of clear contractual agreements between the council and providers of care and support services.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

14. ACTION TAKEN IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 31 (URGENT BUSINESS)

The Council Executive noted the action taken in terms of Standing Order 31 (urgent business) to provide approval for the following:

- a) Payment of £3 per pupil per school day when pupils were unable to attend school due to industrial action, with payment being made to pupils in receipt of free school meals and P1 to P5 pupils who received a clothing grant due to low income for the period up to Friday 9 December 2022 as recommended by the Head of Finance and Property Services in his report dated 6 December 2022.



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS

REPORT BY HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To invite the Council Executive to consider an application for special project grant which have been received from the Elburn Community Council.

B. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council Executive determines the application received from Elburn Community Council as detailed in the appendix.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; making best use of our resources; and working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Section 22 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994 and the Special Project Grant Guidelines
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	None.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	£3000 in the special project grant budget for financial year 2022/23.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None.
VIII	Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

A special project grant scheme currently operates for community councils in West Lothian to allow them to carry out projects in their areas. Community councils can apply for a maximum of £750 special project funding in each financial year. There is no minimum grant. The total budget for financial year 2022/23 is £3000. Applications are dealt with on a first come first served basis. Community councils who retain more than £75 of their annual grant from the previous financial year are expected to contribute 10% towards projects less than £750.

Three valid applications have been received so far in financial year 2022/23. Of those, two were approved by Council Executive in November 2022. The third application from Eliburn Community Council is detailed in Appendix 1. The balance remaining in the budget for the current financial year is £1725. The amount requested in the application is £557.40.

If the application is granted in full, there will be £1167.60 remaining in the special project grant scheme budget available for distribution.

E. CONCLUSION

The special project grant scheme allows community councils to carry out projects which they consider to be of benefit to their area. It is recommended that the Council Executive determines the application received from Eliburn Community Council.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Minute of Meeting of the Partnership & Resources PDSP held on 18th February 2011.

Minute of Meeting of the Council Executive held on 22nd March 2011.

Appendices/Attachments: One

Contact Person: Lorraine McGrorty, Committee Officer, 01506 281609

Lesley Henderson

Interim Head of Corporate Services

20 December 2022

APPENDIX

Application 1

Community Council	Project	Cost	Total Grant Requested
Eliburn Community Council	To erect a Community Council Noticeboard at Follyburn Place	£557.40	£557.40

Comments

1. Eliburn is an area with limited infrastructure to accommodate a Noticeboard. The Eliburn Community Council Boundary includes Newyearfield Community Education Centre, which is in Ladywell.
2. The Community Council has agreement from a local shop owner, to allow them to put up a Community Council Noticeboard on their premises. The proposed new noticeboard will allow the Community Council to more effectively engage with their residents who reside in the area. The Community Council have Facebook which allows engagement with a fair proportion of the community but recognise that not everyone utilises Social Media. A Noticeboard would allow local people to see what the Community Council are doing on their behalf would be a positive addition to the Community Councils quest to engage with as many residents as possible.
3. The project is acceptable and meets the criteria for assistance.

Recommendation

That the Council Executive considers and determines the application received from Eliburn Community Council.

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

SHORT-TERM LET LICENSING SCHEME

REPORT BY HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Council Executive of the responses to the public consultation undertaken, as detailed in Appendix 1, and to seek Council Executive approval of the Councils Policy detailed in Appendix 2, and Fee Structure detailed in Appendix 3, relative to the Councils Short Term Let Licensing Scheme

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council Executive:

1. Notes the responses to the public consultation which took place for a period of 3 weeks commencing 31 October 2022, as detailed in Appendix 1;
2. Notes that the Short Term Let Licensing Scheme will be administered from within Housing, Customer and Building Services
3. Approves the Policy detailed in Appendix 2, and Fee Structure detailed in Appendix 3 in implementation of the Councils Short Term Let Licensing Scheme
4. Approves the changes to the Councils Scheme of Delegation to Officers detailed in Section D5 of this Report;
5. Agrees that decisions relative to applications received in terms of the Short Term Let Licensing scheme, which require determination by committee will be referred to Licensing Committee

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- | | |
|---|--|
| I Council Values | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focusing on our customers' needs • Being honest, open and accountable • Working in partnership |
| II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment) | <p>Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982</p> <p>Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982</p> <p>(Licensing of Short-term Lets) Order 2022</p> |

III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	The Scheme of Delegation to Officers will require to be amended in accordance with Section D5 of this Report
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	None
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Staff resource of 1.0 FTE in year 1 will be recruited to administer the scheme, reducing to 0.3 FTE in years 2 and 3
VII	Consideration at PDSP	Public and Community Safety PDSP on 8 December 2022
VIII	Other consultations	Online public consultation Governance Manager Short-Term Lets Working Group

D.1 TERMS OF REPORT

The Scottish Government passed the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Short-term Lets) Order 2022 on 19 January 2022. It came into effect on 1 March 2022. The Order introduces a new licensing scheme for those operating premises offering accommodation (Hosts), on a short-term basis, to guests. It was introduced primarily with a view to regulating holiday type lets, but also includes bed and breakfast businesses (B&Bs), and affects letting activity from and after 1 October 2022.

On 25 October 2022 the Council Executive considered a report on the Short-Term Let Licensing Scheme (Scheme). The Council noted that it is required to implement a mandatory Scheme, and agreed that a further report should be brought to Council Executive, via Public and Community Safety PDSP, with a view to updating committee on progress, reporting on the consultation outcomes, and approving the Councils Policy and Fee Structure

D.2 Details of the Scheme

There are four types of short-term let licences that can be applied for, they are: -

- Secondary Letting (letting out a property which is not someone's home),
- Home Letting (letting out a home for a period or periods for exclusive use),
- Home Sharing (letting out space within a house including B&B), and
- Home Letting and Home Sharing (a combination of the previous two options).

Hosts operating prior to 1 October 2022, can continue to do so provided they apply for a licence by 1 April 2023 under transitional arrangements. The Scottish Government has intimated its intention to amend and extend that deadline, for existing Hosts only, to 30 September 2023. The Scottish Government intend to effect this change by way of Scottish Statutory Instrument which will be laid in

January 2023. No changes are proposed in relation to new businesses wishing to operate as Hosts from 1 October 2022. New Hosts are unable to operate until their licence application is determined. Local authorities have 12 months from receipt, to determine applications from existing Hosts, and 9 months from receipt of applications from new Hosts.

A Short-term Let Licensing Working Group (STLLWG) has been in operation since September 2022, and has worked towards full implementation of the Scheme. This group includes representation from a number of services across the Council including Housing, Development Management, Legal Services, and Environmental Health

D.3 Policy and Consultation

The STLLWG developed a draft Short-Term Let licensing Policy to outline the Councils approach to Short-term Let Licensing in West Lothian. This was published online, for consultation with the public and stakeholders, for three weeks from 31 October 2022.

A total of 19 responses were received to the consultation, and those responses have been summarised, alongside officer responses in Appendix 1.

Following the close of the consultation, the STLLWG took account of the comments received and amended the draft policy where appropriate. The main changes to the Policy related to the grounds on which temporary exemptions may be granted, and the additional conditions which will be applied, to all licences and temporary exemptions.

The amended Policy, taking account of the consultation responses, is attached as Appendix 2

D.4 Fee Structure

The Council is statutorily obliged to set its fees for the Scheme, at a level which ensures that the costs of administering the Scheme are met by the application fees. Accordingly, officers have required to determine the anticipated costs of administering the Scheme. In doing so, regard has been had to the anticipated time and costs of administering, processing and determining applications, and overseeing and implementing the Scheme requirements.

Those considerations have informed the assessment of the overall costs of administering the Scheme, and supported development of the Fee Structure applicable to it.

Fees will increase in line with annual inflationary increases agreed by the Council. Any other changes necessary to the Scheme fees, required beyond inflationary increases, to reflect changing costs in its administration, will be subject to appropriate scrutiny and approval by the Council Executive.

The Scheme Fee Structure is detailed in Appendix 3. Following approval by Council Executive it will be publicised online

D.5 Amendments to Scheme of Delegation to Officers

Housing, Customer and Building Services will be responsible for administering and ensuring compliance with the Scheme. The Scheme of Delegation to Officers will therefore require to be amended to allow:

- Housing, Customer and Building Services to process applications;
- the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services to grant applications including variation applications, using delegated powers, where there are no objections or adverse reports from advisors and all suggested conditions are agreed by the applicant;
- the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services to compile reports for all other applications in order that these can be determined by the Licensing Committee;
- the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services to decide if, on good cause shown, a renewal application made within 28 days after the expiry of the licence should be treated as an application made before its expiry;
- in relation to any application requiring the display of site notices and where there is a defect in compliance, the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services to instruct or agree to the notice being redisplayed by the applicants to allow the application to continue to be processed;
- the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services to compile reports for the Licensing Committee where appropriate in order that decisions can be made about possible suspension or revocation of licences;
- officers from Housing, Customer and Building Services to investigate complaints about licensed short-term lets;
- officers from Housing, Customer and Building Services to issue enforcement notices where breaches of licence conditions are suspected

D.6 Implementation of the Scheme

An online application process will open to accept applications from Hosts, as soon as practicable following approval by Council Executive.

Local authorities have a period of 12 months from receipt of applications to determine applications from existing Hosts, and 9 months from receipt of applications from new Hosts. Current Hosts are able to continue operating as long as they apply for a licence by the required deadline, currently 1 April 2023. Following implementation of the Scheme, priority will be given to applications made by new Hosts, to ensure there is no unnecessary, detrimental, impact on such applicants ability to commence trading

D.7 Consideration at Public and Community Safety PDSP

A report regarding the Scheme was considered at the Public and Community Safety PDSP on 8 December 2022. The Panel noted the terms of the report and agreed that it should be presented to the Council Executive for approval

E. CONCLUSION

The Council is required to introduce a new Short Term Let Licensing scheme for those operating premises offering accommodation (Hosts), on a short-term basis to guests. The Policy and Fee Structure developed by the STLLWG, if approved by Council Executive, will ensure that the Council is compliant with its statutory obligations, and allow Hosts to apply for, and obtain, licences for their business

activities in accordance with legislative requirements

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Short-term Lets) Order 2022

[Report to Council Executive](#) – Short-term Lets Licensing Scheme. 25 October 2022

[Report to Public and Community Safety PDSP](#) – Short-term Let Licensing Scheme
– Policy and Fee Structure. 8 December 2022

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1: Short-term Let Licensing Consultation Responses and Comments

Appendix 2: Short-term Let Licensing Policy

Appendix 3: Short-term Let Licensing Fee Structure

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Date: 20 December 2022

Appendix 1

SUMMARY OF SHORT -TERM LET CONSULTATION RESPONSES

	Question	Responses	Reasons against/for	Comments from Short-Term Lets Working Group
1.	Should West Lothian Council issue Temporary licences?	19 16 in favour (84%)	<p>Reasons against</p> <p>“Housing should be for long term living”</p> <p>“Accommodation in West Lothian is in extremely short supply and overpriced in the private sector. Granting second home usage for holiday lets etc will only make matters worse for local residents to be able to afford accommodation in the location they work.”</p> <p>“Full licence should be applied for and there is adequate time allowed to operate until a licence is granted”</p>	<p>Apart from as Planning Authority, West Lothian Council does not have power to stipulate what property is used for. Planning powers are extremely limited in this regard.</p> <p>The Scottish Government have made this licensing scheme mandatory across the country so the council has no choice but to process the licence applications.</p> <p>The legislation allows for temporary licences to be granted and they last for a maximum of 6 weeks unless an application for a full licence is applied for at the same time or during the period of effect of the temporary licence. Temporary licences can be processed quicker to allow new operators to start operating sooner. This is because the usual site notice provisions do not apply. However, once full licences are applied for site notices do have to be displayed at the property allowing objections to be made by neighbours. Temporary applications can also be used by operators wishing to try out letting on a temporary basis. The same mandatory conditions apply to such licences.</p>

2.	Should there be additional conditions for Temporary Licences?	16 2 in favour (12%)	Reasons for “I ticked yes, but would want to be sure that all the mandatory conditions full licence holders are being obliged to fulfil will still apply. I can't actually envisage the need for these in West Lothian but can understand the need for them in somewhere like Edinburgh during festival times when the supply of self-catering could otherwise be insufficient.”	No additional conditions were suggested. During the first year of the scheme all licences granted will be subject to 6 additional conditions (see 5 Below). Temporary Licences will also be subject to the same 6 additional conditions.
3.	Should West Lothian Council issue Temporary Exemptions?	19 10 in favour (53%)	Reasons against “all lets should be licenced” “It could result in unsafe properties which have not had to go through the same hoops as everyone else hosting guests on a regular basis. A bad experience in an unsuitable property would badly reflect on West Lothian and complaints could be made to the Council and my impression is that the Council is overstretched don't have the time	The legislation allows for temporary exemptions to be granted and they are for a maximum of 6 weeks in any year (see 4 below). The Council's policy intends to permit temporary exemptions only for particular events taking place in and around West Lothian or to allow first time operators the chance to try short-term letting before making a full application otherwise temporary or full licences would have to be applied for. All applications for temporary exemptions are subject to the same checks and the same mandatory conditions as short-term let licences.

			<p>and staffing to deal with what could be a complex complaint needing much investigation”</p> <p>“People will abuse this”</p> <p>“Housing is a basic right and should not be used for short term profiteering. Homes should either be let with the tenant determining the stay duration”</p> <p>“Why should a temporary operator be exempt from the requirements of the short-term let licensing scheme? Full time operators are hardworking and are open all year round including during quiet times of year when the revenue we make is negligible. Why should these operators who wish to 'jump on the bandwagon' during busy periods be exempt from requirements that we have to adhere to? Surely this is why this licencing scheme has come about! Due to the rush of par time operators flooding the market in Edinburgh due to certain events.”</p> <p>“Unfair on those who are licensed and who are applying for the licence at great cost.”</p>	
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			<p>“Because STL operators should qualify for licence no matter what events are in nearby.”</p> <p>“because there would be no guarantee that they meet health and safety”</p> <p>Reasons for</p> <p>“urgent needs arise”</p>	
4.	What reasons do you think justify an exemption?	10	<p>Reasons suggested</p> <p>Major Sporting Events in West Lothian, or in surrounding areas (e.g. Commonwealth Games) (6 out of 10, 60%)</p> <p>Major International Events in West Lothian or in surrounding areas (e.g. COP26) (7 out of 10, 70%)</p> <p>To allow first time operators the chance to try Short-term Letting before making a full application (7 out of 10, 70%)</p>	Having reviewed the responses Temporary Exemptions will be granted if they fall into the suggested three categories. The policy has been updated to reflect this and to state that applications for exemptions which do not fall within one of the categories will be refused.
5.	Should there be additional conditions for Temporary Exemptions?	10 3 in favour (30%)	<p>Suggested conditions</p> <p>Conditions to prevent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Social Behaviour; 	Having reviewed the comments on conditions it is recommended that during the first year of the scheme Temporary Exemptions in line with all licences granted will be subject to 6 additional conditions detailed in the policy. These conditions relate to

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage or alteration to Property; • Failure to maintain the property; • Failure to maintain/contribute to communal upkeep; • Noise; • Unlawful Activity; <p>and a condition regarding waste management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Littering & waste disposal • Anti-social behaviour • Dealing with complaints • Inspections <p>The policy has been updated to reflect this.</p> <p>In responding to applications advisors can recommend that any of the remaining additional conditions suggested in the policy or bespoke ones can be applied in appropriate circumstances.</p>
6.	Do you have any comments to make on the proposed additional conditions for all STL licences?	11	<p>Comments</p> <p>“My property is very rural and there are certain conditions that don't really make any sense to my situation. mainly the time constraints for arrival and departure.”</p> <p>“Not sure whether it is an additional condition but the level of detail required on room sizes, etc for short term let properties that have been operating successfully for many years is onerous in the extreme and would be costly for the operator to find and pay for someone to check this out. I feel an exception should be made for those properties who belong to VisitScotland's Quality Assurance</p>	<p>Having reviewed the comments on conditions it is recommended that during the first year of the scheme all licences granted will be subject to 6 additional conditions as detailed in the amended policy rather than the 14 additional conditions consulted on. See 5 above.</p> <p>The other additional conditions in the policy can be recommended by advisors in appropriate circumstances. The policy has been updated to reflect this.</p> <p>In relation to the comments regarding the detail required in plans the reason for this is to avoid inspections of all premises which would have resulted in significantly higher fees. The legislation requires the council to set maximum occupancy levels and detailed plans are required to enable the council to do so without inspections.</p>

			<p>Scheme as they have inspected the properties and are happy with the number of guests a property can accommodate. which is stated on their website. The seemingly rigid 11 pm to 7 am ban on arrival time should have a lot more flexibility. I can understand it in somewhere like a tenement block where it could disturb neighbours but not in a rural property which might not have a near neighbour for quarter of a mile. Do we really want to appear unwelcoming to someone whose flight gets in during the early hours... or someone who find it easier to drive up after work on a Friday to avoid busy roads on the Saturday, or who prefer driving with their children asleep in the back of the car on a quieter road at night.”</p> <p>“I can't imagine many parts of West Lothian need this, but it's fine to have the regulations in place in case "AirBnB" blight does impact some part of the council's area.”</p> <p>“Any additional conditions should be made clear to those applying. The control areas if any should be stated. The requirement for</p>	<p>Additional conditions which may be applied will be published on the Council’s webpage and will be set out within the Short Term Let Policy.</p>
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			planning permission seems excessive.”	The Short-term Let Policy cannot deal with planning issues as that is separate legislation.
7.	Are there any other additional conditions which you consider the council should include in its policy?	10	Comments “I think occupiers of neighbouring properties should be consulted before permission is granted as I can foresee issues with noise, litter and parking”	The legislation stipulates that site notices must be displayed at the premises to allow neighbours to submit objections or representations to applications. The government considered whether neighbours should be notified but concluded that site notices were sufficient notice to neighbours. The council therefore cannot request that neighbours are notified.
8.	Do you have any comments to make on the council’s proposal regarding duration of Short-term Let Licences? If you disagree with the proposal please provide reasons.	10 Most agreed with a minimum of a three-year licensing period, and highlighted that a longer period on renewal would be useful. Respondents also called out how change of ownership should require a fresh application – although this may have an impact on charities such as the National Trust	Comments “5 year license would make more sense. Less admin on both sides” “3 years is a reasonable length of time. Please bear in mind that organisations such as National Trust for Scotland do have staff changes more frequently than a single sole owner.” “3 years is OK. What is of considerable worry is how much these licences are going to cost as there is such huge variation with all the different Councils who have been setting sometimes extortionate fees. Set the fee disproportionately high and a lot of	Having considered the comments it is considered reasonable that licences will be granted for a three-year period in line with HMO licences and Landlord Registration. The council has power to serve enforcement notices on licence holders who do not comply with the conditions and ultimately has the power to suspend or revoke licences. It is therefore not considered necessary to have annual renewals in case there are problems. It is not considered that there has been a sufficient case made from departing from the three-year licence proposal. Therefore, no changes will be made to the policy in relation to the duration of a licence. Regarding the comments about change of ownership requiring new applications this is indeed the case and the council realises that this could be considered unworkable from a business

		<p>who have staff changes more frequently than this. Some highlighted that annual reviews may be beneficial if there are frequent disturbances.</p>	<p>short let operators will either opt to give up or go out of business. The Association of Scotland's Self - Caterers (I am a Director) is already witnessing this trend. Scotland and our area needs to encourage visitors. Not everyone wants to stay in hotels, which seems to be the preference of the Scottish Government”</p> <p>“Could the renewal of the licence not be longer than 3 years if the first 3 years of licencing have gone without any problems.”</p> <p>“I think they should be reviewed annually, after consulting neighbouring properties who may be suffering disturbances in the preceding period”</p> <p>“For home sharing, the licence should be longer as there is unlikely to be much change if the same owners are living there.”</p> <p>“Change of ownership should require a fresh application”</p>	<p>continuity perspective. It is hoped that the government will consider this issue when reflecting on whether any changes need to be made following the introduction of this licensing scheme.</p>
9.	Should children under 2 count towards occupancy figures for a short-term let?	19	Comments	

		10 (53% agreed with the proposed policy)	<p>“Because they don't use a bed. I provide a travel cot and don't think of a baby as an additional guest as they usually sleep in the same room as their parents”</p> <p>“A cot can be used and is occasional use not a permanent bed. They are very small!”</p> <p>“Under twos don't take up much room. Young families should not be penalised”</p> <p>“I was surprised that the occupancy numbers are strict. I have a one bedroom flat and one double sofa bed in the lounge yet I can only have 1 guest in the lounge. My lounge is double the size of my bedroom. It means I can no longer accept 4 guests even if 2 are young children.”</p>	<p>The occupancy limits are established with consideration of the requirements regarding overcrowding contained within the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 for domestic dwellings. The Act sets limits where children under one are not counted, and children between 1-10 years old count as a 0.5 person. It was considered that short term let properties would not be permanent residency and therefore to be more accommodating and practical there was some scope to adapt this and consider that children under 2 years would not count towards occupancy.</p> <p>Children under 2 years can be accommodated easier in a temporary cot, or small bed etc. Children over 2 years would be considered as counting towards occupancy and require appropriate provision to be in place for sleeping arrangements. Unlike the Housing Act which counts children under 10 as 0.5 of a person, we took the decision to consider them as a whole person. The approach taken appears to be in line with that of other local authorities.</p>
10.	Do you have any further comments on the Draft Short-term Lets Policy?	10	<p>Comments</p> <p>“Policy is fine. Only point I would make is if change of use planning permission is required for flat then there should be a cradle to death process that allows planning permission and license to be applied for in one submission. Also</p>	<p>The government has introduced a licensing scheme for short-term lets and this is under separate legislative provisions from planning legislation. These are therefore two separate issues in law and the council cannot therefore combine the two schemes.</p> <p>Guidance on planning applications for short-term lets is available on the council's website.</p>

			<p>nothing to do STL license but rules around change of use planning should be spelt out. I.e if a flat is not going to be given change of use planning permission this should be spelt out to save people wasting time applying for planning permission”</p> <p>“Please consider how a corporate entity such as National Trust for Scotland apply - there are numerous issues with the other councils that have already started the process. Issues with faulty online forms, forms written that don't even consider a charity. Also consider how a charity pays for the licence Bank transfer is ideal.”</p> <p>“Most I have made earlier. But I do re-iterate, whenever possible, employing the light touch I recall you mention earlier somewhere. especially with self-caterers who have been operating successfully for years. And concentrate your efforts on the many who have been operating under the radar for years with anonymous listings on listing sites where thy feel their properties cannot be identified due to their anonymity.”</p>	<p>The council intends introduce a system of online payments for this licensing scheme in order to keep costs to a minimum.</p> <p>The application form which is being finalised will allow applications to be made by organisations.</p> <p>The policy does make it clear that the council will adopt a risk-based system where risk assessments will influence several aspects of the scheme. The general approach of the council is stated in the policy to be 'light touch'.</p> <p>Steps will be taken by the council to seek to identify premises which required to be licensed. In future, once the scheme is fully operational, it will be possible for the public to identify unlicensed premises as it is a mandatory condition that a listing or advert must display a licence number. Potential unlicensed premises can then be reported to the body responsible for enforcement of the scheme i.e. Police Scotland.</p>
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			<p>"I agree in principle to being licensed. It should raise the standard of rental accommodation available. The landlord registration however has less conditions yet people stay in rented accommodation for longer periods. When changing from long term letting to short term it was surprising there were no set conditions to meet or indeed a register of accommodation. However, as I am trying to prepare my application I am finding it very complicated and quite confusing. I now appear to require planning permission for a flat that has been operating as a business for 4 years. All the gas safety test certificate and electrical testing required is sensible and reassuring for guests and owners. I assume when you open the application there will be templates for the fire assessments and legionella risk assessments for the owners to complete. I have had to get an EPC done as I have owned my property for 25 years and didn't have one. (The property was once my home and was not bought for rental accommodation). I may need plans drawn up for a floorplan too.</p>	<p>The decision to introduce a licensing scheme rather than a registration scheme was made by the government.</p> <p>Councils are obliged to publish lists of premises covered by short-term let licences.</p> <p>There is a link to detailed government guidance on the council's Short-term Let webpage regarding how to obtain the documents which are required to be uploaded with applications.</p> <p>The legislation does not allow the council to impose a minimum stay condition.</p> <p>See the comments above regarding enforcement.</p>
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			<p>The whole process is actually quite costly and that is before the application fee. I think some clear instructions would be useful and perhaps contact details of people to assist. I think overall the rules, especially of flats should be transparent and clear. It is also important to remember the benefits of bringing tourism to Linlithgow on the local community and the local businesses. As Linlithgow has no large hotels the self-catering business is crucial in attracting tourists from all over the world. Lots of my guests have been really impressed with Linlithgow and the surrounding area. This year has seen a return of many international and domestic guests and next year is also looking good already. Hopefully Linlithgow will become even more attractive as it would appear the strict conditions in Edinburgh will greatly reduce the accommodation available there. It is obviously understandable that a balance must be met with other residents. However, as I operate my business myself I now visit weekly, unlike when I was a landlord and relied on an agent to inspect my property. We have already made</p>	
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			<p>significant improvements to some communal spaces interior and exterior with the agreement of other owners and tenants. It is beneficial to all living there. I would suggest that perhaps a minimum stay may be considered. Guests coming and going daily would obviously be more disruptive to an area. It would be good to know if you intend informing all existing rental accommodation operators about the STL requirement and indeed how you will monitor those who may operate without a license.”</p>	
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Short -Term Lets Policy

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Last Updated: 29 November 2022
Date for Review: 29 November 2023

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1. Introduction

1.1 West Lothian Council (“the Council”) is required to regulate short-term lets (STLs) through the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Short-Term Lets) Order 2022 (the 2022 Order), which brings STL within the scope of licensable activities covered by the statutory provisions of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (the 1982 Act).

1.2 The Council Executive agreed this policy on xx December 2022 following a public consultation.

1.3 The Council must prepare a statement of its policy with respect to the exercise of its functions in relation to the licensing of STL. This policy provides information on the following areas:

- licence duration and renewal
- temporary licences
- temporary exemptions
- additional conditions which will apply
- compliance and enforcement

1.4 This policy provides guidance for prospective applicants, those who are granted a licence and those who may wish to object to or make representations regarding an application. The Council will have regard to the terms of its policy when determining applications. This policy will be reviewed and revised when necessary.

2. Definitions

Unless the Policy states otherwise, the definitions below shall apply throughout it:

1982 Act means the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982;

2008 Regulations means The Energy Performance of Buildings (Scotland) Regulations 2008;

2010 Act means the Equality Act 2010;

2018 Act means the Data Protection Act 2018;

2022 Order means The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Short-term Lets) Order 2022;

Accommodation includes whole or any part of a premises;

Aparthotel means a residential building containing serviced apartments where (a) the whole building is owned by the same person, (b) a minimum of 5 serviced apartments are managed and operated as a single business, (c) the building has a shared entrance for the serviced apartments, and (d) the serviced apartments do not share an entrance with any other flat or residential unit within the building;

Bothy means a building of no more than two storeys which (a) does not have any form of (i) mains electricity, (ii) pipes fuel supply, (iii) piped mains water supply, (b) is 100 metres or more from the nearest public road (within the meaning of section 151 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984), and (c) is 100 metres or more from the nearest habitable building;

Commercial Consideration includes (a) money and (b) a benefit in kind (such as provision of a service, or reciprocal use of accommodation);

Councillors Code of Conduct means the code of conduct published by the Standards Commission for Scotland;

“the Council” means West Lothian Council, a Local Authority in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994 having its principal place of business at West Lothian Civic Centre, Livingston, EH54 6FF as Licensing Authority

Guest means a person who occupies accommodation under a Short-Term Let;

Home Letting means a short-term let for the use, while the host is absent, of accommodation which is, or is part of, the host’s only or principal home;

Home Sharing means a short-term let consisting of the entering into of an agreement for the use, while the host is present, of accommodation which is, or is part of, the host’s only or principal home;

Host means a person who is the owner, tenant, or person who otherwise exercises control over occupation and use, of the accommodation which is the subject of a Short-Term Let;

Hostel means a building, other than a dwelling house, in which there is provided for persons generally or for any class or classes of persons (a) residential accommodation, and (b) either or both (i) meals, (ii) cooking facilities;

Licensing Authority means the licensing authority responsible for the processing of STL licences under the 1982 Act;

Personal Care means care which relates to the day to day physical tasks and needs of the person cared for (as for example, but without prejudice to that generality, to eating and washing) and to mental processes related to those tasks and needs (as for example, but without prejudice to that generality, to remembering to eat and wash);

Refuge means accommodation used wholly or mainly for persons who have been subject to an incident or pattern of incidents, of (a) controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, (b) physical violence, (c) abuse of any other description (whether physical or mental in nature) or (d) threats of any such violence or abuse;

Scottish Fire and Rescue Services is a body corporate established under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and having its registered headquarters at Westburn Drive, Cambuslang, G72 7NA;

Serviced Apartment means a flat or residential unit in respect of which (a) services are provided to guests (such as housekeeping, a telephone desk, reception or laundry), (b) each flat or unit contains its own washing, cooking and dining facilities separate from each of the other flats or units, and (c) there is a management system in place to prevent anti-social behaviour and to impose limits in respect of the maximum occupancy of the flats or units;

Short-Term Let or STL has the meaning given in section 6.1 of this Policy;

Short-Term Let Control Area has the meaning provided in section 26B of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997;

Short-Term Let licence or “STL licence” means a licence for a short-term let;

Student Accommodation means residential accommodation which has been built or converted predominantly for the purpose of being provided to students;

Student Residential Tenancy means a tenancy (a) the purpose of which is to confer on the tenant the right to occupy the let property while the tenant is a student, and (b) the landlord is (i) a university or constituent college, school or hall of a university; (ii) a central institution within the meaning of section 135(1) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, (iii) a designated institution within the meaning of section 44(2) of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992, (iv) an institution for the provision of further education within the meaning of section

135 (1) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 which is administered by the education authority, (v) a college of further education which is managed by a board of management in terms of part 1 of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992, (vi) an association approved under Regulation 8 of the Further Education (Scotland) Regulations 1959, (vii) The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh; or if planning permission for the construction, conversion or change of use of the building (or part of the building) of which the let property forms part was given on the basis that the let property would be used predominantly for housing students, and the landlord is an institutional provider of student accommodation;

Part means a part of this policy;

Policy means this short term lets policy;

Police Scotland means the police service of Scotland having its headquarters at Tulliallan Castle, Kincardine;

Secondary Letting means a short term let consisting of the entering into of an agreement for the use of accommodation which is not, or is not part of, a host's only or principal home;

Type of Short-Term Let means one of the following purposes: secondary letting; home letting; home sharing; or home letting and home sharing.

3. Purpose of Policy/Approach of the Council

The Council's Policy identifies the Council's approach to the regulation of STL and the processes to be followed relating to applications for licences of this kind. In producing this Policy, the Council has taken into consideration the Scottish Government's Short Term Lets in Scotland Licensing Scheme Guidance dated March 2022.

This Policy provides guidance for potential applicants and members of the public on the licensing of STL.

The Council recognises that there are several objectives which the STL Licensing scheme should seek to achieve, and that the scheme should balance several factors:

- protecting public safety
- securing compliance with licence conditions
- treating complaints both from guests and neighbours effectively
- limiting the Council's regulatory burden in inspecting and monitoring

Accordingly, the Council will adopt a risk-based STL system where risk assessments will influence several aspects of the scheme. The general approach of the Council is 'light touch'.

4. Background to Licensing STL

The Scottish Government brought into force The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Short- term Lets) Order 2022 on 1 March 2022. This 2022 Order introduced a licensing scheme for STL, which requires all STL to be licensed by 1 April 2024. Prior to the introduction of the 2022 Order, there was no requirement to licence STL in Scotland. The 2022 Order provides for changes to be made to the 1982 Act to reflect this new STL licence being introduced.

5. Consultation Process

The Council undertook a public consultation from 31 October 2022 to 18 November 2022 (both dates inclusive) on the proposed policy in relation to the licensing of STL within West Lothian. This consultation sought views on a draft policy and sought responses on the following matters:

- temporary exemptions;
- temporary licences;
- duration of licences;
- additional conditions attached to a licence;
- maximum occupancy calculation; and
- any additional comments on the draft policy

The consultation document was available on the Council's Short-Term lets webpage and the Council consulted with a number of key stakeholders including local Community Councils, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Visit West Lothian, West Lothian Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses and The Association of Scotland's Self-Caterers.

Following completion of the consultation, the Council at a meeting on xx December 2022 agreed this Short-Term Lets Policy.

6. What is a "Short-Term Let?"

6.1 Definition of "Short -Term Let"

It should be noted that the definition of a STL is defined in law and not by the Council. The 2022 Order defines a STL as follows:

"short-term let" means the use of residential accommodation provided by a host in the course of business to a guest, where all of the following criteria are met—

- (a) the guest does not use the accommodation as their only or principal home,
- (b) the short-term let is entered into for commercial consideration,
- (c) the guest is not—
 - (i) an immediate family member of the host,
 - (ii) sharing the accommodation with the host for the principal purpose of advancing the guest's education as part of an arrangement made or approved by a school, college, or further or higher educational institution, or
 - (iii) an owner or part-owner of the accommodation,
- (d) the accommodation is not provided for the principal purpose of facilitating the provision of work or services by the guest to the host or to another member of the host's household,
- (e) the accommodation is not excluded accommodation (see section 6.2 below), and
- (f) the short-term let does not constitute an excluded tenancy (see section 6.3 below).

For the purposes of the definition detailed above, the 2022 Order provides that a person ("A") is an immediate family member of another person ("B") if A is—

- (a) in a qualifying relationship with B,
- (b) a qualifying relative of B,
- (c) a qualifying relative of a person who is in a qualifying relationship with B, or
- (d) in a qualifying relationship with a qualifying relative of B.

Two people are in a qualifying relationship with one another if they are—

- (i) married to each other,
- (ii) in a civil partnership with each other, or
- (iii) living together as though they were married,

A "qualifying relative" means a parent, grandparent, child, grandchild or sibling,

- (c) two people are to be regarded as siblings if they have at least one parent in common,
- (d) a person's stepchild is to be regarded as the person's child,
- (e) a person ("C") is to be regarded as the child of another person ("D"), if C is being or has been treated by D as D's child

6.2 Excluded Accommodation

As detailed in section 6.1 above, the 2022 Order provides for certain accommodation to be regarded as "excluded accommodation" and therefore there is no need for the owners or operators of these types of accommodation to hold a STL licence.

Excluded accommodation means accommodation which is, or is part of—

- (a) an aparthotel,
- (b) premises in respect of which a premises licence within the meaning of section 17 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 has effect and where the provision of accommodation is an activity listed in the operating plan as defined in section 20(4) of that Act,
- (c) a hotel which has planning permission granted for use as a hotel,
- (d) a hostel,
- (e) residential accommodation where personal care is provided to residents,
- (f) a hospital or nursing home,
- (g) a residential school, college or training centre,
- (h) secure residential accommodation (including a prison, young offenders' institution, detention centre, secure training centre, custody centre, short-term holding centre, secure hospital, secure local authority accommodation, or accommodation used as military barracks),
- (i) a refuge,
- (j) student accommodation,

- (k) accommodation which otherwise requires a licence for use for hire for overnight stays (not including an HMO licence granted under section 129 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006),
- (l) accommodation which is provided by the guest,
- (m) accommodation which is capable, without modification, of transporting guests to another location,
- (n) a bothy, or
- (o) accommodation owned by an employer and provided to an employee in terms of a contract of employment or for the better performance of the employee's duties.

6.3 Excluded Tenancies

As detailed in section 6.1 above, under the definition of STL within the 2022 Order, one of the criteria for a STL is that it does not constitute an excluded tenancy. The 2022 Order defines an “excluded tenancy” as a tenancy which falls within any of the following definitions:

- (a) a protected tenancy (within the meaning of section 1 of the Rent (Scotland) Act 1984);
- (b) an assured tenancy (within the meaning of section 12 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1988);
- (c) a short-assured tenancy (within the meaning of section 32 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1988);
- (d) a tenancy of a croft (within the meaning of section 3 the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993);
- (e) a tenancy of a holding situated outwith the crofting counties (within the meaning of section 61 of the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993) to which any provisions of the Small Landholders (Scotland) Acts, 1886 to 1931) applies;
- (f) a Scottish secure tenancy (within the meaning of section 11 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001);
- (g) a short Scottish secure tenancy (within the meaning of section 34 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001);
- (h) a 1991 Act tenancy (within the meaning of section 1(4) of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003);
- (i) a limited duration tenancy (within the meaning of section 93 of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003);
- (j) a modern limited duration tenancy (within the meaning of section 5A of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003);
- (k) a short-limited duration tenancy (within the meaning of section 4 of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003);
- (l) a tenancy under a lease under which agricultural land is let for the purpose of its being used only for grazing or mowing during some specified period of the year (as described in section 3 of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003);
- (m) a private residential tenancy (within the meaning of section 1 of the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016); or
- (n) a student residential tenancy.

7. Different Types of STL Licences

Under the 1982 Act there are four different types of STL licences that can be applied for. These are:

- (a) secondary letting;
- (b) home letting;
- (c) home sharing; or
- (d) home letting and home sharing

Home sharing and home letting involve the use of the host's only principal home. Secondary letting does not relate to the use of the host's principal home, it is a separate premises.

The application form will ask for you to confirm what type of STL licence you are applying for when submitting your application. You must select one of the above types of licence.

Further information on who can submit a STL licence application can be found at section 11.1 below.

8. Planning Considerations before Applying for a STL Licence

8.1 Planning Permission

In this section the following definitions apply:

Flat means a separate and self-contained residential premise whether or not on the same floor and forming part of a building from some other part of which it is divided horizontally; and

House means a residential premise with a dedicated private entrance which may be detached from any other premise or attached via a vertical separation but is not separated horizontally from any other premise and meets the terms of Class 9 of The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) (Scotland) Order 1997.

Under the 1982 Act, a preliminary ground for refusing to consider a STL licence is that the use of the premises for a STL would constitute a breach of planning control under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 by virtue of section 123 (1)(a) or (b) of that Act.

The Council is aware that in current legislation in relation to short term let accommodation:

- Unless for home sharing, all flats require planning permission;
- Houses do not require planning permission;
- Houses will need to be checked on a case-by-case basis to confirm that the definition of a house in 8.1 is met; and
- Renting room(s) in a house may not require planning permission.

To avoid the Council having to use the preliminary ground of refusing to consider applications based on planning grounds, the Council agrees that a pre-requisite in applying for a home

letting STL licence or a secondary letting STL licence, where the premises is a flat, is that the applicant must have:

- planning permission or a certificate of lawfulness issued by the Council as Planning Authority for the use of the premises as short term let accommodation, sui generis in terms of The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) (Scotland) Order 1997; or
- a certificate of lawfulness confirming that the extent of the use does not amount to a material change of use.

Either the planning permission or certificate of lawfulness must be provided with your application. The Council will not accept your application without one of these documents, or confirmation that planning is not required, for these types of STL licences.

Subject to section 8.2 below, an applicant is unlikely to require planning permission for:

- home sharing where the premises is a flat or a house;
- secondary letting where the premises is a house, or
- home letting where the premises is a house.

8.2 Short-Term Let Control Areas

Under The Town and Country Planning (Short-term Let Control Areas) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 the Planning Authority can introduce Short-term Let Control Areas which would require any change of use for a premises to obtain planning permission. In addition, Short-term Let Control Areas would require all STL licence applications, for any of the four types of licences to have planning permission (where required) before applying for a licence. At present there are no Short-term Let Control Areas in place in West Lothian.

If any Short-term Let Control Areas are introduced in West Lothian in the future, then applicants and licence holders should note that where planning permission may not be required at present for a STL licence (as detailed in section 8.1 above) this position could change. These licence holders should note that it is a mandatory condition of a STL licence, that if the premises falls within a Short-term Let Control Area the licence holder must ensure that an application for planning permission under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 has been made or is in force. This means that if a Short-term Let Control Area is introduced during the period of your STL licence, where planning permission was not initially required at the time of applying and being granted a STL licence, detailed in section 8.1 above, you would have to apply for planning permission. If you did not apply for planning permission or a certificate of lawfulness as applicable, or if you continued operating your STL once planning permission or a certificate had been refused you would be in breach of a licence condition and enforcement action may be taken.

The Council recognises the current position in West Lothian regarding Short-term Let Control Areas could change and will ensure this policy is reviewed to take account of any Short-term Control Areas that may be introduced in West Lothian in the future.

It should be noted that the introduction of any Short-term Let Control Area would fall under the Council as Planning Authority to implement, not the Council as the Licensing Authority.

9. Temporary Exemptions

Under paragraph 1A of Schedule 1 of the 1982 Act, the Council can grant a temporary exemption to the requirement to have a STL licence. Under the terms of the 1982 Act, temporary exemptions can be issued for a specified single continuous period not exceeding 6 weeks in any period of 12 months. The 6 weeks limit on a licence is a maximum, and not a default.

The Council will only consider granting a temporary exemption from the requirement to obtain a STL licence for specific circumstances for all four types of letting mentioned in paragraph 7 above. These circumstances are -

- Major sporting events in West Lothian, or in surrounding areas
- Major events in West Lothian or in surrounding areas
- To allow first time operators a short-term let trial period before applying for a full licence

If the application for a temporary exemption does not relate to one of the above circumstances applicants can expect that their applications will be refused.

Any temporary exemption which is issued will be subject to the mandatory conditions of licence as set out in the 1982 Act. Temporary exemptions will contain all the additional licence conditions set out in Appendix 2 below and may be subject to bespoke conditions and some of the additional conditions detailed in Appendix 3 below.

The Council will aim to process and determine a temporary exemption application within 3 months of a fully completed application being received. However, in order to ensure as far as possible that applications are able to be determined in advance of the event it is recommended that applications are made at least four months prior to the event.

10. Temporary STL Licences

Under paragraph 7 of Schedule 1 of the 1982 Act, the Council can grant temporary STL licences. Such licences can be granted for periods not exceeding 6 weeks and may be able to be processed quicker as the site notice provisions do not apply. Temporary licences cannot be renewed but where a competent application is also made for a full STL licence within the application period or during the time that a temporary licence is in effect the temporary licence continues in effect until the full licence application is determined.

The Council will issue temporary licences and any temporary licence which is issued will be subject to the mandatory conditions of licence, as set out in the 1982 Act. Temporary licences will also contain all the additional licence conditions set out in Appendix 2 below and may be subject to bespoke conditions and some of the additional conditions detailed in Appendix 3 below.

11. Application Process

11.1 Making an Application

All applicants for STL licences (including renewals, temporary exemptions, temporary licences and variations), irrespective of the type of STL licence being applied for (secondary letting, home letting, home sharing; or home letting and home sharing) must complete the STL licence application form available online at the [Short-term Lets webpage](#) together with the appropriate documentation and fee. Please see the webpage for details of fees.

An application for a STL Licence, under the legislation, can be made by a person other than the owner of the premises. Where this is the case, the applicant must ensure they provide the relevant consents from the owner(s) as detailed in section 11.3 (d).

Part of the application form will require the applicant to provide a declaration to the Council that they can comply with the mandatory conditions attached to a STL licence, including all the documentation detailed within these conditions. Further information on the mandatory conditions can be found at section 12.1. Applicants should be mindful that the Council's officers can request any documentation referred to in the mandatory conditions at any time during the consideration of an application or the period of the licence, if granted. Applicants should also note that a breach of a condition is a criminal offence under the 1982 Act.

It should be noted that if an applicant has had a STL licence application refused by the Council then the applicant cannot apply for a STL licence within one year of the date of the refusal unless there has been a material change of circumstances. An applicant who has been refused must contact the Council by email to stl@westlothian.gov.uk if they wish to apply within a year of the date of refusal. The Council determines if the change is material, not the applicant.

There is information about rights of appeal on the Council's Short-Term Let Licensing webpage.

Applicants who operated a STL prior to 1 October 2022 will be given a provisional STL licence number once their fully completed STL licence application is submitted to the Council, with all the required documentation as detailed in section 11.3 below, before 1 April 2023. This is to enable those operators to continue to operate a STL while their application is being considered. It should also be noted that this provisional STL licence number will cease when the application is determined.

11.2 Renewal

Under the 1982 Act, if a competent application for a STL licence renewal application has been made to the Council before the expiry date of the current licence, the licence will continue in effect until a final decision has been made by the Council on the renewal application. If a renewal application is refused the existing licence will remain in effect for a period of 28 days from the date of the decision. This is the appeal period, and where an appeal has been lodged, the licence remains in effect until such time as the appeal has been determined by the Court.

The process for applying for a renewal of a STL licence is the same as when applying for a new STL licence. Guidance for applicants is on the Council's [Short-term Lets webpage](#). In relation to the documentation that should be submitted with a renewal application please see section 11.3 below.

11.3 Documentation Required with an Application

Applicants should be aware that an application will not be treated as a competent application and processed without the following documentation (where applicable):

(a) Planning Permission or a Certificate of Lawfulness

In relation to all applications for STL licences involving home letting or secondary letting where the premises is a flat, the applicant must provide evidence that the premises has planning permission or a certificate of lawfulness issued by the Planning Authority for the use of the premises as short stay accommodation or a certificate of lawfulness confirming that the extent of the use does not amount to a material change of use. This must be submitted with the STL application. As detailed in section 8, an application submitted without either of these documents will not be considered by the Council.

(b) Floor/Layout Plan

All applicants for the grant of a STL licence will be required to submit a floor plan of the premises, scale 1: 50 showing at least the following:

- Rooms – living area/bedrooms/bedrooms available for guests;
- Room sizes, including bedrooms;
- Fire escapes;
- Location of heat/smoke alarms;
- Location of fire doors; and
- Location of stairs/elevators/lifts;

For renewal applications, where there has been no change to the layout of the premises a floor plan would not be required with the application.

For variation applications, where the variation relates to a change to the layout of the premises, a floor plan would be required with the application.

(c) Evidence of Operation as a STL before 1 October 2022

Where an applicant has been operating a STL before 1 October 2022, the applicant will be required to certify this when submitting a STL licence application. Checks to establish this may be made by the Council.

(d) Consent from Owner(s)

Where owner is not the applicant

As detailed in section 11.1 an application for a STL licence does not have to be made by the owner of the premises. However, where an applicant other than the owner of the premises applies to the Council for a STL licence, the applicant must provide consent from the owner, or if the title to the premises is held by more than one owner, all owners or a person authorised to act on behalf of the owner(s) with written confirmation from one of the owners that the agent is authorised to act for all the owners.

Where one or more owners

Where the premises is owned by more than one person (shared ownership) all owners will have to declare that they consent to the application, if one owner is submitting the application. These declarations would be required with the application.

It is the responsibility of the person making the application to give accurate information on the form (see the declaration section on the form) and this may involve making enquiries with the owner(s) as to whose name title to the property is held in. Please note that the Council may require additional documentation to be submitted with an application. Where this is the case, the Council will advise the applicant directly of this.

11.4 Duration of Licences

Under the 1982 Act the Council can grant a STL licence for a period of three years or such shorter period as the Council determines.

In relation to applications to renew STL licences, the Council can extend the duration of a STL licence for a period of three years or such shorter other period as the Council determines.

The Council's policy is that it will grant all STL licence applications for a period of three years unless there is a good reason for granting them for a shorter period.

The law does not allow licences granted under the 1982 Act to be transferred. In the event of the death of an STL licence holder, the STL licence will be deemed to have been granted to the executor and will remain in force for a period of 3 months from the date of the licence holder's death, unless previously suspended or revoked. Where the Council is satisfied that it is necessary for the purpose of winding up the estate, on request, in writing, by the executor, the Council may extend the period further.

Licences held in the names of companies, partnerships and organisations will come to an end when the legal entity holding the licence is dissolved or otherwise no longer exists in law. Applicants should seek legal advice regarding which name a licence should be held in.

11.5 Variation

At any time, the holder of a STL licence can apply to the Council to vary the terms of the licence. There is no requirement to advertise a variation however, the Council will consult with Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service before determining a variation application.

12. Conditions Attached to an STL Licence

12.1 Mandatory Conditions

Under the 2022 Order there are certain conditions which the Council must attach to a STL licence, irrespective of the type of STL licence granted, whether it is secondary letting, home letting, home sharing or home letting and home sharing. These are known as “mandatory conditions” and are detailed at Appendix 1.

It should be noted that the Council has no power to amend these mandatory conditions.

All applicants should ensure, prior to applying to the Council for a STL licence of any type, that they are able to comply with the mandatory conditions attached to a licence. Applicants should also note that in terms of listing their premises as a licensed STL, as required under mandatory condition 14, the listing must include the licence number (provided by the Council) and the valid energy performance certificate rating (if this is required for the premises in accordance with the 2008 Regulations).

12.2 Additional Conditions

To cater for more localised matters, the Council is also able to attach additional conditions to STL licences where necessary. The additional conditions detailed in Appendix 2 will be applied to all licences.

The Council's advisors may in certain circumstances suggest additional conditions for particular premises when they are responding to applications and any suggested conditions will be copied to applicants for comments.

A number of possible conditions are contained in Appendix 3 which may be suggested by advisors for particular premises. The Council's advisors may also suggest bespoke conditions for unusual properties.

It should be noted that the Council cannot impose an additional condition which limits the number of nights a premises may be used for secondary letting.

12.3 Maximum Capacity

One of the mandatory conditions that is attached to all STL licences is that the licence holder must ensure that the number of guests residing on the premises does not exceed the number specified in the licence.

All applications will ask the applicant to confirm the number of guests they would like to accommodate in the premises. The Council do however have to provide a maximum number of guests who can stay on the premises at any one time on the STL licence when it is issued. This is known as the “maximum capacity”. The Council, taking into account the information provided on the application form and layout plan, will calculate the maximum capacity in the following way:

The maximum number of persons in relation to a premises is whichever is the lesser of (a) or (b):

- I. The number specified in Table 1 below in relation to the number of rooms in the house available as sleeping accommodation for guests,
- II. The aggregate for all such rooms in the premises of the numbers specified in column 2 of Table 2 in relation to each room of the floor area specified in column 1.

Please note that any room with a floor area less than 50 square feet (4.65 sq. M.) cannot be considered for calculating the capacity within table 1 or 2 below.

It should be noted that a room is available as sleeping accommodation if it is of a type normally used in the premises as a living room or as a bedroom. The Council will not include children under 2 years of age when calculating the maximum capacity.

Table 1

Number of rooms (this should include living room and bedrooms if used as sleeping accommodation within the premises)	Number of persons
1	2
2	3
3	5
4	7
5+	2 for each room

Table 2

Column 1 - Floor area of each room	Column 2 - Number of persons
90 sq. ft. (8.36 sq. m.) or more	2
50 sq. ft. (4.65 sq. m.) or more but less than 90 sq. ft (8.36 sq. m.).	1

12.4 Breach of a STL Licence Condition

The 1982 Act gives the Council power to serve an Enforcement Notice on a STL licence holder, where the Council considers that a condition of the STL licence has been breached. The Enforcement Notice will detail the following:

- (a) the matters constituting the breach or likely breach;
- (b) the action to be taken by the licence holder; and
- (c) the date by which the action must be taken.

It should be noted that a breach of a condition is a criminal offence under the 1982 Act however an Enforcement Notice can still be served on the licence holder even if criminal proceedings have begun or are taking place.

As detailed in section 15 below, the Council will only take enforcement action where it is deemed necessary and appropriate.

13. Unlicensed STL

The Council recommends that people take their own independent legal advice on whether or not their accommodation would require a STL licence. The Council cannot provide legal advice on whether or not a premises requires a STL licence. Operating without a licence when one is required by the law is a criminal offence. Decisions on whether unlicensed hosts will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal will be made by Police Scotland. Unlicensed STLs should be reported to Police Scotland. The Council has no power to take any action against unlicensed STLs.

14. Monitoring and Compliance of Licensed STL

Taking into account section 12.4 above, the Council recognises the importance of having compliance issues monitored in order to ensure licensed STL are not causing an unnecessary nuisance to the community, nearby residents or neighbours. As such it will carry out a risk-based approach to enforcement, with officers using a range of escalating informal measures, prior to an Enforcement Notice being issued and subsequently consideration of a suspension or revocation of the licence. A licence holder must be able to provide any documentation referred to in the mandatory conditions, to the Council upon request. Failure to do so may

result in an Enforcement Notice being issued or the STL licence being suspended or revoked. Council officers may conduct inspections of STLs where issues have been identified either in the application or as a result of complaints and a fee will be charged for such inspections.

15. Complaints

The Council considers that it is essential that licensed STL are operated in accordance with the 1982 Act and the licence conditions. The Council's powers under the 1982 Act represent a key protection for the community where problems relating to the operation of a STL cannot be resolved amicably by the licence holder and the complainer.

Complaints from guests

In the first instance, the Council would expect any concerns from guests to be raised with the host or operator and where this cannot be resolved they should contact the Council.

Complaints from neighbours

In the first instance, the Council would expect concerns from neighbours to be raised with the licence holder and where this cannot be resolved they should contact the Council.

Information on how to make a complaint can be found on the Council's [Short-term Lets webpage](#).

16. Fees

The Council's fee structure will be published on the [Short-term Lets webpage](#).

Note that any fees charged are in respect of the processing and administration of an application and will not be refunded in the event that an application for a licence is not granted.

Appendix 1 – Mandatory Conditions

Agents

1. Only those named as a holder of the licence can carry out the day-to-day management of the short-term let of the premises.

Type of Licence

2. The holder of the licence may only offer the type of short-term let for which the licence has been granted.

Fire Safety

3. The holder of the licence must ensure the premises has satisfactory equipment installed for detecting, and for giving warning of—
 - (a) fire or suspected fire, and
 - (b) the presence of carbon monoxide in a concentration that is hazardous to health.
4. The holder of the licence must keep records showing that all upholstered furnishings and mattresses within the parts of the premises which are for guest use, or to which the guests are otherwise permitted to have access, comply with the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire Safety) Regulations 1988

Gas Safety

5. Where the premises has a gas supply—
 - (a) the holder of the licence must arrange for an annual gas safety inspection of all gas pipes, flues and appliances in the premises,
 - (b) if, after an annual inspection, any appliance does not meet the required safety standard, the holder of the licence must not allow a short-term let of the premises until the works necessary to bring the appliance to the required safety standard have been carried out.

Electrical Safety

6. Where there are electrical fittings or items within the parts of the premises which are for guest use, or to which the guests are permitted to have access, the holder of the licence must—
 - (a) ensure that any electrical fittings and items are in—
 - (i) a reasonable state of repair, and
 - (ii) proper and safe working order,
 - (b) arrange for an electrical safety inspection to be carried out by a competent person at least every five years or more frequently if directed by the competent person,
 - (c) ensure that, following an electrical safety inspection, the competent person produces an Electrical Installation Condition Report on any fixed installations,

- (d) arrange for a competent person to—
 - (i) produce a Portable Appliance Testing Report on moveable appliances to which a guest has access, and
 - (ii) date label and sign all moveable appliances which have been inspected.
- 7. In determining who is competent, the holder of the licence must have regard to guidance issued by the Scottish Ministers under section 19B(4) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006.

Water Safety: Private Water Supplies

- 8. Where the premises are served by a private water supply, the licence holder must comply with the requirements on the owners of private dwellings set out in the Water Intended for Human Consumption (Private Supplies) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

Water Safety: Legionella

- 9. The holder of the licence must assess the risk from exposure to legionella within the premises, whether or not the premises are served by a private water supply.

Safety and Repair Standards

- 10.
 - (1) The holder of the licence must take all reasonable steps to ensure the premises are safe for residential use.
 - (2) Where the premises are subject to the requirements of Chapter 4 of Part 1 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006, the holder of the licence must ensure that the premises meet the repairing standard.

Maximum Occupancy

- 11. The licence holder must ensure that the number of guests residing on the premises does not exceed the number specified in the licence.

Information to be Displayed

- 12. The holder of the licence must make the following information available within the premises in a place where it is accessible to all guests—
 - (a) a certified copy of the licence and the licence conditions,
 - (b) fire, gas and electrical safety information,
 - (c) details of how to summon the assistance of emergency services,
 - (d) a copy of the gas safety report,
 - (e) a copy of the Electrical Installation Condition Report, and
 - (f) a copy of the Portable Appliance Testing Report.

Planning Permission

13. Where the premises is in a short-term let control area for the purposes of section 26B of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 ("the 1997 Act"), the holder of the licence must, where the use of the premises for a short-term let requires planning permission under the 1997 Act, ensure that either—
- (a) an application has been made for planning permission under the 1997 Act and has not yet been determined, or
 - (b) planning permission under the 1997 Act is in force.

Listings

- 14.
- (1) The holder of the licence must ensure that any listing or advert (whether electronic or otherwise) for the short-term let of the premises includes—
 - (a) the licence number, and
 - (b) a valid Energy Performance Certificate rating if an Energy Performance Certificate is required for the premises, in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Scotland) Regulations 2008.
 - (2) The holder of the licence must ensure that any listing or advert (whether electronic or otherwise) for the short-term let of the premises is consistent with the terms of the short-term let licence.

Insurance

15. The holder of the licence must ensure that there is in place for the premises—
- (a) valid buildings insurance for the duration of the licence, and
 - (b) valid public liability insurance for the duration of each short-term let agreement.

Payment of Fees

16. The holder of the licence must pay any fees due to the licensing authority in respect of the licence on demand.

False or Misleading Information

17. The holder of the licence must not provide any false or misleading information to the licensing authority.

Interpretation for the Mandatory Conditions

In these conditions —

"Electrical Installation Condition Report" means a report containing the following information—

- (a) the date on which the inspection was carried out,
- (b) the address of the premises inspected,

- (c) the name, address and relevant qualifications of the person who carried out the inspection,
- (d) a description, and the location, of each installation, fixture, fitting and appliance inspected,
- (e) any defect identified,
- (f) any action taken to remedy a defect,

"Energy Performance Certificate" means a certificate which complies with regulation 6 of the Energy Performance of Buildings (Scotland) Regulations 2008,

"Gas Safety Report" means a report containing the following information—

- (a) the date on which the appliance or flue was checked,
- (b) the address of the premises at which the appliance or flue is installed,
- (c) a description of and the location of each appliance or flue checked,
- (d) any safety defect identified,
- (e) any remedial action taken,
- (f) confirmation that the check undertaken complies with the requirements of an examination of—
 - (i) the effectiveness of any flue,
 - (ii) the supply of combustion air,
 - (iii) subject to (iv) below its operating pressure or heat input or, where necessary, both,
 - (iv) if it is not reasonably practicable to examine its operating pressure or heat input (or, where necessary, both), its combustion performance,
 - (v) its operation so as to ensure its safe functioning,
- (g) the name and signature of the individual carrying out the check, and
- (h) the registration number with which that individual, or that individual's employer, is registered with a body approved by the Health and Safety Executive for the purposes of regulation 3(3) of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998,

"Holder of the Licence" means any person to whom a short-term let licence has been granted or jointly granted,

"Home Letting" means a short-term let consisting of the entering into of an agreement for the use, while the host is absent, of accommodation which is, or is part of, the host's only or principal home,

"Home Sharing" means a short-term let consisting of the entering into of an agreement for the use, while the host is present, of accommodation which is, or is part of, the host's only or principal home,

"Premises" means the accommodation which is the subject of an application for a short-term licence or the subject of a short-term licence,

"Repairing Standard" means the steps which the holder of the licence is required to take to comply with the obligations placed on the holder by Chapter 4 of Part 1 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006,

"Secondary Letting" means a short-term let consisting of the entering into of an agreement for the use of accommodation which is not, or is not part of, the licence holder's only or principal home,

"Short-Term Let" has the same meaning as in article 3 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Short-term Lets) Order 2022,

"Short-Term Let Licence" means a licence for a short-term let, and

"Type of Short-Term Let" means one of the following purposes—

- (a) secondary letting,
- (b) home letting,
- (c) home sharing, or
- (d) home letting and home sharing.

Appendix 2 – Additional Conditions (Which Will Be Applied to All Licences)

Littering & Waste Disposal

1. The licence holder shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that the appropriate refuse facilities (for both general and recyclable refuse) in line with West Lothian Council's current policy on the storage and collection of refuse, are available at all times either in the communal areas surrounding the premises or within the premises boundary where there are no communal areas, for the disposal of refuse by guests.
2. The licence holder shall ensure that the refuse facilities at the premises and in the communal surrounding areas of the premises are used appropriately at all times by the guests.

Antisocial Behaviour

3. The licence holder shall take all necessary measures to ensure that no antisocial behaviour, noise or other statutory nuisance arises within or from the licensed living accommodation or within any common parts of the property.

Dealing with complaints

4. The licence holder must act reasonably in relation to the management of the licensed premises in respect of any dealings with neighbouring residents of the premises.
5. The licence holder must take reasonable steps to investigate any complaint made by residents of neighbouring properties relating to the behaviour of the licence holder's guests at or in the vicinity of the licensed premises.

Inspections

6. The licence holder shall ensure that access is permitted to West Lothian Council Officers in connection with carrying out statutory duties, whether any inspections are scheduled or unannounced.

Appendix 3 – Possible Additional Conditions Which Advisors May Recommend For Particular Premises

1. The licence holder shall provide guests, no later than two days from the booking date, with an information leaflet on how to dispose of refuse (including general and recyclable refuse) properly and appropriately from the licensed premises.
2. The licence holder shall act reasonably in relation to the payment of their share of all maintenance costs, insurance costs and repair costs of areas in common relative to the premises and in all dealings with any other owners and any relevant factor.
3. The licence holder shall ensure that any undisputed invoice or notification of their share of maintenance costs, insurance costs and repair costs received in respect of common areas relative to the premises is paid in full in adherence to the payment terms stipulated.
4. The licence holder shall ensure that all common areas are regularly inspected and that any defects are brought to the attention of the other owner(s) and any relevant factor, with the licence holder making payment of the appropriate share of any costs to rectify such defects.
5. The licence holder must submit a certificate of compliance to West Lothian Council within 14 days of the licence taking effect confirming that they have provided emergency contact details to all neighbouring residents of the premises.
6. The licence holder must take reasonable steps to ensure that guests do not first arrive or depart from the property between the hours of 11pm to 7am. The licence holder must provide this information as part of their booking terms and conditions. Reasonable steps, allow for exceptions, such as significantly delayed transport.

Appendix 3



Short-term Let Licensing Fee Schedule

<u>Type of Application</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Home Sharing/Home Letting/Home Sharing and Letting (1 Bedroom)	£325
Home Sharing/Home Letting/Home Sharing and Letting (2-3 Bedrooms)	£420
Home Sharing/Home Letting/Home Sharing and Letting (4-6 Bedrooms)	£595
Home Sharing/Home Letting/Home Sharing and Letting (7+ Bedrooms)	£865
Secondary Letting (1 Bedroom)	£450
Secondary Letting (2-3 Bedrooms)	£550
Secondary Letting (4-6 Bedrooms)	£720
Secondary Letting (7+ Bedrooms)	£1,000
Variation to Licence	£150
Temporary Licence ¹	50% of the full licence cost
Temporary Exemption	£300
Inspection and Report ²	£120

¹ If an application is made for a full licence during the application period for a temporary licence for the same premises or during the period of effect of the temporary licence the fee paid for the temporary licence will be deducted from the full licence application fee.

² An inspection fee will only be charged if the council deems it necessary to inspect premises following a complaint.



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

INTRODUCTION OF TARIFFS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

REPORT BY HEAD OF FINANCE & PROPERTY SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Council Executive for the introduction of tariffs for use of the electric vehicle (EV) public charging network from 1 February 2023.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council Executive:

1. Notes the contents of the report and the attached appendices;
2. Notes the context and rationale for introducing a tariff;
3. Approves the introduction of tariffs for the use of council owned EV charge points from 1 February 2023 as set out in D.4, and;
4. Delegates authority to the Head of Finance and Property Services to review tariff levels and amend where required.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, section 44; Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019; Public Bodies Duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009; Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, sections 20-22; Scottish Government Power to Advance Wellbeing Guidance (2004); Climate Change Strategy 2021-2028. See D1 for more information. An Integrated Relevance Assessment is attached as Appendix 5.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	Delegated authority to carry out reviews of tariff levels and amend accordingly to be added to the Scheme of Delegation for the Head of Finance & Property Services.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	The introduction of tariffs for charging will facilitate sustainable provision of services for electric vehicles.

V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Outcome 4 – We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities. Outcome 8 - We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	It is forecast that the council will incur expenditure of £275,772 for energy alone from public use of council owned charge points in 2022/23. This expenditure is forecast to increase to £469,271 in 2023/24.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	The report was considered at a meeting of the Corporate Policy & Resources PDSP on 12 December where no amendments were suggested.
VIII	Other consultations	Operational Services; Financial Management Unit; Legal Services, Corporate Transformation Team; Governance Manager.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

The Scottish Government has pledged to phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans across Scotland by 2032. West Lothian Council owns a total of 32 public charge points at seventeen locations across the area, details of which are set out in Appendix 1. In addition to those owned by the council, there are a number of charge points operated by other operators including at Bathgate, Uphall and West Calder railway stations. Capital funding for these public charge points has until recently been provided by Transport Scotland through their Local Authority Installation Programme (LAIP) and the network itself is currently operated by ChargePlace Scotland. All of the council owned facilities are currently free to use.

The council's approved Climate Change Strategy 2021-28 (CCS) includes an action to consider the introduction of tariffs as part of the development of a wider EV infrastructure plan. £60,000 of funding has been received from the Scottish Government to develop the plan in collaboration with Transport Scotland, Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) and others with a deadline for completion in December 2022, slightly later than the original deadline set out in the CCS. This infrastructure plan will be used to support future bids to the LAIP replacement, the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (EVIF), and authorities have been advised that continued grant funding will be dependent on tariffs being in place.

Due to rising energy costs and usage levels of existing charging facilities, the tariff proposals set out in this report are being brought forward separately to the plan. They will, however, be subject to review and amendment if required following its publication.

The introduction of tariffs supports the Scottish Government to deliver the targets set out in the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act, helping the council to fulfil our Public Bodies Duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and assists in the delivery of the council's own objectives set out in the Climate Change Strategy 2021-2028.

The council is legally bound to comply with duties for public sector bodies within the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. The duties require that the council must, in exercising its functions, act:

- (a) in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of the targets set in or under Part 1 of the Act;
- (b) in the way best calculated to help deliver any programme laid before the Scottish Parliament under section 53;
- (c) in a way that it considers is most sustainable.

The implementation of tariffs for the use of EV charging is being brought forward using the powers set out in Section 20 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 (Power to advance well-being). The continued operation, development and expansion of an electric vehicle charging network in West Lothian is considered to help advance the wellbeing of residents in West Lothian who have access to electric vehicles. This is to the benefit of current and future EV driving residents, businesses and visitors to the area.

In making that assessment, and as required by the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, officers have had regard to the statutory guidance on the use of the wellbeing power. Drawing on that guidance:

- Councils are in an excellent position to make an assessment of what is needed to advance well-being, and can respond directly to local, regional and national issues
- The power is wide-ranging and enables councils (subject to statutory rules) to do anything they consider is likely to promote or improve the well-being of their area and/or persons in it
- The power may be exercised in relation to, or for the benefit of the whole or any part of a local authority area, and/or all or some of the persons within that area
- Key factors taken into account include economic factors (for example, efficient and effective transport links, the provision of infrastructure) and environmental factors (for example, clean air, protecting communities against the threat of climate change, improving and conserving the quality of the local environment)
- Decisions to commit funds need to be transparent and reflect good practice in assessing options
- Councils should take account of other guidance when appropriate, for example, Ofgem guidance (May 2022) on the provision of power to an EV chargepoint and charging vehicles from the chargepoint
- The Ministers intend that councils should be allowed the flexibility to recover costs from use of the power

Having determined that the use of the power is appropriate, the legislation allows councils to impose reasonable charges for service so long as there is no trading operation involved (none in these circumstances). The justification for the proposed charges is set out below. Without the introduction of tariffs, the operation of council owned chargers would no longer be sustainable.

D.2 Public Charging Network Tariffs

As the uptake of electric vehicles and the number and use of council owned facilities has increased, so have the costs of operating and maintaining the network. As noted in Transport Scotland and SFT's EV Charging Infrastructure Report published in July 2021, whilst an important driver of early uptake, the provision of free to use public charge points through the ChargePlace Scotland network needs to change and more sustainable financing models are required to remove barriers to private sector investment. The Scottish Government recently published their Vision for Scotland's Public Electric Vehicle Charging Network. The vision sets out five key outcomes:

- People have access to a well-designed and comprehensive public network of charge points;

- The public electric vehicle network works for everyone regardless of age, health, income or other needs;
- Scotland has attracted private sector investment to grow the public electric charging network, ensuring it meets the needs of all people;
- The public charging network is powered by clean, renewable energy and drivers benefit from advancements in energy storage, smart tariffs and network design, and;
- People's first choice wherever possible is active and public transport with the location of electric vehicle charging points supporting those choices.

The draft vision follows on from a joint Scottish Government and SFT report "Report on Public Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure in Scotland - Opportunities for Growth". This report sets out context on the current landscape of electric vehicle charging in Scotland, draws out initial considerations for growing opportunities for investment in electric vehicle charging in line with the Scottish Government agenda for a just transition to net zero emissions and highlights opportunities for greater private sector investment and involvement in the short to medium term through partnership approaches with local authorities. Further information on potential future delivery models can be found in section D5.

At the time of preparing this report (November 2022) 20 of the 32 local authorities in Scotland have introduced tariffs for use, with others planning to introduce them soon. A summary of local authority tariffs is set out in Appendix 2. In July 2022 ChargePlace Scotland produced a summary of tariff levels using publicly available information, comparing public sector tariffs with those of commercial operators. Results of this benchmarking survey are attached as Appendix 3. It should be noted that a number of these tariffs have been in place for some time and were set before recent increases in energy costs.

Details of existing usage and costs of operating the council owned charge points are set out in section D.3 of this report.

D.3 Existing and Future Usage and Costs

While the initial capital costs for developing the existing network and providing warranty cover has been met by Transport Scotland grant funding, there are a range of ongoing operating costs which are the responsibility of the council. These include the provision of electricity, replacement of damaged equipment not covered under warranty through damage or misuse and the forecast replacement of assets as they reach the end of their useful lifespan (estimated at around ten years). In addition, existing warranties will expire between 2025 and 2027, further increasing the costs of inspecting and maintaining the charging network.

Table 1 below sets out the cost of electricity for operating the charging network from years 2019/20 to date, demonstrating the significant increases experienced. Costs for the year to date in 2022/23 have increased significantly due to increases in the cost of electricity, and also a significant increase in usage as the number of charge points has expanded.

Table1 – EV Charge point electricity costs 2019-20 to 2021/22

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23 (Apr-Sept)
Electricity Cost	£16,430.66	£34,973.15	£85,208.63	£128,500

Table 2 provides details of the number of charging sessions recorded in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (to 31 October). Number of sessions and consumption have been adjusted to remove failed sessions lasting below five minutes and some metering anomalies.

Table 2 – Charging Session Details

Date Range	Total Sessions	Total kWh	Number of Days	Average Sessions/day	Average kWh/Session
1 August 2021 - 31 March 2022	25,117	487,902	243	103	19.43
1 April 2022 – 31 October 2022	42,733	893,293	214	200	20.90

Based on the average number and consumption of daily sessions year to date, the projected total number of sessions (not including any further network expansion) in 2022/23 is 66,684, leading to a total electricity consumption of 1,523,607 kWh and an estimated cost of £275,700 for electricity alone.

The cost of repairs and faults not covered by existing warranties is currently approximately £8,000 per annum, although it is expected that this figure will increase due to continued network expansion and increased usage to £10,000 per annum

Based on the latest electricity price information and consumption forecasts, it is estimated that the annual cost of operating and maintaining the council owned EV charging network in 2023/24 will be £606,449 as set out in the table below:

Table 3 – Estimated Costs of Operation 2023/24

	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Electricity		£469,271
Maintenance	£0.007	£15,000
Investment & expansion	£0.040	£41,899
Replacement	£0.022	£30,000
Transaction cost	£0.025	£41,899
Administration	£0.005	£8,379
Total Cost		£606,449

D.4 Proposed Introduction of Tariffs

It is proposed that in order to recover these costs, ensure the continued operation of the network and support its continued development, tariffs are introduced for use of EV charging facilities. The proposed tariff levels set out in the table below have been designed to be simple to understand and to provide a relatively consistent approach with other local authorities. They are also broadly in line with the recommendations set out by Electric Vehicle Association Scotland in their 2022 Tariff Guidance document and incorporate the following elements:

- Unit cost of electricity
- Maintenance
- Future investment & expansion
- Cost of capital for replacement of existing equipment
- Transaction costs
- Administration costs

Table 4 – Proposed Tariffs from 1 February 2023

Charger Type	Minimum Charge	Unit Rate/kWh	Maximum Stay Limit	Overstay Charge
Rapid Charger (43-50kW)	£1	£0.40	50 Minutes	£10 overstay charge (following 10-minute grace period). No return within 90 Minutes
Fast Chargers (22kW)	£1	£0.30	180 Minutes	£10 overstay charge (following 10-minute grace period). No return within 90 minutes
Other Chargers (7kW)	£1	£0.30	None	None

Based upon EV charging usage estimates, the tariffs set out in the above table will generate estimated income of £603,348.

It is proposed that tariffs would be reviewed at least annually prior the start of each financial year, taking account of latest electricity prices (which are the main cost component) and other costs, and it is recommended that powers to amend tariff levels are delegated to the Head of Finance and Property Services. Charges would be confirmed by the end of February for the forthcoming financial year but would be subject to further review if costs change significantly in year. It is forecast that continued uncertainty in the global energy markets will lead to further increases in the unit cost of electricity in 2024/25 and tariffs will need to reflect this. It should also be noted that as grant funding for infrastructure delivery reduces and potential alternative delivery models as set out in section D.4 are developed, other elements of the tariff (and particularly those relating to relating to network expansion, maintenance, replacement costs and administration) are likely to increase considerably.

As well as recovering the costs of operating the network, the tariffs have been designed to maximise availability of rapid and fast charging facilities while encouraging good driver behaviour, with an overstay charge applied on rapid and fast chargers which is triggered when the maximum stay and grace periods have expired. In order to further ensure that availability of chargers is maximised, it is proposed that Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) will be put in place to formally designate EV charging bays for use by electric vehicles only.

In order to make usage as accessible as possible, contactless payment facilities will be fitted to existing charge points where possible and all new chargers will have this included as standard. ChargePlace Scotland as the network operators will collect payments on behalf of the council and users can also set up an account that is automatically debited when the charge points are used.

D.5 Future Infrastructure Delivery Models

As noted in the background to this report and in section D.2, officers are currently working with SFT and Transport Scotland to develop an EV infrastructure Plan. £60,000 of grant funding has been made available to all local authorities to support development of these plans in 2022, with the aim of supporting the objectives set out in the Scottish Government's Vision for Scotland's Public Electric Vehicle Charging Network. The Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (EVIF) launched in April 2022 will provide up to £60 million to local authorities over the next four years (2022 – 2026), with £30 million coming from the Scottish Government and a further £30 million anticipated to be invested from

the private sector. One of the priorities put forward to accelerate commercial investment and support outcome three of the vision is “Enabling new models of public electric vehicle charge point financing and delivery, focused on public and private partnerships, to support and coordinate investment”.

Some of the potential alternative delivery models for the delivery of future EV Infrastructure are set out below. A crucial first stage to support all of these models is the introduction of tariffs for the use of charge points as the current free at the point of use model is unsustainable and disincentivises commercial investment. In addition, it is likely that there will be geographical locations which are less suitable for commercial operators but would be important to ensure a just transition to zero carbon vehicles. As such, there is a small provision within the proposed tariff to support continued development in these areas through network expansion and investment.

Table 5 – Potential Alternative Delivery Models

Model	Advantages	Disadvantages
Council Owned & Operated Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council retains full control over tariff setting, locations, specifications and pace of rollout. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant resources required to develop and deliver the network. • All risks retained by council
Joint Venture between Council and Private Sector Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council retains a degree of control over levels of tariffs, locations and specifications • Benefit of private sector experience in developing, delivering and managing networks • Shared risks • Leveraging of private finance could provide more rapid expansion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially complex legal arrangements required
Network Fully Divested to Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal council intervention and resources required • Benefit of private sector experience in developing, delivering and managing networks • Contractor takes on all risks • Leveraging of private finance could provide more rapid expansion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential reluctance to develop less profitable infrastructure (e.g. residential) • Potentially complex legal arrangements required • No control over tariffs, locations and specifications

The EV Infrastructure Plan will be developed over the coming months and will be presented to the Panel for review once complete.

D.6 Planning & Building Standards

In order to encourage charging at home where possible and the wider expansion of EV charging facilities in other locations the council, through the approved Air Quality Planning Guidance, has required the installation of EV charge points in new developments for some time. The Scottish Government is also bringing forward legislation in 2022 that will amend Building Standards regulations to specify EV charging requirements in new builds

and major refurbishments. Details of the current Planning Guidance and proposed Building Standards are set out in Appendix 4.

D.7 Next Steps

Officers from Property Services will contact ChargePlace Scotland and provide them with the required one month notice of the council's implementation of tariffs and will liaise with Operational Services colleagues to bring forward the TRO's required to support the plans. Corporate Communications will raise awareness of the plans through the council's social media channels and the Bulletin. Stickers will be produced and attached to each charging unit outlining details of the tariffs being applied.

E. CONCLUSION

Usage of council operated EV charge points in West Lothian has increased significantly in recent years, with forecasts indicating a continued rise in EV ownership and therefore further increased demand. The introduction of tariffs for council operated charge points will allow us to recover the costs of operating the network, maximise availability of rapid and fast chargers by improving driver behaviour and encourage private investment in the network, further increasing provision.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Climate Change Strategy - West Lothian Council 26 October 2021

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Di%91oy%8C>

Scottish Government's Vision for Scotland's Public Electric Vehicle Charging Network

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/a-network-fit-for-the-future-draft-vision-for-scotland-s-public-electric-vehicle-charging-network/>

Report on Public Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure in Scotland - Opportunities for Growth

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/report-on-public-electric-vehicle-ev-infrastructure-in-scotland-opportunities-for-growth/>

Electric Vehicle Association Scotland Tariff Guidance 2022

https://www.eva.scot/assets/documents/EVA_Scotland_Tariff_Guidance_for_Scotland_2022_Issue_2.pdf

Taking charge: selling electricity to electric vehicle drivers (Ofgem Guidance)

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-03/Taking%20charge%20-%20selling%20electricity%20to%20EV%20drivers%20-%20accessible%201.4.pdf>

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1 – Existing West Lothian Council Public Network

Appendix 2 – Summary of Current Local Authority Tariffs (Scotland)

Appendix 3 – SFT Tariff Benchmarking Exercise (November 2022)

Appendix 4 – Planning and Building Standards Requirements

Appendix 5 – Integrated Relevance Assessment Form

Contact Person:

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Donald Forrest

Head of Finance & Property Services

20 December 2022

Appendix 1 – Existing West Lothian Council Public Network

Site	Charger Type	Vehicle Capacity
Acredale Car Park, Bathgate	1 x 22kW Dual Outlet	2
Almondvale Stadium, Livingston	1 x 22kW Dual Outlet	2
Almondvale Stadium, Livingston	1 x 50kW Rapid Charger	2
Bathgate Partnership Centre	1 x 50kW Rapid Charger	2
Blackridge Primary School	1 x 22kW Dual Outlet	2
Calderwood Primary School	1 x 50kW Rapid Charger	2
Calderwood Primary School	1 x 22kW Dual Outlet	2
Fauldhouse Partnership Centre	1 x 50kW Rapid Charger	2
Gideon Street Car Park, Bathgate	1 x 22kW Dual Outlet	2
Linlithgow Sports Club	1 x 50kW Rapid Charger	2
Lister Road, Livingston	2 x 22kW Dual Outlet	4
Morris Square, Livingston	2 x 50kW Rapid Charger	4
Morris Square, Livingston	2 x 22kW Dual Outlet	4
Polkemmet Country Park, Whitburn	2 x 7kW Dual Outlet	4
Strathbrock Partnership Centre	1 x 50kW Rapid Charger	2
Strathbrock Partnership Centre	1 x 22kW Dual Outlet	2
The Vennel, Linlithgow	1 x 22kW Dual Outlet	2
Water Yett Car Park, Linlithgow	1 x 22kW Dual Outlet	2
Whitburn, East Main Street	1 x 7kw Dual Outlet	2
Whitburn Xcite	1 x 50kW Rapid Charger	2
Winchburgh	2 x 50kW Rapid Charger	4
Winchburgh	2 x 22kW Dual Outlet	4
Winchburgh	4 x 7kW Dual Outlet	8
Total	32 Chargers	64

Appendix 2 – Summary of Local Authority Tariffs (Scotland) (as of November 2022)

Local Authority	7kW (£/kWh)	22kW (£/kWh)	50kW (£/kWh)	Minimum/ Connection Fee	Overstay Charge
Aberdeen City Council	£0.19	£0.19	£0.19	£0.38 Connection Fee	N/A
Aberdeenshire Council	£0.24	£0.24	£0.24	N/A	N/A
Angus Council	£0.23	£0.23	£0.23	N/A	N/A
Argyll & Bute Council	£0.26	£0.26	£0.26	£1.80 minimum charge	£30 after 4 hours (22kW) £30 after 2 hours (50kW)
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar	£0.20	£0.20	£0.20	£1 minimum charge	£5 after 4 hours (22kW) £5 after 1.5 hours (50kW)
Dumfries & Galloway Council	£0.25	£0.25	£0.25	£1.50 minimum charge	N/A
Dundee City Council	£0.20	£0.20	£0.25	£0.38 Connection fee	£10 after 190 mins (7-22kW) £10 after 70 mins (50kW)
East Lothian Council	£0.25	£0.40	£0.50	£1 minimum charge (7kW), £2 minimum charge (all others)	£30 after 45 mins (22kW and above)
Falkirk Council	£0.25	£0.25	£0.25	£1 minimum charge	£5 after 4 hours (22kW) £5 after 1 hour (50kW)
Fife Council	£0.15	£0.15	£0.15	£1.60 connection fee	N/A
Inverclyde Council	£0.20	£0.20	£0.30	£1 connection fee	N/A
Midlothian Council	£0.16	£0.16	£0.30	£1 minimum charge	£1/min after 60 mins (50kW)
Moray Council	£0.28	£0.28	£0.28	£1 minimum charge	N/A
North Ayrshire Council	£0.19	£0.19	£0.30	£2 minimum charge	£10 after 190 mins (7-22kW) £10 after 70 mins (50kW)
Orkney Islands Council	£0.30	£0.30	£0.38	£1.50 minimum charge (7-22kW); £3 minimum charge (50kW)	£5 after 3 hours (7-22kW) £1/minute after 1 hour (50kW)

Appendix 2 – Summary of Local Authority Tariffs (Scotland) (as of November 2022)

Perth & Kinross Council	£0.30	£0.30	£0.35	£1 minimum charge	£10 after 3 hours (7-22kW) £10 after 1 hour (50kW)
Scottish Borders Council	£0.16	£0.16	£0.30	£1 minimum charge	N/A
South Lanarkshire Council	£0.27	£0.27	£0.40	None	£30 overstay fee (50kW) after 60 minutes with 10-minute grace period.
The City of Edinburgh Council	£0.25	£0.30	£0.35	£1 minimum charge	£30 after 12 hours (7kW) £30 after 3 hours (22kW) £30 after 30 mins (50kW)
The Highland Council	£0.20	£0.20	£0.30	£1 minimum charge	£1/min (capped at £30) after 45 minutes
West Lothian Council (proposed)	£0.30	£0.30	£0.40	£1 minimum charge	£10 after 2 hours (22kW) £10 after 50 mins (50kW)

Appendix 3 – SFT Tariff Benchmarking Exercise (November 2022)

Correct as of 1 November 2022 - Summary excludes free or subsidised tariffs

Destination Charging Tariffs (7-22kW AC)					
	Tariff Count	Min (£ / kWh)	Max (£ / kWh)	Average (£ / kWh)	Average Cost for 30 kWh
Local Authorities	24	£0.15	£0.30	£0.22	£6.94
Private CPOs	11	£0.28	£0.75	£0.45	£13.59
All	35	£0.15	£0.75	£0.29	£9.03

Journey Charging Tariffs (50kW+ DC)					
	Tariff Count	Min (£ / kWh)	Max (£ / kWh)	Average (£ / kWh)	Average Cost for 30 kWh
Local Authorities	20	£0.15	£0.50	£0.29	£8.91
Private CPOs	19	£0.35	£0.85	£0.65	£19.55
All	39	£0.15	£0.85	£0.47	£14.09

Appendix 4 – Planning and Building Standards Requirements

West Lothian Council – Air Quality Planning Guidance

For residential developments of ten or more residential units or a site area of more than 0.5Ha the following will apply;

- Where off-street parking is provided, one in every six residential units shall have an active ready to use electric vehicle charging point (7kw) located either in a garage or in close proximity to a dedicated car parking place within the driveway of the property. For all other residential units with off-street parking, passive provision (cabling and individual fuse boxes provided) shall be provided to enable easy conversion to an active charging point should demand manifest itself.
- For on-street parking, one in every six spaces shall have a fully connected, active and ready to use electric vehicle charging point (slow 7kw). Electric vehicle parking spaces should be counted as part of the overall car parking provision and not in addition to it.
- For commercial developments that have between 10 and 50 parking spaces, there would be a requirement to install one active, ready to use fast (22kw) charging point. For commercial developments that have more than 51 car parking spaces there is a requirement for a ready to use, active rapid charging points (50kW) on the following basis; 51 – 100 car parking spaces – 1 rapid charger 101 – 150 car parking spaces – 2 rapid chargers 151 – 200 car parking spaces – 3 rapid chargers and so on.

Building Standards Changes – 2023

New residential buildings:

- All dwellings with a parking space to have at least one EV charge point socket with minimum 7kW output power rating.
- Exemption to requirement to install EV charge point if additional cost of electricity grid connection exceeds £2,000.
- If exemption applies ducting infrastructure to be installed in each car parking space.

Residential buildings (undergoing major renovation):

- For buildings with more than 10 car parking spaces, ducting to be installed in each residential car parking space to support the future installation of an EV charge point (unless the cost of recharging and ducting infrastructure exceeds 7% of total major renovation cost).
- EV charge points sockets to be installed, with minimum 7kW output power rating, in as many residential car parking spaces as the electrical capacity of building post-renovation allows.

New non-residential buildings:

- For buildings with more than 10 non-residential car parking spaces, 1 in every 2 non-residential parking spaces to have ducting installed and 1 in every 10 non-residential parking spaces to provide an EV charge point socket with minimum 7kW output power rating.

Non-residential buildings (undergoing major renovation):

- For buildings with more than 10 non-residential car parking spaces, 1 in every 2 non-residential parking spaces to have ducting installed and 1 in every 10 non-residential parking spaces to provide an EV charge point socket with minimum 7kW output power rating (unless the cost of recharging and ducting infrastructure exceeds 7% of total major renovation cost).

Appendix 5 – Integrated Relevance Assessment Form



Policy Title (include budget reference number if applicable)	Introduction of Tariffs for Electric Vehicle Charging
Service Area (detail which service area and section this relates to)	Finance & Property Services
Lead Officer (Name and job title)	Peter Rogers, Energy & Climate Change Manager
Other Officers/Partners involved (list names, job titles and organisations if applicable)	N/A
Date relevance assessed	18/11/2022
2. Does the council have control over how this policy will be implemented?	
YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
3. The General Duty of the Equality Act 2010 requires public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other prohibited conduct • Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and • Foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not <p>NB: In this section you must also consider the Human Rights Act and the key PANEL (Participation, Accountability, Non-Discrimination, Empowerment and Legality) principles of Human Rights – (further detail on what these are, are provided in the guidance document)</p>	
Which groups of people do you think will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy? You should consider employees, clients, customers and service users (Please tick below as appropriate)	
Age - Older people, young people and children	No
Disability - people with disabilities/long standing conditions	No
Gender reassignment - Trans/Transgender Identity – anybody who's gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex assigned to them at birth	No
Marriage or Civil Partnership – people who are married or in a civil partnership	No
Pregnancy and Maternity – woman who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave	No
Race - people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds	No
Religion or Belief – people with different religions and beliefs including those with no beliefs	No
Sex - female, male and intersex	No

Sexual Orientation – lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual/straight	No
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4. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that this policy will or may impact on socio-economic inequalities? Consideration must be given particularly to children and families				
Socio-economic Disadvantage	Impact – please tick below as appropriate)			
Low Income/Income Poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing	Neutral			
Low and/or no wealth – enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future	Neutral			
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies	Neutral			
Area Deprivation – where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of transport)	Neutral			
Socioeconomic Background – social class i.e. parents education, employment and income	Neutral			
5. Integrated impact assessment required? (Two ticks (✓) above = full assessment necessary)				
YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

6. Decision rationale – if you have ticked no above, use this section to evidence why a full IIA is not required
<p>The purpose of the change being proposed is to introduce tariffs for the use of council owned electric vehicle (EV) charge points from 1 February 2023. The current model of free to use chargers is unsustainable in the face of significantly increasing usage and costs. It is also noted in Transport Scotland and Scottish Future's Trust's EV Charging Infrastructure Report that whilst an important driver of early uptake, the provision of free to use charge points needs to change and more sustainable financial models are required to remove barriers to private sector investment.</p> <p>At the time of preparing this assessment (November 2022) 20 of the 32 local authorities in Scotland have introduced tariffs for use, with others planning to introduce them soon.</p> <p>The council is currently developing an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan which will consider the scale of expansion required to meet future demand and how this will be delivered. A full Integrated Impact Assessment will be carried out for the Plan which will ensure that network expansion is accessible for all. This will consider issues such as the obstruction of pavements by cables and charging infrastructure, the layout of EV parking bays and the design and accessibility of charging equipment.</p> <p>The Scottish Government recently published their Vision for Scotland's Public Electric Vehicle Charging Network. The vision sets out five key outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People have access to a well-designed and comprehensive public network of charge points;

- The public electric vehicle network works for everyone regardless of age, health, income or other needs;
- Scotland has attracted private sector investment to grow the public electric charging network, ensuring it meets the needs of all people;
- The public charging network is powered by clean, renewable energy and drivers benefit from advancements in energy storage, smart tariffs and network design, and;
- People's first choice wherever possible is active and public transport with the location of electric vehicle charging points supporting those choices.

The introduction of tariffs supports these outcomes and has an overall positive impact for all current and future EV owners, including those with protected characteristics and vulnerable groups by:

- Encouraging improved user behaviour, making better use of existing assets and increasing their availability;
- Facilitating continued expansion of the public charging network, particularly in rural areas and those which are likely to be less attractive to commercial operators;
- Opening up the opportunity for private sector investment to further accelerate network expansion.

Demographic information published by the UK government in April 2022¹ included the following findings in relation to existing EV users:

- 95% of owners had access to off-street parking
- 86% of these were private driveways or garages
- 95% of owners were either in employment or retired
- 76% of drivers had an income higher than £28,000, with 21% having an income of over £83,000

This demographic information reinforces the assertion that the introduction of tariffs will improve availability for those who do not have access to off-street parking or home charging as users with that option available to them will no longer be incentivised to use the public charging network for free. It is expected that these demographic patterns will change over time to reflect a broader societal mix and as such the tariff levels set have been designed to be fair and reflective of actual operating costs.

For the lower power chargers which are more likely to be used in or close to residential areas to allow overnight charging, the rate is set at a level which is only slightly above the council's forecast electricity costs and is below the current cap set through the current Energy Price Guarantee, ensuring that those who do not have the option to charge at home have a viable alternative.

Supporting the change from conventional vehicles to zero carbon alternatives also has additional benefits including improving air quality through lower vehicle emissions.

¹[Electric Vehicle Charging Research. Survey with electric vehicle drivers. Research report. \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/106441/electric_vehicle_charging_research_survey_with_electric_vehicle_drivers_research_report.pdf)

Signed by Lead Officer	Peter Rogers
Designation	Energy & Climate Change Manager
Counter Signature (Head of Service or Depute Chief Executive responsible for the policy)	Donald Forrest
Date j	23/11/2022

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

FORTH ESTUARY LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN - CYCLE 2 LOCAL PLAN

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Council Executive for the forthcoming publication of the Cycle 2 Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan (2022-2028).

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Members approve the final draft of West Lothian Council's submission to the Cycle 2 Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan (2022 – 2028) and its publication.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	<p>Policy – Cycle 2 (2021 – 2027) Forth Estuary Flood Risk Management Plan.</p> <p>Legal - The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.</p> <p>SEA – Habitats Regulation Appraisal and SEA published in January 2022 for the Cycle 2 Flood Risk Management Plans (Flood Risk Management Plans SEPA)</p> <p>Equality Issues – None. A Social Score is included in the evaluation of the Prioritised Actions.</p>
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.

V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	SOA 4. We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities. SOA 8. We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Financial: Scottish Government funding of Cycle 2 local authority flood risk management will be sought based on these agreed actions and their prioritisation in the 2022-2028 Local Flood Risk Management Plans. The Council's contribution is dependent on approval of the proposed 2023/24 to 2032/33 capital budget for Roads and Related Assets.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	The Environment and Sustainability PDSP members have been consulted, no comments were received.
VIII	Other consultations	Public consultation of the Draft Cycle 2 Flood Risk Management Plan and the Draft Cycle 2 Local Flood risk Management Plan was carried out from December 2020 to October 2021.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1. Background

This report is to seek approval from the Members for the forthcoming publication of the Cycle 2 (2022 – 2028) Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan. This Plan is the single point of reference for the public in describing the response and commitment of West Lothian Council to address flooding during the next six-year flood risk management cycle.

For national flood risk management purposes, West Lothian Council falls within the Forth Estuary Local Plan District (LPD). The Cycle 2 Local Plan is due to be published by the Forth Estuary's Lead Local Authority (LLA), currently Falkirk Council, by 31 December 2022. The climate change data used for the 2018 National Flood Risk Assessment (NFRA), which informs the Cycle 2 Plans, is based on the UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCP09). The Final Report for the Cycle 1 (2016 – 2022) Local Plan is due to be published by Falkirk Council for the Forth Estuary LPD on 31 December 2022. In the last six years West Lothian Council has completed all of its Cycle 1 actions on programme and within budget.

D.2. Cycle 2 Local Plan

The Cycle 2 Local Plan has been produced in collaboration with the other responsible authorities in the district, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Scottish Water. Appendix 1 includes the Council's specific flood risk management actions for Cycle 2, timescales, and funding (where known). With approval from the Scottish Government, publication of this Plan was extended to 31 December 2022 due to Covid-19 and SEPA's cyber-attack.

West Lothian Council has 4 Potentially Vulnerable Area's (PVA's) and 10 Objective Target Area's (OTA's) where specific actions to manage the current and future flood risk has been identified. The Council's OTA's for this Cycle are: Armadale, Bathgate, Blackburn, Blackridge, Broxburn, Fauldhouse, Linlithgow, Livingston and Mid Calder, West Calder & Whitburn. General flood risk management actions such as: inspection and maintenance, self-help, emergency plans, land use planning, and awareness raising, apply to all local authorities in the Forth Estuary LPD.

D.3. Funding

The proposed specific actions for Cycle 2 are reliant on funding approval from the Scottish Government. No Scottish Government funding for these actions has, to date, been confirmed.

Due to a significant increase in the projected costs to complete Cycle 1 (2016 – 2022) schemes a Flood Risk Management Funding Review Group was established, with representatives from COSLA (Convention of Scottish local Authorities), SCOTS (Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland), Scottish Government, SEPA and Council Heads of Service. The most recent update from this group advised that it is unlikely that all Cycle 2 schemes will be completely funded. The Review group continues to investigate ways to progress future funding of flood protection schemes.

The Council has requested national funding towards development of the Liggat Syke Scheme, a Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Scheme in Broxburn, and funding to develop a flood protection scheme for the Bell's Burn in Linlithgow (as identified from the Cycle 1 Study).

D.4. Consultation

A national public consultation on the Cycle 2 Plan's ran from December 2020 to October 2021. The consultation was advertised on the Council's web page and social media channels. West Lothian Council received six responses from anonymous members of the public for target areas: Broxburn (3), Linlithgow (1) and Livingston (2). A summary of the consultation responses was published by SEPA in March 2022, and can be accessed via the Council's 'Update on Flood Risk Management' web page. The Environment and Sustainability PDSP were also consulted and no comments were received.

Additionally, during development of the Cycle 2 Plans SEPA engaged with other national stakeholders such as: Forestry & Land Scotland, Scottish Forestry, Scottish Natural Heritage, Transport Scotland, Network Rail, utilities (including Scottish Power, Scottish & Southern Energy, Scottish Gas Networks, British Telecoms) and airport authorities. The National Flood Management Group (NFMAG) is also engaged in the development process.

D.5.

Publication

Publication of the Cycle 2 Local Plan will be promoted with a communications campaign, led by Falkirk Council. The campaign will include public notices, press advertising, digital advertising and social media strategies. Public notices will be placed in the Scotsman, Falkirk Herald, West Lothian Courier and Linlithgow Gazette (amongst other local newspapers throughout the Forth Estuary area).

West Lothian Council's Flood Risk Management web page will be updated, see [Update on Flood Risk Management - West Lothian Council](#). Social media announcements will be made via the Council's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages. Copies of the Cycle 2 Local Plan will be made available on request for viewing by arrangement with West Lothian Council. If required, printed copies of the reports can be requested from West Lothian Council's Customer Service Centre after publication (01506 280000), or by email (floodriskmanager@westlothian.gov.uk).

E. CONCLUSION

The approval of the final draft of West Lothian Council's submission to the Cycle 2 Forth Estuary local Flood Risk Management Plan (2022 – 2028) will allow officers to submit this to Falkirk Council, as Lead Local Authority, for publication.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

- Cycle 1 Local Flood Risk Management Plan for the Forth Estuary Local Plan District, published by Edinburgh City Council, June 2016.
- National Flood Risk Assessment, Report by the Head of Operational Services to the Council Executive, 26 June 2018
- Forth Estuary Local Plan District – Cycle 1 Flood Risk Management Interim Report, Report by the Head of Operational Services to the Council Executive, 26 February 2019
- Flood Study Update, Report by the Head of Operational Services to the Council Executive, 23 April 2019
- Consultation on Cycle 2 of the Forth Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy and Plan, Report by the Head of Operational Services to the Council Executive, 9 February 2021.
- Cycle 2 Flood Risk Management Plan for the Forth Estuary Local Plan District, Published by SEPA, January 2022.
- Draft Cycle 2 Local Flood Risk Management Plan for the Forth Estuary Local Plan District, published by Falkirk Council, November 2022.
- Draft Cycle 1 Final Local Flood Risk Management Plan for the Forth Estuary Local Plan District, published by Falkirk Council, November 2022.
- Consultation on Cycle 2 of the Forth Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy and Plan, Report by the Head of Operational Services to the Council Executive, 9 February 2021.

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1 – DRAFT Cycle 2 (2022-2028) Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan – West Lothian Council's Objective Target Area's (OTA's) and Specific Actions.

Contact Person: Shona Collins, Engineer – Flood Risk Management
07769 725540, shona.collins@westlothian.gov.uk

Jim Jack, Head of Operational Services

Date of meeting: 20 December 2022

Objective Target Area (OTA)	Action	General Description	Local Detail	FRM Cycle	Coordination	Updates
Armadale	Surface water management plan	Areas at risk of heavy or prolonged rainfall causing flooding due to water ponding on man-made surfaces or overwhelming the drainage system are to be identified. These priority areas will provide a baseline for the identification of next steps in managing water ponding or over-whelmed drainage systems. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.	A surface water management plan should be developed for Armadale to improve understanding of surface water flood risk. Current and long-term flood risk should be considered including how climate change may impact flood risk in the area. The local community will be advised of any resulting works.	2	Action delivery lead is West Lothian Council in coordination with Scottish Water and other actions in the area.	
Bathgate	Flood study	An understanding of flood risk and associated issues in the area is to be developed, which may include surveys and modelling and should consider the impacts of climate change on flood risk.	A cycle 1 river flood study for Bathgate is underway. A Water Environment Fund project (Bathgate Water Restoration) is underway in the area which could bring flooding benefits. The local community will be advised of any resulting works.	2	Action delivery lead is West Lothian Council and coordinated with the Water Environment Fund, Bathgate Water restoration project.	Bathgate Flood Study completed 2022. The proposed works include a property flood resilience scheme. Bathgate Water Restoration project is now known as Bathgate Meadows Nature Park.
Bathgate	Sewer flood risk assessment	The volume of water that would overwhelm the sewer system and cause flooding from man-holes or inside our homes is to be assessed, to support understanding of the performance of the urban drainage network	Scottish Water will carry out an assessment of sewer flood risk within the highest priority sewer catchments, which includes Bathgate and Blackburn sewer catchments in this target area. This will help to improve knowledge and understanding of potential surface water flood risk. Funding for this action is secured through Scottish Water's strategic planning commitments.	2	Action delivery lead is Scottish Water in coordination with the local authority and SEPA.	
Blackburn	Sewer flood risk assessment	The volume of water that would overwhelm the sewer system and cause flooding from man-holes or inside our homes is to be assessed, to support understanding of the performance of the urban drainage network	Scottish Water will carry out an assessment of sewer flood risk within the highest priority sewer catchments, which includes Blackburn sewer catchment in this target area. This will help to improve knowledge and understanding of potential surface water flood risk. Funding for this action is secured through Scottish Water's strategic planning commitments.	2	Action delivery lead is Scottish Water in coordination with the local authority and SEPA.	
Blackburn	Surface water management plan	Areas at risk of heavy or prolonged rainfall causing flooding due to water ponding on man-made surfaces or overwhelming the drainage system are to be identified. These priority areas will provide a baseline for the identification of next steps in managing water ponding or over-whelmed drainage systems. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.	A surface water management plan should be developed for Blackburn to improve understanding of surface water flood risk. Current and long-term flood risk should be considered including how climate change may impact flood risk in the area. The local community will be advised of any resulting works.	2	Action delivery lead is West Lothian Council in coordination with Scottish Water and other actions in the area	
Broxburn	Flood scheme or works design	The selected preferred approach for managing flood risk is to be designed following the completion of the flood study, including consideration of the long-term impacts of climate change. These can include small scale works or works to improve catchment management. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.	Detailed design for future phases of the flood protection scheme in Broxburn commenced in 2019 with local authority funding. Proposed works include Liggat Syke flood relief culvert and basin, property flood resilience scheme for New Holygate and Parkwood Gardens and West Burnside flood embankment. Stakeholder and public consultations are due to be carried out in these areas in 2021.	2	Action delivery lead is West Lothian Council in coordination with SEPA, Scottish Water and Scottish Canals.	Phase 2 of Stakeholder and public consultations is due early 2023.
Broxburn	Flood study (existing flood defences)	The performance and condition of the existing flood defences are to be evaluated, including consideration of the likely impacts of climate change. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.	A study is recommended to investigate the long-term performance and management of the existing flood protection scheme in Broxburn. The study may require survey of flood defences, data collection and flood modelling. The study should include a comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts of climate change and aim to develop a long-term plan to managing the flood defences. The local community will be advised of any resulting works.	2	Action delivery lead is West Lothian Council and coordination will be determined once the actions have been finalised.	
Broxburn	Flood defence maintenance	The existing flood defences are to be maintained by the asset owner to ensure they are in good condition.	Maintenance to the existing 2008 Broxburn Flood Protection Scheme should continue.	2	Action delivery lead is West Lothian Council and coordination will be determined once the actions have been finalised.	

Objective Target Area (OTA)	Action	General Description	Local Detail	FRM Cycle	Coordination	Updates
Broxburn	Sewer flood risk assessment	The volume of water that would overwhelm the sewer system and cause flooding from man-holes or inside our homes is to be assessed, to support understanding of the performance of the urban drainage network	Scottish Water will carry out an assessment of sewer flood risk within the highest priority sewer catchments, which includes Newbridge sewer catchment in this target area. This will help to improve knowledge and understanding of potential surface water flood risk. Funding for this action is secured through Scottish Water's strategic planning commitments.	2	Action delivery lead is Scottish Water in coordination with the local authority and SEPA.	
Broxburn	Flood scheme or works implementation	The flood scheme/works is to be built following agreement of the design, costs and timescales.	The responsible authority proposes this action as the best viable option for managing flood risk in this community. The delivery of this action is subject to funding being made available. The future phases of Broxburn Flood Protection Scheme should continue to the construction phase. The future phases include the Liggat Syke flood relief culvert and Basin, property flood resilience scheme costs for New Holygate and Parkwood Gardens and West Burnside flood embankment.	2	Action delivery lead is West Lothian Council in coordination with SEPA, Scottish Water and Scottish Canals.	
Broxburn	Flood scheme or works implementation	The flood scheme/works is to be built following agreement of the design, costs and timescales.	The legacy sustainable drainage systems project is to continue in partnership between the local authority and Scottish Water.	2	Action delivery lead is Scottish Water and coordinated with West Lothian Council and other actions in the area.	
Broxburn	Pluvial Map update			2	Action delivery lead is SEPA in coordination with the local authority.	New Action
Fauldhouse	Sewer flood risk assessment	The volume of water that would overwhelm the sewer system and cause flooding from man-holes or inside our homes is to be assessed, to support understanding of the performance of the urban drainage network	Scottish Water will carry out an assessment of sewer flood risk within the highest priority sewer catchments, which includes Fauldhouse sewer catchment in this target area. This will help to improve knowledge and understanding of potential surface water flood risk. Funding for this action is secured through Scottish Water's strategic planning commitments.	2	Action delivery lead is Scottish Water in coordination with the local authority and SEPA.	
Fauldhouse	Surface water management plan	Areas at risk of heavy or prolonged rainfall causing flooding due to water ponding on man-made surfaces or overwhelming the drainage system are to be identified. These priority areas will provide a baseline for the identification of next steps in managing water ponding or over-whelmed drainage systems. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.	A surface water management plan should be developed for Fauldhouse to improve understanding of surface water flood risk. Current and long-term flood risk should be considered including how climate change may impact flood risk in the area. The local community will be advised of any resulting works.	2	Action delivery lead is West Lothian Council in coordination with Scottish Water and other actions in the area.	
Linlithgow	Flood scheme or works design	The selected preferred approach for managing flood risk is to be designed following the completion of the flood study, including consideration of the long-term impacts of climate change. These can include small scale works or works to improve catchment management. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.	A flood study for Bell's Burn was completed in 2021 and recommended works or a scheme to protect houses and businesses from flooding. The proposed works include a bund and a property flood resilience scheme.	2	Action delivery lead is West Lothian Council in coordination with SEPA.	
Linlithgow	Flood scheme or works implementation	The flood scheme/works is to be built following agreement of the design, costs and timescales.	The responsible authority proposes this action as the best viable option for managing flood risk in this community. The delivery of this action is subject to funding being made available. The proposed works include a bund and a property flood resilience scheme.	2	Action delivery lead is West Lothian Council in coordination with SEPA.	
Linlithgow	Data collection	Equipment that measures rainfall, river levels, erosion, ground levels or wave height may be installed and maintained to improve our understanding of flood risk. This can be done over short term or to measure longer term impacts.	West Lothian Council should continue current efforts in data collection and monitoring to improve the confidence in flood sources, mechanisms and risk relating to river flooding from the River Avon. The new data should be used to update the existing flood risk assessment as deemed necessary.	2	Action delivery lead is West Lothian Council and coordination will be determined once the actions have been finalised.	

Objective Target Area (OTA)	Action	General Description	Local Detail	FRM Cycle	Coordination	Updates
Linlithgow	Flood study (existing flood defences)	The performance and condition of the existing flood defences are to be evaluated, including consideration of the likely impacts of climate change. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.	A study is recommended to investigate the performance and long-term management of the existing flood protection scheme along the Mains Burn. The study may require survey of flood defences, data collection and flood modelling. The study should include a comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts of climate change and aim to develop a long-term plan to managing the flood defences.	2	Action delivery lead is West Lothian Council and coordination will be determined once the actions have been finalised.	
Linlithgow	Flood defence maintenance	The existing flood defences are to be maintained by the asset owner to ensure they are in good condition.	Maintenance to the existing 2001 Mains Burn (Linlithgow) Flood Protection Scheme should continue.	2	Action delivery lead is West Lothian Council and coordination will be determined once the actions have been finalised.	
Linlithgow	Sewer flood risk assessment	The volume of water that would overwhelm the sewer system and cause flooding from man-holes or inside our homes is to be assessed, to support understanding of the performance of the urban drainage network	Scottish Water will carry out an assessment of sewer flood risk within the highest priority sewer catchments, which includes Linlithgow sewer catchment in this target area. This will help to improve knowledge and understanding of potential surface water flood risk. Funding for this action is secured through Scottish Water's strategic planning commitments.	2	Action delivery lead is Scottish Water in coordination with the local authority and SEPA.	
Linlithgow	Surface water management plan	Areas at risk of heavy or prolonged rainfall causing flooding due to water ponding on man-made surfaces or overwhelming the drainage system have been identified. Next steps in managing such water ponding or over-whelmed drainage systems have been identified and should be implemented. The plan is to be reviewed and updated as needed.	West Lothian Council published a high level surface water management plan in 2015. The plan identifies a 'road-map' for the management of surface water flood risk and the need for further detailed studies. The plan should be kept under review and updated as new information becomes available. The local community will be advised of any resulting works.	2	Action delivery lead is West Lothian Council in coordination with Scottish Water and other actions in the area.	
Blackridge	Data collection	Equipment that measures rainfall, river levels, erosion, ground levels or wave height may be installed and maintained to improve our understanding of flood risk. This can be done over short term or to measure longer term impacts.	West Lothian Council should continue current efforts in data collection and monitoring to improve the confidence in flood sources, mechanisms and risk relating to river flooding from the Barbauchlaw Burn. The new data should be used to update the existing flood risk assessment as deemed necessary.	2	Action delivery lead is West Lothian Council and coordination will be determined once the actions have been finalised.	
Livingston and Mid Calder	Flood scheme or works design	The selected preferred approach for managing flood risk is to be designed following the completion of the flood study, including consideration of the long-term impacts of climate change. These can include small scale works or works to improve catchment management. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.	The legacy sustainable drainage systems project should continue as appropriate.	2	Action delivery lead is Scottish Water in coordination with West Lothian Council and other actions in the area.	
Livingston and Mid Calder	Sewer flood risk assessment	The volume of water that would overwhelm the sewer system and cause flooding from man-holes or inside our homes is to be assessed, to support understanding of the performance of the urban drainage network	Scottish Water will carry out an assessment of sewer flood risk within the highest priority sewer catchments, which includes East Calder and Livingston sewer catchment in this target area. This will help to improve knowledge and understanding of potential surface water flood risk. Funding for this action is secured through Scottish Water's strategic planning commitments.	2	Action delivery lead is Scottish Water in coordination with the local authority and SEPA.	
Livingston and Mid Calder	Pluvial Map update			2	Action delivery lead is SEPA in coordination with the local authority.	New Action
West Calder	Sewer flood risk assessment	The volume of water that would overwhelm the sewer system and cause flooding from man-holes or inside our homes is to be assessed, to support understanding of the performance of the urban drainage network	Scottish Water will carry out an assessment of sewer flood risk within the highest priority sewer catchments, which includes East Calder sewer catchment in this target area. This will help to improve knowledge and understanding of potential surface water flood risk. Funding for this action is secured through Scottish Water's strategic planning commitments.	2	Action delivery lead is Scottish Water in coordination with the local authority and SEPA.	
West Calder	Surface water management plan	Areas at risk of heavy or prolonged rainfall causing flooding due to water ponding on man-made surfaces or overwhelming the drainage system are to be identified. These priority areas will provide a baseline for the identification of next steps in managing water ponding or over-whelmed drainage systems. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.	A surface water management plan should be developed for West Calder to improve understanding of surface water flood risk. Current and long-term flood risk should be considered including how climate change may impact flood risk in the area. The local community will be advised of any resulting works.	2	Action delivery lead is West Lothian Council in coordination with Scottish Water and other actions in the area.	

Objective Target Area (OTA)	Action	General Description	Local Detail	FRM Cycle	Coordination	Updates
Whitburn	Surface water management plan	Areas at risk of heavy or prolonged rainfall causing flooding due to water ponding on man-made surfaces or overwhelming the drainage system are to be identified. These priority areas will provide a baseline for the identification of next steps in managing water ponding or over-whelmed drainage systems. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.	A surface water management plan should be developed for Whitburn to improve understanding of surface water flood risk. Current and long-term flood risk should be considered including how climate change may impact flood risk in the area. The local community will be advised of any resulting works.	2	Action delivery lead is West Lothian Council and coordination will be carried out with Scottish Water and other actions in the area.	
Whitburn	Data collection	Equipment that measures rainfall, river levels, erosion, ground levels or wave height may be installed and maintained to improve our understanding of flood risk. This can be done over short term or to measure longer term impacts.	West Lothian Council should continue current efforts in data collection and monitoring to improve the confidence in flood sources, mechanisms and risk relating to river flooding from the White Burn. The new data should be used to update the existing flood risk assessment as deemed necessary.	2	Action delivery lead is West Lothian Council and coordination will be determined once the actions have been finalised.	
Whitburn	Pluvial Map update			2	Action delivery lead is SEPA in coordination with the local authority.	New Action

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

REMEMBERING TOGETHER - PHASE 1 UPDATE AND PHASE 2 PLAN.

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides an update on the progress of the Remembering Together Project, the public engagement outcome of Phase 1 and the forthcoming plans for Phase 2 site developments in West Lothian.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note the report on Phase 1 of the Remembering Together project in West Lothian, prepared by Marion Parola of Bespoke Atelier, which focuses on community engagement around experiences of the COVID pandemic.
2. To note and agree the proposed location for the anticipated Phase 2 green space COVID memorial and the supporting rationale.
3. To note the contents of the partnership approach proposed and agreed in the greenspace Scotland Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
4. To agree the proposed Phase 2 plan for expenditure of the forthcoming grant funding of £100,000 from the Scottish Government, via Greenspace Scotland.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Approving the contents of the Remembering Together progress report will enable the council to deliver its commitment to provision of public engagement as an integral part of all public art projects.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	Phase 2 will require the support of Open space, property services and NETS services. CPU will require the appropriate Procurement guidelines to be adhered to per contract value.

IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Phase 1 is funded by greenspace Scotland at £15,000 and the contract held by greenspace Scotland for the development of the project. Phase 2 will be also be funded at £100,000 from greenspace Scotland and may present an opportunity for the use of finance/grant accrued in the current Public Art Fund from developer contributions leveraged by the Supplementary Planning Guidance for Public Art to co-fund the project.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	N/a as a capital project and given accelerated timescales for committing Phase 2 funding.
VIII	Other consultations	Planning & Economic Development, NETS Countryside Land & Countryside Services, Property Services, Regeneration Team via the Public Art Strategy Group (PASG), community engagement activity across West Lothian (see page 42 of Appendix 1 for group types and locations).

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1. Remembering Together - COVID Community Memorial Programme

The programme is funded by the Scottish Government and is coordinated/supported by Greenspace Scotland. It is focussed on commissioning artists to work collaboratively with a range of partners, communities, groups and those most affected by COVID, to create an appropriate memorial-type project in each local authority area. A first report was taken to the Council Executive on 8 February 2022 to introduce the project and it's two tier approach to commissioning.

D2. Key Developments to date

The outcome of Phase 1 of the project is captured fully in Appendix 1 to this report. Key short-term milestones and decision points of note are as follows:

1. The work of the Phase 1 lead artist will culminate in an exhibition at the gallery at Linlithgow Burgh Halls from January to May 2023 of the community engagement responses to date.
2. The nomination of one location for Phase 2, which now needs to be confirmed and agreed in order to communicate the location to the artist and wider community, and commence further community engagement activity.

3. The Memorandum of Understanding, has been agreed and functions as a partnership approach as the document provides guidance for both collaborative project partners, greenspace Scotland and the council, regarding who delivers which aspects of the project.
4. The development of a Phase 2 plan.

D3. Proposed Location

The recommendation noted in the 8 February Council Executive report agreed that the Phase 2 location would be proposed by Open Space and PASG officers, reflecting on the varying scope of projects being developed in other local authority areas, and factoring in the areas of expertise/experience where the council can add value by providing 'in-kind' support. The following principles for project outputs were proposed:

- Creation/development of an environmental land works, garden-type and/or environmental regeneration project.
- A single 'destination' for the primary output, located in a relatively central and accessible public space.
- Low ongoing maintenance requirements and support for long-term community involvement in the ongoing operational upkeep and development of the space – e.g. a 'friends of' group and/or other relevant anchor group(s).
- The space should be developed/created in such a way to maximise different types of utilisation/usage, by different people/groups at different points in time – e.g. annual remembrance and/or celebration events, other seasonal and community events, and artistic performances, as well as areas for quiet, informal and/or personal reflection.
- Early involvement of artistic/creative practitioners and other professionals with expertise and experience of delivering such an output in these areas - e.g. public realm artist, landscape architect.
- Necessary to ensure breadth and depth of other secondary project output(s) via associated engagement work – e.g. art therapy interventions and related outcomes for individuals/communities involved, the creation of smaller, associated visual artworks, with digital archive and/or exhibition potential, and related performing arts productions/performances.

The proposed location is the open green space adjacent to the current WWII memorial at the front of the West Lothian Council Civic Centre, see Appendix documents Phase 2 plan which include a location map. The rationale for the proposal of this location is as follows:

- i. Fully accessible paths from multiple walk ways and car parks.
- ii. Level earth with no gradient in the immediate earmarked area, making future development less challenging on site.
- iii. Significant footfall traffic is typical of the space and the area would benefit of further consideration of providing seating amenities and other creative interventions.
- iv. The area is close to CCTV monitoring and the police station and will be easily monitored, which is anticipated will reduce the potentiality of incidences of public vandalism.
- v. Within an area that receives regular maintenance and can be worked into an additional maintenance regime.
- vi. Complimentary use as it is adjacent to an already established memorial area.
- vii. Materials currently on site, such as the granite benches in situ, have been identified for possible re-use within the new phase 2 proposals, making the best use of the built environment.
- viii. The site is owned by the Council and any planning application requirements will be advised at an early stage and will be dependant on meeting all site requirements e.g. if aspects of the design are higher than four metres tall.

D4. Phase 2 Project Plan

A Phase 1 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) document outlined the initial partnership approach between greenspace Scotland and the council. For Phase 2 to progress and an updated MOU will be developed and agreed in early 2023. The attached Phase 2 plan outlines the proposed direction of travel for the project and is recommended for approval.

The proportioning of the £100,000 grant has been outlined and proposed to project partners as follows (each contract will be awarded through the appropriate CPU procurement requirements):

- Artist Fees: This will cover, design, collaboration, community engagement activities and launch event plans - £15,000.
- Landscape Architect Fees: This will cover research development design, as outlined above, collaboration and publication of the masterplan - £10,000.
- Fabrication WLC budget: This budget is allocated to cover all preparatory works, planning applications, site works, such as land forms, lighting, path ways, reuse/ reconditioning and of granite seating on site and installations of the final works on site and both the lead artist and landscape architect will have access to the direction of expenditure of this budget collectively based on the agreed masterplan and launch event costs etc - £70,000.
- Project Contingency - £5000

E. CONCLUSION

As well as providing an update on Phase 1 outcomes and key developments in the Remembering Together programme in West Lothian project, this report seeks Council agreement on proposals and key recommendations which will allow the project to progress from Phase 1 to delivery Phase 2.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Collective acts of reflection, remembrance, hope and healing with communities across Scotland – <https://www.rememberingtogether.scot> and the dedicated West Lothian page at: <https://www.rememberingtogether.scot/west-lothian/tag/community>

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1. Phase 1 Outcomes report by Marion Parola of Bespoke Atelier.

Appendix 2. Phase 2 Project Plan, with associated location maps.

Contact Person:

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Craig McCorriston

Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration.

Date of meeting: 20 December 2022

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Introduction

Bespoke Atelier has been working across West Lothian as part of Phase 1 for the Remembering Together project. An initiative created to encourage communities across Scotland to reflect and share their experiences of the pandemic.

The processes we have shared creatively have generated ideas and themes which will contribute to phase 2. These shared experiences show resilience, growth, learning and compassion from the people of West Lothian. The memorial we will create will represent these qualities as well as help us remember loved ones.

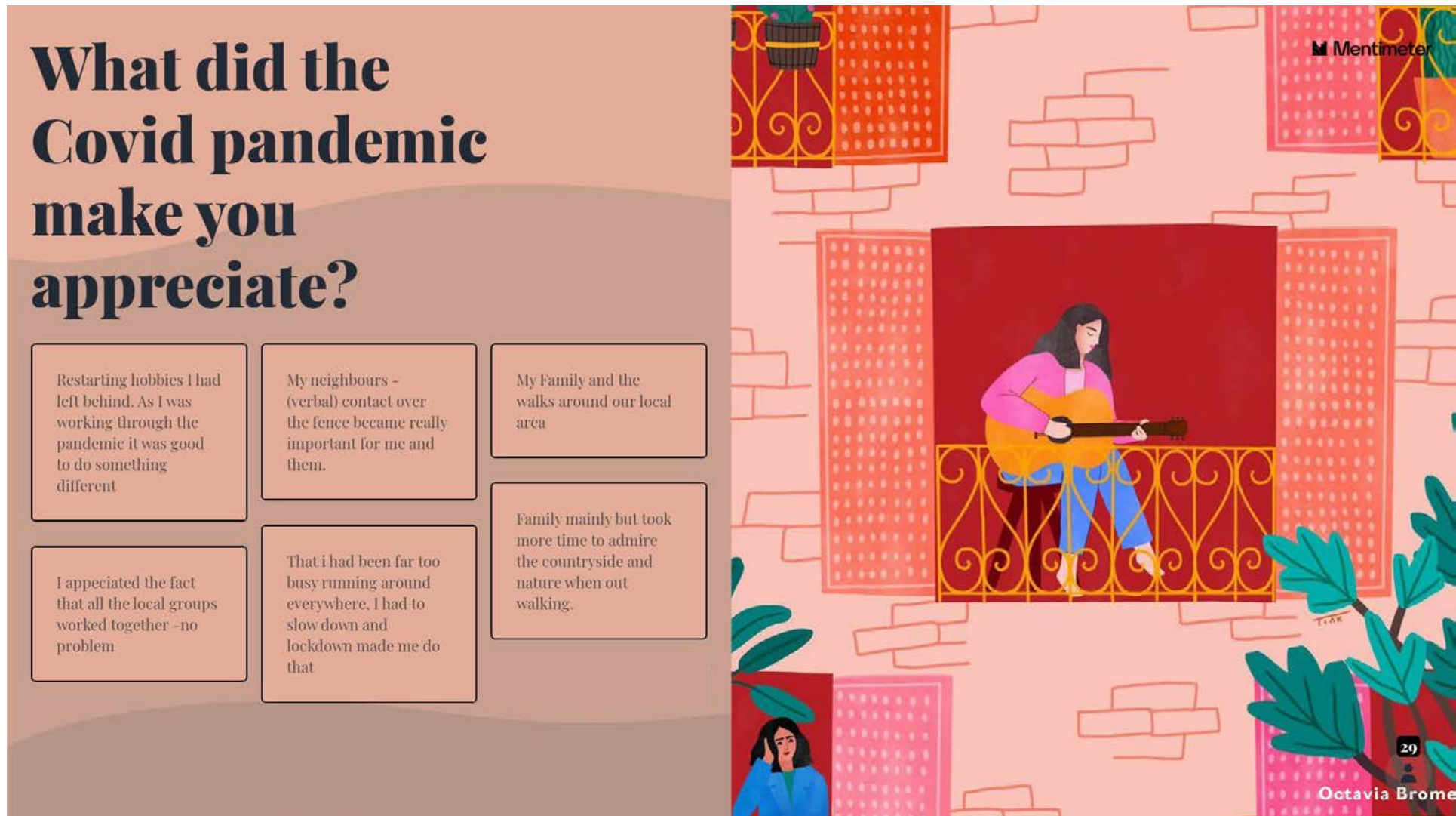
This report is a comprehensive overview of the the project engagement, development and activities that took place between July and December 2022. It is also a way for us to prepare for an exhibition at the Linlithgow Burgh Halls early 2023. This exhibition will showcase the artwork created during the engagement sessions



Item 9

Mentimeter survey- selection of answers

An online survey was created to allow for anonymous responses to four questions. It was sent to a large number of community groups and advertised on West Lothian Council website and Facebook page, as well as Remembering Together's website and Bespoke Ateliers website. See appendix 4 for all responses.



Which word best describes your experience throughout the Covid pandemic?

Mentimeter



Davlan Ho - Innovative Economics Institute "SARS-CoV-2, globe"

Anxious.

frustrated

Busy

stressful

crowded

worried

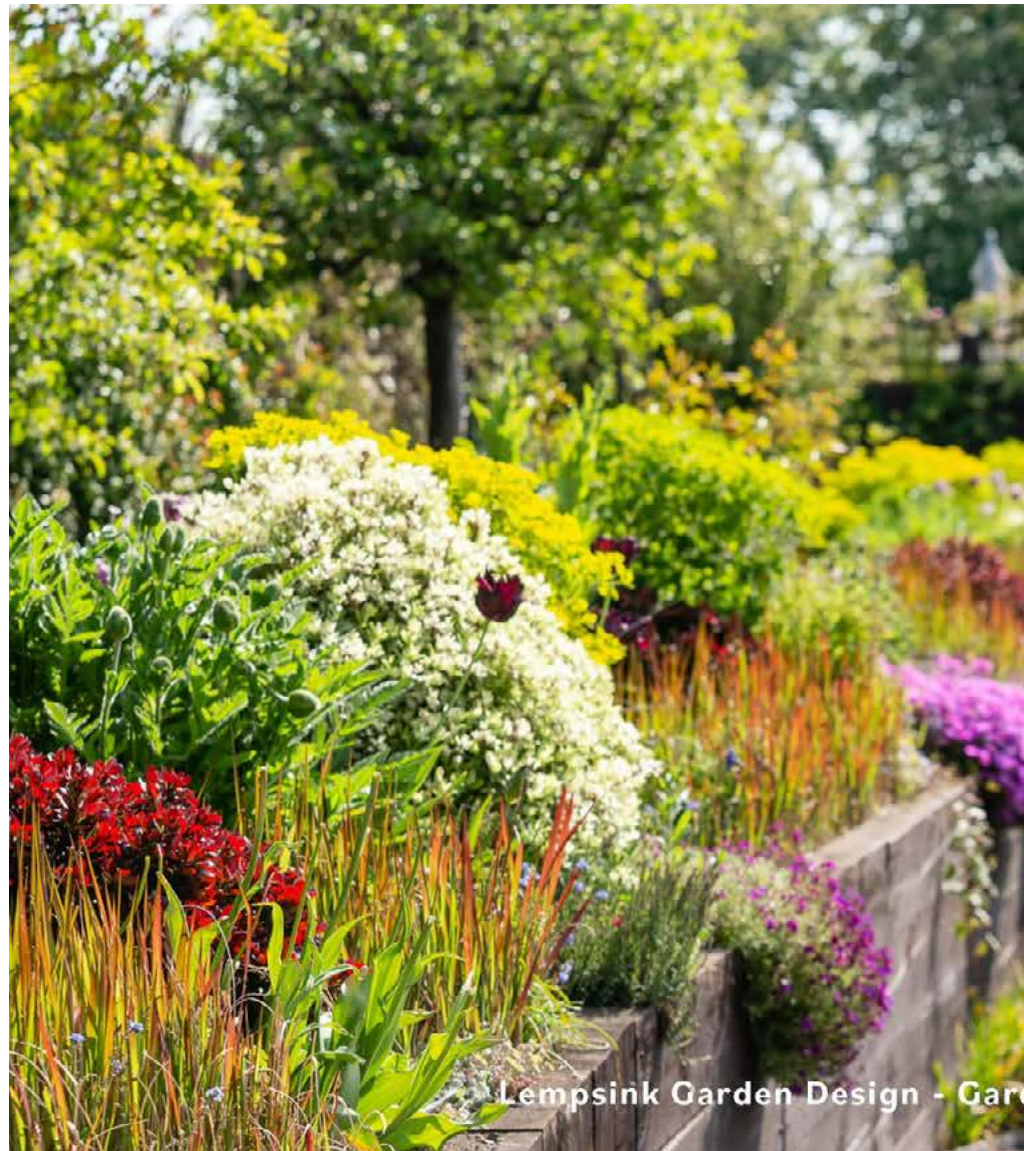
free

Worried. My parents are elderly and I was extremely concerned about them - their health and lonlieness.

Coped well

18





Lempsink Garden Design - Gard

Where was your safe space during the Covid pandemic?

Mentimeter

House

The garden

My garden.

my back garden

My special place was our garden and our couch. Everywhere was so quiet.

House and garden

Back Garden and walks up Dechmont Law - visiting the UFO site. Online games of Dungeons and Dragons with local neighbours

At home in my garden. Also walks along the River Avon in Linlithgow.

19



What do you see out of your window when isolating?

Mentimeter



Halley Tippmann (2021) "Night Windows"

Hobby work, starting helping with a website

cars in the car park, faces at the window, waves from a helping neighbour

Local neighbours, clap for the NHS was a big event in our street (mainly as many people in my street work for the NHS)

Mum and dad have gone to work. I sit here and watch and wait. I wonder if mum and dad are ok. What do they see, what do they feel. Will mum and dad come back on time. I sit here on my own. I miss school and I miss my friends

We were very lucky as we have a large garden and could sit and watch the birds and squirrels from the living room window. There are fields behind us and to the side so we could also watch the cattle and sheep.

My garden. The road and pavement in front of my house with the traffic and pedestrians. Long view of the Clyde Valley.

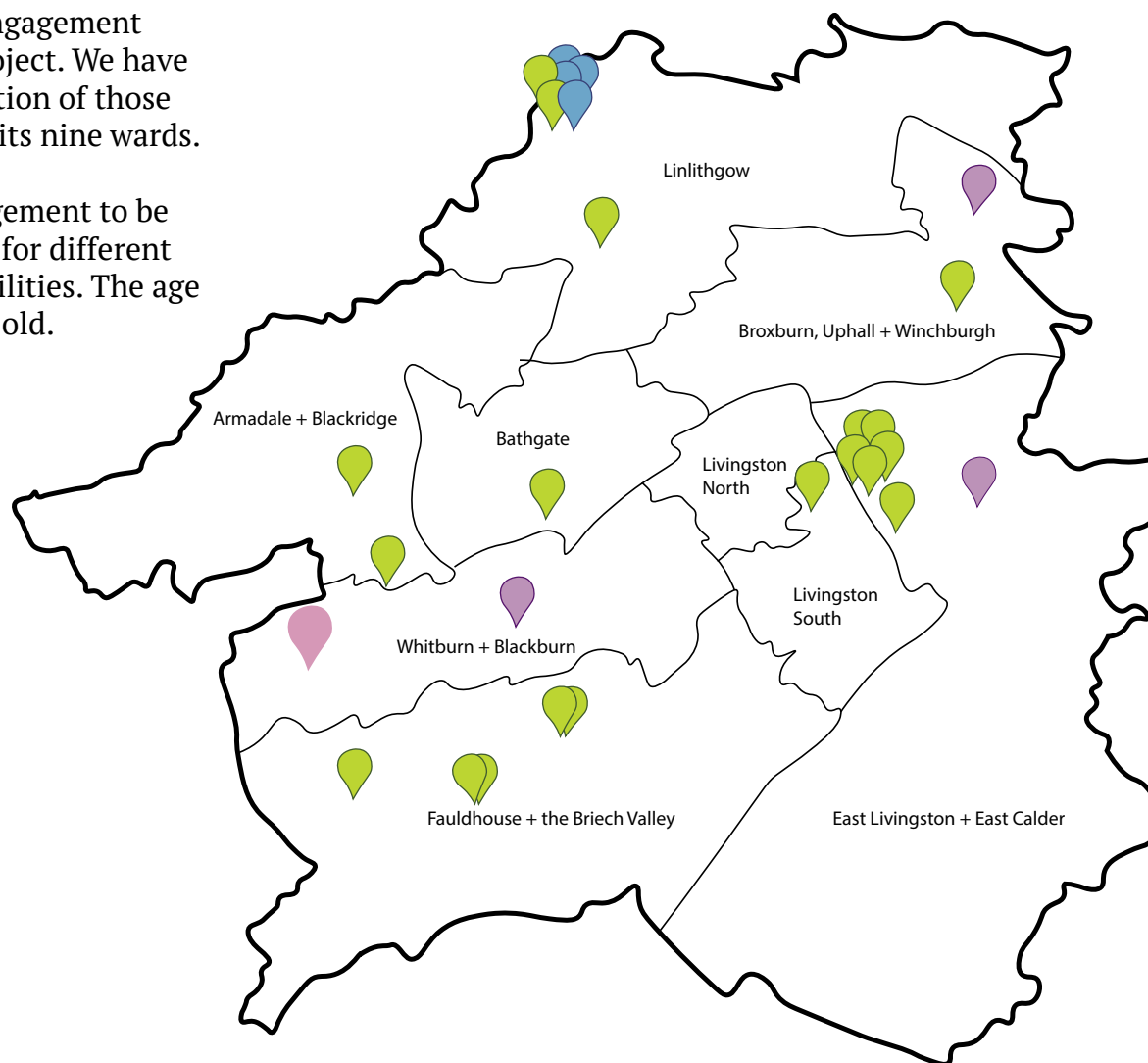
Hardly any traffic. Hardly anyone out in the early days of lockdown

Trees birds no traffic noise

Engagement Reach Map

This map represents our engagement reach for phase 1 of the project. We have sought to reach a cross section of those living in West Lothian and its nine wards.

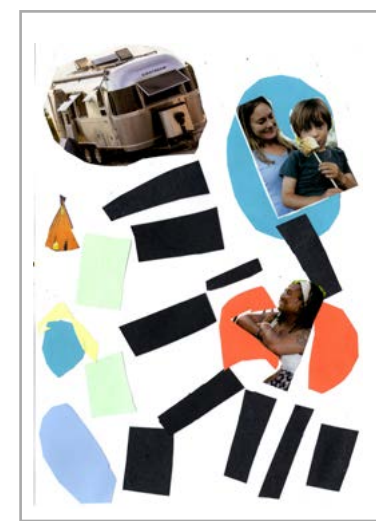
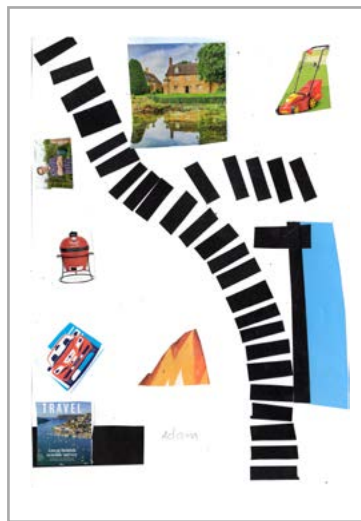
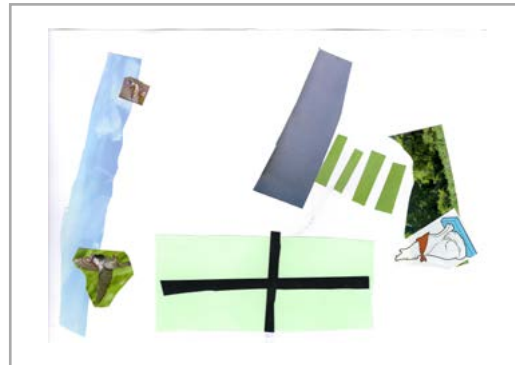
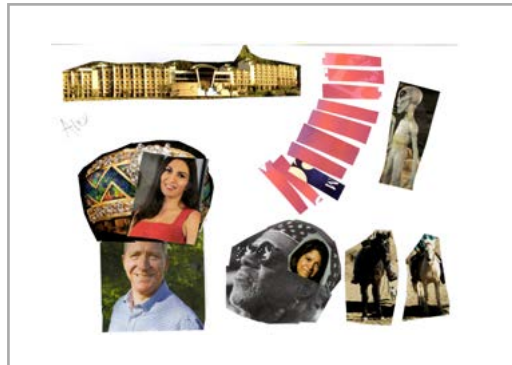
We have tailored our engagement to be accessible and appropriate for different age groups and people's abilities. The age ranged from 5 to 80+ years old.



A digital workshop was sent to around 80 primary schools in West Lothian. The video shows how to create a physical collage to represent the idea of a “dream garden”. This theme was decided upon the Mentimeter survey where people highlighted the importance of greenspaces during the Covid pandemic.

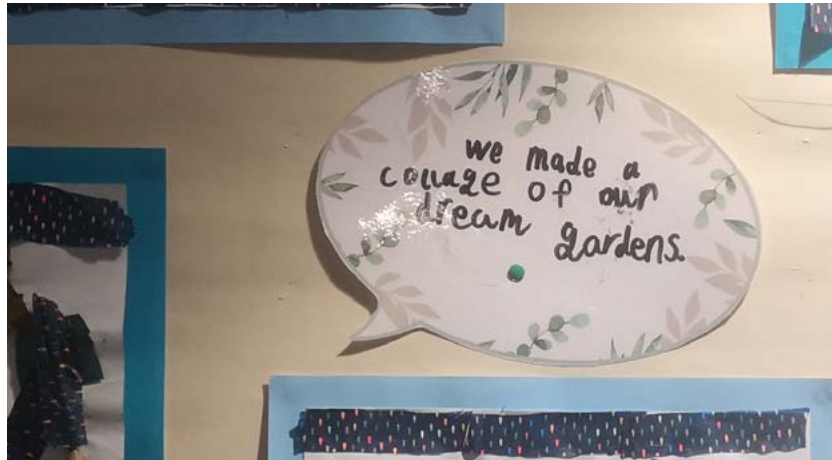


From the video this is the work that some of the schools produced.



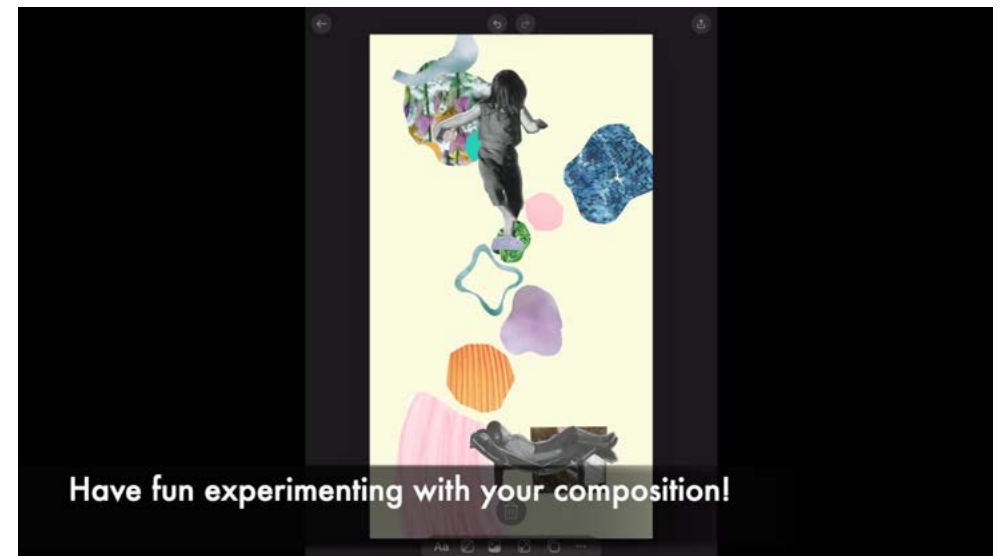
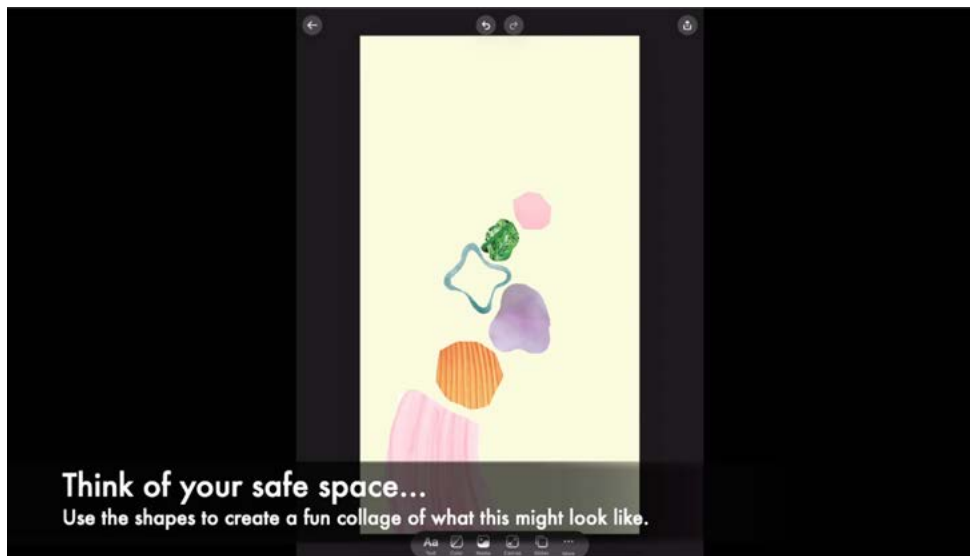
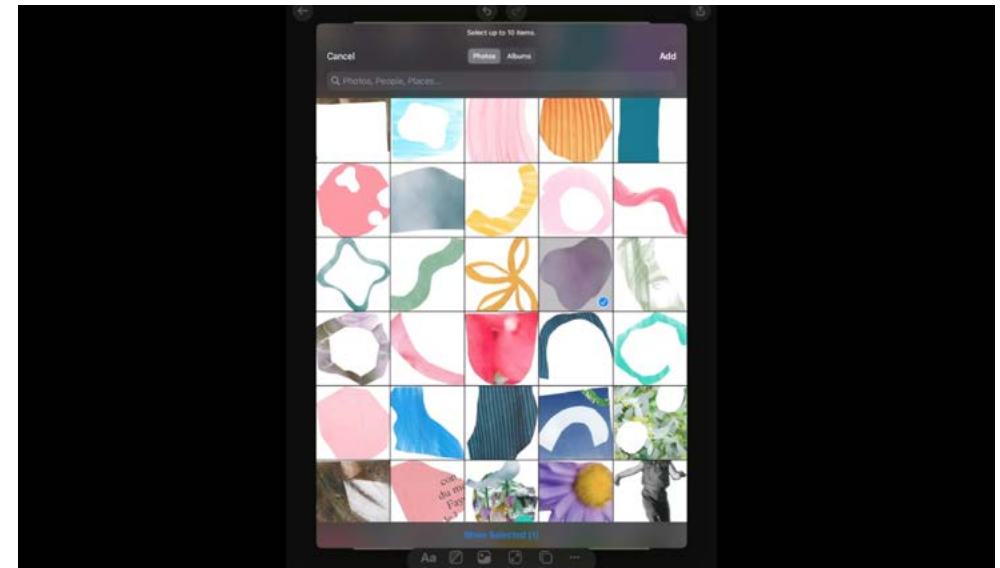
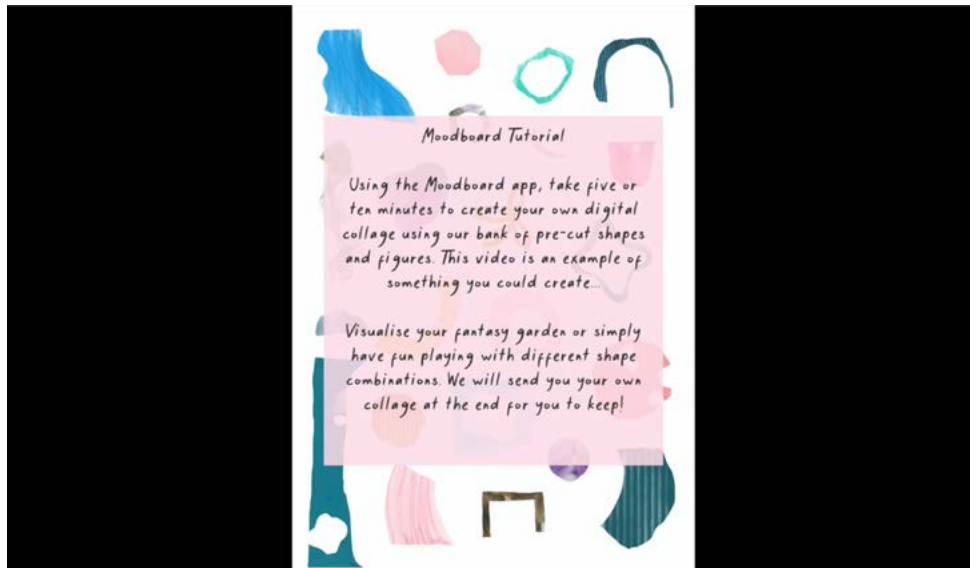
School Self-Directed Collages - Addiewell P4

Item 9



Video for St John's hospital

We designed a digital collage workshop to be done on an ipad. The video will be shown to staff members at St. John's Hospital during their lunch break, inviting them to reflect on their experiences of the pandemic and opinion of a memorial.

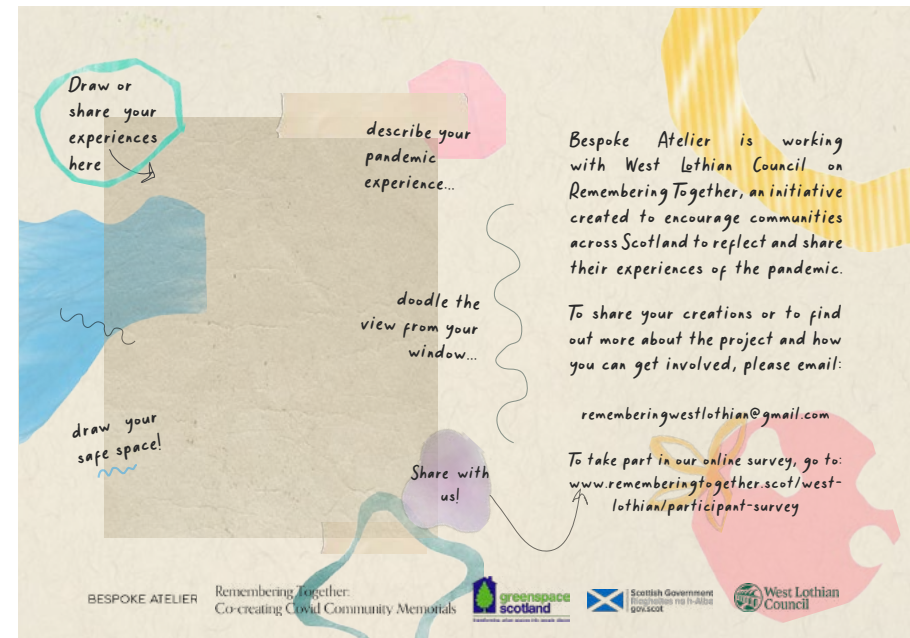


Craig's pandemic story

NHS staff member Craig's from St. John's Hospital sent us images that he took during the pandemic, they give an insight into the daily life of the key workers. We made a digital collage to illustrate his story.



Postcards were given to those engaged with as well as left in community buildings such as Craigsfarm Community Hub. These offer a space to draw your experiences of the pandemic and invite you to visit the Remembering Together website and online Mentimeter survey.



“The Language of Flowers” walk

A public artwork walk, hosted by Bespoke Atelier and Camille Archer from West Lothian Council, where we visited the artwork of Martin Herons in Bathgate and did some sketching exercises. The idea was to listen to people experiences during the pandemic and raise awareness of the existing public art in West Lothian.



“beauty of things within your space that you don’t even know exist, discovered in lockdown with slower pace of living and appreciating the environment around you”

Allan Dungavel, workshop participant

Dawdlers Walking Group

We met with a Dawdlers walking group to do the Armadale Gold Medal Route to hear peoples stories and experience of the Covid pandemic.



OPAL Walking Group

We met with an OPAL walking group in Balvornie Country Park, and gathered in the local cafe to share our experiences of the Covid pandemic over a cup of tea.



"I found quite a few small areas I hadn't seen before"

Mary, Hill Walking Group Member

Engagement Collages + Emerging themes



Our collage workshops was delivered in schools, community groups and care homes.

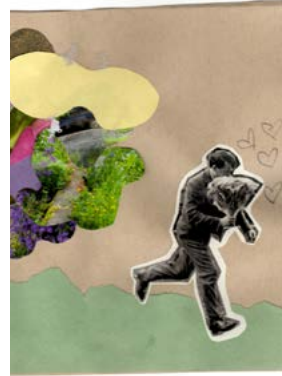
We invited individuals to create their own 'dream garden'. For each participant, an envelope was prepared with off cuts of coloured paper, magazines and figures of people and animals.

We found this activity to be accessible to a lot of ages and abilities.

It was a useful tool to encourage people to share their experiences and stories in a way they felt comfortable.

Home

We have grouped the collages into a series of themes that have emerged naturally.



"I made a new discovery that the house is very not fun when you don't get to go out of it"
Addiewell Primary School P4 Pupil

"I mostly felt safe up in my room cause that's where my xbox is"

"I felt worried and I was also confused cause I didn't know what was going on and why we had to stay in"
Addiewell Primary School Teacher

Isolation



"not having contact with anyone was ...horrible....horrible"

Linda 66



"How many people didn't go to family because they were worried about catching something which increases your isolation..that was one of the bad things with covid...the isolation.....that people sort of opted out..."

Bruce, OPAL



"when I had covid I was sitting at my window, looking out my window, listening to my favourite band...and I was just listening to that looking out the window crying..."

Woodmuir Primary School P567 Pupil



"this covid, is our war, we're experience our own war in that way"

Yvonne, OPAL



"I felt like I was in jail"

ST. Thomas Primparry School P567 Pupil

Being Outside



'We spent a lot more time outside since my wife got hit with something and she couldnae walk very far and I canny walk much anyway so we spent a lot of time outside, put out the table and out the case for the jigsaw and we'd do thousand piece jigsaw all the time and be out there with the dogs and the cats...' Bruce



"I felt safe outside"
P567 Pupil

"it makes me feel good to see trees" **Jeanette 72**



"Home and garden was a real help, it kept me from feeling not quite so lonely" **Maureen 77**



Nature + Wildlife



"I had out my window, it seems that all the wild animals that I'd never seen before were coming out, birds that I never seen before, I made a friendship with a fox"

St.Thomas Primary School Teacher



"...because they weren't cutting the hedgerows you were seeing an awful lot more wildlife, you were seeing more flies, bees"

Bruce, OPAL

A Dream Garden

Through conversation and collage we gathered ideas and an understanding of what a dream garden would look like for those in West Lothian.



"My dream garden would be sunflowers and a blackcurrant tree cause at my nanny she has blackcurrants and I eat them and there so good"

“plants, pink flowers, playset”

*“more plants in it more trees
in it more bugs in it more
birds, ye I want it to be more
naturey”*

"[I'd include] someone to play with"

Addiewell P4 Pupil

Collage and textile design in St. Thomas, Addiewell & Woodmuir Primary School

Item 9



Our textile design workshop expanded on the exploration of a 'dream garden'. We began by introducing school pupils to design concepts via collage. We then invited them to create their own textile wall hanging.

Collage and textile design in St. Thomas, Addiewell & Woodmuir Primary School

Item 9



We began our collage workshop by asking the pupils about their experiences and feelings during the covid pandemic, with particular focus on what were their "safe spaces" and what provided them comfort.



We brainstormed what would be in our 'dream garden's' before beginning the collaging.









To bridge phase 1 and phase 2 we are organising an exhibition to collate the content created from our engagement sessions and our vision for the memorial.

The exhibition is in Linlithgow Burgh Halls and will run for three months from the 27th of January to the 28th of May 2023.

“I sit here and watch and wait” was a comment received through our online mentimeter by a child. We found it articulates the experience of many, during the Covid pandemic.

Linlithgow Burgh Halls Exhibition Space

In the West and East rooms of the exhibition space we will be showcasing the artworks from the engagement sessions as well as artwork we have created in response to the workshops. The east room is focused of 'dream garden' and nature, whilst the West room represents the importance of 'the home' as a safe space in peoples lives. The entrance hall way will be a collection of the emerging themes and ideas for the memorial, with space to provide feedback.



East Room Wall 1

Our aim is to represent the wide variety of experiences people have kindly shared with us. Although everyone's experience has been individual, there has been some common threads in our conversations. The following themes have emerged: Support, Isolation, Family and Friends, Being Online, Shelter, Home, Discoveries, Nature and wildlife

We will either be using hand painting or vinyl to create zones on the wall to group the artworks in visual way.

Spray painted Wall hangings by young people from WLYAP, representing their urban experience of the pandemic. We have combined this together with the "zooommm" quote expressing the digital realm a lot of people have spent time in.



Textile Printed Wall Hangings and collages representing nature are surrounded by relevant quotes. These express the importance of being in nature in many people's lives during the pandemic.

Incorporating the theme of wildlife into the exhibition.



Many people have shared with us that they were more tuned in to the wildlife around them. Some making friends with foxes and others finding more bee's bugs and birds in their gardens and in public parks.

In the exhibition we have included these interactions with wildlife by including hidden painted insects and birds. This makes the exhibition interactive for children, as they can move through the space by findings these.

East Room Wall 3

Item 9

These are the quotes we have showcased in the exhibition space.



"I felt safe outside"

**St. Thomas Primary School
Pupil**

*"I joined a walking club in West
Lothian...a womens walking
club...It's where I felt safe "*

Linda 61

*"Me and my mum got
closer and it felt good"*

Declan 15

*"This is a wee bit silly but
I think we die and come
back to life"*

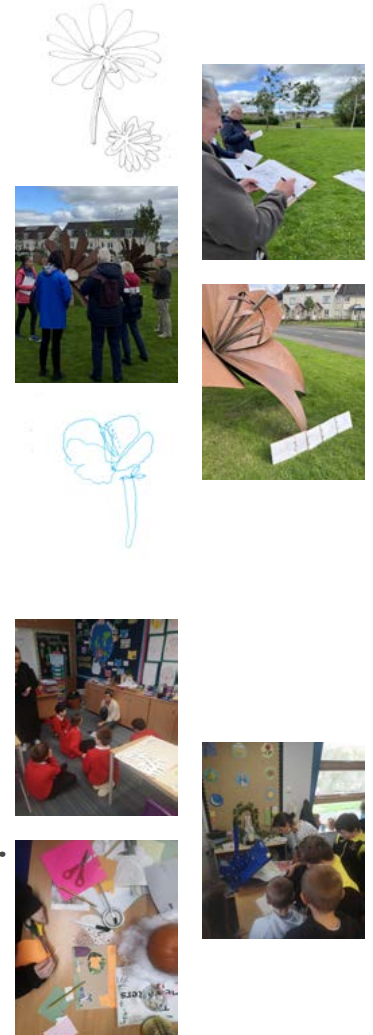
Joshua 8



West Room

Item 9

For the west room we wish to create a space for reflection and to represent the experience of staying at home by recreating an immersive living room space, with bespoke wallpaper, comfortable seating and a place to write feelings and experiences.



We plan to show how some of the artworks were developed by the workshop participants on a series of A frames.

The bespoke wallpaper has been created by using flower motifs that have come from our collage and textile printing workshops.

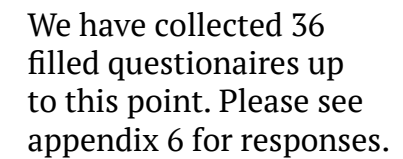
The figures represent some of the people that we have engaged with.



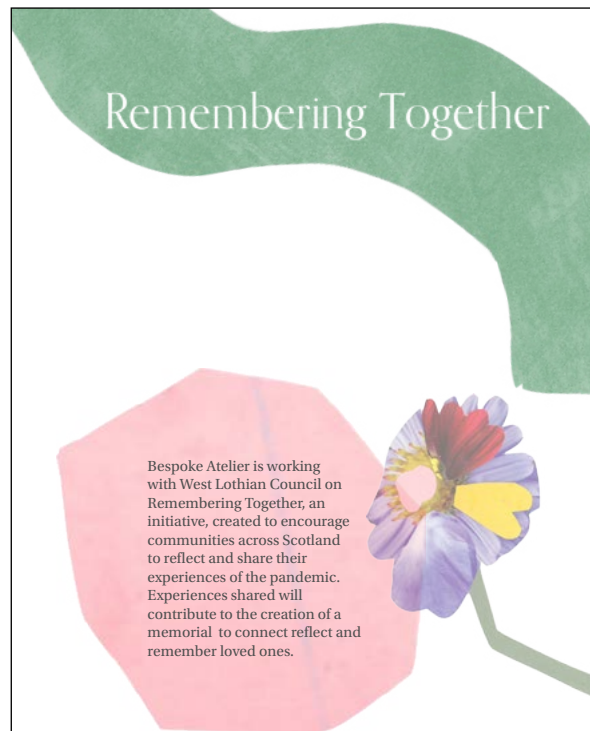
Creating a dialogue of experience, with visitors to the exhibition and those in West Lothian.



We have found talking about the pandemic at this time to be cathartic, we think its important to create a space for reflection and invite anyone who wishes to share their experience of the pandemic by writing in a memorial book that will be placed in the west room.



We provided the questionnaires folded, so that people could hand them back without revealing their responses.



Name Age

Town Contact no.

What does having access to green space and nature mean to you?

.....

.....

.....

Did you make any new discoveries in your local area during the pandemic? If so what were these?

.....

.....

.....

Did you establish any new rituals (regular behaviour or activities) by yourself or with family and friends, during the pandemic? If so, what were these?

.....

.....

.....

Were there moments that made you smile or laugh? What helped cheer you up?

.....

.....

.....

What places, actions, objects connect you/remind you of people close to you?

.....

.....

.....

Where was your safe space during the pandemic? How did it make you feel?

.....

.....

.....

What were the particular qualities of this space? Would you have liked to add anything?

.....

.....

.....

What would a memorial/space to reflect on the covid pandemic look like to you ?

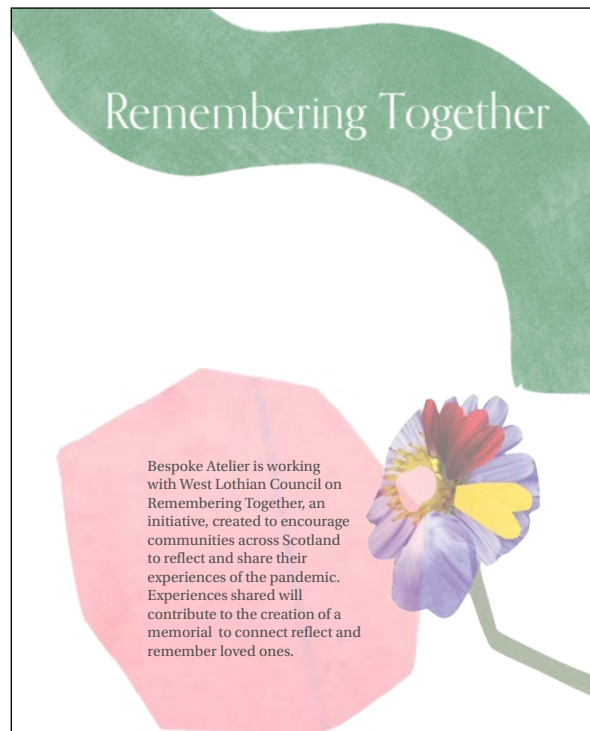
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Remembering Together
Co-creating Covid Community Memorials

October 2022



Name Age

Town

What were the different ways you socialised with your friends? (online, outside, bike rides...)

.....

.....

.....

What was your sources of comfort during the pandemic? (dancing, being outside, music....)

.....

.....

.....

Where did you hang out the most during the pandemic?

.....

.....

.....

Where was your safe space during the pandemic? How did the space make you feel?

.....

.....

.....

Is there someone you would like to thank or something you felt grateful for during the pandemic?

.....

.....

.....

What were the particular qualities of this space? Would you have liked to add anything?

.....

.....

.....

Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience during the pandemic?

.....

.....

.....

Memorial: place or structure established to remind people of a person(s) or event.

What would a memorial for the covid pandemic mean to you? What would you want it to include?

.....

.....

.....

Remembering Together
Co-creating Covid Community Memorials

October 2022

Budget

Item 9

Budget RT Phase 1						
	Days	Amount		Day rate:	£225.00 (1 person)	
Designing/ planning from studio:						
Devise initial plan	3	£675.00				
General reflection, idea generating	4	£900.00				
Design the mentimeter digital survey	4	£900.00				
Advertise/ Publish the digital survey	1	£225.00				
Design +make video for Tippethill	2	£450.00				
Design + make the video for primary schools	3	£675.00				
Advertise the video for schools	0.5	£112.50				
Design + prep in person workshops (textile and collages)	4	£900.00				
General admin, contacting groups, recording project write reports	6	£1350.00				
Materials:						
Workshops materials		680				
Advertising materials (postcards)		100				
Engagement sessions:						
Walk Bathgate Sketching / Art (x1)	0.5	£112.50				
Walk Allan Dungavel (x1)	0.5	£112.50				
Walk Armadale (x1)	0.5	£112.50				
Primary Schools workshops (x2)	2	£450.00				
Tippethill Workshop (x1)	0.5	£112.50				
Linlithgow Care Home + Croft Head Care Home (x2)	1	£225.00				
Canteen at St John's (x1)	0.5	£112.50				
Opal' discussions groups (x3)	1.5	£337.50				
Craigsfarm dance group	0.3	£67.50				
West Lothian Youth Action project (x4)	2	£450.00				
Exhibition:						
Exhibition at Linlithgow Burgh Halls (End of jan 23)- Preparation, planning and design	6	£1350.00				
Install	2	£450.00				
Exhibition production budget		£500.00				
Exhibition engagment sessions (x4)	2	£500.00				
Exhibition refreshments		£100.00				
Travel expenses:		£540.00	(Glasgow/West Lothian around 60 miles return in fuel @45p x 20 trips)			
Sub-total:	46.8	£12,500.00				
+ 20% VAT		£2,500.00				
Total:		£15,000.00				

1. Total no. of Engagement and Content Create
2. Summary of Activity
- 3 Summary of Reach
4. Mentimeter Responses
5. Audio Recording Transcribed
6. Questionnaire Responses



Total number of participants: around 200 people

Number of questionnaires received: 37

Number of audio recordings: 8

Number of collages artwork made: 63

Number of textile artwork made: 55



Appendix 1 - Total no. of Engagement and Content Created

Item 9

Total no. of engagements:

Type	No. finished	No. planned	Total
Walks	3	0	3
NHS Staff and patients	1	1	2
Schools	4	0	4
Elderly groups	4	0	4
Youth groups	3	1	4
Carehomes	0	2	2
Metimeter Digital	/	/	/
Exhibition engagement	0	2	2
Exhibition Artist Talk/Event	0	1	1
Total	15	7	22

Who	When	Where	Workshop	Content Created
Walking / Elderly Groups				
The Language of Flowers Walking Group	/	Bathgate	Walk, Chat and draw	Sculpture drawings
OPAL Walking groups Liz, Mary, David	11 TH of Oct 11am – 1.30pm	Balvormie + Beecraigs visitor centre	Walk and Chat	3x Questionnaire responses Quotes
OPAL friends activity group	13 th of Oct 10am - 11am	Broxburn	'Safe space'/dream garden Collage	Questionnaire audio responses Quotes
Isabelle's Dance Group	Thursday 3 rd of Nov	Craigsfarm, Livingston	meet and chats Questionnaire	15x Questionnaire (still to pick up some)
OPAL Linlithgow friends activity group	10 th nov (thurs 1.30pm)	Longcroft Hall, Philip Avenue, Linlithgow	meet and chats Questionnaire	Recording
OPAL friends activity group	14 th of Nov 1.30pm – 3.30pm	Craigshill	meet and chats Questionnaire	Recording
Alan's Walking group	14 th of Nov 10am	Armadale	meet and chats Questionnaire	(still to pick up some)

Young Adults				
WYLAP: Young women evening session	Wed 5 th of Oct 5pm - 6pm	Craigsfarm, Livingston	'Safe space'/dream garden Collage	A5 Collages 7x Questionnaire responses Leader's view on memorial
WYLAP: Young men day session	Wed 20 th of Oct 1pm -	Craigsfarm Livingston	Stencil and spray paint on fabric	57X large fabric Hanging 5x Questionnaire responses
WYLAP: Young men day session	Monday 24 th of Oct 1pm -	Craigsfarm Livingston	Stencil and spray paint on fabric	3x large fabric Hanging Questionnaire responses
WYLAP: Young men day session	Tuesday 2 nd of November 12pm?	Craigsfarm Livingston	Collage	
Schools				
St Thomas – P5/6/7 12 pupils	27 TH Oct 10am - 12pm	Addiewell	dream garden Collage + heatpress	9XA3 fabric Hanging
St. Thomas – P4 17 pupils	27 TH Oct 1.10pm - 3.10pm	Addiewell	dream garden Collage + heatpress	16XA3 fabric Hanging
Woodmuir –Upper yrs 14 pupils	1 st of nov All day	West Calder	dream garden Collage + heatpress	14? XA3 fabric Hanging
Woodmuir –Lower yrs 6 pupils	1 st of nov All day	West Calder	dream garden Collage + heatpress	6? XA3 fabric Hanging
NHS and Care staff/ residents				
Tippethill Hospital	24 th of Oct 10.30am	Armadale	Dream garden Collage	A5 Collages 4x?Questionnaire responses (still to pick up some)
St. Johns - w/Staff at the canteen	24 th of nov		Collage Questionnaire responses	
Linlithgow Care Home		Linlithgow		
Croft Head Care Home	29 th of Nov	Fauldhouse Bathgate		

Appendix 2 - Summary of Activity

Project/ Activities/ Sessions/ Events	Number of days/ type of sessions/ activities
Mentimeter Digital Survey	4 questions asked
“Design your own dear garden” video tutorial	Open to schools to watch video and do the workshop within their class so hard to quantify
“Safe space” “Dream Garden” in person workshop with collage and textile painting in primary schools	2 days: Each day broken up into one class per half day. Each session is split up with collage and textile painting.
Linlithgow CareHome + Croft Head Care Home	1.5 (x 2) hour where we introduce the Remembering Together Project and ask questions, collectively listening and sharing experiences and feelings about the Covid-19 Pandemic
workshop for Canteen at St John’s Hospital	2 hours day where we speak to staff and provide opportunity to speak whilst collaging
“Safe space” “Dream Garden” in person workshop with collage Tippethill Hospital	1 hour where we speak to staff, patients and carers whilst creating collages using pre-cut shapes
Walk “The language of Flowers” (Bathgate)	2 hour walk: Walking, discussing experiences during the Covid pandemic, sketching, discussing idea of a memorial
Opal Walking Group (Balvormie/Beecraigs)	2 hour walk: Walking, discussing experiences during the Covid pandemic, discussing idea of a memorial
Walking Group (Armada)	2 hour walk: Walking, discussing experiences during the Covid pandemic, discussing idea of a memorial
Opal Linlithgow Activities Group	1.5 hour where we introduce the Remembering Together Project and ask questions, collectively listening and sharing experiences and feelings about the Covid-19 Pandemic
Opal Broxburn Activities Group	1.5 hour where we introduce the Remembering Together Project and ask questions, collectively listening and sharing experiences and feelings about the Covid-19 Pandemic
Opal Craigshill Activities Group	1.5 hour where we introduce the Remembering Together Project and ask questions, collectively listening and sharing experiences and feelings about the Covid-19 Pandemic
Craigsfarm Dance Group	1 hour where we introduce the Remembering Together Project and ask questions, collectively listening and sharing experiences and feelings about the Covid-19 Pandemic
West Lothian Youth Action Project	1.5 hour (x2) Questionnaire, conversation and Spray painting onto textile with young people from WLYAP
West Lothian Youth Action Project	1.5 hour (x2) Questionnaire, conversation and collages with young people from WLYAP

Appendix 3 - Summary of Reach

Community/ Groups/ People invited	How they were / are invited	People who have attended / will attend	More info on activity	Number of people attending in each day/ session/ activity	Information you can comfortably share about lived experiences: e.g. this was a mixed group that included disabled people, LGBT+ people and refugees OR this was a public group and identities were not disclosed OR this was a session for older people specifically as it was organised through a charity supporting older people
General Public	Emails sent out to groups, survey advertised on WLC website and Facebook, RT website, our website.	This survey was anonymous	What do you see out of your window when isolating?	16	We received some poignant comments from people, one especially from we think a child or young person "I sit here, I watch and wait" . Looking back at this we wish we'd asked more information about the people who were entering the survey.
			What did the covid pandemic made you appreciate?	34	
			Where was your safe space during lockdown?	21	
			Which word best describes your experience throughout the Covid pandemic?	21	
Primary Schools WL	We sent an email to all the primary schools in WL	Head teachers, teachers, pupils	Create your own dream garden through collage by watching this tutorial video.	Around 80 schools	It's very hard to say who actually did the workshop within their class.
St. Thomas' Primary	Email- after watching the video contacted us for in person workshops	Teachers, pupils	We are doing collage and textile workshops creative activities based on the idea of safe space.	12 (P567 17 (P4)	This is booked for after October break on Tuesday 27/10/22
Woodmuir Primary School				20	This is booked for after October break on Tuesday 27/10/22
St John's Hospital Staff	Email and meetings	St John's Hospital Staff	We have pre-scanned shapes to help staff make a collage and talk of their experience during the covid pandemic.	TBC	This is booked for 24/11/22
Tippethill Hospital	Email and meetings	Staff, carers, patients	We are doing a creative activity based on the idea of a safe space and dream garden : We have pre-cut shapes ready to create a collage	2 Residents 3 staff	Took place on 24/10/22
General Public	Emails sent out to groups, survey advertised on WLC website and Facebook, RT website, our website.	Members of the general public	Walk organised in Bathgate where we visited existing pieces of public art to brainstorm on the idea of a memorial and did some sketching whilst chatting about everyone's experiences during the Covid pandemic.	3	The people who attended were mainly retired and fit for a walk.
OPAL walking group	Email and phone calls	Members of OPAL	Walk in Balvornie and tea and cakes in Beecraigs Visitors center	3	Took place on 11/10/22
Armadales walking group	Meeting at other walk	Members of OPAL	Walk in Balvornie and tea and cakes in Beecraigs Visitors center	12	Took place on 11/10/22
Craigs Farm Dance Group	Email and phone calls		Introducing Remembering Together Project, conversations and questionnaire handout and fill in	15	Took place on 03/11/22
OPAL Linlithgow activities group	Email and phone calls	Members of OPAL	Talk of their experience during the covid pandemic.	10	Took place on 10/11/22
OPAL Broxburn activities group	Email and phone calls	Members of OPAL	Talk and audio recording of their experience during the covid pandemic.	11	Took place on 13/10/22
OPAL Craigshill activities group	Email and phone calls	Members of OPAL	Talk and audio of their experience during the covid pandemic.	7	Took place on 14/11/22

Appendix 4 - Mentimeter Responses

Item 9

What did the covid pandemic make you appreciate?

Restarting hobbies I had left behind. As I was working through the pandemic it was good to do something different

My neighbours - (verbal) contact over the fence became really important for me and them.

My Family and the walks around our local area

I appreciated the fact that all the local groups worked together -no problem

That i had been far too busy running around everywhere, I had to slow down and lockdown made me do that

Family mainly but took more time to admire the countryside and nature when out walking.

Simple home life

Hobbies, Local wildlife and the noise - very quiet during lockdown

The pandemic made me really appreciate my husband. Our families live far away anyway, but he's such a cool guy. I loved that I got to spend so much time with him, even doing nothing.

It made me realise how much I appreciate live music. I missed it so much. It also gave us more family time together, which was lovely. My husband and I enjoyed spending time in the garden together.

Freedom

Freedom

I appreciated my time with my newborn, we had no outside opinions it was just us working it out. I also loved the pause in life the pandemic create it gave the time to just be with family and enjoy the time

Pandemic made me appreciate our local area, Easton Bing ., with lovely walk through the trees.

Solitude. It made me appreciate the fact that I can enjoy my own company.

Time space with my child and husband. Not having to work all the time.

Time

Family and quality time even though both my son and I worked all through the pandemic

my husband,safety in my home and what the meaning of life is about

Appendix 4 - Mentimeter Responses

Item 9

What did the covid pandemic make you appreciate?
Everything!
My family and not being able to see them apart from at a window
Getting to spend more time with my children. Found a new respect for teachers. Home schooling and working fro home was difficult. Discovering local walks.
Being able to get my nails done
The fact that I lived in an area with easy access to open spaces
Time - less time commuting, more time for me, appreciate time I can spend with loved ones
Wildflowers and wildlife and silence
Made me appreciate family and friends more and still being able to work throughout the pandemic made life more bearable
It made me appreciate my health as so many people became ill and died or became disabled. It made me appreciate my home and made me explore the local area as travelling not possible.
My family - 5 adults together in a small house all day doesn't sound easy but we learned to live together again and everyone mucked in to help. Made me appreciate and get to know my adult children better.
I enjoyed the solitude! The decline in socialising - less need to socialise. I appreciated the health and social care services! Members of both in the family, myself included, who works through it all!
Family, freedom, open spaces and my home
Local open land areas, took up more walking during pandemic which helped health. You appreciate family and friends more when you cannot see them and lost them without being able to say goodbye.
Being out and about visiting different places.
Family and Friends is answer We could not come together except in online events and they helped us feel connected
Appreciated the green and blue areas in our estate more through our walks for exercise ...
Thanks for starting with a positive question. I made the best of the peace, quiet and stillness. Mostly no planes/cars/lorries/people. Time to sit in the garden, relax and reflect. I would like to see a wildflower meadow included in the scheme.
After living here for over 30 years, lock-down led me to discover new walks within a 5 mile radius of my home that I had been unaware of before.

Appendix 4 - Mentimeter Responses

Item 9

What did you see out of your window when isolating?
Hobby work, starting helping with a website
Mum and dad have gone to work, I sit here and watch and wait. I wonder if mum and dad are ok. What do they see, what do they feel. Will mum and dad come back on time. I sit here on my own. I miss school and I miss my friends
My garden. The road and pavement in front of my house with the traffic and pedestrians. Long view of the Clyde Valley.
cars in the car park, faces at the window, waves from a helping neighbour
We were very lucky as we have a large garden and could sit and watch the birds and squirrels from the living room window. There are fields behind us and to the side so we could also watch the cattle and sheep.
Hardly any traffic Hardly anyone out in the early days of lockdown
Local neighbours, clap for the NHS was a big event in our street (mainly as many people in my street work for the NHS)
I would take my tortoise into the garden and just watched him roaming about, while i sat with a cup of tea.
Trees birds no traffic noise
Nature healing itself.
a very quiet street ,the odd neighbour,and a lot of bird singing no traffic noise
Neighbours at their window or in the garden
Nothing, having mobility issues kept blinds shut so not to tease myself
Everyone else going about their day to day business and also those not following or taking the pandemic seriously
My garden.
Overgrown central square within housing area. Not a lot of movement at all during the pandemic most neighbours kept themselves to their back gardens so only ever seen neighbours through the fence lol. Was able to watch two neighbours taking action
on the overgrown bankings and central square . Taking out their own lawnmowers and cutting down the overgrown grass. Which did lift spirits
Delivery drivers for all our and our neighbours needs and rainbows in the windows

Appendix 4 - Mentimeter Responses

Item 9

Where was your safe space during the Covid pandemic?

House

The garden

My garden.

my back garden

My special place was our garden and our couch. Everywhere was so quiet.

House and garden

Back Garden and walks up Dechmont Law - visiting the UFO site. Online games of Dungeons and Dragons with local neighbours

With no social life it's easy to feel like your work is all you have. But that was quite draining! I started taking lunchtime walks in the park - this was my calm and safe space.

At home in my garden. Also walks along the River Avon in Linlithgow.

My safe space was my village as there where lots of different walks to do for daily exercise. We where fortunate to be surrounded by fields with animals too so I felt my baby didn't miss out on first experiences such as visiting farms

Our safe space was walking along bottom of Easton Bing.

Home garden back gate to feels and a quiet walk way.

in my garden with my blind elderly west highland terrier

My garden

Appendix 4 - Mentimeter Responses

Item 9

Which word best describes your experience throughout the Covid pandemic?

Anxious.
frustrated
Busy
stressful
crowded
worried
free
Worried. My parents are elderly and I was extremely concerned about them - their health and lonlieness.
Coped well
My experience was diffeent as I was working throughout, it ranged from exasperation with PPE supplies, every increasing demands and concenrs about hopw children ere managing at home alone.
Restless
Clear out time. Managed to clear out many things from the house, which we then were able to transport to the dump when things reopened. Appreciation for NHS workers. Government need to reward them more and invest in our NHS more.
Panic
Peace

Peace
Anger no infrastructure
Loss
Tired
Worried
News
Death
Sadness
sadness
a lot of sadness
how sad everyone was
Worry
Sadness
Lies
Loss
Anger
Abused , working in a food retailer shop the abuse we took everyday was horrific

Appendix 4 - Mentimeter Responses

Item 9

Which word best describes your experience throughout the Covid pandemic?

Abused , working in a food retailer shop the abuse we took everyday was horrific
Burnt-out
Greatful
Bewildering.
Loss- losing parent in care home 3 months into pandemic. Sons 18th birthday virtually passing unmarked due to lockdown social interation - People were more sociable. When out walking dog if you came across other dog walkers or just walkers we all
acknowledged each other with a wave or a shouted greeting . Something not done prior to lockdown
Community
Gave time to reflect on where life was going and what was important

Appendix 5 - Audio Recording Transcribed

Feelings

"it was really detrimental for my mental health the fact that I couldn't go outside.....It felt like I was locked up"

"not having contact with anyone was ...horrible....horrible" Linda

"this covid, is our war, we're experience our own war in that way" Yvonne

"BORED!"

"Depressing"

"same routine"

"sad and fear"

"I felt worried and I was also confused cause I didn't know what was going on and why we had to stay in, cos we didn't really know, did we, we were just told we had to do that and worried that I'd spread it to someone I loved" teacher

"It was a confusing time, wasn't it....so much nicer now we are back together" teacher

"I felt sad because we were going to do something fun, it was a surprise and I didn't know what we were going to do and I couldn't get to see what the surprise was, because we were going to do it right on the day covid started"

"I felt like I was in jail, but I also liked it because I could play Fortnite"

What you could see

"I saw loads of people walking on the street when they weren't supposed to.....I liked to peek out the window to see what's going on"

"When I was looking out the window I saw people going to the shops"

"I didn't see people"

"Nothingness"

"trees"

"an empty road"

Discoveries

"I made a new discovery that the house is very not fun when you don't get to go out of it"

"I discovered something weird when there was covid, I discovered a flying spider"

"I never (made new discoveries), I'm literally in the middle of nowhere"

"Zooooommm"

Experiences

"do you not find that some families don't care as much for the elderly so much now a days...ye know because of covid..." Bruce

"How many people didn't go to family because they were worried about catching something which increases your isolation..that was one of the bad things with covid...the isolation.....that people sort of opted out..." Bruce

"You could get out your house.... you could be in the open air... cos that was the hard bit if you only had the four walls" Bruce

"I think I did a lot more walking...and it continued...since I was very close to the whole countryside where I lived" English man

"We spent a lot more time outside since my wife got hit with something and she couldn't walk very far and I can't walk much anyway so we spent a lot of time outside, put out the table and out the case for the jigsaw and we'd do thousand piece jigsaw all the time and be out there with the dogs and the cats...its super....you don't hear anything....its covered...so even if its raining you can still sit out there which is what we used to do regular just to get the fresh air." Bruce

"just to get out your four walls"

"I felt happy because I didn't need to go to school for a whole entire year!" ... "But then you had to do all that digital rubbish"

"I was home schooled, I never liked it, I liked it when I only needed to do it for an hour" "it was very hard, [school online]"

"[Being at home] I liked that, cos I could turn off my camera and mute myself and go wherever I want"

"[school] for a child's mind, it is a prison"

"it was very fun for me cause I got to play all my video games all day"

"sometimes I just wanted to stare at the wall...there was a sun a sky, my walls are blue for the sky and I made cut grass and flowers and so I'd just stare at that for a whole hour"

"basically when I had covid I was sitting at my window, looking out my window, listening to my favourite band...and I was just listening to that looking out the window crying..."

"my gran got stuck over in Scotland because her mum died, but they didn't let her back so we went on a bunch of walks tae the fallen tree...its like in the forest."

"I learn better at home"

"I had a good time cause we kept playing games, we were playing games inside, because we couldn't go outside"

"I also remember doing a bunch of art with my Gran, because she is really arty, and we were doing my school project and it was dinosaurs and I done a stegosaurus and diplodocus and we model it out of clay and then we painted it...I found it more fun cause it was with a family member that's special to me and I was doing something, and I don't get to see her that much." Lana

"I got covid twice and the first time I was in the spare room, because it was still the 14 days (isolation) and I hadn't seen anyone for ages. At one point my sister brought down my Lego and played with me, but the bits I took out I didn't put back in and it was in the middle of two meters."

Remembering People

"I have pictures, I have objects that I brought from Portugal, that belong to my mum or my brother, I brought things with me cos it makes you feel close to home when you have those things"

"I have this little angel thingy made out of glass, and it really reminds me of someone who passed away...its in my room...also got this little thing like a jug filled up with water and I say stuff into it and shake it and hope that it goes up "

"My granny Gorgie passed away and me and my mum, we took her stuff to remind us of her and I look after a doll that has dolls inside them and I only play with them when I really miss her."

"After I was born my uncle James died....my gran (connects me to him)"

"giving my family cuddles and keep them warm" check this on headphones "and they keep you warm too, that's what my mums does, she squeezes me"

"I have a portrait of my dad, my mum and my stepdad"

"there's this little elephant statue and it reminds me of her."

"Captain Tom died, he died because of it" Joshua

"with OPAL we did the phone round all the people that were on their own, on a sorta weekly basis, just to make sure they were okay....thats a good thing that came from it [covid] you did develop a gradual relationship over a year and a half's phoning" Bruce

Spaces of Comfort

I joined a walking club in west Lothian... a ladies walking club.....it's where I felt safe" Linda

"I felt safe in my house"

"my phone (made me feel safe), cause I got to phone my mum every night, when I was sick cos I wasn't allowed out my room"

"just my room...my toys and teddies (made it feel safe)"

"with sky the dog"

"my mums room at night""anywhere my phone went"

"sometimes I went to the field"

"I really like going outside"

"I felt safe outside"

"I loved hearing people talking about just lying down, cause I have to do that quiet a lot and that gives me time to think" Kim

"thinking time can be really good" Kim

"I mostly felt safe up in my room cause that's where my xbox is"

"(I felt safe) underneath my mattress, because we were playing hide and seek all the time"

"I feel safe on my couch"

"it felt good not going outside"

"this is a wee bit silly but I think we die and came back to life" Joshua

Food

"the Kitchen....i love food..i felt good when I was eating"

" [I felt comfort] when mum brought food from work"

Nature

"I had out my window, it seems that all the wild animals that I'd never seen before were coming out, birds that I never seen before, I made a friendship with a fox"

"[out my window I saw] an owl"

"you could only see birds and stuff and no one outside"

"I could see out my garden and I could also see cats hunting"

"when my gran was over and we were going all the walks I remember we would take a bunch of photos of a bunch of bugs, I'm sure it was a lady bug or a caterpillar."

Dream Garden

"more plants in it more trees in it more bugs in it more birds, ye I want it to be more naturey"

Appendix 6 - Questionnaire responses

From WYLAB

"[I helped] my older community members with gardening and shopping" Marcos 15

"Lots of family members including myself, some stress and confusion about what was going on." Marcos 15

"[sources of comfort] my friends, computer and music." Marcos 15

"Started camping and fishing and still do it every now and then." Marcos 15

"[words that come to mind when you think about a memorial] Peace and calm." Marcos 15

"Sausage Casserole." Marcos 15

"Macaroni cheese." Brandon

"My mum's cheesy pasta." Tegan 13

"Smokey salasa pasta"n

"[sources of comfort] my girlfriends, family." Brandon

"[sources of comfort] motocross." Cayden 14

"I hung out with them [friends] in gardens." Tegan 13

"[Hung out the most in] Craigshill" Kirstie 12

"[sources of comfort] roblox" Kirstie 12

"Its okay not to be okay." Paige 14

"[different ways socialised with friends] snapchat, Instagram."

"[different ways socialised with friends] houseparty, facetime, snapchat,bikerides" Chloe 13

"We usually hung out at parks or near our houses." Maddison 13

"[gave a hand to people in the community by] selling fudge." Paige 14

"[sources of comfort] music, my cat, and my bedroom and make up." Paige 14

"[sources of comfort]

Isobel's Dance group Craigs Farm

Opal Activities group

Opal walk

What does having access to green space and nature mean to you?

"Essential – we walked every day with our dog and continued to do that throughout the pandemic" Helen 75

"Means a lot to be able to in a green space/park – good to be able to walk in a safe environment." Linda 61

" Outside all the time." Alfie 12

"I always went out and chilled with my pals." Declan 15?

"Couldn't do without it." David 64

"a great deal. I feel a lot better walking outdoors." Mary

"Means so much, exercise and company." Liz 78

"Freedom/peace/quietness/scenery/emotions" Cathy 50

"It is very important, I can't exactly say why but being able to see fields and hills from my window is less oppressive, than seeing other houses or rooftops " Cam, Armadale

"[greenspace and nature means] a great deal. Space to be calm and enjoy nature"

"[greenspace and nature is] important as I have three dogs" Patricia

"I walk a lot so [greenspace and nature means] everything" Sheila 75

"Great to have greenspace on my doorstep without driving" Maggie 76

"Everything, I walk several time every week" Judith 66

"It is essential it lifts my spirits and calms me" Norma 65

"make me feel good to see tress" Jeanette 72

"to breath freely – see the colours and people enjoying themselves" Katrina 74

Did you make any new discoveries in your local area?

"I did a lot of walking before covid, I did notice that familiar were a lot more popular." David 64

"I found quite a few small areas, I hadn't seen before." Mary

"I found some lovely new wooded areas for walking and relaxing" Isobel

"Many woodland walks/ public parks and gardens" Cathy 50

"I discovered there was a small pond in an area I thought I knew quite well (black moss) and frequently walk through." Cam, Armadale

"We explored areas and pathways on a much wider basis than we had before." Helen 75

"I found new walks and realised how loud the traffic is normally. I enjoyed the quiet" Norma 65

"I discovered the extent of my local golf course" Maggie 76

"The environment was not all it could be" Kay

"Zoom was my discovery." Maureen 77

"Found new paths during our walks" Judith 66

"I did lots of walking, found walks I had not been before." Linda 61

"[discovered] an abandoned house." Alfie 12

"I went camping up next to loch Lomond and went swimming and fishing." Declan 15

"Spent more time exploring the local area with my dog." Nathan 32

Did you establish any new rituals?

"We started regular video calls with our sons and their families" Helen 75

"Read more, got into photography more, walked every day, learned how to make fruit loaf." David 64

"online cooking classes, joined walking groups, online church services." Liz

"I played xbox a lot." Alfie 12

"Me and my mum got closer and it was good." Declan 15

"I did more exercise through the gym I belonged to, on Facebook more regularly too"

"Walked every day, worked in the garden a lot more" Jeanette 72

"I had to develop a daily routine during lockdown in order to cope with the isolation" Maggie 76

"ballet and tap on zoom" Patricia

"I did at the start the one hour walk daily." Maureen 77

"we got closer to our neighbours, checked on them" Judith 66

"I joined a (ladies) walking club." Linda 61

"meeting up with friends and walking dogs together." Nathan 32

"Frequently met up with my friend in Black Moss to walk her dogs also as a result we now continue to meet up twice weekly (though mostly go out for lunch now!)" Cam, Armadale

"Spending more time with families, meeting to do many outdoor activities." Cathy 50

Were there moments that made you smile or laugh? What helped cheer you up?

"It was very isolating, so just meeting people online." Liz

"Moments [that cheered me up were] with my goddaughter, oblivious to it all" Isobel

"I am my dad's carer, so every day I had to be cheerful for his sake, not doom and gloom, lots of laughs throughout the pandemic, along with very sad moments." Linda 61

"watching wildlife" Jeanette 72

"seeing our baby grandson on video, although we weren't able to meet him or hold him, as he was born during lockdown" Helen 75

"catching up with friends and family on zoom or whatsapp"

"family phonecalls" Maggie 76

"My football team winning" Kay

"When my family sat in the garden" Maureen 77

"friends appearing in the garden" Lynda 78

"kindness of others" Judith 66

"Zoom calls, quizzes, helping neighbours." David 64

"Glass of wine over the garden fence" Judith 66

"still being able to meet friends and family outdoors in outdoor areas."

"Sitting outside most of the time, due to the great weather" Helen 72

"Seeing stories on the news of communities coming together to help was lovely" Cam, Armadale

"My friends and when I could play xbox." Declan 15

Places, actions, objects, that remind me of people close to me are:

"South of France, Pitlochry, Almandell Country park, wine!"

"Articles from my parents house, photographs." David 64

"craft bead art, made a large picture of the grandchildren." Liz 78

"My couch cause it reminds me of my house." Alfie 12

"My bedroom, because it reminds me of me and my family decorating." Declan 15

"friends appearing with meals." Lynda 78

"Everything in the garden reminds me of my husband who died of covid" Jeanette 72

"Beecraigs Country Park where my late parents took the family with the pet dogs." Cathy 50

"wedding photographs of our family which are around the house, photos of Ballater in Aberdeenshire, which is our favourite place" Helen 75

"Garden reminded me I couldn't discuss plants with my mum" Norma 65

"When I walked by the park, was reminded of grandchildren and son and daughter" Norma 65

"the quietness of the first lockdown, no traffic being able to talk on the phone outside!"

"we were all so far from each other"

"Coffee mornings" Kay

"The local country park, that I used to visit with my grandparents as a child." Nathan 32

"The Gala day always reminds me of my dad as he loved the procession" Cam, Armadale

Safe space

"[My place of safety was] Almandell Country Park – felt I could breath" Isobel

"My garden, planting flowers, strubs, made me feel good and relaxed." Cathy 50

"My home: safe and secure and non-changing" Linda 61

"not sure, I didn't feel unsafe" Nathan 32

"Home but very lonely." Liz 78

"My bed." Alfie 12

"My bedroom because it's a comfy chill place."

"my garden, just being outside felt good" Jeanette 72

"Home – my husband is vulnerable and was shielding, so it was the only place we felt safe. We have a lovely garden which helped a lot" Helen 75

"the garden allowed us to sit outside in good weather, and met up with friends there." Helen 75

"Home, [but made me feel] quite lonely as I live alone" Katrina 74

"In my garden, on my bench, watching birds, my cat etc " Norma 65

"the patio I sat on"

"Would loved to have added a greenhouse." Linda 61

"Home, its where I have created an environment I enjoy." Maggie 76

"Life didn't change too much for me during the pandemic as I still went to work everyday and samw my family the same amount of time(we live together)." Cam, Armadale

"At home, familiar objects." Mary

Particular qualities? Would you have liked to add anything?

"I would have liked a summer house to keep dry" Norma 65

"Peace but also sadness" Jeanette 72

"Home and garden was a real help, it kept me from feeling not quite so lonely" Maureen 77

"More space in the garden." Alfie 12

What would a memorial for the covid pandemic mean to you? What would it include?

"it would be a lovely space to connect with others - bench maybe?" Isobel

"A garden somewhere, with somewhere to sit down and chat" Helen 75

"It would be important to recognise it happened. I wouldn't want statues of people" Norma 65

"Scented plants" Norma 65

"need to remember the people that died really, that's all"

"trees, sounds of water, flowers" Jeanette 72

"something to reflect and show what people feel [about] and lost during the pandemic" Katrina 74

"flower garden" Patricia

"Out in the open space" Kay

"A memorial important as a garden or park statue wearing a mask" Maureen 77

"Flowers, trees, shrubs and sculpture" Mariam 68

"it would represent what people went through" Judith 66

"green, lushy tree area." Lynda 78

"A space where people can visit to remember loved ones who died during the pandemic." Nathan 32

"I don't know as I've never really found 'memorials' to be a place of reflection for me personally." Cam, Armadale

"Very calming and soothing like water features/hanging baskets." Cathy 50

"I am not sure I want to see a memorial yet, too painful to remember, maybe in a few years." David 64

"It was an unhappy time and I don't really want to remember it." Mary

"Loneliness not to be remembered." Liz 78

"A couch outside." Alfie 12

Misc

"Mask will always mind me of the pandemic ways" Maureen 77

"How much you could do with little space in your garden." Cathy 50

<https://www.nigeldunnett.com/london-olympic-park-asia-garden/>



21-23 ACORN STREET
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Remembering Together – WL Phase 2 Plan for Lead Artist and Landscape Architect

1. **Aim:** Remembering Together- WL is a project to co-create a designed green space, that functions as a socially safe space, a memorial, with in the heart of Livingston. The space will represent and honour the people we have lost, mark what has been lost and changed in our lives and preserve the best of what we have learned and created together during the Covid pandemic.

2. **Objective:**

The overarching need that this project is required to address is the creation of a collectively safe space that balances emotionality, harmony, expressiveness, functionality, significance and attractiveness of a green space that allows for semi private and public displays of grief, reflection or contemplation as may be shared due to the experience of the Covid pandemic.

Overall harmony is the main criterion for creating this space, as a memorial greenspace, to create a distribution of emotional load through landscape architecture and artistic collaboration. Inspiration for the design ethos needs to reflect local responses from phase 1 engagement but also must integrate themes of timelessness, enduring permanency reflecting a space that will be of archaeological significance for generations to come. The final design of the site must convey, in permanent and enduring materials, the sense of meaning and the collective societal response of care and compassion for each other as part of this global experience. Notions of growth - re-growth - new-growth and growing together also resonate both as an artistic and design themes. The project is a collective and collaborative process of making meaning – which is also a continuous and ongoing process throughout - the design/creative process, the installation, the use and management into the future.

3. **Background Context:**

Remembering Together is a national initiative which is being led by greenspace scotland to facilitate commissioning artists who will be committed to co-creation and collaboration. The opportunity will be to work with people in the community to define what the collective Covid-19 pandemic experience means for the people of West Lothian.

Offering a place to connect, to reflect and to create, Remembering Together is about creating together, being part of a process to commemorate those who have lost their lives, those who have experienced loss and change as well as celebrating the ways in which Scottish communities have come together during the most difficult times. For more information on the national Remembering Together project please see the website at:

www.rememberingtogether.scot

Phase 1 of the Remembering Together West Lothian project consisted of an in depth series of public engagement activities lead by Marion Parola of Bespoke Atelier Ltd. This phase of the project was completed in February 2023 and culminated in an exhibition of artists and community works at the gallery at Linlithgow Burg Halls. To view a virtual tour of the exhibition please see the link below:

<https://www.linlithgowburghhalls.co.uk/article/72521/Exhibitions>

Remembering Together: West Lothian phase 2 is the result of a previous intensive phase 1 of community engagement work surrounding local people's experiences of the Covid Pandemic. The result of phase 1 is in support of a memorial artwork series, garden, park suntrap area for people to feel safe, have a public space for contemplation, reflection and also for future gatherings appropriate public events. This project is a unique opportunity for collaboration between artists and landscape architects in West Lothian, with the overall context of co-creation between artists and communities with support from the Council and Greenspace Scotland. The purpose of this project is to support a process of collective reflection, remembrance, hope and healing with community members.

4. Artist's Role:

The role of the artist is to come up with a series of unique artistic interventions inspired by the community engagement lead during phase one and adapted to the site. The artist will take in consideration the written, oral feedback from the community as well as the artistic ideas from the creative workshop. This learning experience will be distilled into a cohesive outdoor artistic experience for people to gather and spend time in the space.

- The artist will work closely with the stakeholders and collaborate directly on the design process with the landscape architect, fabricator(s) and installations.
- Conduct consultation with the public and with groups who participated in phase 1 to share the plans and ideas for phase 2 designs, through a series of events and workshops. Some consultation to take place at and during the Remembering Together Exhibition at the Gallery at Linlithgow Burgh Halls and some directly on site.
- Create a vision for the artistic concepts which will drive the collaborative design process with the landscape architect.
- Create a significant and meaningful name that conveys the feeling of the space in agreement with stakeholders.
- Working closely with the landscape architect and appropriate consultants, such as potentially Biogeometry Europe, throughout the design phase to refine the final proposal for delivery.
- Work to suggest suitable use of colours, textures and materials to propose for use on site.
- Define the usability of the space, considering accessibility for all ages and abilities and also considering future uses for civic events, commemorating, group gatherings, appropriate musical interventions etc.

- Select fabricators and materials that will resist, potential vandalism, weather and outdoor wear and tear.
- Designing should include concepts of Common Ground and local distinctiveness - in sensitivity towards local context, the fingerprints of place, custom, tradition and memory.
- Create a maintenance plan for the site for future care, which may involve community participation and tending.

5. Landscape Architect's Role:

The key role of the appointed Landscape architect is to work in collaboration with the lead artist and respond creatively and practically to the results of the phase 1 community engagement concepts and emotional responses to the site. Developing and agreeing the masterplan for the site which encompasses the shared vision for the site is the key outcome from the landscape architect.

An ability to agree and recommend an appropriate design language for the project which takes into consideration the key aspects of the site, will be a main skill set requirement. The artist will rely on the landscape architect to investigate, translate and illustrate the following in order to clarify the boundaries of the possibilities on the site and the earmarked budget:

- Geology
- Microclimate and topography
- Landscape character
- Pathway character
- Ecology
- Proximity to the River Almond
- Solar and Lunar cycles – natural light
- Artificial light – power access and sustainable alternatives
-

Submitting of the planning application and all associated preparations of maps and drawings and any additional documentation will be responsibility of the Landscape architect once the final design has been agreed and signed off by all project partners. The designs should emerge from a process of critical thinking, reflection, ideas, dialogue, trial and error and collective decision-making. Discussions should focus on the future - our future, the future of the planet and the future (maintenance) of the project itself, of remembrance, of memory, of place etc.

The permanently designed space needs to create a space for gentle interaction, empathy and sharing (of stories, memories, experiences and the silent presence of others) as well as offering privacy for personal reflection. The balance of the design is fundamentally important - the careful arrangement of spaces and 'control' of movement towards, into, through and from spaces. As well as opportunities for dwelling a while. Associated with these ideas is the thoughtful and creative use of planting and surfaces which may enable/allow/encourage exchange and solace. Including an interaction

with the plants and surfaces themselves - the tactile and sensory qualities that can be immersive and perhaps somewhat playful.

The landscape architect will also be required to manage the contractor/s of agreed portions of the required land works on site and deliver to an agreed timeline, taking into account all of the above.

The role of the landscape architect will be recruited by quality-based submissions or interviews base selection on relevant experience and qualities required for the particular project. Project and services are to be agreed and developed jointly between clients/ partners and landscape architect and fees are concluded by final negotiation up to the maximum allowed as outlined below in part 10 of this brief, total budgets.

6. Project Team/ Partners:

Greenspace Scotland, West Lothian Council – Community Arts and Planning and Economic Development are working in partnership on the Remembering Together project funded by the Scottish Government. Remembering together is a national programme of collective acts of reflection, remembrance, hope and healing with communities across Scotland.

The West Lothian Partnership/advisory group will meet regularly to plan and progress the project, monitoring progress, make recommendations and suggestions throughout the life span of the project. The arrangements for Phase 2 are agreed by the Partners “Memorial” is now defined as a reflective green space area for reflection, gathering a safe public garden, for use in appropriate public events such as live music, temporary, in person, process or event based activities.

The key responsibilities of the Partners are to:

- deliver the agreed Remembering Together / Scottish Government outcomes
- provide project governance
- make project decisions
- review project progress against targets and make recommendations for remedial action, as appropriate

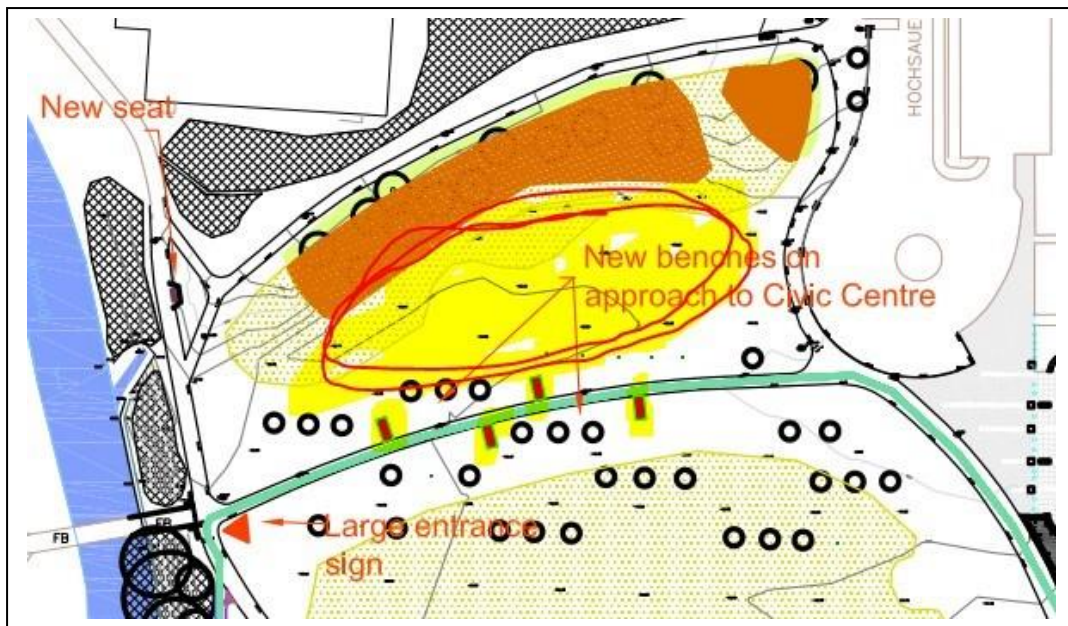
7. Proposed site/ Location of Project work:



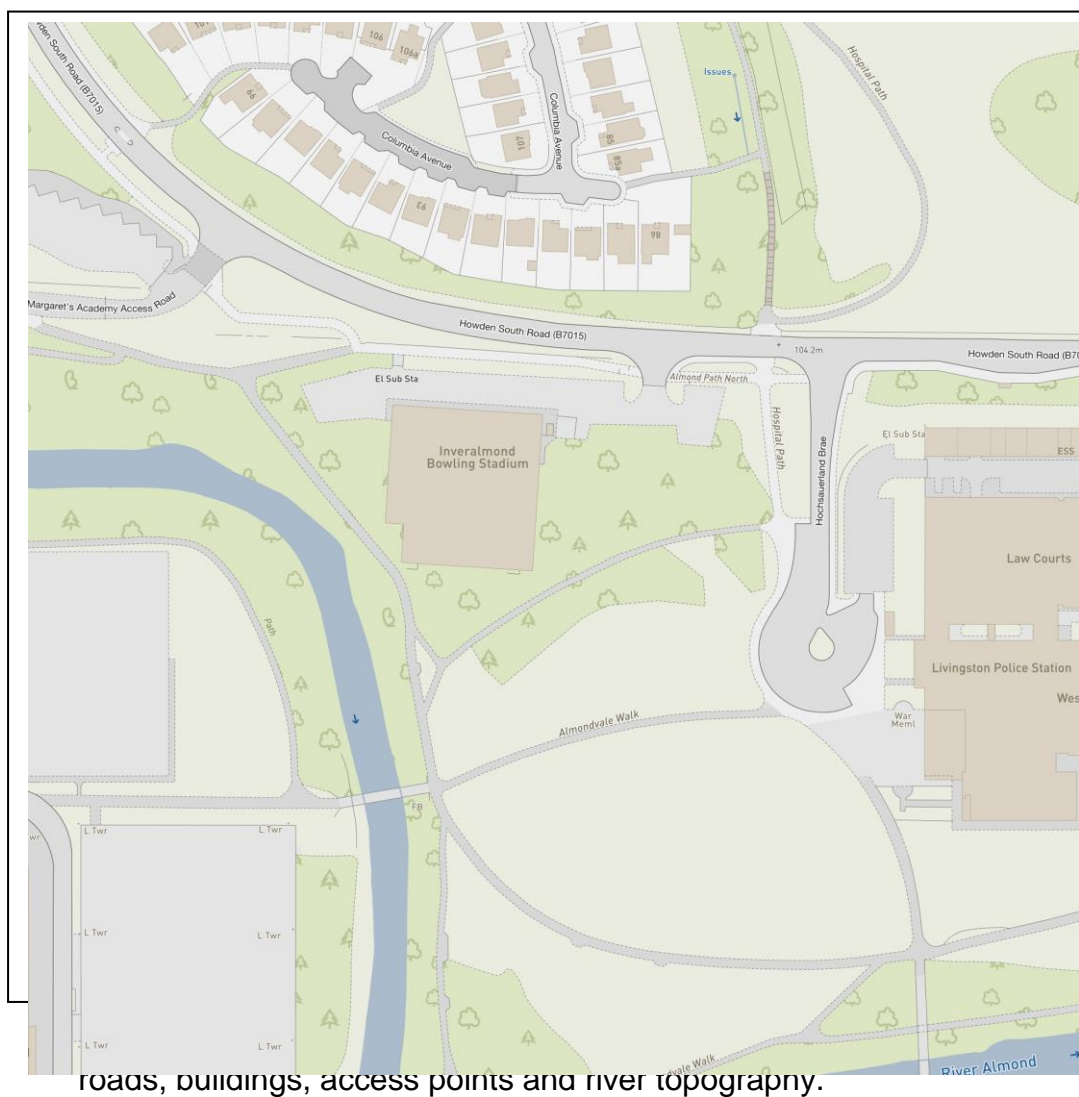
1. View of the green space looking towards the main path on the left.



2. View of the green space on the right from the main path.



3. General outline of Almondvale Park Area, adjacent to the Civic Centre as the notional outline site.



roads, buildings, access points and river topography.

Images are to be considered as potential materials currently on site/ near site, that may be repurposed, by relief carving moving else where or separating into smaller blocks etc. and integrating into the new site development for phase 2.

8. Community Participation:

The phase 2 of this project will be delivered using an inclusive, sustainable and learning approach based on the extensive engagement of phase 1, see attached RT- Phase 1 Community Engagement End Report pdf. The project will support learning across the national project across 4 key strands:

1. Co-creating with Care,
2. Artists Co-creating with Communities,
3. Co-creating in a Climate Crisis,
4. Co-creating in a Diversifying Scotland.

The national programme of which the project is part is founded on 4 values; Relevant, Aware, Welcoming, Honest.

As outlined in the Artist's role, consultation on phase 2 designs and processes will also be conducted throughout the project delivery. The relationship between the community, the art and the landscape is meant to be symbiotic and integrated. The landscape is the art. The art is the landscape - this synergy is important in terms of artist/designer selection - a clear willingness to collaborate, to experiment, to make together, to share ideas, to listen - to deeply listen to the wider community - in association with participants and the clients - this should be a collective endeavour.

9. Anticipated Project Timescales:

Artist Phase 2 contracting – March 2023

Landscape Architect recruitment – March 2023

Collaborative Design stages – April/ May 2023

Sign off on designs and beginning preparations - June 2023

Land works and artists interventions and installations – July to mid November 2023

Completion and launch event – November 2023

10. Total Project budget:

Greenspace Scotland and the Scottish Government have set the grant value at **£100,000**. This is the overall total available for phase 2 development and delivery on site. The following earmarked budgets are proportions that have been agreed by WLC as the overall budget holder and the lead artist and landscape architects will in turn have access to the fabrication budget to deliver their agreed masterplan. This must go through the appropriate procurement requirements based on the initial outcome of a step by step masterplan agreement.

Artist Fees: This will cover, design, collaboration, community engagement activities and launch event plans. **£15,000.00**

Landscape Architect Fees: This will cover research development design, as outlined above, collaboration and publication of the masterplan **£10,000**

Fabrication WLC budget: This budget is allocated to cover all preparatory works, planning applications, site works, such as land forms, lighting, path ways, reuse/ reconditioning and of granite seating on site and installations of the final works on site and both the lead artist and landscape architect will have access to the direction of expenditure of this budget collectively based on the agreed masterplan and launch event costs etc: **£70,000**

Project Contingency: £5000

11. Application Process:

Please apply through the Public Contract Scotland (PCS) portal, you can register for free at: <https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/> First express an interest in making a full application by emailing your PCS registration details such as email and business name used to register to arts@westlothian.gov.uk and you will then be invited to respond to a Quick Quote process, where you will be asked to supply the following documentation:

- A. Letter indicating your interest in this project and how you might approach the collaboration and the design requirements of the project.
- B. A tentative budget proposal for the contract value allotted.
- C. The most recent copy of your CV/ of all artists/ Designers to be involved in the project.
- D. A Sample Portfolio of up to 20 images as jpegs
- E. Two References from people/ projects where you have previously worked with arts workshop delivery in the community and in designing painted public artworks for outdoor sites.
- F. Proof of public liability insurance of £1.5 million
- G. Letter indicating your interest in this project
- H. CV
- I. Sample Portfolio
- J. References
- K. Proof of public liability insurance
- L. Current Disclosure Scotland check or PVG

12. Application Deadline: February/March 2023 TBC

13. Contact:

Camille Archer
Music and Public Art Officer
West Lothian Council – Community Arts,
Civic Centre, Howden Road South,
Livingston, EH54 6FF
E: arts@westlothian.gov.uk

DATA LABEL: OFFICIAL- Public



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

VOLUNTARY AND THIRD SECTOR FUNDING 2023/24

REPORT BY DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE, EDUCATION, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to seek approval to modify the process for allocating funding to the Voluntary and Third Sector for 2023/24 and future years.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council Executive:

1. Approves the modified process for allocating funding to the Voluntary and Third Sector including the revised timing of applying and period covered by the funding;
2. Approves the provision of an additional three months funding for organisations funded on 2022/23 to take them to the end of June 2023,
3. Approves the ability to apply for up to two years funding for 2023/24 and 2024/25;
4. Notes the reported requirements for the funding and
5. Notes the support to be provided to the sector in partnership with the Voluntary Sector Gateway.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None, although the report sets out a one-off delegation for the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration to approve and disburse grant funding in July 2023.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.

V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	High relevance to the delivery of SOA through Voluntary organisations
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Annual budget in 2021/22 - £944,000 Time limited Modernisation and Improvement Fund - £650,000 2019/20 to 2022/23
VII	Consideration at PDSP	Funding allocation 2022/23 considered at the Economy, Community Empowerment and Wealth building PDSP
VIII	Other consultations	Financial Management Unit, Third Sector Working Group

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background Funding model 2021/22 and 2022/23

The funding for the Voluntary Sector for 2021/22, £944,000, was allocated via two approaches. After a review of how funding was provided to the sector, the two approaches were:

1. An open round of grant funding through the Third Sector Community Support Fund 2021/22, which had a budget of £357,996 and
2. A number of organisations identified as being more suitable for Service Level Agreements or commissioned activity with seven identified organisations with a budget of £586,004. Organisations where West Lothian Youth Action Project, Handicabs (Lothian), Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian, West Lothian Social Enterprise Network, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Linlithgow Heritage Trust and the Bennie Museum.

The Third Sector Community Support Fund 2021/22 was then topped up by a further one off £42,004 to give a fund of £400,000. The top up was funded from the unallocated 2019/20 £40,000 Gala Grant and £2,004 from the time limited Modernisation and Improvement Fund.

It was agreed that the Third Sector Community Support Fund 2021/22 would be opened up, via a grant application process, to any groups in West Lothian that could deliver on three main priorities:

1. Income and employment
2. Physical and mental health and wellbeing
3. Housing and homelessness issues

Following an assessment panel process, which included Third Sector representation, 22 organisations were funded to the total of the £400,000 from the Third Sector Community Support Fund and a further allocation of £168,724.50 from the time limited Modernisation and Improvement Fund.

In 2022/23 it was agreed, following the request for a roll over of funding given pressure on the sector who were in the middle of dealing with the impact of the pandemic, that all organisations funded in 2021/22 would receive funding for a second year.

Appendix one contains the full detail of the funding allocated through the Third Sector Community Support Fund and Service Level Agreements or commissioned activity.

Broxburn United Sports Club were funded in 2021/22 but not in 2022/23 as the project was delayed and therefore being delivered over two years with one year of funding. The five West Lothian twinning associations were not funded in 2021/22 as no activity was taking place but £11,920 is available for activity in 2022/23.

D.2 Key Challenges – 2023/24 funding

The previous processes used for the allocation of funding provide a number of key challenges for officers and the Third Sector:

- The current process of allocating funding is out of sync with the council budget setting process which happens in February each year. In order to avoid organisations having to issue redundancy notices, the sector calls for confirmation of funding by 31 December each year, before the budget settling process has taken place.
- In the case of a few organisations that pay a service charge for council rented properties, costs are not finalised, until after they have applied and been awarded funding. This is due to the application process taking place in quarter three and the charges being set in quarter four or one of the subsequent year. Often the costs are different from the estimated costs provided by organisations when putting together bids.
- Calls from organisations for timescales for applying to be the same each cycle of funding.
- Calls from organisations for the ability to apply for more than one years funding at a time rather than year to year allocations.

To address the challenges identified, it is therefore recommended that the process for allocating funding is modified and improved. This would include changing the model to fund delivery from 1 July to 30 June each year rather than 1 April to 31 March. The change in timing would be for both the Third Sector Community Support Fund and organisations that are commissioned / have a service level agreement in place.

The grant application process would be open to all for applications to the Third Sector Community Support Fund and officers undertaking the commissioning / service level agreement process with organisations identified as being more suitable for this approach in line with the new timing.

Those organisations, in appendix one, it is recommended, would be provided with an extension of three months to enable delivery until the 30 June 2023 should they require it to allow them to make a smooth transition into the new funding cycle or to make necessary arrangements should they be unsuccessful. The finalised payment would be agreed with organisations in February 2023, following evidence of what had been spent and allocated from their existing grant for 2022/23 with any identified underspends being used to support the extension.

The budget to cover the three months would come from the remaining time limited Modernisation and Improvement Fund, £41,223 and a share of the budget allocation for 2023/24.

D.3 Proposed process for 2023/24

Following the extension, it is recommended that the following process is followed for allocation funding in 2023 / 24 and future years:

1. Grant funding is opened to applications from any Voluntary or Third Sector organisation delivering within West Lothian on 9 January 2023, with a closing date of 24 February 2023. Whilst the total budget will not be known until mid-February, this will have no impact on bids as the maximum amount that can be applied for will remain at £50,000 for organisations.
2. Applications to cover the period from 1 July to 30 June. The maximum allocation will be £50,000 per annum, with consortium bids being able to apply for more.
3. Projects should meet the refreshed corporate priorities and / or the supporting the alleviation of the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis. This information will be provided in the guidance for applicants.
4. As with previous funding rounds, a scoring panel will assess the applications and make recommendations for approval by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration. The panel will include representation from the Third Sector including the Voluntary Sector Gateway, West Lothian Social Enterprise Network, NHS Public Health and appropriate senior officers from West Lothian Council.
5. Successful applicants will be notified by 31 March 2023, subject to the agreed budget in February 2022.

As with previous years allocations it is proposed that the award of funding is delegated to the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration.

If approved this would become the process that would be adopted year on year for the allocation of funding. The fund will open from applications in January until the end of February, with confirmation of funding being provided by 31 March. Whilst this is occurring the budget settling process and agreed service charges would be taken in parallel enabling officers to have an approved budget position.

Discussions are ongoing with Property Services on service charges, with the aim to agree service charges, where applicable, for the future two-year period to enable those to be included in the application process.

Two years funding

The Third Sector have asked in the past for the ability to apply and be allocated more than one year of funding at a time. The revised process has the ability to award funding for up to two years in March 2023 to organisations that apply for funding.

In January 2023 it would be possible for organisations to apply for up to two years funding to cover year one, 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024, with the option to include costs for delivery for year two from the 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025, should project want to apply for two years of activity.

If this option was available the awarding and subsequent release of year two funding would be subject to the following conditions:

- The completion of regular quarterly monitoring reports which would outline the outputs, milestones and outcomes achieved by the funding, in line with the original application.
- Regular financial projections that shows all the year one funding had been spent or committed.

Those organisations that were awarded two years funding would be allocated a link officer within the Regeneration Team or relevant Service lead, depending on the nature of the project or service supported. The officer will work alongside the organisation to monitor activity, monitor the health of the organisation, link provision into existing structures and support the organisations development, where appropriate and required.

Should organisations not meet the conditions, outlined above, then they would not be awarded the second year of funding. Support would be provided by the link officer to address any issues if required.

It is recommended that the ability to apply for two years funding and the conditions above are approved.

Officers have been working with the Third Sector working group to collectively review the application process and monitoring required for organisations that receive funding. A new monitoring form and reporting will be introduced for all funding applications in March 2023 onwards. Regular reports will be tabled at the Economy, Community Empowerment and Wealth Building Policy Scrutiny Panel on the funding outputs.

The allocation of funding via the above process will be reviewed in the autumn of 2024, with report being brought back to the Committee on the process and future years funding.

D.4 Support for the Third Sector

Following discussions with the Third Sector working group, alongside the grant being open in January and February funding workshops would be delivered by the Voluntary Sector Gateway and officers. The aim of the workshop will be to provide support, hints and tips on how to complete funding applications and how to report outcomes of the funding provided.

E. CONCLUSION

The report highlights the key challenges currently faced in terms of the allocation of the Voluntary Sector revenue grants budget for 2023/24 and highlights a number of changes that could be made to ensure a more streamlined process going forward.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

West Lothian Council Executive, 29 October 2018

<http://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=40192>

Voluntary Organisations PDSP, 21 March 2019

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=41887>

Council Executive, 6 October 2020

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=46448>

VOPDSP, 18 February

2021 <https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Dh%97p%82%8A>

Appendices/Attachments: Appendix one – Voluntary Organisations allocated Funding 2022/23

Contact Person: Clare Stewart, Community Wealth Building Manager,
clare.stewart@westlothian.gov.uk

Elaine Cook

Depute Chief Executive, Education, Planning and Economic Development

20 December 2022

Appendix one - Voluntary Organisations allocated Funding 2022/23

Organisation	Fund	Funding awarded (£)	Q1 funding (£) 2023/24
Bridge Community Project	Third Sector Community Support Fund	25,000.00	6250.00
Kidz-Eco	Third Sector Community Support Fund	28,392.10	7,098.02
Whitburn & District CDT	Third Sector Community Support Fund	31,174.00	7,793.5
S.M.I.L.E Counselling	Third Sector Community Support Fund	26,000.00	6,500.00
Fauldhouse and Breich Valley CDT	Third Sector Community Support Fund	15,780.00	3,945.00
Food Train West Lothian	Third Sector Community Support Fund	20,000.00	5,000.00
Firefly Arts Ltd	Third Sector Community Support Fund	40,450.00	10,112.5
Family & Community Development West Lothian	Third Sector Community Support Fund	41,978.65	10,494.66
The Brock Garden Centre	Third Sector Community Support Fund	8,000.00	2,000.00
Polbeth Community HUB	Third Sector Community Support Fund	21,485.00	5,371.25
Linlithgow Young Peoples Project	Third Sector Community Support Fund	25,000.00	6,250.00
Knightsridge Adventure Project-The Vennie	Third Sector Community Support Fund	31,850.00	7,962.50
Craigshill Good Neighbour Network	Third Sector Community Support Fund	34,419.25	8,604.81
Dedridge Good Neighbour Network	Third Sector Community Support Fund	14,475.00	3,618.75
Broxburn Utd Sports Club	Third Sector Community Support Fund	N/A in 22/23	N/A in 23/24
1st Step Development Ventures	Third Sector Community Support Fund	14,716.00	3,679.00
West Lothian 50+ Network	Third Sector Community Support Fund	12,134.00	3,033.50
The Larder West Lothian	Third Sector Community Support Fund	31,314.50	7,828.62
Ladywell Neighbour Network	Third Sector Community Support Fund	20,958.00	5,239.50
Daisy Drop In	Third Sector Community Support Fund	32,453.00	8,113.25
Community Action Blackburn	Third Sector Community Support Fund	34,650.00	8,662.50
Boghall Drop in Centre	Third Sector Community Support Fund	37,215.00	9,303.75
West Lothian Twinning Associations	Third Sector Community Support Fund	11,920.00	2,980.00
West Lothian Youth Action Project	Service Level Agreement / Commissioning	190,000.00	47,500
Handicabs (Lothian)	Service Level Agreement / Commissioning	182,156.00	45,539.00
Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian	Service Level Agreement / Commissioning	48,770.00	12,192.50
West Lothian Social Enterprise Network	Service Level Agreement / Commissioning	31,500.00	7,875.00
Citizen's Advice Bureau	Service Level Agreement / Commissioning	76,266.00	19,066.50
Linlithgow Heritage Trust	Service Level Agreement / Commissioning	51,142.00	12,785.50
Bennie Museum	Service Level Agreement / Commissioning	6,170.00	1,542.50
Overall Total allocated in 2022/23		£1,145,368.50	£286,342.12

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2022/23 TOWN CENTRE CAPITAL FUND

REPORT BY LEAD OFFICER FOR THE EAST LIVINGSTON AND EAST CALDER LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To determine additional funding to the Place Based Investment Fund Town Centre Capital Fund 2022/23 for the East Livingston and East Calder Ward which could not be decided by the Local Area Committee.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council Executive:

1. Note that the East Livingston and East Calder Local Area Committee on 1 December 2022 was inquorate when it came to deal with the report on additional funding to the Place Based Investment Fund Town Centre Fund Capital Grant 2022/23;
2. Note the terms of that report, including the officers' recommendations, in the appendix;
3. Consider and determine the recommendations in that report in accordance with the procedures agreed at Council Executive on 8 February 2022

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Place Based Investment is a Scottish Government Initiative. This report does not raise any specific SEA, Equality, Health or Risk Assessments requirements. However, projects supported through the fund may require assessments.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	The report details a one-off specific delegation to the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Investment in place-based projects has potential to increase positive outcomes across a range of indicators.

V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Relevant to all outcomes.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	<p>West Lothian's allocation of the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Programme Funding 2021-22 was £1,302,000.</p> <p>The Scottish Government is expected to award £1,000,000 for the year 2022-23, which will be available from 1 April 2022. This has now been confirmed as £1.132M</p>
VII	Consideration at PDSP	Updates will be made to Development & Transport PDSP and the nine Local Area Committees on a regular basis.
VIII	Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

- 1 The meeting of the East Livingston and East Calder Local Area Committee on 1 December 2022 was inquorate and therefore the recommendations made to the LAC to distribute unallocated Town Centre Funding now falls to be considered and dealt with by the Council Executive.

The report presented to the East Livingston and East Calder Local Area Committee is attached as an appendix.

Following committee's decision on the additional funding recommendations all applicants will be notified of the outcome. Many of the projects will be delivered by the council on behalf of the community group. However, in some instances the grant funding will be paid direct to the community group. In the latter case the community group will hold full responsibility for delivery of the project. Where projects are to receive funding, they will be required to agree to conditions of grant which will detail when the conditions which have to be met before the funding will be released. On 8 February 2022, Council Executive approved recommendations in a report by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration setting out the proposed allocation of the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Capital Grant (PBIP) for 2022/23.

The recommendation included an allocation of £500,000 to all 23 communities with populations over 1,000 through a grant application process. The deadline from receipt of applications was set as 22 April 2022 to allow for decisions to be taken and projects delivered within the stated delivery deadline of projects having contracts committed by 31 March 2023, and having projects completed by 30 September 2023.

Council Executive agreed that decisions on the applications would be as follows:

- a) Local Area Committees will consider applications from each community to the fund and have the power to award funding in full or in part as they see fit up to the amount allocated to that community.
- b) After doing so, if there is a balance remaining of the aggregate amount allocated to the ward, Local Area Committees have the power to apply that balance to applications for the ward area which have not already been funded at all or fully;

After doing so, if a balance remains, Council Executive will decide how and where all remaining balances from Local Area Committee should be spent across the whole

- 2 council area. On 21 July 2022, Council Executive approved recommendations for additional funding of £66,000 for the Town Centre Funding. It was agreed that rather than open up a new application process for the additional funding, that the following step by step approach was taken by Regeneration Officers and reported, for allocation by Local Area Committee at the next round of meetings:

1. Where there are projects that the Local Area Committee was keen to support but could not support in full, or at all, due to a lack of available funding, the additional resources should be considered to increase the allocation to those agreed projects.
2. Where the Local Area Committee has agreed projects that were allocated the full amount requested, officers will discuss with applicants as to where eligible additional works could be included and agreed what these might be. This would also apply where an application was approved on estimated costs but the actual cost of delivery is higher. The additional cost could be funding through the allocation.
3. Where applicants are unable to identify additional works Regeneration officers will discuss with local community groups, partners and council services where there may be new projects/works that can be considered by the Local Area Committee. Officers will work with organisation to develop the proposals for the Local Area Committee to consider funding. An update report will be brought to the next round of Local Area Committees for the allocation of funding.

- 3 A report on additional funding for the East Livingston and East Calder was presented to a meeting of the Local Area Committee on 1 December 2022. The meeting was inquorate for dealing with that item of business. The consequences are determined by the council's Standing Orders for the Regulation of Meetings, the Scheme of Administration and the procedure agreed at Council Executive on 8 February. Since the Local Area Committee has not been able to determine the allocations for its ward those decisions fall to be made at Council Executive.

- 4 The report presented to the Local Area Committee is attached as an appendix. It includes the recommendations by officers. Part B of the report has the recommendations to the Local Area Committee and those now fall to be considered and dealt with by Council Executive.

- 5 Should there remain any unallocated funds after additional allocations for all nine wards have been determined a further report will be required to Council Executive to determine how that money should be used.

- 6 Following committee's decision on the funding requests all applicants will be notified of the outcome. Many of the projects will be delivered by the council on behalf of the community group. However, in some instances the grant funding will be paid direct to the community group. In the latter case the community group will hold full responsibility for delivery of the project. Where projects are to receive funding, they will be required to agree to conditions of grant which will detail when the conditions which have to be met before the funding will be released.

E. CONCLUSION

The Place Based Investment Fund - Town Centre Capital Fund offers significant additional capital funding to improve West Lothian's town centres. The projects in the ward will deliver community identified projects that would not otherwise have been carried out. The timescales for delivering this work has made the application and assessment process challenging for both applicants and officers. The delivery of the

agreed projects will be equally challenging as detailed in the report and will require ongoing monitoring to ensure delivery within the timescales

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Council Executive, 8 February 2022

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=51113>

Council Executive, 21 June 2022

[West Lothian Council Committee Information - Submission Documents](#)

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1: East livingston and East Calder LAC PBIF TCF Report

Contact Person: Douglas Grierson, Regeneration Officer, lesley.keirnan@westlothian.gov.uk

David Maule, Lead Officer, East Livingston and East Calder LAC
20 December 2022

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



EAST LIVINGSTON & EAST CALDER LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2022/23 TOWN CENTRE CAPITAL FUND

REPORT BY DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE, EDUCATION, PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to invite the committee to consider the reallocation of the unspent additional Funding of £2,655.24 from the Craigshill allocation of the Place Based Investment Fund Town Centre Fund projects and to agree the allocation as set out in this report.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee:

1. notes that the Council Executive on 21 June 2022 agreed an additional £5,214.86 to support projects in the ward;
2. notes the underspend of £2,655.24 in the Craigshill allocation as set out in the draft minute of the EL&EC LAC on 8 September 2022;
3. notes the three-step process to be used to decide the allocation;
4. that the committee agree to the £2,655.24 un-allocated Craigshill allocation to project CRA22-03
5. notes that some of the funding costs remain as estimates and delegates the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration to finalise award amounts within the overall value of the funding available within the ward;
6. notes that as projects are implemented the detail and associated costs may change and so delegates the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration to agree such changes and to re-allocate any money that becomes available as a result to other projects in the ward, both so long as projects remain within the aims, purposes and overall intent of the original applications and approvals; and
7. agrees to award funding, notes the terms and conditions associated to the awarding of grants as set out in the report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Place Based Investment is a Scottish Government Initiative. This report does not raise any specific SEA, Equality, Health or Risk Assessments

requirements. However, projects supported through the fund may require assessments.

III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	The report details a one-off specific delegation to the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Investment in place-based projects has potential to increase positive outcomes across a range of indicators.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Relevant to all outcomes.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	West Lothian's allocation of the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Programme Funding 2021-22 was £1,302,000. The Scottish Government is expected to award £1,000,000 for the year 2022-23, which will be available from 1 April 2022. This has now been confirmed as £1.132M
VII	Consideration at PDSP	Updates will be made to Development & Transport PDSP and the nine Local Area Committees on a regular basis.
VIII	Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

On the 8 February 2022, Council Executive approved recommendations in a report by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration setting out the proposed allocation of the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Capital Grant (PBIP) for 2022/23. Funding for West Lothian Council in 2022/23 at that time was expected to be £1,000,000.

The Council Executive agreed the funding would be allocated on the basis of two equal funding streams:

1. Town Centre Capital Fund (£500,000); and
2. Community Wealth Building (£500,000).

Since the original report the grant awarded to West Lothian Council has been confirmed as been confirmed as £1,132,000.

The Council Executive at its meeting on 21 June 2022 agreed that the additional £132,000 would be split between the two streams of funding, with an additional £66,000 being made available for the Town Centre Funding stream, the other half going to the Community Wealth Building stream.

As a reminder, the process for utilising these outstanding funds is detailed in D.2.

D.2 Town Centre Capital Fund 2022/23 – Additional East Livingston & East Calder Allocation and process

The table below shows the funding allocated to eligible towns in the East Livingston & East Calder Ward using the original process, the revised allocation and the additional amount to be distributed.

Town	Original Allocation	Final allocation	Unallocated
Craigshill	£12,156.00	£2,655.24	£2,655.24
East Calder	£18,824.00	£2,156.81	NIL
Mid Calder	£15,158.00	£1,260.40	NIL
Kirknewton	£13,999.00	£977.13	NIL
Pumpherston	£12,566.00	£626.92	NIL
Uphall Station	£11,651.00	£404.19	NIL

Given the relatively small additional funding available, the Council Executive agreed that rather than open up a new application process for the additional funding, the step by step approach set out below is used by Community Regeneration Officers and reported, for allocation to the Local Area Committee at the first meeting after the summer recess. The process agreed is set out below:

1. Where there are projects that the Local Area Committee was keen to support but could not support in full, or at all, due to a lack of available funding, the additional resources should be considered to increase the allocation to those agreed projects.
2. Where the Local Area Committee has agreed projects that were allocated the full amount requested, officers will discuss with applicants as to where eligible additional works could be included and agreed what these might be. This would also apply where an application was approved on estimated costs but the actual cost of delivery is higher. The additional cost could be funding through the allocation.
3. Where applicants are unable to identify additional works Regeneration officers will discuss with local community groups, partners and council services where there may be new projects/works that can be considered by the Local Area Committee. Officers will work with organisation to develop the proposals for the Local Area Committee to consider funding.

As was previously the case, the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration retains the delegated authority to move funding between towns within the ward allocation should this be required. Should the overall ward allocation not be fully allocated by the LAC the balance of funding will be reported to Council Executive for a decision.

D.3 East Livingston & East Calder Ward Applications – Stage 3 Allocation of the additional unspent funding recommendations

Within the Awards agreed at the EL&EC LAC on 8th September most of the funds were agreed (as seen in the table above). Craigshill proposal of CRA22-01- Community Litter Picking Equipment was rejected by committee at the LAC on the 8th September. This opened the process to stage 3 for the unallocated sum of £2,655.24 within Craigshill

D4 Stage 3

As the Committee did not support the proposed allocation of CRA22-01, Officers then looked at options under stage 3, with a view to identifying new projects and bring these to committee for a decision. Officers worked with community to identify projects that would meet the themes within the Community Wealth Building funding outcomes.

A proposal (CRA22-03) has been received from Transform Craigshill Community Action group as part of the Growing Together Project, Street Enhancement and Community Capacity building element of the Growing Together Strategy which aims to enhance the entrance of the Craigswood area of Craigshill with Craigswood resident's activity creating an insect mound and wildflower.

It is recommended that the remaining Craigshill funds of £2,655.24 is directed towards the Craigshill project CRA22-03 (Appendix 1).

D.5 Delivery of projects

Following this committee's decision on the funding requests all applicants will be notified of the outcome. Many of the projects will be delivered by the council on behalf of the community group. However, in some instances the grant funding will be paid direct to the community group. In the latter case, the community group will hold full responsibility for delivery of the project. Where projects are to receive funding they will be required to agree to conditions of grant which will detail when the conditions which have to be met before the funding will be released.

As projects are implemented the detail and associated costs may change it is delegated to the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration to agree such changes and to re-allocate any money that becomes available as a result to other projects in the ward, both so long as projects remain within the aims, purposes and overall intent of the original applications and approvals.

As all projects have to be contractually committed by 31 March 2023, and have project completed by 30 September 2023, officers will liaise with successful applicants to ensure projects are on track to meet these deadlines. At this stage the applicant will be asked whether they still intend to progress the work and confirm that any necessary contracts can be let by 31 March 2023. If it is not confirmed that it can be achieved, or where officers have reservations, and the issue is not resolvable by the proposed delegations set out in the recommendations, the matter will be reported to Council Executive for a decision on the funding. Where possible, that report will also detail a reserve list of applications which could be implemented to utilise the available funding, although at that time opportunities to do so will likely be very limited because of time constraints.

E. CONCLUSION

This report provides the committee with an update on the process to agree and allocate the Craigshill underspend from the Town Centre Capital Funding element of the Scottish Government's Place Based Investment Capital Grant awarded to West Lothian for 22/23. The detail of this is set out in D.3.

This funding has provided local organisations with the opportunity to enhance their local community working in partnership with the Council and key stakeholders.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Council Executive, 8 February 2022

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=51113>

Council Executive, 21 June 2022

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Di%95j%7C%8F>

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1 Additional PBIF TC

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Clare Stewart, Manager, Community Wealth Building Team

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Elaine Cook

Deputy Chief Executive, Education, Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration

01 December 2022

APPENDIX 1

West Lothian Town Centre Capital Fund 2022/23 Additional Funding Allocation – Step Three new project outline proposal

As part of the agreed three-stage process of allocating the Place Based Investment Fund – Town Centre Capital Fund 2022/23 this form should be used to set out any new projects should funding not be allocated through stages one and two.

Proposals **MUST** follow the original guidance for the funding and will be considered by the relevant Local Area Committee. This form should be completed by the Community Regeneration Officer following engagement with keep partner groups in the areas the funding covers. All projects **MUST** be either delivered or legally committed by 31 March 2023.

Project Details

Council Ward	East Livingston and East Calder
Project Title	Growing Together Craigswood
Project Location	Craigswood, Craigshill
Project Start Date	December 2022
Project End Date	November 2023

Project Description

Describe fully the project for which grant is being sought (background and context of the project, description of works). Is this work linked to an existing project? If this application is from a WLC service area, is the project supported by the community.

The project was discussed through the Craigshill Regeneration group and further discussion through Craigshill Community Council and Transform Craigshill Community Action Group (TCCAG). The Regeneration group consists of Almond Housing Association, WLYAP, Community Council, Craigsfarm, SPARK, TCCAG, Daisy Drop In and Craigshill residents. This application is a theme within the priorities within the Transform Craigshill community led action plan. It has come about through:

1. the recent community engagement COVID-19 findings 2021,
2. through a recent community walkabout identifying areas that need developed through being derelict, underdeveloped, or unloved. The community walk about included TCCAG, SPARK, WLYAP, Almond Housing, TCV, WLC Open space officer and Community Council.
3. And more recent as part of the Growing Together Craigswood resident's walkabout

This application process has been discussed with the Community Regeneration Officer and Open Space Officer with support to apply

As part of the Transform Craigshill local community led plan, through the recent community engagement COVID-19 2021 findings, community mapping of underutilised, unloved areas and through the community project of Growing Together which is an action within the plan and Craigswood residents walkabout, the community have identified this area as a priority within the plan. The land is in Council ownership.

The community through lockdown have attempted to clear a large area of overgrown gorse bushes which was hosting a large array of litter and looking unsightly at the entrance of the housing and one of the entrance gateways to Craigshill from the Houston Industrial Estate. This site and what it looks like is, therefore, the first impression you get of Craigshill from this direction. Although on the surface the bushes have been removed and it looks brighter and fresher, and residents have donated plants to plant up in the area, the gorse roots are still in place and make the area unmanageable.

Craigswood old school play grounds is currently being developed into the new purpose built Beatlie Campus for children up to 18 year with physical disabilities. The area of land sits on the RHS of the Craigswood estate, on a green open space on one of the main entrances to the Industrial Estate and behind it will be the new Beatlie complex (still under construction). There is a bus stop located nearby on either side of the road, and an underpass that takes you down one of the main pathways through Craigshill. To the west of the area there is a wooded area, also in the Council's ownership, which could be also enhanced.

This funding would:

1. upgrade the 'under loved' bed with key environmental low maintenance planting to support insect, bees, wildlife and the eco system at the entrance to Craigshill from Houston Industrial Estate and one of the key embankments in front of the (in construction) newly built Beatlie School by building and providing:
 - Gorse bushes roots dug up and removed
 - Providing fresh topsoil and compost
 - Creating a mound for bee nesting and insects
 - Planting perennials and wildflowers native to our land
 - No dig gardening idea
 - Bee and beastie habitat with perennial mix of plants
 - Re purposing cardboard to support the mound
 - Maintained as part of the existing work undertaken through Growing Together particularly through the Craigswood residents
2. Increase positive outcomes in:
 - a. increased opportunities to participate in community activity
 - b. support positive health and well being
 - c. learning and skills development/positive life experiences
 - d. intergenerational activity
 - e. building community capacity within the Growing Together programme of activity

increase growing and planting in underused and unloved bits of land

Evidence of Need

What evidence is there that your project is needed? It is important to show that you have identified the need for your project, e.g. letters of support, or local survey, see guidance for examples of how you can evidence this.

Evidence of need from COVID-19 findings report summary and Transform Craigshill regeneration ideas and priorities for 2022 allocated within the Jamboard see link: https://jamboard.google.com/d/1ID0ENKHsRb5WKohrAOXXSL_bS5S2FO4oOZKcP2zZdBk/viewer?f=11

- board 5 (Board) – with ideas to take forward

- board 12 Priorities for 2022. This can also be found within the updated local Transform Craigshill local plan

The full community Findings report can be found here:

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Dh%97r%7F%88> 171

residents took part in the community engagement survey.

The community findings report recognises a love of nature and need for an increase in open spaces, gardening and growing projects, the findings also highlight unsightly areas that pull the look and feel of the neighbourhood down. The findings also report a need for more volunteering and community activity as well as support for those experiencing food poverty.

Project Outcomes

Describe what your capital project will deliver in line with funding outcomes (use bullet points and sub headings as appropriate, to help with assessment process).

- The project will enable the delivery of a welcome, environmental themed gateway for residents and visitors on foot and on road entering Craigshill through the Houston Industrial Estate or for those that will regularly commute to the new Beatlie School Complex
- The raised bed will add height and interest, brightening up an unloved and tired area and bring community together within a nurturing and growing environment
- The bed will also be a key component in supporting the natural eco system and addressing biodiversity loss.

The capital project outcomes relate to place-based principles

Through community engagement findings, of a geographical area, community mapping of underutilised, unloved green spaces, community ambitions /priorities within a community participation and decision-making process

In relation to 20-minute neighbourhoods'

- Communities empowered to make changes in their neighbourhoods to allow them to meet their daily needs in a fair and equitable way. Through the community engagement findings and priorities within the action plan and subsequent mapping of unloved and derelict, disused areas. This project aims to brighten up one of the entrances to Craigshill for walkers and cyclists, visitors and/or people going about their business by improving the outlook of the area through community planting. Supporting the residents through a maintenance agreement and increasing volunteering opportunities and supporting residents to take pride in their neighbourhood.

Within a Community wealth building context:

- Plural ownership of the economy by - Insourcing – asking the local council to support the project with consent to undertake the work on public land, local workers provides good governance, more sustainable operations – enhancing local employment conditions
- Fair employment and just labour markets - Utilising the council an anchor institution which stimulates the local economy through progressive employment and local labour market activities through fair and just wages, employment rights and recruitment opportunities for those experiencing hardship returning to the labour market through employability programmes, work experience, learning and development and modern apprentices within Growing Together activity.
- Progressive procurement of goods and services - The council and AHA where possible support local businesses in the procurement of goods and resources to

increase local supply chains, which in turn support local sustained employment where workers have a greater tendency to redistribute wealth and surplus locally within the west Lothian economy.

- Socially just use of land and property – through maintenance agreements and linking with the community growing programme developing more underutilised areas that are no longer maintained to growing produce, plants, food, flowers and climate friendly eco systems

Will this project be delivered by (delete as appropriate):

West Lothian Council YES / NO

External Organisation YES / NO

If the project will be delivered by an external third party please detail below:

Organisation Name	Transform Craigshill
Contact Person and Position	
Partners involved (other local organisations you are working with)	TCCAG, TCV, Community Regeneration, Open Space, Almond Housing, 'Growing Together' WLYAP, residents, Volunteers

Note: All projects will need to comply with all relevant statutory legislation relating to project implementation. Further information may be required from organisations prior to any offer of grant award being made, this will include how the project will be managed and administered, including for example design and plans, procurements and implementation, public liability etc.

This should also include a commitment to completing and returning relevant project monitoring information, as specified within the associated guidance.

Project Costs

Total Project Cost	2,655.24
Amount of Funding being requested from West Lothian Town Centre Capital Fund 2022-23	2,655.24

Expenditure Item	Total Cost	WLTCCF Cost
Compost and top soil	600	600
Tools- spades, forks, trowels, trugs, gloves, plant stakes and ties	500	500
plants	1555.24	1555.24

Are costs based on (please delete as appropriate):

Quotes: NO

Estimates: YES

If the total project cost is greater than the funding applied for please then detail where the source of this additional funding is generated from (i.e. WLC, Lottery etc.)

Please confirm whether this funding is approved and in place or the date that you expect this to be confirmed.

Funding Source (i.e. WLC, Lottery)	Approved and in place	Date to be confirmed

Community Regeneration Officer: Lesley Keirnan

Date: 1st December

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

SCOTTISH PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN – ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Council Executive on the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman's annual report 2021-22.

B. RECOMMENDATION

Council Executive is asked to note:

1. The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman's (SPSO) annual report 2021-22;
2. West Lothian Council's performance in relation to the number of complaints received by the SPSO and the outcome; and,
3. The learning from SPSO complaints which is appended to this report for information.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; Being honest, open and accountable; Providing equality of opportunities; Making best use of our resources;
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	The council is required to report against a set of performance indicators developed by the SPSO.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	None.
VI Resources – (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None.
VII Consideration at PDSP	Corporate Policy & Resources PDSP on 12 December 2022.

VIII Other consultations

None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT**D1 Background**

The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) handles complaints at the final stage for public services in Scotland, including local authorities, the National Health Service (NHS), housing associations, prisons, water and sewage providers, the Scottish Government, universities and colleges and most Scottish Public Authorities. The SPSO investigates complaints when the complainer has exhausted the formal complaints procedure of the relevant authority.

The SPSO has specific powers and responsibilities to publish complaints handling procedures, and monitor and support best practice in complaints handling.

Additionally, the SPSO is the Independent Review Service for the Scottish Welfare Fund with the power to overturn and substitute decisions made by councils on Community Care and Crisis Grant applications.

D2 Local Authority Sector – Annual Review of Complaints and Issues

A copy of the SPSO's Annual Letter is attached as Appendix 1 which provides an overview of the challenges faced in this reporting period as well as an overview of the cases handled.

The SPSO reports that the number of complaints received regarding local authorities was 1,191 for 2021-22, a 25% increase from 951 the previous year.

In 2021-22, complaints about local government made up 27% of all complaints to the SPSO; a decrease from 30% in 2020-21. The local authority sector received the second-highest numbers of complaints in 2021-22, just behind the health sector which received 28%.

In 2021-22 the total number of cases determined in relation to the local authority sector was 1,124.

The number of premature complaints about local government for this period was 296 which amounts to 25%. This is a significant increase from 2% in 2020-21, however this was noted as being unusually low at the time. The overall rate of premature complaints across all sectors for 2021-22 was 24%.

Of the total number of local authority complaints investigated in this period, the number of upheld (in full or part) complaints for the sector was 25 (66%). This is an increase from 54% in 2020-21. Of all complaints investigated by the SPSO in 2021-22, 63% were upheld (in full or part).

D3 West Lothian Council – Statistics and Update

The SPSO provides each council with information specific to that local authority to consider. Appendix 2 provides tables of statistics about complaints to the SPSO regarding West Lothian Council for the past two years. The tables illustrate complaints received by subject area and complaints closed by outcome for 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Appendix 2 highlights that the total number of complaints received about West Lothian Council is 62, which has increased from the 44 complaints received in 2020-21. As detailed in Appendix 2, the greatest number of complaints about West Lothian Council

were in relation to Housing, which is in line with the sector as a whole. Environmental Health & Cleansing, Planning and Social Work were ranked the joint second most complained about areas in West Lothian.

The SPSO closed 56 complaints about West Lothian Council in 2021-22. 25 of these complaints were dealt with at the advice stage, whilst a further 30 were considered to have had an early resolution.

The council received nine decisions from the SPSO during 2021-22. Eight of these cases were not progressed, one case was fully upheld and none were partially upheld.

D4 Scottish Welfare Fund

The SPSO received 1,494 review applications in relation to the Scottish Welfare Fund in 2021-22, representing a 37% increase on the 1,093 received in 2020-21. The SPSO took decisions on 1,391 review applications, a 27% increase on the previous year's 1,099. Cases are recorded as upheld when the SPSO changes the council's decision.

Appendix 3 provides further information on the requests for reviews that the SPSO received for Scottish Welfare Fund applications in 2021-22.

Appendix 4 has been included to advise of the number of review applications received in relation to West Lothian Council, and also to allow comparison of review applications for other Scottish local authorities.

D5 Improving Complaints Standards

The Model Complaints Handling Procedure (MCHP) is fully adopted across Scottish public bodies under SPSO's jurisdiction, including West Lothian Council, with their focus to be on monitoring compliance and supporting improvement. The MCHP ensures a standardised approach in dealing with customer complaints across these public bodies, and also ensures the best use of complaint information in developing and informing service improvement activity.

The SPSO monitor in various ways, for example through conducting compliance assessments of organisations' complaints handling procedures, following-up issues identified from the complaints made to SPSO, acting on what is learned from complaints, and through working directly with organisations to share and support good practice in complaints handling.

D6 SPSO Recommendations

In 2021-22 the SPSO investigated one complaint against West Lothian Council and it was fully upheld. This complaint was in relation to the council's handling of an anti-social behaviour issue. Appendix 5 sets out the SPSO recommendations and service improvement actions for this complaint for information, which Housing, Customer and Building Services have confirmed were actioned within the required timescales.

The recommendations and learning from SPSO decisions are reported to the council's Complaints Steering Board, Corporate Management Team and Performance Committee on a quarterly basis, as well as an annual update to the Corporate Policy and Resources PDSP.

E CONCLUSION

The SPSO has published its annual report along with its annual letter to local authorities.

The SPSO reports that the total number of complaints received about West Lothian Council has increased to 62 in 2021-22, however only one complaint was upheld after SPSO investigation in this period. It should also be noted that 29% of complaints about West Lothian Council were determined by the SPSO as having been reported prematurely.

The SPSO continue to expect organisations to be proactive in ensuring that opportunities for learning from complaints is embedded in governance structures. A report will continue be submitted quarterly to the council's Complaints Steering Board and quarterly to Performance Committee, outlining the learning from SPSO decisions, which have been implemented by the council in response to complaints made.

F BACKGROUND REFERENCES

- Scottish Public Services Ombudsman: Annual Report 2021-22
- Council Executive, 8 February 2022

Appendices/Attachments: 5

Appendix 1: Letter to West Lothian Council from Scottish Public Services Ombudsman

Appendix 2: Tables of statistics to illustrate West Lothian Council complaints received by subject area and complaints closed by outcome for 2020-21 and 2021-22

Appendix 3: 2021-22 Scottish Welfare Fund – Summary

Appendix 4: 2021-22 Scottish Welfare Fund – Outcome Breakdown

Appendix 5: Scottish Public Services Ombudsman – Complaint Recommendations and Service Learning 2021-22

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Graham Hope
Chief Executive

Date of meeting: 20 December 2022

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27 October 2022

Annual Report from the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman

I am very pleased to enclose my 2021-22 Annual Report: Performance Report. In addition to the attached PDF document, there is also a web version at [SPSO Annual Report 2021-22](#) that is easy to navigate digitally.

If you want to read a full copy of the Report and Financial Statements, which includes the accountability report, this will be available in due course at www.spsso.org.uk/finance. Look out for updates in our monthly e-newsletter, our website and twitter.

Since I took up office in 2017, my team has, year on year, taken on new functions and duties and had to cope with unprecedented change and challenges. We would have faced many of these irrespective of COVID-19.

We started 2021-22 in the knowledge we had high workloads and faced capacity and resourcing challenges. Despite uncertainty about lockdown and the ongoing impact of COVID-19, on ourselves and Scottish public services, we were, and remain, optimistic. We set ourselves an ambitious business plan, driven by our values and strategic aims and were successful in delivering many of these objectives.

This report features our performance across all our functions and our important significant achievements during 2021-22. Some highlights include:

- we received **3,665** public service complaints and closed **3,492**
- of all investigated public service complaints we upheld **63%**
- made **511** recommendations to public bodies, **51%** being about learning and improvement
- our Scottish Welfare Fund independent review service observed a **36.7%** increase in review applications and handled **26.6%** more than the previous year
- our Independent National Whistleblowing Officer function completed its first year of service, considering **107** whistleblowing enquiries and cases
- we successfully launched three project work streams to review our own organisational learning and recommend improvements on **future working**

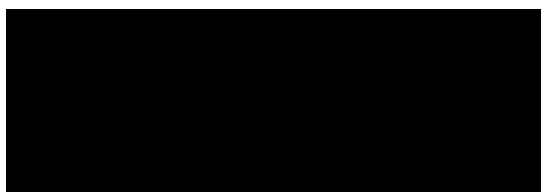
arrangements, intelligence and learning from casework and internal communications.

Detailed statistical information about public service complaints is available here:
www.spsso.org.uk/statistics.

Driven by our values, we are committed to delivering the best service we can with the resources we have. Reducing the number of unallocated public service complaints, shortening the time taken to decide complaints, and increasing stakeholder engagement are top priorities for 2022-23. We also look forward to supporting the development of child friendly complaints procedures in anticipation of the incorporation of the United Nations Conference on the Rights of the Child (the UNCRC) developments.

If you would like to talk to us about our work, my SPSO colleagues and I welcome feedback on this report, or on any aspect of our work.

Yours sincerely



Rosemary Agnew
Scottish Public Services Ombudsman

Tel: 0131 240 8850 (Fiona Paterson, Executive Assistant)
Email: Fiona.Paterson@spso.gov.scot

APPENDIX 2



LOCAL AUTHORITY CASES RECEIVED BY SUBJECT

SUBJECT	2020-21		2021-22	
	WLC	TOTAL	WLC	TOTAL
Building Control	0	6	0	10
Consumer Protection	0	4	0	2
Economic Development	0	4	1	11
Education	2	109	5	135
Environmental Health & Cleansing	8	62	7	107
Finance	1	68	4	82
Fire & Police Boards	0	3	0	3
Housing	15	232	21	284
HSCP - Social Work	Not included		1	2
Land & Property	0	12	0	15
Legal & Admin	5	54	2	55
National Park Authorities	0	2	0	2
Other	0	9	1	10
Personnel	0	4	0	5
Planning	2	115	7	161
Recreation & Leisure	0	13	0	11
Roads & Transport	4	63	3	98
Social Work	5	135	7	139
Subject unknown or Out of Jurisdiction	2	48	2	46
Valuation Joint Boards	0	2	0	6
Welfare Fund - Community Care Grants	0	3	Not included	
Welfare Fund - Crisis Grants	0	3	1	5
TOTAL	44	951	62	1,189

LOCAL AUTHORITY CASES DETERMINED BY OUTCOME

STAGE	OUTCOME GROUP	2020-21	
		WLC	TOTAL
Advice	Discretion – alternative action proposed	0	1
	Organisation not in jurisdiction	0	1
	Premature	11	244
	Subject matter not in jurisdiction	0	1
	Unable to proceed	5	140
	Total	16	387
Early Resolution	Cause and impact test not met (s 5 (3))	0	7
	Discretion – alternative route used or available	0	7
	Discretion – Insufficient benefit would be achieved by investigation	6	85
	Discretion – alternative action proposed	2	17
	Discretion - Good complaint handling	18	291
	Discretion – referred back	4	25
	Member of the public test not met (s 5 (6))	0	1
	Premature	0	11
	Right of appeal to court/tribunal/Scottish ministers (s 7 (8))	0	8
	Subject matter not in jurisdiction	0	23
	Time limit (s 10)	0	7
	Unable to proceed	1	21
	Total	31	503
Investigation	Fully upheld	1	29
	Not upheld	0	22
	Some upheld	1	12
	Total	2	63
TOTAL COMPLAINTS		49	953

Source: <https://www.spsa.org.uk/statistics-2020-21>

STAGE	OUTCOME GROUP	2021-22	
		WLC	TOTAL
Advice	Member of the public test not met (s 5 (6))	0	1
	Premature	16	296
	Unable to proceed	9	143
	Total	25	440
Early Resolution	Cause and impact test not met (s 5 (3))	2	13
	Discretion – Insufficient benefit would be achieved by investigation	5	104
	Discretion – alternative action proposed	1	8
	Discretion – Alternative route used or available	1	7
	Discretion - Good complaint handling	16	383
	Discretion – referred back	2	42
	Discretion - Resolved - both parties satisfied with proposed outcome	1	13
	Member of the public test not met (s 5 (6))	0	7
	Organisation not in jurisdiction	0	1
	Premature	0	6
	Right of appeal to court/tribunal/Scottish ministers (s 7 (8))	1	6
	Subject matter not in jurisdiction	1	18
	Time limit (s 10)	0	18
	Unable to proceed	0	20
	Total	30	646
Investigation	Fully upheld	1	14
	Not upheld	0	10
	Outcome not achievable	0	1
	Resolved	0	2
	Some upheld	0	11
	Total	1	38
TOTAL COMPLAINTS		56	1,124

Source: <https://www.spsa.org.uk/statistics-2021-22>

Statistics 2021-22

With the introduction of Self-Isolation Support Grants in October 2020, 2021-22 marks the first full year of our expanded remit. While applications for Community Care Grants and Crisis Grants have remained fairly static, applications for Self-Isolation Support Grants have been rising and account for the significant differences in numbers from last year.

In 2021-22 we received:

- **1,494*** review applications – a **37%** increase on the **1,093** in the previous year.
 - **213** community care grants
 - **740** crisis grants
 - **540** self-isolation support grants

We determined:

- **1,391*** review applications – a **27%** increase on the **1,099** in the previous year
 - **209** community care grants
 - **724** crisis grants
 - **457** self-isolation support grants

Other key figures

- **3,837** – the total number of people to contact us. This is an increase of **60%** from the previous year.
- **2,311** – the number of people we signposted to other forms of assistance. **96%** were signposted to their local council.
- **1,094** – the number of review requests that progressed to a decision being made:
 - **52%** - the uphold rate for community care grants. Down from **53%** in the previous year.
 - **18%** - the uphold rate for crisis grants. Down from **25%** in the previous year.
 - **42%** - the uphold rate for self-isolation support grants. Up from **29%** in the previous year.
- **93%** - the percentage of community care grants determined within 21 working days.
- **95%** - the percentage of crisis grants determined within one working day.
- **90%** - the percentage of self-isolation support grants determined within one working day.

Detailed information about the enquiries and reviews we handled over the course of the year is provided below:

- [2021-22 Scottish Welfare Fund outcome breakdown \(Excel, 53KB\)](#)
 - [2021-22 Scottish Welfare Fund outcome breakdown \(PDF, 2MB\)](#)
 - [2021-22 Scottish Welfare Fund findings breakdown \(Excel, 52KB\)](#)
 - [2021-22 Scottish Welfare Fund findings breakdown \(PDF, 4MB\)](#)
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*One applicant, who reached us too early in the process, did not specify the grant they wished to apply for. They were referred back to the council to make their application.

Updated: May 26, 2022

APPENDIX 4

SPSO SCOTTISH WELFARE FUND OUTCOME BREAKDOWN 2021-22
COMMUNITY CARE GRANT

COMMUNITY CARE GRANT - cases closed at decision stage, by council and outcome				
COUNCIL	OUTCOME			
	Upheld	Not Upheld	Total	Uphold Rate
Aberdeenshire Council	1	0	1	100%
Angus Council	1	0	1	100%
Argyll and Bute Council	0	2	2	0%
Clackmannanshire Council	1	1	2	50%
Dumfries and Galloway Council	2	1	3	67%
Dundee City Council	1	2	3	33%
East Ayrshire Council	1	1	2	50%
East Dunbartonshire Council	3	1	4	75%
Fife Council	1	1	2	50%
Glasgow City Council	30	29	59	51%
Inverclyde Council	1	0	1	100%
Midlothian Council	1	2	3	33%
North Ayrshire Council	1	0	1	100%
North Lanarkshire Council	1	1	2	50%
Perth and Kinross Council	1	0	1	100%
Renfrewshire Council	18	19	37	49%
South Lanarkshire Council	4	0	4	100%
Stirling Council	0	2	2	0%
The City of Edinburgh Council	8	7	15	53%
West Dunbartonshire Council	1	1	2	50%
West Lothian Council	0	2	2	0%
TOTAL	77	72	149	52%

COMMUNITY CARE GRANT - cases closed at pre-decision stage, by council and outcome								
COUNCIL	OUTCOME							
	Advice Only	Not duly made or withdrawn	Out of Jurisdiction	Outcome not achievable	Premature	Referred back to council	Resolved	Total
Aberdeen City Council	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Clackmannanshire Council	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Dumfries and Galloway Council	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Dundee City Council	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
East Ayrshire Council	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
East Dunbartonshire Council	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Falkirk Council	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Fife Council	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Glasgow City Council	2	8	0	0	8	1	0	19
Inverclyde Council	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Midlothian Council	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
North Ayrshire Council	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
Renfrewshire Council	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
South Lanarkshire Council	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	5
The City of Edinburgh Council	0	2	1	2	2	1	1	9
West Dunbartonshire Council	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	5
West Lothian Council	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	3	18	3	2	30	3	1	60

SPSO SCOTTISH WELFARE FUND OUTCOME BREAKDOWN 2021-22
CRISIS GRANT

CRISIS GRANT - cases closed at decision stage, by council and outcome				
COUNCIL	OUTCOME			
	Upheld	Not Upheld	Total	Uphold rate
Aberdeenshire Council	0	4	4	0%
Angus Council	0	3	3	0%
Argyll and Bute Council	1	1	2	50%
Clackmannanshire Council	0	3	3	0%
Dumfries and Galloway Council	3	3	6	50%
Dundee City Council	4	31	35	11%
East Ayrshire Council	7	5	12	58%
East Dunbartonshire Council	0	5	5	0%
Falkirk Council	4	4	8	50%
Fife Council	8	73	81	10%
Glasgow City Council	17	86	103	17%
Inverclyde Council	0	1	1	0%
Midlothian Council	0	5	5	0%
North Ayrshire Council	0	3	3	0%
North Lanarkshire Council	4	14	18	22%
Perth and Kinross Council	2	15	17	12%
Renfrewshire Council	6	24	30	20%
South Ayrshire Council	0	8	8	0%
South Lanarkshire Council	6	26	32	19%
Stirling Council	0	3	3	0%
The City of Edinburgh Council	40	132	172	23%
The Highland Council	1	13	14	7%
The Moray Council	0	1	1	0%
West Dunbartonshire Council	1	7	8	13%
West Lothian Council	1	14	15	7%
TOTAL	105	484	589	18%

CRISIS GRANT - cases closed at pre-decision stage, by council and outcome								
COUNCIL	OUTCOME							
	Advice Only	Not duly made or withdrawn	Out of Jurisdiction	Outcome not achievable	Premature	Referred back to council	Resolved	Total
Aberdeen City Council	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Angus Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Clackmannanshire Council	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Dumfries and Galloway Council	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	4
Dundee City Council	0	3	0	0	3	0	1	7
East Ayrshire Council	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	5
East Dunbartonshire Council	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
East Lothian Council	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Falkirk Council	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Fife Council	0	2	1	0	6	0	0	9
Glasgow City Council	0	7	0	0	14	0	0	21
Midlothian Council	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
North Ayrshire Council	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
North Lanarkshire Council	1	1	0	1	4	0	0	7
Perth and Kinross Council	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Renfrewshire Council	0	3	0	0	2	1	0	6
South Ayrshire Council	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
South Lanarkshire Council	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	6
Stirling Council	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
The City of Edinburgh Council	1	15	0	0	20	4	2	42
The Highland Council	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	3
West Dunbartonshire Council	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	3
West Lothian Council	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	3
TOTAL	3	45	1	1	76	5	4	135

SPSO SCOTTISH WELFARE FUND OUTCOME BREAKDOWN 2021-22
SELF-ISOLATION SUPPORT GRANT

SELF-ISOLATION SUPPORT GRANT - cases closed at decision stage, by council and outcome					
COUNCIL	OUTCOME				
	Upheld	Referred back to council	Not Upheld	Total	Uphold rate
Argyll and Bute Council	0	0	1	1	0%
Clackmannanshire Council	0	0	4	4	0%
Dumfries and Galloway Council	2	0	2	4	50%
East Ayrshire Council	2	0	10	12	17%
East Dunbartonshire Council	1	0	2	3	33%
East Lothian Council	0	1	1	2	0%
East Renfrewshire Council	1	0	0	1	100%
Falkirk Council	4	0	9	13	31%
Fife Council	8	0	9	17	47%
Glasgow City Council	39	0	55	94	41%
Inverclyde Council	0	0	1	1	0%
North Ayrshire Council	1	0	0	1	100%
North Lanarkshire Council	2	0	16	18	11%
Orkney Islands Council	0	0	1	1	0%
Perth and Kinross Council	4	0	6	10	40%
Renfrewshire Council	22	0	31	53	42%
South Ayrshire Council	0	0	2	2	0%
South Lanarkshire Council	0	0	11	11	0%
Stirling Council	0	0	2	2	0%
The City of Edinburgh Council	52	1	31	84	62%
The Highland Council	10	0	4	14	71%
The Moray Council	0	0	2	2	0%
West Lothian Council	0	0	6	6	0%
TOTAL	148	2	206	356	42%

SELF-ISOLATION SUPPORT GRANT - cases closed at pre-decision stage, by council and outcome							
COUNCIL	OUTCOME						
	Not duly made or withdrawn	Out of Jurisdiction	Outcome not achievable	Premature	Referred back to council	Resolved	Total
Clackmannanshire Council	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dumfries and Galloway Council	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
East Ayrshire Council	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
East Renfrewshire Council	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Falkirk Council	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Fife Council	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Glasgow City Council	5	2	0	14	11	0	32
North Ayrshire Council	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
North Lanarkshire Council	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
Renfrewshire Council	0	1	0	1	2	0	4
South Ayrshire Council	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
South Lanarkshire Council	2	0	0	0	1	2	5
Stirling Council	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
The City of Edinburgh Council	8	0	0	3	25	0	36
The Highland Council	1	0	1	3	2	0	7
West Lothian Council	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	23	3	1	26	45	3	101

SPSO Recommendations and Service Improvement Actions for Upheld Complaint (see D6 of report)**Wording lifted from decision notice:**

What we are asking West Lothian Council to do **for the complainant**:

	What we found	What the organisation should do	What we need to see
1	We found that the Council failed to reasonably follow their antisocial behaviour procedures to investigate and respond to C's reports of antisocial behaviour.	Apologise to C for failing to reasonably investigate and respond to their reports of antisocial behaviour. The apology should meet the standards set out in the SPSO guidelines on apology available at www.spsso.org.uk/informationleaflets	A copy or record of the apology. By: One month of the date of the final decision
2	We found that the Council failed to reasonably follow their antisocial behaviour procedures to investigate and respond to C's reports of antisocial behaviour.	Carry out an interview with C under Stage 1 of their process, to ascertain what problems, if any, they are still experiencing, and actions those through the remaining stages of the antisocial behaviour procedures, as appropriate.	A copy or record of the action taken. By: One month of the date of the final decision

We are asking West Lothian Council to **improve the way they do things**:

3	We found that the Council failed to reasonably follow their antisocial behaviour procedures to investigate and respond to C's reports of antisocial behaviour.	The Council should follow their antisocial behaviour procedures when handling all reports of antisocial behaviour, and clear records should be kept of all steps taken.	Evidence that the findings of this investigation have been shared with relevant staff and that, where appropriate, training on the procedures has been carried out. By: Two months of the date of the final decision
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Note for information: all required actions were completed by the council within the required timescales.

DATA LABEL: OFFICIAL: PUBLIC



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

MID YEAR PROCUREMENT REPORT – 1st April 2022 to 30th September 2022

REPORT BY INTERIM HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the Mid Year Procurement Report for the period 1st April 2022 to 30th September 2022 attached at Appendix 1.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council Executive notes the terms of the report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable.
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 reporting requirements.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Our economy is diverse and dynamic and West Lothian is an attractive place for doing business.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None.
VIII	Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1. BACKGROUND

The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires that all Contracting Authorities, who are eligible to prepare and publish a procurement strategy, must publish an annual procurement report which reports on:

- actual and planned regulated procurement activities;
- achievement of community benefits;
- activity with supported businesses; and
- any regulated procurement, i.e. above £50,000 for goods and services and £2,000,000 for works contracts, that did not comply with the procurement strategy.

Contract Standing Orders for the Regulation of Contracts requires a report for the first 6 months of the financial year. The report, attached at Appendix 1, covers the financial year from 1st April 2022 to 30th September 2022. The report summarises the councils regulated procurement activities during the period and details how regulated procurements have supported the council Priorities and Strategy Outcomes outlined in West Lothian Councils Corporate Procurement Strategy and the councils Corporate Plan.

The report confirms that regulated procurement activity across the Council is substantially undertaken in accordance with Contract Standing Orders for the Regulation of Contracts, the Corporate Procurement Procedures and relevant legislation, ensuring that all regulated procurements are compliant with the Corporate Procurement Strategy. The report is a snapshot in time and is influenced by the amount of procurement activity undertaken during the period. Any areas of non compliance will be reported in the annual compliance statement.

E. CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the Council Executive notes the content of the Mid Year Procurement Report.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices: One

Appendix 1 – Mid Year Procurement Report – 1st April to 30 September 2022

Contact Person: Angela Gray, Corporate Procurement Manager

Telephone: 01506 283259, e-mail: angela.gray@westlothian.gov.uk

Lesley Henderson

Interim Head of Corporate Services

20 December 2022

Mid-Year Procurement Report

1st April 2022 to 30th September 2022

20 December 2022

An introduction to the Mid Year Procurement Report from the Head of Corporate Services

The Mid Year Procurement Report is a key report that explains how West Lothian Council has complied with its obligations under Section 18 of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (the Act) each year.

In line with the Act, West Lothian Council is pleased to report, through the Mid Year Procurement Report (the Report), for the period 1st April 2022 to 30 September 2022, our progress with our Corporate Procurement Strategy and explain how our procurement activity supports this.

This Report summarises the council's regulated procurement activities and details how regulated procurements have supported the council Priorities and Strategy Outcomes outlined in West Lothian Council's Corporate Procurement Strategy and the council's Corporate Plan.

West Lothian Council's Corporate Procurement Strategy (the Strategy) ensures that procurement contributes to the outcomes identified within the council's Corporate Plan. The priorities set in the Corporate Plan represent all the vital activities that the council will undertake in order to achieve better outcomes for West Lothian.

Corporate Priorities 2018/23

The council re-committed to eight ambitious priorities following a large public consultation in 2017/18. We believe these priorities will continue to support improvement in the quality of life for everyone living, working and learning in West Lothian and will be the focus for council services, resources and staff.

Of particular note, during the reporting period, is the continued effect of Brexit and COVID-19 as the Council now focuses on economic recovery. In support of the Council's priorities, the Corporate Procurement Unit works with the Service Areas to develop the Procurement Workplan to manage changing demands and shifting priorities in line with the Contract Standing Orders for the Regulation of Contracts, the Strategy, best value, best practice and legislative requirements.



The priorities within the Strategy have been developed based on best practice guidance for procurement within the public sector whilst also acknowledging the role of procurement in supporting service delivery and realising council priorities. Progress on the Strategy is regularly reviewed by the Procurement Board, which provides strategic direction, leadership and support to the procurement function within the council.

The Strategy provides a clear and consistent framework to ensure that procurement activity supports all services to meet the council's priorities. The Strategy includes five outcomes, which are:

- Outcome 1 – Contracts
- Outcome 2 – Compliance
- Outcome 3 – Accessibility
- Outcome 4 – Community Benefits
- Outcome 5 - Sustainability

West Lothian Council is committed to developing and improving its procurement practices to ensure that procurement activities are as effective and efficient as possible.



Lesley Henderson
(Interim) Head of
Service

Summary of Regulated Procurement

Section 18(2)(a) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires the council to provide a summary of its regulated procurements.

As required by Section 18(2)(a) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, a summary of the regulated procurements completed by West Lothian Council during the period covered by this report has been provided at Appendix 1.

Regulated procurement refers to any procurement activity for goods and services with a value of £50,000 and above and for works contracts with a value of £2,000,000 and above. A regulated procurement is completed when the award notice is published or where the procurement process otherwise comes to an end. Regulated procurements can refer to new contracts and framework agreements but also to any mini-competition or call-off from any existing internal frameworks or external collaborative contracts frameworks, such as those available from the Scottish Government, Scotland Excel and other Local Authorities.

West Lothian Council publishes a [contract register](#) available on the Corporate Procurement Unit's internet page. This contract register contains information on current contracts and is regularly updated to include new awards.

Between 1st April 2022 and 30th September 2022, West Lothian Council completed 95 regulated procurements for goods, services and works with a total value of £44,583,451.40 comprising awards under local and national frameworks as well as regulated procurement activity. These include new requirements, extensions and re-tenders, and include collaborations with other public bodies.

There were instances during the reporting period where alternative methods of procurement were used in line with the regulations, the Corporate Procurement Procedures and the council Standing Orders for the Regulation of Contracts.

Summary of Regulated Procurements Completed

Measurement	West Lothian Council
Total number of regulated contracts awarded during the period	95
Total value of regulated contracts awarded during the period	£44,583,451.40

SME's and Third Sector

West Lothian Council ensures that the Sustainable Procurement Duty is considered in all regulated procurements and this involves facilitating the involvement of small and medium enterprises, third sector bodies and supported businesses.

The council is pleased to report that 83% of its regulated contracts awarded in the period covered by this report have been awarded to Small and Medium size Enterprises (SMEs) and 9% have been awarded to third sector bodies. Out of the third sector bodies that have contracts, 6 of these are also classed as an SME. Almost half of the councils regulated procurement spend is with SMEs and third sector bodies.

Review of Regulated Procurement Compliance

Section 18(2)(b) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires the council to provide a review of how its regulated procurements comply with its procurement strategy.

Section 18(2)(b) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 places a requirement on West Lothian Council to consider the regulated procurements that have been completed in the period covered by this report and to review their compliance with the council's Procurement Strategy, particularly to the requirements referred to under Section 15(5) of the Act. To the extent which any regulated procurements did not comply, the council are required to provide a statement on how it will ensure that any future regulated procurements do comply (Section 18(2)(c) of the Reform Act).

West Lothian Council has addressed Section 15(5) of the Act within its Procurement Strategy and this covers the council's position in relation to complying with legislation and governance, achieving value for money and further general policy statements.

In the period covered by this report, regulated procurement activity across the council has been substantially undertaken in accordance with the Contract Standing Orders for the Regulation of Contracts, the Corporate Procurement Procedures and relevant legislation, ensuring that all regulated procurements are compliant with the Corporate Procurement Strategy with Performance Indicators being reported on quarterly. Any issues are reported through the annual compliance reporting process within the Council. Where appropriate, West Lothian Council has made use of collaborative contracts to deliver improved contract terms. West Lothian Council also considers social, economic and environmental benefits, in particular Climate Change, Fair Work First and Community Benefits, to achieve value for money using a combination of cost and quality criteria where they are applicable to the contract.

The lotting of contracts has been used where appropriate and this has increased accessibility to local suppliers, SMEs, third sector and supported businesses. The council uses Public Contracts Scotland (PCS) and Public Contracts Scotland – Tender (PCS-T) to publish all of its regulated procurement opportunities.

The Corporate Procurement Strategy is aligned to the council's priorities and is reviewed annually. It sets out how procurement activity will be undertaken in compliance with the legislation.

In carrying out regulated procurement activity, care has been taken to ensure that West Lothian Council awards its contracts to suppliers who are capable, reliable and demonstrate that they meet the selection and quality criteria set. In the period covered by this report the council has conducted all its regulated procurements in compliance with the International Procurement Principles of equal treatment, non-discrimination, transparency, proportionality and mutual recognition.

West Lothian Council will ensure that all future regulated procurements comply with the Corporate Procurement Strategy by continuing to develop and refine internal procedures. This includes improving visibility of information via digitalisation of relevant processes to facilitate better data analysis and reporting, reviewing governance documentation and introducing further internal training programmes and tools for all staff involved in or affected by the procurement process. Contract strategies are revised on an ongoing basis to ensure all procurements meet legislative requirements and the duties laid out in the Reform Act.

Climate Change

The Scottish Government continues to lead the way with the implementation of climate change legislation towards the achieve of their target for net-zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045. In October 2021, West Lothian Council published its Climate Change Strategy 2021-2028, of which the Corporate Procurement Strategy is aligned through the requirement to maintains the Councils position at Level 2 in the Scottish Governments Sustainable Procurement Flexible Framework Assessment tool.

This is an evolving area and Corporate Procurement Unit will monitor external sources of information and guidance, such as from collaborative groups, Scottish Government Policy Forums and through other stakeholders such as the Improvement Service, working closely with internal Council Climate Change colleagues to influence future internal and external plans and policy development, and progress emerging priorities in the transitional period. Corporate Procurement is represented on the Councils cross-functional working group and, with positive steps being made, we will continue to consult with Corporate Procurement Board and report to them on developments in this space.

Buyers who conduct regulated procurement in the Council complete an in-house Sustainable Procurement e-learning module. In addition, the Corporate Procurement Unit participate in annual "continuing professional development" refresher sessions with our internal Climate Change contact and they also go through the Scottish Governments Climate Literacy e-learning module. Through the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 climate change is embedded in the Sustainable Procurement Duty and, supported by the Scottish Governments Sustainable Procurement tools, this is reflected in the Councils procurement processes and procedures, in particular the Contract Strategy for regulated procurement. Before buying anything, the Council must consider how we can, through tendering, improve the social, environmental and economic wellbeing in Scotland, with a particular focus on reducing inequality, for example, through the appropriate use of the sustainability test and the

application of relevant and proportionate contract requirements. From April 2022, we have begun to monitor the number of regulated contracts awarded that included a climate-related requirement.

As the approach to Climate Change develops nationally, CPU and Council Climate Change colleagues will continue to work collaboratively to ensure one consistent WLC approach for future potential measurement and reporting of scope 3 emissions.

Community Benefit Requirements Summary

Section 18(2)(d) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires the council to summarise what community benefits were delivered via regulated procurements.

In Section 18(2)(d) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, West Lothian Council is required to summarise what community benefits were delivered for contracts procured with a value of £4m or more during the period covered by the report.

The council's vision for procurement is "to achieve superior procurement performance through advanced sustainable procurement practices for the benefit of the council and its stakeholders" and consequently the Corporate Procurement Strategy 2019-23 has a strong focus on accessibility, community benefits and sustainability, with these comprising three key outcomes of the strategy.

The council is focused on its commitment to maximising the benefits to its community through its procurement activity. Outcome 4 of the Corporate Procurement Strategy 2019-23 outlines the council's commitment to consider Community Benefit Clauses at contract strategy stage for all relevant and appropriate procurements of £50,000 and above. The council works closely with the community to identify and secure community benefits identified and prioritised by the community. The council monitors the delivery and local impact of community benefits for the lifespan of the contract.

A review of the Community Benefits process took place in the first part of the financial year, with an update to the procedure. There has been a change to the way that Community Benefits are identified and tracked within the Council and a new corporate performance indicator has been introduced, the result of which, should begin to show in the second half of the financial year.

Spend and Savings Summary

Section 18(2)(g) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires the council include other information specified by the Scottish Ministers and the council's approach to spend and savings is covered in this report.

The Corporate Procurement Unit supported the delivery of cashable and other benefits through effective procurement activity. As the Councils procurement activity matures, there are fewer opportunities to make savings and achievement of rebates is more limited. The Council has yet to

record rebates this year and the focus for procurement activity has gradually shifted towards cost avoidance and limiting price increases. The residual effect of the Global Pandemic, Brexit, energy price increases of up to 30% and the conflict between Ukraine and Russia has also had an impact on price, availability of materials and labour and delivery timescales.

Fair Work First and the Real Living Wage

Section 18(2)(g) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires the council to include other information specified by the Scottish Ministers and the council's approach to fair work and the real living wage is covered in this report.

West Lothian Council has a commitment to Fair Work First which is consistent with the core elements of the Scottish Governments Fair Work First criteria.

West Lothian Council has made a firm commitment to work within the current legislative framework to encourage its contractors to consider Fair Work First matters. For example, providing fair pay for workers and payment of the real Living Wage, and appropriate channels for effective voice, such as trade union recognition. West Lothian Council has developed a Construction Charter which supports training, welfare and union recognitions as well as employment rights.

The Council has developed an approach for the real Living Wage which allows West Lothian Council the opportunity, as part of the quality evaluation of a tender, to include criterion for Fair Work First, including the real Living Wage, where they are relevant to the subject matter of the contract and quality of the service delivery or supplier of delivery of the contract. This element of the evaluation must also be proportionate to the scale of any proposed contract. 12% of our current suppliers have committed to paying at least the real Living Wage and, as an employer, West Lothian Council also pays the living wage and supports a diverse and inclusive workplace.

Future Regulated Procurements Summary

Section 18(2)(f) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires the council to provide a summary of the regulated procurements it expects to commence in the next two financial years. A summary of the regulated procurements that West Lothian Council expects to commence in the next four financial years has been provided at Appendix 2.

Information such as timescales, route to market and anticipated values may change as contract strategies and requirements develop over time, however the summary in this appendix is derived from future workplans based on consultation with Service Areas, and current contracts which are known to require to be retendered or extended in that period.

Payment Performance

Section 18(2)(g) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires the council to include other information specified by the Scottish Ministers and the council's approach to prompt payment is covered in this report. Prompt payment can support Scotland's economic recovery and longer-term wellbeing. Prompt payment across the supply chain is an ethical and socially responsible thing to do and this is embedded into the Councils tendering and contracting processes.

Over the last 3 years, on average, West Lothian Council has processed approximately 150,000 invoices each year. The council, along with all Scottish Local Authorities, has a statutory obligation to make payment within 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice. All council staff are encouraged to assist the council in paying invoices in time by:

- Processing invoices timeously through the appropriate system
- Resolving invoice mismatches promptly
- Encouraging suppliers to issue valid invoices
- Early payment can be pre-set where suppliers take advantage of early payment discounts.
- Payment Method

The council performs daily payment runs to increase its ability to pay suppliers on time. To enable quicker and reliable payments all payments are made by BACS (Bank Automated Clearing Services) with electronic remittances distributed by e-mail.

Payment Performance

Measurement	West Lothian Council
Number of valid invoices received during the reporting period	82,706
Percentage of invoices paid on time during the period	93.9%

Supported Businesses Summary

Section 18(2)(e) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires the council to summarise any steps taken to facilitate the involvement of supported businesses in regulated procurements.

Section 18(2)(e) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires the council to summarise any steps taken to facilitate the involvement of supported businesses in regulated procurements during the year covered by this report.

West Lothian Council is committed to supporting and improving access to procurement opportunities for micro, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), voluntary organisations, third sector bodies, supported businesses and social enterprises, as outlined in Outcome 3 of its Corporate Procurement Strategy.

The Corporate Procurement Unit endeavours to support Service Areas to consider and engage with these organisations as a matter of course, while the council's Procurement Strategy and Corporate Procurement Procedures supports a commitment to maximising the benefits delivered from sustainable procurement.

Supplier Development

The council are members of the Supplier Development Programme (SDP) and together with colleagues in Economic Development promote the tender training and events delivered by SDP. The council also attend national and local Meet the Buyer events and work with SDP to promote contract opportunities, particularly where tender responses are expected from SMEs and third sector organisations where suppliers may not be familiar with the tender process.

Over the coming year, the council will further engage with SDP to assist with meeting its obligations under the Sustainable Procurement Duty, in particular to:

- facilitate the involvement of SMEs, third sector bodies and supported businesses
- hold dedicated events that link into our key tender opportunities
- identify future tender training requirements

Supported Businesses

Outcome 3 in the Corporate Procurement Strategy is focused on improving opportunities for procurement contract awards to supported businesses. The Council consider use of collaborative framework agreements, where possible, to call off individual contractual requirements with supported businesses.

Summary of Regulated Procurements completed between 1st April 2022 – 30th September 2022

Appendix 1

Ref	Title	Start	End Including Extensions	Contract Value	Contract Status	Recurring / One Off	Supplier
1	Childrens Disability Service Term Time Respite Groups Pan disability	01/04/2022	31/03/2024	£381,449.22	Contract Live	One Off	Action for Children
2	Childrens with disabilities short breaks residential respite	01/04/2022	31/03/2032	£1,206,372.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Action for Children
3	Child Disability Service . Outreach One to one support and personal care	01/04/2022	31/03/2025	£300,000.00	Contract Live	One Off	Action for Children
4	For the provision of library books	01/04/2022	31/03/2023	£66,000.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Askews & Holt Library Services
5	SXL Frozen Foods	01/04/2022	31/03/2026	£3,735,040.00	Contract Live	One Off	Brakes
6	Co2 Monitoring	01/04/2022	31/03/2027	£583,795.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Capita Business Services
7	Family group decision making-kinship support and mental health services to families children and young people	01/04/2022	31/03/2023	£263,322.00	Contract Live	One Off	Children 1st
8	Children affected by parental substance misuse	01/04/2022	31/03/2025	£383,544.00	Contract Live	Recurring	CIRCLE
9	LBS 7	01/04/2022	02/04/2023	£205,473.20	Contract Live	One Off	E&M Horsburgh
10	Vehicle Parts - Econ Engineering Limited	01/04/2022	31/03/2024	£50,701.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Econ Engineering Ltd
11	Web Development including S and M	01/04/2022	31/03/2026	£264,000.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Goss Interactive Limited
12	Project Manager x 3	01/04/2022	30/09/2022	£78,950.81	Contract Expired	One Off	Lorien Resourcing Ltd
13	Child disability service . Term Time Respite Groups Autistic spectrum Disorder	01/04/2022	31/03/2024	£152,869.00	Contract Live	One Off	Lothian Autistic society

Ref	Title	Start	End Including Extensions	Contract Value	Contract Status	Recurring / One Off	Supplier
14	Independent Living Support Service for people employing or considering employing personal assistants	01/04/2022	31/03/2030	£304,000.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Lothian Centre For Incl Living
15	Independent advocacy for Adults with Mental health and/or addictions issues	01/04/2022	31/03/2030	£1,582,800.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Mental Health Advocacy Project
16	Objective eRDM Support and Maintenance	01/04/2022	31/03/2027	£415,868.58	Contract Live	Recurring	Objective Corporation UK Limit
17	Short Breaks Respite at Home and in the Community Flexible Framework	01/04/2022	31/03/2026	£860,000.00	Contract Live	Recurring	P4CHHealthcareLtd
18	LBS 5	01/04/2022	02/04/2023	£78,481.00	Contract Live	One Off	SD Travel
19	LBS 6	01/04/2022	02/04/2023	£208,006.00	Contract Live	One Off	SD Travel
20	LBS 31	01/04/2022	02/04/2023	£443,416.00	Contract Live	One Off	SD Travel
21	SEEMIS Management Info System for schools	01/04/2022	01/03/2025	£573,000.00	Contract Live	Recurring	SEEMIS
22	Gym and Fitness Equipment Inspection and Maintenance	01/04/2022	31/03/2026	£100,000.00	Contract Live	One Off	Service Sport UK Ltd
23	MS Education Licences	01/04/2022	31/03/2023	£155,490.00	Contract Live	One Off	Softcat
24	Vehicle Routing Software including Recycling Waste In-Cabs	01/04/2022	31/07/2027	£531,261.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Webaspx Limited
25	Provision of support services to people with Alzheimers living in West Lothian	01/04/2022	31/03/2030	£520,000.00	Contract Live	Recurring	WLC Alzheimer Scot
26	Oracle Premier Support Renewal	06/04/2022	05/04/2024	£61,322.60	Contract Live	Recurring	Oracle Corporation UK Limited
27	West Lothian Bus Alliance - Conustlancy work	03/05/2022	31/03/2023	£185,129.00	Contract Live	One Off	Systra Limited

Ref	Title	Start	End Including Extensions	Contract Value	Contract Status	Recurring / One Off	Supplier
28	Corporate MS365 and Win10 Licences	23/05/2022	31/05/2025	£1,435,935.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Softcat
29	AI Road Mapping Application Package	15/06/2022	14/06/2027	£81,000.12	Contract Live	Recurring	Softcat
30	Main Contractor - Volunteer Park 3G artificial surface	27/06/2022	30/09/2023	£664,933.00	Contract Live	One Off	Allsports Construction and Ma
31	Optimising the Independence and Wellbeing of Older People	01/07/2022	30/06/2023	£268,844.00	Contract Live	One Off	Edinburgh Cyrenians Trust
32	Adults with a Disability Service. Re-opening of Framework CC10057	01/07/2022	30/06/2029	£6,090,000.00	Contract Live	One Off	Hierarchy Support Services
33	Plumbing Central Heating Gas Spares	01/07/2022	31/08/2027	£8,000,000.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Jewson
34	Supporting People with Learning Disability - Social Opportunities and Natural Networks	01/07/2022	30/06/2027	£177,150.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Thera Trust
35	Street Cleaning & Town Centre Deep Cleaning ½ Covid Recovery Fund - Local Area Committee Pick List	04/07/2022	01/01/1900	£311,495.00	Contract Live	One Off	Hermiston Asphalt Hire Ltd
36	TMC for Installation Repairs and Servicing of Mechanical Plant	01/08/2022	01/01/1900	£5,000,000.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Express Heating Co Ltd
37	WLC FTT Appeals	01/08/2022	01/01/1900	£50,000.00	Contract Live	One Off	Harper MacLeod LLP
38	Environmental Health and Trading Standards Case Management System Software Replacement	01/08/2022	31/07/2026	£115,334.00	Contract Live	Recurring	IDOX Software Ltd
39	EES ABS 2021 22 External Wall Insulation Programme	01/08/2022	31/03/2023	£949,755.34	Contract Live	One Off	MP Group
40	Mobile Voice and Data Renewal	01/08/2022	31/07/2026	£433,204.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Vodafone UK Ltd Mobile
41	The Provision of Environmental Services 2022-2025	09/08/2022	09/08/2025	£64,681.00	Contract Live	Recurring	SAC Consulting

Ref	Title	Start	End Including Extensions	Contract Value	Contract Status	Recurring / One Off	Supplier
42	Counselling Services	15/08/2022	30/06/2024	£50,000.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Headstrong Scotland Ltd
43	Linlithgow Academy 105	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£133,000.00	Contract Live	Recurring	All The Fours
44	West Calder High School 101	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£114,000.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Andrew Mullen Taxis
45	St Margaret's Academy 2	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£128,240.50	Contract Live	Recurring	BODYSHOP EDINBURGH
46	Balerno CHS	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£128,240.50	Contract Live	Recurring	BODYSHOP EDINBURGH
47	St Anthonys Primary School Armadale	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£76,000.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Browns Taxi
48	St Marys Primary School Bathgate PAR 233	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£71,250.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Browns Taxi
49	St Nicholas Primary School	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£71,250.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Browns Taxi
50	St Margaret's Academy 1	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£54,625.00	Contract Live	Recurring	CTC
51	Broxburn Academy	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£62,700.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Edinburgh Private Hire City
52	St Margaret's Academy 3	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£76,000.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Edinburgh Private Hire City
53	St Pauls Primary School East Calder Primary School	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£79,002.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Fairdeal Cabs
54	Linlithgow Academy Lowport Primary School	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£76,000.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Fourways
55	West Calder High School/Parkhead Primary School	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£158,127.50	Contract Live	Recurring	Gold Transport services Ltd

Ref	Title	Start	End Including Extensions	Contract Value	Contract Status	Recurring / One Off	Supplier
56	Whitburn Academy	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£104,025.00	Contract Live	Recurring	H & M Ferguson
57	Westfield Primary School	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£118,275.00	Contract Live	Recurring	H & M Ferguson
58	St Kentigerns Academy 3	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£93,575.00	Contract Live	Recurring	H&M Ferguson Ltd
59	Armadale Academy 103	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£70,775.00	Contract Live	Recurring	H&M Ferguson Ltd
60	Bathgate Academy 101	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£85,025.00	Contract Live	Recurring	H&M Ferguson Ltd
61	Eastertoun Primary School	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£80,275.00	Contract Live	Recurring	H&M Ferguson Ltd
62	Linlithgow Academy 101	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£137,275.00	Contract Live	Recurring	H&M Ferguson Ltd
63	Linlithgow Academy 102	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£154,375.00	Contract Live	Recurring	H&M Ferguson Ltd
64	Linlithgow Academy 103	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£135,375.00	Contract Live	Recurring	H&M Ferguson Ltd
65	Linlithgow Academy 106	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£154,375.00	Contract Live	Recurring	H&M Ferguson Ltd
66	Linlithgow Academy St Josephs Primary School Linlithgow	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£161,025.00	Contract Live	Recurring	H&M Ferguson Ltd
67	Murrayfield Primary School Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£80,275.00	Contract Live	Recurring	H&M Ferguson Ltd
68	St John The Baptist Primary School Fauldhouse St Josephs Whitburn	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£118,275.00	Contract Live	Recurring	H&M Ferguson Ltd
69	St Kentigerns Academy 3	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£125,875.00	Contract Live	Recurring	H&M Ferguson Ltd

Ref	Title	Start	End Including Extensions	Contract Value	Contract Status	Recurring / One Off	Supplier
70	Inveralmond Community High School 2	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£104,500.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Hardhill Minibus Hire Limited
71	Broxburn Academy	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£118,750.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Hardhill Minibus Hire Limited
72	Broxburn Academy Kirkhill Primary School	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£128,250.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Hardhill Minibus Hire Limited
73	West Calder High School 102	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£121,600.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Hardhill Minibus Hire Limited
74	Parkhead Primary School West Calder High School	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£122,550.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Hardhill Minibus Hire Limited
75	Armada Academy 101	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£128,250.00	Contract Live	Recurring	McLay Minibuses
76	Linlithgow Academy 104	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£152,000.00	Contract Live	Recurring	McLay Minibuses
77	Torphichen Primary School	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£80,750.00	Contract Live	Recurring	McLay Minibuses
78	Knightsbridge Primary School	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£66,500.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Premier Transport
79	Inveralmond Community High School 1	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£91,200.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Ross Fraser Taxis
80	Armada Academy 2	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£56,050.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Scotia Contracts Ltd
81	Bathgate Academy	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£122,550.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Scotia Contracts Ltd
82	Deans Community High School	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£75,050.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Scotia Contracts Ltd
83	St Kentigerns Academy 1	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£65,550.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Scotia Contracts Ltd

Ref	Title	Start	End Including Extensions	Contract Value	Contract Status	Recurring / One Off	Supplier
84	St Kentigerns Academy 2	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£75,050.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Scotia Contracts Ltd
85	Bathgate Academy 102	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£56,050.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Scotia Contracts Ltd
86	Bathgate AcademyBoghall Primary School	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£109,202.50	Contract Live	Recurring	Scotia Contracts Ltd
87	Kirknewton Primary School	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£56,050.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Scotia Contracts Ltd
88	St Kentigerns Academy 4	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£65,550.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Scotia Contracts Ltd
89	Whitburn Academy	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£114,000.00	Contract Live	Recurring	SD Travel
90	St Margaret's Academy 4	16/08/2022	30/06/2028	£87,400.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Smart Fares
91	Winchburgh Primary School Winchburgh Academy	16/08/2022	30/06/2029	£118,750.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Tayforth Travel
92	SeeSaw for Schools	01/09/2022	31/08/2025	£100,951.53	Contract Live	One Off	Seesaw Learning inc
93	ASN 179	26/09/2022	30/06/2027	£90,440.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Freddies Private Hire
94	ASN 183	26/09/2022	30/06/2027	£121,600.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Livingston Radio Cars
95	Revenues & Benefits Solution	29/09/2022	28/09/2029	£1,925,000.00	Contract Live	Recurring	Civia UK Limited

Total Contracts Awarded	95
Total Value of Contracts Awarded	£44,583,451.40

Appendix 2

Future Regulated Procurements expected to commence between 1st October 2022 – 31st March 2027

Reference	Contract Name	Estimated Contract Value	Status	Tender Start Date	Type	Year
1	Software licensing and support and maintenance of Chris & HR21	£110,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2022	Service	2022/23
2	Short Breaks Respite at Home and in the Community Flexible Framework - Re-opening of Framework	£645,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2022	Service	2022/23
3	Augmentative and Alternative Communication Technology Services	£152,250.00	Renewal	01/10/2022	Service	2022/23
4	Leisure and Venue related hire	£300,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2022	Service	2022/23
5	Air Quality Monitoring	£82,500.00	Renewal	01/10/2022	Service	2022/23
6	Integrated Housing and Buildings Services IT System	£240,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2022	Service	2022/23
7	Occupational Health Services including Physiotherapy and EAP Counselling	£947,900.00	Renewal	01/10/2022	Service	2022/23
8	Housing Repair Diagnostic Tool	£63,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2022	Service	2022/23
9	Electrical Materials Lot 1 - Cable and Cable Management	£200,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2022	Supplies	2022/23
10	Electrical Materials Lot 2 - Wiring Accessories and Circuit Protection	£200,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2022	Supplies	2022/23
11	Electrical Materials Lot 3 - Heating and Water Heating	£200,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2022	Supplies	2022/23
12	Electrical Materials Lot 4 - Ventilation	£200,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2022	Supplies	2022/23
13	Electrical Materials Lot 5 - Safety Detectors and Thermostats	£200,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2022	Supplies	2022/23
14	Electrical Materials Lot 6 - Lamps	£200,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2022	Supplies	2022/23
15	Electrical Materials Lot 7 - Light Fittings and Accessories	£200,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2022	Supplies	2022/23
16	Replacement of 3 x Panel Vans with Ramps for Street Cleansing	£90,000.00	One Off	01/10/2022	Supplies	2022/23
17	Replacement of 3 x Trailed Wash Units for Street Cleansing	£90,000.00	One Off	01/10/2022	Supplies	2022/23
18	Replacement of 1 x 12t Cage Tipper (Special Uplift) for Waste Collection	£60,000.00	One Off	01/10/2022	Supplies	2022/23
19	Replacement of 2 x 7.5t Box with Taillift (Bin Delivery) for Waste Collection	£100,000.00	One Off	01/10/2022	Supplies	2022/23
20	Replacement of 3 x Large Tractors for Grounds Maintenance	£190,000.00	One Off	01/10/2022	Supplies	2022/23
21	3 x Panel Vans (Medium) for Environ Health & Trading Standards	£81,000.00	One Off	01/10/2022	Supplies	2022/23
22	2 x Panel Vans (Small) for Environ Health & Trading Standards	£60,000.00	One Off	01/10/2022	Supplies	2022/23

Reference	Contract Name	Estimated Contract Value	Status	Tender Start Date	Type	Year
23	Hire of Plant	£320,000.00	One Off	01/10/2022	Service	2022/23
24	Vodafone MDM Platform	£75,000.00	Renewal	01/11/2022	Service	2022/23
25	Childrens Rights and Advocacy Services	£600,000.00	Renewal	01/11/2022	Service	2022/23
26	Postal Services - 1st class mail	£340,000.00	Renewal	01/11/2022	Service	2022/23
27	Postal Services - 2nd class mail	£281,592.00	Renewal	01/11/2022	Service	2022/23
28	Independent Support and counselling for those who have suffered abuse and trauma	£555,000.00	Renewal	01/11/2022	Service	2022/23
29	Elections Management System Software	£130,000.00	Renewal	01/12/2022	Service	2022/23
30	Community Services for older People, prevention early intervention and collaborative working (OPAL)	£1,344,220.00	Renewal	01/12/2022	Service	2022/23
31	Summer Play	£1,200,000.00	One Off	01/12/2022	Service	2022/23
32	Pupil Equity Framework	£10,000,000.00	Renewal	01/12/2022	Service	2022/23
33	Major Elemental Upgrades Total (Roof & Render)	£16,500,000.00	One Off	01/12/2022	Works	2022/23
34	Kitchens and Bathrooms (inclusive of decoration & ventilation)	£22,000,000.00	One Off	01/12/2022	Works	2022/23
35	Windows & Doors Refurbishment / Renewal	£12,500,000.00	One Off	01/12/2022	Works	2022/23
36	Central Heating	£5,000,000.00	One Off	01/12/2022	Works	2022/23
37	Adaptations - wet floor shower areas	£3,040,000.00	One Off	01/12/2022	Works	2022/23
38	Term Maintenance Contract - Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)	£850,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2023	Service	2022/23
39	Fire Safety Products (SXL 1617)	£150,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2023	Service	2022/23
40	Term Maintenance Contract- Security Alarms Repair and Maintenance	£1,650,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2023	Service	2022/23
41	Adults with a Disability Service - re-opening of Framework CC10057	£14,616,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2023	Service	2022/23
42	Early Learning & Childcare - Re-opening of Framework	£5,000,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2023	Service	2022/23
43	The Provision of Specialist Business Advice, Support & Training	£220,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2023	Service	2022/23
44	Supply and Distribution of Janitorial Products	£400,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2023	Supplies	2022/23
45	Hoist and Sling Maintenance Services	£140,000.00	One Off	01/01/2023	Service	2022/23
46	Social Policy ECM Software	£448,539.00	Renewal	01/01/2023	Service	2022/23
47	Treasury Management & Leasing Advisory Services	£68,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2023	Service	2022/23
48	Framework College Apprenticeships & External Training Providers	£600,000.00	One Off	01/01/2023	Service	2022/23

Reference	Contract Name	Estimated Contract Value	Status	Tender Start Date	Type	Year
49	Building and Timber Materials Lot 1 – Timber Doors	£200,000.00	One Off	01/01/2023	Supplies	2022/23
50	Building and Timber Materials Lot 2 – Timber Door Sets	£200,000.00	One Off	01/01/2023	Supplies	2022/23
51	Building and Timber Materials Lot 3 – Sheet and Timber Materials	£200,000.00	One Off	01/01/2023	Supplies	2022/23
52	Building and Timber Materials Lot 4 – Timber Fencing	£200,000.00	One Off	01/01/2023	Supplies	2022/23
53	Building and Timber Materials Lot 5 – Laminated Walls Panels	£200,000.00	One Off	01/01/2023	Supplies	2022/23
54	Building and Timber Materials Lot 6 – Kitchen Units and Worktops	£200,000.00	One Off	01/01/2023	Supplies	2022/23
55	Building and Timber Materials Lot 7 – Timber Window Frames	£200,000.00	One Off	01/01/2023	Supplies	2022/23
56	Building and Timber Materials Lot 8 – Building Materials	£200,000.00	One Off	01/01/2023	Supplies	2022/23
57	Building and Timber Materials Lot 9 – Roofing Materials	£249,000.00	One Off	01/01/2023	Supplies	2022/23
58	ASHP maintenance, repairs & renewal	£247,624.00	Renewal	01/01/2023	Service	2022/23
59	Rural Services Framework	£4,000,000.00	One Off	01/01/2023	Service	2022/23
60	Affordable Housing - Local Plan Site HBA23 Westerinch - 59 units	£4,000,000.00	One Off	01/01/2023	Works	2022/23
61	Organics, including Green and Food Waste	£5,000,000.00	Renewal	03/01/2023	Service	2022/23
62	Term Maintenance Contract - repair/replacement/servicing of kitchen equipment	£750,000.00	Renewal	01/02/2023	Service	2022/23
63	On Line Payments	£100,000.00	Renewal	01/02/2023	Service	2022/23
64	Cashless Catering	£184,000.00	Renewal	01/02/2023	Service	2022/23
65	Youth Music Initiative	£575,000.00	Renewal	01/02/2023	Service	2022/23
66	Care Home Services for Older People	£16,100,000.00	Renewal	01/03/2023	Service	2022/23
67	Hot Food to Go	£75,000.00	Renewal	01/03/2023	Supplies	2022/23
68	IT Hardware - Tablet Devices	£2,082,056.00	Renewal	01/04/2023	Supplies	2023/24
69	ECM Software	£290,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2023	Service	2023/24
70	Mental Health Flexible Outreach	£2,250,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2023	Service	2023/24
71	Supported Living Services at Bathgate and Uphall station	£2,580,600.00	Renewal	01/04/2023	Service	2023/24
72	Saturday Strings	£160,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2023	Service	2023/24
73	Housing Support to Young People who are Homeless and at Risk of Homelessness or Previous Homeless	£1,455,480.00	Renewal	01/04/2023	Service	2023/24
74	Education Materials	£2,400,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2023	Supplies	2023/24

Reference	Contract Name	Estimated Contract Value	Status	Tender Start Date	Type	Year
75	Liquid Fuels Diesel Unleaded Petrol Gas Oil	£7,864,000.00	One Off	01/04/2023	Supplies	2023/24
76	supply only fire and composite doors	£3,505,324.80	Renewal	01/04/2023	Supplies	2023/24
77	Housing with Care Review	£1,350,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2023	Service	2023/24
78	Community Equipment Store Aids to Daily Living	£1,484,984.00	Renewal	01/04/2023	Service	2023/24
79	Demand Responsive Transport Services	£300,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2023	Service	2023/24
80	Looked after Children's Independent Advocacy	£700,000.00	One Off	01/04/2023	Service	2023/24
81	Counselling and Support for those who have suffered abuse and trauma	£555,000.00	One Off	01/04/2023	Service	2023/24
82	Central Banking Services	£150,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2023	Service	2023/24
83	Remote Processing Service for Revenues	£780,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2023	Service	2023/24
84	Groceries and Provisions	£5,600,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2023	Supplies	2023/24
85	Family Support Workers	£465,000.00	Renewal	05/04/2023	Service	2023/24
86	IT Hardware - Mobile (Laptop) Devices	£217,200.00	Renewal	01/05/2023	Supplies	2023/24
87	Care Homes for Adults with Learning Disabilities Including Autism	£29,600,000.00	Renewal	01/05/2023	Service	2023/24
88	Dementia Café Support Service	£125,000.00	Renewal	01/06/2023	Service	2023/24
89	Leisure and related services	£2,400,000.00	Renewal	01/06/2023	Service	2023/24
90	Security Services and Cash Collection	£3,200,000.00	Renewal	01/06/2023	Service	2023/24
91	Day Support Services for Older People - Braid Hills	£484,534.00	Renewal	01/06/2023	Service	2023/24
92	Day Support Services for Older People - Acredale, Answer, Linlithgow & Roseberry	£339,774.00	Renewal	01/06/2023	Service	2023/24
93	Sensory Impairment Services - Sight Loss Services	£352,335.00	Renewal	01/06/2023	Service	2023/24
94	Independent Advocacy For Adults with Learning Disabilities	£322,990.00	Renewal	01/06/2023	Service	2023/24
95	Safe Families for Children	£350,000.00	Renewal	01/06/2023	Service	2023/24
96	Supply Installation and Maintenance of Laundry Equipment	£200,000.00	Renewal	01/06/2023	Supplies	2023/24
97	Mobile Working Solutions	£322,880.00	Renewal	01/06/2023	Service	2023/24
98	Catering Sundries	£560,000.00	Renewal	30/06/2023	Supplies	2023/24
99	PSTN Lines and Minutes	£155,000.00	Renewal	01/07/2023	Service	2023/24
100	Public Access Wi-Fi	£200,000.00	Renewal	01/07/2023	Service	2023/24
101	Severe Weather support services	£1,600,000.00	Renewal	01/07/2023	Service	2023/24

Reference	Contract Name	Estimated Contract Value	Status	Tender Start Date	Type	Year
102	Postal Services- Next Day Delivery Royal Mail	£320,000.00	Renewal	01/07/2023	Service	2023/24
103	Supportworks It Service Management System	£72,300.00	Renewal	01/07/2023	Service	2023/24
104	Maintenance and Inspection of Lifting and Moving Equipment in Care Homes and Education establishments	£160,000.00	Renewal	01/07/2023	Service	2023/24
105	Single Person Discount Review System	£76,000.00	Renewal	01/07/2023	Service	2023/24
106	3G Roads Minor Work Framework - TRIPS	£6,000,000.00	Renewal	01/07/2023	Works	2023/24
107	Single Person Homeless Accommodation	£3,500,000.00	One Off	01/07/2023	Works	2023/24
108	Corporate Automation	£840,000.00	Renewal	01/08/2023	Service	2023/24
109	Rental Hire or Purchase of Industrial Whitegoods (Diswashers, Laundry Equipment)	£634,485.00	One Off	01/08/2023	Service	2023/24
110	Internet Protocol Telephony and Support	£531,566.00	Renewal	01/08/2023	Service	2023/24
111	Corporate Clothing	£50,000.00	Renewal	01/08/2023	Supplies	2023/24
112	Stationery and Office Paper	£1,632,000.00	Renewal	01/08/2023	Service	2023/24
113	Public Transport MIS System (Replacement system for Trapeze)	£450,000.00	Renewal	01/08/2023	Service	2023/24
114	Fresh Bread Rolls & Bakery Products	£80,000.00	Renewal	30/08/2023	Supplies	2023/24
115	Learning and development Open Framework	£200,000.00	Renewal	01/09/2023	Service	2023/24
116	Internet Protocol Telephony and Support	£379,690.00	Renewal	01/09/2023	Service	2023/24
117	Leisure and Venue related hire	£540,000.00	One Off	01/09/2023	Service	2023/24
118	Forest Walk - Provision of Support Services	£2,494,365.00	Renewal	01/09/2023	Service	2023/24
119	Housing based care and support - Deregistration of Care Home	£4,571,365.00	Renewal	01/09/2023	Service	2023/24
120	Social Care Settings Furniture	£400,000.00	Renewal	01/09/2023	Supplies	2023/24
121	Interpretation & Language Services - Non spoken & Spoken	£155,200.00	Renewal	01/09/2023	Service	2023/24
122	Care at Home - Block Contract	£214,140.00	Renewal	01/09/2023	Service	2023/24
123	Local Area Network and Support	£215,990.00	Renewal	01/09/2023	Service	2023/24
124	Field Hydrometry Equipment and associated support services	£80,000.00	Renewal	01/09/2023	Service	2023/24
125	IT Hardware - Desktop Devices & Monitors	£12,000,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2023	Service	2023/24
126	Day Centre Services - An Carina	£1,850,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2023	Service	2023/24
127	Desktop Refresh 23-24	£2,992,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2023	Service	2023/24

Reference	Contract Name	Estimated Contract Value	Status	Tender Start Date	Type	Year
128	Secure Care Services	£1,800,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2023	Service	2023/24
129	Cash Collection Services	£362,500.00	Renewal	01/10/2023	Service	2023/24
130	Provision of IT system to deliver Environmental Health and Trading Standards Services	£301,875.00	Renewal	01/10/2023	Service	2023/24
131	Alcohol and Drug Recovery Service	£1,406,115.00	Renewal	01/10/2023	Service	2023/24
132	Additional Core Housing based care.	£2,500,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2023	Service	2023/24
133	Specialist Provider Services	£24,360,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2023	Service	2023/24
134	Assertive Outreach and Criminal Justice Services	£1,237,740.00	Renewal	01/10/2023	Service	2023/24
135	Residency & Adoption Order Legal Services Framework	£400,000.00	One Off	01/10/2023	Service	2023/24
136	Domestic Removals with delivery to storage	£660,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2023	Service	2023/24
137	Augmentative and Alternative Communication Technology Services	£152,250.00	Renewal	01/10/2023	Service	2023/24
138	Children and Young People Affected by Parental Substance Misuse	£550,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2023	Service	2023/24
139	Postal Services- 2nd Class Mail -Whistl	£320,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2023	Service	2023/24
140	Lammermuir Core Supported Living Service	£1,100,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2023	Service	2023/24
141	Information advice and support service for carers and people with disability	£1,929,800.00	Renewal	01/10/2023	Service	2023/24
142	Independent Living advice and support for SDS option 1	£181,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2023	Service	2023/24
143	Stair Lifts - Supply, Installation and Maintenance (Materials and Associated Managed Services)	£1,880,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2023	Supplies	2023/24
144	New Primary School - Bangour	£7,000,000.00	One Off	01/10/2023	Works	2023/24
145	New Winchburgh PS	£15,000,000.00	One Off	01/10/2023	Works	2023/24
146	Ex. Winchburgh PS extension	£5,000,000.00	One Off	01/10/2023	Works	2023/24
147	Existing Calderwood PS Extension	£5,000,000.00	One Off	01/10/2023	Works	2023/24
148	Maintenance Service for Schools CDT and Science Equipment	£190,000.00	Renewal	01/11/2023	Service	2023/24
149	Term Maintenance Contract - Interceptors and Below Ground Drainage	£750,000.00	Renewal	01/11/2023	Service	2023/24
150	Hybrid & Bulk Mail Services	£748,000.00	Renewal	01/11/2023	Service	2023/24
151	Swift Upgrade v32 including Support and Maintenance	£240,000.00	Renewal	01/12/2023	Service	2023/24
152	Swift Upgrade v32 including Support and Maintenance	£240,000.00	Renewal	01/12/2023	Service	2023/24

Reference	Contract Name	Estimated Contract Value	Status	Tender Start Date	Type	Year
153	Library Self check Machines	£78,000.00	Renewal	01/12/2023	Service	2023/24
154	Specialist Information Advice and Support Service	£70,105.00	Renewal	01/12/2023	Service	2023/24
155	Web development including support and maintenance	£247,976.00	Renewal	01/01/2024	Service	2023/24
156	Fostering and Continuing Care Services	£4,600,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2024	Service	2023/24
157	Lammermuir Core Supported Living Service	£1,000,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2024	Service	2023/24
158	LD Close Care and Support (Blackburnhall Gardens Service)	£994,155.00	Renewal	01/01/2024	Service	2023/24
159	Childrens Residential Care and Education including Short Breaks	£21,600,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2024	Service	2023/24
160	Social Care Case Management System (SWIFT Replacement)	£1,700,800.00	Renewal	01/01/2024	Service	2023/24
161	Fire Safety Servicing & Supplies	£200,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2024	Service	2023/24
162	Term Maintenance Contract for Roller Shutters	£3,750,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2024	Service	2023/24
163	Care Home Services for Older People	£52,400,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2024	Service	2023/24
164	Electrical TMC Contract Building Services 2 years +12 months	£3,562,905.00	Renewal	01/01/2024	Works	2023/24
165	Older People Active Lives	£1,344,420.00	Renewal	04/01/2024	Service	2023/24
166	Printing of West Lothian Bulletin	£60,000.00	Renewal	01/02/2024	Supplies	2023/24
167	Distribution of West Lothian Bulletin	£70,000.00	Renewal	01/02/2024	Supplies	2023/24
168	Early Learning & Childcare	£10,000,000.00	Renewal	01/02/2024	Service	2023/24
169	Cash Collection Services	£290,000.00	Renewal	01/02/2024	Service	2023/24
170	Software licensing and support and maintenance of Chris & HR21	£110,000.00	Renewal	01/03/2024	Service	2023/24
171	Education and Office Furniture	£4,560,000.00	Renewal	01/03/2024	Supplies	2023/24
172	Business Server Refresh – Renewal of VmWare Licence Estate	£268,000.00	Renewal	01/03/2024	Service	2023/24
173	Library Management System Maintenance and Support	£89,212.50	Renewal	01/04/2024	Service	2024/25
174	IT Hardware - Tablet Devices	£2,082,056.00	Renewal	01/04/2024	Supplies	2024/25
175	PSTN Lines and Minutes	£620,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2024	Service	2024/25
176	Business Server Refresh Project Renewal of our VmWare License Estate	£464,996.00	Renewal	01/04/2024	Service	2024/25
177	Education Materials	£2,400,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2024	Supplies	2024/25
178	Letham Court Care Home Care Provision	£1,961,915.00	Renewal	01/04/2024	Service	2024/25
179	Care At Home Services	£56,400,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2024	Service	2024/25

Reference	Contract Name	Estimated Contract Value	Status	Tender Start Date	Type	Year
180	Care and Support - 16 bed unit	£12,000,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2024	Service	2024/25
181	Early Learning & Childcare	£10,000,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2024	Service	2024/25
182	Provision of Services for Vulnerable Families (Early Years)	£1,455,480.00	Renewal	01/04/2024	Service	2024/25
183	Mental Health Flexible Outreach	£2,250,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2024	Service	2024/25
184	Supported Living Services at Bathgate and Uphall station	£2,580,600.00	Renewal	01/04/2024	Service	2024/25
185	Mental Health Substance Abuse Supported Accommodation	£4,614,820.00	Renewal	01/04/2024	Service	2024/25
186	Washroom Solutions / 2nd generation framework	£260,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2024	Service	2024/25
187	First Aid Materials and Automated External Defibrillators	£204,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2024	Supplies	2024/25
188	Desktop Refresh 24-25	£2,992,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2024	Supplies	2024/25
189	Day Support Services for Older People	£2,831,250.00	Renewal	01/04/2024	Service	2024/25
190	Community Equipment Store Aids to Daily Living	£1,856,230.00	Renewal	01/04/2024	Service	2024/25
191	SQL Server Licensing	£130,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2024	Service	2024/25
192	Ecology Surveys to Various Properties within WLC	£100,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2024	Service	2024/25
193	Family Support Workers	£465,000.00	Renewal	05/04/2024	Service	2024/25
194	In-school play therapist services	£116,665.00	Renewal	01/05/2024	Service	2024/25
195	Day Support Services for Older People	£2,831,250.00	Renewal	01/05/2024	Service	2024/25
196	Day Centre Services - An Carina	£1,850,000.00	Renewal	01/05/2024	Service	2024/25
197	In-school play therapist services	£116,665.00	Renewal	01/05/2024	Service	2024/25
198	Registered Residential Care - Kirknewton	£2,062,885.00	Renewal	01/05/2024	Service	2024/25
199	TMC for Roller Shutter Doors	£2,250,000.00	Renewal	01/05/2024	Works	2024/25
200	Hand Arm Vibration Monitoring System	£95,000.00	Renewal	01/06/2024	Service	2024/25
201	Employee Benefits Scheme	£104,000.00	Renewal	01/06/2024	Service	2024/25
202	IT Hardware - Mobile (Laptop) Devices	£216,000.00	Renewal	01/06/2024	Supplies	2024/25
203	Safe Families for Children	£350,000.00	Renewal	01/06/2024	Supplies	2024/25
204	Environmental Health and Trading Standards Case Management System Software Replacement	£115,334.00	Renewal	01/06/2024	Service	2024/25
205	Saturday Strings	£160,000.00	Renewal	01/06/2024	Service	2024/25

Reference	Contract Name	Estimated Contract Value	Status	Tender Start Date	Type	Year
206	Dementia Café Support Service	£125,000.00	Renewal	01/06/2024	Service	2024/25
207	Leisure and related services	£2,400,000.00	Renewal	01/06/2024	Service	2024/25
208	Web based and proprietary devices framework	£316,926.45	Renewal	01/06/2024	Service	2024/25
209	Sensory Impairment Services - Sight Loss Services	£100,000.00	Renewal	01/06/2024	Service	2024/25
210	Corporate Clothing	£50,000.00	Renewal	01/06/2024	Supplies	2024/25
211	Delivery of the Youth Music Initiative projects Active Learning and Go for Bronze.	£181,215.00	Renewal	01/06/2024	Service	2024/25
212	Term Maintenance Contract - Refrigeration Units	£500,000.00	Renewal	01/06/2024	Service	2024/25
213	Public Acces Wi-Fi	£200,000.00	Renewal	01/07/2024	Service	2024/25
214	Supportworks It Service Management System	£72,300.00	Renewal	01/07/2024	Service	2024/25
215	PBX Telephone system support and associated services	£84,350.00	Renewal	01/07/2024	Service	2024/25
216	Postal Services- Next Day Delivery Royal Mail	£320,000.00	Renewal	01/07/2024	Service	2024/25
217	Independent Advocacy For Adults with Learning Disabilities	£322,990.00	Renewal	01/07/2024	Service	2024/25
218	Technology Enabled Care	£1,425,000.00	Renewal	01/07/2024	Service	2024/25
219	Corporate Automation	£840,000.00	Renewal	01/08/2024	Service	2024/25
220	Supply Installation and Maintenance of Laundry Equipment	£200,000.00	Renewal	01/08/2024	Service	2024/25
221	Rental Hire or Purchase of Industrial Whitegoods	£634,485.00	Renewal	01/08/2024	Service	2024/25
222	Stationery and Office Paper	£1,632,000.00	Renewal	01/08/2024	Service	2024/25
223	Registered PlayGroups	£120,000.00	Renewal	01/08/2024	Service	2024/25
224	Children and Family Holiday Activity Programme	£473,395.00	Renewal	01/08/2024	Service	2024/25
225	Annual support and maintenanceof the Axim Application Software	£170,688.00	Renewal	01/08/2024	Service	2024/25
226	Pupil Equity Funding framework	£10,000,000.00	Renewal	01/09/2024	Service	2024/25
227	MS Office Refresh including Exchange Licenses	£1,002,375.00	Renewal	01/09/2024	Service	2024/25
228	Environmental Works Order and Asset Management	£150,000.00	Renewal	01/09/2024	Service	2024/25
229	Internet Protocol Telephony and Support	£379,690.00	Renewal	01/09/2024	Service	2024/25
230	Hybrid Mail off Site Solution	£360,000.00	Renewal	01/09/2024	Service	2024/25
231	Learning and development Open Framework	£200,000.00	Renewal	01/09/2024	Service	2024/25
232	Local Area Network and Support	£215,990.00	Renewal	01/09/2024	Service	2024/25

Reference	Contract Name	Estimated Contract Value	Status	Tender Start Date	Type	Year
233	Interpretation & Language Services - Non spoken	£152,000.00	Renewal	01/09/2024	Service	2024/25
234	Social Care Settings Furniture	£400,000.00	Renewal	01/09/2024	Supplies	2024/25
235	Information advice and support service for carers and people with disability	£1,929,800.00	Renewal	01/09/2024	Service	2024/25
236	West Lothian Local Development Plan Software	£112,500.00	Renewal	01/09/2024	Service	2024/25
237	Forest Walk - Provision of Support Services	£2,494,365.00	Renewal	01/09/2024	Service	2024/25
238	Independent Advocacy for Older People & People with a Physical Disability	£480,825.00	Renewal	01/09/2024	Service	2024/25
239	Independent Advocacy Mental Health	£772,665.00	Renewal	01/09/2024	Service	2024/25
240	Shelter And Support For Victims of Domestic Abuse	£817,900.00	Renewal	01/10/2024	Service	2024/25
241	Legal Services	£100,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2024	Service	2024/25
242	Therapeutic support group (Non Group work) alcohol and drugs and Group Work	£2,274,645.00	Renewal	01/10/2024	Service	2024/25
243	IT Hardware - Desktop Devices & Monitors	£12,000,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2024	Service	2024/25
244	Education and Office Furniture	£4,560,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2024	Supplies	2024/25
245	Lone Worker Protection Services	£151,940.00	Renewal	01/10/2024	Service	2024/25
246	Residential Respite and Outreach services for children with learning disabilities and their families	£563,995.00	Renewal	01/10/2024	Service	2024/25
247	Housing based care and support - Deregistration of Care Home	£4,571,365.00	Renewal	01/10/2024	Service	2024/25
248	Therapeutic support group (Non Group work) alcohol and drugs and Group Work	£2,424,645.00	Renewal	01/10/2024	Service	2024/25
249	Adoption Services	£2,430,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2024	Service	2024/25
250	Fostering and Continuing Care Services	£4,600,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2024	Service	2024/25
251	Specialist Provider Services	£24,360,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2024	Service	2024/25
252	Augmentative and Alternative Communication Technology Services	£152,250.00	Renewal	01/10/2024	Service	2024/25
253	Short Breaks (Respite) at Home and in the Community Framework	£987,600.00	Renewal	01/10/2024	Service	2024/25
254	Presentation and Audio Visual Equipment	£880,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2024	Service	2024/25
255	Supporting People with Learning Disability - Social Opportunities and Natural Networks	£175,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2024	Service	2024/25
256	Alcohol and Drug Recovery Service	£1,406,117.05	Renewal	01/10/2024	Service	2024/25
257	Assertive Outreach and Criminal Justice Services	£1,365,480.00	Renewal	01/10/2024	Service	2024/25

Reference	Contract Name	Estimated Contract Value	Status	Tender Start Date	Type	Year
258	Provision of public analyst food examiner and agricultural analyst service	£125,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2024	Service	2024/25
259	Term Maintenance Contract for Lifts	£90,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2024	Service	2024/25
260	Term Maintenance Contract for Ductwork TR19	£750,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2024	Service	2024/25
261	IT Peripherals	£72,000.00	Renewal	01/11/2024	Supplies	2024/25
262	Anti-virus Malware Solution	£385,000.00	Renewal	01/11/2024	Service	2024/25
263	Postal Services- 2nd Class Mail -Whistl	£320,000.00	Renewal	01/11/2024	Service	2024/25
264	Egress Renewal	£578,750.00	Renewal	01/12/2024	Service	2024/25
265	Library Books and Text Books	£1,600,000.00	Renewal	01/12/2024	Service	2024/25
266	Mobile Voice and Data Services	£778,032.00	Renewal	01/01/2025	Service	2024/25
267	Software licensing and support and maintenance of Chris & HR21	£110,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2025	Service	2024/25
268	Water Cooler Solutions	£216,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2025	Service	2024/25
269	Web development including support and maintenance	£247,976.00	Renewal	01/01/2025	Service	2024/25
270	Childrens Residential Care and Education including Short Breaks	£21,600,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2025	Service	2024/25
271	Care Home Services for Older People	£52,400,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2025	Service	2024/25
272	Advocacy - Looked After Children	£350,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2025	Service	2024/25
273	Microsoft Education Licences	£153,120.00	Renewal	01/01/2025	Service	2024/25
274	Lammermuir Core Supported Living Service	£1,000,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2025	Service	2024/25
275	The Provision of Specialist Business Advice, Support & Training	£220,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2025	Service	2024/25
276	Funeral Services and Social Burial	£60,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2025	Service	2024/25
277	Childrens Rights and Advocacy Services	£250,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2025	Service	2024/25
278	On Line Payments	£100,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2025	Service	2024/25
279	Statutory Public Information Advertising	£140,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2025	Service	2024/25
280	Cashless Catering	£184,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2025	Service	2024/25
281	Older People Active Lives	£1,344,420.00	Renewal	04/01/2025	Service	2024/25
282	Mental Health Link Worker Service	£2,057,500.00	Renewal	04/01/2025	Service	2024/25
283	Unix Servers with Support and Maintenance	£720,000.00	Renewal	01/02/2025	Service	2024/25
284	Multi-function Device Print Services	£1,692,398.40	Renewal	01/02/2025	Service	2024/25

Reference	Contract Name	Estimated Contract Value	Status	Tender Start Date	Type	Year
285	Cash Collection Services	£290,000.00	Renewal	01/02/2025	Service	2024/25
286	Windows 10 Licensing	£680,000.00	Renewal	01/02/2025	Service	2024/25
287	On Line Payments	£100,000.00	Renewal	01/03/2025	Service	2024/25
288	Mobile Voice and Data Services	£654,460.00	Renewal	01/03/2025	Service	2024/25
289	Cashless Catering	£184,000.00	Renewal	01/03/2025	Service	2024/25
290	Social and Care Agency Workers	£1,880,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2025	Service	2025/26
291	Hand Arm Vibration Monitoring System	£95,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2025	Supplies	2025/26
292	Froebel Early Years practitioner training	£51,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2025	Service	2025/26
293	Community Meals	£292,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2025	Service	2025/26
294	Housing Support to Young People who are Homeless and at Risk of Homelessness or Previous Homeless	£1,455,480.00	Renewal	01/04/2025	Service	2025/26
295	Mental Health Substance Abuse	£4,614,820.00	Renewal	01/04/2025	Service	2025/26
296	HAVS - Hand Arm & Vibration Syndrome System	£60,802.50	Renewal	01/04/2025	Service	2025/26
297	Trade Contractors Framework	£25,000,000.00	Renewal	01/04/2025	Works	2025/26
298	Software Value Added Reseller VAR	£152,208.00	Renewal	01/05/2025	Service	2025/26
299	Pupil Equity Framework	£10,000,000.00	Renewal	01/05/2025	Service	2025/26
300	EDRM Replacement	£250,000.00	Renewal	01/05/2025	Supplies	2025/26
301	Integrated Housing and Buildings Services IT System	£1,000,000.00	Renewal	01/07/2025	Service	2025/26
302	Aids for daily living supply and maintenance	£1,484,984.00	Renewal	01/07/2025	Supplies	2025/26
303	LD Close Care And Support Blackburnhall Gardens Service	£994,155.00	Renewal	01/07/2025	Service	2025/26
304	Swift Upgrade v32 including Support and Maintenance	£240,000.00	Renewal	01/09/2025	Service	2025/26
305	Audio Visual and Presentation Equipment	£880,000.00	Renewal	01/09/2025	Service	2025/26
306	Leisure Services	£3,000,000.00	Renewal	01/09/2025	Service	2025/26
307	Day Services for Adults with a learning Disability	£1,181,710.00	Renewal	01/09/2025	Service	2025/26
308	Care Homes for Adults with Learning Difficulties	£28,800,000.00	Renewal	16/09/2025	Service	2025/26
309	Day Care Provision and Transport for Adults with a Learning Disability	£2,031,260.00	Renewal	01/10/2025	Service	2025/26
310	Lone Worker Protection Services	£151,940.00	Renewal	01/10/2025	Service	2025/26

Reference	Contract Name	Estimated Contract Value	Status	Tender Start Date	Type	Year
311	Business Objects Business Intelligence Suite - Support & Maintenance	£300,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2025	Service	2025/26
312	Call Confirm Live system Support, Maintenance and Licences	£150,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2025	Service	2025/26
313	Scottish Wide Area Network (SWAN)	£4,522,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2025	Service	2025/26
314	WAN Service Review	£4,800,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2025	Service	2025/26
315	Microsoft Education Licences	£153,120.00	Renewal	01/10/2025	Service	2025/26
316	Planning Services Integrated mapping and public register system	£2,750,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2025	Service	2025/26
317	Vulnerable due to young age supported accommodation and the provision of Housing Support to young people who are homeless and at risk of homelessness or previously homelessness	£4,392,020.00	Renewal	01/10/2025	Service	2025/26
318	Software licensing and support and maintenance of Chris & HR21	£110,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2025	Service	2025/26
319	Childrens Residential Care and Education including Short Breaks	£21,600,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2025	Service	2025/26
320	Older Peoples Mental Health Community Support Service	£322,910.00	Renewal	01/10/2025	Service	2025/26
321	Augmentative and Alternative Communication Technology Services	£152,250.00	Renewal	01/10/2025	Service	2025/26
322	Shelter And Support For Victims of Domestic Abuse	£817,900.00	Renewal	01/10/2025	Service	2025/26
323	Provision of Services for Vulnerable Families	£313,185.00	Renewal	01/10/2025	Service	2025/26
324	Air Quality Monitoring	£82,500.00	Renewal	01/10/2025	Service	2025/26
325	Services for Children with a Disability	£500,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2025	Service	2025/26
326	Secure Care	£1,800,000.00	Renewal	01/10/2025	Service	2025/26
327	Mental Health Link Worker Service	£1,598,448.00	Renewal	01/11/2025	Service	2025/26
328	Primary Schools Counselling Service	£560,000.00	Renewal	01/11/2025	Service	2025/26
329	The Provision of Specialist Business Advice, Support & Training	£220,000.00	Renewal	01/11/2025	Service	2025/26
330	Temporary and Interim Staff	£12,000,000.00	Renewal	01/11/2025	Service	2025/26
331	Technology Enabled Care - Alarm Receiving Centre	£639,344.00	Renewal	01/11/2025	Service	2025/26
332	Short Breaks (respite) for those with a medium to significant learning disability - Letham Court	£1,982,640.00	Renewal	01/12/2025	Service	2025/26
333	Mobile Voice and Data Services	£778,032.00	Renewal	01/12/2025	Service	2025/26
334	Postal Services Whistl	£340,000.00	Renewal	01/12/2025	Service	2025/26

Reference	Contract Name	Estimated Contract Value	Status	Tender Start Date	Type	Year
335	Advocacy Services - Children	£283,335.00	Renewal	01/01/2026	Service	2025/26
336	First Aid Materials and Automated External Defibrillators	£204,000.00	Renewal	01/01/2026	Supplies	2025/26
337	Advocacy - Looked After Children	£283,335.00	Renewal	01/01/2026	Service	2025/26
338	Multi-function Device Print Services	£1,520,000.00	Renewal	01/02/2026	Service	2025/26

Total Future Regulated Procurements	338
Total Value of Future Regulated Procurements	£875,485,414.70

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

WL2028 YOUR COUNCIL YOUR SAY - PUBLIC CONSULTATION

REPORT BY DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report provides the Council Executive with an update on the feedback received from respondents to Phase 2 of the WL2028 Your Council Your Say public consultation, and provides an update on the remaining key dates and activities associated with Phase 2 of the public consultation.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council Executive notes:

1. The update on the engagement process and results on the responses received to the Phase 2 consultation;
2. A combined response rate of 7,605 responses for Phase 1 (5,045 responses) and Phase 2 (2,560 responses) and over 22,800 comments received for the Phase 2 officer budget proposals and council tax levels; and
3. The remaining key dates and activities associated with Phase 2 of the public consultation.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- | | |
|---|---|
| I. Council Values | Focusing on our customers' needs, being honest, open and accountable, providing equality of opportunity, developing employees, making best use of our resources, working with other organisations. |
| II. Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equalities Issues, Health or Risk Assessment) | The council is required to approve a balanced revenue budget for each financial year. Audit Scotland and CIPFA best practice guidance recommends medium term financial plans are prepared for at least five years in duration |
| III. Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers | No implications at this stage. |

IV.	Impact on performance and performance indicators	Ongoing government restraint has implications for the council's budget and performance.
V.	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	The revenue budget provides resources necessary to help deliver the Single Outcome Agreement. Effective prioritisation of resources is essential to achieving key outcomes.
VI.	Resources (Financial, Staffing and Property)	<p>Based on revised assumptions, it is forecast that West Lothian Council will have a very significant revenue budget gap of approximately £57.7million over the five-year period 2023/24 to 2027/28, an increase from the £47.1million reported at the time of the Phase 2 consultation.</p> <p>The public consultation will assist in the prioritisation and allocation of resources to activities that have the greatest impact, whilst ensuring balanced budgets for the five-year period to 2027/28</p>
VII.	Consideration at PDSP	The comments from the Phase 2 consultation are to be considered at Special PDSPs in January 2023.
VIII.	Other consultations	None at this stage.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

On 24 June 2022, the Council Executive approved the three stage West Lothian (WL) 2028 Your Council Your Say public consultation approach. Phase 1 of the consultation commenced on 24 June 2022 and closed on 31 July 2022. At that time of the Phase 1 consultation the council was projecting a budget gap of £38.4million over the five-year period.

On 4 October 2022, the Council Executive were advised that following further developments in the Cost of Living crisis and related cost pressures on energy costs the budget gap increased to £47.1million over the five-year period 2023/34 to 2027/28, with a budget gap of £36.5million over the three-year period 2023/34 to 2025/26.

Based on revised assumptions, it is forecast that West Lothian Council will now have a very significant revenue budget gap of approximately £57.7million over the five-year period 2023/24 to 2027/28, an increase from the £47.1million reported at the time of the Phase 2 consultation, with a budget gap of £44.7million over the three-year period 2023/34 to 2025/26.

Council Executive were also provided with an update on the engagement process and results on the responses received to the Phase 1 consultation and information on the key dates and activities associated with Phase 2 of the public consultation.

In February 2023 the council will set the Corporate Plan and 5-year financial plan 2023/24 to 2027/28, a 3-year detailed revenue budget 2023/24 to 2025/26 and agreement on taxation levels for 2023/24 to 2027/28.

The Phase 3 consultation on the 2026/27 and 2028/29 budget proposals will be progressed during 2023/24 prior to the Council budget setting meeting in February 2026.

D.2 Engagement Approach

The council used a range of methods to promote the consultation and to engage with customers, staff and partners on the consultation. The Phase 2 consultation document was included as a pull-out in the Winter Edition of Bulletin which was delivered to all households from 26 October 2022.

An online version of the consultation was promoted via the council's website and social media channels, specific questions are being posted on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and directing users of these platforms to the full online survey, and key partners received details of the consultation with links to the online consultation.

The West Lothian Integrated Joint Board (IJB) are consulting with people in West Lothian to seek their views on proposals and associated changes to service delivery in certain social care services. Results of the IJB consultation will be reported separately by the IJB.

Key community partners, including the Joint Forum of Community Councils and individual Community Council Chairs were invited to participate in the consultation.

Parents received the link via Group Call and as in previous consultations the council delivered an engagement programme with specific groups over the consultation period to support the groups in their participation.

Global emails were also issued to staff and Heads of Service were asked to encourage all staff to participate and for reminders to be issued at the senior management team and team meetings within their service areas.

D.3 Phase 2 Consultation and Results

The Phase 2 consultation was open for a six-week period from 7 October 2022 until 20 November 2022. In line with the previous Transforming Your Council (2017) and Delivering Better Outcomes (2012) consultations, officer budget proposals were developed on potential reductions and/or changes to services to balance the council's financial position over the 3-year period 2023/24 to 2025/26 and views have been sought on the proposed budget reduction measures.

In addition to the officer budget proposals, the Phase 2 consultation also sought views on council tax increases. The council's future budget estimates assume increases in council tax of at least 3.5% each year, and the consultation sought views on how the council would find additional income to bridge any increase in the budget gap if council tax increases were below 3.5%, as well as views on whether there would be support for a higher than 3.5% council tax increase if this was spent on key identified priorities.

The council has received 2,560 responses to the Phase 2 consultation from a wide range of stakeholders, with the majority of responses being received via the online survey. The combined response rate for Phase 1 (5,045 responses) and Phase 2

exceeds the total number of responses received for the Transforming Your Council 2017 (TYC), which received 7,026 responses and Delivering Better Outcomes 2012 (DBO), which received 3,467 responses.

The majority of the respondents (69.8%) are identifying themselves as individuals, with the remainder identifying as employees (28.2%) and groups/organisations (2.0%). The names groups/organisations identifying themselves in the response are listed below:

- Community Councils: Joint Forum of Community Councils in West Lothian ♦ Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council ♦ Murieston Community Council ♦ Pumpherston Community Council
- Other organisations: Artlink Edinburgh and the Lothians ♦ Dedridge Good Neighbourhood Network ♦ Daycare ♦ Enough is Enough ♦ GMB Union ♦ Kirknewton CDT ♦ Linlithgow Academy Parent Council ♦ Linlithgow Academy Pupil Cabinet (selection of response from various groups) ♦ MCMC ♦ MCMC and HYPE ♦ Mental Health Advocacy Group ♦ NatureScot ♦ Skill Training Programme (STP) ♦ Uphall Station Institute Hall ♦ Vennie Youth Programme ♦ Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian ♦ Xcite West Lothian Leisure.

View of Officer Budget Proposals

The Phase 2 consultation comprised 23 officer budget proposals, grouped under 5 themes. The council has received 21,689 individual comments and a summary of the number of comments per category is set out below in Table 1.

Table 1

	Number of Officer Proposals	Total
1. Modernising the Council	12	13,467
2. Modernising Social Care	Results of West Lothian Integrated Joint Board (IJB) consultation will be reported separately by the IJB.	
3. Community Empowerment and Partnership	3	2,073
4. Environment, Climate Change and reducing energy use	7	5,094
5. Reviewing income, concessions and other contributions	1	1,055
Total	23	21,689

Views on Council Tax levels

The consultation also sought the views on council tax increases, and the council received a further 1,175 comments on the council tax questions.

Commentary Overview

Officers are reviewing the individual comments, considering the merits of the measure and suggesting a response from the following options.

1. The respondent advised that they agree with the proposal.
2. The respondent advised that they either did not agree or did not believe the council should consider the proposal.
3. The respondent advised that they had no comment to make, or posed a question of the measure.
4. The council is already doing this.
- 5a. It is proposed that this suggestion is not taken forward because the council is required by law to deliver this work.
- 5b. It is proposed that this suggestion is not taken forward because it is likely that the costs of this proposal would outweigh the benefit, or requires additional expenditure.
- 5c. It is proposed that this suggestion is not taken forward because it is not consistent with the council's values and priorities.
- 5d. It is proposed that this suggestion is not taken forward because it has been previously considered and will not be progressed.
6. The respondent suggested an improvement. Officers will consider how this could be developed.
7. The respondent's comment was either not relevant to the question, inappropriate and/or contained personal and sensitive information.
8. This suggestion is out with the responsibility of West Lothian Council. Where relevant, we will forward these comments to our partner organisations.
9. The respondent made a comment on the survey question.

The summary feedback from the Phase 2 consultation will be available to view online on the council's website at www.westlothian.gov.uk/WL2028 in advance of the Special PDSPs. Further information on the Phase 2 consultation responses is set out in Appendix 1.

D.4 Special PDSPs

In February 2023 the council will set the Corporate Plan and 5-year financial plan 2023/24 to 2027/28, a 3-year detailed revenue budget 2023/24 to 2025/26 and agreement on taxation levels for 2023/24 to 2027/28.

On 24 June 2022, the Council Executive agreed that Special PDSP meetings would be scheduled in January 2023 to allow elected members to consider the responses received at the Phase 2 stage. Elected members will also have the opportunity at these meetings to consider the detail of the officer budget proposals in advance of the Council budget setting meeting.

In order to accommodate the Special PDSP meetings, there will be a requirement to schedule a number of additional PDSP meetings. The proposed dates and times for the Special PDSPs are set out below.

PDSP	Date	Time	Comment
Corporate Policy and Resources	26 January 2023	9.30am	Additional PDSP
Housing Services	26 January 2023	2pm	Additional PDSP
Social Work and Health	30 January 2023	2pm	Additional PDSP

Economy, Community Empowerment and Wealth	31 January 2023	9.30am	Scheduled PDSP
Environment and Sustainability	31 January 2023	11am	Scheduled PDSP
Education	31 January 2023	2pm	Scheduled PDSP
Public and Community Safety	31 January 2023	2.30pm	Additional PDSP

Each PDSP will consider a report which will include the following:

- Statistical information relating to the responses received on each officer budget proposal associated with the remit of that PDSP;
- A high-level summary of the comments and feedback received relevant to the remit of that PDSP; and
- Further information on the officer budget proposals set out in the Phase 2 consultation

The summary feedback from the Phase 2 consultation will be available to view online on the council's website at www.westlothian.gov.uk/WL2028 in advance of the Special PDSPs. This summary feedback will be categorised and summarised to make the process more user friendly, therefore allowing Panel members to consider the key issues and trends.

Officers will have also carried out a thorough analysis of the feedback to respond to each of the issues being raised and will be included on the council's website. A high-level summary of the comments and feedback received relevant to the remit of individual PDSPs will also be reported.

E. CONCLUSION

Based on latest assumptions, it is forecast that the Council will have a significant revenue budget gap of approximately £57.7million over the five-year period 2023/24 to 2027/28, with a budget gap of £44.7million over the three-year period 2023/34 to 2025/26.

The WL2028 Your Council Your Say public consultation will assist inform the budget setting process and the prioritisation and allocation of resources to activities that have the greatest impact, whilst ensuring balanced budgets for the five-year period to 2027/28.

It will also create a positive basis for future engagement, which would also start a dialogue with stakeholders on some of the more complex and demanding aspects of future policy, and establish key operational objectives that will drive sustainability and underpin service change in the years ahead.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

- Council Executive - Public Consultation Approach 2022 – 24 June 2022

- Council Executive - WL2028 Your Council Your Say – Public Consultation – 4 October 2022

Appendices/Attachments: 1

Appendix 1 - Phase 2 Consultation Results Overview

Contact Person:

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Graeme Struthers
Depute Chief Executive
20 December 2022

WL2028 – YOUR COUNCIL, YOUR SAY (PHASE 2)

Our Budget 2023/24 to 2025/26

Abstract

A summary of the findings and recommendations from a public consultation on officer proposals to address the funding gap and rising costs.

West Lothian Council
Data Label: PUBLIC

Welcome

A public consultation in October – November 2022 was held to ask local people about officer savings proposals and Council Tax.

Background

Like other local authorities in Scotland, West Lothian Council faces constrained funding and substantial cost increases in the next five years. The council had projected a budget gap of £36.5 million over the next three-year period at the time the Phase 2 consultation was launched in October 2022.

Following further developments in the Cost of Living crisis and related cost pressures on energy costs it is anticipated that the funding gap for years 2023/24 to 2027/28 will now be £57.7 million. This means that the council, along with the West Lothian community, will have to make difficult decisions about local services.

Although the next five years are expected to be extremely challenging for the council, we also understand that local people and businesses are experiencing difficulties from the Cost of Living increases and the residual impact of the global Coronavirus pandemic.

The council remains committed to meeting the needs of local people and high performance across all areas of service delivery.

In preparation for the challenges ahead, we want to work with our community and partners – in shaping the future of Council services in West Lothian.

This report provides a summary of the feedback from the consultation on Our Budget – the second in a series of planned engagements to help the council to become more sustainable and meet the challenges ahead.

Graham Hope, Chief Executive

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Summary

Overview

1. The council held a public consultation on Our Budget, to gather feedback on proposals to address the funding gap in years 2023/24 to 2025/26. The consultation asked people to:
 - ▶ Consider the **officer savings proposals** that are set out in the consultation to address the projected funding gap of £36.5m
 - ▶ Suggest any **other ways that may reduce council expenditure** and/or changes to council services to make them more efficient
 - ▶ Provide **feedback** on officer proposals
 - ▶ Have their say on **income and charging** levels for some council services
 - ▶ Have their say on **Council Tax** in West Lothian
2. **Response rate:** A total of **2,560 people** responded to the consultation that was open for 6-weeks (from 7 October to 20 November 2022). This total comprised; 69.8% who were responding as members of the public, 28.2% who were responding as council employees and 2.0% who were responding on behalf of a group or organisation. The council received over **22,800 comments** from respondents.
3. **Engagement approach:** the council utilised a range of methods to engage with customers, staff and partners including, a pull-out in the council's quarterly newsletter to homes, an online survey, face-to-face interviews with some residents and paper copies were also made available in council offices.

Consultation Feedback – Key Findings

Our Budget

4. **Modernising the Council:** some respondents feel that there are opportunities to review council structures, systems and processes and management arrangements to make them more efficient. There is concern about the impact that reduced staff numbers in council services and schools will have in key and statutory services and in turn, how this will impact upon customers and service performance.
5. **Modernising Social Care:** the findings and recommendations from the IJB consultation on Modernising Social Care will be reported separately through the IJB governance and to the public and other stakeholders.
6. **Community Empowerment and Partnership:** some respondents are concerned that these proposals will limit, reduce or remove access to services that they consider to be vital to local people. There was some support for different models of management/support that may increase community empowerment or greater partnership working with community groups. There was also support for more flexible provision for services users in respect of early learning.
7. **Environment, Climate Change and Reducing Energy Usage:** many respondents highlighted the importance of waste, roads and public/school transport to the fabric of communities and standard of living in West Lothian. There were suggestions that respondents felt would make these services more efficient and also suggestions for how to improve the utilisation of council buildings and reduce carbon emissions and energy consumption.
8. **Reviewing Income, Concessions and Other Contributions:** there was some support for the review of fees and charges in relation to planning/developer fees, commercial property rents and some other council services. There were also some concerns raised (in relation to recycling rates and community cleanliness) in response to suggestions about the introduction of charges for household garden waste collections.

Council Tax

9. **Your say on Council Tax:** whilst some support an increased level of council tax in order to protect essential council services, others are opposed on the basis of affordability and fear it will exacerbate the Cost of Living crisis for lower income families.

Next Steps

10. The council will continue to analyse the detailed comments provided in the consultation and use this information to shape the Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26 for the council, due to be considered and approved in February 2023.
11. The comments provided through this consultation will be used as a valuable source of information for council officers and elected members in the next few years.

Response to the Consultation

Response Rate

12. The consultation was open from 7 October to 20 November 2022 and received a total of **2,560 responses**. Most respondents engaged through the online survey, but we also received paper survey responses.

Total number of responses	Online survey responses	Paper survey responses
2,560	2,477	83

13. A good proportion of the paper responses came from our in-person survey collection with target customer groups, with the remainder coming from the Bulletin pull-out that was issued to West Lothian households in October 2022.

Engagement Approach

14. The council has a good track record of engaging the public, staff and partners on corporate and financial planning. We understand that in order to assure the long-term sufficiency of our planning and service provision we must engage our stakeholders in the decision-making process.
15. This consultation – Our Budget – was focused on officer proposals for addressing the budget gap and other ways to help reduce council expenditure and/or change to council services to make them more efficient, and to seek views on Council Tax in West Lothian. It is part of three-phase consultation approach that the council has developed to form the basis of our corporate and financial planning for the years 2023 to 2028. The Consultation Roadmap provides more detail on the three phases.
16. *Consultation Roadmap*



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17. The engagement approach used was wide ranging, with targeted messages through various methods to raise awareness and prompt participation. To ensure accessibility the consultation surveys were available online and in print and there were campaigns for specific groups that included in-person consultation response gathering. The consultation was also promoted directly to staff and partners through email and correspondence.
18. The council utilised a range of methods to engage with customers, staff and partners:
 - ▶ The consultation was included as a pull-out in the Winter Edition of Bulletin (the council's quarterly newsletter, delivered to every household in West Lothian);
 - ▶ An online version of the consultation was promoted via the council's website and social media channels;
 - ▶ Questions from the consultation were posted on the council's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts to increase the reach of the consultation and signpost users to the full online survey;
 - ▶ Parents and council tenants were notified of the consultation via text message;
 - ▶ Community Planning Partners, Community Councils and other organisations and groups received direct email communications inviting them to participate;
 - ▶ Council staff were notified via global emails and team meeting updates/reminders.

Response Rate Comparison

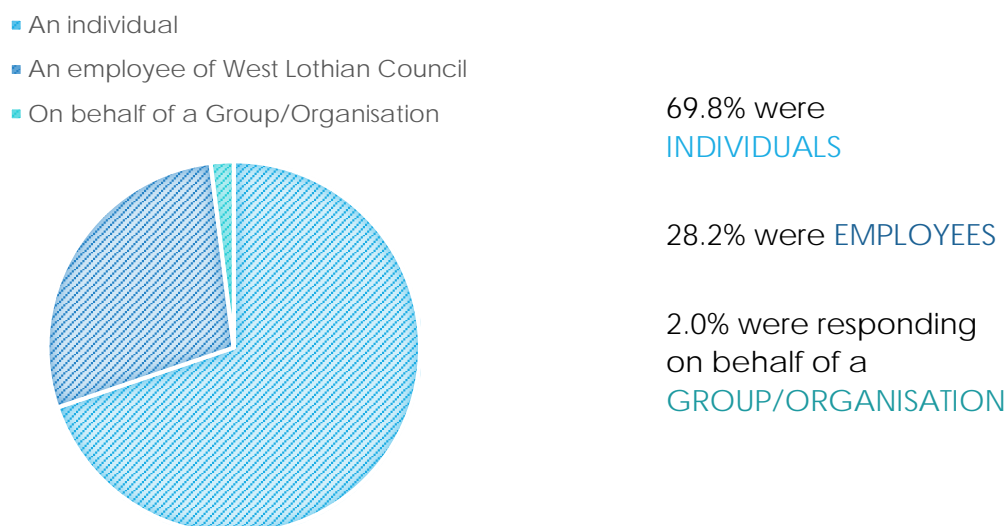
19. The council has undertaken previous public consultations on our priorities and transformation/budget setting plans. The response rates, as they compare to the current consultation programme, are set out below:

Public Consultation 2022 (WL2028 – Your Council, Your Say) – Phase 1 and 2	Public Consultation 2017 (Transforming your Council)	Public Consultation 2012 (Delivering Better Outcomes)
7,605	7,026	3,467

20. Both the Transforming your Council and Delivering Better Outcomes consultations covered council priorities, five-year officer saving proposals and council tax options in a single consultation. This most recent consultation was carried out in two phases to make the process more accessible for respondents with, council priorities in phase 1 and savings proposals and questions about council tax in phase 2. Combined, the two phases increased the level of response, one that the council will seek to build upon in phase 3, which concentrates on the budget strategy and transformation proposals for the years 2026/27 and 2027/28.

Respondents

21. The majority of respondents were individuals, those who live, work or visit West Lothian. The council also received responses from respondents who identified themselves as Council employees, but it should be noted that over 70% of Council employees also live in West Lothian.



22. The council aims for an inclusive approach, with targeted engagements to ensure representation and diverse views captured through the consultation. It is vitally important that we engage the public, in particular, on our priorities and proposals for change and that we use their feedback to shape future service provision. This is why the council continues to use a broad range of media to promote the consultation and continues to offer paper consultation surveys in order to ensure that we involve as many people and sections of the community as possible.
23. Gaining a good response from council staff is also important as they have a lot of knowledge and experience that will be key to shaping and delivering

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any transformation proposals that emerge from the full programme of engagement that the council has planned.

Groups and Organisations

24. The council invited key partners, community groups, and other organisations to participate in the survey. A total of 21 named Groups/Organisations (as identified in the survey response) took part in the consultation:

Community Councils: Joint Forum of Community Councils in West Lothian ♦ Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council ♦ Murieston Community Council ♦ Pumpherston Community Council

Other organisations: Artlink Edinburgh and the Lothians ♦ Dedridge Good Neighbourhood Network ♦ Daycare ♦ Enough is Enough ♦ GMB Union ♦ Kirknewton CDT ♦ Linlithgow Academy Parent Council ♦ Linlithgow Academy Pupil Cabinet (selection of response from various groups) ♦ MCMC ♦ MCMC and HYPE ♦ Mental Health Advocacy Group ♦ NatureScot ♦ Skill Training Programme (STP) ♦ Uphall Station Institute Hall ♦ Vennie Youth Programme ♦ Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian ♦ Xcite West Lothian Leisure

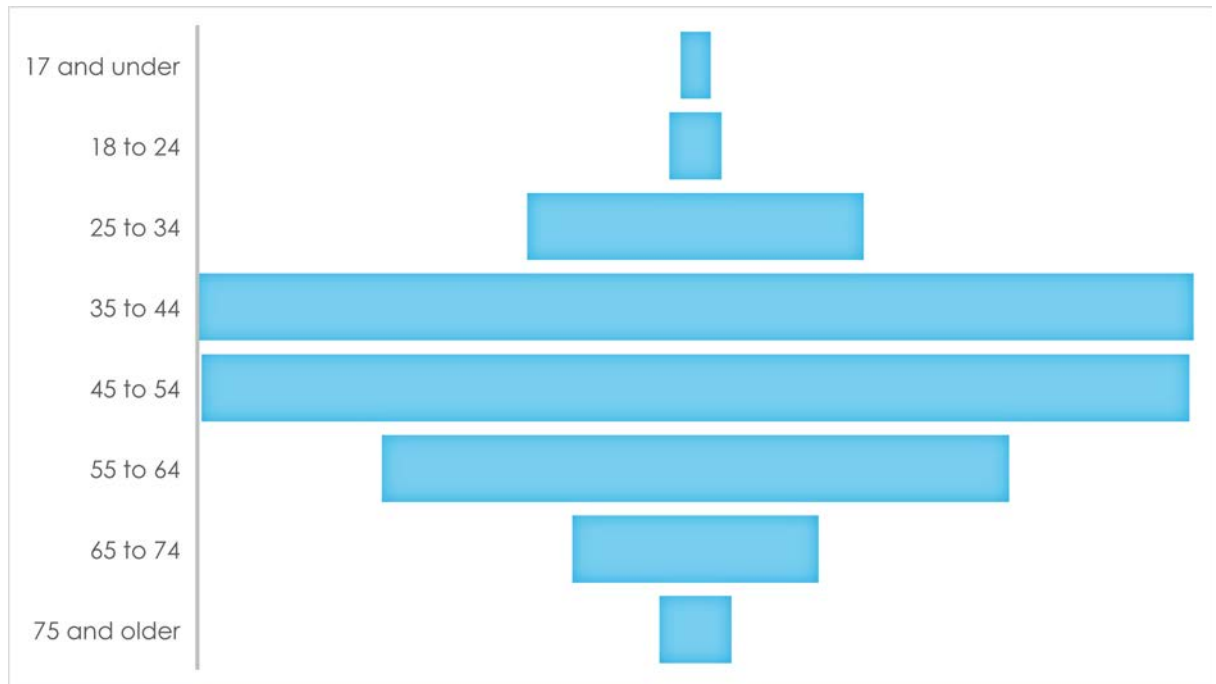
25. Many of the named Groups/Organisations (as identified in the survey response) received direct emails/letters inviting them to take part in the consultation. The council will continue to encourage partners, community and representative groups to contribute to our consultations. This ensures that we take into consideration different views and potential impacts on our partners in decision-making and future planning processes.

Individual Respondents

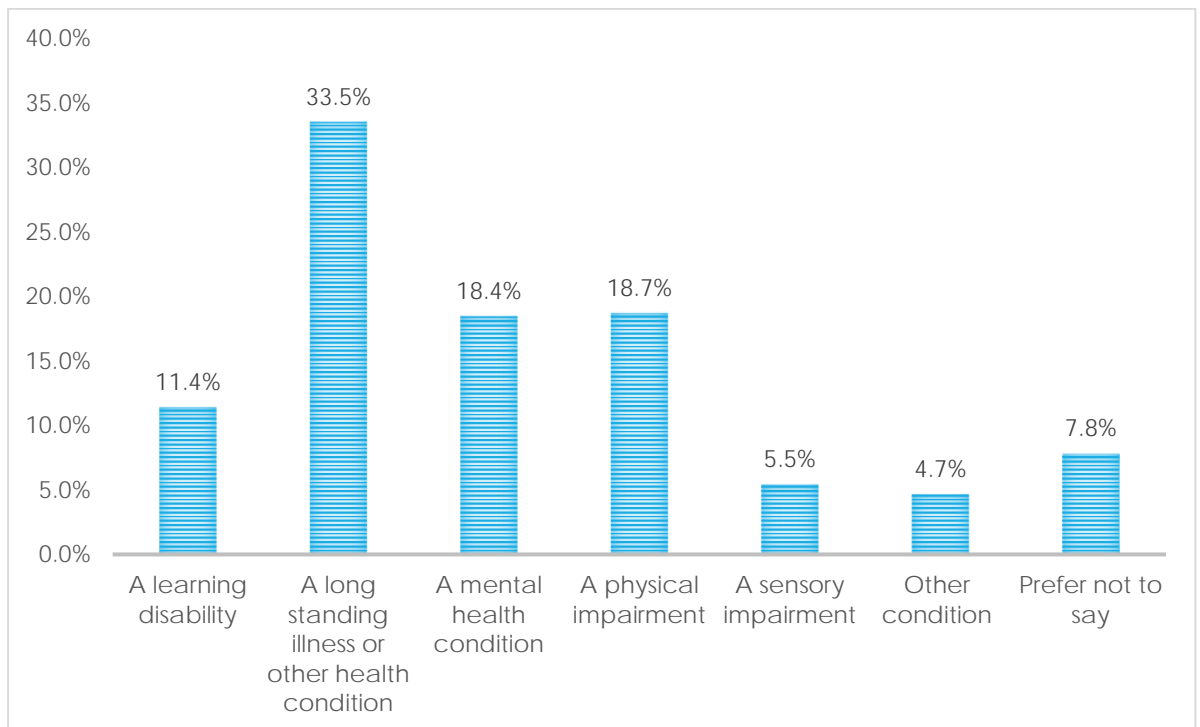
26. Respondents had the option to provide information about them as part of the response to the survey. This information will be used by the council to understand how successfully we are engaging with different groups across the community and how we might improve upon those engagement methods moving forward.
27. **Gender:** the highest number of respondents were women:

Women	Men	Identify their gender in another way	Preferred not to say
61.5%	27.3%	0.4%	10.8%

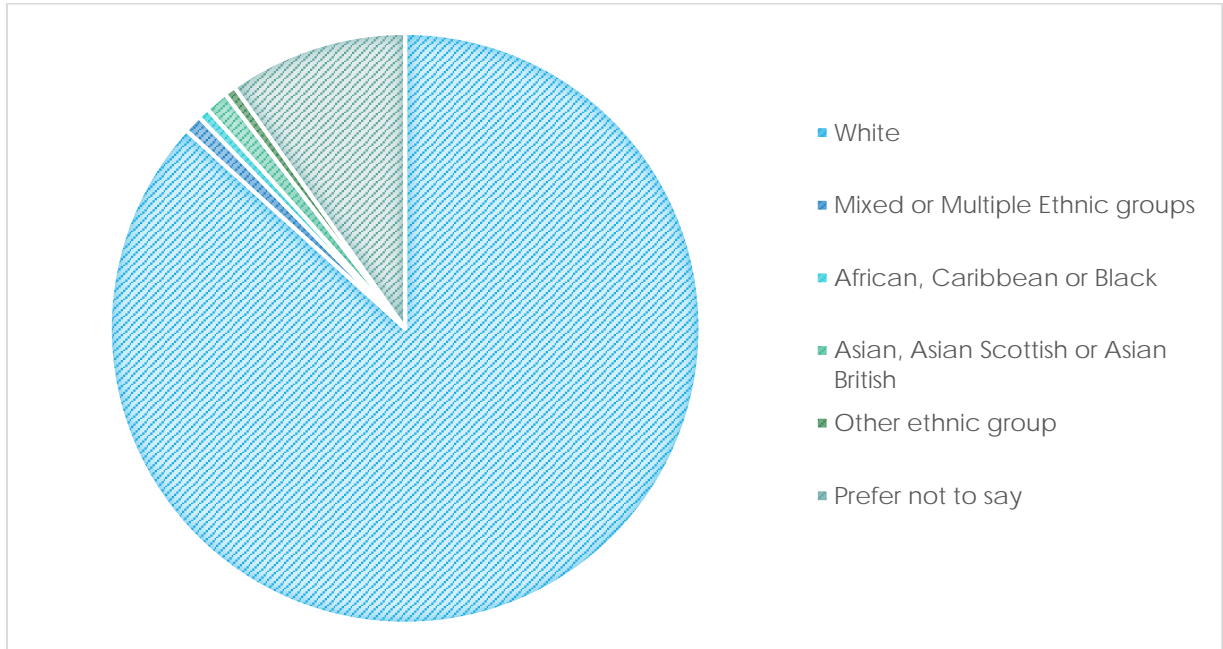
28. **Age:** 47 was the average age of respondents, with an age range of 13 to 101 years. The age profile by band is set out in the chart below:



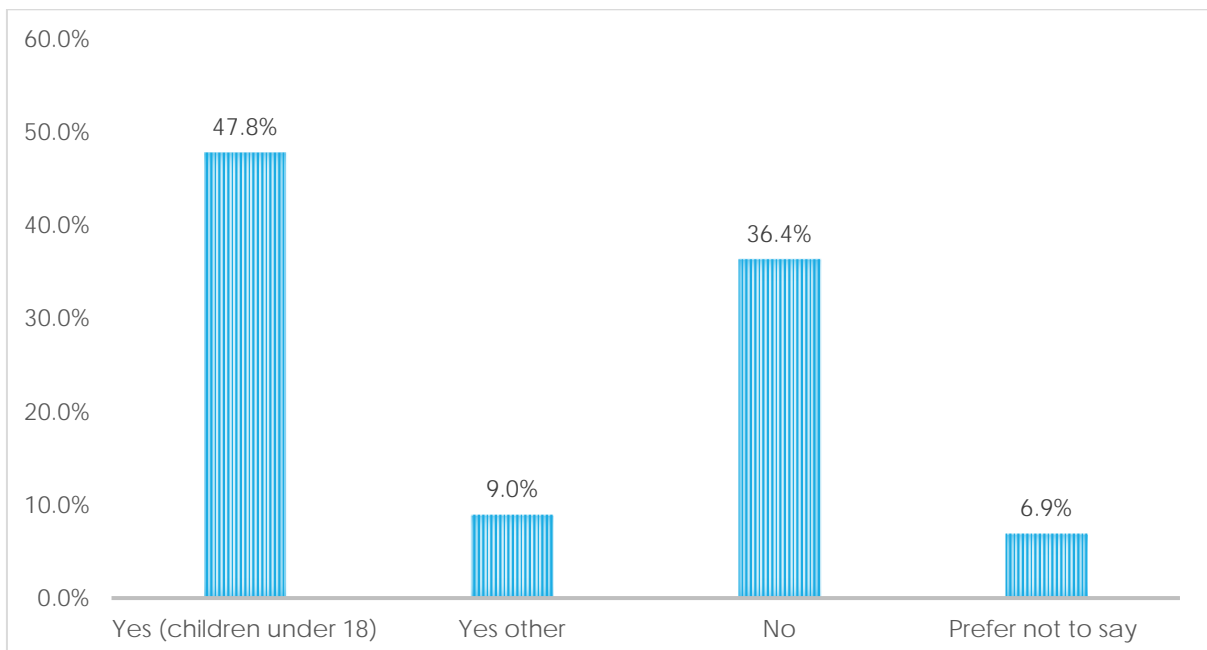
29. **Disability:** a total of 13.2% of respondents consider themselves to have a disability. Of those who identified as having a disability, some respondents elected to provide details of their condition:



30. **Ethnicity:** the biggest proportion of respondents were White (86.7%), with responses also from Mixed or Multiple Ethnic groups (1.0%), African, Caribbean or Black (0.6%), Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British (1.3%), Other ethnic group (0.6%) and Prefer not to say (9.8%).



31. **Caring responsibility:** 56.8% of respondents to the survey have a caring responsibility.



Towns / Village

32. The council asked respondents to tell us their town or village in their survey response. This information is intended to be used to analyse need and improvements that are required in the different towns and villages in the area.
33. 33 towns and villages in West Lothian were named by respondents. The highest proportion of respondents come from the larger settlements; 31% from Livingston, 15.9% from Bathgate, 12.1% from Linlithgow and Bridgend, 5.9% from Whitburn and East Whitburn, and 5.4% from Broxburn.

Town/Village	Number of respondents		Town/Village	Number of respondents
Livingston	31.0%		Westfield	0.5%
Bathgate	15.9%		Longridge	0.5%
Linlithgow and Bridgend	12.1%		Pumpherstoun	0.5%
Whitburn and East Whitburn	5.9%		Stoneyburn	0.5%
Broxburn	5.4%		Seafield	0.4%
Armadale	5.3%		Addiewell	0.2%
East Calder	3.2%		Bridgehouse	0.2%
Blackburn	2.7%		Dechmont	0.2%
West Calder	2.6%		Greenrigg and Harthill	0.2%
Fauldhouse	2.1%		Breich	0.1%
Winchburgh	1.9%		Newton	0.1%
Uphall	1.6%		Uphall Station	0.1%
Mid Calder	1.5%		Harburn	0.1%
Kirknewton	0.8%		Newmains	0.1%
Polbeth	0.7%		Philpstoun	0.1%
Torphichen	0.7%		Threemiletown	0.1%
Blackridge	0.6%		Outwith West Lothian	2.1%

Consultation – Our Budget

34. It is expected that West Lothian Council will have to make significant savings over the next five years due to insufficient funding and rising costs. This means that the council, along with the West Lothian community will have to make difficult decisions about local services.
35. The council is legally required to balance its budget – we cannot spend more money than we receive in funding and Council Tax income. Because of an insufficient budget, we are forced to reduce expenditure on local services. We want to ensure that the funding that we do have is spent on services that matter most to our communities.
36. The purpose of this consultation was to consult with local people, staff and partners on officer proposals, from the senior leadership team in the council, to save £36.5 million over the next three years – from 2023/24 to 2025/26.
37. The council asked people to comment on the savings proposals and make any other suggestions that might help us to reduce spending and protect local services. The feedback will help the council to make very difficult decisions about how we will balance the budget.
38. There were **21,689 comments** received relating to the questions in this section of the consultation.
39. The savings proposals were grouped under themes:
 - ▼ **1 Modernising the Council – 13,467 comments**
 - ▼ **2 Modernising Social Care – Results will be reported by IJB**
 - ▼ **3 Community Empowerment and Partnership – 2,073 comments**
 - ▼ **4 Environment, Climate Change and Reducing Energy Use – 5,094 comments**
 - ▼ **5 Reviewing Income, Concessions and Other Contributions – 1,055**
40. Each comment has been categorised – assigned to an appropriate council service and topic – analysed and responded to by a Chief Council Officer.
41. The information contained in this section will be used to influence and shape the development of council services, transformation proposals and the budget strategy in the next five years.

1 Modernising the Council

42. Measures totalling £21.3 million over the next three years have been identified, which would make the council more agile and cost effective. There are opportunities – due to new technologies, planned service changes and new ways of working – to increase the efficiency of council operations. This will mean changes and/or reductions to some of the services that we deliver and the council will also make changes to structures, resourcing and management arrangements in some services in order to achieve efficiencies.
43. There were twelve proposals contained in this section of the consultation. A summary of the proposals and the emergent themes from the analysis of the 13,467 comments received is outlined.

Proposal 1a: Service Redesign, Integration and Modernisation

Estimated saving: £1.2 million

44. **Proposal:** The internal business and financial support functions that are provided to council services to support statutory (legal) requirements would change through redesign, integration and greater use of technology to increase efficiency and effectiveness. This would include consolidating services, reducing staff numbers and the number of systems we use within the internal business and financial support functions that are provided to council services. There will be an impact on customers but we will seek to minimise the impact through redesigning services, integration of teams and further use of technology. The council will also review a small number of externally contracted services, with a view to achieving cost reductions.
45. A total of 1,336 comments were received for this proposal.
46. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:
- Support for the modernisation of council functions/services and taking advantage of technology and systems to achieve efficiencies.
 - Support for the consolidation of council services and a review of the structure.
 - Concern about the impact upon of staff reductions on frontline council employees and that it might result in poorer quality services for customers and declining performance.

- ▼ Suggestions that the hybrid working pilot should offer opportunities for the council to reduce the property portfolio and associated costs and that it would also support increased levels of staff productivity/efficiency.

Proposal 1b: Review of Management arrangements / Management efficiencies

Estimated saving: £500,000

47. Proposal: Some management arrangements will be reviewed in conjunction with changes to services and resource re-alignment, where it is appropriate. The council will ensure that the management structure continues to support effective delivery of council services and statutory duties, whilst also seeking to make council governance and decision-making more efficient.
48. A total of 1,003 comments were received for this proposal.
49. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:
 - ▼ Support for a reduction/consolidation of the management structure in the council to achieve efficiencies and suggestions that it should be the first step of the redesign of services (proposal 1a).
 - ▼ Support for a flatter structure that promotes quicker decision making and that it needs to be complemented by a review of internal business processes to reduce the level of administration required of managers.
 - ▼ Suggested that the council should utilise voluntary severance and early retirement to achieve management savings in the first instance.
 - ▼ Concern that the burden on remaining managers and other staff will increase with any reduction in the current management tiers.

Proposal 1c: Digital Transformation

Estimated saving: £502,000

50. Proposal: The council must continue to match provision with the way that customers access services, which increasingly requires investment in digital solutions to meet demand. The council will adopt technologies that will deliver automated processes and a reduction in staff costs and will also deliver multi-media customer services that will increase customer choice and accessibility. This would allow the council to continue to provide support whilst delivering a more efficient service at low cost.

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51. A total of 1,208 comments were received for this proposal.
52. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:
- ▼ There is support for digital services and processes though it was suggested that the council needs to increase investment in the right technologies and systems and developing staff knowledge and skills in order to optimise efficiencies in this area.
 - ▼ Concern that some older and vulnerable people and those from households with lower incomes may be disadvantaged or excluded by digital council services and a view that in-person and telephone contact needs to be maintained.
 - ▼ It was suggested by some respondents that digital or automated services have limitations and there must be escalation points that allow customers to speak with a “person”.
 - ▼ Some respondents feel that the council website needs improvement to support greater digitalisation and improved access to services and information.

Proposal 1d: Allocation of School Resources

Estimated saving: £5 million

53. **Proposal:** It is proposed that the model for determining devolved school resources is revised further to identify opportunities for more efficient service delivery. This may include utilising resources provided to deliver additional support in schools for core staffing requirements, greater use of technology to deliver the curriculum, and changes to administrative and pupil support staffing arrangements. The council proposes that changes made in the allocation of resources to schools, through a revised Devolved School Management funding model and through a review of provision by third party providers, will enable the council to continue service provision.
54. A total of 1,721 comments were received for this proposal.
55. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:
- ▼ A general view that schools need an increase in resources, funding and staffing to improve the quality of learning and teaching and raise attainment.
 - ▼ Concern that any reduction in support staff in schools would have an impact on pupils and attainment levels and that the use of technology for learners has to be carefully considered and managed by teachers.

- ▼ Concern that schools and pupils are already dealing with loss of learning from the pandemic and that this proposal may make that recovery more difficult and increase inequalities.
- ▼ Some suggestions that the Devolved School Management funding model – that is already in place for schools – helps create flexible learning and allows schools and Head Teachers to make the right choices for pupils, in terms of responding to varied and sometimes complex needs.

Proposal 1e: Realignment of free provision in schools to match Scottish Government commitments and funding, and maintain school clothing grants at current levels

Estimated saving: £890,000

56. Proposal: The council would propose to align free school meal, breakfast club and instrumental music provision with Scottish Government funding levels. The council would continue to deliver these vital services for our children and young people. The council would also maintain school clothing grants, which are above the amounts paid by many councils, at existing levels.
57. A total of 1,352 comments were received for this proposal.
58. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:
 - ▼ The Cost of Living Crisis was highlighted as an issue that will result in an increased number of families needing greater food and financial support and that the changes outlined in this proposal are inconsistent with the current economic climate and the challenges facing a greater number of households across West Lothian.
 - ▼ Some respondents are opposed to any reduction in services that impact children/young people.
 - ▼ Some respondents feel that the provision of free school meals and clothing grants is not targeted enough and needs to be re-considered to ensure that those who need it most benefit from these schemes.
 - ▼ Some concern that the proposed changes to instrumental music provision would put children from lower income families at a disadvantage.
 - ▼ It was suggested that the breakfast clubs were a vital support to working parents and carers and, when making changes to this provision, the council should consider how it supports employability.

Proposal 1f: Restructuring the School Day

Estimated saving: £2.4 million

59. **Proposal:** West Lothian has developed an agile learning culture and approach and delivered improved school attainment results and improved learning experiences for pupils. Teacher contact time is currently 22.5 hours per week and there is an opportunity to re-align the primary school day to match this time. This could provide continuity for children and offer the opportunity to provide alternative learning experiences for the remainder of the time. This would result in teacher/pupil contact time being reduced but with no change to the length of the overall school day. This proposal would also lead to a review of the secondary school week by reducing the school week by 50mins, but again with no change to the start time and end time of the school day, and would bring the secondary school week in line with other local authorities.
60. A total of 1,603 comments were received for this proposal.
61. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:
- ▶ Some respondents are opposed to any reduction to teaching staff, pupil support workers and other support staff in schools citing that it will impact on young people and learning outcomes. Additionally, that reduced teacher contact time will negatively impact pupils.
 - ▶ Some respondents feel that the 50 minutes reduction in teacher time proposed over a week is not significant and would not have a detrimental impact on pupils or learning and should be progressed.
 - ▶ Some respondents feel that the curriculum is already too full and that reduced contact time may impact on learning experiences.
 - ▶ Some respondents want more information on this proposal or would prefer to hold off on commenting until the results of the review of the school week and details of the changes are available to consider.
 - ▶ Again, some concerned that schools and pupils still recovering from the pandemic and this proposal may exacerbate some of issues and inequalities.

Proposal 1g: Review of Services for Children

Estimated saving: £1.2 million

62. **Proposal:** The proposal includes a review of all Social Policy children's services to achieve further efficiency by redesigning and aligning teams more closely to deliver more streamlined teams and reduced staffing. The service will maintain its focus on supporting children most at risk and providing earlier intervention services in line with statutory (legal) requirements.

There will also be a strengthening of the range of fostering options available locally to support children stay in West Lothian. This will support good outcomes and prevent children having to leave their home community of West Lothian to be cared for.

This proposal includes developing intensive foster care to support the most traumatised children, investing in increasing the existing group of fostering families and also increasing the numbers of foster carers able to care for children with a disability.

63. A total of 960 comments were received for this proposal.

64. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:

- ▶ Respondents have highlighted the vulnerability of the group in receipt of these services/supports and suggest that the council need to proceed in the development of this proposal with due consideration for their needs.
- ▶ Some respondents were seeking assurance about the quality of care that young people would receive following the changes.
- ▶ There was support for the proposal as respondents felt that keeping young people local, and in their own communities is in line with council and educational values.
- ▶ Concern that children who are at risk, but not the highest level of risk, may miss out on vital support as a result of this change.
- ▶ Suggested that there is benefit in greater integration and alignment of resources between the teams that provide services/support in this area.

Proposal 1h: Review of Commissioned Services

Estimated saving: £533,000

65. **Proposal:** This proposal includes a review of all commissioning arrangements with third parties in place for children's services ensuring that they are aligned with the services current priorities and taking account of all new developments and approaches in place. This review will lead to cost reductions and the delivery of commissioned services targeted at the highest areas of priority.
66. A total of 708 comments were received for this proposal.
67. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:
 - Some respondents feel that any reduction in funding for services for children with complex and additional needs will be a barrier to early intervention and will not save money in the long-term.
 - Some commented that this proposal will leave young people who require additional input from external agencies in a vulnerable position.
 - Some respondents welcome the review of commissioned services and suggest that there are opportunities to identify efficiencies and improve upon the current level of service provided with third parties.
 - There was some support to reduce the number of commissioned services and suggested better partnership working with other councils in its place.
 - It was suggested by some respondents that they required more information on the role of third parties and the commissioned services before they could comment.

Proposal 1i: Revised Facilities Management in Schools

Estimated saving: £1.1 million

68. **Proposal:** It is proposed that the facilities management service will be reviewed to seek better scheduling of activities and revised cover arrangements and opening hours in schools.
69. A total of 916 comments were received for this proposal.
70. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:

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- ▶ There is support for rationalising the council estate and opening hours of various buildings including schools to achieve efficiencies. The council is encouraged to maximise resources and ensure working arrangements are aligned with business/customer needs.
- ▶ Some respondents feel that opening hours of schools should be based on usage and operate on a cost recovery basis (for staffing and building heating costs, for example).
- ▶ Some respondents feel that schools are an under-utilised community resource and that the council should think about how schools can be used to promote health and wellbeing and increase access to facilities, such as swimming pools.
- ▶ Some respondents would like to ensure that community groups' access to schools and other buildings are maintained and remain affordable.
- ▶ Concern about the reduction in school facilities staff and their ability to appropriately provide cover, in accordance with building users' needs, across the opening hours of each facility.

Proposal 1j: Technical Financial Savings

Estimated saving: £1 million

71. Proposal: The council has strong financial planning and management arrangements in place and the effectiveness of those arrangements are recognised by our Audit and Regulators. The council intends to make efficiencies in the administration of our financial processes, with resources re-aligned to match the demand for support for customers and changes to processes such as Universal Credit.
72. A total of 578 comments were received for this proposal.
73. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:
 - ▶ Some respondents support any steps to streamline processes and increase efficiency through technology.
 - ▶ Support for efficiencies within administration and management before reducing frontline services for customers.
 - ▶ It was suggested that helping people with benefit enquires/processes is a very important part of council duties and good quality support to low income families need to remain, particularly due to the current economic circumstances.

- ▼ Some respondents support the proposals as they feel that there are opportunities to review some housing, benefits and other financial support processes and make them easier for customers to access/apply.
- ▼ Some respondents suggest that the council should review the procurement arrangements for services/schools and some other financial processes in order to achieve efficiencies.

Proposal 1k: Review Funding Models in Partnership with West Lothian Leisure

Estimated saving: £750,000

74. Proposal: Reflecting the council's reduced income, the core funding provided to West Lothian Leisure will be removed and it will become largely self-funded. The council would continue to engage and support West Lothian Leisure in reviewing its business model and service delivery for communities.
75. A total of 964 comments were received for this proposal.
76. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:
- ▼ A number of respondents feel that access to high quality leisure services is linked to the general health and wellbeing of local people and a reduction in funding may result in poorer health outcomes.
 - ▼ There was concern from respondents that the removal of council funding will result in facilities closing or membership prices increasing for customers, particularly disadvantaging those with lower income.
 - ▼ Some respondents feel that the council should not be providing funding to West Lothian Leisure and that it should be self-funded and take steps to make operations sustainable.
 - ▼ Some respondents feel that there are opportunities to review WLL and council functions and increase partnership working/shared services between the two organisations in the areas of culture and leisure, education and health.

Proposal 1I: General balance of savings to be identified

Estimated saving: £6.2 million

77. **Proposal:** Officer proposals amount to savings of £30.3 million for the three-year period 2023/24 to 2025/26 against a budget gap of £36.5 million over this period, resulting in a general balance of savings of £6.2 million that has still to be identified. Given that the majority of the council's budget is staffing costs, it is highly likely that the balance will be met by changes to service delivery and staffing levels across the council's workforce.
78. A total of 1,118 comments were received for this proposal.
79. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:
- ▶ General concern about the prospect of staff reduction in terms of its impact upon the individual employee affected, the cumulative impact on the local economy and the sustainability of council services following the reductions.
 - ▶ There is frustration from some respondents at what is perceived to be persistent and unrelenting funding cuts to the council budget and the long-term impact this has had on council services.
 - ▶ Some respondents believe that the core/statutory service provision should be exempted from the budget savings or at least, implemented only after other savings have been made.
 - ▶ Some respondents feel that there are opportunities for more efficient procurement of goods and services in the council.

2 Modernising Social Care

80. The IJB role is to set the strategic direction for functions delegated to it and deliver the priorities set out in its Strategic Plan (West Lothian IJB – Strategic Plan 2019-23). The functions of the IJB include: Primary Care, Adult Social Care, Mental Health Services, Learning Disability Services, Physical Disability Services, Community Health Services, Community Pharmacy Services, Health Improvement, Unscheduled Care for Adults, Housing Support/Aids and Adaptations. The IJB receives funding allocations from West Lothian Council and NHS Lothian to enable delivery of local priorities for health and social care for adults. The Board gives directions to the council and health board as to how they must carry out their business to secure delivery of the Strategic Plan.
81. Over the three-year period, from 2023/24 to 2025/26, it is expected the IJB will have to make substantial savings as funding available will be insufficient to meet the increasing cost of service delivery. The ongoing financial pressures and the increasing levels of demand mean that the IJB will need to change the way it delivers services. A range of officer proposals totalling £5.45 million over the next three years have been identified for relevant social care services and the IJB will consult with people in West Lothian to seek their views on these proposals and associated changes to service delivery.
82. Respondents were directed to the IJB consultation on this theme. The findings and recommendations from the IJB consultation on Modernising Social Care will be reported separately through the IJB governance and to the public and other stakeholders.

3 Community Empowerment and Partnership

83. **Through community empowerment the council is seeking to support people to working together with others in their community to increase control over their lives and the services they use. Measures totalling £3.8 million over the next three years have been identified which would enable the council to deliver more effective, flexible and affordable services.**
84. There were three proposals contained in this section of the consultation. A summary of the proposals and the emergent themes from the analysis of the 2,073 comments received is outlined.

Proposal 3a: Empowering Communities and Reducing the Number of Council Facilities

Estimated saving: £1.1 million

85. **Proposal:** Over the years the council has significantly reduced the number and cost of buildings and the council will continue to modernise and rationalise all properties across the estate.

As the number of buildings required to deliver council services reduces, community groups have the opportunity to request ownership of community centres and other council properties through the provisions of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. As the council has moved to the partnership model, there is an opportunity to consolidate the number of community centres and village halls. It is therefore proposed to rationalise the provision of council facilities and community centres across West Lothian and support community access through council or partner facilities within each community.

86. A total of 738 comments were received for this proposal.
87. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:
- Support from many respondents to sell or asset transfer assets, especially those that are under-utilised or those that are prohibitively costly to maintain or repair.
 - Some concern about the capacity of local groups and communities to manage these assets and that they council will need to provide some level of advice and/or support to ensure that communities are not disadvantaged.

- ▼ Suggested that groups need greater support from the council to undertake asset transfer and obtain alternative funding to maintain their asset.
- ▼ It was highlighted that this proposal may disproportionately negatively impact upon smaller and/or more isolated towns or villages in West Lothian, especially those that rely on community facilities as a hub for services, socialising and leisure activities.

Proposal 3b: Redesign of Early Learning and Childcare

Estimated saving: £2.3 million

88. **Proposal:** The council will make sure that all resources available for early learning and childcare are fully utilised to support high quality service delivery. The council will realign provision and staffing in nurseries to match parental choice for nursery placements, and deliver an option for parents/carers to purchase additional hours of early learning and childcare in council settings.
89. A total of 720 comments were received for this proposal.
90. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:
 - ▼ There was broad support from parents/carers for the proposal that would allow them to purchase additional hours of early learning and childcare.
 - ▼ Some concern that lower income families may be excluded from accessing further hours/support due to cost.
 - ▼ It was suggested that greater flexibility is required from Early Learning and Childcare to support working parents/carers.
 - ▼ Some respondents request more information on the proposals as they are unclear how the saving can be achieved in line with the national requirements and the expansion of provision.
 - ▼ Some differing views on the use of private providers, some respondents prefer this option and feel it is more flexible to their needs, while others feel there are better standards in council establishments.

Proposal 3c: Service Re-structure of Youth Services

Estimated saving: £500,000

91. **Proposal:** A review of youth services has shown that the service makes its greatest impact through More Choices, More Chances (MCMC) – a programme that aims to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training. The focus will be on MCMC, with other initiatives and work supported through closer working between schools and community learning partners.
92. A total of 615 comments were received for this proposal.
93. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:
 - ▶ Some respondents support this proposal and the focus on MCMC to improve outcomes for young people.
 - ▶ Some respondents believe that Youth Services are important to young people and the wider community as they offer young people a safe place to increase social interaction and reduce antisocial behaviour and crime in towns and villages.
 - ▶ Some respondents feel that there are opportunities to sustain some youth provision via volunteers and involvement with local businesses and that the council could do more partnership work with third sector and community organisations in this field.

4 Environment, Climate Change and Reducing Energy Use

94. Measures totalling £4.8 million over the next three years have been identified that would change the services we provide to improve the local environment and infrastructure, and ensure that the council continues to have efficient and effectively managed assets to support service delivery. This will include new standards and delivery models that will ensure we continue to protect the built and natural environment in West Lothian more effectively.
95. There were seven proposals contained in this section of the consultation. A summary of the proposals and the emergent themes from the analysis of the 5,094 comments received is outlined.

Proposal 4a: Revised Service Standards and Delivery Models – Waste Services

Estimated saving: £336,000

96. **Proposal:** There is a requirement to review service provision at the Community Recycling Centres to make sure that the service is delivered in an effective and efficient way whilst meeting council priorities.
97. A total of 827 comments were received for this proposal.
98. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:
- ▶ Many respondents highlight the importance of effective and accessible recycling and waste collections services to the community and are not supportive of any reduction in service.
 - ▶ Some respondents feel that there are opportunities to increase the efficiency of the recycling services and in some suggest the introduction of a small charge for visiting the Community Recycling Centre.
 - ▶ Some respondents feel that any reduction in recycling and waste services will have a detrimental impact on recycling rates and could lead to increased levels of fly tipping.
 - ▶ Some comments are focused on the importance of maintaining appropriate opening hours at the Community Recycling Centres for residents.

- Some respondents do not feel that the introduction of the green bin was necessary. Whilst conversely, some would like to see a glass collection added to the service.

Proposal 4b: Reprioritised Passenger Transport Strategy

Estimated saving: £2.2 million

99. **Proposal:** The council currently subsidises around 20% of bus routes as well as providing a number of other services, such as school transport and concessionary transport schemes.

Many of the subsidised services are underutilised, and a public transport review is proposed to focus on connecting communities and businesses in a way that is affordable and effective. This will include ceasing some services and exploring alternative transport models. An updated transport strategy would focus on use of concessionary bus, Handicabs and Dial-a-Ride schemes, and removal of all subsidies for bus routes that are not commercially viable. The council would also propose to remove concessionary rail schemes which are in addition to existing national schemes.

100. A total of 862 comments were received for this proposal.

101. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:

- Some respondents feel that the bus services are already infrequent and unreliable and that this proposal will exacerbate this problem for communities.
- Some respondents feel that it is a sensible approach to align resources with demand and do not want public monies to be used to maintain bus services with low usage or routes that are commercially unviable.
- Some respondents are concerned about the environmental impact of under subscribed bus services. Whereas some respondents feel that reducing bus subsidies will increase private car usage and have a negative environmental impact.
- Some respondents suggest the removal of the rail concession scheme for older people as it will encourage use of bus passes and improve the viability of the bus routes and also, reduce expenditure on non-statutory services.
- Some respondents suggest that the removal of the rail concession for older people will have a detrimental impact on their independence and wellbeing.

Proposal 4c: Reprioritised School Transport Strategy

Estimated saving: £1.4 million

102. **Proposal:** The council currently provides school transport to pupils who live less than the statutory (legal) distance of 2 miles for Primary School pupils and 3 miles for Secondary School pupils. An updated school transport strategy would apply the statutory (legal) minimum limits for school transport and the use of the Young Persons national entitlement scheme for free travel on commercial bus routes.

103. A total of 830 comments were received for this proposal.

104. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:

- ▼ Some feel that alignment with the statutory limit is fair and equitable.
- ▼ Some respondents support this proposal as aligns with the active travel aims and also that young people have access to free transport using their bus pass.
- ▼ Some respondents feel that the unreliability of commercial bus routes may mean that pupils do not attend school on time.
- ▼ Some respondents feel that this proposal will result in an unfair financial burden with parents required to transport their children in place of the bus.
- ▼ Some respondents feel that the council needs to take into consideration the income levels of any families who no longer meet the threshold for school transport.
- ▼ Some respondents feel that this proposal would need to be accompanied by a review of the pedestrian routes to schools and lighting to ensure that walking or cycling is safe for pupils and parents/carers.

Proposal 4d: Revised Country Parks Service

Estimated saving: £95,000

105. **Proposal:** It is proposed that animal attraction at Beecraigs Country Park is closed, with the animals being relocated to alternative animal attraction venue(s) out with council operations. This attraction currently operates at a net loss and closure is expected to have minimal impact on future visitor numbers.

106. A total of 743 comments were received for this proposal.

107. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:

- ▼ Some respondents suggest that this will have a detrimental impact on visitor numbers at Beecraigs and will negatively impact on visitors' experience, in particular for children.
- ▼ Some respondents are concerned about the welfare of the animals and would like assurances as to how they will re-homed.
- ▼ Some respondents feel that the animal attraction has not been effectively marketed and there are opportunities to increase visitor numbers and perhaps, introduce a modest charge.

Proposal 4e: Revised Service Standards and Delivery Models – Roads and Transport

Estimated saving: £246,000

108. **Proposal:** There is a requirement to review service provision and standards to make sure that the service is delivered in an effective and efficient way whilst meeting council priorities. Service delivery, including winter maintenance, will be changed to focus on statutory (legal) requirements with an updated approach to asset management. This will mean some services, such as festive lighting, will no longer be provided by the council.

109. A total of 794 comments were received for this proposal.

110. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:

- ▼ Some respondents support the proposal to cease festive lighting (and gala day flags) as they do not feel it is a priority for the council and maybe could be provided by local businesses or community groups.
- ▼ Some respondents feel that the removal of festive lighting will negatively impact community and festive spirit in West Lothian.
- ▼ Concern is raised about any reduction to Winter Maintenance and the impact that this may have on public safety.
- ▼ Suggested by some respondents that road condition has declined and needs to be an area for improvement/increased investment by the council.

Proposal 4f: Efficiencies from Improved Use and Management of Council Properties

Estimated saving: £279,000

111. **Proposal:** The council has a ten-year programme for investing in its assets to support service delivery. This approach reduces the need for reactive maintenance work, improving how the council invests in property assets.

112. A total of 470 comments were received for this proposal.

113. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:

- ▀ There is a good level of support for this proposal with many respondents feeling it is a sensible step.
- ▀ Some respondents feel that there have been insufficient repairs and works in specific council buildings and that this an area for improvement.
- ▀ Some respondents encourage the council to take a more pro-active approach to maintenance of buildings.

Proposal 4g: Reducing Carbon Emissions and Improving Efficiency

Estimated saving: £245,000

114. **Proposal:** Following the success of previous energy efficiency initiatives, the council will continue to reduce energy consumption and related costs through new energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

115. A total of 568 comments were received for this proposal.

116. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:

- ▀ Some respondents feel that there are opportunities to increase council progress in respect to reducing carbon emissions and a faster and wider introduction of renewable technologies and insulation across the estate.
- ▀ It is suggested by some respondents that some council buildings could use less heating and lighting and feel that there is some inefficiency in this area.
- ▀ Some respondents feel that the hybrid/flexible home working model should be extended to increase energy efficiency savings and reduce other council building costs.

5 Reviewing Income, Concessions and Other Contributions

117. **The council has one of the lowest levels of income through sales, fees and charges per head of population in Scotland. The council established an approach to income and concessions in 2015 where all discretionary charges are benchmarked with Scottish averages or other local providers. Measures totalling £1.1 million over the next three years have been identified, which would raise additional income.**

118. **Proposal:** It is proposed that all opportunities for discretionary charging will be reviewed and benchmarked in addition to a standard indexation increase being applied in line with existing practice. Areas where the council could investigate opportunities for additional sources of income include:

- Introduction of charges for household garden waste collections
- Review of fees for planning advisory services and to maximise developer contributions
- Lease facilities to a commercial operator, social enterprise or franchise
- Review of rents and fees for the council's commercial properties

119. A total of 1,055 comments were received for this proposal.

120. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:

- Some respondents do not support the introduction of charges for brown bin uplift as they feel it is covered by Council Tax and may lead to increased levels of fly tipping or impact on recycling rates.
- The review of fees and charges for services was encouraged by some respondents but the council is encouraged to consider the economic conditions when setting charges and income targets.
- Some respondents agree with the review of commercial rents but feel that the levels should not become unaffordable for businesses.
- Some respondents feel that the council could increase contributions from developers to benefit the wider community.

Consultation – Council Tax

6 Have your say on Council Tax

121. **Proposal:** The majority of funding for council services (81%) comes from Scottish Government grant. In addition, 19% of total funding needed to deliver essential services to our local communities is from council tax. The council is required by law to agree council tax levels in advance of each financial year. Council tax levels for the next five years have not yet been agreed by West Lothian Council, however the council is basing its long-term financial planning on the assumption that council tax will increase by at least 3.5% for all properties each year between 2023/24 and 2027/28. For a band D property, a 3.5% increase would represent an annual increase in 2023/24 of £46 (or 88p per week).
122. West Lothian Council has the tenth lowest council tax level in Scotland and the current band D rate is £32 lower than the average rate across all Scottish councils and over £650 lower than the average rate across councils in England. Although council tax is applied to all houses, not all households are eligible to pay council tax.
123. Various council tax reductions, exemptions and discounts are available to reduce the tax burden for the most vulnerable in society and to protect low income households. Most properties in West Lothian (75%) are in the lowest council tax bands of A to D.
124. Increases in council tax would help reduce the amount of cuts necessary and increase the amount of funding the council has to spend on local services. The council has budgeted to raise £93.249 million from council tax in the current year (2022/23) and a 1% increase in council tax in 2023/24 would only raise an additional £934,000. If council tax is not increased by 3.5% each year, the council's projected budget gap would increase by a further £17.9 million, requiring additional cuts to services. The council is keen for you to comment on how council tax can be used to support local services.
- **The council's future budget estimates assume increases in council tax of at least 3.5% each year. If council tax was not increased by 3.5% per annum over 2023/24 to 2027/28 this would increase the budget gap by £17.9 million. If you don't support the annual increase how would you find the additional income to bridge the increased budget gap?**
 - **Would you support an increase of more than 3.5% if all funding raised above this was spent on key identified priorities, such as schools and social care?**

125. There were 1,175 comments received relating to the questions in this section of the consultation.

126. The main themes emerging from responses to the proposal include:

- ▶ Some respondents support an increase to Council Tax above 3.5% across the board in order to protect the delivery of local services.
- ▶ Some respondents support a greater increase to Council Tax for those in higher bands, with those in lower bands receiving a more modest increase.
- ▶ Some respondents do not support any increase to Council Tax due to the proposed reduction in service delivery and/or the impact of the Cost of Living crisis on households.
- ▶ Some respondents feel that an increase in Council Tax above 3.5% will not be affordable for some households.
- ▶ Some respondents support an increase to Council Tax above 3.5% if that funding is directed to Education and Social Care.
- ▶ Some respondents feel that the Council Tax and bandings are no longer fit for purpose and should be replaced (this is the responsibility of the Scottish Government).

Next Steps

127. The council will continue to analyse the detailed comments provided in the consultation and use this information to shape the Budget Strategy 2023/24 to 2025/26 for the council, due to be considered and approved in February 2023.
128. The comments provided through this consultation will be used as a valuable source of information for council officers and elected members in the next few years. More immediately, we will:
- Use the comments to shape and develop the budget savings proposals, taking into consideration the views that have been expressed;
 - Analyse and assess the feasibility of any suggested efficiencies or service changes that have been proposed through the consultation;
 - Use any feedback on the consultation approach to inform future engagements and consultations, including the planned Phase 3 – August - October 2023;
129. The council will also share the feedback and suggestions that relate to other organisations with the appropriate partners, for example, NHS Lothian and Police Scotland.

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

REINFORCED AUTOCLAVED AERATED CONCRETE ROOFS UPDATE

REPORT BY HEAD OF FINANCE AND PROPERTY SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide a further update to Council Executive on the properties within the council's estate that have roofs planks constructed using Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC).

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council Executive:

1. Notes the update to the nine properties identified as having roofs constructed using Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) roof planks;
2. Notes that funding is in place to replace the RAAC roofs at The Lanthorn Centre, Whitburn Partnership Centre, Balbardie Primary School and the Fauldhouse Partnership Centre;
3. Notes the ongoing detailed inspections being carried out at Windyknowe Primary School, St Kentigern's Academy and Knightsridge Primary School and that updates will be presented to Council Executive on the position at each site once these inspections are complete;
4. Notes the continued comprehensive management and regular inspection arrangements in place for properties which have been identified independently as not at risk of immediate failure; and
5. Notes that the Head of Finance and Property Services has delegated authority to undertake urgent or emergency works to stabilise RAAC roofs should issues arise.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources.
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Risk assessments have been undertaken for properties where RAAC roofs may be present and where RAAC has been identified action has been taken to reduce or mitigate these risks.

III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	The Head of Finance and Property Services has delegated authority to undertake urgent or emergency works to stabilise RAAC roofs should issues arise.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Ensuring property assets are safe (compliance), are in satisfactory condition and available for use (utilisation) are performance measures that will updated accordingly.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	<p>The General Services Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2027/28 contains budget provision for works at Whitburn Community Education Centre, The Lanthorn Community Centre and Balbardie Primary School.</p> <p>In addition, a budget of £720,000 was approved at Council Executive on 21 June 2022 for the Fauldhouse Partnership Centre. The cost is funded from one off resources arising from a change in accounting rules relating to service concessions/PPP contracts.</p>
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None.
VIII	Other consultations	Consultations and engagement with Education Services, management committees and other services impacted by the presence of RAAC roofs has been undertaken and will continue.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated (RAAC) Roofs

As reported to Council Executive on 22 June 2021 and 21 June 2022, Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC), often referred to as Siporex, is a lightweight construction material that was commonly used in construction between the 1960s and 1980s. Although, the use of RAAC for construction of new buildings was discontinued in the late 1980s, it is still found in many buildings across the United Kingdom.

In 2019, guidance issued identified the disadvantages outlined with RAAC roofs and set out the risk of potential immediate structural failure in certain circumstances. The guidance further confirmed that roof decks constructed using RAAC planks will have reached the end of their theoretical lifespan and that robust management arrangements are required to regularly inspect for deterioration, particularly around plank supports.

A further guidance note was provided by the Institute of Structural Engineers in February 2022, confirming the inspection regime and protocol that Engineers must follow. The council have implemented a regime for the council's RAAC properties in accordance with the guidance.

Following on from the reports in June 2021 and June 2022, this report provides a further update on the status of the properties that have RAAC roofs and outlines the ongoing approach that officers are taking.

D.2 Properties Identified with RAAC Roofs

As previously reported, the properties where RAAC roofs were identified are as follows:

1. Whitburn Community Education Centre, Whitburn;
2. The Lanthorn Centre, Livingston;
3. Balbardie Primary School, Bathgate;
4. Fauldhouse Partnership Centre, Fauldhouse;
5. Riverside Primary School, Livingston;
6. Windyknowe Primary School;
7. St Kentigern's Academy, Blackburn;
8. Knightsridge Primary School, Livingston; and
9. Stoneyburn Community Centre, Stoneyburn

D.3 RAAC Properties – Remediation / Stabilisation

Properties where RAAC roofs were previously identified and have been subject to remediation works or stabilisation works are as follows:

Property	Remediation / Stabilisation Works
Whitburn Community Centre, Whitburn	Replacement roof works under construction, due for completion early Spring 2023.
Lanthorn Community Centre, Livingston	Replacement roof works under construction, due for completion in late 2023.
Balbardie Primary School, Bathgate	Stabilisation works undertaken in Summer 2021 with the replacement of the roof due to commence in Summer 2023. Following a recent inspection, it was identified that further deterioration had occurred to the planks in the classrooms and the main corridor. It was therefore advised by the structural engineer to decant these spaces due to health and safety aspects on 13 December 2022. The staff and pupils were relocated within the school building with immediate effect.
Fauldhouse Partnership Centre	Replacement roof works currently in the design stage; anticipated site start date in early Spring 2023 and completion of the construction phase in Summer 2023.
Riverside Primary School, Livingston	Stabilisation works undertaken, ongoing monitoring continuing with a recent inspection in November 2022 identifying the need for further stabilisation works to a small section of the dining area. A bid was submitted to the Scottish Government's Phase 3 Learning Estate Investment Programme on 31 October 2022. This is currently being considered with successful projects due for announcement by the end of December 2022.

D.4 Ongoing RAAC Detailed Inspections and Monitoring Requirements

During recent planned inspections in accordance with the guidance at Windyknowe Primary School, St Kentigern's Academy and Knightsridge Primary School, it was identified that deterioration had occurred in the condition of the RAAC panels in some areas. Therefore, immediate action had to be put in place by officers which resulted in the closure of either certain spaces or in the case of Knightsridge Primary School, the full school. This was to ensure the health and safety of the staff and pupils which is the utmost priority.

The next steps consist of a detailed inspection analysis undertaken by independent structural engineers for these properties. These consist of moisture and deflection readings for each plank at Windyknowe Primary School and St Kentigern's Academy, with opening up works required at Knightsridge Primary School. This will inform officers in determining the most feasible options and solutions available.

Properties where ongoing detailed inspections and continued monitoring are progressing is as follows:

Property	Proposed Management Arrangements
Windyknowe Primary School, Bathgate	Following a visual structural engineer inspection on 18 November 2022, deterioration in the condition of the RAAC planks in the nursery toilets and an Accessible WC on the first floor of the school were noted and recommended to be closed for use until further stabilisation works can be completed. A contractor will shortly commence the timber propping works to enable safe occupation to return to these areas. A fully detailed plank by plank inspection by the structural engineer is also planned and anticipated to be complete by April 2023. Due to the main nursery toilets needing to be closed, the nursery has had to decant on a temporary basis to Bathgate Early Years Centre. The stabilisation works are anticipated to be complete by the third week in December 2022 and therefore the nursery is expected to return to Windyknowe in early January 2023. It should be noted that only the nursery and a small section on the 1 st floor of the school has RAAC panels present.
St Kentigern's Academy, Blackburn	Detailed inspections are ongoing across the full extent of the roof planks following closure of the dining, kitchen and a CDT classroom due to signs of recent water ingress and visible deterioration in these areas. The existing assembly hall is being used for temporary dining and a temporary production kitchen is in place in the playground area. This is a complex programme with around 4,300m ² of planks to inspect and many areas being occupied during school hours. Asbestos surveys and the structural engineer inspections are phased to enable the most efficient timescales in completing this activity as possible. Upon completion of the inspections, an options appraisal will be prepared by officers. This is expected to be in place by the end of March 2023.

Property	Proposed Management Arrangements
Knightsridge Primary School, Livingston	Following a visual structural engineer inspection on 11 November 2022, advice received immediately was to close the full school due to deterioration in the RAAC planks that are installed across the full school. This mainly consisted of significant cracking to the planks in a short space of time and signs of water ingress in part of the school. P1 to P4 pupils are temporarily decanted to Deans Primary School, with P5 to P7 pupils temporarily relocated to Deans Community High School. A contractor has been appointed to assist with opening up works to enable options to be developed for consideration and a remedial strategy to be determined. This is anticipated to be available by the end of March 2023.
Stoneyburn Community Centre, Stoneyburn	Continued six monthly engineers' inspections to remain in place with additional inspections from Maintenance Inspectors. Most recent engineer inspection in November 2022 did not identify any further deterioration so the recommendation was to continue the routine inspections.

In circumstances where issues may arise, the Head of Finance and Property Services has delegated authority to undertake immediate, urgent or emergency works to stabilise the RAAC roofs.

E. CONCLUSION

The council continues to implement a comprehensive approach in relation to RAAC within their properties. This report identifies that the condition of these roofs can change and emphasises the need for the continued close monitoring in accordance with the guidance.

Stabilisation, remedial or replacement roof works are being progressed where applicable with further detailed inspections ongoing at Windyknowe Primary School, St Kentigern's Academy and Knightsridge Primary School. Upon completion of these detailed inspections, officers will prepare options that will be reported to Council Executive for consideration.

Officers will ensure the council is fully compliant with relevant guidance and will prioritise the health and safety of building users at all times.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete Roofs - Report to Council Executive 22 June 2021

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete Roofs – Report to Council Executive 21 June 2022

Appendices/Attachments:

None

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Donald Forrest, Head of Finance and Property Services

Date of meeting: 20 December 2022

DATA LABEL: OFFICIAL - PUBLIC

**COUNCIL EXECUTIVE****BUS PARTNERSHIP FUND UPDATE****REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES****A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council Executive with an update on the progress of the Bus Partnership Fund Project.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council Executive;

1. Note the outcome of the passenger engagement survey;
2. Note the key dates and timescales for the remainder of the project.
3. Note that the final project submission will be reported to Council Executive in March 2023.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The Bus Partnership Fund will complement the powers in the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	The council has a target PI for Public Transport of having 90% of residents with access to an hourly or better daytime service Monday to Saturday. It is possible that changes in the

		commercial and subsidised network could impact this PI.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	The local bus network contributes to a number of outcomes by connecting communities with services and employment.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The West Lothian Bus Alliance has been awarded £225,750 from Transport Scotland's Bus Partnership Fund to complete a strategic business case and outline business case appraisal.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None.
VIII	Other consultations	Corporate Procurement Unit, Financial Management Unit.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

At its meeting on 26 October 2021, Council Executive considered a report on the Scottish Government's Bus Partnership Fund and officers provided an update on the local application compiled by the West Lothian Bus Alliance (WLBA) for 20 local bus priority interventions across corridors in West Lothian. Council Executive ratified the application and confirmed the bid for £761,250 for completion of strategic business case and outline business case appraisal stages.

The application was successful and the West Lothian Bus Alliance was awarded £225,725 by Transport Scotland to progress a Strategic Business Case for 15 locations. An update report outlining the locations and project timeline was reported to Council Executive on 19 April 2022.

This report provides an update the progress of the project and also summarises the results of a recent passenger engagement survey.

D.2 Passenger Engagement Survey

As part of the detailed appraisal, there is a requirement to complete passenger engagement in relation to bus services and the application of bus priority measures for consideration and inclusion in the final report to Transport Scotland.

The passenger engagement seeks public opinion at key points in the appraisal, initially with a passenger survey and latterly with more targeted engagement on the intervention options considered. This may include attendance at relevant Community Councils and stakeholder workshops to explore any barriers to utilising transport and the impact of bus priority measures.

The WLBA Passenger Survey went live on 31 October and was published on the Alliance Website alongside a mapping tool where stakeholders could select and submit a pinpoint where passengers experience delays on the network.

Drop in events were also held on Friday 18 November at both Bathgate Partnership Centre and Livingston Bus Terminal where passengers could complete the survey and provide comments.

There were 17 questions within the survey which sought to understand why and how people in West Lothian use public transport and also what is preventing those that do not. Additionally, the survey aimed to identify what improvements could be made to the overall experience of using buses in West Lothian and passengers' views on the aims of the study.

Appendix 1 provides a summary of the results of the survey. The survey was completed by 319 people, mainly existing bus passengers. The main concerns raised by passengers were relating to reliability and frequency of services. The results of the survey are being considered by the Alliance in the next stages of the STAG appraisal. Additionally, further discussions will take place with the commercial operators represented in the Alliance to understand the ongoing operational improvement actions required.

D.3 Progression of Strategic Business Case Appraisal

The first stage of the appraisal, 'Case for Change', is almost complete; it is expected that this will be submitted to Transport Scotland by mid December 2022. The second stage of the appraisal assesses 'Preliminary Options'. This is a qualitative assessment of the options meaning that all of the options are assessed independently, leading to a more detailed short-list being taken forward. The final stage of the study, the 'Detailed Appraisal' then assesses the options quantitatively, in greater detail, to include an assessment of costs, risk and uncertainty.

The key project dates have been updated to reflect the expected timescales for completion:

Task	Date
Case for Change	December 2022
Preliminary Appraisal	End of December 2022
Detailed Appraisal	February 2023
Report to PDSP and Council Executive	January 2023 – March 2023
Final Engagement and Clarification with Transport Scotland	April 2023
Project Completion	April 2023

D.4 Consideration at PDSP

Due to the timetabling of meetings it was not possible to consider this report at PDSP.

E. CONCLUSION

The West Lothian Bus Alliance has been awarded £225,750 by Transport Scotland following the application to the Bus Partnership Fund in October 2021. A passenger engagement survey was published during November 2022, the results of which will assist in the consideration of options within the Strategic Business Appraisal. The next stages of the project are on ongoing and expected to be complete within 2022/23. A report will be brought back to Council Executive in March 2023 to seek approval for the final project submission.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Bus Partnership Fund – Report by Head of Operational Services to Council Executive on 8 June 2021

Bus Partnership Fund Update – Report by Head of Operational Services to Council Executive on 26 October 2021

Bus Partnership Fund Update – Report by Head of Operational Services to Council Executive on 19 April 2022

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1 – Passenger Engagement Survey Results

Contact Person: Nicola Gill, Passenger Transport Manager, Tel: 01506 282317

Email: nicola.gill@westlothian.gov.uk

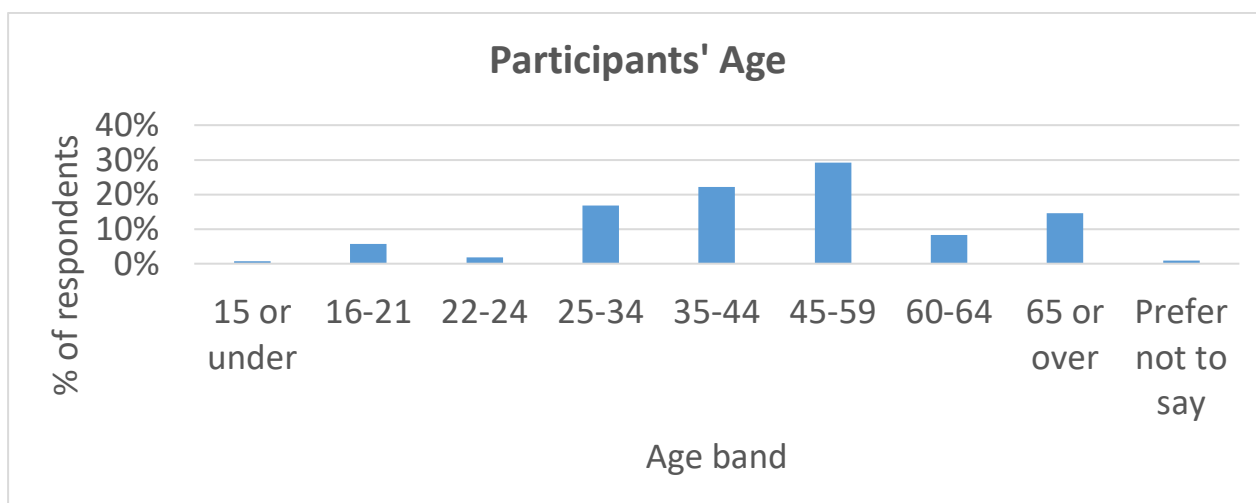
Jim Jack

Head of Operational Services

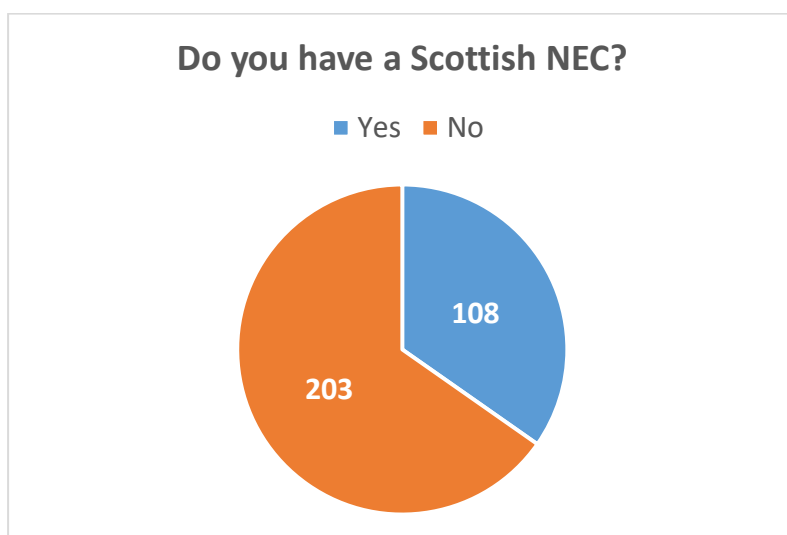
20 December 2022

Appendix 1 – Passenger Engagement Survey Results

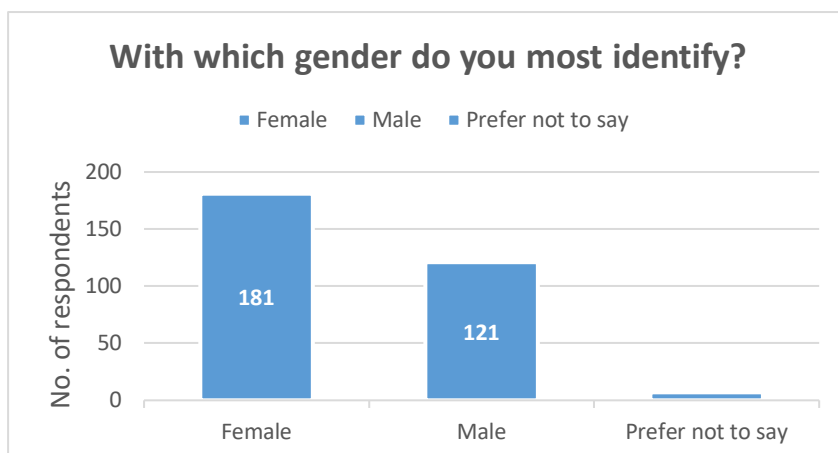
Q3. Which of the following age groups do you fall under?



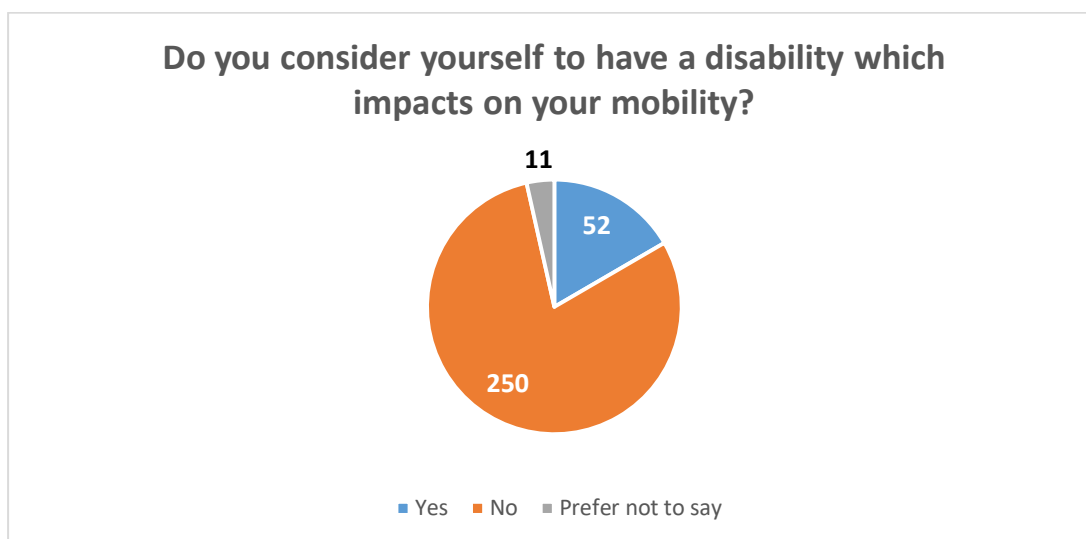
Q5. Do you have a Scottish NEC?



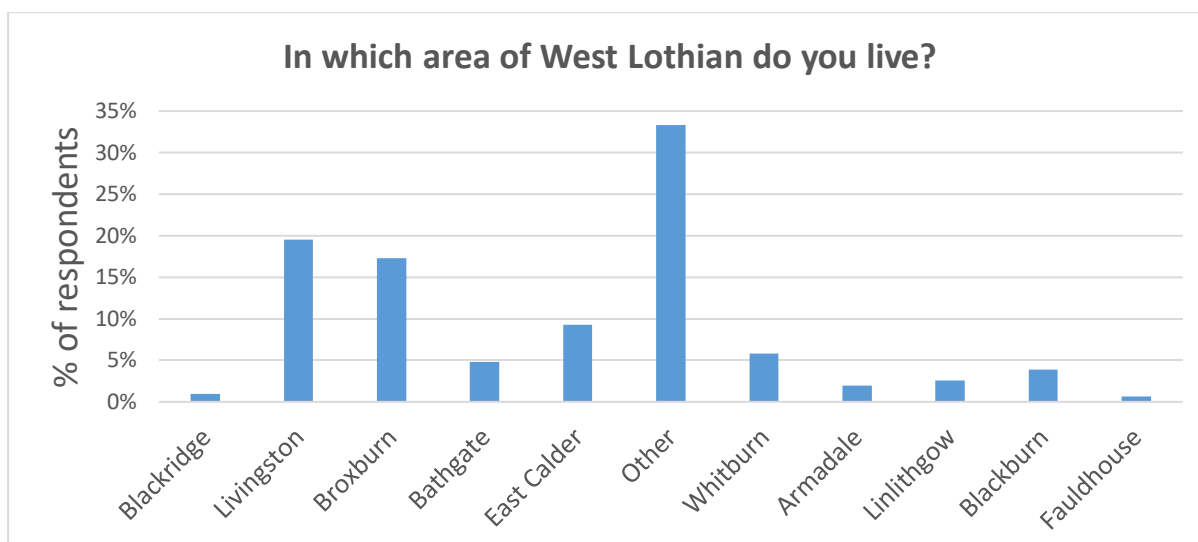
Q6. With which gender do you most identify?



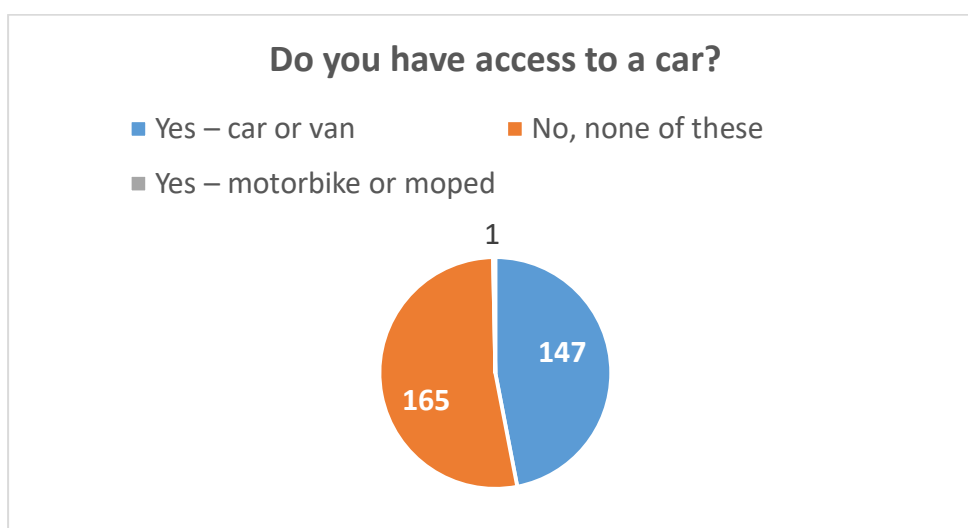
Q7. Do you consider yourself to have a disability which impacts on your mobility?



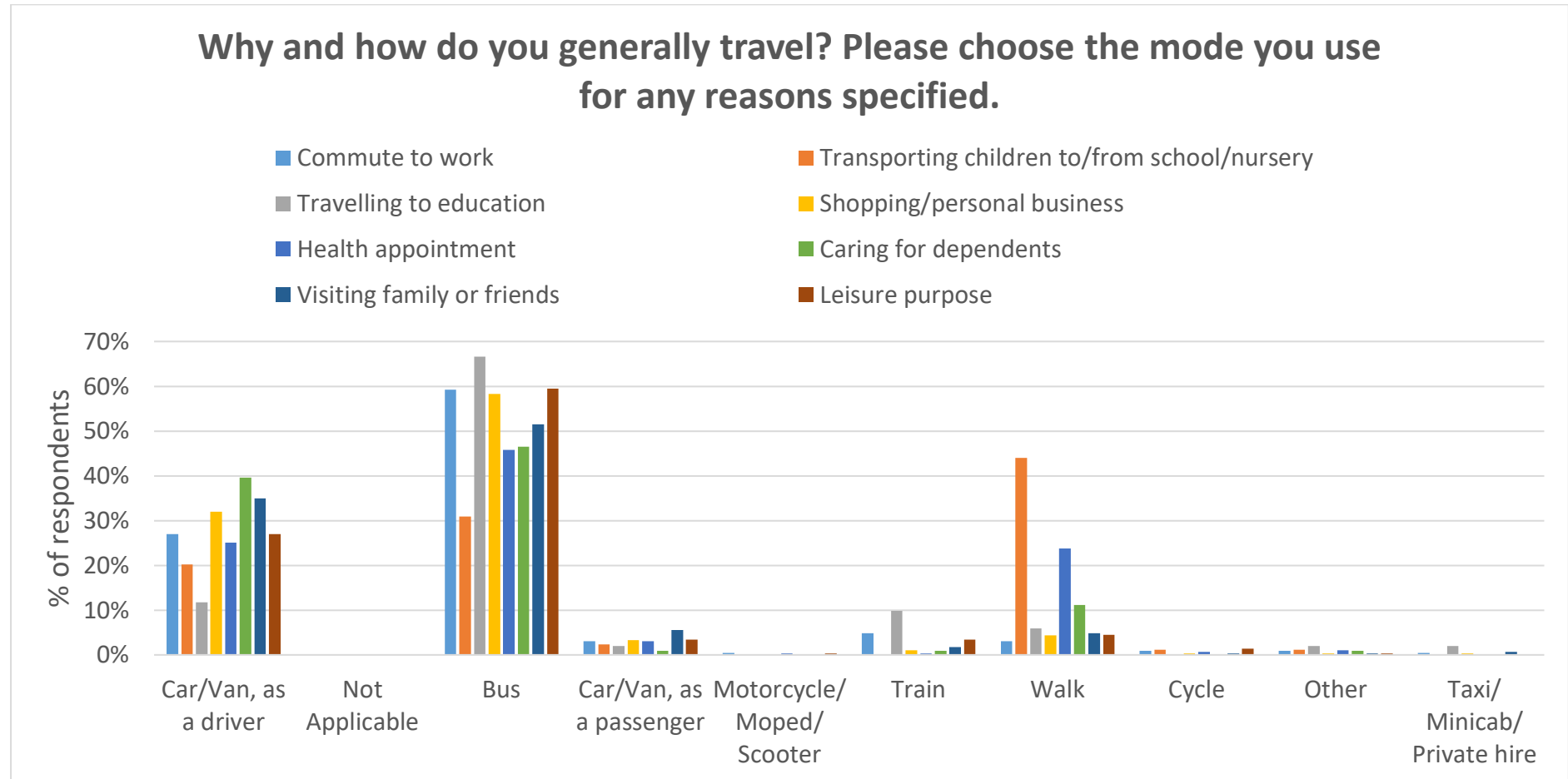
Q8. In which area of West Lothian do you live?



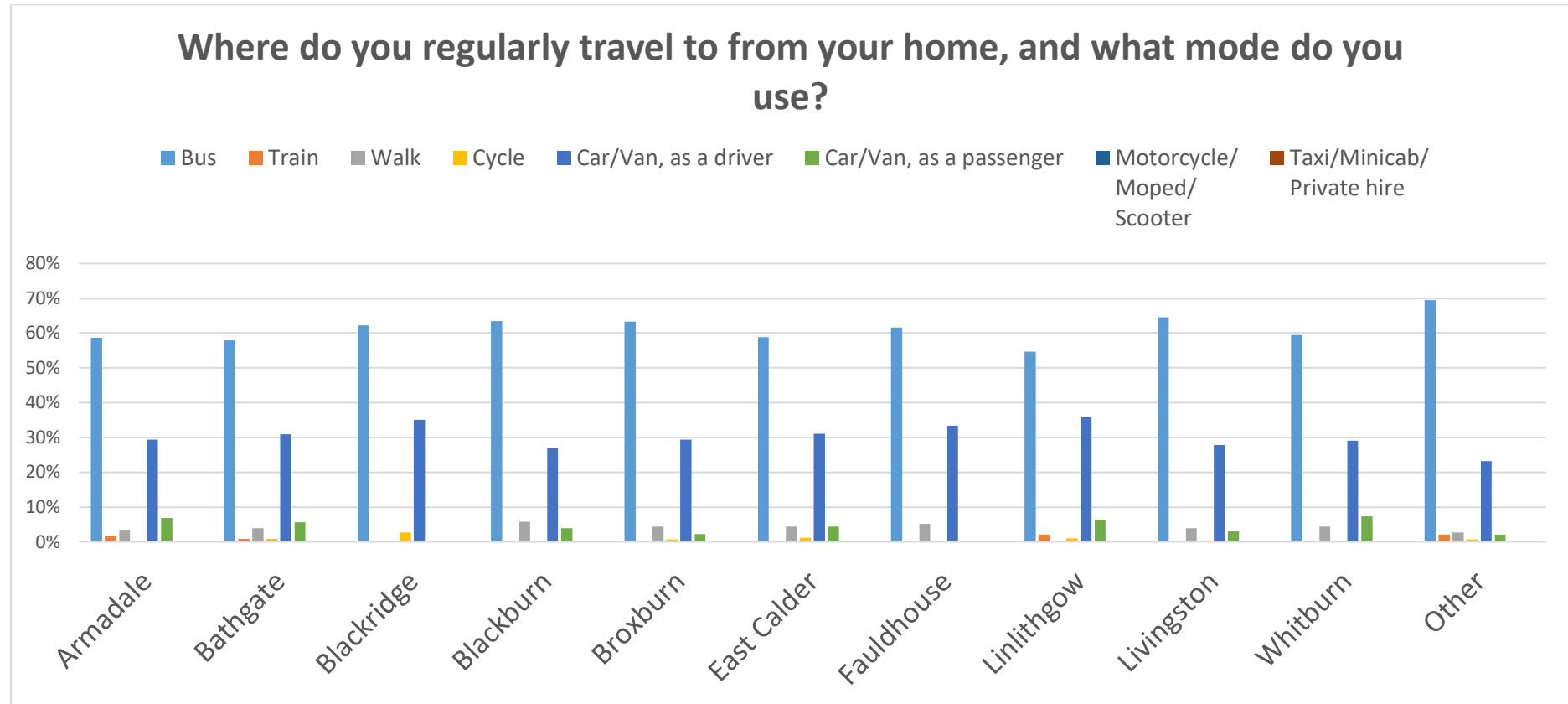
Q9. Do you have access to a car?



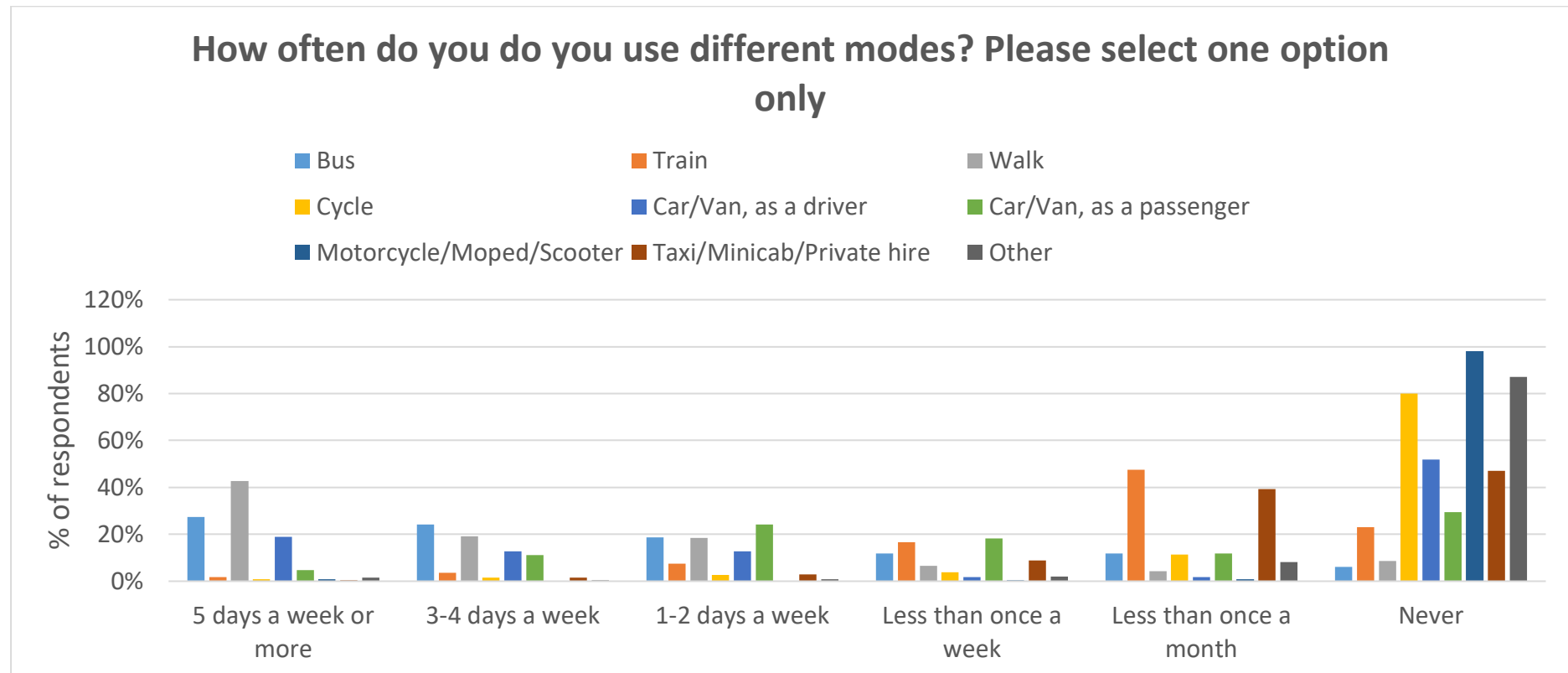
Q10. Thinking about the journeys you undertake in and around West Lothian, why and how do you generally travel?



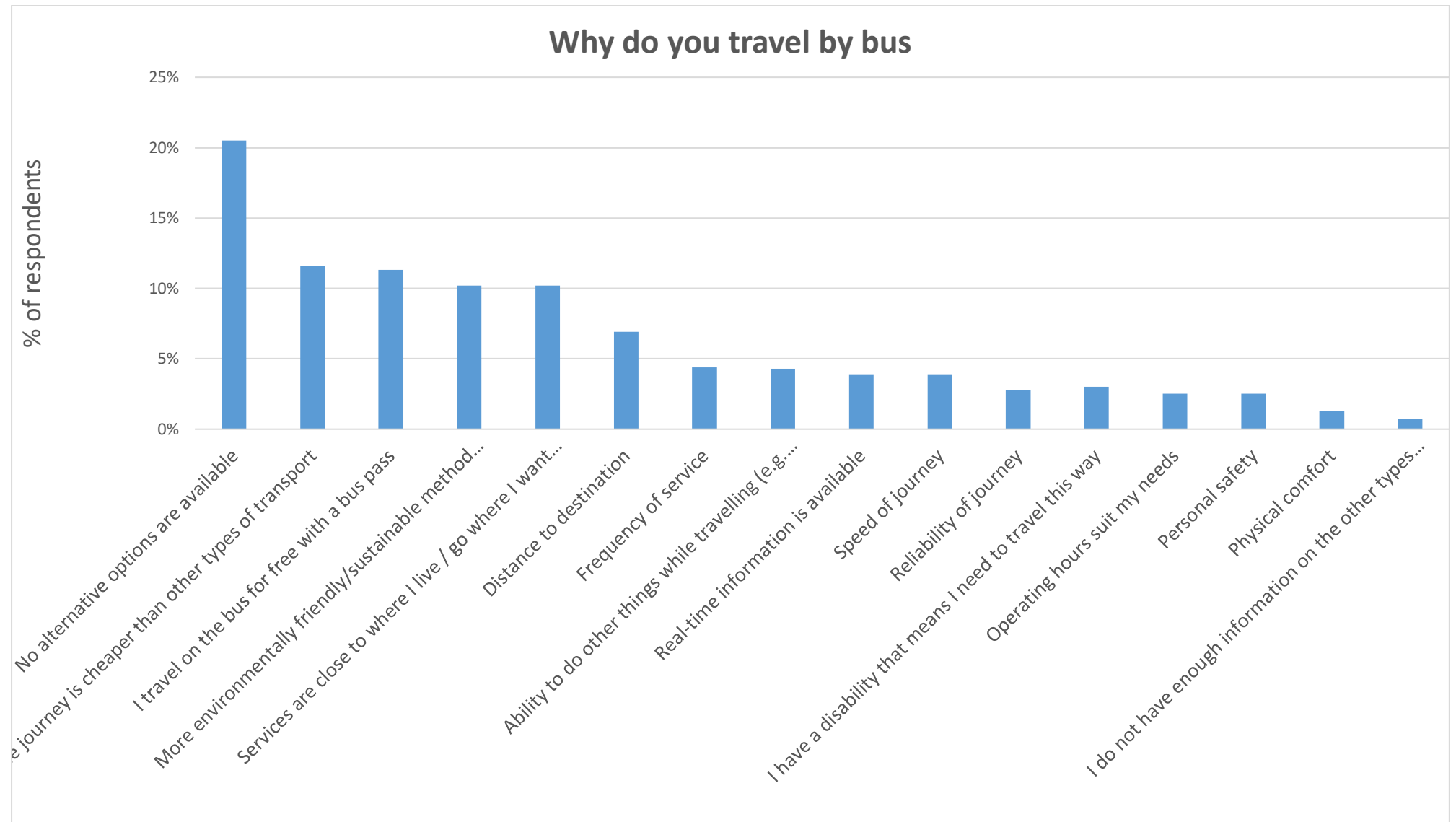
Q11. Where do you regularly travel to from your home, and what mode do you use?



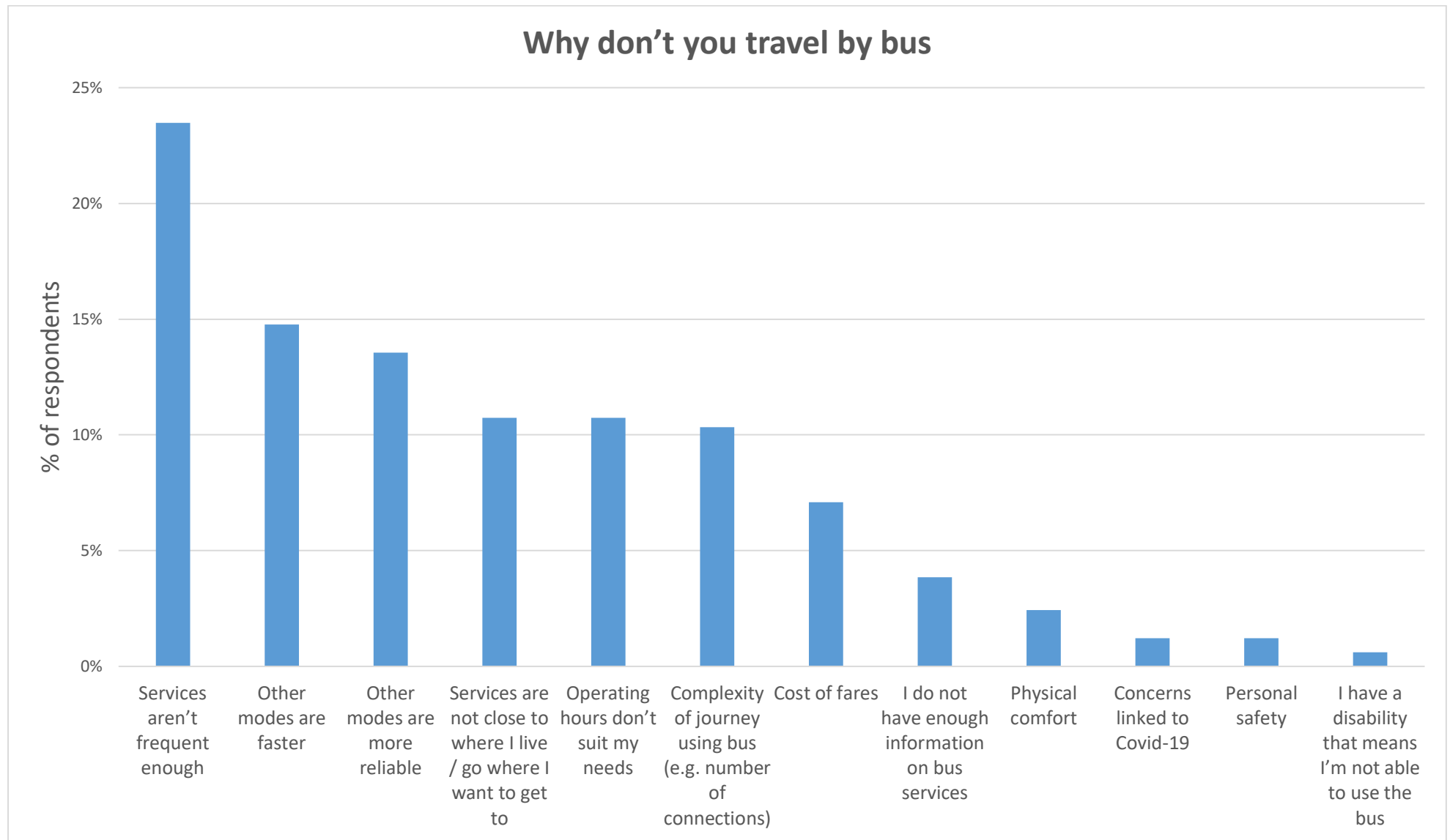
Q12. Where do you regularly travel to from your home, and what mode do you use?



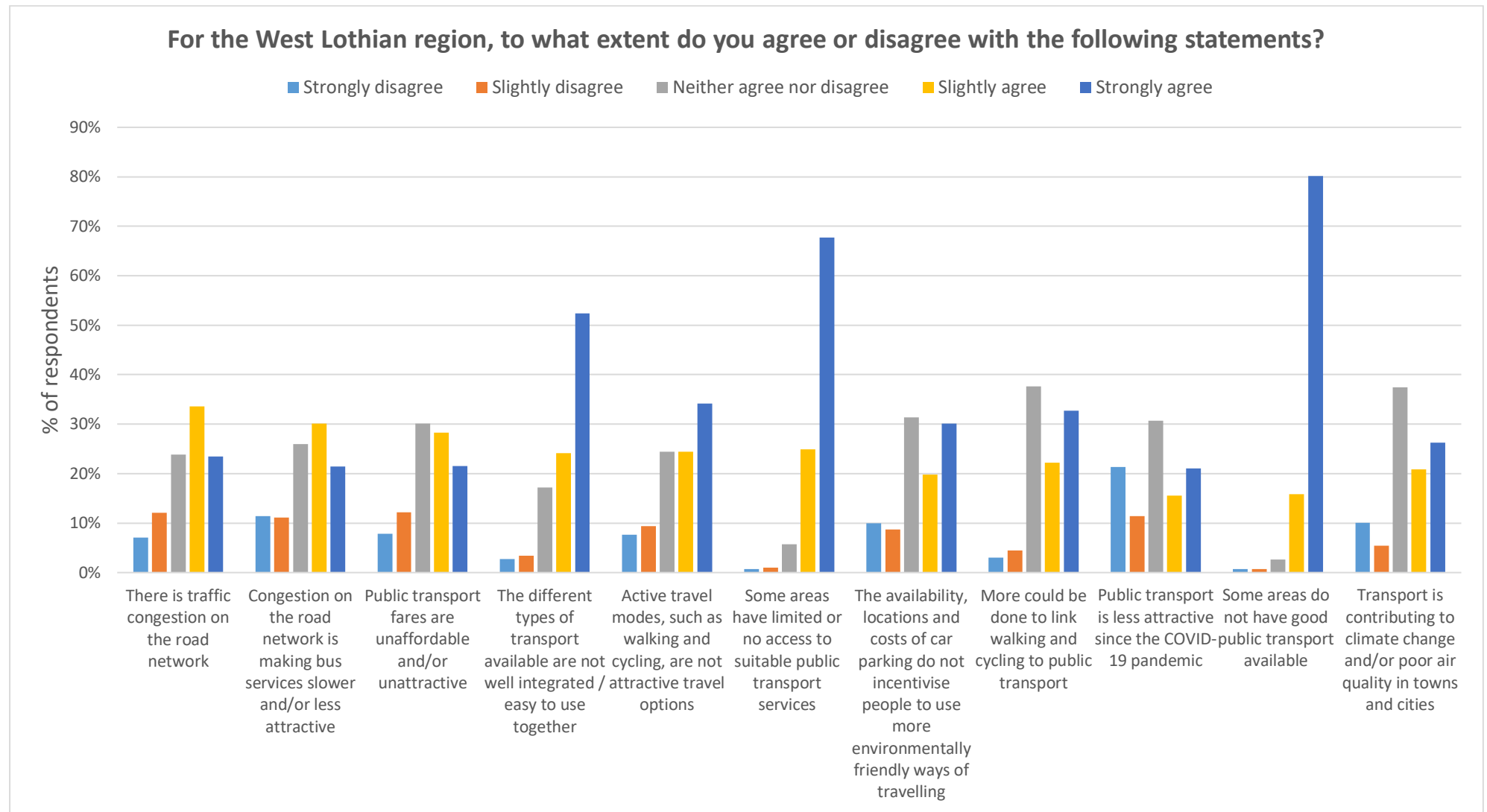
Q13. Why do you travel by bus?



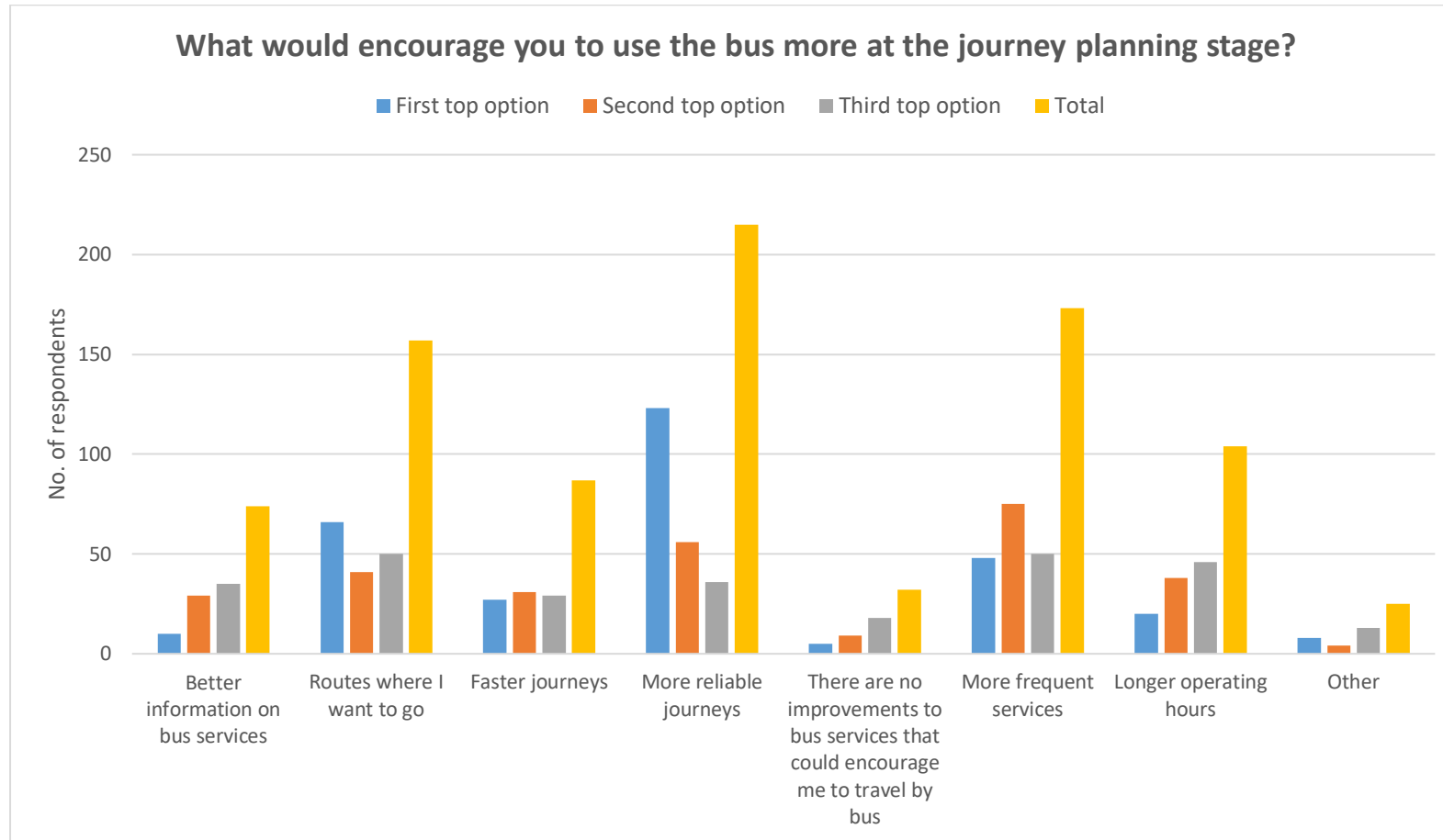
Q14. Why don't you travel by bus?



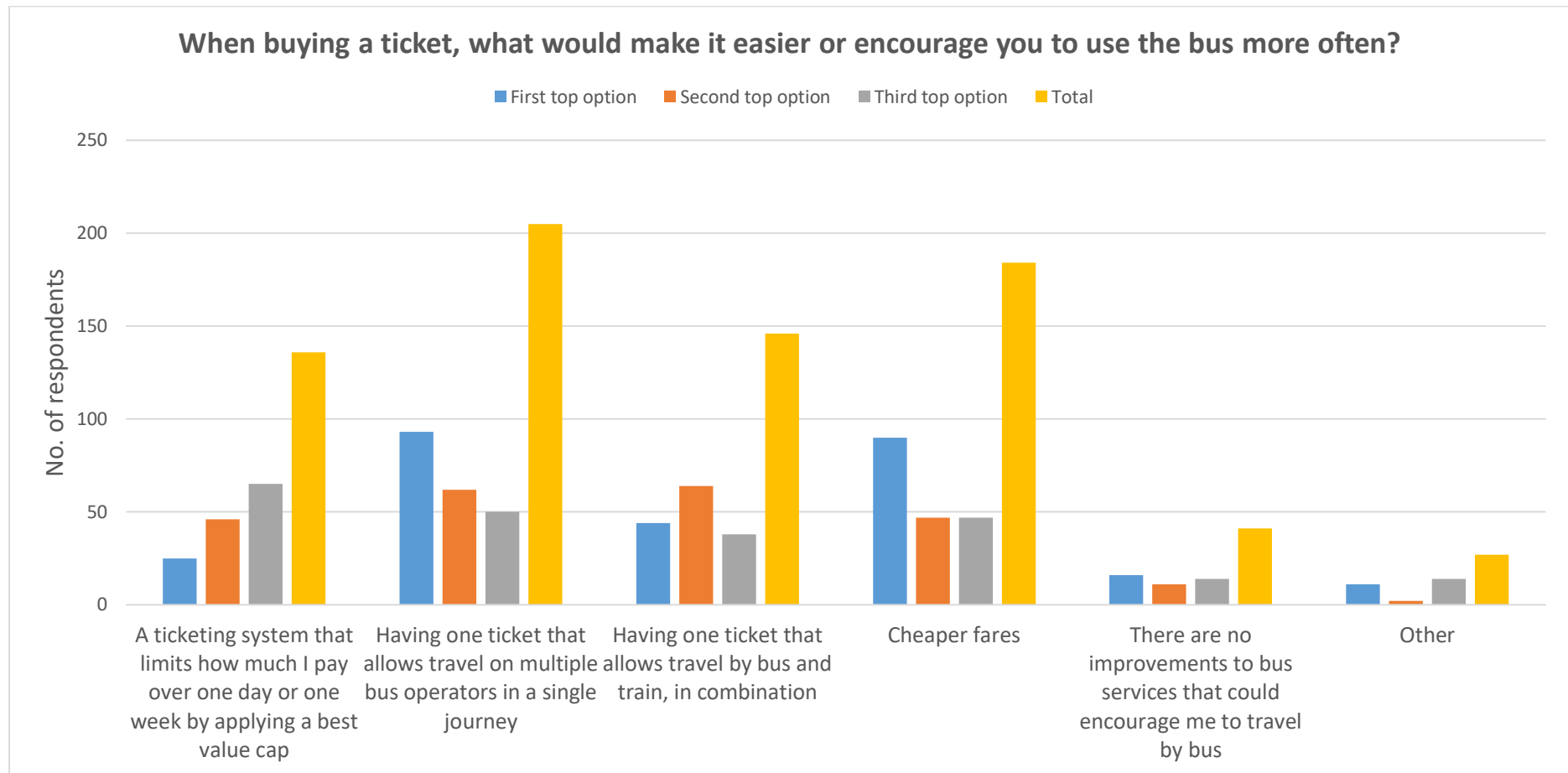
Q15. For the West Lothian Region, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



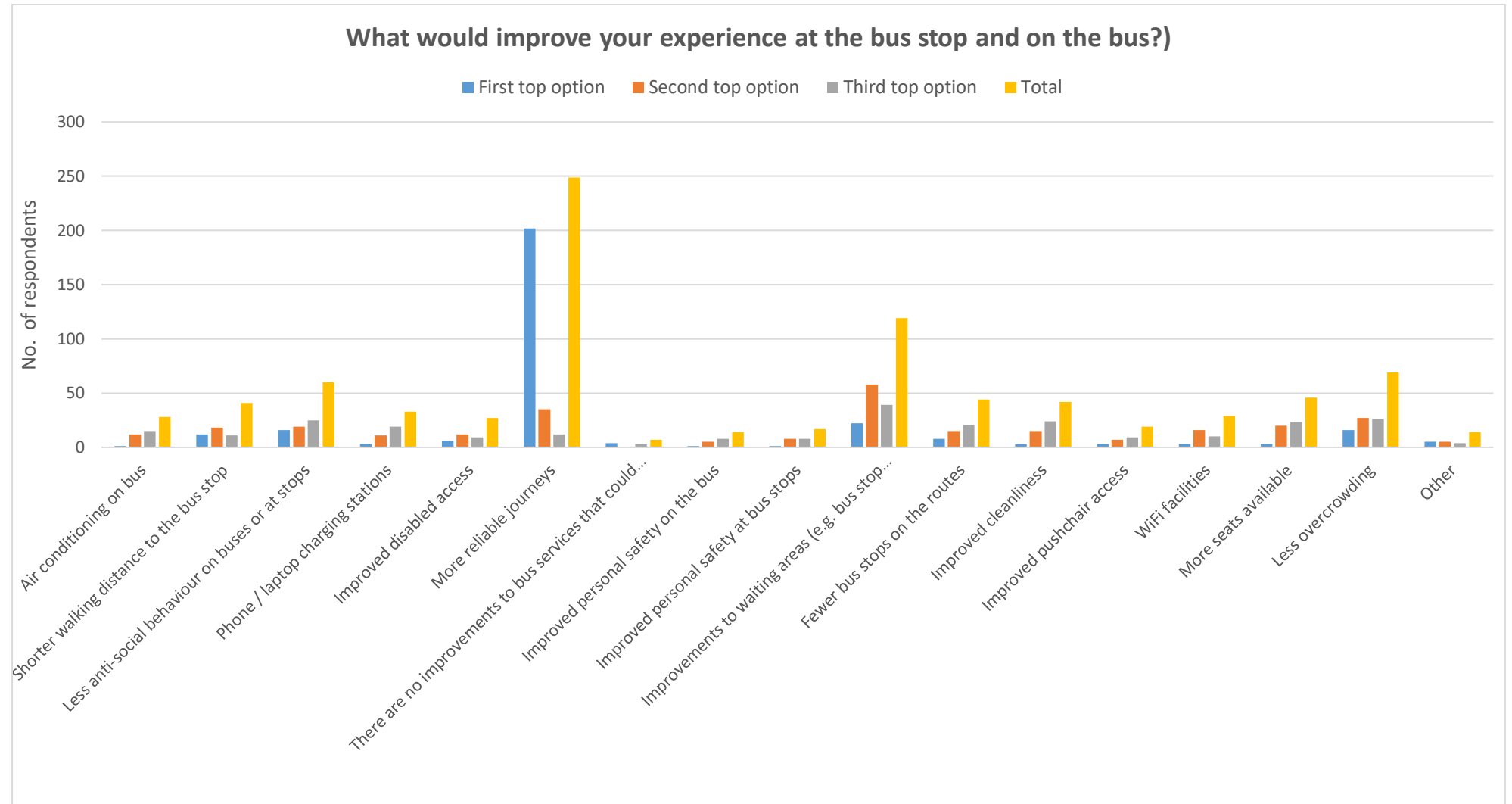
Q17. What would encourage you to use the bus more at the journey planning stage? (rank top three things)



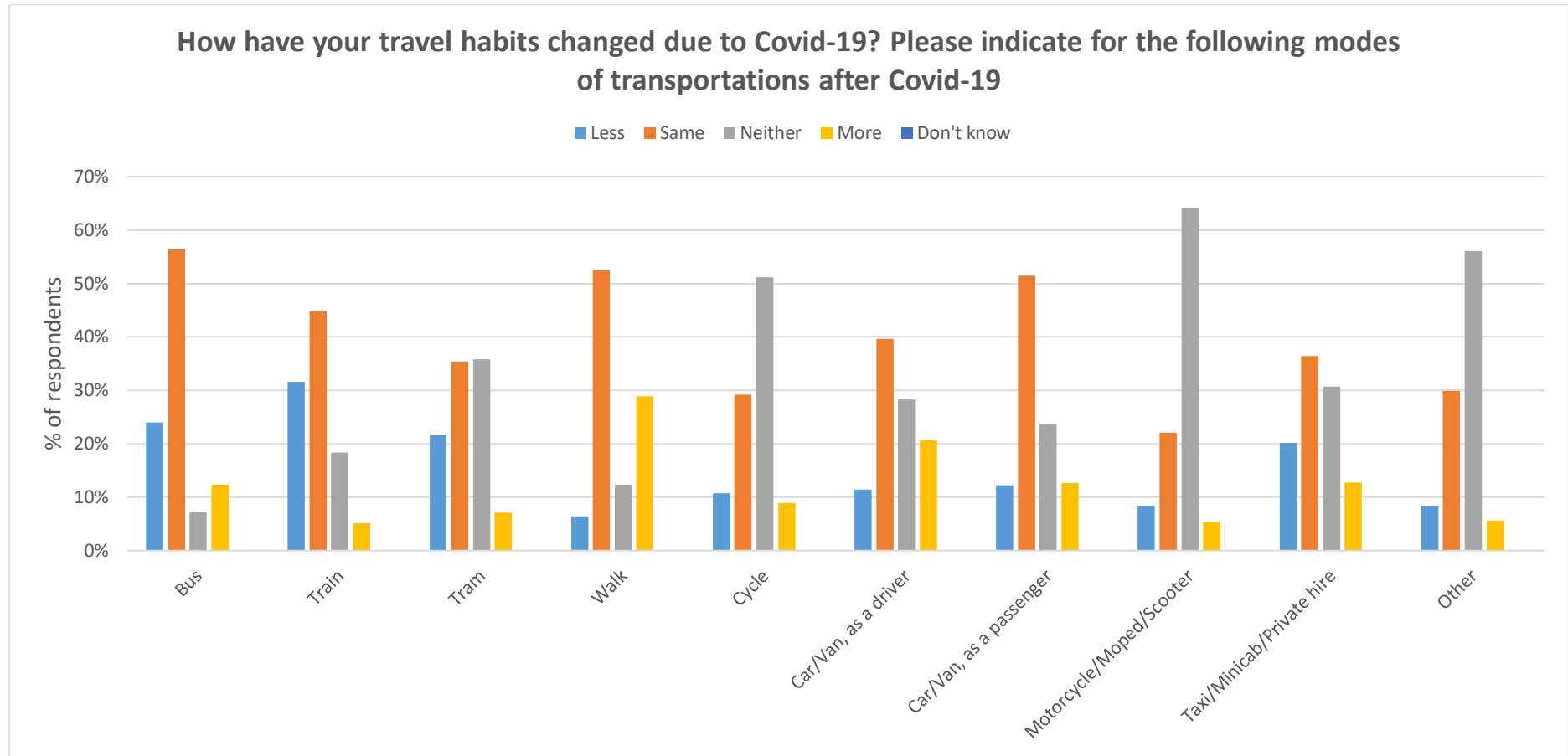
Q18. When buying a ticket, what would make it easier or encourage you to use the bus more often?



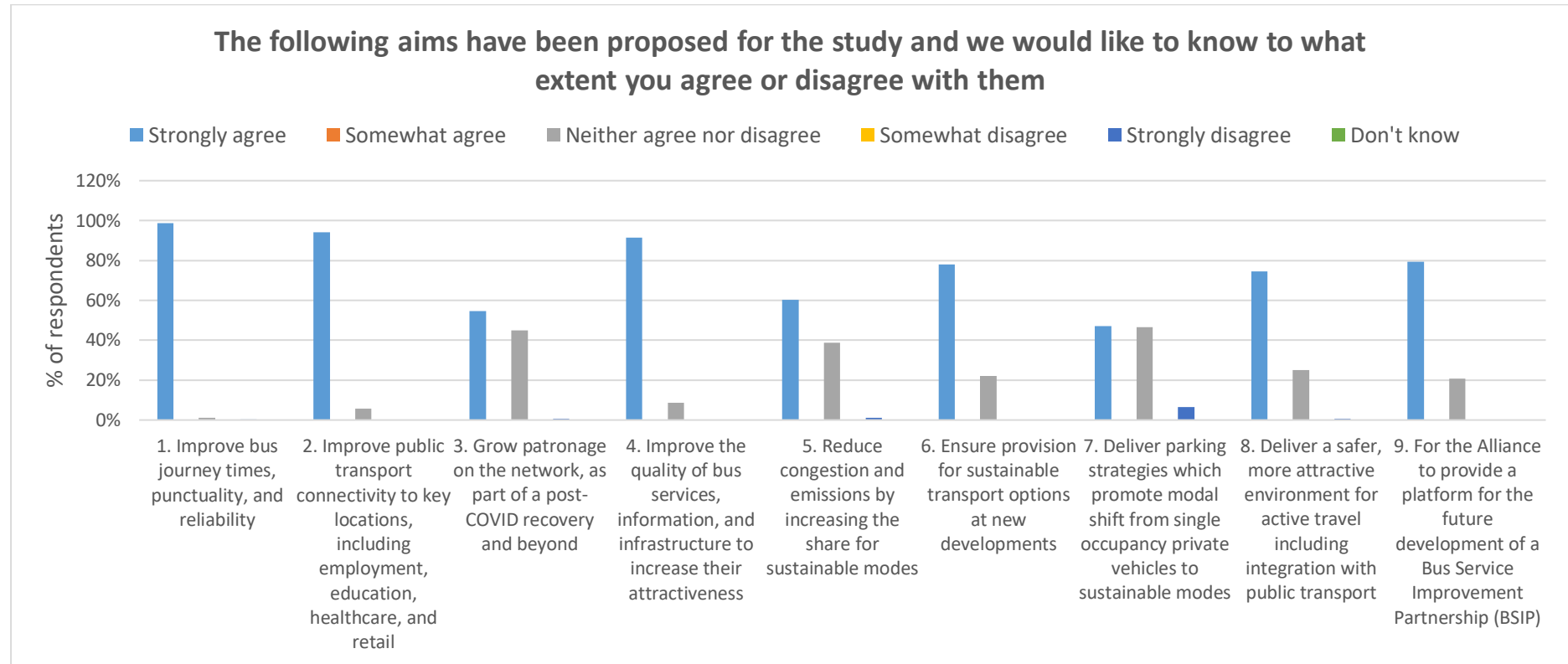
Q19. What would improve your experience at the bus stop and on the bus? (rank your top three)



Q20. How have your travel habits changed due to Covid-19?



Q21. How have your travel habits changed due to Covid-19?



DATA LABEL: PUBLIC

**COUNCIL EXECUTIVE****REVISED DRAFT NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 4 (NPF4) : UPDATE****REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION****A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to update Council Executive on the publication by Scottish Government of Revised Draft National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4).

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council Executive

1. notes the publication and content of Revised Draft National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4); and
2. notes that if NPF4 is Adopted a further report will be presented to Council Executive detailing any actions necessary to allow implementation in West Lothian.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; and working in partnership.
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	<p>Having secured Parliamentary approval, and once enacted, NPF4 will become part of the statutory development plan. NPF4 policies will then take precedence over those of the current LDP (in the event of an incompatibility between NPF4 and the current LDP) as they will at that point be more up to date.</p> <p>There are no equality, health or risk assessment issues.</p>
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on Performance Indicators	None.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	<p>Outcome 3 - Our economy is diverse and dynamic, and West Lothian is an attractive place for doing business.</p> <p>Outcome 4 - We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities.</p>

Outcome 7 - We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities.

Outcome 8 - We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment.

VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	NPF4 imposes additional requirements and duties on Planning Authorities, and together with the ongoing implementation of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, this is likely to have financial implications for the council. Furthermore, some of the requirements may not be readily capable of being carried out with the existing staff resource, coupled with an absence of skills, and additional training and/or external support may therefore be required.
VII Consideration at PDSP	<p>Timescales have regrettably not allowed for reporting to the Economy, Community Empowerment and Wealth Building Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p>There have however been previous reports regarding NPF4 to the former Development & Transport PDSP on 2 February 2021 and 1 February 2022, and to Council Executive on 24 March 2020, 9 February 2021, 18 May 2021 and 22 March 2022.</p>
VIII Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1 Background

On 8 November 2022, Scottish Ministers laid the Revised Draft Fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) in the Scottish Parliament for approval, [Appendix 1](#).

It is the long-term spatial plan for Scotland with an outlook to 2045. It will guide development, set out national planning policies, designate national developments and highlight regional spatial priorities.

NPF4 will also be one of the key documents to inform the next Local Development Plan (LDP), in particular setting out future housing requirements, and with an increased focus on climate change, improving health and well-being, and securing positive effects for biodiversity and nature recovery.

The [Planning \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#) extended the content and elevated the status of future NPFs. The main changes included:

- The scope of future NPFs being extended to include national planning policy. In practice this means that national planning policy, currently set out in the [Scottish Planning Policy](#), will in future be set out in the NPF;
- Future NPFs to become a formal part of every development plan, meaning that policies and proposals set out in the NPF must be considered by decision makers when considering applications for planning permission;
- The duration of any future NPF being increased from five to 10 years; and

- Future NPFs having the role of establishing baseline Minimum All-tenure Housing Land Requirements (MATHLR) which must be reflected in the amount and location of deliverable land for future housing development identified in local development plans.

The Act also strengthened the role of the Scottish Parliament with respect to planning and does not allow Scottish Ministers to adopt an NPF until it has been approved by a resolution of the Parliament.

From the outset the Scottish Government has adopted a co-production approach to developing NPF4, consulting with stakeholders throughout the process, and the Revised Draft NPF4 is a product of extensive engagement and collaboration which has been through 3 distinctive rounds of consultation: the Call for Ideas (2020), the Position Statement (2020) and Draft NPF4 (2021).

The council participated in these consultations, making representations to both the [Position Statement](#) and [Draft NPF4](#).

NPF4 differs from previous iterations which focused on facilitating development and economic growth, with the accompanying Ministerial statement emphasising that NPF4 has been purposefully designed to help achieve a net zero, sustainable Scotland by 2045.

There is a statutory requirement that NPF4 contributes to 6 specific outcomes:

- Meeting the housing needs of people living in Scotland including, in particular, the housing needs for older people and disabled people;
- Improving the health and wellbeing of people living in Scotland;
- Increasing the population of rural areas of Scotland;
- Improving equality and eliminating discrimination;
- Meeting any targets relating to the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases; and;
- Securing positive effects for biodiversity.

When the Revised Draft NPF4 was laid before the Scottish Parliament on 8 November 2022 it was accompanied by a suite of documents including an explanatory report detailing the changes made to Draft NPF4 and a Delivery programme outlining the approach for implementing NPF4 and including key actions to be taken forward over the short and medium term. These documents are referenced as Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 respectively.

Revised Draft NPF4 is expected to be considered by the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee before being voted on by Parliament within a period of 6 weeks which should mean a vote before the forthcoming Parliamentary recess.

D2 Revised Draft NPF4

The focus of this report is to identify the key changes made between the Draft NPF4 of 2021 and the Revised Draft NPF4 of 2022.

After three rounds of consultation to inform the preparation of NPF4, together with parliamentary scrutiny, Revised Draft NPF4 now looks quite different from when it was initially consulted on.

Despite having undergone a radical cosmetic restructure, the fundamentals and overall policy intent however remains the same – to make the planning system key to achieving net zero and putting climate change at the forefront and centre of all decision making. A new 'Climate and Nature Crises' policy has been introduced to help further underpin this, to put climate and nature on an equal footing, and encourage nature recovery and sustainable places where people, communities and businesses can still thrive.

Revised Draft NPF4 is a lengthy and complex read, running to in excess of 150 pages (together with several even lengthier supporting documents) and it is very difficult to comprehensively summarise the changes made to Draft NPF4 in this, a necessarily condensed and succinct report. For a more comprehensive narrative the explanatory report (Appendix 2) can be referred to.

D3 General Overview

A number of revisions to the structure of Draft NPF4 have been made to better connect the various sections and to provide clarity on the vision and strategy.

While it was previously arranged in 5 parts: (1) National Spatial Strategy for Scotland to 2045, (2) National Developments, (3) National Planning Policy, (4) Delivering Our Spatial Strategy, and (5) Annexes (including the Minimum All-tenure Housing Land Requirement). Revised Draft NPF4 has consolidated this to 3.

D4 **A National Spatial Strategy for Scotland 2045 (Called Part 1 in the earlier Draft)**

The National Spatial Strategy is a broad high-level planning strategy for Scotland to guide decisions on future development. It will assist in the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies, Local Development Plans and Local Place Plans.

- The National Spatial Strategy was originally designed around 4 themes;
 - (1) **Sustainable places** - which reduce emissions and restore biodiversity;
 - (2) **Liveable places** - where people can live better, healthier lives;
 - (3) **Productive places** - which produce a greener, fairer and more inclusive; wellbeing economy; and
 - (4) **Distinctive places** - where we recognise and work with local assets

This has now been revised to 3, removing 'Distinctive places' in order to better reflect the three pillars of sustainable development, i.e. social, economic and environmental, and it has been substantially reworked.

Furthermore, the narratives for each theme have been strengthened and additional detail on how the strategy will meet the statutory outcomes has been added. New text outlining cross-cutting outcomes and policy links has also been included.

- Within the National Spatial Strategy West Lothian was previously identified as part of the 'Central Urban Transformation Action Area', a broad-brush designation loosely based on the city regions of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee. It has now been given the new geographic tag of just 'Central'.

- Although the principle of Action Areas is retained, and each with its own priorities, they have been refocused as Regional Spatial Priorities with emphasis on context, challenges, priorities and delivery, and the detail moved to an Annex. The content has been revised and expanded and now includes additional text on health/wellbeing and inequality and building a new, greener, future.
- '20-minute neighbourhoods' are now referred to more broadly as 'living locally', to allow for the same principles to be applied in different situations, and the related policy has been updated to provide clarity on the relevant considerations for planning. It is also suggested that this concept is likely to be more deliverable in the Central Action Area than in other areas.
- The 6 Spatial Principles (compact urban growth, local living, rebalanced development, conserving and recycling assets, urban and rural revitalisation and just transition) have been retained, but reordered and some renamed, and all with more concise explanations and cross referencing. Table 1 in Revised Draft NPF4 now illustrates how they fit into the framework.
- Improved referencing has also been applied to key Scottish Government plans, programmes and strategies as part of the updated schematic.

D5 National Developments (Called Part 2 in the earlier Draft)

- The purpose of National Developments, which is to support the delivery of the National Spatial Strategy, has been expanded and the developments are more strongly linked to the Action Areas and the overall NPF4.
- While there is no change to the total number of National Developments, it remains at 18, some refinements have been made including adjustments to the description and classes. They have also been reordered and renumbered under the 3 overarching themes (sustainable, liveable and productive places),
- Of the 18 National Developments, 9 have direct relevance to West Lothian. These are (1) Pumped Hydro Storage, (2) Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure, (3) Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities, (4) Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions, (5) Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks, (6) Central Scotland Green Network, (7) National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network, (8) Digital Fibre, and (9) Network and High-Speed Rail.
- National Development summaries have been embedded within the spatial strategy, with the statements of need moved to an Annex.
- National Developments have been more clearly referenced on the revised National Developments Map.

D6 National Planning Policy (Called Part 3 in the earlier Draft)

National Planning Policy in Revised Draft NPF4 sets out policies that will apply across Scotland. In theory there should be no need for these policies to be repeated in future local development plans, and the expectation is that this should allow for greater consistency and predictability of decision making. Policies are set out not just for the development of land and for determining planning applications, but also for the preparation of LDPs; local place plans; masterplans and briefs.

- This section has been radically restructured to clarify instructions and expectations for local development plans and to separate out development management policy on planning applications.
- Policies have been reordered under the 3 overarching themes and reduced from 35 to 33. It has been restructured to include statements of policy intent and policy outcomes and incorporate hyperlinks to relevant spatial principles and other policies. (see Appendix 4).
- A policy impact section for each themed policy now shows which spatial principles the policy will help to deliver.
- A new principal Policy 1 has been added to set out that the contribution of development proposals to the global climate emergency and nature emergency should carry significant weight in planning decisions.
- A new policy advises that drive-through developments will only be supported where they are specifically supported in the LDP.
- Throughout the document, but perhaps here more than anywhere else, the wording and use of language has been refined to make policies less ambiguous and so provide greater clarity and consistency.
- The requirement for affordable housing has been strengthened, with policy now stating that proposals for market homes will only be supported where affordable provision is at least 25% of the total number of homes, although there are circumstances where other provision may be acceptable.
- Policies share a common thread, which is to minimise development which impacts upon climate and nature. Consequently it will have to be demonstrated how proposals will help meet national targets to cut emissions to net zero by 2045 and facilitate biodiversity enhancement.
- Policies are unashamedly designed to reduce land take and resist out of town development, to maximise the use of existing brownfield land and disused buildings and to adopt a more plan led approach to housing.
- Significant changes have been made to the policy on energy which now states that development proposals for all forms of renewable, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies will be supported,

D7 Delivering Our Spatial Strategy (Called Part 4 in the earlier Draft)

- Draft NPF4 promised that an effective monitoring process would be forthcoming and this is now presented as a standalone Delivery Programme which recognises the importance of partnership working and is to be updated throughout the lifespan of NPF4.

D8 Annexes (Called Part 5 in the earlier Draft)

- The number of Annexes has increased from 3 to 6.
 - The outcomes Annex has been removed and the content redistributed throughout the main body of the text;
 - A new Annex relating to National Development Statements of Need has been created (previously within the main body of the text);
 - A new Annex relating to the Spatial Strategy Action Areas has been created (previously within the main body of the text);
 - A new Annex relating to the 6 qualities of place has been created (previously within the main body of the text);
 - A new Annex entitled 'How to Use this Document has been created and includes additional narrative explaining how Revised Draft NPF4 links to other plans.
 - Updates made to the previous Annexes on housing numbers (Revised Draft NPF4 Annex E) and the Glossary of definitions (Revised Draft NPF4 Annex F)
 - A new Annex explaining acronyms has been added

There is also explicit recognition that the Scottish Government is alert to widespread concerns expressed about the lack of resources in planning authorities (in terms of both headcount and skills) to implement and support the delivery of NPF4.

It is advised that the Scottish Government is taking forward collaborative work around investing in the planning service and skills in the planning system in consultation with COSLA and Heads of Planning Scotland.

D9 Housing Land

As NPF4, will become an integral part of the Development Plan it is important to understand that its role in the delivery of housing will be of much greater strategic importance than ever before.

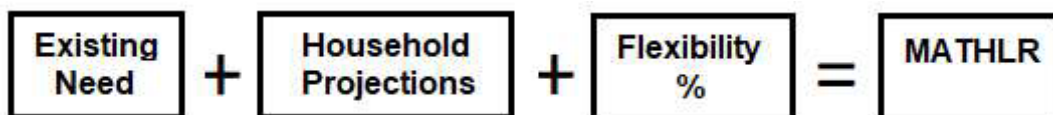
NPF4 policies relating to housing, principally Policy 16 – Quality Homes, but also many others, will have significant implications for identifying the number of houses to be delivered over the next ten years, but also their tenure and standard and quality of build.

NPF4 will fulfil the requirement in the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended, to identify 'targets' for the use of land for housing in Scotland.

Draft NPF4 already refocused planning policy for housing on supporting the delivery of high quality, sustainable homes and has set about establishing a fundamental change in the way planning for housing in Scotland is undertaken.

Annex E of Revised Draft NPF4 has maintained the new mechanism of identifying a Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR) for each planning authority in Scotland, superseding the previous requirement to maintain a minimum 5-year supply of effective land for housing at all times and switching to programming a 10-year supply across a LDP period. It focuses on delivering outcomes, rather than process.

The MATHLR has essentially been arrived at by combining three components:



It should, however, be appreciated that the MATHLR only represents the minimum amount of land to be identified within LDPs and is to be regarded as a starting point which planning authorities are 'expected to exceed' when identifying the specific number of houses to be planned for over the life time of the LDP, now referenced as the Local Housing Land Requirement.

The Scottish Government had previously produced MATHLR 'initial default estimates' and local authorities were consulted and invited to comment on what had been identified for their area and to suggest 'local adjustments'. WLC responded by advising that it considered the existing housing need had been underestimated and it proposed revising this figure from 600 to 1,200. This gave rise to a 10-year MATHLR of 9,600. It was agreed by [Council Executive](#) at a meeting on 18 May 2021 and submitted to Scottish Government.

Table: Initial default estimates and local adjustments

	Existing housing need	Newly formed households	Flexibility allowance (25%)	Minimum housing land requirement (10 Years)	Completions (2010 – 2019)
Scottish Government Proposal	600	6,500	1,750	8,850	6,658
West Lothian Council Proposal	1,200	6,500	1,900	9,600	6,658

In the interim, the MATHLR figures for Scotland were reviewed by Scottish Ministers and in many instances revised again. Where it was possible to draw on the outputs of a recently published Housing Needs & Demand Assessment (HNDA) these have been used to more precisely update existing need inputs. In the case of West Lothian, the council was a party to the South East Scotland Area HNDA3 (2022) and the output had achieved the highly sought after 'robust and credible' status from Centre for Housing Market Analysis (CHMA) in July 2022.

Revised Draft NPF4 has therefore been able to confirm a revised 10-Year MATHLR of **9,850** houses, a very modest adjustment of 250 houses over the period.

This is significantly lower than the current LDP Housing Land Requirement which developers have relied upon for support in so many planning appeals, and which the council has often been forced to deliver to by Reporters despite having tried to evidence that the figure was well in excess of reality. It is reassuring that the MATHLR figure is consistent with the council's estimate of demand over the recent past, albeit that this position has not been adopted by a number of Reporters who have accepted higher estimates of demand. However, As noted above, the MATHLR only represents the minimum amount of land to be identified within LDPs and is to be regarded as a starting point which planning authorities are 'expected to exceed' when identifying the specific number of houses to be planned for over the lifetime of the LDP, now referenced as the Local Housing Land Requirement.

Recent communications received from the Planning & Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA) indicates that Revised Draft NPF4 (and by association the new MATHLR) is now accepted as the 'settled view of Scottish Ministers' and so it is hoped that its 'materiality' prior to adoption will be recognised as significant by Reporters at all appeals from now on. Indeed, steps have been taken to try and ensure that the processing of appeals that are currently live and undetermined are temporarily suspended in order that reporters can afford Revised Draft NPF4 and its implications full and proper regard.

When it comes to preparing the next LDP the NPF4 prescribed MATHLR will be the baseline for establishing the Local Housing Land Requirement. This will be considered at the 'Evidence Report' and decided at the 'Gatecheck' stages of the LDP process, and the LDP will then go on to allocate the housing sites needed to meet it.

D10 Implementation

NPF4 is a significant national document in land use planning terms because for the first time it will become part of the 'Development Plan' for West Lothian and a key consequence of this is that planning applications will need to be determined in accordance with its policies. These policies differ from what has gone before and it can be anticipated that the application of national policies across Scotland may be challenging to begin with.

Furthermore, until such times as the current West Lothian Local Development Plan is replaced there may be situations where inconsistencies arise between the NPF and our LDP. This is because legislation states that NPF4 will take precedence over current LDPs in the event of any incompatibility between a provision of NPF4 and a provision of the LDP. In time, the next iteration of the LDP will of course remedy this in so far as the new LDP will be drafted to be consistent with NPF4.

Notwithstanding this, it is anticipated that there may be tensions between NPF4 and our LDP which may lead to potential disputes with applicants in the absence of transitional guidance to address such matters. To avoid this becoming an area of on-going dispute and debate Heads of Planning Scotland has asked for transitional guidance to be provided by the Scottish Ministers.

NPF4 aims to be transformational and it will undoubtedly have a significant impact. While welcoming the ambition of the plan, it is by no means perfect and there are many elements of the document which could have been improved upon and it is regrettable that further time to finesse it is not available. It's also perhaps questionable whether NPF4 fulfils the Scottish Government's underlying objective of delivering a programme of change to 'simplify' the planning system.

In addition, the revised draft NPF4 says little about delivery of the framework itself and the investment, including in infrastructure, which will be necessary to achieve the overall aims and objectives. These will not be delivered by policy alone. The revised draft indicates that work on delivery is on-going and it does seem unfortunate that the significant changes to the planning system in Scotland are being progressed in the absence of a full understanding about delivery. Nevertheless, the council should continue to take every opportunity to engage in this process and progress will be reported to Council Executive as and when clarity is provided.

E. CONCLUSION

The revised draft NPF4 represents the Scottish Ministers settled position on planning policy in Scotland. Progress with NPF4 is welcomed.

The revised Draft NPF4 is much improved in terms of content, clarity consistency and detail. It also delivers on the promise of a stronger, more outcome-focused National Planning Framework that will form part of the development plan in law and it represents a significant step forward in addressing the Scottish Government's key objective for the planning system in Scotland to be 'rebalanced' so that climate change is a primary guiding principle for all plans and decisions.

There are, however, a number of challenges remaining with implementing the framework and officers will continue to work with partners towards a robust and consistent implementation in order to achieve the overall objectives.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

1. NPF4 – [Consultation Draft](#) (2021)
2. NPF4 – [Draft Housing Land Requirement Explanatory Report](#)
3. NPF4 – [Draft Housing Land Requirement Explanatory Report Addendum](#)
4. NPF4 – [Statement to Parliament](#) on 8 November 2022 by Scottish Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth

Appendices/Attachments: Four

Appendix 1: NPF4 – Revised Draft

Appendix 2: NPF4 – Explanatory Report

Appendix 3: NPF4 – Delivery Programme

Appendix 4: List of Policies in Revised Draft NPF4

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Craig McCorriston

Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration

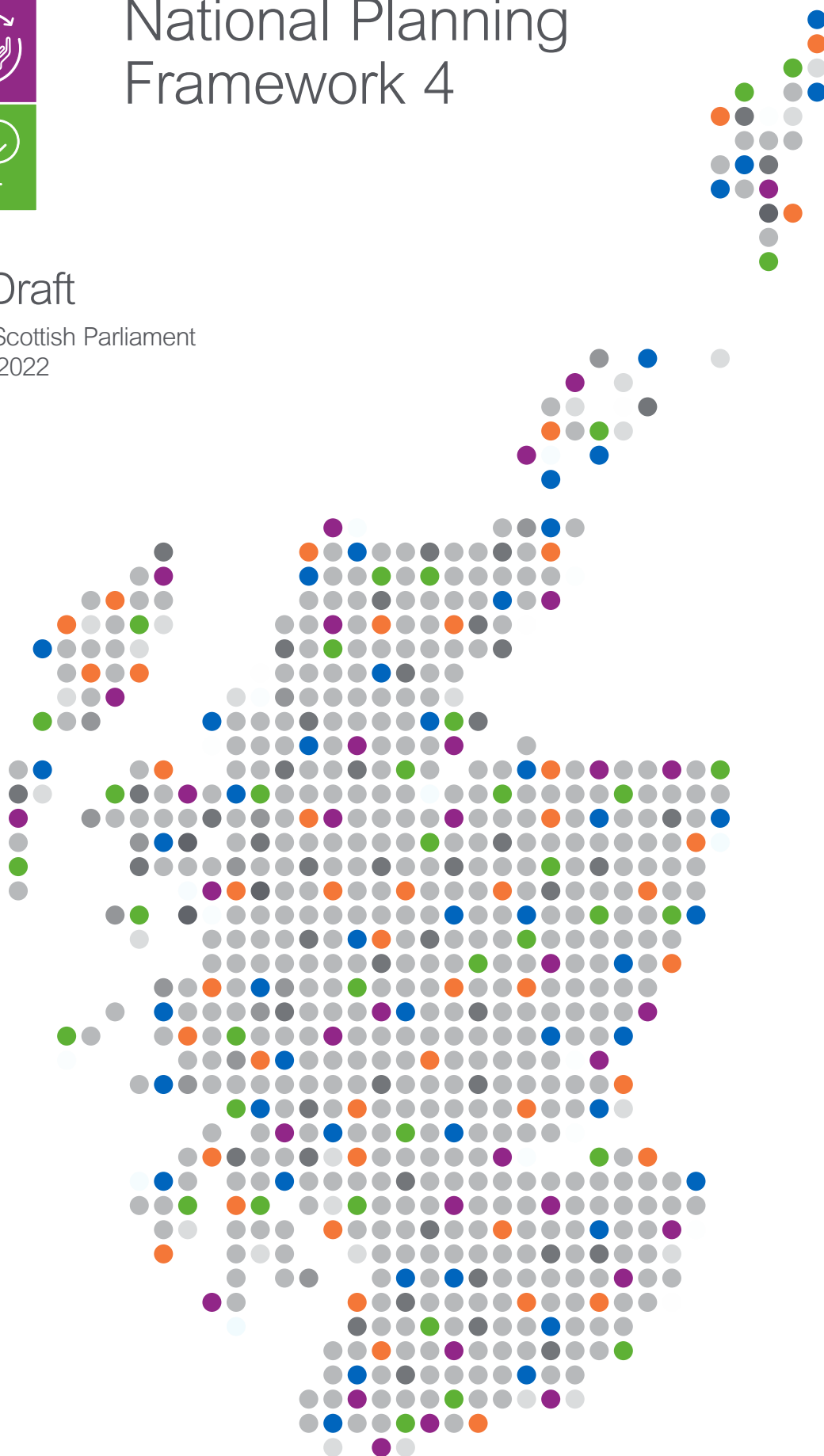
20 December 2022



National Planning Framework 4

Revised Draft

Laid before the Scottish Parliament
on 8 November 2022



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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Sustainable Places
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Ministerial Foreword



Tom Arthur MSP

Minister for Public Finance,
Planning and Community Wealth

I am delighted to publish this revised version of Scotland's fourth National Planning Framework. I am proud that, for the first time, we have brought together our long-term spatial strategy with a comprehensive set of national planning policies to form part of the statutory development plan.

The world is changing, and so are Scotland's places. This strategy sets out how we will work together in the coming years to improve people's lives by making sustainable, liveable and productive places. This will play a key role in delivering on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, as well as our national outcomes.

Planning carries great responsibility – decisions about development will impact on generations to come. Putting the twin global climate and nature crises at the heart of our vision for a future Scotland will ensure the decisions we make today will be in the long-term interest of our country.

As we recover from the pandemic we are working towards achieving net zero in a way which also tackles longstanding challenges and inequalities. We live in challenging times, but better places will be an important part of our response to our strategic priorities of net zero, child poverty and a wellbeing economy. Planning will also play a critical role in delivering the National Strategy for Economic Transformation and in community wealth building.

Planning is already a fully devolved function of the Scottish Government. Our global reputation

for excellence and expertise in this field demonstrates what can be achieved when the choices are in our own hands. We can build on this. By securing a new future for Scotland as an independent country, additional powers will be available to support public and private sector investment in development and infrastructure across our country.

Changes to our places will not always be easy. People care about their neighbourhoods and rightly and reasonably expect that new development should improve their lives, rather than undermining what they value most. To help deliver on this strategy I am committed to involving a wider range of people in planning. A fairer and more inclusive planning system will ensure that everyone has an opportunity to shape their future so that our places work for all of us. I also recognise that planning authorities across Scotland will need support and guidance to put our proposals and policies into practice, and will continue to work with the profession and local government to ensure our system can realise its full potential.

The process for preparing this strategy has shown what can be achieved when we work together. I greatly appreciate the ideas that people and organisations have contributed. I am also very grateful to the Scottish Parliament for the time and energy they have put into their scrutiny of the draft document. This finalised version has benefited considerably from their thoughtful and constructive input.

Part 1 – A National Spatial Strategy for Scotland 2045

The world is facing unprecedented challenges. The global climate emergency means that we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the future impacts of climate change. We will need to respond to a growing nature crisis, and to work together to enable development that addresses the social and economic legacy of the coronavirus pandemic, the cost crisis and longstanding inequality.

Scotland's rich heritage, culture and outstanding environment are national assets which support our economy, identity, health and wellbeing. Many communities benefit from great places with excellent quality of life and quality, affordable homes. Many people can easily access high quality local greenspaces and neighbourhood facilities, safe and welcoming streets and spaces and buildings that reflect diverse cultures and aspirations. Increasingly, communities have been finding new ways to live sustainably, including by taking control of their property or land.

However, people living in Scotland have very different life chances, at least partly a result of the places where they live.

Past industrial restructuring has had significant impacts in some places and communities. Disadvantage, child poverty and poor health

outcomes are concentrated in parts of Scotland where life expectancy is significantly lower than in more advantaged areas. Access to the natural environment varies, and pollution and derelict land is concentrated in some places. Population change will bring further challenges in the future, particularly in rural parts of Scotland. Many people have limited access to opportunities because of the way our places have been designed in the past, and our city and town centres have experienced accelerating change in recent years.

We have already taken significant steps towards decarbonising energy and land use, but choices need to be made about how we can make sustainable use of our natural assets in a way which benefits communities.

Planning is a powerful tool for delivering change on the ground in a way which brings together competing interests so that decisions reflect the long-term public interest. Past, present and future challenges mean that we will need to make the right choices about where development should be located. We also need to be clear about the types of infrastructure we will need to build, and the assets that should be protected to ensure they continue to benefit future generations.

Spatial principles

We will plan our future places in line with six overarching spatial principles:

- **Just transition.** We will empower people to shape their places and ensure the transition to net zero is fair and inclusive.
- **Conserving and recycling assets.** We will make productive use of existing buildings, places, infrastructure and services, locking in carbon, minimising waste, and building a circular economy.
- **Local living.** We will support local liveability and improve community health and wellbeing by ensuring people can easily access services, greenspace, learning, work and leisure locally.
- **Compact urban growth.** We will limit urban expansion so we can optimise the use of land to provide services and resources, including carbon storage, flood risk management, blue and green infrastructure and biodiversity.
- **Rebalanced development.** We will target development to create opportunities for communities and investment in areas of past decline, and manage development sustainably in areas of high demand.
- **Rural revitalisation.** We will encourage sustainable development in rural areas, recognising the need to grow and support urban and rural communities together.

These principles will play a key role in delivering on the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and our national outcomes.

Applying these principles in practice

We want our future places to work for everyone. Rather than compromise or trade-offs between environmental, social and economic objectives, this is an integrated strategy to bring together cross-cutting priorities and achieve sustainable development.

By applying these spatial principles, our national spatial strategy will support the planning and delivery of:

- **sustainable places**, where we reduce emissions, restore and better connect biodiversity;
- **liveable places**, where we can all live better, healthier lives; and
- **productive places**, where we have a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy.

Eighteen **national developments** support this strategy, including single large scale projects and networks of several smaller scale proposals that are collectively nationally significant. National developments will be a focus for delivery, as well as exemplars of the Place Principle, placemaking and a Community Wealth Building (CWB) approach to economic development. Regional spatial strategies and Local Development Plans (LDPs) should identify and support national developments which are relevant to their areas.

The strategy will be taken forward in different ways across Scotland, reflecting the diverse character, assets and challenges of our places. To guide this, we have identified **regional spatial priorities** for five broad regions of Scotland which will inform the preparation of regional spatial strategies (RSS) and LDPs by planning authorities.

Table 1 – National Planning Framework 4 Summary					
	Spatial principles	National Developments	Policies	Key policy links	Cross cutting policies
Sustainable places <i>SDGs: 7, 11, 12, 13</i> <i>National outcomes:</i> 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 land, 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 • 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 <i>SDGs: 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11</i> <i>National outcomes:</i> 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 <i>SDGs: 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, 14</i> <i>National outcomes:</i> 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 	



Sustainable places

Our climate is changing, with increasing rainfall, extreme weather events and higher temperatures that will intensify in the coming years. This will increase flood risk, water scarcity, environmental change, coastal erosion, impact on forestry and agriculture, and generate risks to health, food security and safety. Impacts will not be equal and communities who already face disadvantage will be particularly affected.

Scotland's high quality environment, and the natural capital it supports, underpin our approach to tackling climate change and the economy and is fundamental to our health and wellbeing. It provides the essentials we all need to survive, including clean air water and food.

However, the health of the planet's ecosystems is declining faster than at any point in human history and our natural environment is facing significant challenges, including ongoing loss of biodiversity. Since the 1990s alone, wildlife populations in Scotland have declined, on average, by around a quarter. This threatens the capacity of the natural environment to provide the services we all rely on, and reduces our resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Scotland's Climate Change Plan, backed by legislation, has set our approach to achieving net zero emissions by 2045, and we must make significant progress towards this by 2030 including by reducing car kilometres travelled by 20% by reducing the need to travel and promoting more sustainable transport.

Just Transition sector plans, designed and delivered with those impacted, will play an important role in delivering the change we need to see. We must also adapt to the impacts of climate change that are already locked in, by delivering Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

Scotland's Climate Assembly set out recommendations for how Scotland should change to tackle the climate emergency and gives us a key insight into the measures the Scottish Public expect for a just transition to net zero emissions by 2045.

Scotland's Energy Strategy will set a new agenda for the energy sector in anticipation of continuing innovation and investment. The interplay between land and sea will be critical, given the scale of offshore renewable energy resources. Our Infrastructure Investment Plan and National Transport Strategy are clear that we must work with our existing infrastructure assets first, before investing in additional assets.

Scotland's Environment Strategy sets out the Scottish Government's vision for tackling the twin climate and nature crises. Building on this, a new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy will set targets for halting biodiversity loss by 2030 and restoring and regenerating biodiversity by 2045. Scotland's Land Use Strategy aims to make efficient use of our land by managing competing activities in a sustainable way.

National spatial strategy

Scotland's future places will be net zero, nature-positive places that are designed to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change, whilst protecting, recovering and restoring our environment.

Meeting our climate ambition will require a rapid transformation across all sectors of our economy and society. This means ensuring the right development happens in the right place.

Every decision on our future development must contribute to making Scotland a more sustainable place. We will encourage low and zero carbon design and energy efficiency, development that is accessible by sustainable travel, and expansion of renewable energy generation. It is also crucial that we build resilience to the future impacts of climate change including water resources and assets and development on our coasts. Our places will also need to evolve to help us cope with changing temperatures.

Our commitment to a **just transition**, means that our journey to a net zero society and nature recovery must involve, and be fair to, everyone. We will grow a circular economy and make best use of embodied carbon by **conserving and recycling assets**, including by encouraging sustainable design and the wise use of resources.

To respond to the global biodiversity crisis, nature recovery must be at the heart of future places. We will secure positive effects for biodiversity, create and strengthen nature networks and invest in nature-based solutions to benefit natural capital and contribute to net zero. We will use our land wisely including through a renewed focus on reusing vacant and derelict land to help limit the new land that we build on. We will protect and enhance our historic environment, and safeguard our shared heritage for future generations. We will also work together to ensure that development onshore aligns with national, sectoral and regional marine plans.

National developments

Six national developments support the delivery of sustainable places:

- **Energy Innovation Development on the Islands** provides infrastructure for low carbon fuels for communities and commerce, as well as for export. This will contribute to improved energy security, unlock opportunities for employment and business, and help to put Scotland at the forefront of low carbon fuel innovation.
- **Pumped Hydro Storage** extends hydro-electricity capacity to support the transition away from fossil fuels, whilst also providing employment opportunities in rural areas.
- **Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure** supports electricity generation and associated grid infrastructure throughout Scotland, providing employment and opportunities for community benefit, helping to reduce emissions and improve security of supply.
- **Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities** facilitates delivery of zero waste objectives by reducing the need for new materials, resource use and emissions.
- **Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions** is an exemplar of a nature based, infrastructure first approach to catchment wide surface water flood risk management to help our two largest cities adapt to the future impacts of climate change.
- **Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks** facilitates a shift towards sustainable transport in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Aberdeen and their wider regions, helping to reduce transport related emissions and supporting accessibility for all.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to meet greenhouse gas emissions targets.

The global climate emergency and the nature crisis have formed the foundations for the spatial strategy as a whole. The regional priorities share opportunities and challenges for reducing emissions and adapting to the long-term impacts of climate change, in a way which protects and enhances our natural environment.

[Policy 1](#) gives significant weight to the global climate emergency in order to ensure that it is recognised as a priority in all plans and decisions. [Policy 2](#) will ensure that emissions from new development are minimised as far as possible.

A healthy natural environment is key to reducing emissions. [Policies 3](#) and [4](#) protect biodiversity and natural assets, which in turn play a crucial role in carbon reduction. [Policy 5](#) provides significant protection for peatland and carbon rich soils and [Policy 6](#) aims to protect and expand forests, woodland and trees. Blue and green infrastructure is supported by [Policy 20](#). [Policy 10](#) encourages the use of natural solutions to coastal protection. [Policy 7](#) protects the embodied carbon in the historic built environment, and [Policy 9](#) makes better use of previously used land and buildings, helping to lock in carbon.

By supporting the transition of key emissions generating activities, [Policy 11](#) supports renewable energy development, [Policy 19](#) helps to decarbonise heat, alongside [Policy 18](#) and its encouragement of an infrastructure first approach. [Policy 12](#) encourages sustainable waste management, and [Policy 13](#) will facilitate a transition towards more sustainable, lower emissions travel including active travel and public transport.

Several policies support more local living and limit the use of additional land for development. This includes [Policy 8](#) which manages development in the greenbelt, [Policy 15](#) which promotes local living, including where feasible 20 minute neighbourhoods, and [Policy 16](#) which focuses on delivering new homes that are designed to a high standard and located in sustainable places. Minimising and reducing emissions is also integral to the six qualities of successful places, as set out in [Policy 14](#). [Policies 17](#) and [29](#) support rural development which is compatible with climate change targets. [Policy 24](#) facilitates the roll out of digital infrastructure, helping to reduce the need to travel. [Policy 27](#) promotes a town centre first approach to development and [Policy 28](#) restricts additional out of town retail development.

Policies relating to productive places are consistent with our ambition for green growth in the futures. More specifically, [Policy 33](#) is clear that fossil fuel exploration, development and production (excluding unconventional oil and gas) will not be supported other than in exceptional circumstances, and that the Scottish Government does not support the development of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

IMPROVING BIODIVERSITY

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to secure positive effects for biodiversity.

The nature crisis, together with the global climate emergency, underpinned the spatial strategy as a whole. The action areas include proposals which protect and enhance the natural environment.

[Policy 1](#) gives significant weight to the nature crisis to ensure that it is recognised as a priority in all plans and decisions. [Policy 4](#) protects and enhances natural heritage, and this is further supported by [Policy 5](#) on soils and [Policy 6](#) on forests, woodland and trees. [Policy 20](#) also promotes the expansion and connectivity of blue and green infrastructure, whilst [Policy 10](#) recognises the particular sensitivities of coastal areas.

Protection of the natural features of brownfield land is also highlighted in [Policy 9](#), and protection of the green belt in [Policy 8](#) will ensure that biodiversity in these locations is conserved and accessible to communities, bringing nature into the design and layout of our cities, towns, streets and spaces in [Policy 14](#).

Most significantly, [Policy 3](#) plays a critical role in ensuring that development will secure positive effects for biodiversity. It rebalances the planning system in favour of conserving, restoring and enhancing biodiversity and promotes investment in nature-based solutions, benefiting people and nature. The policy ensures that LDPs protect, conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity and promote nature recovery and nature restoration. Proposals will be required to contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity, including by restoring degraded habitats and building and strengthening nature networks. Adverse impacts, including cumulative impacts, of development proposals on the natural environment will be minimised through careful planning and design, taking into account the need to reverse biodiversity loss. Development proposals for national, major or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, including nature networks, so they are in a demonstrably better state than without intervention. Proposals for local development will include appropriate measures to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity.



Liveable places

The global pandemic has left a social legacy that requires urgent, as well as long-term action. Many people need better places to support their lifelong health and wellbeing and build their future resilience. In recent years communities have found ways to work together to find local solutions to shared challenges. However, the cost crisis is again underlining the need for our future buildings and places to do more to support our long-term resilience.

There remain significant differences between the healthy life expectancy of people living in the most and least deprived parts of Scotland. More people need to be involved in planning their future places so that the built environment is safe and welcoming to everyone, including women, disabled people, children and young people and black and ethnic minority groups.

Scotland's Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan sets out actions required to continue to reduce the number of children living in poverty. It recognises the importance of place and continued investment in regeneration, targeted to areas where the need is greatest.

Access to affordable, quality homes in better places, as supported by Housing to 2040, will make an important contribution to addressing the impact of the cost crisis, particularly on younger people who will also benefit from reduced transport costs. The planning system has an important role to play in supporting the delivery of homes which meet our future needs.

Consistent with this, Scotland's Population Strategy reflects the need for planning to identify the amount of land required for future homes and to enable more balanced demographic change including sustainable rural development.

Health policies, including Scotland's diet and healthy weight delivery plan reflect the importance of places which provide opportunities for exercise and access to healthy food. Our strategy for tackling social isolation and loneliness also recognises the importance of providing quality, accessible and welcoming places for everyone through placemaking and regeneration.

National spatial strategy

Scotland's future places will have homes and neighbourhoods that are healthier, affordable and vibrant places to live.

We have an opportunity to significantly improve our places, address longstanding inequality and eliminate discrimination, helping to transform our country for the better. Cleaner, safer and greener places and improved open spaces will build resilience and provide wider benefits for people, health and biodiversity, in a balanced way.

We will plan our future places in a way that improves **local living**, so that we live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient, safe and provides opportunities for learning. Quality homes will be better served by local facilities and services by applying the principles of local living to development proposals. The concept of 20 minute neighbourhoods will help to support this, particularly in more urban areas. In rural areas the approach to local living will be shaped by local context.

Planning must also enable the delivery of good quality, affordable homes by allocating enough land in the right locations to meet current and future needs and aspirations.

Recognising the need for liveable places to be consistent with our ambition for net zero and nature recovery, we will promote **compact urban growth**. Higher density development which will help to sustain public transport and support local living. Virtual connectivity and continued investment in active travel links will also be important.

We want to make better use of our spaces to support physical activity, relaxation and play, to bring people together and to celebrate our culture, diversity and heritage. Buildings and other physical assets can also support activities based on intangible cultural assets such as Gaelic language.

We will improve green infrastructure to bring nature into our towns and cities, connecting people with nature, building resilience and helping our biodiversity to recover and flourish. We will ensure we work towards a stronger infection-resilient society through adaptations to our buildings and the spaces around them.

Our strategy is to value, enhance, conserve and celebrate our places and to build better communities for future generations. A stronger commitment to placemaking, through a design-led approach and a focus on quality, will ensure every new development improves the experience of our places.

Underpinning this, everyone must have an opportunity to help shape their local neighbourhoods. We will continue to work to broaden involvement in the planning system as a whole.

National developments

Six national developments support the delivery of liveable places:

- **Central Scotland Green Network** restores nature at scale and acts as an exemplar of green infrastructure in placemaking that provides benefits for communities and supports a wellbeing economy. This will provide multiple benefits for health, biodiversity, and will help us to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Action should continue to focus on areas where community wellbeing and resilience would benefit most.
- **National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network** strengthens and extends a national active travel network to reduce emissions from transport, focusing on areas where improvements to accessibility are most needed.
- **Edinburgh Waterfront** creates a high quality, mixed use, locally liveable place, contributing to the sustainable future development of Scotland's capital city.
- **Dundee Waterfront** delivers a high quality, mixed use, locally liveable place demonstrating resilient waterfront regeneration which anticipates and responds to climate impacts.
- **Stranraer Gateway** acts as a hub for surrounding communities. Regeneration will help create a high quality, mixed use, locally liveable place, optimising the area as a national and international gateway.
- A **Digital Fibre Network** enhances the connectivity of communities and help to facilitate more sustainable ways of living including in rural and island communities.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

A FAIR AND INCLUSIVE PLANNING SYSTEM

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to eliminate discrimination and promote equality.

We expect everyone involved in planning to take steps to ensure that a wide range of people are involved in shaping their future places. Planning authorities are required to respect, protect and fulfil human rights in accordance with the Human Rights Act 1998. As per the Equality Act 2010, the Public Sector Equality duty is applicable and Equality Impact Assessments, Fairer Scotland Duty Assessments and where applicable Island Communities Impact Assessments are required for LDPs. The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child also means that young people must be encouraged to play an active role in planning.

Throughout the planning system, opportunities are available to engage in development planning and decisions about future development. Such engagement, undertaken in line with statutory requirements, should be early, collaborative, meaningful and proportionate. Support or concern expressed on matters material to planning must be given careful consideration in the determination of development proposals.

Our places can only work for everyone if the views of all users are properly understood, but experience shows that some people can find it more challenging to engage with planning.

There are opportunities to involve a wider range of people in the planning system. It is essential, and a statutory requirement, that people with protected characteristics, including disability, race, age, sex and sexual orientation, and including people from a range of socio-economic backgrounds, are given particular support to express their views on plans and decisions, with consultations designed to meet the communication needs of people.

The spatial strategy as a whole is clear that our future development must support a just transition, and it highlights opportunities for development and regeneration that are designed to tackle social, economic and health inequalities. [Policy 14](#), focusing on the six qualities of successful places recognises that diversity is an integral part of placemaking. Children and young people will have an important contribution to make, given the long-term impacts of planning for future generations. Women, as well as disabled people and their representatives, can ensure that barriers and challenges of the design of our living and working environments are tackled effectively. We have also provided clear support for development that will help to ensure human rights are maintained, for example: [Policy 16](#) on quality homes which addresses the need for accommodation for Gypsy/Travellers and Travelling Showpeople yards, as well as homes for older people and disabled people; and [Policy 21](#) which supports and facilitates spaces and opportunities for play, recreation and sport in our natural and built environments for children and people for all ages.

Our impact assessment has demonstrated that there is potential for significant benefits from more sustainable, liveable and productive places which will be delivered by these and other policies. We recognise that delivery will also depend on fair and inclusive engagement with people, and we will therefore continue to promote best practice and innovation, including in guidance on effective community engagement.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

HOMES THAT MEET OUR DIVERSE NEEDS

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to meet the housing needs of people living in Scotland including, in particular, the housing needs of older people and disabled people.

The spatial strategy has taken into account future population and household projections, and highlights areas where there will be particular challenges arising from an ageing population. Spatial principles, including local living and just transition, will also help to ensure that the needs of all people are reflected in our future places.

Policy 16 supports the delivery of high quality, sustainable homes that meet the needs of people throughout their lives. In particular, it supports proposals for new homes that improve affordability and choice by being adaptable to changing and diverse needs, and which address identified gaps in provision. This could include: accessible, adaptable and wheelchair accessible homes; homes that meet the needs of older people; a range of size of homes; and other specialist groups.

The majority of older people want to remain in their home as they age, preferring mainstream housing, and so accessible and adaptable homes can allow people to continue to live independently. The close alignment of planning and housing delivery at the local level, through LDPs and Local Housing Strategies, will help to deliver the right type and mix of homes in the right locations. In addition Housing to 2040 sets out a commitment to Scottish Accessible Home Standard in 2025/26.

Development that provides homes to meet the needs of older people and disabled people will be further promoted by LDPs. Evidence reports will explain the action taken to support and promote the construction and/ or adaptation of homes to meet their needs. Spatial strategies will take into account housing needs and the availability of land for new homes, including for older people and disabled people through the Accessible Home Standard, wheelchair housing targets and the consideration of accessibility in design of the wider development and local amenity. The planning authority must also keep their plan under review, and monitor any changes in this.

Placemaking and choices about the location of development will also help to meet the needs of older people and disabled people. **Policy 14** supports development that is consistent with the six qualities of successful places, including health and wellbeing, and safe and pleasant places for people to meet. **Policy 15** supports development that is consistent with the principles of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods, helping to ensure our homes and wider neighbourhoods meet all of our needs. As part of this, it recognises that affordable housing options, ability to age in place and housing diversity are an integral part of more liveable places. **Policy 13** is also clear that the views of disabled people must be sought when seeking to reduce reliance on the car including by managing car parking provision.



Productive places

The economic performance of different parts of Scotland varies considerably, with challenges and opportunities for different places and sectors. At present, some communities are particularly affected by high rates of poverty, one in five people of working age is economically inactive, and there is significant scope to improve our productivity and the scale and rate of business development.

The unprecedented challenge of the pandemic has created difficult conditions for some sectors including hospitality, tourism, and culture. The cost crisis and our exit from the European Union have combined with this to exacerbate labour shortages particularly in our more remote, rural and island communities. World-wide supply chain issues have generated severe challenges, including for the construction sector.

Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation aims to make Scotland a successful place with opportunities for everyone, in every region of Scotland, to share in our economic prosperity. It tackles the challenges of structural inequality, the transition to net zero, and achieving a green recovery from the pandemic. It also supports entrepreneurship and aims to play to the strengths and assets of each part of Scotland to build community wealth.

Building community wealth should be founded on an assessment of local assets in partnership with communities. It also involves better co-ordinated state investment at national, regional and local levels to strengthen of Scotland's indigenous business base and create sustainable fair work opportunities. Opportunities will flow from more land and assets being placed in the hands of communities or under their guiding influence.

Our city centres are socially and culturally important, supporting our productivity and stimulating innovation and investment. The pandemic has generated severe impacts and longer term challenges for these places. The City Centre Recovery Taskforce has developed a shared vision for their future with support from the City Centre Recovery Fund for recovery and repurposing. Through playing their part in the delivery of the National Strategy for Economic Transformation, Scotland's cities have a nationally significant opportunity to contribute to Scotland's economic recovery and to achieve a wellbeing economy.

The Town Centre Action Plan Review and our subsequent response recognises the critical importance of planning with and for communities sets a new vision for town centres, and reaffirms our commitment to the Town Centre First Principle. It recognises the critical importance of planning in diversifying the offer within our city and town centres, to help them thrive, improve their resilience and anticipate continuing societal, environmental and economic change. The Place Based Investment Programme supports our commitment to town centre action, places, local living and community wealth building.

National spatial strategy

Our future places will attract new investment, build business confidence, stimulate GDP, export growth and entrepreneurship, and facilitate future ways of working.

Planning will play a key role in creating a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy, with thriving and innovative businesses, quality jobs and fair work for everyone.

We will actively encourage investment where it is needed most by **rebalancing development**. This will play to the economic strengths and opportunities of each part of Scotland. Significant investment opportunities include strategic sites which were previously a focus for industrial activity but which have experienced decline. These locations will play a significant role in our transition to net zero as they are served by strategic infrastructure, well located on or close to developed coasts, and could provide added benefits for communities that are in greatest need. They also include areas that have been overlooked historically, but which are now strategically located for extensive renewable energy generation.

Planning can enable diversification of city, town and commercial centres, to better manage their role and respond to ongoing changes to the way we shop and access services. The way we work is changing, and we will need to be flexible to facilitate future business and employment that benefits communities and improves places. Digital connectivity will play a crucial role in supporting sustainable work in the future.

The way we plan our places can contribute to our short term recovery, as well as longer term restructuring to tackle long standing inequalities. Our strategy is to build a wellbeing economy that benefits everyone, and every place, in Scotland. We want the planning system to create a society that is thriving across economic, social and environmental dimensions, and that delivers prosperity for all.

Scotland's national and international connectivity for people and freight will remain important, for the economic, social and cultural benefits it delivers and for supporting wider Government ambitions on trade, tourism, and business development. Airports, ports and rail links will provide vital connections within Scotland and beyond which will be crucial to building on a sustainable recovery whilst helping to decarbonise transport through low and zero emissions technologies. Looking ahead, there will also be opportunities to build on inclusive growth within communities and support economic transformation through Green Freeports in Scotland.

Rural revitalisation, achieved by distributing development, investment and infrastructure strategically and by actively enabling rural development in particular, will play an important role in this. Key sectors including energy and food and drink focus on natural resources and provide significant employment in rural parts of Scotland. These sectors also depend on supporting services and access to markets and there is significant potential for associated investment to develop a sustainable supply chain. Digital connectivity will also be critical to their continued success.

Urban areas are a focus for investment in the built environment and many of our industries and businesses are located in and around our cities. These areas will also be more attractive to future investors and their employees if they are greener and healthier places to live.

National developments

Six national developments support the delivery of productive places:

- **Clyde Mission** brings together substantial public and private investment to remediate and regenerate brownfield land along the River Clyde for economic, social and environmental uses.
- **Aberdeen Harbour** facilitates completion of the South Harbour and access to it as well as a more mixed use waterfront for Aberdeen on areas of the harbour that will not in future be required for port uses. This will contribute to international and national connectivity, freight and the renewable energy sector.
- **Industrial Green Transition Zones** support transformation of key sites including by putting in place the infrastructure needed to commercialise carbon capture and storage and decarbonise industry. Innovation will provide green jobs, reduce emissions and help Scotland lead the way on new technologies.
- **Hunterston Strategic Asset** supports re-use the port and wider site, engaging in new technologies and creating opportunities from nuclear decommissioning to make best use of existing infrastructure and provide local benefits.
- **Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment** involves the reuse of a key site to provide a range of economic opportunities for local communities. Energy produced will help to reduce heating and transport emissions within the wider region.
- **High Speed Rail** ensures connectivity with the United Kingdom (UK) and beyond, reduce long distance transport emissions and optimise the benefits more widely.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

RURAL REVITALISATION

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to retain and increase the population of rural areas of Scotland.

The spatial strategy reflects a wide range of proposals for development in rural areas, supported by national developments that recognise the potential and need to expand key sectors including renewable energy, sustainable transport and green infrastructure.

[Policy 17](#) promotes the development of rural homes, to ensure the needs of communities are met in a sustainable way. Similarly, [Policy 29](#) encourages development that will contribute to rural economies and communities. Development proposals that contribute to the viability, sustainability and diversity of rural businesses are supported while ensuring planning policies take into consideration local characteristics. Both policies support development in previously inhabited areas in a way that is guided by LDPs. Greater constraint will be applied in areas of pressure whilst in rural areas with fragile communities, a more enabling approach has been taken to support communities to be sustainable and thrive. LDPs are required to set out an appropriate approach to development in areas of pressure and decline informed by an understanding of population change and settlement characteristics and how these have changed over time as well as an understanding of the local circumstances including housing and travel.

Many policies will also play an important role in supporting rural communities and population growth. Some focus on supporting sustainable development in key sectors for rural areas such as [Policy 30](#) on tourism, which aims to ensure community, environmental and business considerations are fully taken into account. [Policy 32](#) encourages sustainable aquaculture, whilst [Policy 10](#) supports development in coastal areas that takes into account future vulnerability to climate change. [Policy 11](#) supports opportunities for renewable energy development whilst [Policy 24](#) will support the delivery of digital infrastructure to support investment and population growth in rural areas.

Care has been taken to ensure policies reflect the specific needs and constraints of rural areas. [Policy 13](#) ensures that in assessing the transport impacts of development, the area's needs and characteristics are taken into account. [Policy 15](#) aims to promote local living in broad terms, including through 20 minute neighbourhoods where practical, recognising varying settlement patterns and the particular characteristics and challenges of different areas in applying these principles in practice. [Policy 28](#) also recognises the importance of retail facilities for rural communities and economies.

Alongside this, recognising that environmental quality is a key asset for rural areas, Policies [3](#), [4](#), [5](#) and [6](#) ensure that natural assets are protected and enhanced.

CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:

LIFELONG HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to improve health and wellbeing. The spatial strategy as a whole recognises that there are significant health inequalities in Scotland that future development can help to address. The spatial principles aim to ensure that future development is directed to sustainable locations, recognising that the role of planning in supporting development in places which would benefit most from regeneration and investment.

The natural environment is fundamental to our health and wellbeing from the benefits we get from being in nature to the design and delivery of blue and green infrastructure. Policies [1](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#) and [6](#) manage the effects of development on biodiversity and on natural places. [Policy 20](#) supports development that will provide good quality, accessible greenspaces and nature networks and [Policy 21](#) supports development that will provide opportunities for sport and play. Active travel is encouraged by [Policy 13](#) with walking and cycling providing wider health benefits.





[Policy 23](#) helps to protect health and wellbeing, including by ensuring that air and noise pollution are taken into account, and by planning and managing development to take hazards into account. [Policy 22](#) ensures that future flood risk is not exacerbated by development, and facilitates the delivery of sustainable flood risk management solutions. [Policy 10](#) manages development to reflect future vulnerability of coastal areas. [Policy 9](#) encourages the redevelopment of brownfield land, helping to reduce the impact of vacant and derelict sites on communities.

Housing plays a critical role in supporting our health and wellbeing. [Policy 16](#) enables the delivery of well planned, good quality, affordable, safe and warm homes. Alongside this, [Policy 13](#) supports development that provides, or is accessible by active travel and [Policy 15](#) ensures people have access to facilities from their homes, including healthcare facilities. Development is also required to take into account the capacity and any additional needs for community services and facilities, as part of the infrastructure first approach set out in [Policy 18](#).



















[Policy 14](#) applies the six qualities of successful places to development proposals, including health and wellbeing. As part of this it prioritises key aspects including women's safety and suicide risk and aims to ensure development does not undermine the amenity of our existing homes and places. Climate related mental and physical health effects will be addressed by the strategy as a whole and in particular by Policies [1](#) and [2](#) by ensuring future development minimises emissions and is built to reflect the future risks of climate change. Health and wellbeing will also be supported by development that helps us to transition to net zero, as reflected in [Policy 11](#) on renewable energy, [Policy 12](#) on zero waste, and [Policy 19](#) on heat and cooling. Wider policies relating to economic development will have a further positive effect on overall health and wellbeing by supporting employment and investment in our places in a fair and sustainable way.

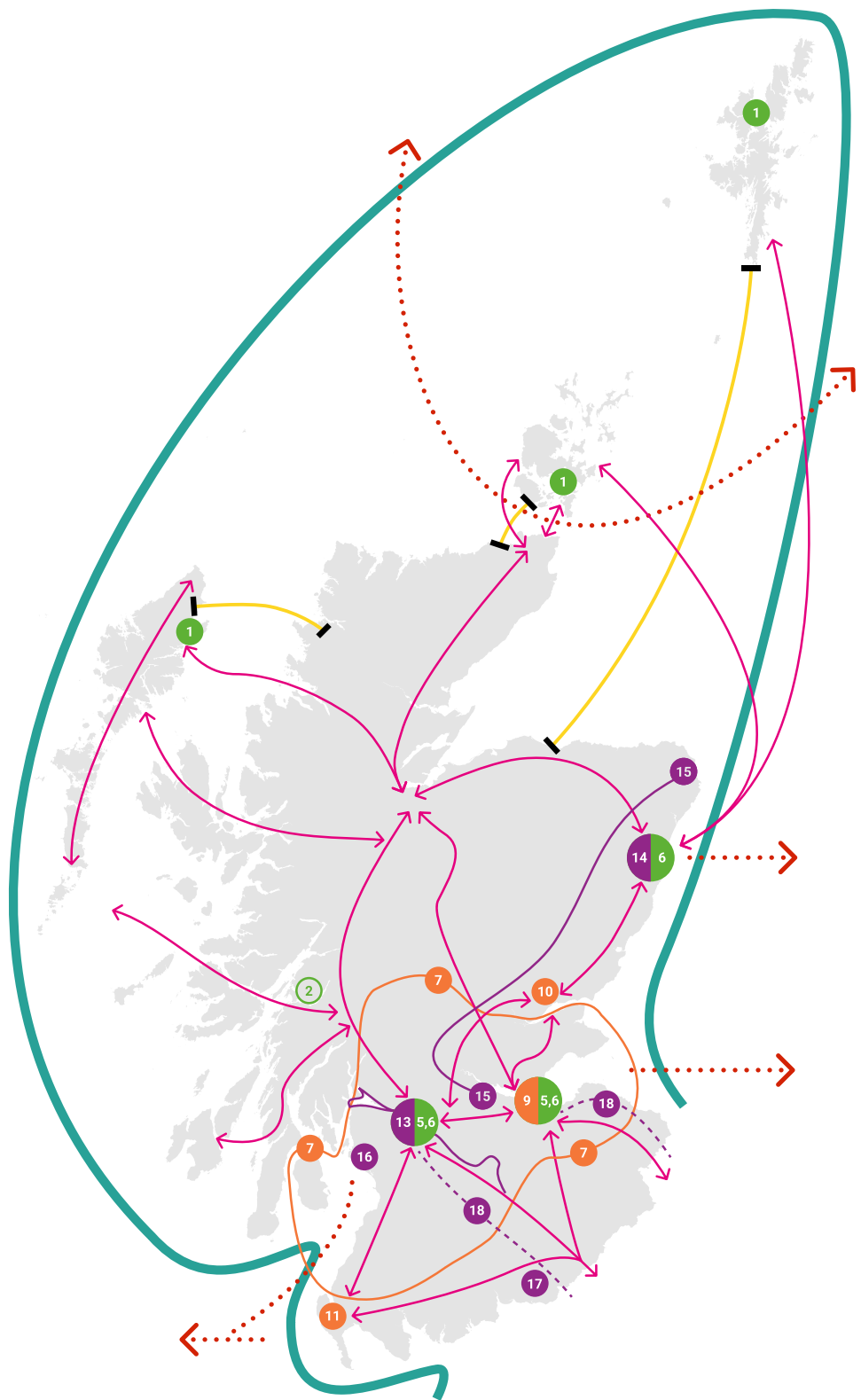
National Spatial Strategy

Legend

-  Strategic maritime routes
-  Strategic connection
-  Blue economy
-  Transmission infrastructure

National Developments

-  1 Energy Innovation Development on the Islands
-  2 Pumped Hydro Storage
Scotland Wide
-  3 Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
Scotland Wide
-  4 Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities
Scotland Wide
-  5 Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions
Edinburgh and Glasgow
-  6 Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks
Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow
-  7 Central Scotland Green Network
-  8 National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
Scotland Wide
-  9 Edinburgh Waterfront
-  10 Dundee Waterfront
-  11 Stranraer Gateway
-  12 Digital Fibre Network
Scotland Wide
-  13 Clyde Mission
-  14 Aberdeen Harbour
-  15 Industrial Green Transition Zones
-  16 Hunterston Strategic Asset
-  17 Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment
-  18 High Speed Rail



Indicative

National Developments

Legend

Sustainable Places

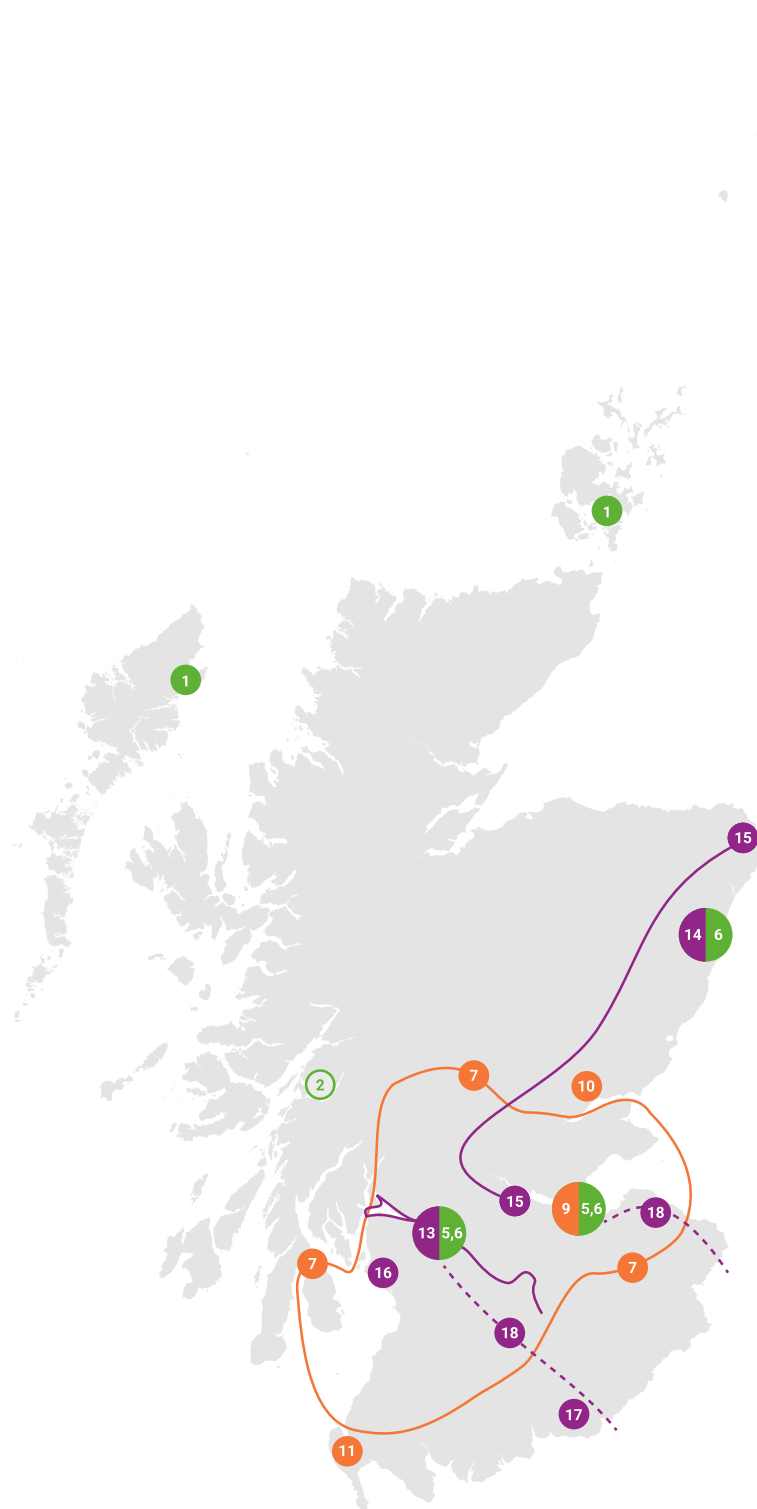
- 1 Energy Innovation Development on the Islands
- 2 Pumped Hydro Storage
Scotland Wide
- 3 Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
Scotland Wide
- 4 Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities
Scotland Wide
- 5 Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions
Edinburgh and Glasgow
- 6 Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks
Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow

Liveable Places

- 7 Central Scotland Green Network
- 8 National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
Scotland Wide
- 9 Edinburgh Waterfront
- 10 Dundee Waterfront
- 11 Stranraer Gateway
- 12 Digital Fibre Network
Scotland Wide

Productive Places

- 13 Clyde Mission
- 14 Aberdeen Harbour
- 15 Industrial Green Transition Zones
- 16 Hunterston Strategic Asset
- 17 Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment
- 18 High Speed Rail



Indicative

Regional Spatial Priorities

North and West Coast and Islands

This part of Scotland will be at the forefront of our efforts to reach net zero emissions by 2045. It is a diverse area, from Shetland and Orkney in the north, to the Outer and Inner Hebrides and the coastal areas of Highland and Argyll and Bute. As one of the most renewable energy rich localities in Europe with significant natural resources, there is a real opportunity for this area to support our shared national outcomes.

Key centres where lifeline links provide access to the islands include Lerwick, Kirkwall, Stromness, Stornoway, Wick and Thurso, Ullapool, Mallaig and Oban, whilst Tarbert, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown are important hubs to the south of the area. These centres provide important services to their wider hinterlands. Local projects are ongoing, including the regeneration of Stromness, the Stornoway Deep Water Port development, the linked Islands Growth Deal Outer Hebrides Energy Hub project in Stornoway, and the Islands Growth Deal Knab Redevelopment project in Shetland.

The area has an exceptional environment with coastal and island landscapes that are an important part of our national identity. It is rich in biodiversity, sustaining many internationally significant ecological sites, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Global Geoparks in the North West Highlands and Shetland, and Wester Ross UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and species including some of the best remaining temperate rainforest sites in Europe. It has a rich history, language and distinctive cultural heritage including the St Kilda and the Heart of Neolithic Orkney UNESCO World Heritage Sites. These key assets require careful management to ensure they continue to benefit communities.

There will be significant climate challenges for this part of Scotland. Island and coastal ecosystems, and the communities they support, are naturally more vulnerable to the effects of climate change, sea level rise and extreme events. Of particular concern are the impacts on vulnerable low-lying coastal zones and

infrastructure, with potentially wide-ranging effects from biodiversity loss to coastal erosion, flooding and landslips. If we do not take action to plan and build resilience, communities could suffer disproportionately from the impacts of climate change.

A climate and nature conscious approach to development of this area can help to tackle wider challenges. The Carbon Neutral Islands project will support six islands (Hoy, Islay, Great Cumbrae, Raasay, Barra and Yell) to become carbon neutral by 2040. This will act as a catalyst for further climate action across all Scottish islands to make more attractive, resilient and sustainable communities in the long-term.

The relatively high levels of community land ownership, particularly in the Outer Hebrides, and strong ties with the land and sea reflect this area's strong sense of place and local resilience. Scotland's National Islands Plan aims to grow the population and economy, improve transport and housing, and ensure island communities are served by the facilities, jobs, education and services they need to flourish. Environmental wellbeing, clean and affordable energy, strong communities, culture and identity are also priorities.

Around 94 of Scotland's 900 islands are permanently inhabited. The size and composition of each population has changed over the years and continues to do so. Whilst most recent estimates indicate population growth across the majority of local authority areas with islands, population change within each area is more complex, with areas of growth and depopulation varying between islands and coastal communities, and across different strata of the population. An ageing population in some parts of the area will mean that we need to do more to reverse past patterns of population decline and sustain local facilities and services that support rural and dispersed communities.

Public service provision, transport, energy consumption, fuel poverty, child poverty and housing, including its affordability, will continue to be significant challenges. Employment varies across the area, and can tend to rely on the public sector, tourism and lower wage sectors,

limiting the scope and choice of skilled jobs in some locations. It can be difficult to attract and retain a local workforce to support some jobs, underlining the importance of building skills and promoting fair work principles to support future investment. Language skills are also important in many areas where Gaelic is used by the community.

Challenges from the end of free movement and changing markets, and the agriculture and fishing industries, will need support to ensure long-term sustainability, but there are also substantial economic opportunities presented by developments in sectors such as renewable energy generation.

Priorities

Alongside Scotland's marine planning authorities, we will work with the area's exceptional assets and natural resources to build a more resilient future for island and coastal communities. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:

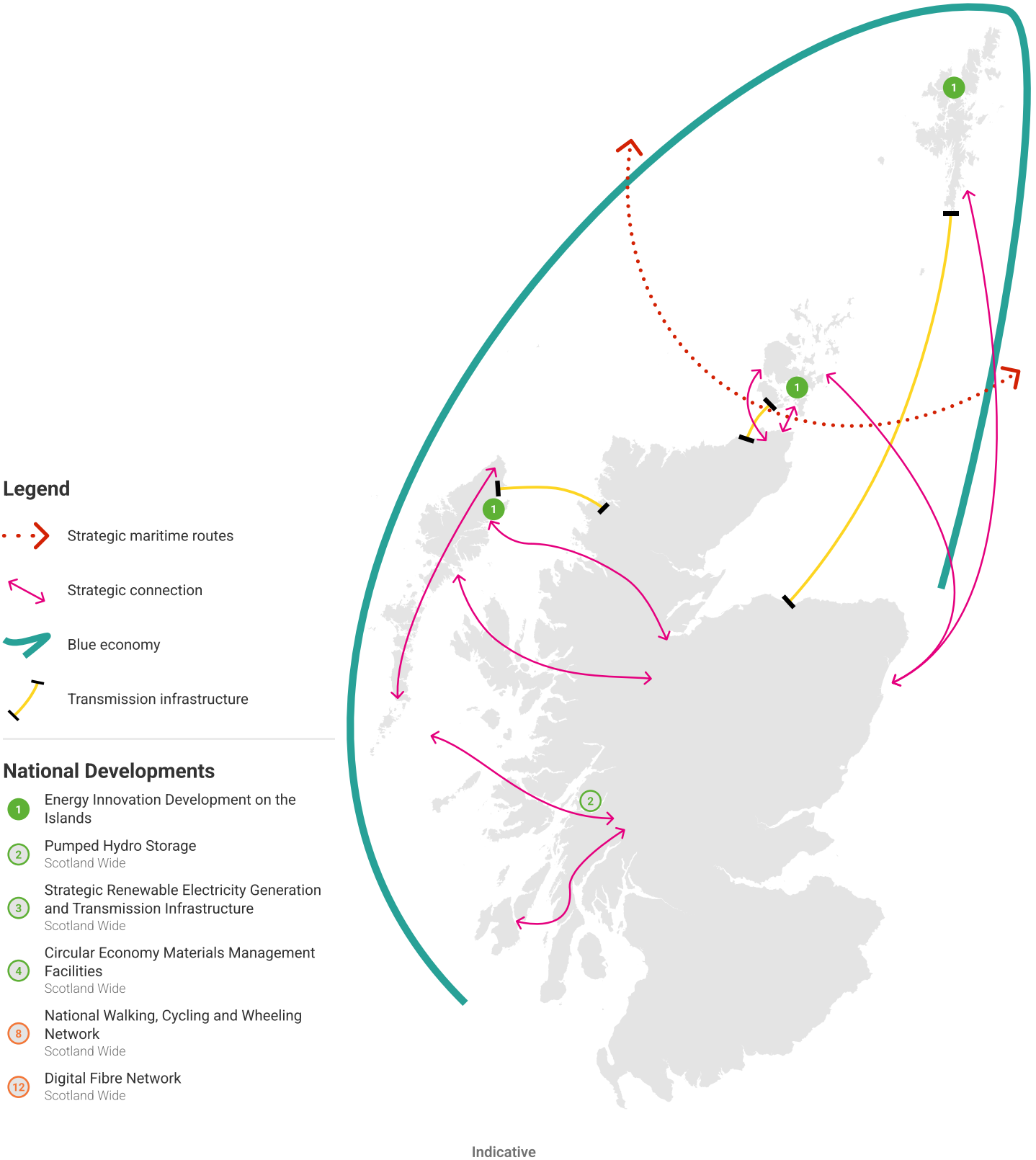
- Maximise the benefits of renewable energy whilst enhancing blue and green infrastructure, decarbonising transport and building resilient connections.
- Support coastal and island communities to become carbon neutral, thus contributing to net-zero commitments and reducing fuel poverty.
- Seize the opportunities to grow the blue and green economy, recognising the world-class environmental assets that require careful management and opportunities to develop skills and diversify employment.

The following national developments will support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- [Energy Innovation Development on the Islands](#)
- [Pumped Hydro Storage](#)
- [Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure](#)
- [Circular Economy Material Management Facilities](#)
- [National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network](#)
- [Digital Fibre Network](#)

Further detail about the priorities for this area is contained in [Annex C](#). Further details of national developments are contained in [Annex B](#).

North and West Coast and Islands



North

The Highlands of Scotland, Moray, mainland Argyll, northern parts of rural Stirling and Perthshire are world renowned for their stunning landscapes, rich biodiversity and cultural heritage.

Settlement patterns vary, from dispersed or low density crofting townships, to key centres such as Inverness, Ullapool, Dingwall, Grantown-on-Spey, Aviemore, Elgin, Pitlochry and Aberfeldy. Cairngorms National Park is a national asset with internationally significant habitats and landscapes and there is currently a proposal to make the Flow Country a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The northern part of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park also extends into this area.

Emissions here are partly offset by the climate sequestration from land use and forestry so that the area acts as a net carbon sink overall. There are few sources of significant industrial emissions. Climate change risks include changing levels of rainfall, increased storm events, temperature rise, flood risk, rising sea levels and associated erosion. Tailored measures will be required to assist communities in adapting to climate change and transitioning to net zero.

This rural heartland is much more than a place of beauty and isolation. Many thriving communities live here, and they depend on local jobs and learning to support their quality of life. Some communities have experienced outmigration, particularly the loss of younger people, especially outwith Inverness. Further population decline is a future risk, particularly for the west and north. People often depend on the car and more limited access to services creates disadvantage, despite the quality of life and good health that many living here enjoy. An ageing population will put pressures on some services.

Parts of the area have recently experienced an accelerated increase in house prices. The pandemic has reinforced long standing issues of affordability and a more mobile remote workforce has been attracted to the area, adding increased pressure. Without intervention, access to affordable homes, jobs and services that enable local people, including young people, to stay in their communities could become more challenging. Fuel and transport poverty is a particular challenge towards the north and west and there are significant areas which do not currently benefit from good quality digital connectivity.

The area's environmental quality, culture, language, landscape and wildlife sustain key economic sectors including tourism, food and drink, distilling and clean energy. Extensive areas of woodland and peatland act as a carbon sink, contributing significantly to our national sustainability. The area has a strong economy with growing income and low unemployment overall, but there remain pockets of deprivation both in urban areas and in more remote areas where there is a need for alternatives to low skilled and low paid jobs.

Priorities

This part of Scotland can continue to make a strong contribution towards meeting our ambition for a net zero and nature positive country by demonstrating how natural assets can be managed and used to secure a more sustainable future. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:

- Protect environmental assets and stimulate investment in natural and engineered solutions to climate change and nature restoration, whilst decarbonising transport and building resilient connections.
- Maintain and help to grow the population by taking a positive approach to rural development that strengthens networks of communities.
- Support local economic development by making sustainable use of the areas' world-class environmental assets to innovate and lead greener growth.

The following national developments will also support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- [Pumped Hydro Storage](#)
- [Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure](#)
- [Circular Economy Material Management Facilities](#)
- [National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network](#)
- [Digital Fibre Network](#)

Further detail about the priorities for this area is contained in [Annex C](#). Further details of national developments are contained in [Annex B](#).

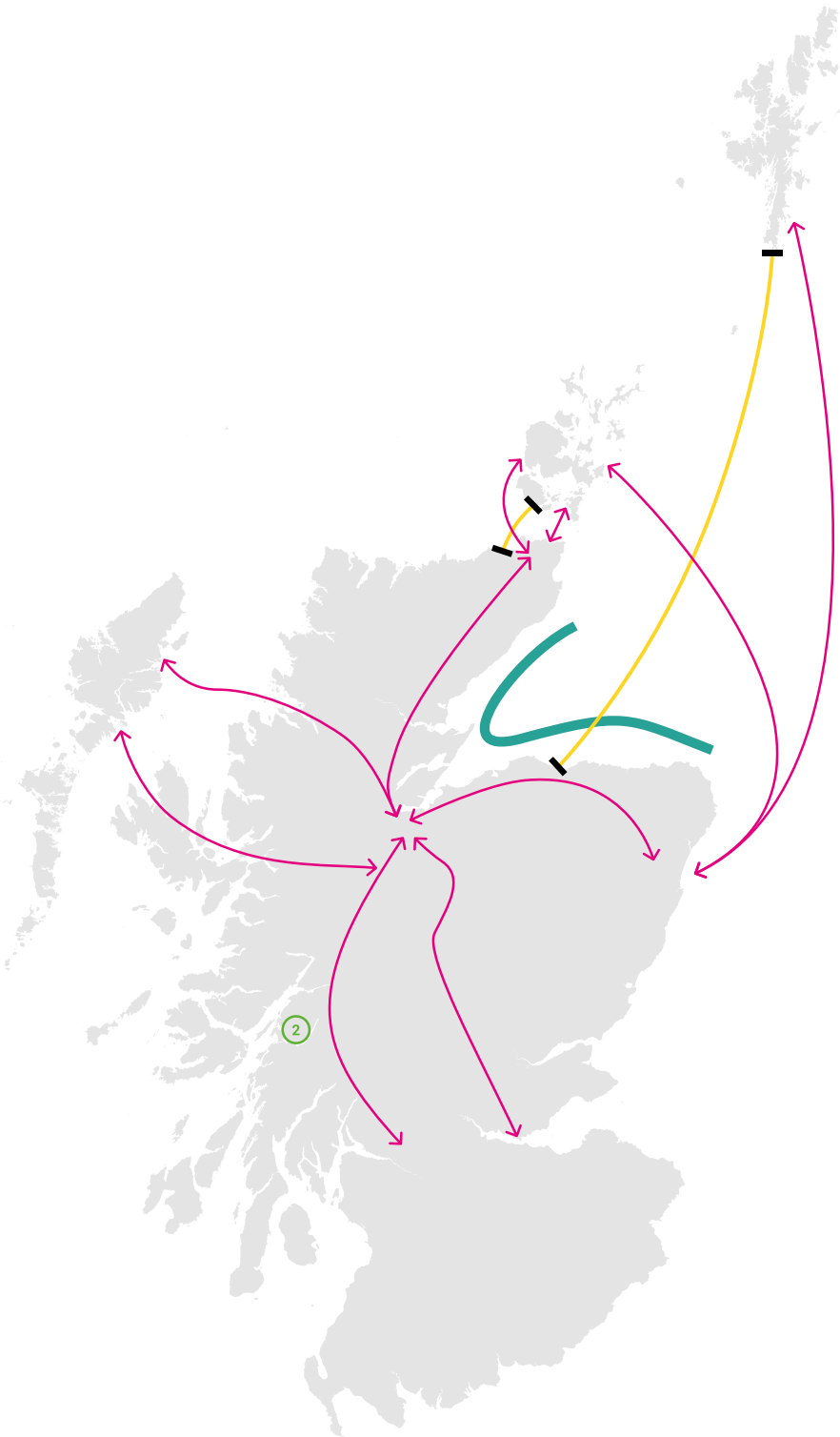
North

Legend

- ↔ Strategic connection
- Blue economy
- ⚡ Transmission infrastructure

National Developments

- 2 Pumped Hydro Storage
Scotland Wide
- 3 Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
Scotland Wide
- 4 Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities
Scotland Wide
- 8 National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
Scotland Wide
- 12 Digital Fibre Network
Scotland Wide



Indicative

North East

The north east is a centre for the skills and expertise we will need to meet our climate change commitments. This area will evolve, through a just transition, to move industry and business away from the oil and gas sector towards a cleaner, greener future. Rich in natural assets, this area, along with the wider Moray and Cromarty Firths, has built on its oil and gas experience to pioneer new technologies. This makes it a uniquely investable proposition that could benefit Scotland as a whole. We can build on the area's experience to find innovative solutions to climate change.

Emissions generated from this area arise mainly from transport, industrial and commercial activity and domestic properties, with land use and forestry providing carbon sequestration. Car ownership is particularly high in Aberdeenshire. Significant parts of the coast will be vulnerable to future climate impacts.

This area is amongst the most prosperous parts of Scotland, but has experienced significant economic challenges in recent years and has pockets of deprivation. The area comprises a mix of rural and urban communities, with the city of Aberdeen and a surrounding network of towns including Huntly, Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Ellon, Inverurie and Stonehaven, and significant rural areas including countryside around Aberdeen city. Whilst parts of the area have experienced population decline, several settlements around Aberdeen have grown. Links from Aberdeenshire to communities in Moray, Angus and Tayside are also important.

Affordability and choice of homes is acute across the area, especially within Aberdeen. The growing proportion of retirees in Aberdeenshire presents a further challenge to housing and service delivery. There are lower levels of educational attainment and limited access to services for communities along the Aberdeenshire and Moray coast. Many of these places will benefit from further regeneration that builds on their identity and natural assets.

The excellent quality of the built environment, natural assets and cultural heritage already contribute to health and wellbeing in the area

and can form the basis of a transition to net zero. Some of our highest quality productive agricultural land is concentrated here, together with other land-based industries, and the economy benefits from a strong fishing industry, alongside its globally significant energy sector. The dominance of these sectors, together with wider changes including from the pandemic, European Union (EU) Exit and global markets, means that economic diversification and repurposing of buildings and infrastructure will be key priorities.

Priorities

This part of Scotland will play a crucial role in achieving Just Transition to net zero. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:

- Plan infrastructure and investment to support the transition from oil and gas to net zero whilst protecting and enhancing blue and green infrastructure and decarbonising connectivity.
- Focus on continued regeneration through the principles of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods to sustain the skilled workforce and improve local liveability.
- Support continued economic diversification and innovation.





The following national developments will also support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- [Pumped Hydro Storage](#)
- [Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure](#)
- [Circular Economy Material Management Facilities](#)
- [Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks](#)
- [National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network](#)
- [Digital Fibre Network](#)
- [Aberdeen Harbour](#)
- [Industrial Green Transition Zones](#)









Further detail about the priorities for this area is contained in [Annex C](#). Further details of national developments are contained in [Annex B](#).

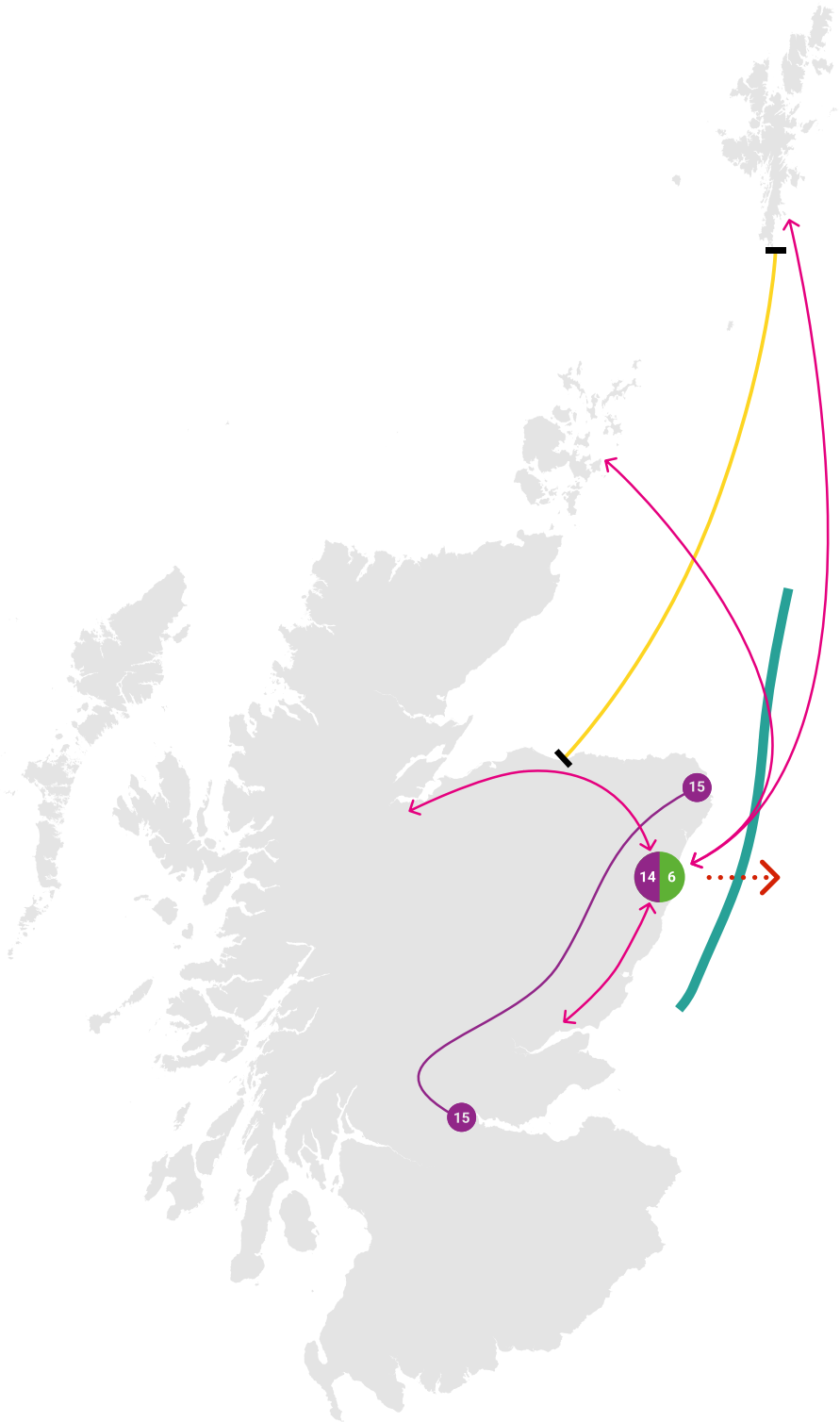
North East

Legend

-  Strategic maritime routes
-  Strategic connection
-  Blue economy
-  Transmission infrastructure

National Developments

-  Pumped Hydro Storage
Scotland Wide
-  Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
Scotland Wide
-  Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities
Scotland Wide
-  Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks
Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow
-  National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
Scotland Wide
-  Digital Fibre Network
Scotland Wide
-  Aberdeen Harbour
-  Industrial Green Transition Zones



Indicative

Central

We will only meet our climate change commitments if we make significant changes to the densely populated central belt of Scotland. Our urban communities will play a critical role in reducing the emissions generated by the way we live our lives.

This area includes the Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirling, Dundee and Perth city regions as well as networks of towns and smaller settlements, and more rural surroundings.

Many of our largest emitters of greenhouse gas emissions are located in this area, including Grangemouth where industrial activity is concentrated, providing high value manufacturing and employment, and playing a key role in our resilience. Other key sources include industrial, manufacturing and waste management sites and facilities. Overall emissions from domestic properties and transport are high as a result of the area's population density and the scale of daily movement within and between city regions. The growing risk of flooding could have significant impacts in the future, as many key settlements and economic assets are located on the Clyde, Forth and Tay estuaries.

We need to work together to decarbonise buildings and transport and tackle congestion, make more efficient use of existing land and buildings, generate renewable energy and establish supporting electricity and heat networks and create more inclusive, greener and sustainable places that will stand the test of time. By weaving blue and green infrastructure across our urban fabric we can ensure that nature and the outdoors are accessible to everyone, supporting lifelong health and wellbeing and creating places that are more resilient to flooding.

There are significant social and economic differences across the area – at a broad scale there are relatively high concentrations of poor health, child poverty, economic disadvantage and population decline in parts of the Glasgow city region contrasting with strong demand

and expected population growth in parts of the Edinburgh city region. The broad pattern is repeated for children living in poverty, who are more likely to live in the Glasgow city region. Across the area as a whole, however, there are localised areas of high and low deprivation.

As a nation we have a particular obligation to do more to tackle the concentration of poor health outcomes in west central Scotland. Action is needed to reduce inequality and improve health and wellbeing so that everyone is able to thrive. Better places can do more to support lifelong health and wellbeing by providing warm homes that are connected to services. Access to quality greenspace and nature-based solutions can help to mitigate health inequalities and improve physical and mental health, by providing opportunities for play, socialising, relaxation and physical activity. Developing our communities to promote local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods can help reduce inequalities in health. The frequency of urban car use can be reduced by improving local liveability and improved access to facilities, helping to reduce emissions and air pollution. Access to health and social care facilities will need to be built into our future places and can benefit from continuing investment in digital infrastructure and innovation.

Household projections show there will be a continuing demand for more homes across the most urban parts of Scotland. There has been a strong market, high levels of housebuilding and pressure on infrastructure in some 'hot spots' including the Edinburgh city region, Stirling and Falkirk, and Perth. In contrast, despite good connections and infrastructure capacity, it can be more challenging to encourage the market to deliver new homes particularly in parts of the west where unemployment is also higher.

There are also inequalities across each of the city regions, with local concentrations of economic deprivation and many former coalfield communities. Overall, economic performance is higher in Edinburgh and Glasgow and lower in surrounding areas including Inverclyde, Ayrshire, along parts of the Clyde Coast and Lanarkshire.

The diverse business base reflects nationally important sectors including financial services, business administration, life sciences, distribution and transport, retail and commercial, and manufacturing and production. City centres are experiencing significant challenges, caused or accelerated by the pandemic, but each retain a strong character and distinctive identity, offering opportunities for new business, homes, and services. Similar issues apply to the towns across this area.

A wellbeing economy goes beyond strategic investment sites to link more closely with the wellbeing of communities and their local environments. It will be critical to recognise the importance of anchor institutions who can support local investment in our places and natural and historic assets, provide education, employment and other services, and act as community hubs. Significant investment in our health and social care, justice and learning estates will continue to provide important sources of employment and income for smaller scale local businesses.

Around the area's settlements there are many high quality environments, from World Heritage Sites, historic burghs and conservation areas to protected biodiversity sites of international importance, ancient woodlands and areas of high landscape quality, including the coastline, country and national parks, and canals. This brings opportunities for outdoor recreation within a short distance of the majority of Scotland's population.

The coast is an integral part of the area's identity, combining natural and cultural heritage and acting as a focus for investment and regeneration. We have made progress in restoring and reusing areas that were historically a focus for heavy industry and mining, leaving a legacy of disused sites and areas blighted by dereliction. Key sites for further investment include urban waterfronts and former industrial sites where existing infrastructure can be reused to support the transition to a low carbon economy.

Priorities

A coherent strategy that focuses on climate change and responds to the challenges of the pandemic will drive forward change to tackle inequalities and build a new, greener, future for this part of the country. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:

- Provide net zero energy solutions including extended heat networks and improved energy efficiency, together with urban greening and improved low carbon transport.
- Pioneer low carbon, resilient urban living by rolling out networks of 20 minute neighbourhoods, future proofing city and town centres, accelerating urban greening, investing in net zero homes, and managing development on the edge of settlements.
- Target economic investment and build community wealth to overcome disadvantage and support a greener wellbeing economy.

The following national developments will also support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- [Pumped Hydro Storage](#)
- [Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure](#)
- [Circular Economy Material Management Facilities](#)
- [Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Drainage Solutions](#)
- [Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks](#)
- [Central Scotland Green Network](#)
- [National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network](#)
- [Edinburgh Waterfront](#)
- [Dundee Waterfront](#)
- [Digital Fibre Network](#)
- [Clyde Mission](#)
- [Industrial Green Transition Zones](#)
- [Hunterston Strategic Asset](#)
- [High Speed Rail](#)

Further detail about the priorities for this area is contained in [Annex C](#). Further details of national developments are contained in [Annex B](#).

Central

Legend

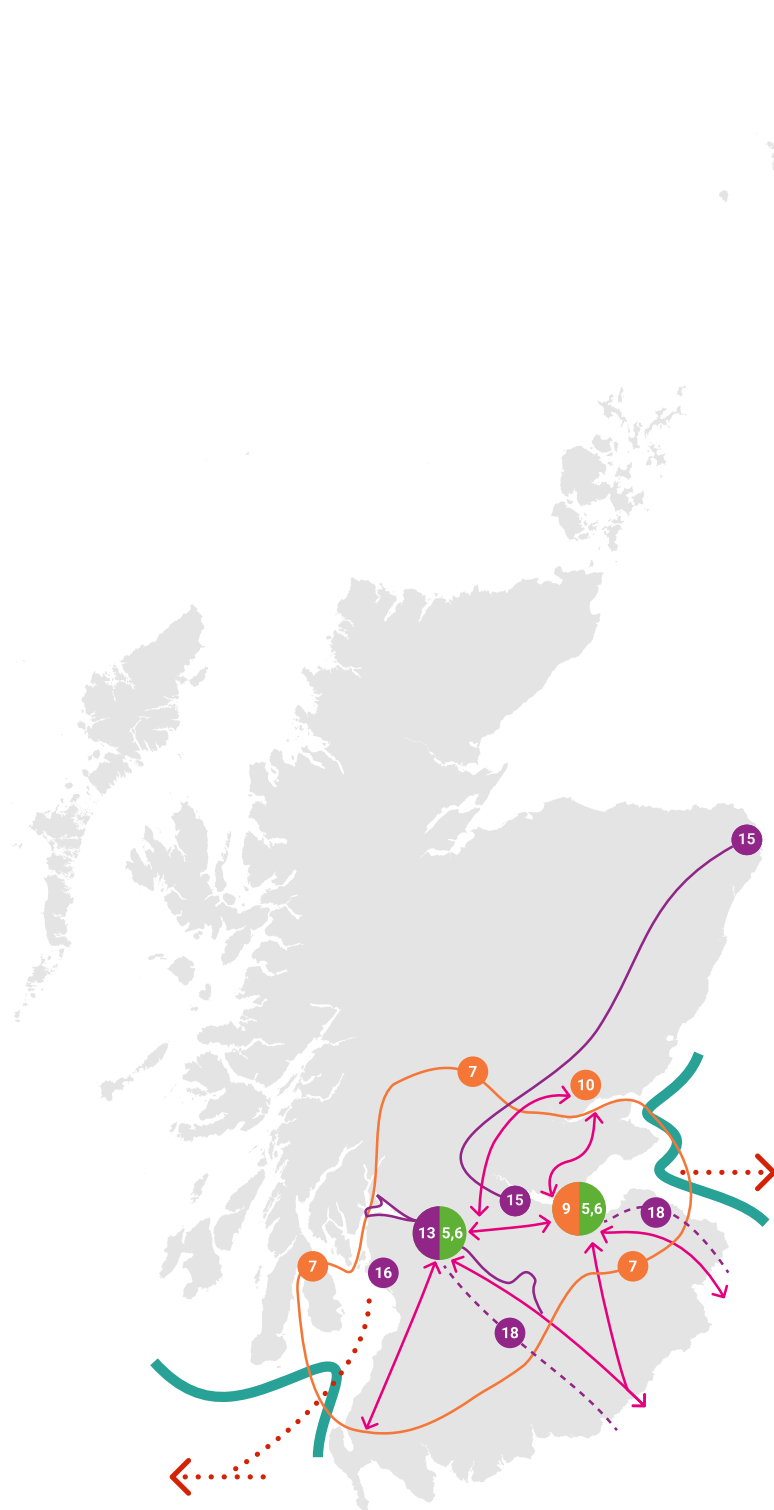
... Strategic maritime routes

↔ Strategic connection

➤ Blue economy

National Developments

- 2 Pumped Hydro Storage
Scotland Wide
- 3 Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
Scotland Wide
- 4 Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities
Scotland Wide
- 5 Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions
Edinburgh and Glasgow
- 6 Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks
Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow
- 7 Central Scotland Green Network
Mapping is indicative
- 8 National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
Scotland Wide
- 9 Edinburgh Waterfront
- 10 Dundee Waterfront
- 12 Digital Fibre Network
Scotland Wide
- 13 Clyde Mission
- 15 Industrial Green Transition Zones
- 16 Hunterston Strategic Asset
- 18 High Speed Rail



Indicative

South

The South of Scotland is strategically important with a strong sense of identity centred on networks of towns and villages, supported by distinctive landscapes and coasts. This is a place with a rich cultural heritage and exceptional environmental assets and natural resources, such as the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere and Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park. This area is ambitious for positive change in the coming years, and the immediate work to recover from the pandemic will form the basis of a longer term plan to respond to the challenges of climate change and support nature restoration and recovery.

Settlements across this area provide services to the surrounding rural communities. Towns are well placed to be models of sustainable living, with many undergoing regeneration. Larger settlements include Dumfries, Stranraer, Galashiels, Hawick, with a network of towns and villages throughout Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders. The area extends northwards to include Ayrshire towns such as Ayr, Girvan, Dalmellington and Cumnock in the west, as well as towards the southern rural parts of East Lothian in the east and parts of South Lanarkshire including Biggar and Moffat. Beyond the towns there are many small settlements and rural homes, farms and smallholdings.

Cross border relationships are important in this area, together with strategic transport connections to England, Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Emissions in this area are moderate, with transport and industry emissions being partly offset by land use. The area has significant areas of woodland and peatland which act as a carbon sink and form the basis for future investment opportunities. The few sites that are significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions include industrial and commercial activities, including some food and drink processing facilities. Coastal erosion and flood risk is expected to be a significant challenge in the future, particularly where there is a risk of impacts on key transport corridors or settlements.

Working with communities to find new ways of rural living that are consistent with climate change will be a challenge for this part of Scotland, given the relatively high levels of dependence on the car, limited public transport, housing affordability challenges and the dispersed population.

Despite having high levels of wellbeing and quality of life, population decline is projected to continue in some regions to the west of the area, with fewer younger people and more retired people living in the area in the future. Economic diversification will help to address dependence on low wage and public sector employment.

Priorities

Our strategy aims to ensure that this part of Scotland fulfils its potential. There is significant potential for the area to develop and increase recognition of it as a place to live, work and visit. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:

- Protect environmental assets and stimulate investment in natural and engineered solutions to climate change and nature restoration, whilst decarbonising transport and building resilient physical and digital connections.
- Increase the population by improving local liveability, creating a low carbon network of towns and supporting sustainable rural development.
- Support local economic development whilst making sustainable use of the area's world-class environmental assets to innovate and lead greener growth.




The following national developments will also support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- [Pumped Hydro Storage](#)
- [Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure](#)
- [Circular Economy Material Management Facilities](#)
- [National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network](#)
- [Stranraer Gateway](#)
- [Digital Fibre Network](#)
- [Clyde Mission](#)
- [Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment](#)
- [High Speed Rail](#)









Further detail about the priorities for this area is contained in [Annex C](#). Further details of national developments are contained in [Annex B](#).

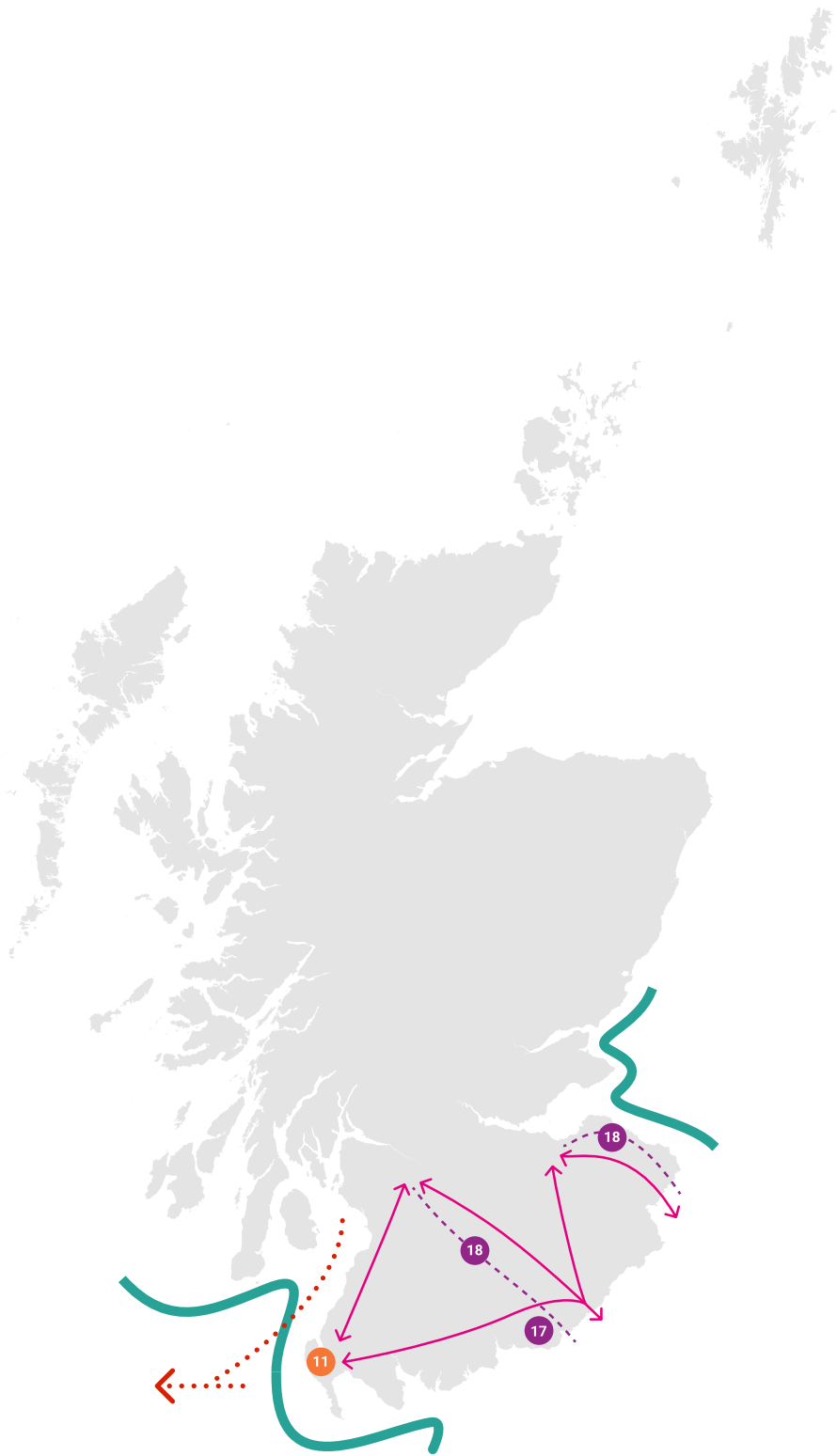
South

Legend

-  Strategic maritime routes
-  Strategic connection
-  Blue economy

National Developments

-  2 Pumped Hydro Storage
Scotland Wide
-  3 Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
Scotland Wide
-  4 Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities
Scotland Wide
-  8 National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
Scotland Wide
-  11 Stranraer Gateway
-  12 Digital Fibre Network
Scotland Wide
-  17 Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment
-  18 High Speed Rail



Part 2 – National Planning Policy



Sustainable Places

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that addresses the global climate emergency and nature crisis.

Policy Outcomes:

- Zero carbon, nature positive places.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs must address the global climate emergency and nature crisis by ensuring the spatial strategy will reduce emissions and adapt to current and future risks of climate change by promoting nature recovery and restoration in the area.

Policy 1

When considering all development proposals significant weight will be given to the global climate and nature crises.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

All other policies.

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that minimises emissions and adapts to the current and future impacts of climate change.

Policy Outcomes:

- Emissions from development are minimised; and
- Our places are more resilient to climate change impacts.

Local Development Plans:

The LDP spatial strategy should be designed to reduce, minimise or avoid greenhouse gas emissions. The six spatial principles should form the basis of the spatial strategy, helping to guide development to, and create, sustainable locations. The strategy should be informed by an understanding of the impacts of the proposals on greenhouse gas emissions.

LDPs should support adaptation to the current and future impacts of climate change by taking into account climate risks, guiding development away from vulnerable areas, and enabling places to adapt to those risks.

Policy 2

- a) Development proposals will be sited and designed to minimise lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible.
- b) Development proposals will be sited and designed to adapt to current and future risks from climate change.
- c) Development proposals to retrofit measures to existing developments that reduce emissions or support adaptation to climate change will be supported.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

All other policies.

Biodiversity

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect biodiversity, reverse biodiversity loss, deliver positive effects from development and strengthen nature networks.

Policy Outcomes:

- Biodiversity is enhanced and better connected including through strengthened nature networks and nature-based solutions.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should protect, conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity in line with the mitigation hierarchy. They should also promote nature recovery and nature restoration across the development plan area, including by: facilitating the creation of nature networks and strengthening connections between them to support improved ecological connectivity; restoring degraded habitats or creating new habitats; and incorporating measures to increase biodiversity, including populations of priority species.

Policy 3

- Development proposals will contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity, including where relevant, restoring degraded habitats and building and strengthening nature networks and the connections between them. Proposals should also integrate nature-based solutions, where possible.
- Development proposals for national or major development, or for development that requires an Environmental Impact Assessment will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, including nature networks so they are in a demonstrably better state than without intervention. This will include future management. To inform this, best practice assessment methods should be used. Proposals within these categories will demonstrate how they have met all of the following criteria:
 - the proposal is based on an understanding of the existing characteristics of the site and its local, regional and national ecological context prior to development, including the presence of any irreplaceable habitats;
 - wherever feasible, nature-based solutions have been integrated and made best use of;
 - an assessment of potential negative effects which should be fully mitigated in line with the mitigation hierarchy prior to identifying enhancements;
 - significant biodiversity enhancements are provided, in addition to any proposed mitigation. This should include nature networks, linking to and strengthening habitat connectivity within and beyond the development, secured within a reasonable timescale and with reasonable certainty. Management arrangements for their long-term retention and monitoring should be included, wherever appropriate; and
 - local community benefits of the biodiversity and/or nature networks have been considered.
- Proposals for local development will include appropriate measures to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, in accordance with national and local guidance. Measures should be proportionate to the nature and scale of development. Applications for individual householder development, or which fall within scope of (b) above, are excluded from this requirement.
- Any potential adverse impacts, including cumulative impacts, of development proposals on biodiversity, nature networks and the natural environment will be minimised through careful planning and design. This will take into account the need to reverse biodiversity loss, safeguard the ecosystem services that the natural environment provides, and build resilience by enhancing nature networks and maximising the potential for restoration.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Soils](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Energy](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

Natural places

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect, restore and enhance natural assets making best use of nature-based solutions.

Policy Outcomes:

- Natural places are protected and restored.
- Natural assets are managed in a sustainable way that maintains and grows their essential benefits and services.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs will identify and protect locally, regionally, nationally and internationally important natural assets, on land and along coasts. The spatial strategy should safeguard them and take into account the objectives and level of their protected status in allocating land for development. Spatial strategies should also better connect nature rich areas by establishing and growing nature networks to help protect and restore the biodiversity, ecosystems and natural processes in their area.

Policy 4

- Development proposals which by virtue of type, location or scale will have an unacceptable impact on the natural environment, will not be supported.
- Development proposals that are likely to have a significant effect on an existing or proposed European site (Special Area of Conservation or Special Protection Areas) and are not directly connected with or necessary to their conservation management are required to be subject to an “appropriate assessment” of the implications for the conservation objectives.

- Development proposals that will affect a National Park, National Scenic Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest or a National Nature Reserve will only be supported where:
 - The objectives of designation and the overall integrity of the areas will not be compromised; or
 - Any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance.

All Ramsar sites are also European sites and/or Sites of Special Scientific Interest and are extended protection under the relevant statutory regimes.

- Development proposals that affect a site designated as a local nature conservation site or landscape area in the LDP will only be supported where:
 - Development will not have significant adverse effects on the integrity of the area or the qualities for which it has been identified; or
 - Any significant adverse effects on the integrity of the area are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of at least local importance.
- The precautionary principle will be applied in accordance with relevant legislation and Scottish Government guidance.
- Development proposals that are likely to have an adverse effect on species protected by legislation will only be supported where the proposal meets the relevant statutory tests. If there is reasonable evidence to suggest that a protected species is present on a site or may be affected by a proposed development, steps must be taken to establish its presence. The level of protection required by legislation must be factored into the planning and design of development, and potential impacts must be fully considered prior to the determination of any application.

g) Development proposals in areas identified as wild land in the Nature Scot Wild Land Areas map will only be supported where the proposal:

- i. will support meeting renewable energy targets; or,
- ii. is for small scale development directly linked to a rural business or croft, or is required to support a fragile community in a rural area.

All such proposals must be accompanied by a wild land impact assessment which sets out how design, siting, or other mitigation measures have been and will be used to minimise significant impacts on the qualities of the wild land, as well as any management and monitoring arrangements where appropriate. Buffer zones around wild land will not be applied, and effects of development outwith wild land areas will not be a significant consideration.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Soils](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Energy](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Tourism](#)

Soils

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect carbon-rich soils, restore peatlands and minimise disturbance to soils from development.

Policy Outcomes:

- Valued soils are protected and restored.
- Soils, including carbon-rich soils, are sequestering and storing carbon.
- Soils are healthy and provide essential ecosystem services for nature, people and our economy.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should protect locally, regionally, nationally and internationally valued soils, including land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use.

Policy 5

- a) Development proposals will only be supported if they are designed and constructed:
 - i. In accordance with the mitigation hierarchy by first avoiding and then minimising the amount of disturbance to soils on undeveloped land; and
 - ii. In a manner that protects soil from damage including from compaction and erosion, and that minimises soil sealing.
 - b) Development proposals on prime agricultural land, or land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use, as identified by the LDP, will only be supported where it is for:
 - i. Essential infrastructure and there is a specific locational need and no other suitable site;
 - ii. Small-scale development directly linked to a rural business, farm or croft or for essential workers for the rural business to be able to live onsite;
 - iii. The development of production and processing facilities associated with the land produce where no other local site is suitable;
 - iv. The generation of energy from renewable sources or the extraction of minerals and there is secure provision for restoration; and
- In all of the above exceptions, the layout and design of the proposal minimises the amount of protected land that is required.
- c) Development proposals on peatland, carbon-rich soils and priority peatland habitat will only be supported for:
 - i. Essential infrastructure and there is a specific locational need and no other suitable site;
 - ii. The generation of energy from renewable sources that optimises the contribution of the area to greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets;
 - iii. Small-scale development directly linked to a rural business, farm or croft;
 - iv. Supporting a fragile community in a rural or island area; or
 - v. Restoration of peatland habitats.
 - d) Where development on peatland, carbon-rich soils or priority peatland habitat is proposed, a detailed site specific assessment will be required to identify:
 - i. the baseline depth, habitat condition, quality and stability of carbon rich soils;
 - ii. the likely effects of the development on peatland, including on soil disturbance; and
 - iii. the likely net effects of the development on climate emissions and loss of carbon.

This assessment should inform careful project design and ensure, in accordance with relevant guidance and the mitigation hierarchy, that adverse impacts are first avoided and then minimised through best practice. A peat management plan will be required to demonstrate that this approach has been followed, alongside other appropriate plans required for restoring and/ or enhancing the site into a functioning peatland system capable of achieving carbon sequestration.

- e) Development proposals for new commercial peat extraction, including extensions to existing sites, will only be supported where:
- i. the extracted peat is supporting the Scottish whisky industry;
 - ii. there is no reasonable substitute;
 - iii. the area of extraction is the minimum necessary and the proposal retains an in-situ residual depth of part of at least 1 metre across the whole site, including drainage features;
 - iv. the time period for extraction is the minimum necessary; and
 - v. there is an agreed comprehensive site restoration plan which will progressively restore, over a reasonable timescale, the area of extraction to a functioning peatland system capable of achieving carbon sequestration.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Energy](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Rural development](#)

Forestry, woodland and trees

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect and expand forests, woodland and trees.

Policy Outcomes:

- Existing woodlands and trees are protected, and cover is expanded.
- Woodland and trees on development sites are sustainably managed.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should identify and protect existing woodland and the potential for its enhancement or expansion to avoid habitat fragmentation and improve ecological connectivity, helping to support and expand nature networks. The spatial strategy should identify and set out proposals for forestry, woodlands and trees in the area, including their development, protection and enhancement, resilience to climate change, and the expansion of a range of types to provide multiple benefits. This will be supported and informed by an up to date Forestry and Woodland Strategy.

Policy 6

- Development proposals that enhance, expand and improve woodland and tree cover will be supported.
- Development proposals will not be supported where they will result in:
 - Any loss of ancient woodlands, ancient and veteran trees, or adverse impact on their ecological condition;
 - Adverse impacts on native woodlands, hedgerows and individual trees of high biodiversity value, or identified for protection in the Forestry and Woodland Strategy;
 - Fragmenting or severing woodland habitats, unless appropriate mitigation measures are identified and implemented in line with the mitigation hierarchy;
 - Conflict with Restocking Direction, Remedial Notice or Registered Notice to Comply issued by Scottish Forestry.

- Development proposals involving woodland removal will only be supported where they will achieve significant and clearly defined additional public benefits in accordance with relevant Scottish Government policy on woodland removal. Where woodland is removed, compensatory planting will most likely be expected to be delivered.
- Development proposals on sites which include an area of existing woodland or land identified in the Forestry and Woodland Strategy as being suitable for woodland creation will only be supported where the enhancement and improvement of woodlands and the planting of new trees on the site (in accordance with the Forestry and Woodland Strategy) are integrated into the design.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Soils](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Energy](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Heat and cooling](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Tourism](#)

Historic assets and places

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect and enhance historic environment assets and places, and to enable positive change as a catalyst for the regeneration of places.

Policy Outcomes:

- The historic environment is valued, protected, and enhanced, supporting the transition to net zero and ensuring assets are resilient to current and future impacts of climate change.
- Redundant or neglected historic buildings are brought back into sustainable and productive uses.
- Recognise the social, environmental and economic value of the historic environment, to our economy and cultural identity.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs, including through their spatial strategies, should support the sustainable management of the historic environment. They should identify, protect and enhance valued historic assets and places.

Policy 7

- a) Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place. The assessment should identify the likely visual or physical impact of any proposals for change, including cumulative effects and provide a sound basis for managing the impacts of change.

Proposals should also be informed by national policy and guidance on managing change in the historic environment, and information held within Historic Environment Records.

- b) Development proposals for the demolition of listed buildings will not be supported unless it has been demonstrated that there are exceptional circumstances and that all reasonable efforts have been made to retain, reuse and/or adapt the listed building. Considerations include whether the:
- i. building is no longer of special interest;
 - ii. building is incapable of physical repair and re-use as verified through a detailed structural condition survey report;
 - iii. repair of the building is not economically viable and there has been adequate marketing for existing and/or new uses at a price reflecting its location and condition for a reasonable period to attract interest from potential restoring purchasers; or
 - iv. demolition of the building is essential to delivering significant benefits to economic growth or the wider community.
- c) Development proposals for the reuse, alteration or extension of a listed building will only be supported where they will preserve its character, special architectural or historic interest and setting. Development proposals affecting the setting of a listed building should preserve its character, and its special architectural or historic interest.
- d) Development proposals in or affecting conservation areas will only be supported where the character and appearance of the conservation area and its setting is preserved or enhanced. Relevant considerations include the:
- i. architectural and historic character of the area;
 - ii. existing density, built form and layout; and
 - iii. context and siting, quality of design and suitable materials.
- e) Development proposals in conservation areas will ensure that existing natural and built features which contribute to the character of the conservation area and its setting, including structures, boundary walls, railings, trees and hedges, are retained.

- f) Demolition of buildings in a conservation area which make a positive contribution to its character will only be supported where it has been demonstrated that:
 - i. reasonable efforts have been made to retain, repair and reuse the building;
 - ii. the building is of little townscape value;
 - iii. the structural condition of the building prevents its retention at a reasonable cost; or
 - iv. the form or location of the building makes its reuse extremely difficult.
- g) Where demolition within a conservation area is to be followed by redevelopment, consent to demolish will only be supported when an acceptable design, layout and materials are being used for the replacement development.
- h) Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where:
 - i. direct impacts on the scheduled monument are avoided;
 - ii. significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or
 - iii. exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.
- i) Development proposals affecting nationally important Gardens and Designed Landscapes will be supported where they protect, preserve or enhance their cultural significance, character and integrity and where proposals will not significantly impact on important views to, from and within the site, or its setting.
- j) Development proposals affecting nationally important Historic Battlefields will only be supported where they protect and, where appropriate, enhance their cultural significance, key landscape characteristics, physical remains and special qualities.
- k) Development proposals at the coast edge or that extend offshore will only be supported where proposals do not significantly hinder the preservation objectives of Historic Marine Protected Areas.
- l) Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.
- m) Development proposals which sensitively repair, enhance and bring historic buildings, as identified as being at risk locally or on the national Buildings at Risk Register, back into beneficial use will be supported.
- n) Enabling development for historic environment assets or places that would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms, will only be supported when it has been demonstrated that the enabling development proposed is:
 - i. essential to secure the future of an historic environment asset or place which is at risk of serious deterioration or loss; and
 - ii. the minimum necessary to secure the restoration, adaptation and long-term future of the historic environment asset or place.

The beneficial outcomes for the historic environment asset or place should be secured early in the phasing of the development, and will be ensured through the use of conditions and/or legal agreements.
- o) Non-designated historic environment assets, places and their setting should be protected and preserved in situ wherever feasible. Where there is potential for non-designated buried archaeological remains to exist below a site, developers will provide an evaluation of the archaeological resource at an early stage so that planning authorities can assess impacts. Historic buildings may also have archaeological significance which is not understood and may require assessment.

Where impacts cannot be avoided they should be minimised. Where it has been demonstrated that avoidance or retention is not possible, excavation, recording, analysis, archiving, publication and activities to provide public benefit may be required through the use of conditions or legal/planning obligations.

When new archaeological discoveries are made during the course of development works, they must be reported to the planning authority to enable agreement on appropriate inspection, recording and mitigation measures.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Energy](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Digital infrastructure](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Tourism](#)

[Culture and creativity](#)

Green belts

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate compact urban growth and use the land around our towns and cities sustainably.

Policy Outcomes:

- Development is directed to the right locations, urban density is increased and unsustainable growth is prevented.
- The character, landscape, natural setting and identity of settlements is protected and enhanced.
- Nature networks are supported and land is managed to help tackle climate change.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should consider using green belts, to support their spatial strategy as a settlement management tool to restrict development around towns and cities.

Green belts will not be necessary for most settlements but may be zoned around settlements where there is a significant danger of unsustainable growth in car-based commuting or suburbanisation of the countryside.

Green belts should be identified or reviewed as part of the preparation of LDPs. Boundary changes may be made to accommodate planned growth, or to extend, or alter the area covered as green belt. Detailed green belt boundaries should be based on evidence and should be clearly identified in plans.

Policy 8

a) Development proposals within a green belt designated within the LDP will only be supported if:

i) they are for:

- development associated with agriculture, woodland creation, forestry and existing woodland (including community woodlands);
- residential accommodation required and designed for a key worker in a primary industry within the immediate vicinity of their place of employment where the presence of a worker is essential to the operation of the enterprise, or retired workers where there is no suitable alternative accommodation available;
- horticulture, including market gardening and directly connected retailing, as well as community growing;
- outdoor recreation, play and sport or leisure and tourism uses; and developments that provide opportunities for access to the open countryside (including routes for active travel and core paths);
- flood risk management (such as development of blue and green infrastructure within a “drainage catchment” to manage/mitigate flood risk and/or drainage issues);
- essential infrastructure or new cemetery provision;
- minerals operations and renewable energy developments;
- intensification of established uses, including extensions to an existing building where that is ancillary to the main use;
- the reuse, rehabilitation and conversion of historic environment assets; or
- one-for-one replacements of existing permanent homes.

and

ii) the following requirements are met:

- reasons are provided as to why a green belt location is essential and why it cannot be located on an alternative site outwith the green belt;
- the purpose of the green belt at that location is not undermined;
- the proposal is compatible with the surrounding established countryside and landscape character;
- the proposal has been designed to ensure it is of an appropriate scale, massing and external appearance, and uses materials that minimise visual impact on the green belt as far as possible; and
- there will be no significant long-term impacts on the environmental quality of the green belt.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Energy](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Digital infrastructure](#)

[Business and industry](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Retail](#)

[Tourism](#)

[Minerals](#)

Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate the reuse of brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings, and to help reduce the need for greenfield development.

Policy Outcomes:

- Development is directed to the right locations, maximising the use of existing assets and minimising additional land take.
- The contribution of brownfield land to nature recovery is recognised and opportunities for use as productive greenspace are realised where appropriate.
- Derelict buildings and spaces are regenerated to improve wellbeing and transform our places.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should set out opportunities for the sustainable reuse of brownfield land including vacant and derelict land and empty buildings.

Policy 9

- Development proposals that will result in the sustainable reuse of brownfield land including vacant and derelict land and buildings, whether permanent or temporary, will be supported. In determining whether the reuse is sustainable, the biodiversity value of brownfield land which has naturalised should be taken into account.
- Proposals on greenfield sites will not be supported unless the site has been allocated for development or the proposal is explicitly supported by policies in the LDP.

- Where land is known or suspected to be unstable or contaminated, development proposals will demonstrate that the land is, or can be made, safe and suitable for the proposed new use.
- Development proposals for the reuse of existing buildings will be supported, taking into account their suitability for conversion to other uses. Given the need to conserve embodied energy, demolition will be regarded as the least preferred option.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Zero waste](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Business and industry](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Culture and creativity](#)

Coastal development

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect coastal communities and assets and support resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Policy Outcomes:

- Coastal areas develop sustainably and adapt to climate change.

Local Development Plans:

LDP spatial strategies should consider how to adapt coastlines to the impacts of climate change. This should recognise that rising sea levels and more extreme weather events resulting from climate change will potentially have a significant impact on coastal and islands areas, and take a precautionary approach to flood risk including by inundation. Spatial strategies should reflect the diversity of coastal areas and opportunities to use nature-based solutions to improve the resilience of coastal communities and assets. LDP spatial strategies should identify areas of developed and undeveloped coast and should align with national, sectoral and regional marine plans.

Policy 10

- a) Development proposals in developed coastal areas will only be supported where the proposal:
 - i. does not result in the need for further coastal protection measures taking into account future sea level change; or increase the risk to people of coastal flooding or coastal erosion, including through the loss of natural coastal defences including dune systems; and
 - ii. is anticipated to be supportable in the long-term, taking into account projected climate change.
- b) Development proposals in undeveloped coastal areas will only be supported where they:
 - i. are necessary to support the blue economy, net zero emissions or to contribute to the economy or wellbeing of communities whose livelihood depend on marine or coastal activities, or is for essential infrastructure, where there is a specific locational need and no other suitable site;
 - ii. do not result in the need for further coastal protection measures taking into account future sea level change; or increase the risk to people of coastal flooding or coastal erosion, including through the loss of natural coastal defences including dune systems; and
 - iii. are anticipated to be supportable in the long-term, taking into account projected climate change; or
 - iv. are designed to have a very short lifespan.
- c) Development proposals for coastal defence measures will be supported if:
 - i. they are consistent with relevant coastal or marine plans;
 - ii. nature-based solutions are utilised and allow for managed future coastal change wherever practical; and
 - iii. any in-perpetuity hard defense measures can be demonstrated to be necessary to protect essential assets.
- d) Where a design statement is submitted with any planning application that may impact on the coast it will take into account, as appropriate, long-term coastal vulnerability and resilience.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Energy](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Tourism](#)

[Aquaculture](#)

Energy

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate all forms of renewable energy development onshore and offshore. This includes energy generation, storage, new and replacement transmission and distribution infrastructure and emerging low-carbon and zero emissions technologies including hydrogen and carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS).

Policy Outcomes:

- Expansion of renewable, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should seek to realise their area's full potential for electricity and heat from renewable, low carbon and zero emission sources by identifying a range of opportunities for energy development.

Policy 11

- a) Development proposals for all forms of renewable, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies will be supported. These include:
 - i. wind farms including repowering, extending, expanding and extending the life of existing wind farms;
 - ii. enabling works, such as grid transmission and distribution infrastructure;
 - iii. energy storage, such as battery storage and pumped storage hydro;
 - iv. small scale renewable energy generation technology;
 - v. solar arrays;
 - vi. proposals associated with negative emissions technologies and carbon capture; and
 - vii. proposals including co-location of these technologies.
- b) Development proposals for wind farms in National Parks and National Scenic Areas will not be supported.
- c) Development proposals will only be supported where they maximise net economic impact, including local and community socio-economic benefits such as employment, associated business and supply chain opportunities.
- d) Development proposals that impact on international or national designations will be assessed in relation to Policy 4.
- e) In addition, project design and mitigation will demonstrate how the following impacts are addressed:
 - i. impacts on communities and individual dwellings, including, residential amenity, visual impact, noise and shadow flicker;
 - ii. significant landscape and visual impacts, recognising that such impacts are to be expected for some forms of renewable energy. Where impacts are localised and/or appropriate design mitigation has been applied, they will generally be considered to be acceptable;
 - iii. public access, including impact on long distance walking and cycling routes and scenic routes;
 - iv. impacts on aviation and defence interests including seismological recording;
 - v. impacts on telecommunications and broadcasting installations, particularly ensuring that transmission links are not compromised;
 - vi. impacts on road traffic and on adjacent trunk roads, including during construction;
 - vii. impacts on historic environment;
 - viii. effects on hydrology, the water environment and flood risk;
 - ix. biodiversity including impacts on birds;
 - x. impacts on trees, woods and forests;
 - xi. proposals for the decommissioning of developments, including ancillary infrastructure, and site restoration;
 - xii. the quality of site restoration plans including the measures in place to safeguard or guarantee availability of finances to effectively implement those plans; and
 - xiii. cumulative impacts.

In considering these impacts, significant weight will be placed on the contribution of the proposal to renewable energy generation targets and on greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Grid capacity should not constrain renewable energy development. It is for developers to agree connections to the grid with the relevant network operator. In the case of proposals for grid infrastructure, consideration should be given to underground connections where possible.

- f) Consents for development proposals may be time-limited. Areas identified for wind farms are, however, expected to be suitable for use in perpetuity.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Soils](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Heat and cooling](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

Zero waste

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that is consistent with the waste hierarchy.

Policy Outcomes:

- The reduction and reuse of materials in construction is prioritised.
- Infrastructure for zero waste and to develop Scotland's circular economy is delivered in appropriate locations.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should identify appropriate locations for new waste management infrastructure to support the circular economy and meet identified needs in a way that moves waste as high up the waste hierarchy as possible.

Policy 12

- a) Development proposals will seek to reduce, reuse, or recycle materials in line with the waste hierarchy.
- b) Development proposals will be supported where they:
 - i. reuse existing buildings and infrastructure;
 - ii. minimise demolition and salvage materials for reuse;
 - iii. minimise waste, reduce pressure on virgin resources and enable building materials, components and products to be disassembled, and reused at the end of their useful life;
 - iv. use materials with the lowest forms of embodied emissions, such as recycled and natural construction materials;
 - v. use materials that are suitable for reuse with minimal reprocessing.
- c) Development proposals that are likely to generate waste when operational, including residential, commercial, and industrial properties, will set out how much waste the proposal is expected to generate and how it will be managed including:
 - i. provision to maximise waste reduction and waste separation at source, and
 - ii. measures to minimise the cross-contamination of materials, through appropriate segregation and storage of waste; convenient access for the collection of waste; and recycling and localised waste management facilities.
- d) Development proposals for waste infrastructure and facilities (except landfill and energy from waste facilities) will be only supported where:
 - i. there are no unacceptable impacts (including cumulative) on the residential amenity of nearby dwellings, local communities; the transport network; and natural and historic environment assets;
 - ii. environmental (including cumulative) impacts relating to noise, dust, smells, pest control and pollution of land, air and water are acceptable;
 - iii. any greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the processing and transportation of waste to and from the facility are minimised;
 - iv. an adequate buffer zone between sites and sensitive uses such as homes is provided taking account of the various environmental effects likely to arise;
 - v. a restoration and aftercare scheme (including appropriate financial mechanisms) is provided and agreed to ensure the site is restored;
 - vi. consideration has been given to co-location with end users of outputs.
- e) Development proposals for new or extended landfill sites will only be supported if:
 - i. there is demonstrable need for additional landfill capacity taking into account Scottish Government objectives on waste management; and
 - ii. waste heat and/or electricity generation is included. Where this is considered impractical, evidence and justification will require to be provided.

- f) Proposals for the capture, distribution or use of gases captured from landfill sites or waste water treatment plant will be supported.
- g) Development proposals for energy-from-waste facilities will not be supported except under limited circumstances where a national or local need has been sufficiently demonstrated (e.g. in terms of capacity need or carbon benefits) as part of a strategic approach to residual waste management and where the proposal:
 - i. is consistent with climate change mitigation targets and in line with circular economy principles;
 - ii. can demonstrate that a functional heat network can be created and provided within the site for appropriate infrastructure to allow a heat network to be developed and potential local consumers have been identified;
 - iii. is supported by a heat and power plan, which demonstrates how energy recovered from the development would be used to provide electricity and heat and where consideration is given to methods to reduce carbon emissions of the facility (for example through carbon capture and storage)
 - iv. complies with relevant guidelines published by Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA); and
 - v. has supplied an acceptable decarbonisation strategy aligned with Scottish Government decarbonisation goals.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Compact urban growth

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Energy](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Heat and cooling](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

[Minerals](#)

Sustainable transport

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate developments that prioritise walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport for everyday travel and reduce the need to travel unsustainably.

Policy Outcomes:

- Investment in transport infrastructure supports connectivity and reflects place-based approaches and local living.
- More, better, safer and more inclusive active and sustainable travel opportunities.
- Developments are in locations which support sustainable travel.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should prioritise locations for future development that can be accessed by sustainable modes. The spatial strategy should reflect the sustainable travel hierarchy and sustainable investment hierarchy by making best use of existing infrastructure and services.

LDPs should promote a place-based approach to consider how to reduce car-dominance. This could include low traffic schemes, shared transport options, designing-in speed controls, bus/cycle priority, pedestrianisation and minimising space dedicated to car parking. Consideration should be given to the type, mix and use of development; local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods; car ownership levels; the accessibility of proposals and allocations by sustainable modes; and the accessibility for users of all abilities.

LDPs should be informed by an appropriate and effective transport appraisal undertaken in line with relevant transport appraisal guidance. Plans should be informed by evidence of the area's transport infrastructure capacity, and an appraisal of the spatial strategy on the transport network. This should identify any potential cumulative transport impacts and deliverable

mitigation proposed to inform the plan's infrastructure first approach. Where there is likely to be an impact on the trunk road or rail network, early engagement with Transport Scotland is required.

Policy 13

- a) Proposals to improve, enhance or provide active travel infrastructure, public transport infrastructure or multi-modal hubs will be supported. This includes proposals:
 - i. for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and electric vehicle forecourts, especially where fuelled by renewable energy.
 - ii. which support a mode shift of freight from road to more sustainable modes, including last-mile delivery.
 - iii. that build in resilience to the effects of climate change and where appropriate incorporate blue and green infrastructure and nature rich habitats (such as natural planting or water systems).
- b) Development proposals will be supported where it can be demonstrated that the transport requirements generated have been considered in line with the sustainable travel and investment hierarchies and where appropriate they:
 - i. Provide direct, easy, segregated and safe links to local facilities via walking, wheeling and cycling networks before occupation;
 - ii. Will be accessible by public transport, ideally supporting the use of existing services;
 - iii. Integrate transport modes;
 - iv. Provide low or zero-emission vehicle and cycle charging points in safe and convenient locations, in alignment with building standards;
 - v. Supply safe, secure and convenient cycle parking to meet the needs of users and which is more conveniently located than car parking;
 - vi. Are designed to incorporate safety measures including safe crossings for walking and wheeling and reducing the number and speed of vehicles;

- vii. Have taken into account, at the earliest stage of design, the transport needs of diverse groups including users with protected characteristics to ensure the safety, ease and needs of all users; and
 - viii. Adequately mitigate any impact on local public access routes.
- c) Where a development proposal will generate a significant increase in the number of person trips, a transport assessment will be required to be undertaken in accordance with the relevant guidance.
- d) Development proposals for significant travel generating uses will not be supported in locations which would increase reliance on the private car, taking into account the specific characteristics of the area.
- e) Development proposals which are ambitious in terms of low/no car parking will be supported, particularly in urban locations that are well-served by sustainable transport modes and where they do not create barriers to access by disabled people.
- f) Development proposals for significant travel generating uses, or smaller-scale developments where it is important to monitor travel patterns resulting from the development, will only be supported if they are accompanied by a Travel Plan with supporting planning conditions/obligations. Travel plans should set out clear arrangements for delivering against targets, as well as monitoring and evaluation.
- g) Development proposals that have the potential to affect the operation and safety of the Strategic Transport Network will be fully assessed to determine their impact. Where it has been demonstrated that existing infrastructure does not have the capacity to accommodate a development without adverse impacts on safety or unacceptable impacts on operational performance, the cost of the mitigation measures required to ensure the continued safe and effective operation of the network should be met by the developer.

While new junctions on trunk roads are not normally acceptable, the case for a new junction will be considered by Transport Scotland where significant economic or regeneration benefits can be demonstrated. New junctions will only be considered if they are designed in accordance with relevant guidance and where there will be no adverse impact on road safety or operational performance.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

- [Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)
- [Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)
- [Design, quality and place](#)
- [Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)
- [Infrastructure first](#)
- [Quality homes](#)
- [Rural homes](#)
- [Blue and green infrastructure](#)
- [Business and industry](#)
- [City, town, local and commercial centres](#)
- [Retail](#)
- [Rural development](#)
- [Tourism](#)



Liveable Places

Design, quality and place

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate well designed development that makes successful places by taking a design-led approach and applying the Place Principle.

Policy Outcomes:

- Quality places, spaces and environments.
- Places that consistently deliver healthy, pleasant, distinctive, connected, sustainable and adaptable qualities.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should be place-based and created in line with the Place Principle. The spatial strategy should be underpinned by the [six qualities of successful places](#). LDPs should provide clear expectations for design, quality and place taking account of the local context, characteristics and connectivity of the area. They should also identify where more detailed design guidance is expected, for example, by way of design frameworks, briefs, masterplans and design codes.

Planning authorities should use the Place Standard tool in the preparation of LDPs and design guidance to engage with communities and other stakeholders. They should also where relevant promote its use in early design discussions on planning applications.

Policy 14

- Development proposals will be designed to improve the quality of an area whether in urban or rural locations and regardless of scale.
- Development proposals will be supported where they are consistent with the six qualities of successful places:

Healthy: Supporting the prioritisation of women's safety and improving physical and mental health.

Pleasant: Supporting attractive natural and built spaces.

Connected: Supporting well connected networks that make moving around easy and reduce car dependency

Distinctive: Supporting attention to detail of local architectural styles and natural landscapes to be interpreted, literally or creatively, into designs to reinforce identity.

Sustainable: Supporting the efficient use of resources that will allow people to live, play, work and stay in their area, ensuring climate resilience, and integrating nature positive, biodiversity solutions.

Adaptable: Supporting commitment to investing in the long-term value of buildings, streets and spaces by allowing for flexibility so that they can be changed quickly to accommodate different uses as well as maintained over time.

Further details on delivering the [six qualities of successful places](#) are set out in Annex D.

- Development proposals that are poorly designed, detrimental to the amenity of the surrounding area or inconsistent with the six qualities of successful places, will not be supported.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[All other policies.](#)

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate the application of the Place Principle and create connected and compact neighbourhoods where people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home, preferably by walking, wheeling or cycling or using sustainable transport options.

Policy Outcomes:

- Places are planned to improve local living in a way that reflects local circumstances.
- A network of high-quality, accessible, mixed-use neighbourhoods which support health and wellbeing, reduce inequalities and are resilient to the effects of climate change.
- New and existing communities are planned together with homes and the key local infrastructure including schools, community centres, local shops, greenspaces, health and social care, digital and sustainable transport links.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should support local living, including 20 minute neighbourhoods within settlements, through the spatial strategy, associated site briefs and masterplans. The approach should take into account the local context, consider the varying settlement patterns and reflect the particular characteristics and challenges faced by each place. Communities and businesses will have an important role to play in informing this, helping to strengthen local living through their engagement with the planning system.

Policy 15

- a) Development proposals will contribute to local living including, where relevant, 20 minute neighbourhoods. To establish this, consideration will be given to existing settlement pattern, and the level and quality of interconnectivity of the proposed development

with the surrounding area, including local access to:

- sustainable modes of transport including local public transport and safe, high quality walking, wheeling and cycling networks;
- employment;
- shopping;
- health and social care facilities;
- childcare, schools and lifelong learning opportunities;
- playgrounds and informal play opportunities, parks, green streets and spaces, community gardens, opportunities for food growth and allotments, sport and recreation facilities;
- publicly accessible toilets;
- affordable and accessible housing options, ability to age in place and housing diversity.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Retail](#)

Quality homes

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate the delivery of more high quality, affordable and sustainable homes, in the right locations, providing choice across tenures that meet the diverse housing needs of people and communities across Scotland.

Policy Outcomes:

- Good quality homes are at the heart of great places and contribute to strengthening the health and wellbeing of communities.
- Provision of land in the right locations to accommodate future need and demand for new homes, supported by the appropriate infrastructure.
- More energy efficient, net zero emissions homes, supporting a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy and community wealth building, tackling both fuel and child poverty.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs are expected to identify a Local Housing Land Requirement for the area they cover. This is to meet the duty for a housing target and to represent how much land is required. To promote an ambitious and plan-led approach, the Local Housing Land Requirement is expected to exceed the 10 year [Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement \(MATHLR\) set out in Annex E](#).

Deliverable land should be allocated to meet the 10 year Local Housing Land Requirement in locations that create quality places for people to live. Areas that may be suitable for new homes beyond 10 years are also to be identified. The location of where new homes are allocated should be consistent with local living including, where relevant, 20 minute neighbourhoods and an infrastructure first approach. In rural and island areas, authorities are encouraged to set out tailored approaches to housing which

reflect locally specific market circumstances and delivery approaches. Diverse needs and delivery models should be taken into account across all areas, as well as allocating land to ensure provision of accommodation for Gypsy/Travellers and Travelling Showpeople where need is identified.

The LDP delivery programme is expected to establish a deliverable housing land pipeline for the Local Housing Land Requirement. The purpose of the pipeline is to provide a transparent view of the phasing of housing allocations so that interventions, including infrastructure, that enable delivery can be planned: it is not to stage permissions. Representing when land will be brought forward, phasing is expected across the short (1-3 years), medium (4-6 years) and long-term (7-10 years). Where sites earlier in the deliverable housing land pipeline are not delivering as programmed, and alternative delivery mechanisms identified in the delivery programme are not practical, measures should be considered to enable earlier delivery of long-term deliverable sites (7-10 years) or areas identified for new homes beyond 10 years. De-allocations should be considered where sites are no longer deliverable. The annual Housing Land Audit will monitor the delivery of housing land to inform the pipeline and the actions to be taken in the delivery programme.

Policy 16

- a) Development proposals for new homes on land allocated for housing in LDPs will be supported.
- b) Development proposals that include 50 or more homes, and smaller developments if required by local policy or guidance, should be accompanied by a Statement of Community Benefit. The statement will explain the contribution of the proposed development to:
 - i. meeting local housing requirements, including affordable homes;
 - ii. providing or enhancing local infrastructure, facilities and services; and
 - iii. improving the residential amenity of the surrounding area.

- c) Development proposals for new homes that improve affordability and choice by being adaptable to changing and diverse needs, and which address identified gaps in provision, will be supported. This could include:
- i. self-provided homes;
 - ii. accessible, adaptable and wheelchair accessible homes;
 - iii. build to rent;
 - iv. affordable homes;
 - v. a range of size of homes such as those for larger families;
 - vi. homes for older people, including supported accommodation, care homes and sheltered housing;
 - vii. homes for people undertaking further and higher education; and
 - viii. homes for other specialist groups such as service personnel.
- d) Development proposals for public or private, permanent or temporary, Gypsy/Travellers sites and family yards and Travelling Showpeople yards, including on land not specifically allocated for this use in the LDP, should be supported where a need is identified and the proposal is otherwise consistent with the plan spatial strategy and other relevant policies, including human rights and equality.
- e) Development proposals for new homes will be supported where they make provision for affordable homes to meet an identified need. Proposals for market homes will only be supported where the contribution to the provision of affordable homes on a site will be at least 25% of the total number of homes, unless the LDP sets out locations or circumstances where:
- i. a higher contribution is justified by evidence of need, or
 - ii. a lower contribution is justified, for example, by evidence of impact on viability, where proposals are small in scale, or to incentivise particular types of homes that are needed to diversify the supply, such as self-build or wheelchair accessible homes.
- The contribution is to be provided in accordance with local policy or guidance.
- f) Development proposals for new homes on land not allocated for housing in the LDP will only be supported in limited circumstances where:
- i. the proposal is supported by an agreed timescale for build-out; and
 - ii. the proposal is otherwise consistent with the plan spatial strategy and other relevant policies including local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods;
 - iii. and either:
 - delivery of sites is happening earlier than identified in the deliverable housing land pipeline. This will be determined by reference to two consecutive years of the Housing Land Audit evidencing substantial delivery earlier than pipeline timescales and that general trend being sustained; or
 - the proposal is consistent with policy on rural homes; or
 - the proposal is for smaller scale opportunities within an existing settlement boundary; or
 - the proposal is for the delivery of less than 50 affordable homes as part of a local authority supported affordable housing plan.
- g) Householder development proposals will be supported where they:
- i. do not have a detrimental impact on the character or environmental quality of the home and the surrounding area in terms of size, design and materials; and
 - ii. do not have a detrimental effect on the neighbouring properties in terms of physical impact, overshadowing or overlooking.
- h) Householder development proposals that provide adaptations in response to risks from a changing climate, or relating to people with health conditions that lead to particular accommodation needs will be supported.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Heat and cooling](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

Rural homes

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate the delivery of more high quality, affordable and sustainable rural homes in the right locations.

Policy Outcomes:

- Improved choice of homes across tenures so that identified local needs of people and communities in rural and island areas are met.
- Homes are provided that support sustainable rural communities and are linked with service provision.
- The distinctive character, sense of place and natural and cultural assets of rural areas are safeguarded and enhanced.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should be informed by an understanding of population change over time, locally specific needs and market circumstances in rural and island areas.

LDPs should set out tailored approaches to rural housing and where relevant include proposals for future population growth – including provision for small-scale housing such as crofts and woodland crofts and the appropriate resettlement of previously inhabited areas. The Scottish Government's 6 fold Urban Rural Classification 2020 should be used to identify remote rural areas. Plans should reflect locally appropriate delivery approaches. Previously inhabited areas that are suitable for resettlement should be identified in the spatial strategy.

Policy 17

- a) Development proposals for new homes in rural areas will be supported where the development is suitably scaled, sited and designed to be in keeping with the character of the area and the development:
 - i. is on a site allocated for housing within the LDP;
 - ii. reuses brownfield land where a return to a natural state has not or will not happen without intervention;
 - iii. reuses a redundant or unused building;
 - iv. is an appropriate use of a historic environment asset or is appropriate enabling development to secure the future of historic environment assets;
 - v. is demonstrated to be necessary to support the sustainable management of a viable rural business or croft, and there is an essential need for a worker (including those taking majority control of a farm business) to live permanently at or near their place of work;
 - vi. is for a single home for the retirement succession of a viable farm holding;
 - vii. is for the subdivision of an existing residential dwelling; the scale of which is in keeping with the character and infrastructure provision in the area; or
 - viii. reinstates a former dwelling house or is a one-for-one replacement of an existing permanent house.
- b) Development proposals for new homes in rural areas will consider how the development will contribute towards local living and take into account identified local housing needs (including affordable housing), economic considerations and the transport needs of the development as appropriate for the rural location.
- c) Development proposals for new homes in remote rural areas will be supported where the proposal:
 - i. supports and sustains existing fragile communities;
 - ii. supports identified local housing outcomes; and

- iii. is suitable in terms of location, access, and environmental impact.
- d) Development proposals for new homes that support the resettlement of previously inhabited areas will be supported where the proposal:
- is in an area identified in the LDP as suitable for resettlement;
 - is designed to a high standard;
 - responds to its rural location; and
 - is designed to minimise greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Tourism](#)

Infrastructure first

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate an infrastructure first approach to land use planning, which puts infrastructure considerations at the heart of placemaking.

Policy Outcomes:

- Infrastructure considerations are integral to development planning and decision making and potential impacts on infrastructure and infrastructure needs are understood early in the development planning process as part of an evidenced based approach.
- Existing infrastructure assets are used sustainably, prioritising low-carbon solutions.
- Infrastructure requirements, and their planned delivery to meet the needs of communities, are clear.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs and delivery programmes should be based on an integrated infrastructure first approach. Plans should:

- be informed by evidence on infrastructure capacity, condition, needs and deliverability within the plan area, including cross boundary infrastructure;
- set out the infrastructure requirements to deliver the spatial strategy, informed by the evidence base, identifying the infrastructure priorities, and where, how, when and by whom they will be delivered; and
- indicate the type, level (or method of calculation) and location of the financial or in-kind contributions, and the types of development from which they will be required.

Plans should align with relevant national, regional and local infrastructure plans and policies and take account of the Scottish Government infrastructure investment hierarchy and sustainable travel and investment hierarchies in developing the spatial strategy. Consistent early engagement and collaboration between relevant stakeholders will better inform decisions on land use and investment.

Policy 18

- a) Development proposals which provide (or contribute to) infrastructure in line with that identified as necessary in LDPs and their delivery programmes will be supported.
- b) The impacts of development proposals on infrastructure should be mitigated. Development proposals will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that provision is made to address the impacts on infrastructure. Where planning conditions, planning obligations, or other legal agreements are to be used, the relevant tests will apply.

Where planning obligations are entered into, they should meet the following tests:

- be necessary to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms
- serve a planning purpose
- relate to the impacts of the proposed development
- fairly and reasonably relate in scale and kind to the proposed development
- be reasonable in all other respects

Planning conditions should only be imposed where they meet all of the following tests. They should be:

- necessary
- relevant to planning
- relevant to the development to be permitted
- enforceable
- precise
- reasonable in all other respects

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Energy](#)

[Zero waste](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Heat and cooling](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Digital infrastructure](#)

[Business and industry](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

Heating and cooling

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that supports decarbonised solutions to heat and cooling demand and ensure adaptation to more extreme temperatures.

Policy Outcomes:

- Development is connected to expanded heat networks which use and store heat from low or zero emission sources.
- Buildings and places are adapted to more extreme temperatures.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should take into account the area's Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES). The spatial strategy should take into account areas of heat network potential and any designated Heat Network Zones (HNZ).

Policy 19

- Development proposals within or adjacent to a Heat Network Zone identified in a LDP will only be supported where they are designed and constructed to connect to the existing heat network.
- Proposals for retrofitting a connection to a heat network will be supported.
- Where a heat network is planned but not yet in place, development proposals will only be supported where they are designed and constructed to allow for cost-effective connection at a later date.
- National and major developments that will generate waste or surplus heat and which are located in areas of heat demand, will be supported providing wider considerations, including residential amenity, are not adversely impacted. A Heat and Power Plan should demonstrate how energy recovered from the development will be used to produce electricity and heat.

- Development proposals for energy infrastructure will be supported where they:
 - repurpose former fossil fuel infrastructure for the production or handling of low carbon energy;
 - are within or adjacent to a Heat Network Zone; and
 - can be cost-effectively linked to an existing or planned heat network.
- Development proposals for buildings that will be occupied by people will be supported where they are designed to promote sustainable temperature management, for example by prioritising natural or passive solutions such as siting, orientation, and materials.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Energy](#)

[Zero waste](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Business and industry](#)

Blue and green infrastructure

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect and enhance blue and green infrastructure and their networks.

Policy Outcomes:

- Blue and green infrastructure are an integral part of early design and development processes; are designed to deliver multiple functions including climate mitigation, nature restoration, biodiversity enhancement, flood prevention and water management.
- Communities benefit from accessible, high quality blue, green and civic spaces.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should be informed by relevant, up-to-date audits and/or strategies, covering the multiple functions and benefits of blue and green infrastructure. The spatial strategy should identify and protect blue and green infrastructure assets and networks; enhance and expand existing provision including new blue and/or green infrastructure. This may include retrofitting. Priorities for connectivity to other blue and/or green infrastructure assets, including to address cross-boundary needs and opportunities, should also be identified.

LDPs should encourage the permanent or temporary use of unused or under-used land as green infrastructure. Where this is temporary, this should not prevent future development potential from being realised.

LDPs should safeguard access rights and core paths, including active travel routes, and encourage new and enhanced opportunities for access linked to wider networks.

Policy 20

- a) Development proposals that result in fragmentation or net loss of existing blue and green infrastructure will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal would not result in or exacerbate a deficit in blue or green infrastructure provision, and the overall integrity of the network will be maintained. The planning authority's Open Space Strategy should inform this.
- b) Development proposals for or incorporating new or enhanced blue and/or green infrastructure will be supported. Where appropriate, this will be an integral element of the design that responds to local circumstances.

Design will take account of existing provision, new requirements and network connections (identified in relevant strategies such as the Open Space Strategies) to ensure the proposed blue and/or green infrastructure is of an appropriate type(s), quantity, quality and accessibility and is designed to be multi-functional and well integrated into the overall proposals.

- c) Development proposals in regional and country parks will only be supported where they are compatible with the uses, natural habitats, and character of the park.
- d) Development proposals for temporary open space or green space on unused or under-used land will be supported.
- e) Development proposals that include new or enhanced blue and/or green infrastructure will provide effective management and maintenance plans covering the funding arrangements for their long-term delivery and upkeep, and the party or parties responsible for these.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Soils](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Heat and cooling](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

Play, recreation and sport

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate spaces and opportunities for play, recreation and sport.

Policy Outcomes:

- Natural and built environments are improved, with more equitable access to opportunities for play and recreation.
- Physical and mental health are improved through provision of, and access to, outdoor recreation, play and sport facilities.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should identify sites for sports, play and outdoor recreation for people of all ages. This should be based on an understanding of the needs and demand in the community and informed by the planning authority's Play Sufficiency Assessment and Open Space Strategy. These spaces can be incorporated as part of enhancing and expanding blue and green infrastructure, taking account of relevant agencies' plans or policy frameworks, such as flood risk and/or water management plans. New provisions should be well-designed, high quality, accessible and inclusive.

Policy 21

- a) Development proposals which result in the loss of outdoor sports facilities will only be supported where the proposal:
 - i. is ancillary to the principal use of the site as an outdoor sports facility; or
 - ii. involves only a minor part of the facility and would not affect its use; or
 - iii. meets a requirement to replace the facility which would be lost, either by a new facility or by upgrading an existing facility to provide a better quality facility. The location will be convenient for users and the overall playing capacity of the area will be maintained; or
 - iv. can demonstrate that there is a clear excess of provision to meet current and anticipated demand in the area, and that the site would be developed without detriment to the overall quality of provision.
- This should be informed by the local authority's Open Space Strategy and/or Play Sufficiency Assessment and in consultation with sportscotland where appropriate.
- b) Development proposals that result in the quantitative and/or qualitative loss of children's outdoor play provision, will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that there is no ongoing or future demand or the existing play provision will be replaced by a newly created, or improved existing asset, that is better quality or more appropriate.
- This should be informed by the planning authority's Play Sufficiency Assessment.
- c) Development proposals for temporary or informal play space on unused or underused land will be supported.
 - d) Development proposals likely to be occupied or used by children and young people will be supported where they incorporate well-designed, good quality provision for play, recreation, and relaxation that is proportionate to the scale and nature of the development and existing provision in the area.
 - e) Development proposals that include new streets and public realm should be inclusive and enable children and young people to play and move around safely and independently, maximising opportunities for informal and incidental play in the neighbourhood.
 - f) New, replacement or improved play provision will, as far as possible and as appropriate:
 - i. provide stimulating environments;
 - ii. provide a range of play experiences including opportunities to connect with nature;
 - iii. be inclusive;
 - iv. be suitable for different ages of children and young people;
 - v. be easily and safely accessible by children and young people independently, including those with a disability;

- vi. incorporate trees and/or other forms of greenery;
 - vii. form an integral part of the surrounding neighbourhood;
 - viii. be well overlooked for passive surveillance;
 - ix. be linked directly to other open spaces and play areas.
- g) Development proposals that include new or enhanced play or sport facilities will provide effective management and maintenance plans covering the funding arrangements for their long-term delivery and upkeep, and the party or parties responsible for these.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Culture and creativity](#)

Flood risk and water management

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To strengthen resilience to flood risk by promoting avoidance as a first principle and reducing the vulnerability of existing and future development to flooding.

Policy Outcomes:

- Places are resilient to current and future flood risk.
- Water resources are used efficiently and sustainably.
- Wider use of natural flood risk management benefits people and nature.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should strengthen community resilience to the current and future impacts of climate change, by avoiding development in areas at flood risk as a first principle. Resilience should also be supported by managing the need to bring previously used sites in built up areas into positive use; planning for adaptation measures; and identifying opportunities to implement improvements to the water environment through natural flood risk management and blue green infrastructure.

Plans should take into account the probability of flooding from all sources and make use of relevant flood risk and river basin management plans for the area. A precautionary approach should be taken, regarding the calculated probability of flooding as a best estimate, not a precise forecast. For areas where climate change is likely to result in increased flood exposure that becomes unmanageable, consideration should be given to alternative sustainable land use.

Policy 22

- a) Development proposals at risk of flooding or in a flood risk area will only be supported if they are for:
- essential infrastructure where the location is required for operational reasons;
 - water compatible uses;
 - redevelopment of an existing building or site for an equal or less vulnerable use; or.
 - redevelopment of previously used sites in built up areas where the LDP has identified a need to bring these into positive use and where proposals demonstrate that long-term safety and resilience can be secured in accordance with relevant SEPA advice.

The protection offered by an existing formal flood protection scheme or one under construction can be taken into account when determining flood risk.

In such cases, it will be demonstrated by the applicant that:

- all risks of flooding are understood and addressed;
- there is no reduction in floodplain capacity, increased risk for others, or a need for future flood protection schemes;
- the development remains safe and operational during floods;
- flood resistant and resilient materials and construction methods are used; and
- future adaptations can be made to accommodate the effects of climate change.

Additionally, for development proposals meeting criteria part iv), where flood risk is managed at the site rather than avoided these will also require:

- the first occupied/utilised floor, and the underside of the development if relevant, to be above the flood risk level and have an additional allowance for freeboard; and
- that the proposal does not create an island of development and that safe access/egress can be achieved.

- b) Small scale extensions and alterations to existing buildings will only be supported where they will not significantly increase flood risk.
- c) Development proposals will:
 - i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk.
 - ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue-green infrastructure. All proposals should presume no surface water connection to the combined sewer;
 - iii. seek to minimise the area of impermeable surface.
- d) Development proposals will be supported if they can be connected to the public water mains. If connection is not feasible, the applicant will need to demonstrate that water for drinking water purposes will be sourced from a sustainable water source that is resilient to periods of water scarcity.
- e) Development proposals which create, expand or enhance opportunities for natural flood risk management, including blue and green infrastructure, will be supported.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Business and industry](#)

Health and safety

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To protect people and places from environmental harm, mitigate risks arising from safety hazards and encourage, promote and facilitate development that improves health and wellbeing.

Policy Outcomes:

- Health is improved and health inequalities are reduced.
- Safe places protect human health and the environment.
- A planned approach supports health infrastructure delivery.

Local Development Plans:

LDP spatial strategies should seek to tackle health inequalities particularly in places which are experiencing the most disadvantage. They should identify the health and social care services and infrastructure needed in the area, including potential for co-location of complementary services, in partnership with Health Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships.

LDPs should create healthier places for example through opportunities for exercise, healthier lifestyles, land for community food growing and allotments, and awareness of locations of concern for suicide.

Spatial strategies should maintain appropriate distances between sites with hazardous substances and areas where the public are likely to be present and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest.

Policy 23

- a) Development proposals that will have positive effects on health will be supported. This could include, for example, proposals that incorporate opportunities for exercise, community food growing or allotments.

- b) Development proposals which are likely to have a significant adverse effect on health will not be supported. A Health Impact Assessment may be required.
- c) Development proposals for health and social care facilities and infrastructure will be supported.
- d) Development proposals that are likely to have significant adverse effects on air quality will not be supported. Development proposals will consider opportunities to improve air quality and reduce exposure to poor air quality. An air quality assessment may be required where the nature of the proposal or the air quality in the location suggest significant effects are likely.
- e) Development proposals that are likely to raise unacceptable noise issues will not be supported. The agent of change principle applies to noise sensitive development. A Noise Impact Assessment may be required where the nature of the proposal or its location suggests that significant effects are likely.
- f) Development proposals will be designed to take into account suicide risk.
- g) Development proposals within the vicinity of a major accident hazard site or major accident hazard pipeline (because of the presence of toxic, highly reactive, explosive or inflammable substances) will consider the associated risks and potential impacts of the proposal and the major accident hazard site/pipeline of being located in proximity to one another.
- h) Applications for hazardous substances consent will consider the likely potential impacts on surrounding populations and the environment.
- i) Any advice from Health and Safety Executive, the Office of Nuclear Regulation or the Scottish Environment Protection Agency that planning permission or hazardous substances consent should be refused, or conditions to be attached to a grant of consent, should not be overridden by the decision maker without the most careful consideration.
- j) Similar considerations apply in respect of development proposals either for or near licensed explosive sites (including military explosive storage sites).

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Forestry, woodland and trees](#)

[Energy](#)

[Zero waste](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Heat and cooling](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Play, recreation and sport](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Digital infrastructure](#)

[Business and industry](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Retail](#)

[Culture and creativity](#)

[Aquaculture](#)

[Minerals](#)

Digital infrastructure

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate the roll-out of digital infrastructure across Scotland to unlock the potential of all our places and the economy.

Policy Outcomes:

- Appropriate, universal and future proofed digital infrastructure across the country.
- Local living is supported and the need to travel is reduced.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should support the delivery of digital infrastructure, including fixed line and mobile connectivity, particularly in areas with gaps in connectivity and barriers to digital access.

Policy 24

- Development proposals that incorporate appropriate, universal, and future-proofed digital infrastructure will be supported.
- Development proposals that deliver new digital services or provide technological improvements, particularly in areas with no or low connectivity capacity, will be supported.
- Development proposals that are aligned with and support the delivery of local or national programmes for the roll-out of digital infrastructure will be supported.
- Development proposals that deliver new connectivity will be supported where there are benefits of this connectivity for communities and the local economy.
- Development proposals for digital infrastructure will only be supported where:
 - the visual and amenity impacts of the proposed development have been minimised through careful siting, design, height, materials and, landscaping, taking into account cumulative impacts and relevant technical constraints;

- it has been demonstrated that, before erecting a new ground based mast, the possibility of erecting antennas on an existing building, mast or other structure, replacing an existing mast and/or site sharing has been explored; and
- there is no physical obstruction to aerodrome operations, technical sites, or existing transmitter/receiver facilities.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Zero waste](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

[Business and industry](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)



Productive Places

Community wealth building

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate a new strategic approach to economic development that also provides a practical model for building a wellbeing economy at local, regional and national levels.

Policy Outcomes:

- local economic development that focuses on community and place benefits as a central and primary consideration – to support local employment and supply chains.
- support community ownership and management of buildings and land.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should be aligned with any strategy for community wealth building for the area. Spatial strategies should address community wealth building priorities; identify community assets; set out opportunities to tackle economic disadvantage and inequality; and seek to provide benefits for local communities.

Policy 25

- Development proposals which contribute to local or regional community wealth building strategies and are consistent with local economic priorities will be supported. This could include for example improving community resilience and reducing inequalities; increasing spending within communities; ensuring the use of local supply chains and services; local job creation; supporting community led proposals, including creation of new local firms and enabling community led ownership of buildings and assets.
- Development proposals linked to community ownership and management of land will be supported.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

- [Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)
- [Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)
- [Business and industry](#)

Business and industry

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate business and industry uses and to enable alternative ways of working such as home working, live-work units and micro-businesses.

Policy Outcomes:

- Recovery within the business and industry sector is sustainable and inclusive.
- Investment in the business and industrial sector contributes to community wealth building.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should allocate sufficient land for business and industry, taking into account business and industry land audits, in particular ensuring that there is a suitable range of sites that meet current market demand, location, size and quality in terms of accessibility and services. This allocation should take account of local economic strategies and support broader objectives of delivering a low carbon and net zero economic recovery, and a fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy.

Policy 26

- Development proposals for business and industry uses on sites allocated for those uses in the LDP will be supported.
- Development proposals for home working, live-work units and micro-businesses will be supported where it is demonstrated that the scale and nature of the proposed business and building will be compatible with the surrounding area and there will be no unacceptable impacts on amenity or neighbouring uses.
- Development proposals for business and industry uses will be supported where they are compatible with the primary business function of the area. Other employment uses will be supported where they will not prejudice the primary function of the area and are compatible with the business/industrial character of the area.

- Development proposals for business, general industrial and storage and distribution uses outwith areas identified for those uses in the LDP will only be supported where:
 - It is demonstrated that there are no suitable alternatives allocated in the LDP or identified in the employment land audit; and
 - The nature and scale of the activity will be compatible with the surrounding area.
- Development proposals for business and industry will take into account:
 - Impact on surrounding residential amenity; sensitive uses and the natural and historic environment;
 - The need for appropriate site restoration at the end of a period of commercial use.
- Major developments for manufacturing or industry will be accompanied by a decarbonisation strategy to demonstrate how greenhouse gas emissions from the process are appropriately abated. The strategy may include carbon capture and storage.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Digital infrastructure](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

City, town, local and commercial centres

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate development in our city and town centres, recognising they are a national asset. This will be achieved by applying the Town Centre First approach to help centres adapt positively to long-term economic, environmental and societal changes, and by encouraging town centre living.

Policy Outcomes:

- Centres are vibrant, healthy, creative, enterprising, accessible and resilient places for people to live, learn, work, enjoy and visit.
- Development is directed to the most sustainable locations that are accessible by a range of sustainable transport modes and provide communities with easy access to the goods, services and recreational opportunities they need.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should support sustainable futures for city, town and local centres, in particular opportunities to enhance city and town centres. They should, where relevant, also support proposals for improving the sustainability of existing commercial centres where appropriate.

LDPs should identify a network of centres that reflect the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods and the town centre vision.

LDPs should be informed by evidence on where clustering of non-retail uses may be adversely impacting on the wellbeing of communities. They should also consider, and if appropriate, identify any areas where drive-through facilities may be acceptable where they would not negatively impact on the principles of local living or sustainable travel.

LDPs should provide a proportion of their Local Housing Land Requirements in city and town centres and be proactive in identifying opportunities to support residential development.

Policy 27

- a) Development proposals that enhance and improve the vitality and viability of city, town and local centres, including proposals that increase the mix of uses, will be supported.
- b) Development proposals will be consistent with the town centre first approach. Proposals for uses which will generate significant footfall, including commercial, leisure, offices, community, sport and cultural facilities, public buildings such as libraries, education and healthcare facilities, and public spaces:
 - i. will be supported in existing city, town and local centres, and
 - ii. will not be supported outwith those centres unless a town centre first assessment demonstrates that:
 - all centre and edge of centre options have been sequentially assessed and discounted as unsuitable or unavailable;
 - the scale of development cannot reasonably be altered or reduced in scale to allow it to be accommodated in a centre; and
 - the impacts on existing centres have been thoroughly assessed and there will be no significant adverse effect on the vitality and viability of the centres.

Town Centre First Assessment

For development proposals which are out of city/town centre and which will generate significant footfall a Town Centre First Assessment will be provided. Applicants should agree the data required with the planning authority before undertaking the assessment, and should present information on areas of dispute in a succinct and comparable form.

The town centre first assessment should:

- identify the potential relationship of the proposed development with the network of centres identified in the LDP;
- demonstrate the potential economic impact of the development and any possible displacement effects, including the net impact on jobs; and
- consider supply chains and whether local suppliers and workers will be a viable option; and
- the environmental impact of transporting goods and of staff and visitors travelling to the location.

The town centre first assessment should be applied flexibly and realistically for community, education, health and social care and sport and leisure facilities so that they are easily accessible to the communities they are intended to serve.

- c) Development proposals for non-retail uses will not be supported if further provision of these services will undermine the character and amenity of the area or the health and wellbeing of communities, particularly in disadvantaged areas. These uses include:
- i. Hot food takeaways, including permanently sited vans;
 - ii. Betting offices; and
 - iii. High interest money lending premises.

- d) Drive-through developments will only be supported where they are specifically supported in the LDP.

Town centre living

- e) Development proposals for residential development within city/town centres will be supported, including:
- i. New build residential development.
 - ii. The re-use of a vacant building within city/town centres where it can be demonstrated that the existing use is no longer viable and the proposed change of use adds to viability and vitality of the area.
 - iii. The conversion, or reuse of vacant upper floors of properties within city/town centres for residential.
- f) Development proposals for residential use at ground floor level within city/town centres will only be supported where the proposal will:
- i. retain an attractive and appropriate frontage;
 - ii. not adversely affect the vitality and viability of a shopping area or the wider centre; and
 - iii. not result in an undesirable concentration of uses, or 'dead frontages'.
- g) Development proposals for city or town centre living will take into account the residential amenity of the proposal. This must be clearly demonstrated where the proposed development is in the same built structure as:
- i. a hot food premises, live music venue, amusement arcade/centre, casino or licensed premises (with the exception of hotels, restaurants, cafés or off licences); and/or
 - ii. there is a common or shared access with licenced premises or other use likely to be detrimental to residential amenity.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)
[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)
[Historic assets and places](#)
[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)
[Sustainable transport](#)
[Design, quality and place](#)
[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)
[Infrastructure first](#)
[Quality homes](#)
[Blue and green infrastructure](#)
[Play, recreation and sport](#)
[Health and safety](#)
[Community wealth building](#)
[Business and industry](#)
[Retail](#)
[Rural development](#)
[Tourism](#)
[Culture and creativity](#)

Retail

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate retail investment to the most sustainable locations that are most accessible by a range of sustainable transport modes.

Policy Outcomes:

- Retail development and the location of shops support vibrant city, town and local centres.
- Communities can access the shops and goods they need by a range of sustainable transport modes including on foot, by bike, and by public transport, as part of local living.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should consider where there may be a need for further retail provision, this may be:

- where a retail study identifies deficiencies in retail provision in terms of quality and quantity in an area; or
- when allocating sites for housing or the creation of new communities, in terms of the need for neighbourhood shopping, and supporting local living.

LDPs should identify areas where proposals for healthy food and drink outlets can be supported.

Policy 28

- a) Development proposals for retail (including expansions and changes of use) will be consistent with the town centre first principle. This means that new retail proposals:
- i. will be supported in existing city, town and local centres, and
 - ii. will be supported in edge-of-centre areas or in commercial centres if they are allocated as sites suitable for new retail development in the LDP.
 - iii. will not be supported in out of centre locations (other than those meeting policy 28(c) or 28(d)).

- b) Development proposals for retail that are consistent with the sequential approach (set out in a) and click-and-collect locker pick up points, will be supported where the proposed development:
 - i. is of an appropriate scale for the location;
 - ii. will have an acceptable impact on the character and amenity of the area; and
 - iii. is located to best channel footfall and activity, to benefit the place as a whole.
- c) Proposals for new small scale neighbourhood retail development will be supported where the proposed development:
 - i. contributes to local living, including where relevant 20 minute neighbourhoods and/or
 - ii. can be demonstrated to contribute to the health and wellbeing of the local community.
- d) In island and rural areas, development proposals for shops ancillary to other uses such as farm shops, craft shops and shops linked to petrol/service/charging stations will be supported where:
 - i. it will serve local needs, support local living and local jobs;
 - ii. the potential impact on nearby town and commercial centres or village/local shops is acceptable;
 - iii. it will provide a service throughout the year; and
 - iv. the likely impacts of traffic generation and access and parking arrangements are acceptable.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Rural development](#)

Rural development

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage rural economic activity, innovation and diversification whilst ensuring that the distinctive character of the rural area and the service function of small towns, natural assets and cultural heritage are safeguarded and enhanced.

Policy Outcomes:

- Rural places are vibrant and sustainable and rural communities and businesses are supported.
- A balanced and sustainable rural population.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should identify the characteristics of rural areas within the plan area, including the existing pattern of development, pressures, environmental assets, community priorities and economic needs of each area. The spatial strategy should set out an appropriate approach to development in rural areas which reflects the identified characteristics. The Scottish Government's 6 fold Urban Rural Classification 2020 should be used to identify remote rural areas. Spatial strategies should support the sustainability and prosperity of rural communities and economies. Previously inhabited areas which are suitable for resettlement should be identified in the spatial strategy.

Policy 29

- a) Development proposals that contribute to the viability, sustainability and diversity of rural communities and local rural economy will be supported, including:
 - i. farms, crofts, woodland crofts or other land use businesses, where use of good quality land for development is minimised and business viability is not adversely affected;
 - ii. diversification of existing businesses;
 - iii. production and processing facilities for local produce and materials, for example sawmills, or local food production;
- b) Development proposals in rural areas should be suitably scaled, sited and designed to be in keeping with the character of the area. They should also consider how the development will contribute towards local living and take into account the transport needs of the development as appropriate for the rural location.
- c) Development proposals in remote rural areas, where new development can often help to sustain fragile communities, will be supported where the proposal:
 - i. will support local employment;
 - ii. supports and sustains existing communities, for example through provision of digital infrastructure; and
 - iii. is suitable in terms of location, access, siting, design and environmental impact.
- d) Development proposals that support the resettlement of previously inhabited areas will be supported where the proposal:
 - i. is in an area identified in the LDP as suitable for resettlement;
 - ii. is designed to a high standard;
 - iii. responds to their rural location; and
 - iv. is designed to minimise greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible.

- iv. essential community services;
- v. essential infrastructure;
- vi. reuse of a redundant or unused building;
- vii. appropriate use of a historic environment asset or is appropriate enabling development to secure the future of historic environment assets;
- viii. reuse of brownfield land where a return to a natural state has not or will not happen without intervention;
- ix. small scale developments that support new ways of working such as remote working, homeworking and community hubs; or
- x. improvement or restoration of the natural environment.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Soils](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Green belts](#)

[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Blue and green infrastructure](#)

[Flood risk and water management](#)

[Business and industry](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Retail](#)

[Tourism](#)

[Culture and creativity](#)

[Aquaculture](#)

[Minerals](#)

Tourism

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate sustainable tourism development which benefits local people, is consistent with our net zero and nature commitments, and inspires people to visit Scotland.

Policy Outcomes:

- Communities and places enjoy economic, social and cultural benefits from tourism, supporting resilience and stimulating job creation.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should support the recovery, growth and long-term resilience of the tourism sector. The spatial strategy should identify suitable locations which reflect opportunities for tourism development by taking full account of the needs of communities, visitors, the industry and the environment. Relevant national and local sector driven tourism strategies should also be taken into account.

The spatial strategy should also identify areas of pressure where existing tourism provision is having adverse impacts on the environment or the quality of life and health and wellbeing of local communities, and where further development is not appropriate.

Policy 30

- a) Development proposals for new or extended tourist facilities or accommodation, including caravan and camping sites, in locations identified in the LDP, will be supported.
- b) Proposals for tourism related development will take into account:
 - i. The contribution made to the local economy;
 - ii. Compatibility with the surrounding area in terms of the nature and scale of the activity and impacts of increased visitors;

- iii. Impacts on communities, for example by hindering the provision of homes and services for local people;
 - iv. Opportunities for sustainable travel and appropriate management of parking and traffic generation and scope for sustaining public transport services particularly in rural areas;
 - v. Accessibility for disabled people;
 - vi. Measures taken to minimise carbon emissions;
 - vii. Opportunities to provide access to the natural environment.
- c) Development proposals that involve the change of use of a tourism-related facility will only be supported where it is demonstrated that the existing use is no longer viable and that there is no requirement for alternative tourism-related facilities in the area.
 - d) Proposals for huts will be supported where the nature and scale of the development is compatible with the surrounding area and the proposal complies with relevant good practice guidance.
 - e) Development proposals for the reuse of existing buildings for short term holiday letting will not be supported where the proposal will result in:
 - i. An unacceptable impact on local amenity or the character of a neighbourhood or area; or
 - ii. The loss of residential accommodation where such loss is not outweighed by demonstrable local economic benefits.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Just Transition
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Sustainable transport](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Quality homes](#)

[Rural homes](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)

[Retail](#)

[Rural development](#)

[Culture and creativity](#)

Culture and creativity

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate development which reflects our diverse culture and creativity, and to support our culture and creative industries.

Policy Outcomes:

- Locally distinctive places reflect the diversity of communities and support regeneration and town centre vibrancy.
- Cultural and creative industries are expanded, providing jobs and investment.
- Communities have access to cultural and creative activities.

Local Development Plans:

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

Policy 31

- Development proposals that involve a significant change to existing, or the creation of new, public open spaces will make provision for public art. Public art proposals which reflect diversity, culture and creativity will be supported.
- Development proposals for creative workspaces or other cultural uses that involve the temporary use of vacant spaces or property will be supported.
- Development proposals that would result in the loss of an arts or cultural venue will only be supported where:
 - there is no longer a sustainable demand for the venue and after marketing the site at a reasonable rate for at least 12 months, through relevant local and national agents and online platforms, there has been no viable interest from potential operators; or
 - the venue, as evidenced by consultation, no longer meets the needs of users and cannot be adapted; or

- alternative provision of equal or greater standard is made available at a suitable location within the local area; and
 - the loss of the venue does not result in loss or damage to assets or objects of significant cultural value.
- Development proposals within the vicinity of existing arts venues will fully reflect the agent of change principle and will only be supported where they can demonstrate that measures can be put in place to ensure that existing noise and disturbance impacts on the proposed development would be acceptable and that existing venues and facilities can continue without additional restrictions being placed on them as a result of the proposed new development.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)
[Climate mitigation and adaptation](#)
[Historic assets and places](#)
[Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings](#)
[Zero waste](#)
[Sustainable transport](#)
[Design, quality and place](#)
[Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods](#)
[Blue and green infrastructure](#)
[Play, recreation and sport](#)
[Health and safety](#)
[Digital infrastructure](#)
[Community wealth building](#)
[City, town, local and commercial centres](#)
[Rural development](#)
[Tourism](#)

Aquaculture

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To encourage, promote and facilitate aquaculture development and minimise any adverse effects on the environment, including cumulative impacts.

Planning should support an aquaculture industry that is sustainable, diverse, competitive, economically viable and which contributes to food security, whilst operating with social licence, within environmental limits and which ensures there is a thriving marine ecosystem for future generations.

Policy Outcomes:

- New aquaculture development is in locations that reflect industry needs and considers environmental impacts.
- Producers will contribute to communities and local economies.
- Prosperous finfish, shellfish and seaweed sectors.
- Migratory fish species are safeguarded.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should guide new aquaculture development in line with National and Regional Marine Planning, and will minimise adverse environmental impacts, including cumulative impacts, that arise from other existing and planned aquaculture developments in the area while also reflecting industry needs.

Policy 32

- To safeguard migratory fish species, further salmon and trout open pen fish farm developments on the north and east coasts of mainland Scotland will not be supported.
- Development proposals for aquaculture will be supported where they comply with the LDP, the National Marine Plan and, where relevant, the appropriate Regional Marine Plan.
- Development proposals for fish farms will demonstrate that operational impacts (including from noise, acoustic deterrent devices (where applicable) light, access,

navigation, containment, deposition, waste emissions and sea lice, impacts on wild salmonids, aquaculture litter (and odour and impacts on other marine users)) are acceptable and comply with the relevant regulatory framework.

- Development proposals for fish farm developments will only be supported where the following impacts have been assessed and mitigated:
 - landscape and visual impact of the proposal including the siting and design of cages, lines and associated facilities taking into account the character of the location;
 - the impact of any land based facilities, ensuring that the siting and design are appropriate for the location;
 - impacts on natural heritage, designated sites and priority marine features; and
 - impacts on historic marine protected areas.
- Applications for open water farmed finfish or shellfish development are excluded from the requirements of policy 3b) and 3c) and will instead apply all relevant provisions from National and Regional Marine Plans.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Just Transition
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Coastal development](#)

[Design, quality and place](#)

[Health and safety](#)

[Community wealth building](#)

[Business and industry](#)

[Rural development](#)

Minerals

Policy Principles

Policy Intent:

To support the sustainable management of resources and minimise the impacts of the extraction of minerals on communities and the environment.

Policy Outcomes:

- Sufficient resources are available to meet industry demands, making an essential contribution to the Scottish economy.
- Important raw materials for manufacturing, construction, agriculture, and other industries are available.
- Important workable mineral resources are protected from sterilisation by other developments.
- Communities and the environment are protected from the impacts of mineral extraction.

Local Development Plans:

LDPs should support a landbank of construction aggregates of at least 10-years at all times in the relevant market areas, whilst promoting sustainable resource management, safeguarding important workable mineral resources, which are of economic or conservation value, and take steps to ensure these are not sterilised by other types of development.

Policy 33

- a) Development proposals that seek to explore, develop, and produce fossil fuels (excluding unconventional oil and gas) will not be supported other than in exceptional circumstances. Any such exceptions will be required to demonstrate that the proposal is consistent with national policy on energy and targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- b) The Scottish Government does not support the development of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland. This means development connected to the onshore exploration, appraisal or production of coal bed methane or shale oil or shale gas, using unconventional oil and gas extraction techniques, including hydraulic fracturing and dewatering for coal bed methane.
- c) Development proposals that would sterilise mineral deposits of economic value will only be supported where:
 - i. there is an overriding need for the development and prior extraction of the mineral cannot reasonably be undertaken; or
 - ii. extraction of the mineral is impracticable or unlikely to be environmentally acceptable.
- d) Development proposals for the sustainable extraction of minerals will only be supported where they:
 - i. will not result in significant adverse impacts on biodiversity, geodiversity and the natural environment, sensitive habitats and the historic environment, as well as landscape and visual impacts;
 - ii. provide an adequate buffer zone between sites and settlements taking account of the specific circumstances of individual proposals, including size, duration, location, method of working, topography, and the characteristics of the various environmental effects likely to arise;
 - iii. can demonstrate that there are no significant adverse impacts (including cumulative impact) on any nearby homes, local communities and known sensitive receptors and designations;
 - iv. demonstrate acceptable levels (including cumulative impact) of noise, dust, vibration and potential pollution of land, air and water;
 - v. minimise transport impacts through the number and length of lorry trips and by using rail or water transport wherever practical;
 - vi. have appropriate mitigation plans in place for any adverse impacts;
 - vii. include schemes for a high standard of restoration and aftercare and commitment that such work is undertaken at the earliest opportunity. As a further

safeguard a range of financial guarantee options are available, and the most effective solution should be considered and agreed on a site-by-site basis. Solutions should provide assurance and clarity over the amount and period of the guarantee and in particular, where it is a bond, the risks covered (including operator failure) and the triggers for calling in a bond, including payment terms.

- e) Development proposals for borrow pits will only be supported where:
- i. the proposal is tied to a specific project and is time-limited;
 - ii. the proposal complies with the above mineral extraction criteria taking into account the temporary nature of the development; and
 - iii. appropriate restoration proposals are enforceable.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets

Key policy connections:

[Tackling the climate and nature crises](#)

[Biodiversity](#)

[Natural places](#)

[Historic assets and places](#)

[Zero waste](#)

[Infrastructure first](#)

[Health and safety](#)

Part 3 – Annexes

Annex A – How to use this document

Purpose of Planning

The purpose of planning is to manage the development and use of land in the long-term public interest.

The decisions we make today will have implications for future generations. Scotland in 2045 will be different. We must embrace and deliver radical change so we can tackle and adapt to climate change, restore biodiversity

loss, improve health and wellbeing, reduce inequalities, build a wellbeing economy and create great places.

Role of the National Planning Framework

Scotland 2045: our Fourth National Planning Framework, commonly known as NPF4, is required by law to set out the Scottish Ministers' policies and proposals for the development and use of land. It plays a key role in supporting the delivery of Scotland's national outcomes and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

National Performance Framework

Our Purpose, Values and National Outcomes



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



NPF4 includes a long-term spatial strategy to 2045. This reflects the spatial aspects of a range of Scottish Government policies, including the Infrastructure Investment Plan.

The Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP) identified that NPF4 would include housing land requirements framed within a spatial strategy that aligns with the investment programme and principles, and highlighted that national planning policies would include an infrastructure first approach.

The NPF4 strategy, policies and national developments are aligned to the strategic themes of the IIP: enabling the transition to net zero emissions and environmental sustainability; driving inclusive economic growth; and building resilient and sustainable places. The policies and instruction for LDPs activate the IIP priorities within the themes to the degree that those priorities involve physical development, opportunities for people and improvements for place. Minimum All Tenure Housing Land Requirements are set out at [Annex E](#). The investment hierarchy influences the approach to NPF4 overall and features specifically in instructions for LDPs in Policy 18 'Infrastructure First'.

NPF4 replaces National Planning Framework 3 (2014) and Scottish Planning Policy (2014). NPF4 should be read as a whole. It represents a package of planning policies to guide us to the place we want Scotland to be in 2045.

NPF4 is required by law to contribute to 6 outcomes:

- Meeting the **housing needs** of people living in Scotland including, in particular, the housing needs for older people and disabled people,
- Improving the **health and wellbeing** of people living in Scotland,
- Increasing the **population of rural areas** of Scotland,
- Improving **equality** and eliminating discrimination,
- Meeting any targets relating to the **reduction of emissions** of greenhouse gases, and
- Securing positive effects for **biodiversity**.

Statements setting out further detail on the contribution of NPF4 to each outcome are set out in Part 1.

Plan-led Approach

A plan-led approach is central to supporting the delivery of Scotland's national outcomes and broader sustainable development goals. It is a legislative requirement that planning decisions must be made in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The statutory development plan for any given area of Scotland consists of the National Planning Framework and the relevant LDP(s). The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 prescribes four different plans, at different scales:

National Planning Framework (NPF)	<p>The National Planning Framework sets out the Scottish Ministers' policies and proposals for the development and use of land.</p> <p>The NPF must have regard to any adopted regional spatial strategy.</p> <p>NPF4 is part of the statutory development plan.</p>
Regional spatial strategies (RSS)	<p>The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 introduced a new duty requiring the preparation of regional spatial strategies.</p> <p>A planning authority, or authorities acting jointly will prepare these long-term spatial strategies for the strategic development of an area.</p> <p>RSS are not part of the statutory development plan, but have an important role to play in informing future versions of the NPF and LDPs.</p>
Local development plans (LDPs)	<p>Planning authorities must prepare one or more LDPs for their area.</p> <p>The LDP sets out a spatial strategy for the development of that area. It must take into account the National Planning Framework and any registered local place plan in the area it covers. It must have regard to the authority's adopted regional spatial strategy. The LDP must also have regard to any local outcomes improvement plan for the area it covers.</p> <p>LDPs are part of the statutory development plan.</p>
Local place plans (LPPs)	<p>Local place plans are community-led plans setting out proposals for the development and use of land. They must have regard to the NPF, any LDP which covers the same area, and also any locality plan which covers the same area.</p> <p>LPPs are not part of the statutory development plan, but have an important role to play in informing LDPs.</p>

Spatial Strategy

[Part 1](#) sets out our spatial strategy for Scotland to 2045, identifying:

- [6 spatial principles](#) which will influence all our plans and decisions:
 - Just transition
 - Conserving and recycling assets
 - Local living
 - Compact urban growth
 - Rebalanced development
 - Rural revitalisation
- 3 themes, linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Scottish Government National Performance Framework:
 - Sustainable places where we reduce emissions, restore and better connect biodiversity
 - Liveable places where we can all live better, healthier lives
 - Productive places where we have a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy

LDPs should take account of these principles and outcomes, and they should also be reflected within regional spatial strategies and local place plans.

National Developments

Eighteen national developments have been identified. These are significant developments of national importance that will help to deliver the spatial strategy. They are intentionally high level and focus on key elements, as the projects are at different stages.

National development status does not grant planning permission for the development and all relevant consents are required.

Their designation means that the principle of the development does not need to be agreed in later consenting processes, providing more certainty for communities, business and investors.

Their designation is not intended to describe in detail how the projects should be designed, matters to consider, or impact assessments and mitigation to be applied. In addition to the statement of need at [Annex B](#), decision makers for applications for consent for national developments should take into account all relevant policies.

LDPs should take forward proposals for national developments where relevant and facilitate their delivery. This could be through supporting land allocations, policy intervention and LDP delivery programmes.

Regional Spatial Priorities

Regional spatial priorities set out how each part of the country can use their assets and opportunities to help deliver the overall strategy. The detail of these priorities should be further considered and consulted upon through the local development planning process, and where appropriate through regional spatial strategies and regional transport strategies.

The maps are indicative, and certain authorities may have a role to play in more than one regional area. The broad areas identified in NPF4 are intended to act as a flexible framework to guide the preparation of future Regional Spatial Strategies. It is open to planning authorities to decide for themselves, including by working in partnership with others, the most appropriate scale and extent of areas to be covered by Regional Spatial Strategies.

Statutory guidance will guide the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies.

National Planning Policy

[Part 2](#) sets out our policy framework by topic under the three themes.

Planning is complex and requires careful balancing of issues. The **policy intent** is provided to aid plan makers and decision makers to understand the intent of each policy and to help deliver policy aspirations.

The **policy outcomes** set out what we want to achieve and will help to influence future monitoring of the planning system.

The **Local Development Plan** section clarifies the expected role of LDPs for each topic. The focus for LDPs should be on land allocation through the spatial strategy and interpreting this national policy in a local context. There is no need for LDPs to replicate policies within NPF4, but authorities can add further detail including locally specific policies should they consider to be a need to do so, based on the area's individual characteristics.

The **policy** sections are for use in the determination of planning applications. The policies should be read as a whole. Planning decisions must be made in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. It is for the decision maker to determine what weight to attach to policies on a case by case basis. Where a policy states that development will be supported, it is in principle, and it is for the decision maker to take into account all other relevant policies.

The **policy impact** section shows which spatial principles the policy will help to deliver.

The **key policy connections** help to show the key connections between policies, but are not intended to be comprehensive.

Annex B – National Developments Statements of Need

National developments are significant developments of national importance that will help to deliver our spatial strategy.

Eighteen national developments will support the delivery of our spatial strategy. These national developments range from single large scale projects or collections and networks of several smaller scale proposals. They are also intended to act as exemplars of the Place Principle and placemaking approaches.

The statements of need set out in this annex are a requirement of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and describe the development to be considered as a national development for consent handling purposes.

An assessment of the likely impact of each proposed national development's lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets¹ (with the meaning given in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009) has been undertaken. The assessment is based on the detail provided at the time of the assessment, and the conclusion may alter depending on the nature and detail of the projects taken forward.

The potential for national developments to affect European designated sites, depending on the precise design, location and construction of individual projects, has been identified by the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) of NPF4. Any such development would need to be considered carefully at project level and all relevant statutory tests met.

¹ Research project: Lifecycle Greenhouse Gas Emissions of NPF4 Proposed National Developments Assessment Findings (LUC 2021) available online at <https://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/>

1. Energy Innovation Development on the Islands

This national development supports proposed developments in the Outer Hebrides, Shetland and Orkney island groups, for renewable energy generation, renewable hydrogen production, infrastructure and shipping, and associated opportunities in the supply chain for fabrication, research and development.

Any strategy for deployment of these technologies must enable decarbonisation at pace and cannot be used to justify unsustainable levels of fossil fuel extraction or impede Scotland's just transition to net zero.

This is aligned with low carbon energy projects within the Islands Growth Deal that have been developed with local partners such as the Islands Centre for Net Zero and encompasses other projects that can facilitate net zero aims.

The use of low and zero emission fuels will play a crucial role in decarbonising island and mainland energy use, shipping, strengthening energy security overall and creating a low carbon energy economy for the islands and islanders. The developments will add value where they link into national and international energy expertise, learning and research and development networks.

Location

Outer Hebrides, Shetland, Orkney and surrounding waters.

Need

These classes of development support the potential of the three island authorities to exemplify a transition to a net zero society. This will support delivery of our spatial strategy by helping to sustain communities in rural and island areas by stimulating employment and innovation.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Energy Innovation Development on the Islands' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

Outer Hebrides – Supporting the Arnish Renewables Base and Outer Hebrides Energy Hub

The classes below apply to development that is for delivery of the Arnish Renewables Base and Outer Hebrides Energy Hub:

- a) New or updated on and/or off shore infrastructure for energy generation from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity;
- b) Electricity transmission cables and converter stations on and/or off shore of 132 kilovolts (kv) and above;
- c) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low and zero-carbon fuels (that are not electricity or heat) including renewable hydrogen; and hydrogen production related chemicals including ammonia with appropriate carbon capture linked to transport and storage infrastructure;
- d) Improved oil storage infrastructure for Stornoway, with appropriate emissions abatement; and
- e) Quay to service renewable energy, energy transportation, energy decommissioning, fabrication or freight handling, including new or enhanced associated laydown or operational area at Arnish.

Shetland Islands – Supporting the Opportunity for Renewable Integration with Offshore Networks (ORION) Clean Energy Project

The classes below apply to development that is for delivery of renewable and low carbon aspects of the ORION project:

- a) New or updated on and/or off shore infrastructure for energy generation from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity;
- b) Electricity transmission cables and converter stations on and/or off shore of/ or exceeding 132kv;
- c) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low and zero-carbon fuels (that are not electricity or heat) including renewable hydrogen; and hydrogen production related chemicals including ammonia with appropriate carbon capture linked to transport, storage, and utilisation infrastructure at Sullom Voe;
- d) Quay to service renewable energy, energy transportation, energy decommissioning, fabrication or freight handling, including new or enhanced associated laydown or operational area at Sullom Voe, Scatsta, Lerwick, and Dales Voe (Lerwick);
- e) Oil terminal modifications at Sullom Voe to maintain asset use moving towards net zero emissions; and
- f) New infrastructure, and/or upgraded buildings and facilities to support the transportation and storage of captured carbon.

Orkney Islands – Supporting Scapa Flow Future Fuels Hub and Orkney Harbours

The classes below apply to development that is for the delivery of the Future Fuels Hub, new quay in Scapa Flow, and the Orkney Logistics Base at Hatston, which support services for the renewable and marine energy and shipping sectors:

- a) New or updated on and/or off shore infrastructure for energy generation from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity;

- b) Electricity transmission cables and converter stations on and/or off shore of 132kv and above;
- c) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low and zero-carbon fuels (that are not electricity or heat) including renewable hydrogen; and hydrogen production related chemicals including ammonia with appropriate carbon capture linked to transport and storage infrastructure;
- d) Quay to service renewable energy, energy transportation, energy decommissioning, fabrication or freight handling, including new or enhanced associated laydown or operational area at, Scapa Flow, and Hatston (Kirkwall); and
- e) Oil terminal modifications at Scapa Flow to maintain asset use moving towards net zero emissions.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

2. Pumped Hydro Storage

This national development will play a significant role in balancing and optimising electricity generation and maintaining the operability of the electricity system as part of our transition to net zero. This is necessary as we continue to move towards a decarbonised system with much more renewable generation, the output from which is defined by weather conditions.

This national development supports additional capacity at existing sites as well as at new sites. Cruachan in Argyll is a nationally important example of a pumped storage facility with significant potential for enhanced capacity that could create significant jobs in a rural location.

Location

All Scotland

Need

This national development supports pumped hydro storage capacity within the electricity network through significant new or expanded sites. This supports the transition to a net zero economy through the ability of pumped hydro storage schemes to optimise electricity generated from renewables by storing and releasing it when it is required.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Pumped Hydro Storage' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by [‘The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009’](#), is designated a national development:

- a) New and/or expanded and/or upgraded water holding reservoir and dam;
- b) New and/or upgraded electricity generating plant structures or buildings;
- c) New and/or upgraded pump plant structures or buildings;
- d) New and/or expanded and/or upgraded water inlet and outlet pipework;
- e) New and/or upgraded substations and/or transformers; and
- f) New and/or replacement transmission cables.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

3. Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure

This national development supports renewable electricity generation, repowering, and expansion of the electricity grid.

A large and rapid increase in electricity generation from renewable sources will be essential for Scotland to meet its net zero emissions targets. Certain types of renewable electricity generation will also be required, which will include energy storage technology and capacity, to provide the vital services, including flexible response, that a zero carbon network will require. Generation is for domestic consumption as well as for export to the UK and beyond, with new capacity helping to decarbonise heat, transport and industrial energy demand. This has the potential to support jobs and business investment, with wider economic benefits.

The electricity transmission grid will need substantial reinforcement including the addition of new infrastructure to connect and transmit the output from new on and offshore capacity to consumers in Scotland, the rest of the UK and beyond. Delivery of this national development will be informed by market, policy and regulatory developments and decisions.

Location

All Scotland.

Need

Additional electricity generation from renewables and electricity transmission capacity of scale is fundamental to achieving a net zero economy and supports improved network resilience in rural and island areas. Island transmission connections in particular can facilitate capturing the significant renewable energy potential in those areas as well as delivering significant social and economic benefits.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

- a) On and off shore electricity generation, including electricity storage, from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity;
- b) New and/or replacement upgraded on and offshore high voltage electricity transmission lines, cables and interconnectors of 132kv or more; and
- c) New and/or upgraded Infrastructure directly supporting on and offshore high voltage electricity lines, cables and interconnectors including converter stations, switching stations and substations.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Local Living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Just transition

4. Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities

This national development supports the development of facilities required to achieve a circular economy. This sector will provide a range of business, skills and employment opportunities as part of a just transition to a net zero economy.

The range and scale of facilities required to manage secondary materials and their circulation back into the economy is not yet clear. However, sites and facilities will be needed to retain the resource value of materials so that we can maximise the use of materials in the economy and minimise the use of virgin materials in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is particularly significant for the construction and demolition industries and decommissioning industry.

Careful assessment of specific proposals will be required to ensure they provide sustainable low carbon solutions, include appropriate controls, manage any emissions and mitigate localised impacts including on neighbouring communities and the wider environment.

Location

All Scotland.

Need

This national development helps maximise Scotland's potential to retain the energy and emissions values within materials already in the economy.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#) is designated a national development:

- a) Facilities for managing secondary materials; and
- b) Recycling facilities.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Local Living
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Just transition

5. Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions

This national development aims to build on the benefits of the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership, to continue investment and extend the approach to the Edinburgh city region.

Our biggest cities and their regions will require improved infrastructure to ensure they are more resilient to climate change. A strategic, catchment scale approach to adaptation through surface water and drainage infrastructure investment will reduce impacts and risks for our urban population and is an example of an infrastructure first approach. Catchment scale nature-based solutions which may include blue and green infrastructure should be prioritised. Grey infrastructure should be optimised and only used when necessary to augment blue-green infrastructure solutions. Delivery of multiple climate, wellbeing and economic benefits should form the basis of the approach. Whilst this national development focuses on Edinburgh and Glasgow other cities and towns may benefit from similar approaches.

Location

Glasgow and Edinburgh City Regions and their wider water catchment areas.

Need

A large proportion of our population lives in our largest cities. The management of surface water drainage at scale across these city regions will help us to adapt to extreme weather events that will become more frequent as a result of climate change. A nature-based approach to surface water management has the potential to deliver multiple health, wellbeing, economic and climate adaptation and emissions reduction benefits and it may free up sewer capacity.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions' in the location described, within the Class of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#) is designated a national development:

- a) Spaces, infrastructure, works, structures, buildings, pipelines, and nature-based approaches, for surface water management and drainage systems.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

6. Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks

This national development supports low carbon mass/rapid transit projects for Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

To reduce transport emissions at scale, we will require low carbon transport solutions for these three major cities that can support transformational reduction in private car use.

Development of the Glasgow 'Metro' and Edinburgh Mass Transit in these cities and their associated regions plus the Aberdeen Rapid Transit system are recommendations from the Strategic Transport Projects Review 2.

This will support placemaking and deliver improved transport equity across the most densely populated parts of Scotland, improving access to employment and supporting sustainable investment in the longer term. It can function as part of a broader transport network that includes active travel, and this places importance on multi-modal hubs or transport interchange points.

The type of interventions will be determined through the on-going development of business cases and studies but could include the provision of new systems or extensions to existing sustainable and public transport networks.

Location

Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh City Regions.

Need

This national development will help reduce transport related emissions overall, improve air quality, reduce the demand for private vehicle use, support the roll out of 20 minute neighbourhoods and improve transport equity.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#) is designated a national development. This relates to development supported by the Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 consisting of new or upgraded:

- a) Track or road infrastructure;
- b) Fuelling or power infrastructure;
- c) Passenger facilities; and
- d) Depots servicing the networks.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Just transition

7. Central Scotland Green Network

This national development is one of Europe's largest and most ambitious green infrastructure projects. It will play a key role in tackling the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss including by building and strengthening nature networks. A greener approach to development will improve placemaking, can contribute to the roll-out of 20 minute neighbourhoods and will benefit biodiversity connectivity. This has particular relevance in the more urban parts of Scotland where there is pressure for development as well as significant areas requiring regeneration to address past decline and disadvantage. Regeneration, repurposing and reuse of brownfield land should be a priority.

Priorities include enhancement to provide multi-functional green and blue infrastructure that provides greatest environmental, lifelong physical and mental health, social wellbeing and economic benefits. It focuses on those areas where greening and development can be mutually supportive, helping to improve equity of access to quality green and blue space, and supporting communities where improving wellbeing and resilience is most needed, including to help people adapt to future climate risks.

Nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation may include woodland expansion and peatland restoration as a priority. The connectivity of biodiversity rich areas may be enhanced through nature networks, including corridors and stepping stones to provide enhanced natural capital and improved ecosystem services.

Location

Central Scotland local authorities within a boundary identified by the Green Action Trust.

Need

This national development is needed to improve quality of place and create new opportunities for investment. This will support delivery of our spatial strategy which highlights the importance of accelerating urban greening in this most densely populated part of Scotland.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Central Scotland Green Network' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by '[The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009](#)', is designated a national development:

- Development to create and/or enhance multi-functional green infrastructure including for: emissions sequestration; adaptation to climate change; and biodiversity enhancement;
- Reuse of vacant and derelict land and buildings for greening and nature-based solutions;
- New and/or upgraded sustainable surface water management and drainage systems and the creation of blue space;
- Use of land for allotments or community food growing; and
- Routes for active travel and/or recreation.

Lifecycle Greenhouse Gas Emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

8. National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network

This national development facilitates the shift from vehicles to walking, cycling and wheeling for everyday journeys contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport and is highly beneficial for health and wellbeing.

The upgrading and provision of additional active travel infrastructure will be fundamental to the development of a sustainable travel network providing access to settlements, key services and amenities, employment and multi-modal hubs. Infrastructure investment should be prioritised for locations where it will achieve our National Transport Strategy 2 priorities and outcomes, to reduce inequalities, take climate action, help deliver a wellbeing economy and to improve health and wellbeing. This will help to deliver great places to live and work, including through connecting neighbourhoods, villages and towns, active freeways and long distance routes.

Location

All Scotland.

Need

Reducing the need to travel unsustainably is the highest priority in the sustainable transport investment hierarchy. This national development will significantly support modal shift and deliver multiple outcomes including our commitment to a 20% reduction in car kilometres by 2030, associated emissions reduction, health and air quality improvement. This will support the delivery of our spatial strategy by creating a more sustainable distribution of access across Scotland as a whole.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#) is designated a national development:

- a) New/and or upgraded routes suitable for a range of users for walking, cycling and wheeling that help create a national network that facilitates short and longer distance journeys and linkages to multi-modal hubs.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Just transition

9. Edinburgh Waterfront

This national development supports the regeneration of strategic sites along the Forth Waterfront in Edinburgh.

The waterfront is a strategic asset that contributes to the city's character and sense of place and includes significant opportunities for a wide range of future developments.

Development will include high quality mixed use proposals that optimise the use of the strategic asset for residential, community, commercial and industrial purposes, including support for off-shore energy relating to port uses. Further cruise activity should take into account the need to manage impacts on transport infrastructure.

This will help maintain and grow Edinburgh's position as a capital city and commercial centre with a high quality and accessible living environment. Development locations and design will need to address future resilience to the risks from climate change, impact on health inequalities, and the potential to incorporate green and blue infrastructure.

Location

Leith to Granton.

Need

Waterfronts in our largest urban areas are frequently under-utilised and contain significant areas of brownfield land as well as existing infrastructure assets. Their location may be particularly vulnerable to climate change and likely risks will require careful management. This will support delivery of our spatial strategy, which recognises the importance of our urban coastline in supporting our sense of place, economy and wellbeing.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Edinburgh Waterfront' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by '[The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009](#)', is designated a national development:

- a) New and/or upgraded buildings for mixed use and/or residential development;
- b) New and/or upgraded buildings for commercial, industrial, business use;
- c) New and/or upgraded utilities;
- d) New and/or upgraded green and blue infrastructure;
- e) New and/or upgraded active and sustainable travel routes; and
- f) New and/or upgraded port facilities for vessel berthing and related landside activities including for lay-down, and marine sector services.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Just transition

10. Dundee Waterfront

This national development supports the redevelopment of the Dundee Waterfront Zones including: the Central Waterfront, Seabraes, City Quay, Dundee Port, Riverside Business Area and Nature Park, and the Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc.

Continued delivery of the waterfront transformation is crucial to securing the role of the city as a location for investment in the net zero economy. Supporting population growth alongside economic opportunities, and skills and career development, is important in continuing to demonstrate the sustainability of urban living in Scotland and a just transition to the net zero economy.

Further projects associated with this include: the Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc which will become an innovation hub for net zero emission mobility; the Eden Project; and an improvement of facilities at Dundee Port. This national development includes reusing land on and around the Dundee Waterfront to support the lifelong health and wellbeing of communities, deliver innovation and attract investment. As the development progresses it will be important to support sustainable and active transport options and to build in adaptation to future climate risks.

Location

Dundee Waterfront zones: Central Waterfront, Seabraes, City Quay, Dundee Port, Riverside Business Area and Riverside Nature Park; Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc.

Need

This national development supports the continued revitalisation of Dundee Waterfront, expanded to include Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc in support of the Tay Cities Region Economic Strategy and its continued use for economic purposes. Waterfront locations may be particularly vulnerable to climate change and so development requires to be carefully designed to manage likely risks.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Dundee Waterfront' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by '[The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009](#)' is designated a national development:

- a) New and/or upgraded buildings for mixed use and/or residential development;
- b) New and/or upgraded buildings for commercial, industrial, business, storage, distribution, research, educational, and/or tourism use;
- c) New and/or upgraded utilities;
- d) New and/or upgraded active and sustainable travel routes;
- e) New and/or upgraded port facilities for vessel berthing and related landside activities including for lay-down, freight handling and marine sector services; and
- f) New and/or upgraded green and blue infrastructure.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Just transition

11. Stranraer Gateway

This national development supports the regeneration of Stranraer.

Stranraer is a gateway town. It is located close to Cairnryan, a key port connecting Scotland to Northern Ireland, Ireland and beyond to wider markets.

High quality place-based regeneration will help address socio-economic inequalities in Stranraer and to support the wider population of south west Scotland by acting as a hub and providing a platform for future investment. This will be supported by any strategic transport interventions including road and rail that emerge from the second Strategic Transport Projects Review which embeds the National Transport Strategy's sustainable travel and investment hierarchies.

Location

Stranraer and associated transport routes.

Need

Loch Ryan and Stranraer act as a gateway to Scotland. Reusing the assets in this location will support the wellbeing, economy and community in line with the regional growth deal. It will help to deliver our spatial strategy by driving forward regeneration of a key hub.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Stranraer Gateway' in the location described within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

- a) Development contributing to Stranraer Waterfront regeneration;
- b) Marina expansion;
- c) Redevelopment of Stranraer harbour east pier;
- d) Sustainable, road, rail and freight infrastructure for access to Stranraer and/or Cairnryan;
- e) New and/or upgraded infrastructure for the transportation and use of low carbon fuels; and
- f) Reuse of vacant and derelict buildings and brownfield land, including regeneration of Blackparks industrial estate.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Compact urban growth
- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

12. Digital Fibre Network

This national development supports the continued roll-out of world-class broadband across Scotland.

Our strategy requires enhanced digital connectivity to provide high speed broadband or equivalent mobile services, prioritising those areas with weaker networks as part of the Reaching 100% (R100) programme and Project Gigabit, including urban, island specific and rural enhancements. This is a significant utility including 4G and 5G mobile infrastructure facilitating home based working, renewable energy development, rural repopulation and access to services. The data transmission network can also support the availability and use of 'big data.' Digital capability is a feature of a number of City Region and Growth Deals.

Opportunities should be taken to deliver the infrastructure as part of other infrastructure upgrades or installation works such as energy transmission, transportation, and travel networks where appropriate.

Location

All Scotland.

Need

This is a fundamentally important utility, required to support development, community wellbeing, equal access to goods and services, and emissions reduction from reduced demand for travel. This will help to deliver our spatial strategy by complementing a new emphasis of living locally, and by helping to sustain and grow rural and island communities.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Digital Fibre Network' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

- a) Installation of new and/or upgraded broadband cabling on land and sub-sea for fixed line and mobile networks; and
- b) Green data centres.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall negligible impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

13. Clyde Mission

This national development is a national, place-based Mission to make the Clyde an engine of economic success for Glasgow, the city region and Scotland.

The Clyde Mission is focused on the River Clyde and the riverside from South Lanarkshire in the east to Inverclyde and Argyll and Bute in the west and focusing on an area up to around 500 metres from the river edge. This footprint includes the parts of the Clyde Gateway, River Clyde Waterfront, North Clyde River Bank and River Clyde Corridor frameworks, and Glasgow Riverside Innovation District.

Across this area significant land assets are under-utilised, and longstanding inequality, in relation to poor environment and health outcomes require to be tackled as a national priority. An ambitious redevelopment programme is being taken forward under [Five Missions](#). It is a collective, cross-sector effort and partnership working will help bring forward assets and sites that are ready for redevelopment to sustain a range of uses. This will repurpose and reinvigorate brownfield and supporting local living as well as adapting the area to the impacts of climate change, where nature-based solutions would be particularly supported.

Location

The river and land immediately next to it (up to around 500 metres from the river) along its length.

Need

These classes of development revitalise a major waterfront asset which is currently under-utilised. This will support the delivery of our spatial strategy by attracting investment and reuse of brownfield land in west central Scotland where there is a particular need to improve quality of place, generate employment and support disadvantaged communities. It will also support adaptation to climate risks.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Clyde Mission' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

- a) Mixed use, which may include residential, redevelopment of brownfield land;
- b) New, reused and/or upgraded buildings and facilities for residential, commercial, business and industrial uses on brownfield land;
- c) Upgrade of existing port and harbour assets for servicing marine functions including freight and cruise uses and associated landside commercial and/or industrial land for supporting services;
- d) New and/or upgraded active and sustainable travel and recreation routes and infrastructure; and
- e) New and/or upgraded infrastructure for climate adaptation, including nature-based, green and blue solutions.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net negative impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets

14. Aberdeen Harbour

This national development supports the continued relocation and repurposing of Aberdeen Harbour. The harbour is a strategically important asset supporting the economy of the north east of Scotland.

The south harbour can act as a cluster of port accessible offshore renewable energy research, manufacturing and support services. The facilities are also important for international connections.

At the south harbour the focus should be on regenerating existing industrial land and reorganising land use around the harbour in line with the spatial strategy of the LDP. By focusing future port activity here, parts of the existing harbour in the city centre will become available for mixed use development, opening up development land to help reinvigorate Aberdeen city centre.

This can help provide significant economic opportunities, in line with the objectives of the Aberdeen City Region Deal. Environmental benefits, for example to enhance access and improve the quality of green space and active travel options should be designed-in to help offset any potential impacts on the amenity of local communities with relevant projects addressing environmental sensitivities through careful planning, assessment and implementation.

The extent to which this should include additional business and industrial development outwith the existing north and south harbours is a matter to be determined in the relevant LDP, and is outwith the scope of this national development.

Location

Port of Aberdeen North and South Harbours.

This national development supports the optimisation of Aberdeen Harbour to support net zero and stimulate economic investment. It is also a significant opportunity to support better placemaking including city centre transformation, and regeneration of existing land by optimising the use of new and existing assets. This will

deliver our spatial strategy by helping the north east of Scotland to achieve a just transition from a high carbon economy whilst improving quality of place.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Aberdeen Harbour' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#) is designated a national development:

- Mixed use development reusing land at the existing (north) Aberdeen Harbour;
- Upgraded port facilities at Aberdeen Harbour and completion of South Harbour;
- New and/or upgraded green infrastructure;
- Buildings and facilities for commercial, manufacturing and industrial uses;
- Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low carbon and renewable hydrogen and related chemicals including ammonia, with carbon capture as necessary; and
- Transport infrastructure, including for sustainable and active travel, for the South Harbour as supported by the Aberdeen City Region Deal.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Just transition

15. Industrial Green Transition Zones

To secure a just transition to a net zero economy, the decarbonisation of nationally important industrial sites in a way that ensures continued jobs, investment and prosperity for these areas and the communities that depend on them is essential. Industrial Green Transition Zones (IGTZ) will support the generation of significant economic opportunities while minimising carbon emissions. Technologies that will help Scotland transition to net zero will be supported at these locations, with a particular focus on low carbon and zero emissions technologies including renewables and the generation, storage and distribution of low carbon hydrogen.

The deployment of hydrogen and CCUS at these locations must demonstrate decarbonisation at pace and cannot be used to justify unsustainable levels of fossil fuel extraction or impede Scotland's just transition to net zero. Hydrogen and CCUS are emerging industries, both government and industry in Scotland wish to accelerate and maximise the deployment of green hydrogen. For projects that utilise carbon capture and storage, we want to ensure the highest possible carbon capture rates in the deployment of these technologies. While there are examples internationally where CCUS projects have been associated with offshore Enhanced Oil Recovery, we understand there to be no plans for offshore Enhanced Oil Recovery as part of the Scottish Cluster. However, if any IGTZ is found to be incompatible with Scotland's transition to net zero, Scottish Government policy, along with designations of and classes of development, will change accordingly.

Industrial Green Transition Zones are:

- **The Scottish Cluster** encompasses a carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects network and is a key strategic vehicle for industrial decarbonisation, energy generation, and the transportation and storage of captured carbon. The designation relates to projects that form a Scottish Cluster in the first instance specifically Peterhead, St Fergus and Grangemouth. Further industrial transition sites are expected to emerge in the longer

term and benefit from the experience gained within the Scottish Cluster but do not form part of this national development. This national development will support the generation of significant economic opportunities for low carbon industry as well as minimising carbon emissions at scale, and will play a vital part in maintaining the security and operability of Scotland's electricity supply and network. The creation of hydrogen and deployment of negative emissions technologies, utilising CCUS, at commercial scale will establish the opportunities to decarbonise industry, transport and heat, as well as other sectors, and pave the way for the transportation and storage infrastructure to support the growing hydrogen economy in Scotland.

- **Grangemouth investment zone** currently hosts strategic and critical infrastructure, high value employment and manufacturing of materials that are currently vital for every-day life. This role will continue in the long-term but must seek to decarbonise given the significant contribution of the industrial activities to Scotland's emissions. It is a key location in the Scottish Cluster for carbon capture and storage, and hydrogen deployment. The Grangemouth Investment Zone will be a focus for transitioning the petro-chemicals industry and associated activities into a leading exemplar of industrial decarbonisation, significantly helped through the coordination activities of the Scottish Government's Grangemouth Future Industry Board. Decarbonisation could include opportunities for: renewable energy innovation; bioenergy; hydrogen production with carbon capture and storage; and repurposing of existing strategic and critical infrastructure such as pipelines.

Location

St Fergus, Peterhead, and Grangemouth.

Need

This national development is required to meet our targets for emissions reduction. It also supports a just transition by creating new jobs in emerging technologies and significant economic opportunities for lower carbon industry. It will help to decarbonise other sectors, sites and regions, paving the way for increasing demand

to be complemented by the production of further hydrogen in the future. This will also help to deliver our spatial strategy by supporting investment in the North East and the Central Belt where there has been a relatively high level of output from fossil fuel industries.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Industrial Green Transition Zones' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by '[The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009](#)' is designated a national development.

- a) Carbon capture with high capture rates and negative emission technologies, transportation and storage of captured carbon forming part of or helping to create an expandable national network;
- b) Pipeline for transportation and storage of captured carbon and/or hydrogen;
- c) Onshore infrastructure including compression equipment, supporting pipeline transportation and shipping transportation of captured carbon and/or hydrogen;
- d) Offshore storage of captured carbon;
- e) New and/or upgraded buildings and facilities for the utilisation of captured carbon;
- f) Infrastructure for the production of hydrogen on shore or off shore where co-located with off shore wind farms within 0-12 nautical miles;
- g) Infrastructure for the storage of hydrogen on shore or off shore, including on or near-shore geological storage;
- h) Port facilities for the transport and handling of hydrogen and carbon dioxide;
- i) The application of carbon capture and storage technology to existing or replacement thermal power generation capacity;
- j) Production, storage and transportation with appropriate emissions abatement of: bioenergy; hydrogen production related chemicals including ammonia;
- k) New and/or upgraded buildings for industrial, manufacturing, business, and educational or research uses related to the industrial transition;
- l) Town centre regeneration at Grangemouth;
- m) Grangemouth flood protection scheme;
- n) New and/or upgraded green and blue infrastructure;
- o) New and/or upgraded utilities and/or local energy network; and
- p) New and/or upgraded facilities at the port for inter-modal freight handling at Grangemouth.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive effect on lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Rural revitalisation
- ✔ Just transition

16. Hunterston Strategic Asset

This national development supports the repurposing of Hunterston port as well as the adjacent former nuclear power station sites and marketable business land of the Hunterston Estate. Hunterston has long been recognised as a strategic location for the port and energy sectors given its deepwater access and existing infrastructure. Hunterston is a key site, anchoring other opportunities around the Firth of Clyde.

The location and infrastructure offers potential for electricity generation from renewables, and a variety of commercial uses including port, research and development, aquaculture, the circular economy, and environmental and economic opportunities around nuclear decommissioning expertise.

New development will need to optimise the capacity of the transport network, include active travel links and be compatible with a location adjacent to sites with nuclear power uses. Designated biodiversity sites will require protection and enhancement where possible, and sustainable flood risk management solutions will be required for the area. Aligned with the Ayrshire Growth Deal, jointly funded by the Scottish and UK Governments, investment in this location will support a wellbeing economy by opening up opportunities for employment and training for local people. A community wealth building approach has been embedded within the Deal and Regional Economic Strategy within Ayrshire, and would be expected to form a part of future development proposals to ensure the economic benefits are retained locally as far as possible, strengthening local supply chains and supporting businesses and communities across Ayrshire.

Location

Hunterston Port, nuclear power station sites and marketable employment land at Hunterston Estate.

Need

These classes of development support the redevelopment and reuse of existing strategic assets and land contributing to a net zero economy. It also supports delivery of our spatial strategy by stimulating investment in the west of Scotland, potentially contributing to the wider aim of tackling inequalities.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Hunterston Strategic Asset' in the location described within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by '[The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009](#)', is designated a national development:

- a) Infrastructure to support a multi-modal deep water harbour;
- b) Land and buildings for bulk handling, storage, processing and distribution;
- c) Facilities for marine energy generation technology fabrication and decommissioning;
- d) Facilities for marine energy servicing;
- e) Land and buildings for industrial, commercial, research and development, and training uses;
- f) Infrastructure for the capture, transportation and long-term storage of greenhouse gas emissions, where transportation may be by pipe or vehicular means;
- g) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low carbon and renewable hydrogen; and hydrogen production related chemicals including ammonia;
- h) Infrastructure for the generation and storage of electricity from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts; and
- i) Electricity transmission infrastructure of 132kv or more.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Local living
- ✔ Rebalanced development
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✔ Rural revitalisation
- ✔ Just transition

17. Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment

This national development supports the redevelopment of Chapelcross, a former nuclear power station site of significant scale regionally and nationally, and our strategy supports the reuse of the site to help deliver on net zero and provide opportunities for communities in the South of Scotland.

Final uses for the site remain to be agreed, but the site has locational advantage to act as an energy hub with opportunities including: business development with a particular focus on energy and energy supply chain; energy generation from solar; electricity storage; generation of heat; production and storage of low carbon and renewable hydrogen. This could link to ambitions for low carbon heat and vehicle fuel at Stranraer.

The proposal aims to create new job opportunities, including high value employment. A community wealth building approach will ensure that benefits are retained locally as far as possible, and this in turn will help to sustain and grow the local population. We also support opportunities to reduce the fuel costs for local communities to tackle fuel poverty. Sustainable access to the site for workers and commercial vehicles will be required.

Location

Site of the former Chapelcross power station.

Need

This national development supports the reuse of a significant area of brownfield land in a rural area with economically fragile communities. It will also support the just transition to net zero.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by '[The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009](#)', is designated a national development:

- a) Commercial, industrial, manufacturing, and office related development occurring on the Chapelcross development site;
- b) Generation of electricity from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity;
- c) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low carbon and renewable hydrogen and related chemicals including ammonia, with carbon capture as necessary; and
- d) Active and sustainable travel connection to the site.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✓ Local living
- ✓ Rebalanced development
- ✓ Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Rural revitalisation
- ✓ Just transition

18. High Speed Rail

This national development supports the implementation of increased infrastructure to improve rail capacity and connectivity on the main cross-border routes, the east and west coast mainlines.

Rail connectivity that can effectively compete with air and road based transport between the major towns and cities in Scotland, England and onward to Europe is an essential part of reducing transport emissions, making best use of the rail network and providing greater connectivity opportunities. There can be significant emissions savings of approximately 75% to be made when freight is transported by rail instead of road.

Enhancement would be in addition to and in conjunction with High Speed 2 (HS2) and other enhancements identified by the UK Government.

Scottish Ministers have an agreement with the UK Government to develop infrastructure enhancements 'North of HS2' and Scottish Ministers continue to press the UK Government on the imperative that all nations and regions of Britain benefit from the prosperity that HS2 will deliver both in its construction and its implementation. The Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 is appraising through recommendation 45 and will provide the strategic case for investment in the rail network in Scotland, over and above the commitments within HS2.

Location

Central and southern Scotland to the border with England.

Need

This national development aims to ensure a low emissions air-competitive journey time to cities in the UK as well as connectivity with European cities and benefits to freight. This will support Scotland's ability to attract and compete for investment.

Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'High Speed Rail' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by ['The Town and Country Planning \(Hierarchy of Developments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2009'](#), is designated a national development:

- a) New and/or upgraded railway track and electrification solution (overhead cabling and pylons or on track);
- b) New and/or upgraded multi-modal railway stations to service high-speed lines; and
- c) Depot facilities for high speed trains and/or related to the construction and onward maintenance of the UK high-speed rail infrastructure.

Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Policy impact:

- ✔ Compact urban growth
- ✔ Conserving and recycling assets

Annex C – Spatial Planning Priorities

This information is intended to guide the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies and LDPs to help deliver Scotland's national spatial strategy.

North and West Coast and Islands

This area broadly comprises the island communities of Shetland, Orkney, the Outer Hebrides, and parts of Highland and Argyll and Bute, and the north and west coastline of the Scottish mainland.

To deliver sustainable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans should maximise the benefits of renewable energy whilst enhancing blue and green infrastructure, decarbonising transport and building resilient connections.

This area's natural and cultural assets will require careful planning and management so that their special qualities can continue to form a strong foundation for future development and investment. There are opportunities for local projects across this area to come together and create an enhanced nature network which benefits quality of life and contributes to biodiversity recovery and restoration as well as carbon sequestration.

Resilience and a growing green economy will depend on delivery of improved grid connections, including high voltage grid cables connecting the three island groups to the mainland. This will be complemented by the innovation in low and zero carbon fuels and the roll out of locally distributed energy systems to reduce emissions from buildings, address significant fuel poverty and secure longer term resilience.

Significant peatland restoration and woodland creation and restoration, along with blue carbon opportunities will secure wider biodiversity benefits and be a focus for investment to

offset carbon and secure existing natural carbon stores. The Lewis Peatlands and the Flow Country are internationally recognised as accounting for a significant proportion of the world's blanket bog habitat, and there are opportunities to protect and expand Scotland's temperate rainforest, including some of the best remaining rainforest sites in Europe. Access to the outdoors, as well as active travel, can benefit from continued investment in long distance walking and cycling routes with a range of projects emerging at a regional scale.

Communities in this area will need resilient transport connectivity to maintain accessibility and lifeline links, and further innovation will be required to help modernise connections and decarbonise transport systems. A net zero islands air network and decarbonisation of ferry services will help to secure the viability and service stability of island and remote coastal communities. Communities are keen to explore long-term ambitions for fixed links for example across the Sound of Harris and Sound of Barra, and potentially to connect the Outer Hebrides to mainland Scotland. An Islands Connectivity Plan will consider the role of ferries, fixed links and low carbon aviation in securing lifeline links and marine access for both leisure and freight. In addition to the investment potential of the area's ports and harbours, the strategic location of the Northern Isles as a hub for future shipping using long distance trade routes has significant potential for investment and growth over the longer term. There is also potential to consider decarbonisation of fishing fleets and the aquaculture industry in the future.

Electric vehicle ownership is already high in some parts of the area and continued expansion of charging networks will support further decarbonisation. Key routes and hubs are emerging – examples include the aspiration for an electric spinal route that extends across the Outer Hebrides. This should be viewed as one part of a wider system response to net zero that also strengthens active travel across the area.

Improved digital connectivity is a priority to sustain current businesses and create ‘smart’ communities. We are committed to investment in ultrafast broadband to ensure every property is connected and to improve mobile coverage. This will unlock opportunities for rural businesses and remote working, and make future community growth more feasible. Full benefits will be realised by actively tackling the digital divide by building skills, literacy and learning and addressing the financial barriers to internet access. Key projects include the Outer Hebrides Giga Fibre Network and the North Isles Fibre Project.

To deliver liveable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support coastal and island communities to become carbon neutral, thus contributing to net-zero commitments and reducing fuel poverty.

Future-proofing local liveability will benefit people as well as the planet. Island and coastal communities can apply the concept of local living, including 20 minute neighbourhoods, in a flexible way and find local solutions to low carbon living, for example by identifying service hubs in key locations with good public transport links. The aim is to build long-term resilience and self-reliance by minimising the need to travel whilst sustaining dispersed communities and rural patterns of development. Communities in this area will continue to rely to an extent on the private car, and low carbon solutions to the provision of services will need to be practical and affordable. Innovation including electric vehicle charging and digital connectivity will play an important role.

Increased coastal flooding and erosion arising from future climate change will need to be considered along with impacts on associated infrastructure such as bridges and transport networks. The majority of island populations live in coastal locations and there is a need for a pro-active and innovative approach that works with local communities to address this issue.

Regionally and locally driven plans and strategies will identify areas for future development that reflect these principles – for example planned population growth on the Western Seaboard of Argyll and in a growth corridor from Tobermory to Oban and on to Dalmally. Community hubs, where people can easily access a variety of services, will need to evolve and grow to support communities and sustain a range of functions. Ports and harbours can be a focal point for electric vehicle charging as well as employment. Sustainable and fair access to affordable healthier food will support future resilience and broader objectives including reduced child poverty and improved health outcomes. Innovative and equitable service provision, including digital solutions, will be needed to support dispersed communities in a low carbon way.

Communities will need greater choice and more flexible and affordable homes to support varying needs. This can be achieved to an extent by refurbishing the existing building stock to reduce the release of embedded carbon, as well as by delivering more affordable, energy efficient homes. The additional costs of island homebuilding and development generally, as well as in delivering net zero, is a challenge that needs to be factored into a planned approach.

There is a clear need for affordable housing provision across the region to improve choice and access to homes, to support local economies, and in some areas to help offset the impact of second home ownership and short term lets on the market. Local solutions may include key worker housing, temporary homes for workers in remote areas, and self-provided homes including self-build and custom-build. Continued innovation of holistic place-based solutions, such as the Rural and Islands Housing Fund, will be required to create homes that meet diverse community needs, including homes for an ageing population and to help young people to stay in or return to their communities. Greater efforts to ensure young people have more influence in decisions that affect their future places could support this, as well as helping more people access land and crofts and the reuse of abandoned sites where appropriate.

To reverse past depopulation and support existing settlements, planning can help to sustain communities in more peripheral and fragile areas in a way that is compatible with our low carbon agenda and resilient to climate change impacts. Further action should be taken where appropriate to encourage economically active people to previously inhabited areas. This will also need to reflect climate commitments and wider aspirations to create sustainable places that incorporate principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods and active travel networks. Coasts will continue to evolve, and development will be needed to sustain and grow communities in a sustainable way. Collaboration and strong alignment of terrestrial and marine planning, at all levels, will also be needed.

To deliver productive places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should seize the opportunities to grow the blue and green economy, recognising the world-class environmental assets that require careful management and the opportunities to develop skills and diversify employment.

This area has significant opportunities for investment that capitalise on its natural assets and further strengthen the synergies between people, land and sea. This will require strong collaboration and alignment of terrestrial and marine planning, especially as further development of related blue economy activities in the terrestrial environment may increase competition for marine space and resources offshore. To significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, more onshore and offshore renewable energy generation will be needed, bringing unprecedented opportunities to strengthen local economies, build community wealth and secure long-term sustainability. The island authorities have set targets for creating green jobs and for rolling out clean and efficient energy systems to build local resilience. We expect to see continued innovation to unlock the infrastructure and business opportunities arising from a blue and green prosperity agenda.

As a result of its natural advantages, the area is growing its research excellence, and driving low-carbon is a core theme of the Islands Growth Deal. This will support the emergence of the planned joint Islands Centre for Net Zero, alongside island-specific initiatives. Orkney has been home to the European Marine Energy Centre since 2003 and the Orkney Research and Innovation Campus (ORIC) in Stromness provides a focus for Orkney's renewable and low carbon industries and research facilities. There are plans to grow the role of Orkney's ports and harbours to support net zero. The Outer Hebrides Energy Hub plans to establish the initial infrastructure necessary to support the production of low carbon hydrogen from renewable energy and conduct a 'large village' trial for Stornoway, and there may also be co-benefits to be gained for aquaculture in the area. Shetland aims to grow its net zero contribution including through a planned ultra-deep water port development, which would support servicing the energy sector, oil and gas decommissioning and large-scale offshore renewables. In addition, Oban is developing as a university town, and the European Marine Science Park is a key opportunity to build the local economy and provide education locally.

Sea ports are a focus for investment in the blue economy and further diversification of activities could generate additional employment across the area. Potential for business development ranges from long distance freight to supporting the cruise and marine leisure sectors and decommissioning opportunities. There may also be opportunity for ports in the islands to establish themselves as near-Arctic marine transport and logistics hubs, including for transshipment operations.

There is an aspiration for the servicing of ultra large container ships with associated facilities within Scapa Flow. The potential for such development to adversely affect European site(s) has been identified through the HRA of NPF4. Therefore, this would need to be considered carefully at project level, including through the Habitats Regulations Appraisal process, to ascertain that there will be no adverse effects on

the integrity of European sites, or if this is not the case, whether there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest and relevant statutory tests can be met.

New infrastructure and repurposing of land will help to shift industrial activity towards supporting the offshore renewables sector. Key strategic sites for industrial investment and associated port infrastructure and facilities include plans for: Dales Voe and Scapa Flow as part of the Islands Growth Deal; Cullivoe; Arnish in Stornoway; Wick; Scrabster; Gills Bay; Kishorn; Oban; Port Askaig; and Hatston, Kirkwall. Other key nodes on the ferries network, including Ullapool, Uig and Mallaig, will continue to act as important hubs to support communities, investors and visitors.

Proposed space ports, which make use of the area's relatively remote location and free airspace, could support our national ambitions to grow this sector. This includes plans for an Outer Hebrides Spaceport 1 in Scolpaig, North Uist and an emphasis on space research and skills development in Shetland as part of the Islands Growth Deal, a space port at Machrihanish and ancillary buildings at Benbecula. Planning permission has been granted for a space port at Melness in Sutherland, making use of its location away from populated areas to provide a vertical launch facility that could link with wider opportunities for manufacturing, research and development across Scotland.

Food and drink is a key sector, with aquaculture, distilleries, commercial fishing, and seaweed farming providing a crucial and growing source of employment for many local communities. This sector is of national significance, with whisky generating an estimated £5 billion to the UK economy and salmon accounting for more than 40% of total food exports. By improving the resilience of existing infrastructure we will ensure continued access to international markets. There are significant opportunities to build on experience and expertise through associated research and development. A development hub at Machrihanish to support aquaculture research in association with Stirling University could open up wider opportunities to expand

onshore aquaculture at sites across Scotland. Within Orkney, farming is still the main industry providing products for local consumption and for Scotland's food and drink sector.

Targeted investment in tourism infrastructure will ensure the coast and islands can capitalise on their rich natural assets, heritage and culture to support better quality and more stable jobs in the sector whilst providing a positive experience for visitors and residents. This sector has been significantly impacted by the pandemic and a short term focus on recovery can be underpinned by efforts to secure longer term sustainability. Planning can help to ensure that the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund is targeted to places where the pressure is most significant. Priorities include visitor management of the area's World Heritage Sites. Through the Islands Growth Deal, plans are in place for the Orkney World Heritage Site Gateway that will manage and disperse visitors to the Heart of Neolithic Orkney UNESCO World Heritage Site; and the Outer Hebrides Destination Development Project will support the strategic development of tourism infrastructure, bringing together key assets including St Kilda World Heritage Site, the Iolaire Centre, the Hebridean Way, Food and Drinks trail and the Callanish standing stones. Other ongoing projects, including long distance routes such as the Kintyre Way and the Argyll Sea Kayak Trail and Crinan Canal can help to expand a high quality offer of exceptional marine tourism across the area as a whole.

Regionally and locally there is a need for smaller scale investment across the area to put in place low maintenance, carefully designed facilities which better support and manage the impact of informal tourism including camping, campervans and day trips. This should reflect the scale and nature of operators including community trusts, which can have broad impact and influence. Efforts to provide access to education and build skills locally will also support this, with key projects including plans for the redevelopment of the Shetland Campus. Additionally, the lessons we have learned from the pandemic about remote working could also help to grow communities by extending the range of high quality jobs available locally.

North

This area broadly includes parts of Highland with parts of Argyll and Bute, Moray, Cairngorms National Park, as well as the north of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, Stirling and Perth and Kinross, with links west and north to coastal and island communities.

Priorities

To deliver sustainable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should protect environmental assets and stimulate investment in natural and engineered solutions to climate change and nature restoration, whilst decarbonising transport and building resilient connections.

The area's natural capital will play a vital role in locking in carbon and building our resilience by providing valuable ecosystem services. This includes sustainable flood risk management, biodiversity, access and education.

Land and sea assets will play an internationally significant role in renewable energy generation and carbon sequestration. The area can act as a strategic carbon and ecological 'mitigation bank' that can make a major contribution to our national climate change commitments. A programme of investment in forestry, woodland creation, native woodlands and peatland restoration will play a key role in reducing our national emissions, providing investment opportunities, supporting ecosystems and biodiversity and benefiting current and future generations. There are also opportunities to explore the decarbonisation of the forestry sector, processing and the transport of timber, and to build community wealth through new businesses, such as a nationally important tree nursery in Moray.

Wider but closely related priorities include continuing conservation at a landscape-scale, to develop resilient nature networks, deer and moorland management, visitor management and recreation, rural housing, community empowerment and economic development. This will provide good quality local employment,

strengthen and diversify local economies and help to secure a sustainable future for local people. The area's rivers are also strategic assets that will continue to benefit from aligned land use, climate adaptation and biodiversity enhancement.

The Cairngorms National Park is bringing together conservation, the visitor experience and rural development to provide benefits that extend well beyond the park boundary. Landscape-scale solutions to build resilience to climate change, to manage sustainable tourism and outdoor access, and a commitment to reversing biodiversity decline and increasing woodland expansion and peatland restoration, are all key priorities. Demand for development, including in pressured areas, will require a planned response to minimise the impact of second homes on local communities and ensure new homes are affordable and meet local needs.

This area also makes an important contribution to our climate change targets by supporting renewable energy generation. Repowering and extending existing wind farms will optimise their productivity and capitalise on the area's significant natural energy resources, and there is potential to increase offshore wind energy capacity. A carefully planned approach can reduce environmental and other impacts and retain more benefits locally. Community ownership of renewable energy projects at all scales could play a key role in improving resilience, empowering local people to take control of their own assets and helping tackle fuel poverty. **Pumped hydro storage** at Cruachan and other sites such as Coire Glas can support the energy network, as well as providing tourism and recreation opportunities, and we expect to see a growth in solar power. As technologies continue to develop, storage and other forms of generation will grow. The electricity distribution and transmission network will require upgrading to support the large increase in onshore and offshore electricity generation required to achieve net zero, as well as to meet new demand from heat and transport. There will also be a need for more community-scale energy generation to serve the needs of local communities directly and build resilience.

The transport system as a whole will need to be planned to support a shift to more sustainable transport whilst maintaining access to markets and facilities. In line with the transport sustainable investment hierarchy, development should first be focused in locations which make the best use of existing infrastructure and services before building new infrastructure or providing new services.

Improvements to the Highland Main Line through electrification and delivery of new stations including at Inverness Airport, will help to create a sustainable commuter network for Inverness and open up more rural areas to lower carbon development. Our rolling programme of efficient electrification is also a key enabler for growth in rail freight, creating improved connectivity and providing additional capacity with faster journey times, better use of track capacity and lower unit costs. A continued modal shift to rail for both passengers and freight will bring significant environmental benefits over time.

Roads will continue to be arteries upon which local communities and businesses depend. There will be a need to adapt key routes due to the impacts of climate change alongside creating a strong network of charging points, including improvements to the A96 to improve safety and to the A9 to maintain a resilient road link from Thurso and Inverness to the central belt. Remote and rural areas including islands are dependent on reliable accessibility by road including connecting to ferries and ports, facilitating reliable public transport by road, access to essential services and transporting of goods. There is an urgent need for improvements to the A83 to ensure the resilience of the economy and communities of wider Argyll, as well as resilience challenges for other key routes such as the A82.

Continued investment in the national long distance walking and cycling network provides an opportunity to assist in decarbonising tourism and recreation across the area, whilst also providing, and acting as a spine for, sustainable active travel connections for everyday travel in the vicinity of towns and villages.

Inverness and Oban airports are hubs for air connections to dispersed communities and Wick John O'Groats Airport and Broadford Airstrip on Skye are key connections. Oban Airport is also an opportunity for investment in compliance operations and future drone technology. The Highlands and Islands are aiming to become the world's first net zero aviation region by 2040 by pioneering new approaches including electric aircraft. Investment in technology and facilities will be required to achieve this. The proposed Moray Aerospace Advanced Technology and Innovation Campus (MAATIC) at Lossiemouth intends to create a skilled workforce for the Moray region through focusing on aviation sector and supply chain.

To deliver liveable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should maintain and help to grow the population by taking a positive approach to rural development that strengthens networks of communities.

We will do all we can to help reverse depopulation across rural Scotland. Here, as with other more rural areas of Scotland, 20 minute neighbourhoods can be tailored to work with both larger towns and more dispersed settlement patterns.

Inverness plays a vital role as a regional centre for services, health, justice, employment, education, sport, culture and tourism and has seen significant expansion in recent years. Key sites for its growth are located primarily to the east along the Moray coast. A sustainable and adaptive growth strategy will continue to be supported by planned investment in education and health and social care services, as well as employment uses. The new railway station serving Inverness Airport will help to connect local communities with growing employment opportunities in the wider area. Inverness Castle, as part of the Inverness and Highland City Region Deal, will be redeveloped and opened up to the public, attracting national and international tourists and encouraging visits to the wider Highlands and Islands.

Fort William, Dingwall, Grantown-on-Spey and Aviemore are key settlements, and the area has strong relationships with adjacent, more coastal settlements such as Mallaig, Oban, Wick and Thurso. Moray also has a strong network of towns including Forres, Elgin and Nairn. In more remote communities there is a need to reverse population decline. A place-based approach (as demonstrated by Fort William 2040), including work to improve town centres and reuse redundant buildings, will support recovery in a way which responds to the strong character and identity of each of the area's towns and villages. Such an approach is evident in Growth Deal projects such as Moray's Cultural Quarter proposal.

A positive approach to rural development could support the development of a network of hubs, and future service provision will require imaginative solutions so that places can be resilient and self-supporting. Investment in strategic health, justice and education facilities is already planned. In the longer term, digital solutions, including mobile and remote health services and virtual education, as well as continued investment in improved connectivity, will play an increasingly important role.

As with other parts of Scotland, more homes will be needed to retain people and attract new residents of all ages. Many communities have taken ownership of their land and this could form the foundations for future development by unlocking further development sites. Refurbishment of existing rural buildings and halting the loss of crofts could help to sustain the area, and new homes should align with infrastructure and service provision. They should also be located and designed to minimise emissions and to complement the distinctive character of existing settlements and wider landscapes. As climate change continues to have an impact, water supplies and drainage will need to be secured and maintained. Flood risk management and changing ecosystems will need to be factored into future plans to ensure nature-based adaptation solutions complement local living. Addressing fuel poverty will require

greater energy efficiency and affordable, low carbon, distributed heat and electricity networks, with a model for increased local generation, having potential to bring benefits. Maintaining connectivity will be essential, particularly through public transport that includes rail access and other active travel networks.

We will continue to support further investment in digital connectivity but will need to go further to adapt to climate change and make use of emerging technologies. Priorities include satellite and mobile solutions to address 'not spots', and to support local living by reducing the need to travel unsustainably. To complement existing physical connections, smart solutions, local hubs, demand responsive transport, and active travel networks will help people to access services and employment and make low carbon local living a more viable option.

To deliver productive places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support local economic development by making sustainable use of the area's world-class environmental assets to innovate and lead greener growth.

Natural assets and environmental quality underpin the area's main economic sectors and must therefore be protected, restored and used sustainably. Planning will help to attract investment, grow and diversify businesses and enable local entrepreneurship, micro enterprises, self-employment and social enterprises to flourish. Remote working can be capitalised on to build economically active local communities. This will require the continued roll out of high quality digital infrastructure and maintenance and decarbonisation of transport routes to wider markets. Food miles can be reduced over time with the help of local community-led food growing networks, by supporting locally driven public procurement and, from a land use perspective, protecting higher quality agricultural land.

Ideas are emerging for the area to secure a low carbon future for tourism. Assets such as the North Coast 500 and, more recently, the Kintyre 66 in the adjacent coastal area, as well as the area's high quality environment and associated food and drink products, attract visitors. However, they also require investment in improvements to infrastructure to support local communities and visitors. This will maintain the quality of the experience and the environment, facilitate lower carbon transport, promote 'leave no footprint' and encourage longer stays. This could involve extending the availability of transport services. There are also many regionally significant opportunities to create jobs by growing support services for outdoor activities such as mountain biking, climbing, walking and angling and in support of the country's winter sport and recreation sector that is primarily focussed in this area.

Investment in research and development, business opportunities and local centres of expertise will help to retain benefits locally and broaden the range of skilled jobs. There will also be opportunities to build on and repurpose existing assets to create greener jobs, such as the former nuclear installation at Dounreay and development at Fort William associated with the Lochaber Smelter.

The area's coastline contributes to the beauty and experience of the area and is also a hub for economic activity including fishing, the cruise and marine leisure sectors, and the offshore renewable energy sector. Key ports include the Cromarty Firth (including Port of Cromarty, Nigg and Highland Deephaven), Corpach, Ardersier, Gills Bay, Inverness, Kishorn and Buckie. Through Opportunity Cromarty Firth and other projects, new facilities and infrastructure will help ports to adapt, unlocking their potential to support the transition from fossil fuels through oil and gas decommissioning, renewable energy (including the significant opportunities for marine energy arising from Scotwind) and low carbon hydrogen production and storage, and the expansion of supply chain and services. This will in turn benefit communities by providing employment and income for local businesses.

North East

This area focuses on Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire with cross-boundary links to Moray, and south towards Angus and the Tay estuary.

Priorities

To deliver sustainable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should plan infrastructure and investment to support the transition from oil and gas to net zero, whilst protecting and enhancing blue and green infrastructure and decarbonising connectivity.

Action is required to tackle industrial emissions and transition towards a greener future that benefits existing communities and attracts further investment.

Greener energy choices, including hydrogen and on and offshore renewables, have a natural home here and will be at the heart of the area's future wellbeing economy. Investment opportunities focus on the green and blue economy and energy innovation. Significant infrastructure will be required to deliver a hydrogen network for Scotland, including repurposing of existing facilities and the creation of new capacity. £62 million in the Energy Transition Fund is supporting four projects to protect existing jobs and create new jobs in the North East, and across Scotland, by opening up opportunities through energy transition and harnessing private sector funding. This funding aligns with the Aberdeen City Region Deal and continuing support for retraining and skills development. Ports and harbours throughout the area are key assets in the blue economy. As offshore renewables are an important part of Scotland's energy transition, there will be a need to align terrestrial and marine development so as to maximise the potential of this sector.

The area's growth strategy includes a commitment to building with nature by creating multi-functional blue and green networks and improving green spaces in and around settlements, connecting with the national long distance cycling and walking network

and facilitating active travel. Community-led climate action will help to provide locally-driven solutions. A new water supply and waste-water systems will play an important role in building long-term resilience.

Aberdeen is a key transport hub providing vital connections internationally, as well as lifeline services to Orkney and Shetland. Congestion will be reduced as a result of the construction of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route, and the A92/A96 Haudagain Improvement project. In the city, work is ongoing to lock in the benefits and prioritise sustainable transport, including Aberdeen Rapid Transit. More widely the Aberdeen to Central Belt Rail Improvements will bring benefits to both passengers and freight.

The area can lead the way in promoting low emissions vehicles, active travel and public transport connectivity as part of its contribution to net zero. Links south to the Central Belt and west towards Inverness remain vital. Work is progressing on the £200m investment being made to improve journey times and capacity between Aberdeen and the Central Belt for passengers and freight. Continuing improvements to digital connectivity and active travel will reduce the need to travel by unsustainable modes and facilitate further remote, home or hub based working.

To deliver liveable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should focus on continued regeneration and encourage more 20 minute neighbourhoods to sustain the skilled workforce and improve local liveability.

A new focus on local living could help to address the high levels of car ownership and respond to the area's dispersed settlement pattern. Growth corridors extending from Aberdeen to Peterhead, Huntly and Laurencekirk will be a focus for future development, and strategic sites include new communities at Chapelton, Grandhome and Countesswells. There is significant potential to promote more compact growth by making better use of brownfield sites and increasing density.

There will be benefits for people of all ages arising from an increase in local living and a shift towards 20 minute neighbourhoods and the creation of connected, walkable, liveable and thriving places, in both urban and rural contexts. The aim is to encourage sustainable travel options, provide communities with local access to the wider range of facilities, services and amenities to support healthier and flourishing communities. In rural places, social and community infrastructure can be designed with different settlements working in clusters as a 'network of places', providing services and amenities that best meet the needs of local rural communities.

The area's towns contribute to its sense of place and further town centre regeneration will help communities to adapt to current challenges and future change. Service provision also needs to reflect the area's character. Several new or extended primary and secondary schools and community facilities are planned and the area will support wider rural communities by hosting a new centre of excellence for rural and remote medicine and social care. Access to good quality open space and opportunities for local food growing, including allotments and community orchards, can benefit health and wellbeing and tackle inequalities as an integral part of placemaking.

The area benefits from a productive coastline that will be a focus for future economic activity and investment associated with offshore renewable energy and the blue economy. The coast is home to communities who will benefit from continued regeneration and a move towards 20 minute neighbourhoods that reduces the need to travel. Key regional priorities include the regeneration of Banff, Macduff, Fraserburgh and Peterhead. Future coastal vulnerability to erosion, sea level rise and flood risk will need to be factored into development strategies. The fishing industry will continue to contribute to the area's strong sense of place and shared heritage, communities and economy, with some ports and harbours also having opportunities in the cruise and marine leisure sectors.

To deliver productive places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support continued economic diversification and innovation.

The relocation of some activity at [Aberdeen Harbour](#) to the south harbour has been an important element in planning for the future. Further investment will help to realise its full potential as a low carbon hub and gateway, and there may be opportunities for development at the South Harbour to support the carbon capture and storage and hydrogen innovation work at St Fergus and Peterhead in Northern Aberdeenshire. This is also a significant opportunity to improve urban liveability by unlocking waterfront sites for mixed use development close to the city centre. Local people will need to be involved in deciding how potentially significant industrial and business activity can be accommodated, alongside regenerating a vibrant, redesigned city centre in the coming years.

It is essential that environmental impacts arising from relocation of the harbour and any onward reorganisation of the land uses around it are carefully managed in a way that recognises the location's natural assets and sensitivities. We expect the LDPs and consenting processes to be informed by the required impact assessments, to play a crucial role in guiding future development and addressing environmental sensitivities.

Central

This area broadly covers central Scotland from the Glasgow city region and the Ayrshires in the west to Edinburgh city region in the east, including the Tay cities, the Forth Valley and Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park.

Priorities

To deliver sustainable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support net zero energy solutions including extended heat networks and improved energy efficiency, together with urban greening and improved low carbon transport.

Blue and green infrastructure

The greening of the built environment, including former industrial areas, is a long held ambition that we now need to expedite to significantly reduce emissions, adapt to the future impacts of climate change and tackle biodiversity loss. Investment in green infrastructure will support urban sustainability, help to restore biodiversity, contribute to our overall targets for reducing emissions and improve health and wellbeing.

There is much that we have already learned from past work, for example initiatives to naturalise former mining features, reclaiming canals as a cultural heritage and natural asset, and extensive woodland creation. Wider woodland expansion across more urban areas could make a significant contribution to improving air quality and quality of life by reducing pollution, managing water and cooling urban environments. Blue and green networks can help to deliver compact and liveable cities.

Many initiatives will come together to achieve urban greening:

- The [Central Scotland Green Network](#) will continue to bring together environmental enhancement projects. Initiatives such as the John Muir Pollinator Way demonstrate how nature networks can help restore and better connect biodiversity and enhance green infrastructure at a landscape scale.

- The Glasgow City Region Green Network, a long-term transformational programme of environmental action, can achieve a step change in the quality and benefits of green places across west central Scotland and bring enhanced biodiversity closer to communities. As part of this, the Clyde Climate Forest is proposing natural solutions at scale across the Glasgow city region.
- The Inner Forth Futures Partnership is tackling the effects of climate change and providing recreation benefits through projects such as peatland restoration and woodland expansion, and supporting the creation of habitat networks.
- The River Leven Project in Fife is a holistic place-based approach to development. Blue and green infrastructure will support investment and provide environmental, health and wellbeing benefits for communities.
- The Tayside strategic green and active travel network also aims to create regionally significant assets that contribute to the quality of the area.
- Perthshire Nature Connections Partnership (PNCP) encompasses a long-term, nature-based vision for Perth and Kinross that aims to create a distinct connection between the Cairngorms and Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Parks.
- There is a particular opportunity to build on the successful regeneration of our canals to provide an invaluable strategic greenspace that connects communities across the area as a whole, contributes to its strong post-industrial heritage and provides wider functions such as water management to support future resilience to climate change. The potential of a canal asset should be recognised as a shared priority.

There is a continuing need to invest in renewing and improving the capacity of flooding, water and drainage infrastructure to build the resilience of communities. A catchment-scale approach, using nature-based solutions, can also provide benefits for the health and quality of life of Scotland's urban communities, particularly where solutions seek to deliver multiple benefits, including biodiversity gain and active travel

routes. This approach can also be more cost-effective than hard engineering solutions and create lasting jobs. For example, the Glasgow city region recognises the challenges for future adaptation and is identifying sustainable solutions to sea level rise, urban overheating, and water management.

Engineered solutions to adapt our water and drainage infrastructure will be required in some circumstances, but should support more natural benefits as far as possible. There is scope to continue, and extend, the lessons from the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership to future proof infrastructure in support of the long-term growth and development of Edinburgh. The Lothian Drainage Partnership is taking this forward with projects emerging within Edinburgh and at the ClimatEvolution Zone in East Lothian.

At a local scale there is significant potential to expand raingardens and sustainable urban drainage systems to help manage surface water as part of blue and green infrastructure for our future cities and towns.

Whilst predominantly urban, this part of Scotland benefits from a rich and diverse rural area and there are many areas where town meets countryside. These green areas and natural spaces are key assets, sustaining communities that could become better places to live if we can achieve this in a way that is compatible with our wider aims for climate change, nature restoration and 20 minute neighbourhoods. The pandemic has demonstrated that many people are looking for more space at home and in their communities. It will be important to plan positively and imaginatively to make sustainable use of the countryside around our cities and towns.

These areas have important functions – productive agricultural land, providing vital ecosystem services and spaces for local food growing, outdoor access and recreation. They support carbon sequestration, including through peatland restoration, woodland creation and conserving natural habitats, and there is scope for innovation in key sectors including sustainable food production.

Planning has the potential to address the impact of climate change on communities whilst also generating renewable heat and facilitating urban cooling from our rivers. Mine water, solar and onshore support for offshore renewables, including development that makes use of existing infrastructure at strategic hubs, all provide opportunities for decarbonisation.

Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park has landscape-scale opportunities to restore and enhance nature and respond to climate change, including through woodland creation and peatland restoration, as well as natural flood risk management. The National Park will continue to support the quality of life and health of the urban population and its future priorities include new infrastructure provision to provide a quality visitor experience and support people to connect with nature, as well as a greener tourism sector supported by innovative low carbon transport solutions. Long distance active travel and rail routes have untapped potential to provide sustainable tourism solutions. The area's communities can adapt to support more localised living and working opportunities, with improved digital connectivity and affordable housing. More integrated planning and land management offers opportunities to support land use change and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The approach also links with and relates to the action area to the north.

Urban accessibility

A focus on community wealth building, together with growing opportunities for longer term remote working, could address the high levels of transport movement by private car and challenges of congestion and air pollution across the area. Local living, including 20 minute neighbourhoods, will help to minimise future commuting and ensure jobs and income can be spread more evenly across the area. Accessibility and transport affordability can support more resilience which benefits communities who are less connected.

By putting in place [mass/rapid transit systems](#) for Edinburgh through plans to extend the tram network, and for Glasgow including the Clyde Metro and multi-modal connectivity, we have an

opportunity to substantially reduce levels of car-based commuting, congestion and emissions from transport at scale.

Connections to the rest of the UK will be strengthened in the longer term through [high speed rail](#) connectivity, with stations expected in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Decarbonisation of freight will require the construction of new hubs and associated facilities to support logistics. This will also support growing interest in express logistics from rail operators that would see passenger Electrical Multiple Units converted to carry small freight, targeting the UK parcel market. Ports on the Clyde, Forth and Tay coasts will also play a key role in this transition.

Digital connectivity will facilitate remote working, supporting the growth of towns and villages outwith the larger cities and potentially leading to a renaissance in more rural living. It will be crucial to address digital inequality, whether through cost, infrastructure or skills development, as virtual service provision continues to grow.

To deliver [liveable places](#), Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should pioneer low carbon, resilient urban living by rolling out networks of 20 minute neighbourhoods, future proofing city and town centres, accelerating urban greening, investing in net zero homes, and managing development on the edge of settlements.

20 minute neighbourhoods

The diversity of this area, from metropolitan districts to rural and dispersed settlements, will require concerted effort to develop networks of places that meet the principles of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods, and with fair access to a range of services that support sustainable living. Planning should focus on revitalising cities and towns at scale, supporting a finer grained approach to placemaking, and a more intricate mix of land uses and density. This should incorporate networks of natural spaces and blue and green infrastructure, to create health and wellbeing benefits, increase resilience to climate change and support the growth of green job opportunities.

The car-based design of some of our places, including many suburban areas and new towns, mean that a significant shift to a more people centred approach will be required. Planning can help retrofit facilities and services into areas where they are scarce, such as predominantly residential areas, to enable better integrated, mixed-use areas. City, town and neighbourhood centres can be at the heart of this if they are planned to strengthen self-sufficiency and bring services and jobs closer to homes. The recommendations of the recent town centre review can be delivered by supporting a wider range of uses and making the most of their assets.

Accessibility will be a key part of the transition and will involve investment in infrastructure and services in line with the sustainable travel and investment hierarchies, to improve fair access and reduce carbon emissions. Active travel networks will need to expand to make walking, wheeling and cycling an attractive, convenient, safe, and sustainable choice for everyday travel. There are significant opportunities for investment in heat networks, energy storage and the circular economy to create more sustainable neighbourhoods.

Energy efficient, affordable homes

As well as building new homes to net zero standards, more will need to be done to meet the bigger challenge of upgrading the existing housing stock to reduce emissions and adapt to future climate impacts. Emissions from our homes need to be very substantially reduced – by 2030, they must fall by 68% from 2020 levels.

Improved energy efficiency will be needed, by providing zero emissions heating solutions and more sustainable water management practices for existing settlements and homes. Improving sustainable travel options and reliability will help to reduce transport based emissions associated with our homes.

There is a particular pressure for housing solutions, including provision of affordable homes that meet future needs, in the south east of Scotland. Edinburgh has committed to building affordable homes at scale, and will

need to work with the region to accommodate wider need and demand in a strategic way. Seven strategic sites, supported through the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, could accommodate up to 45,000 homes and associated economic and employment benefits including: Blindwells, Calderwood, Dunfermline, Edinburgh Waterfront, Shawfair, Tweedbank and Winchburgh. The need for proposals to be supported by low carbon transport solutions, in line with the Infrastructure Investment Plan and National Transport Strategy investment hierarchies and infrastructure first approach, will be critical to their success. The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Deal identifies infrastructure investment as part of this. These interventions and commitments, taken with the additional transport investment made through the Deal, will ensure the city region continues to grow and flourish. Regionally significant services, including healthcare and social care facilities and investment in the learning estate, is also planned to support future growth and sustain the wellbeing of existing, new and expanding communities.

Waterfront regeneration

The region's coasts and firths define the area's history and shape its sense of place. There is potential to unlock the strategic importance of coasts, estuary and river corridors for climate mitigation, resilience, and positive environmental change. Coastal change, driven by climate change, will need to be managed to build long-term resilience and future-proof our waterfronts, where this is feasible. Progress has been made to create long distance walking and cycling routes to open up access to waterfront spaces and reclaim them as a resource for people as well as industry. There will be a need to anticipate and mitigate risk from coastal erosion, flood risk and storm surges, with a focus on natural solutions which work with the unique biodiversity and landscape character of these important places.

These coasts are rich in cultural and natural heritage. Along the Inner Forth, various projects provide multiple benefits, including flood management, cultural landscape enhancement, habitat creation, access and

tourism. Edinburgh's waterfront regeneration is ongoing, with Granton benefiting from an ambitious masterplan, the tram extension to Leith progressing and potential development at Seafield helping to redefine the city's relationship with its coastline. This is reusing existing assets and helping Edinburgh to become a more liveable city. A masterplanned approach to regenerating the [Edinburgh Waterfront](#) can take into account opportunities for the Port of Leith to service the offshore energy sector. More broadly, port facilities should continue to be capable of servicing freight traffic within the Firth of Forth given the importance of east coast freight links.

The successful regeneration of [Dundee Waterfront](#) has demonstrated the potential to make sustainable use of our urban coasts, and ongoing proposals include the creation of a marina at Victoria Dock and further development of central waterfront sites. Dundee port has an aspiration to expand its operational area into the Firth of Tay. The HRA of NPF4 has identified that such development would have a high probability of resulting in adverse effects on the integrity of European site(s). This would therefore need to be considered carefully at project level, including through the HRA process to ascertain that there will be no adverse effects on European sites, or if this is not the case, whether there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest and relevant statutory tests are met.

Reuse of brownfield land

A more liveable Central Belt means that we will need to do more to reuse empty buildings and brownfield land, including vacant and derelict land, particularly spaces which have not been used for decades and can be accessed by sustainable modes. This will reduce further urban sprawl and improve local environments. Around 40% of Scotland's vacant and derelict land is concentrated in the Glasgow city region and its reuse for a range of uses is a key priority. Edinburgh has committed to building a significant share of future housing development on brownfield sites and progress is being made in Dundee to repurpose disused sites, including the creation of a new innovation park on the former Michelin site.

A combination of incentives, investment and policy support for productively reusing brownfield land and buildings at risk will be required to steer development away from greenfield locations, whilst also acknowledging their biodiversity value and potential for urban greening. Public-sector led development can shape future markets and deliver development in places where change is needed the most and can deliver multiple benefits. Redevelopment should include, but not be limited to, housing development. By de-risking sites and taking an infrastructure first approach, this land can help to achieve a better distribution of new homes to meet our future needs. This will also reduce pressure in places where growth is no longer sustainable. Key projects include the Eden project on the sites of the former Dundee gasworks, and the redevelopment of Ravenscraig, a longstanding post-industrial site where new development, including improved transport connectivity, can bring new models of low carbon living at scale.

To deliver [productive places](#), Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should target economic investment and build community wealth to overcome disadvantage and support a greener wellbeing economy.

This area has a diverse business base and is a key engine of growth for Scotland as a whole. There are many clusters of sites and businesses which form the basis of regional propositions for investment. In line with our aspirations to build a wellbeing economy, opportunities for investment and development should be designed to maximise economic, social and environmental wellbeing, rather than focusing on growth alone. A planned approach can help to target future development in areas of significant economic disadvantage so that new and better jobs are more fairly distributed to help address national, regional and more localised inequality.

City and town centres

The pandemic has brought obvious challenges for our city centres, but has also unlocked opportunities to take forward new models of working that could better support wellbeing and improve our places in the longer term. The continued growth of remote and local working and the creation of hubs within groups of settlements could significantly reduce the need to travel, whilst also helping to grow local businesses and communities.

This raises significant questions for the future of city centres. Existing offices have the potential to be repurposed to achieve higher density mixed use neighbourhoods with a lower carbon footprint and require careful planning to ensure future communities are properly supported by appropriate services.

Glasgow city centre, an exceptional asset and a primary location and cultural destination, has been significantly impacted by unprecedented changes in working patterns, service provision and the retail sector. Whilst these changes may not be sustained in the long-term, now is the time to accelerate work to diversify the city centre and invest in maintaining and re-using existing buildings so that it can evolve to be a more carbon conscious place. Existing connections mean the centre could sustain many more homes to meet a commitment to doubling the city centre population, revitalising places and creating a 24 hour city that is safe and open to everyone. Significant investment in schools, community services and greenspace will be needed to achieve this and more creative use of the public realm and a low emission zone will help to make this a safer and healthier environment for people of all ages. Innovative solutions, such as retrofitting energy efficiency measures to social housing across the city, could be extended to help improve the built fabric of the city centre's commercial properties.

Edinburgh has similar challenges and opportunities for positive change. High interest in investment and associated demand for new homes means that planning will need to help deliver sustainable development that supports the quality of life of existing and future residents.

As a capital city with a World Heritage Site at its core, it will be crucial that future development takes into account the capacity of the city itself and its surrounding communities and makes the most of its exceptional heritage assets, places and cultural wealth. The City Centre Transformation Plan supports a move away from a car-based city centre to create a more liveable and attractive place to live, work and visit. The Forth Bridge is also an inscribed UNESCO World Heritage Site, and our rich industrial and cultural heritage remains apparent across the area.

Dundee is well on the way towards reinventing itself through regeneration of the waterfront, unlocking strategic sites for new homes and new opportunities for innovation and economic development arising, such as the Michelin Scotland Innovation Park and at the port. Continued regeneration in this area, building on the city's rich culture, sense of place and appetite to innovate will also contribute to the overall aims for this part of Scotland. The V&A will continue to be a focal point for this, evolving to become a National Centre for Design within this UNESCO City of Design.

Town centres throughout this area will also play a critical role in driving a new economic future. The recent town centre review highlights opportunities to expand the range of services and facilities they offer, reuse redundant buildings and provide new homes for a wide range of people. This in turn will ensure their crucial role in defining our sense of place is protected and enhanced, future proofing a key asset for Scotland as a whole.

Strategic sites

Many business and investment sites are located along key transport corridors and new approaches may be required as investment transitions away from locations that can only be reached by car towards more accessible areas that are connected by low carbon and active travel options.

The [Clyde Mission](#) will stimulate investment in sites along the Clyde to build a wellbeing economy and achieve a step-change in the quality of the environment for communities. This

ambitious project will reuse extensive areas of vacant and derelict land in accessible locations and requires a sustainable approach to manage the future impact of climate change. Key sites extend from Greenock Ocean Terminal to Queens Quay, Tradeston, the Broomielaw and Glasgow City Centre, to Clyde Gateway – a longstanding regeneration project which has made exceptional progress in transforming communities and overcoming inequality. A national collaboration to support delivery of the project has significant potential to accelerate change, attract investment and achieve wider benefits for communities. The wider Clyde Coast, an iconic area rich in cultural heritage and natural assets, can be reimagined through collective efforts on regeneration in nearby coastal communities, such as Dunoon and Rothesay. The area's accessibility by train and water means that it is an ideal location for low carbon tourism and leisure.

Aligning with the Clyde Mission, the Ayrshire Councils are working together through their Ayrshire Growth Deal and Community Wealth Building programme to build economic resilience and address unemployment, poverty and inequality across their area, with town centres at the heart of communities. This includes proposals for advanced manufacturing and aerospace engineering which will make use of the existing infrastructure and investment opportunities available at Glasgow and Prestwick airports. Glasgow is already a centre of expertise for manufacturing satellites and will benefit from the associated development of a network of spaceports across the country, whilst supporting wider industry and employment. The Ardeer peninsula is also a significant site for redevelopment of the wider Ayrshire area. [Hunterston](#) is a strategic asset with deepwater access, where there are plans for new economic development and employment uses. Development of the site will need to take account of future vulnerability to climate change. A planned marine centre at Ardrossan will provide further opportunities.

The Edinburgh City Region supports investment in significant clusters including the Bioquarter, Mid Fife, Dunfermline, Guardbridge St. Andrews,

Galashiels, Cockenzie, Midlothian and the M8 corridor. A strategy for West Edinburgh is emerging which guides a wide range of uses to create a sustainable extension to the city, with added benefit from associated improvements to the quality of place of existing communities. Proposals focus on locating development on and around existing transport corridors and work is ongoing to improve accessibility including the Edinburgh tram extension. Further investment should take into account the impact of new development on potentially compounding existing capacity constraints and congestion, and prioritise sustainable choices.

As the highest single source of industrial emissions in Scotland, and a key part of our future resilience and manufacturing base, continued investment at Grangemouth, and the strategic sites it includes, will be required. Plans are emerging for innovative industry in the Falkirk/Grangemouth Investment Zone, building on the area's strengths in chemicals and making the most of strategic assets including the port and rail connection. There is great potential, not only to reduce emissions at the Grangemouth complex, but also to grow the cluster into a hub of low carbon manufacturing that can help unlock wider decarbonisation across the country, with its strategic location, infrastructure, assets and skills base. Opportunities include renewable energy innovation, bioenergy hydrogen production with carbon capture and storage, and repurposing of existing strategic and critical infrastructure such as pipelines. The skills, knowledge and experience that is currently situated there for the petro-chemicals sector is a prime resource for the transition to net zero. This can form a focal point in a wider masterplan for Forth Valley that brings together opportunities for energy with the circular economy to support wider investment in green economic opportunities.

Coastal sites formerly used for baseload power generation – specifically Longannet and Cockenzie – benefit from existing assets and infrastructure that can be repurposed to form the basis of new proposals. At Cockenzie, work is ongoing to develop an opportunity for a Climate Evolution Zone to generate employment and

provide essential infrastructure for net zero, linked with the potential to expand the new sustainable settlement at Blindwells, within the Greater Blindwells Development Area. There is scope to build on the strategic location and rail connectivity of Longannet to benefit local communities around this part of the Forth. There are further opportunities for a range of economic activities and investment in ports associated with a green economy at Montrose, Dundee, Rosyth, Burntisland, and Methil.

The Levenmouth rail link will reconnect Leven to the mainline rail network with new stations at Leven and Cameron Bridge by 2024 subject to consenting processes. This will enhance the communities it serves and contribute positively to the lives of people who live there by unlocking access to social, cultural, employment and educational opportunity.

The Tay Cities Region has a strong regional proposal for developing clusters of investment in research and innovation supporting a range of sectors in both urban and rural areas including life sciences, energy, digital, and food production. Perth is managing housing development in strategic development areas and transport infrastructure investment and the creation of a bus and rail interchange to support modal shift and establish a new gateway to the city. Work is underway to deliver local heat and energy networks, Perth West Regional Innovation Park and to make Perth the 'Biodiversity Capital of Scotland'. Angus Council is progressing its Mercury Programme to support clean growth, low carbon transport and housing and agri tech which will contribute to future food security and reduce emissions. Key sites include Montrose Port, and the Angus Rural Mobility Hub in Brechin.

Stirling is bringing forward new opportunities for innovation and investment, building on the city's strong heritage and supported by the area's educational institutions. Within Forth Valley, a National Tartan Centre, the Canal corridor, the Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Antonine Wall World Heritage Site, Ochil Hills and Whisky Trail create a unique heritage offering which will support local employment and strengthen the

area's sense of place. Tourism is a key theme in the emerging regional economic strategy for the Forth Valley and both the Falkirk Growth Deal and Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal.

Ports

Key ports in this area can play a central role in supporting the expansion of renewable energy, in particular offshore wind energy. It will also be important to make use of the infrastructure to reduce road haulage and secure a more sustainable freight sector which directly links to international markets. There are opportunities for enhanced cruise facilities for the Forth, as well as the Clyde where Greenock Ocean Terminal, supported by the Glasgow City Region Deal, can build on its role as a key gateway. There may be opportunities to make use of harbour facilities to support the marine leisure industry.

Development of ports on the Firth of Forth will also need to take account of the potential for a substantial increase in freight and passenger traffic between Scotland and continental Europe, linked to the Scottish Government's objective that Scotland should accede to the EU as an independent Member State at the earliest possible opportunity.

South

This area broadly includes Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders, South and East Ayrshires, South Lanarkshire in the west, with links to the Lothians towards the east.

Priorities

To deliver sustainable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should protect environmental assets and stimulate investment in natural and engineered solutions to climate change and nature restoration, whilst decarbonising transport and building resilient physical and digital connections.

This area's forests and woodland are a nationally significant asset and its extensive peatland will need to support carbon storage and sequestration. The Borderlands Natural Capital Programme will develop trials and sector strategies to restore biodiversity, build resilience and make the most of the area's natural assets to support climate change mitigation and adaptation. This will build on the successes of a range of nature restoration projects in the area, such as the Carrifran Wildwoods project.

The UNESCO Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere is a crucial environmental asset which can contribute to the area's future sustainability, liveability and productivity. The South of Scotland Regional Land Use Pilot is providing significant opportunity to work with landowners, landed interests and others to look at the multi-benefits from land use and to maximise natural capital opportunities.

The South of Scotland is an important centre for renewable energy generation. Proposals for consolidating and extending existing wind farms and associated grid improvements and supply chain opportunities will require a carefully planned approach. The Solway Firth has significant potential for renewable energy generation in the future, but development will require careful planning given the sensitivity of the environment and its international importance for nature conservation.

The area's low carbon future will depend on supporting modal shift and reducing car use, given current dependence on the car and need to improve access to services, education and employment. Low emissions vehicles will only go some of the way towards addressing future challenges. Enhancing public transport and improving connectivity between communities in the east and west will help to support thriving and distinct communities.

Public transport, including the bus network, will play an important role in decarbonisation and developing innovative solutions and linkages to the rail system. Active travel should be supported with wheeling, walking and cycling within and between towns and other communities linked to strategic routes for residents and visitors. This is important not only for local sustainability but also as a strategic attraction to take advantage of major outdoor recreation opportunities.

There is also a need to secure better digital links to unlock the potential of rural living and home or hub working. The Borderlands Digital Infrastructure Programme will play a key role in supporting connectivity and responding to future technology and innovation.

To deliver liveable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should increase the population by improving local liveability, creating a low carbon network of towns and supporting sustainable rural development.

Quality of life for people living in the area will depend on the network of settlements in the future and existing communities should form the basis of a tailored response to the local living concept. Town centres can be strengthened as they recover from the pandemic. New measures to build resilience to climate change will be required including flood risk management in key settlements.

Housing provision will play a key role in supporting the area's aspirations for economic development as well as in maintaining

and growing a working age population. Decarbonisation of existing homes will be required, as well as a strategic approach to rolling out electric vehicle charging. Communities themselves will have a critical role to play in shaping their future development.

The area is already investing in regenerating and future proofing its towns and wider communities. The [Stranraer Gateway](#) Project is an opportunity to consolidate and bring new impetus to regenerate this strategically located settlement. Plans include expansion of the marina, supported by the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, and low carbon heating can be incorporated as part of the transformation of the wider town. Nearby Cairnryan is a crucial gateway to Scotland, with a need to make best use of existing connections.

Regeneration innovation extends across the area. The HALO Kilmarnock project focuses on the reuse of vacant industrial land to create a low carbon community urban village, acting as an exemplar for innovative transformation of future places. The Ayrshire Manufacturing Investment Corridor project supports the economic generation of Kilmarnock and the wider region, whilst the CoRE (Community Renewable Energy) project in Cumnock seeks to explore, develop and provide solutions to energy supply and storage challenges in urban and non-urban areas, and to help in the development of a new, more flexible energy grid to complement existing power systems.

To deliver productive places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support local economic development whilst making sustainable use of the area's world-class environmental assets to innovate and lead greener growth.

The future sustainability of the area will depend on the creation of high quality and green jobs for local people. The local economy will need to diversify from its focus on land based industries (agriculture and forestry), to sustain a wider range of businesses and jobs. An emphasis on

community wealth building will help to reduce dependence on public sector employment and a relatively low wage economy associated with rural and primary sectors.

The current approach to investment focuses on strategic growth corridors linking economic hubs with transport routes. Whilst the strategic road network is an asset and contributes to the area's connections north and south, a long-term strategy will require innovation and fresh thinking to ensure that future growth reflects our commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing inequality.

The future growth of the east of the area aims to consolidate existing settlements, capitalise on the strong sense of place of its towns and ensure accessibility by locating new development close to the Borders Rail Line. The Borderlands Place Programme, Borderlands Natural Capital Project, future Regional Land Use Partnerships and other strategic initiatives can support an integrated approach to protecting and restoring the area's natural assets, enhancing the built environment and achieving a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy across the area.

Employment opportunities can support population growth, help to retain more young people and transition the area away from its current dependence on low wage sectors. New ways of working, including remote working could attract more people to live here, supporting the economy and sustaining local services and facilities. This will also benefit from continued support for local skills development and centres of further and higher education including the Galashiels campus of Heriot Watt University and Glasgow University at the Crichton Campus, Dumfries.

Significant investment sites include the former nuclear power station at Chapelcross which benefits from existing grid connections and is an opportunity to repurpose the land by establishing a green energy park that contributes to national ambitions and innovation. Low carbon accessibility will be a key challenge, as the site is remote from Annan and not served by public

transport. Providing access to wider markets, the port at Cairnryan could create further strategic growth opportunities. The expansion of Tweedbank and an inclusive approach to economic development in the Central Borders and Tweeddale are also strategic opportunities.

The area has aspirations to become a prime outdoor recreation and green tourism destination. Key projects include the South West Coastal Path, and projects supported by the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal; the Mountain Biking Innovation Centre at Innerleithen, updating the cycling experience and facilities at some of the 7stanes sites, and Destination Tweed which will deliver a multi-user path and cycle route from Moffat to Berwick upon Tweed. More could be made of the area's border location and attractions to ensure visitors make better use of local services and support the economy and communities.

The west of the area has a close relationship, and strategic connection to, Northern Ireland and Ireland via Cairnryan, as well as across the English border to Carlisle and onwards to European markets. The connection to Northern Ireland and Ireland is already a focus for freight movements as a result of EU Exit.

In the east, the Scottish Borders has a role to play as part of the Edinburgh City Region, with the Borders Railway opening up new sites for sustainable development towards the north, and the south sustaining rural industries. Work is ongoing to assess the feasibility of extending the Borders Railway from Tweedbank to Carlisle.

Annex D – Six Qualities of Successful Places

1. Healthy: Supporting the prioritisation of women's safety and improving physical and mental health

Designing for:

- **lifelong wellbeing** through ensuring spaces, routes and buildings feel safe and welcoming e.g. through passive surveillance and use of physical safety measures.
- **healthy and active lifestyles**, through the creation of walkable neighbourhoods, food growing opportunities and access to nature and greenspace
- **accessibility and inclusion** for everyone regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, ability and culture
- **social connectivity** and creating a sense of belonging and identity within the community
- **environmentally positive places** with improved air quality, reactivating derelict and brownfield land, removing known hazards and good use of green and blue infrastructure

2. Pleasant: Supporting attractive natural and built spaces

Designing for:

- **positive social interactions** including quality of public realm, civic spaces, streets and ensuring a lively and inclusive experience
- **protection** from the elements to create attractive and welcoming surroundings, including provision for shade and shelter, mitigating against noise, air, light pollution and undesirable features, as well as ensuring climate resilience, including flood prevention and mitigation against rising sea levels
- **connecting with nature** including natural landscape, existing landforms and features, biodiversity and eco-systems, integrating blue and green infrastructure and visual connection
- **variety and quality** of play and recreation spaces for people of all ages and abilities
- **enjoyment**, enabling people to feel at ease, spend more time outdoors and take inspiration from their surroundings

3. Connected: Supporting well connected networks that make moving around easy and reduce car dependency

Designing for:

- **active travel** by encouraging more walking, wheeling and cycling together with reliable, accessible, public transport and shared transport hubs that allow for simple modal shifts
- **connectivity** including strategic cycle routes, local cycle routes, footpaths, pavements, active travel networks, desire lines, destinations, permeability, accessibility and catering for different needs and abilities
- **convenient connections** including local and regional interconnection, infrastructure, sustainable travel, interchange between public transport and active travel and supporting easy modal shifts in transport
- **pedestrian experience** including safe crossing, pedestrian priority, reduced vehicular speed and noise, inclusive design and surfaces, assistive technology, reduced street clutter, catering for suitable vehicular parking and management of loading/unloading and deliveries and refuse collections

4. Distinctive: Supporting attention to detail of local architectural styles and natural landscapes to be interpreted into designs to reinforce identity

Designing for:

- **scale** including density, building heights, massing, orientation, building lines and legibility
- **built form** including mix of typologies, types, uses, sizes and tenures
- **sense of place** including design influences, architectural styles, choice of materials and finishes, detailing, landscape design, active frontages and cultural context

5. Sustainable: Supporting the efficient use of resources that will allow people to live, play, work and stay in their area, ensuring climate resilience and integrating nature positive biodiversity solutions

Designing for:

- **transition to net-zero** including energy/carbon efficient solutions, retrofitting, reuse and repurposing and sharing of existing infrastructure and resources
- **climate resilience and nature recovery** including incorporating blue and green infrastructure, integrating nature positive biodiversity solutions
- **active local economy** including opportunities for local jobs and training, work spaces, enabling working from home, supporting community enterprise and third sector
- **community and local living** including access to local services and facilities, education, community growing and healthy food options, play and recreation and digital connectivity

6. Adaptable: Supporting commitment to investing in the long-term value of buildings, streets and spaces by allowing for flexibility so that they can meet the changing needs and accommodate different uses over time

Designing for:

- **quality and function**, ensuring fitness for purpose, design for high quality and durability
- **longevity and resilience** including recognising the role of user centred design to cater for changing needs over time and to respond to social, economic and environmental priorities
- **long-term maintenance** including effective engagement, clarity of rights and responsibilities, community ownership/stewardship, continuous upkeep and improvements

Place Standard Tool and the delivery of successful places

The Place Standard contains 14 themes that support the Six Qualities of Successful Places, providing a consistent framework to consider and to assess the quality of new and existing places. The Place Standard tool Design Version is specifically created to support the consideration of development planning and design within the framework of the 14 Place Standard themes and to deliver on the Six Qualities of Successful Places.

Annex E – Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement

This Annex sets out the Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR) for each planning authority in Scotland. This is to meet the requirement of Section 3A(3)(d) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended. The MATHLR is the minimum amount of land, by reference to the number of housing units, that is to be provided by each planning authority in Scotland for a 10 year period. The MATHLR is expected to be exceeded in each Local Development Plan's Local Housing Land Requirement.


Local and National Park Authority	MATHLR
Aberdeen City	7,000
Aberdeenshire	7,550
Angus	2,550
Argyll & Bute	2,150
Cairngorms National Park	850
City of Edinburgh	36,750
Clackmannanshire	1,500
Dumfries & Galloway	4,550
Dundee City	4,300
East Ayrshire	4,050
East Dunbartonshire	2,500
East Lothian	6,500
East Renfrewshire	2,800
Eilean Siar	192
Falkirk	5,250
Fife (Central and South)	5,550
Fife (North)	1,750
All Fife*	7,300
Glasgow City	21,350
Highland	9,500
Inverclyde	1,500
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park	300
Midlothian	8,850
Moray	3,450
North Ayrshire	2,950
North Lanarkshire	7,350
Orkney	1,600
Perth & Kinross	8,500
Renfrewshire	4,900
Scottish Borders	4,800
Shetland	850
South Ayrshire	2,000
South Lanarkshire	7,850
Stirling	3,500
West Dunbartonshire	2,100
West Lothian	9,850

* The total consists of Fife North and Fife Central and South. This reflects that Fife was formerly part of two Strategic Development Plan areas and contributed to separate Housing Need and Demand Assessments.

Annex F – Glossary of definitions

20 minute neighbourhood	A flexible approach to assessing our places against the concept of local living. A method of achieving connected and often compact neighbourhoods designed in such a way that people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home preferably by sustainable and active travel methods. The principle can be adjusted to include varying geographical scales from cities and urban environments, to rural and island communities. Housing would be planned together with local infrastructure including schools, community centres, local shops and health and social care to significantly reduce the need to use unsustainable methods of travel, to prioritise quality of life, help tackle inequalities, increase levels of health and wellbeing and respond to the climate emergency.
4G	4G is the fourth generation of mobile phone technology, following 2G and 3G. 2G technology was suitable for making calls and sending text messages, while 3G makes it possible to access the internet more effectively through devices such as a mobile, tablet or laptop. It's ideal for services that demand more capacity, like video streaming, mapping and social networking sites.
5G	<p>5G is much faster than previous generations of wireless technology. 5G also offers greater capacity, allowing thousands of devices in a small area to be connected at the same time.</p> <p>The reduction in latency (the time between instructing a wireless device to perform an action and that action being completed) means 5G is also more responsive. Together these features make 5G highly relevant for industrial applications.</p> <p>The connectivity and capacity offered by 5G is opening up the potential for new, innovative services while mobile spectrum can be used in more effective ways.</p>
Affordable home/affordable housing	Good quality homes that are affordable to people on low incomes. This can include social rented, mid-market rented, shared-ownership, shared-equity, housing sold at discount (including plots for self-build), self-build plots and low cost housing without subsidy.
Agent of change principle	Where an application is made for development which is likely to be affected by noise from existing development such as, but not limited to, music venues, manufacturing or industrial sites, large retail outlets, etc., the applicant is required to demonstrate both that they have assessed the potential impact on occupants of the proposed development and that the proposed design incorporates appropriate measures to mitigate this impact.
Ancient woodland	Land that has maintained continuous woodland habitat since at least 1750.
Appropriate assessment	Regulation 48 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, as amended, requires an authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for certain plans or projects likely to have a significant effect on a European site in Great Britain (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), to make an 'appropriate assessment' of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives.

Biodiversity	The variability in living organisms and the ecological complexes of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (UN Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992).
Blue economy	The Blue Economy is sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, while preserving the health of marine and coastal ecosystem.
Blue infrastructure	Water environment features within the natural and built environments that provide a range of ecosystem services. Blue features include rivers, lochs, wetlands, canals, other water courses, ponds, coastal and marine areas including beaches, porous paving, sustainable urban drainage systems and raingardens.
Brownfield	Land which has previously been developed. The term may cover vacant or derelict land, land occupied by redundant or unused buildings and developed land within the settlement boundary where further intensification of use is considered acceptable.
Buildings at risk register	The Buildings at Risk Register (BARR) for Scotland (buildingsatrisk.org.uk) has been in operation since 1990 and highlights properties of architectural or historic merit that are considered to be at risk. Buildings at risk are not necessarily in poor condition, they may simply be standing empty with no clear future use or be threatened with demolition.
Business and industry	Business, general industrial and storage and distribution uses and smaller scale business uses such as home-working, live-work units and micro-businesses.
Carbon capture utilisation and storage	Carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) encompasses the methods and technologies used to capture the carbon dioxide generated by large-scale energy intensive processes, such as power generation and industrial processes, and transport that captured carbon dioxide for safe and permanent storage deep underground in a geological formation. In some applications, the captured carbon dioxide can be recycled and used to manufacture useful products, thus giving it economic value.
Carbon-rich soils	Organo-mineral and peat soils are known as carbon-rich soils. A peat soil is defined in Scotland as when soil has an organic layer at the surface which is more than 50cm deep. Organo-mineral soil or peaty soil is soil which has an organic layer at the surface less than 50cm thick and overlies mineral layers (e.g. sand, silt and clay particles). There is also a relatively rare group of soils in Scotland known as humose soils. These have organic rich layers with between 15 and 35% organic matter. These are mineral soils but also considered to be carbon rich.
Carbon sequestration	The long-term removal, capture, or sequestration of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to slow or reverse atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO ₂) pollution and to mitigate or reverse climate change.
Carbon sink	A carbon sink is a natural or artificial reservoir that accumulates and stores CO ₂ for an indefinite period.

Circular economy	<p>A circular economy is one that is designed to reduce the demand for raw material in products; to encourage reuse, repair and manufacture by designing products and materials to last as long as possible in line with the waste hierarchy.</p>  <p>The diagram is a funnel-shaped hierarchy with five levels, each in a blue rounded rectangle. From top to bottom: 1. Prevention (If you can't prevent, then ...); 2. Prepare for reuse (If you can't prepare for reuse, then ...); 3. Recycle (If you can't recycle, then ...); 4. Recover other value (e.g. energy) (If you can't recover value, then ...); 5. Disposal (Landfill if no alternative available). Below the funnel is the text 'Waste Hierarchy'.</p>
Climate change adaptation	Climate change adaptation is about responding to the changes that we have seen in our climate over the last few decades, and preparing for the challenges that we will face as our climate continues to change.
Climate change mitigation	Climate change mitigation refers to efforts to reduce or prevent emissions of greenhouse gasses, which have a direct impact on global average temperatures, and reducing the current concentration of carbon dioxide by enhancing carbon sinks (for example, increasing the area of forest).
Commercial centre	Centres which have a more specific focus on retailing and/or leisure uses, such as shopping centres, commercial leisure developments, mixed retail and leisure developments, retail parks and factory outlet centres.
Community	A body of people. A community can be based on location (for example people who live or work in or use an area) common identity (for example a shared ethnicity, language, age) or common interest (for example the business community, amenity, sports, social or heritage groups).
Community facilities	Buildings or services used by the community, including community halls, recreation centres and libraries.
Community hub	A community hub is a multi-purpose centre, such as a community centre, medical centre or school, that provides a range of high quality and cost effective services to the local community.
Community wealth building	A people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people.
Conservation area	Conservation areas are areas which have special architectural or historic interest that are considered worthy of protection. Their selection, assessment and designation is carried out by the planning authority. To be designated as a conservation area it must meet the criteria of 'special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which is desirable to preserve or enhance', as set out in Section 61 of the Planning Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas (Scotland) Act 1997.

Cultural significance	Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance can be embodied in a place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects.
Cumulative impact	Impact in combination with other development. That includes existing developments as appropriate, those which have permission, and valid applications which have not been determined. The weight attached to undetermined applications should reflect their position in the application process.
Cumulative impacts (in the context of the strategic transport network)	The effect on the operational performance of transport networks of a number of developments in combination, recognising that the effects of a group of sites, or development over an area may need different mitigation when considered together than when considered individually.
Custom-build housing	Where a person tasks a house builder to tailor a home to their preferences before it is built.
Decarbonisation	Reducing the amount of gaseous carbon compounds released by buildings, activities or operations.
Deliverable housing land pipeline	The expected sequencing of the Local Housing Land Requirement over the short (1-3 years), medium (4-6 years) and long-term (7-10 years), set out in the local development plan delivery programme.
Deliverable land	Land that is free from constraints or there is a commitment to overcome constraints, and development is able to be delivered in the period identified for the site within the Deliverable Housing Land Pipeline.
Derelict land	Previously developed land which is un-remediated and/or which has a constraint caused by its previous use which hampers its redevelopment or naturalisation.
Design flood	Magnitude of the flood adopted for the design of a site, usually defined in relation to the severity of the flood in terms of its return period.
Ecosystem services	The benefits people obtain from ecosystems.
Egress (safe, flood free pedestrian access and egress)	A route for the movement of people (not vehicles) of all abilities (on foot or with mobility assistance) between the development and a place of safety outwith the design flood level.
Enabling development	Enabling development is development that would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms, but is essential, to secure the future of an historic environment asset or place which is at risk of serious deterioration or loss.

Essential infrastructure	Essential infrastructure includes digital communications infrastructure; telecommunications infrastructure; all forms of renewable, low-carbon and zero emission technologies for electricity generation and distribution and transmission electricity grid networks and primary sub stations; water and waste water infrastructure; and transport proposals and travel networks identified in the local development plan.
Evidence report	A supporting document to the local development plan. An evidence report summarises the evidence base for those proposals and policies set out in the development plan and demonstrates that appropriate consultation has been undertaken and regard given to the views of the community.
Facilities for managing secondary materials	<p>Facilities where materials can be collected and sorted into the various component parts or consolidated into bulk quantities for re-use either in their original or an alternative function and for recovery.</p> <p>‘Recovery’ means any operation the principal result of which is waste serving a useful purpose by replacing other materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function, or waste being prepared to fulfil that function, in the plant or in the wider economy.</p> <p>‘material recovery’ means any recovery operation, other than energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or other means to generate energy. It includes, inter alia, preparing for re-use, recycling and backfilling; ‘preparing for re-use’ means checking, cleaning or repairing recovery operations, by which products or components of products that have become waste are prepared so that they can be re-used without any other pre-processing.</p>
Flood	The temporary covering by water from any source of land not normally covered by water, but not including the overflow of a sewage system.
Flooding from all sources	<p>Includes:</p> <p>Watercourse /Fluvial Flooding – caused by excessive rainfall or snow melt within a limited period, which overwhelms the capacity of the watercourse or river channel, particularly when the ground is already saturated. It can also arise as a result of the blockage of a channel and/or associated structures such as small bridges and culverts;</p> <p>Pluvial Flooding – occurs when rainwater ponds or flows over the ground (overland flow) before it enters a natural or man-made drainage systems (e.g. a river or sewer/drain). It can also occur when drainage systems are at full capacity. It is often combined with sewer flooding and groundwater flooding;</p> <p>Sewer Flooding – occurs when the sewerage infrastructure has to deal with loads beyond its design capacity. This occurs most often as a result of high intensity rainfall events;</p> <p>Groundwater Flooding – occurs when the water table rises above ground level. In Scotland this is most commonly associated with the movement of water through sands and gravels, often connected to the rise and fall of river levels; and</p> <p>Coastal Flooding – occurs as a result of high tide, storm surge and wave activity raising the level of the sea above adjoining land.</p>

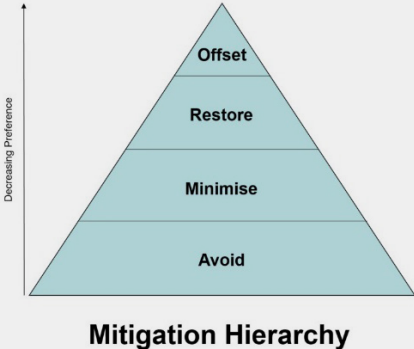
Flood risk	The combination of the probability of a flood and the potential adverse consequences associated with a flood, for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.
Flood risk area or at risk of flooding	<p>For planning purposes, at risk of flooding or in a flood risk area means land or built form with an annual probability of being flooded of greater than 0.5% which must include an appropriate allowance for future climate change.</p> <p>This risk of flooding is indicated on SEPA's future flood maps or may need to be assessed in a flood risk assessment. An appropriate allowance for climate change should be taken from the latest available guidance and evidence available for application in Scotland. The calculated risk of flooding can take account of any existing, formal flood protection schemes in determining the risk to the site.</p> <p>Where the risk of flooding is less than this threshold, areas will not be considered 'at risk of flooding' for planning purposes, but this does not mean there is no risk at all, just that the risk is sufficiently low to be acceptable for the purpose of planning. This includes areas where the risk of flooding is reduced below this threshold due to a formal flood protection scheme.</p>
Forestry and woodland strategy	A strategy prepared by a planning authority either singly or in collaboration with other planning authorities, which sets out policies and proposals for the development of forestry and woodlands in their area, according to [section A159] of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.
Freeboard	Freeboard is the difference between the design flood level and either the finished floor levels, solum level, or deck level of a specific development. It is a safety margin designed to allow for the uncertainties involved in flood estimation and physical factors that cannot be assessed and vary between sites e.g., post construction settlement and wave action. In many cases an adequate freeboard allowance is 600mm above the design flood level ² (in some situations a more detailed assessment of appropriate freeboard will need to be carried out).
Gardens and designed landscapes	The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes recognises sites where garden grounds and landscapes have been intentionally laid out for artistic effect which are of national importance. Their selection, assessment and designation is carried out by Historic Environment Scotland. Designed landscapes are managed primarily through the planning process by the appropriate planning authority.
Green infrastructure	Features or spaces within the natural and built environments that provide a range of ecosystem services.
Green networks	Connected areas of green infrastructure and open space, that together form an integrated and multi-functional network.
Green recovery	An economic recovery that helps us work toward net zero emissions in a way that is fair and that maximises the opportunities to deliver a thriving, sustainable economy.

² In line with CIRIA Guidance C624 Development and Flood Risk – Guidance for the Construction Industry 2004.

Green space	Space, other than agricultural land, which serves a recreational or an amenity function for the public, or provides aesthetic value to the public such as areas of— (a) grass, (b) trees, (c) other vegetation, (d) water.
Historic battlefields	The Inventory of Historic Battlefields recognises sites where a nationally important battle took place, soldiers fought and died, and where significant military activities happened. Their selection, assessment and designation is carried out by Historic Environment Scotland. Battlefields are managed primarily through the planning process by the appropriate planning authority.
Historic environment	The historic environment is ‘the physical evidence for human activity that connects people with place, linked with the associations we can see, feel and understand’.
Historic environment asset	An asset (or ‘historic asset’ or ‘heritage asset’) is a physical element of the historic environment – a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having cultural significance.
Historic marine protected areas	Historic Marine Protected Areas are areas designated in Scottish territorial waters (0-12 miles) under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 for the purpose of preserving marine assets of national importance. These can be wrecks of boats or aircraft or more scattered remains, such as groups of artefacts on the seabed from a submerged prehistoric landscape. Their designation is carried out by Marine Scotland based on advice from Historic Environment Scotland.
Huts	A simple building used intermittently as recreational accommodation (i.e. not a principal residence); having an internal floor area of no more than 30 square meters ; constructed from low impact materials; generally not connected to mains water, electricity or sewerage; and built in such a way that it is removable with little or no trace at the end of its life. Huts may be built singly or in groups.

Infrastructure first	<p>Putting infrastructure considerations at the heart of placemaking. For the purpose of applying the Infrastructure First policy, the following meaning of infrastructure will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communications – including digital and telecommunications networks and connections; • existing and planned transport infrastructure and services; • water management – supply, drainage systems and sewerage (including flood risk management); • energy supplies/energy generation – including electricity and heat networks, distribution and transmission electricity grid networks, and gas supplies; • health and social care services – including both services provided in the community directly by Health Boards and services provided on their behalf by contractors such as GPs, dentists and pharmacists; • education – including early years, primary, secondary, further and higher education services; • green and blue infrastructure; and • spaces for play and recreation.
Infrastructure investment hierarchy	<p>Scottish Government-wide common hierarchy to aid planning and decision-making, which prioritises enhancing and maintaining our assets over new build. See Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland 2021-22 to 2025-26 for further details. To support the Infrastructure Investment Plan and its Infrastructure Investment Hierarchy, also see ‘A guide to Property Asset Strategy in the Scottish Public Sector’</p>
Just transition	<p>Ending our contribution to climate change in a way that is fair and leaves no one behind</p>
Landbank (construction aggregates)	<p>A landbank is calculated by a Planning Authority and is a means of gauging whether there is sufficient consented construction aggregates (sand/gravel and hard rock) within their relevant market area, to avoid possible disruption and/or delays to supply. The calculation is primarily based on annual extraction figures, sales trends and the known reserves within existing consented sites.</p>
Lifeline links	<p>A lifeline ferry service required in order for a community to be viable.</p>
Listed building	<p>A listed building is a built structure of ‘special architectural or historic interest’. The term ‘building’ can be defined as ‘anything made by people’ such as houses, schools, factories, boundary walls, bridges and sculptures. Listing covers the whole of a building or structure including its exterior, interior and any ancillary structures within its curtilage (provided these were constructed before 1 July 1948). Their selection, assessment and designation is carried out by Historic Environment Scotland under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997. Listed Buildings are managed primarily through the Listed Building Consent process by the appropriate planning authority.</p>

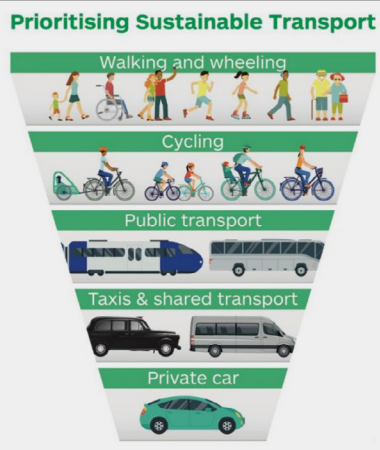
Local authority supported affordable housing plan	Plans or strategies for housing approved by a local authority e.g. Local Housing Strategy, Strategic Housing Investment Plan or future versions of such documents.
Local housing land requirement	The amount of land required for housing, as identified by the local development plan. The Local Housing Land Requirement (LHLR) is expected to exceed the 10 year Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR) set out in the National Planning Framework.
Local housing strategy	Local Housing Strategies were introduced as part of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 to widen the strategic and enabling role for local authorities in relation to housing in their area. The Local Housing Strategy (LHS) sets out the outcomes the Council and its partners want to achieve, and the actions they will take, to address housing need and demand in their area
Local outcomes improvement plan	A local outcomes improvement plan (LOIP) is produced by a community planning partnership (CPP), and describes its local priorities, what improvements the CPP plans for its local communities, and when it will make these improvements. The LOIP covers the whole of the council area that the CPP is responsible for.
Locality plan	A locality plan is produced by a CPP, and describes its local priorities, what improvements the CPP plans for its local communities, and when it will make these improvements. A locality plan covers a smaller area within a whole CPP area, or may also be produced for groups who share common interests or features, for example, young people leaving care or vulnerable adults.
Locations of concern	A location of concern has been defined as a specific, usually public, site that is used as a location for suicide and which provides either means or opportunity for suicide.
Masterplan	A strategic scheme within which a location is proposed to be regenerated or changed in order to meet a perceived challenge or strategic need.
Masterplan consent area	A masterplan consent area scheme can grant authorisation for the type of development set out in the scheme, within the geographic location (area) to which the scheme relates. In setting out the type of development that the scheme authorises, this can be either expressly specified or described as type of development that is specified in the scheme.
Minimum all-tenure housing land requirement	There is a statutory requirement for the National Planning Framework to contain targets for the use of land in different areas of Scotland for housing. To meet this, the National Planning Framework includes a Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR) for each planning authority in Scotland. The MATHLR is the minimum amount of land, by reference to the number of housing units, that is to be provided by each planning authority in Scotland for a 10 year period, as set out in Annex E. The MATHLR is expected to be exceeded in the local development plans Local Housing Land Requirement.

Mitigation hierarchy	<p>The mitigation hierarchy indicates the order in which the impacts of development should be considered and addressed. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid – by removing the impact at the outset Minimise – by reducing the impact Restore – by repairing damaged habitats Offset – by compensating for the residual impact that remains, with preference to on-site over off-site measures.  <p>The diagram shows a pyramid divided into four horizontal sections. From bottom to top, the sections are labeled: Avoid, Minimise, Restore, and Offset. To the left of the pyramid is a vertical arrow pointing upwards, labeled 'Decreasing Preference'. Below the pyramid is the text 'Mitigation Hierarchy'.</p>
National transport strategy 2	<p>The National Transport Strategy sets out an ambitious vision for Scotland's transport system for the next 20 years. The vision is underpinned by four priorities: Reduces Inequalities, Takes Climate Action, Helps Deliver Inclusive Economic Growth and Improves our Health and Wellbeing, each with three associated outcomes.</p> <p>The Strategy sets out the strategic framework within which future decisions on investment will be made, including the sustainable travel and investment hierarchies.</p>
Nature-based solutions	<p>Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human wellbeing and biodiversity benefits.</p>
Nature network	<p>A Nature Network is a joined-up system of places important for wild plants and animals, on land and in water. It allows plants, animals, seeds, nutrients and water to move from place to place and enables the natural world to adapt to change, providing plants and animals with places to live, feed and breed. Effectively functioning nature networks will connect existing nature rich areas through habitat corridors, habitat 'stepping stones', or habitat restoration areas.</p> <p>Scotland's Nature Networks will enable opportunities for achieving ecological connectivity that meet local priorities for biodiversity and nature; whilst building and strengthening an evolving regional and national connectivity. Opportunities for implementation may be identified through, e.g. LDPs and/or Local Biodiversity Action Plans and/or other existing or new mechanisms such as those developed under the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Delivery Plan, to achieve connectivity within and across urban, peri-urban and rural landscapes.</p>
Negative emissions technologies	<p>Negative Emissions Technologies (NETs) are an emerging field of technologies that remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and utilising carbon capture and storage sequester them permanently.</p> <p>NETs can include forms of Direct Air Capture with Carbon Storage (DACCS), Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) or other more experimental means such as enhanced weathering or biochar.</p> <p>NETs can be considered one form of Greenhouse Gas Removals (GGRs), which also includes natural sequestration methods such as afforestation. It can also be used interchangeably with Carbon Dioxide Removal technologies (CDR).</p>

Net zero	Scotland has set a target to become ‘ Net Zero ‘ by 2045. This means the amount of greenhouse gas emissions we put into the atmosphere and the amount we are able to take out will add up to zero.
Open space	Space within and on the edge of settlements comprising green space or civic areas such as squares, market places and other paved or hard landscaped areas with a civic function
Open space strategy	An open space strategy is to set out a strategic framework of the planning authority’s policies and proposals as to the development, maintenance and use of green infrastructure in their district, including open spaces and green networks. It must contain; an audit of existing open space provision, an assessment of current and future requirements, and any other matter which the planning authority consider appropriate.
Outdoor sports facilities	Uses where sportscotland is a statutory consultee under the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, which establishes ‘outdoor sports facilities’ as land used as: (a) an outdoor playing field extending to not less than 0.2ha used for any sport played on a pitch; (b) an outdoor athletics track; (c) a golf course; (d) an outdoor tennis court, other than those within a private dwelling, hotel or other tourist accommodation; and (e) an outdoor bowling green.
Peatland	Defined by the presence of peat soil or peaty soil types. This means that “peat-forming” vegetation is growing and actively forming peat or it has been grown and formed peat at some point in the past.
Placemaking	Placemaking is the process of creating good quality places that promotes people’s health, happiness and wellbeing. It concerns the environment in which we live; the people that inhabit these spaces; and the quality of life that comes from the interaction of people and their surroundings. Placemaking is a collaborative approach involving the design and development of places over time, with people and communities central to the process.
Place principle	All those responsible for providing services and looking after assets in a place need to work and plan together, and with local communities, to improve the lives of people, support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and create more successful places.
Play sufficiency assessment	A play sufficiency assessment is the assessment of the sufficiency of play opportunities for children in their area, carried out by a planning authority under the duty as set out in Section 7(5) Part 16D(1) of Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. The assessment forms part of the evidence report for the preparation of the Local Development Plan.
Prime agricultural land & land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use	<p>Prime agricultural land is that identified as being Class 1, 2 or 3.1 in the land capability classification for agriculture developed by Macaulay Land Use Research Institute (now the James Hutton Institute).</p> <p>However, for land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use (i.e. for example food production, flood management, water catchment management and carbon storage), this value should be recognised in decision-making.</p>

Priority peatland habitat	Peatland habitats can be divided into four broad classes (blanket bog, upland raised bog, lowland raised bog, and fen), depending on the types of plants that formed the peat. Priority peatland habitats are sub-sets of these broad habitats which have been recognised under the Scottish Biodiversity Framework as being important to protect for their conservation and biodiversity value.
Protected characteristics	The Equality Act defines the following as protected characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • age • disability • gender reassignment • marriage and civil partnership • pregnancy and maternity • race • religion or belief • sex • sexual orientation
Public benefits	Public benefits as defined by the current Scottish Government policy on woodland removal.
Ramsar sites	Wetlands designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.
Remedial notice (forestry)	<p>A Remedial Notice is a notice issued by Scottish Ministers if it appears to them that a person has failed or is failing to comply with a condition on felling permission, a felling direction (including any condition imposed on it), a restocking direction (including any condition imposed on it), or a registered notice to comply.</p> <p>A Remedial Notice requires the person to take such steps or stop such activity as may be specified in the notice on order to comply with or otherwise give effect to the condition, direction or (as the case may be) registered notice to comply, and, to take steps or stop the activity within the period specified in the notice.</p>
Restocking direction	A Restocking Direction is a notice issued by Scottish Ministers, in response to an unauthorised felling or a failure to comply with a continuing condition on a felling permission. A restocking direction requires an owner of the land on which the felled tree was located or the land to which the continuing condition relates, to stock the land in question.
Recycling facilities	Facilities for the purpose of recycling. Recycling means any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes. It includes the reprocessing of organic material but does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or for backfilling operations. It does not include nuclear reprocessing.
Self-build housing	Where a person builds their own house or appoints their own builder.
Self-provided housing	Includes self-build housing, custom-build housing and collective build housing.

Setting	<p>Setting is more than the immediate surroundings of a site or building, and may be related to the function or use of a place, or how it was intended to fit into the landscape or townscape, the view from it or how it is seen from areas round about, or areas that are important to the protection of the place, site or building.</p> <p>‘Setting’ is the way the surroundings of a historic asset or place contribute to how it is understood, appreciated and experienced.</p>
Scheduled monument	<p>Scheduled monuments are archaeological sites or monuments of national importance that are legally protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Their selection, assessment and designation is carried out by Historic Environment Scotland who maintains the schedule. Works to Scheduled Monuments are regulated by Historic Environment Scotland through their Scheduled Monument Consent process.</p>
Short term let	<p>The use of a dwellinghouse (a residential house or flat) for rental by persons other than the owner for short periods and for financial or other remuneration.</p> <p>Typically includes properties advertised as being available for holiday let, although can apply to other situations.</p>
Strategic transport network	<p>Includes the trunk road and rail networks. Its primary purpose is to provide the safe and efficient movement of strategic long distance traffic between major centres, although in rural areas it also performs important local functions.</p>
Sustainable development	<p>Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (The Brundtland Definition. Our Common Future, The World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987).</p>
Sustainable investment hierarchy	<p>The National Transport Strategy 2 Sustainable Investment Hierarchy will be used to inform future investment decisions and ensure transport options that focus on reducing inequalities and the need to travel unsustainably are prioritised. We also need to focus on maintaining and safely operating existing assets, taking due consideration of the need to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Investment promoting a range of measures, including innovative solutions, to make better use of existing capacity will then be considered, ensuring that existing transport networks and systems are fully optimised. Only following these steps should investment involving targeted infrastructure improvements be considered.</p>
Sustainable tourism	<p>Sustainable tourism is defined by the United Nation World Tourism Organisation as “tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities.”</p>

Sustainable travel	<p>Sustainable travel includes travel by the top three modes in the sustainable travel hierarchy. It is recognised that in some locations, particularly in rural areas, where the top three modes have been judged as unfeasible for day to day travel, low emissions vehicles and shared transport options will play an important role.</p>	 <p>The diagram, titled 'Prioritising Sustainable Transport', is a funnel-shaped graphic. It is divided into five horizontal sections, each with a green header and corresponding illustrations. From top to bottom, the sections are: 'Walking and wheeling' (showing people walking and pushing a stroller), 'Cycling' (showing people on bicycles), 'Public transport' (showing a blue bus and a white bus), 'Taxis & shared transport' (showing a black taxi and a white van), and 'Private car' (showing a green car). The funnel shape suggests a hierarchy where the top modes are more prioritized than the bottom ones.</p>
Sustainable travel hierarchy	<p>The National Transport Strategy 2 Sustainable Travel Hierarchy should be used in decision making by promoting walking, wheeling, cycling, public transport and shared transport options in preference to single occupancy private car use for the movement of people. The efficient and sustainable freight transport for the movement of goods, particularly the shift from road to rail should also be promoted.</p>	
Town centre	<p>Centres which display:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a diverse mix of uses, including shopping; - a high level of accessibility; - qualities of character and identity which create a sense of place and further the well-being of communities; - wider economic and social activity during the day and in the evening; and - integration with residential areas. 	
Town centre first	<p>The Town Centre First Principle asks that government, local authorities, the wider public sector, businesses and communities put the health of town centres at the heart of decision making. It seeks to deliver the best local outcomes, align policies and target available resources to prioritise town centre sites, encouraging vibrancy, equality and diversity.</p>	
Town centre vision	<p>Towns and town centres are for the wellbeing of people, the planet and the economy. Towns are for everyone and everyone has a role to play in making their own town and town centre successful.</p>	
Transport appraisal	<p>A Transport Appraisal should inform the spatial strategy by appraising the impact of the potential spatial strategy options on the transport network, in line with Transport Scotland's Development Planning and Management Transport Appraisal Guidance. It should determine the potential impacts of development on the transport network and mitigation to address adverse impacts, how they will be funded and who should deliver these. This should inform the Proposed Plan.</p>	

Transport assessment	A Transport Assessment report should aim to provide supporting evidence to accompany the planning application to demonstrate that the development is sited in a location where current and likely future travel behaviour will produce a desired and predicted transport output. The Transport Assessment should provide information in a suitable form to enable the local authority and, if necessary, Transport Scotland to assess and determine the planning application, seek any changes to the proposal and devise necessary planning conditions or negotiate planning or other legal agreements.
Travel plan	A Travel Plan (TP) is a document that sets out a package of positive and complementary measures for the overall delivery of more sustainable travel patterns for a specific development. Their ability and success in influencing travel patterns is dependent upon the commitment of the developer or occupier of a development and the enforcement of travel plan monitoring by the local authority. Travel plans should be implemented to encourage a shift in transport mode for those travelling to and from a development.
Unused or under-used land	An area of land that is stalled awaiting development, or a pocket of land within neighbourhood that is not developed or cannot be developed for other meaningful use or does not have particular identified long-term use.
Vacant land	Previously developed land, without physical constraint, which the Planning Authority has indicated is currently available for redevelopment.
Veteran tree	A veteran tree can be classified as such due to age (including relative age for its species) or for its biological, aesthetic, or cultural interest. Veteran trees are usually mature and provide additional habitat from natural damage, environmental conditions or management (e.g. coppice, decay hollows, fungal fruiting bodies, cavities).
Water compatible uses	<p>Comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - flood control infrastructure - environmental monitoring stations - water transmission infrastructure and pumping stations - sewage transmission infrastructure and pumping stations - sand and gravel workings - docks, marinas and wharves - navigation facilities - Ministry of Defence (MOD) defence installations - ship building, repairing, and dismantling - dockside fish processing and refrigeration and compatible activities requiring a waterside location - water-based recreation (excluding sleeping accommodation) - lifeguard and coastguard stations - amenity open space - nature conservation and biodiversity - outdoor sports and recreation and essential facilities such as changing rooms - essential ancillary sleeping or residential accommodation for staff required by uses in this category, subject to a specific operational warning and evacuation plan.

Wellbeing economy	Building an economy that is inclusive and that promotes sustainability, prosperity and resilience, where businesses can thrive and innovate, and that supports all of our communities across Scotland to access opportunities that deliver local growth and wellbeing.
Wheeling	Travelling by wheelchair.
Woodland	Land under stands of trees with a canopy cover of at least 20%, or having the potential to achieve this, including integral open space, and including felled areas that are awaiting restocking (replanting). The minimum area is 0.1 ha and there is no minimum height.
World heritage sites	World Heritage Sites are internationally important cultural and/or natural heritage sites which have been inscribed for their “Outstanding Universal Value”. Though no additional statutory controls result from world heritage designation, the impact of proposed development upon the outstanding universal value, including its authenticity and integrity of a World Heritage Site and its setting, is a material consideration in determining planning applications. Their assessment and designation is carried out by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) based on advice from State Parties and the relevant devolved Government.

Annex G – Acronyms

BARR	Buildings at Risk Register
BECCS	Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage
CCS	Carbon Capture and Storage
CCUS	Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage
CDR	Carbon Dioxide Removal technologies
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
CoRE	Community Renewable Energy
CPP	Community Planning Partnership
CWB	Community Wealth Building
DACCS	Direct Air Capture with Carbon Storage
EIA	Environmental impact Assessment
EU	European Union
GGRs	Greenhouse Gas Removals
HNZ	Heat Network Zones
HRA	Habitats Regulations Appraisal
HS2	High Speed 2
IGTZ	Industrial Green Transition Zones
IIP	Infrastructure Investment Plan
kv	Kilovolts
LDPs	Local Development Plans
LHEES	Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy
LHLR	Local Housing Land Requirement
LOIP	Local Outcomes Improvement Plan
LPPs	Local Place Plans
MATHLR	Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement
MOD	Ministry of Defence
NETs	Negative Emissions Technologies
NPF	National Planning Framework
NPF4	National Planning Framework 4
ORIC	Orkney Research and Innovation Campus
ORION	Opportunity for Renewable Integration with Offshore Networks
PNCP	Perthshire Nature Connections Partnership
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategies
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
TP	Travel Plan
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation



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This publication is available at www.gov.scot

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The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
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EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-80525-089-0 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, November 2022

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA
PPDAS1178682 (11/22)

National Planning Framework 4

Explanatory Report: November 2022

November 2022

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Purpose of Explanatory Report

This Explanatory Report fulfils the requirement in Section 3CA of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for Scottish Ministers to lay before the Scottish Parliament an explanatory document which sets out:

- the consultation undertaken;
- a summary of representations received; and
- the changes made to the Draft as a result of the consultation.

This report sets out an overview of the three rounds of engagement undertaken since 2020: the Call for Ideas (2020), the Position Statement (2020) and the Draft NPF4 (2021). Further detailed resources on each of these engagement stages are available at www.transformingplanning.scot.

The main focus of this Explanatory Report is to set out the changes made between the Draft NPF4 and the Revised Draft NPF4 which has now been laid in the Scottish Parliament.

The sections in this report correlate to the structure, layout and policy numbering contained within the Draft NPF4. This allows easier read across to the Analysis of Responses Report which provides an overview of the responses received from stakeholders from the consultation.

Each section covers a summary of the responses received (from the Analysis of Responses Report), a high level overview of the key changes, and then a table outlining further detail on specific changes, and the reasoning for those.

These tables include comments from stakeholders, as well as those made through responses from Parliamentary Committees and from the UK Climate Change Committee.

Consultation responses contained a very large volume of evidence and information. This report does not seek to answer every individual point that has been considered in the drafting of the Revised Draft NPF4. It also does not record where support was given for elements of the Draft. Instead it focuses on setting out the reasoning for the main areas of change, and justification for areas where change was not considered necessary.

NPF4 has a lot of cross cutting issues. Some points are made in more than one section of the Analysis of Responses Report. We have not repeated points more than once in the Explanatory Report but have put them in the most logical themed section. We have also set out commentary on many of the more general and cross cutting issues in the General Changes section to reduce repetition.

Process

Consultation undertaken

The Scottish Government has been committed to a co-production approach to developing NPF4, listening carefully to the needs of all stakeholders throughout the process. That included following up and addressing many issues raised by the Scottish Parliament during the course of the Planning Bill.

Consultation to inform Draft NPF4

Two rounds of extensive engagement were carried out to inform the Draft NPF4:

- **Call for Ideas**

- The Scottish Government sought early views on NPF4 through a 'Call for Ideas', which ran from January to April 2020. Stakeholders were invited to consider Scotland in 2045 and reflect on planning policy changes and National Developments needed to get us there.
- The Call for Ideas was backed up with extensive stakeholder engagement and a roadshow around Scotland to hear what people had to say, with provisions of supporting resources and policy information notes:
 - 180 people participated at our roadshow workshops.
 - We also spoke to around 100 people at our drop in sessions across the country.
 - nearly 350 written responses were received.
- '2050 Think Pieces' - we asked planning stakeholders to provide 'think piece' contributions on Scotland 2050 to stimulate discussion and think about priorities for NPF4.
- There was strong support for NPF4 to be radical with many seeing it as a key opportunity for change.

- **Position Statement**

- In November 2020, we published a [Position Statement](#) which set out an overview of likely key challenges, opportunities and potential policy changes, having reflected on the wealth of information and views we had received already. It also reflected on the impacts of COVID-19 and what NPF4 can do to help societal and economic recovery.
- We also commissioned PAS to support communities plus children and young people to engage in the development of NPF4. The outputs are available [online](#).
- During the Position Statement consultation period, the Royal Town Planning Institute held 4 roundtable sessions to discuss some key themes:
 - [Post Covid Recovery](#)
 - [20 Minute neighbourhoods](#)
 - [Achieving net zero](#)
 - [Delivering good quality development](#)
- We consulted on the Position Statement and received over 250 responses.

- There was broad support for the general direction of NPF4, the ambition on climate change, the focus on the place principle and the focus on 4 key outcomes.
- **Regional Spatial Strategies**
 - We also undertook extensive collaborative work with local authorities, working in regional groupings, to share ideas and prepare indicative Regional Spatial Strategies which formed the basis of the spatial strategy in the Draft NPF4.

Consultation and Engagement on Draft NPF4

Legislation requires a period of Parliamentary scrutiny of up to 120 days from the date that it is laid before Parliament. The Draft NPF4 was published for consultation between 10 November 2021 and 31 March 2022.

- **Engagement during the Consultation**
 Alongside Parliament's scrutiny – and in accordance with our [Participation Statement](#) we carried out a further period of public consultation and extensive stakeholder engagement, encouraging everyone to get involved. The [Programme for Engagement](#) included:
 - [Community Grant Scheme](#) – £250 grants were offered to community groups to help them engage – 5 grants have been issued.
 - [Open invitation events](#) gave stakeholders the opportunity to discuss NPF4 and encourage participation in the formal consultation. [Nine events](#) in total were held (one on each of the 4 policy themes and one on each of the 5 Action Areas), attended by over 100 people.
 - [Equalities roundtable](#) aimed at promoting responses to the consultation, discussion was held in March with a range of organisations, around 12 organisations attended.
 - [Roundtable discussions](#) were hosted by the Royal Town Planning Institute on business, energy, environment and housebuilding during February.
 - [Scottish Youth Parliament](#) workshop was held at the Gathering in February.
 - Worked with [PlayScotland](#) to support responses from children and young people's perspectives, two workshops hosted.
 - Discussions with [community groups](#) – including 2 events hosted by PAS at the end of the consultation period, with over 50 participants.
 - [Resource information online](#) to help people digest – included presentations, policy background notes, digital narratives, and all the evidence received through Call for Ideas and Position Statement.
 - [Publication/Notification of the consultation](#) – we:
 - advertised through our [e-alert and twitter accounts](#) and sent [emails to over 300 organisations](#) alerting them and asking them to publicise through their networks.
 - asked the Improvement Service to forward information on the consultation to their [Community Council Liaison Network](#). They also published an article on their website.
 - wrote to the lead partners of the NPF3 National Developments that were not being re-proposed, and to community councils where they could be identified.

- **Public consultation**

- The written public consultation was launched on 10 November 2021 and closed on 31 March 2022.
- The consultation asked 70 open questions.
- The consultation responses are available [online](#), where consent has been given to publish the response.
- Following the consultation and the end of the Parliamentary scrutiny process, we commissioned independent consultants to analyse the responses.
- In total 761 responses were analysed, with 539 responses from organisations and 222 from individual members of the public. Late responses were considered but not covered within the Analysis Report.
- The Analysis Report is also available online. The report provides an executive summary and sets out some general themes raised by respondents, followed by a question-by-question analysis of the comments made to the main consultation. Summaries of Representations from the Analysis Report are provided within this Report.
- There are a wide range of views on NPF4. However, the vast majority of people who have engaged in the draft NPF4 welcome its aims and ambition. Their comments focus on how we can best achieve those outcomes, rather than asking for a change of direction.
- The Analysis Report notes that as with any public consultation exercise, it should be noted that those responding generally have a particular interest in the subject area and the views they express cannot be seen as representative of wider public opinion.

- **Climate Change Committee (CCC)**

A [letter from the Climate Change Committee Chief Executive](#) was also received, sent to the Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth on Draft NPF4.

Key messages from the CCC “The broad vision of NPF4 is generally compatible with advice from the Climate Change Committee. The plan also shows welcome progress on recommendations that the CCC has made over the past two years.

- Infrastructure decisions made today will substantially determine the achievement of the statutory climate goals in years to come. The CCC welcomes, therefore, the alignment between NPF4 and the Infrastructure Investment Plan.
- NPF4 focuses more on the vision for Scotland than on the types of planning applications that should or should not be supported. Much will rest on local implementation, so local policies and development plans must be well-aligned with the new Framework. It is unclear how the Scottish Government will ensure compliance with NPF4.”

Parliamentary scrutiny

The Draft NPF4 was laid in Parliament on 10 November 2021 for the Parliamentary scrutiny period of 120 days.

Timeline overview, further details below

25 January 2022	Evidence Session - Planning	LGHP
25 January 2022	Evidence Session – Health	HSCSC
1 February 2022	Evidence Session - Housing	LGHP
	Evidence Session - Energy	NZET
8 February 2022	Evidence Session - Local Government issues	LGHP
	Evidence Sessions – Transport & Natural Environment, Waste Management and the Circular Economy	NZET
9 February 2022	Evidence Session – Rural issues	RAINE
22 February 2022	Committee Meeting – agreement to send letter	HSCS
	Cross Party Group on Sport	
23 February 2022	Letter from the RAINE Convener to the Convener of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee	RAINE
24 February 2022	Letter from the HSCSC Convener to the Convener of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committees	HSCSC
4 March 2022	Letter from the NZET Convener to the Convener, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee	NZET
	Committee Report	LGHP
19 April 2022	Debate on motion S6M-03985, on behalf of the LGHP Committee	Meeting of the Parliament

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee (LGHP)

This was the lead Committee in the consideration of Draft NPF4. Evidence Sessions held by the Committee provided further insights on views on key issues these covered:

1. Planning (RTPI Scotland, Built Environment Forum Scotland, Planning Democracy, Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, Planning Aid for Scotland) at the session held on 25 January 2022
2. Housing (Association of Local Government Chief Housing Officers, Scottish Land Commission, Homes for Scotland, Scottish Property Federation, Scottish Housing with Care Task Force) at the session held on 1 February 2022
3. Local Government issues (Heads of Planning Scotland, RTPI Scottish Young Planners' Network, Glasgow City Council, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, South Ayrshire Council, Aberdeen City Council, Shetland Islands Council) at the session held on 8 February 2022

The Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee's Report on the draft National Planning Framework 4 (March 2022)

The Committee welcomed NPF4 and its ambition for Scotland. To best deliver on these ambitions the Committee highlighted a number of key areas, noting an overarching issue is resourcing and the capacity of the current planning system to deliver on the aims of NPF4.

- Comments on use of language, detailed wording and the priority or weight to be given to different policies in NPF4.
- Support was expressed by the Committee for the prominence given to the climate emergency in NPF4, and that it would also welcome the Scottish Government's reflections on the concerns expressed by the Climate Change Committee and in particular, how NPF4 will match ambition with action.
- The Committee raised important points around key policy areas, including 20 minute neighbourhoods, renewable energy, town centres and housing numbers.
- The Committee also commented on the importance of monitoring and evaluation. This is an important part of the planning system, reflected in the changes we are making to Local Development Plans (LDPs) to be informed by thorough 'evidence reports'. And it is also in how we are moving to a more outcomes-focused performance management system for planning.

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee (NZET)

The Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee also considered the Draft NPF4, taking into account responses to the call for written views, led by the LGHP Committee and also took evidence at two meetings in February 2022.

It took evidence on the following issues:

- Energy, and in particular renewables and heat in buildings and homes;
- Transport and active travel;
- The environment and biodiversity; and
- Waste management and the circular economy.

On 4 March 2022 the Convener, Dean Lockhart MSP, sent a [letter](#) to the Convener, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, setting out the NZET Committee's views and suggestions.

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee (RAINE)

Evidence Sessions held by the Committee on 9 February 2022 with Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands, and Tom Arthur MSP, Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth, they were accompanied by Scottish Government officials: the Chief Planner, the Head of Planning Transformation, the Branch Head of Environment and Natural Resources, the Head of Aquaculture Development and the Head of Rural Economy and Communities Division.

The evidence session raised a number of rural issues:

- Rural engagement to develop the draft, opportunities to engage in the consultation and 20 minute neighbourhoods/rural and island context;
- Rural housing;
- Accessibility of rural areas/transport;
- Infrastructure – using existing infrastructure;
- Growth of rural populations;
- Homeworking (digital infrastructure)/learning from the pandemic;
- How the islands fit with Action Areas;
- Fuel poverty; and
- Just transition.

On 23 February 2022 the Convener Finlay Carson MSP sent a letter to the Convener of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, setting out the RAINE Committee's scrutiny of Draft NPF4.

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

Evidence was also taken at the Health and Social Care Committee meeting on 25 January 2022 from the Improvement Service, University of Edinburgh and Public Health Scotland. The Committee noted the significant impacts of planning on health and wellbeing, both positive and negative, and recommended that this is highlighted in both NPF4 and its associated guidance on local development planning. Local elected member training was also recommended.

On 24 February the Convener, Gillian Martin MSP sent a letter to the Convener of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, setting out the Committee's scrutiny of Draft NPF4.

Cross Party Group on Sport, 22 February 2022

Attended by the Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth, who presented on the Draft NPF4, heard views of the Group and answered questions.

Debate

On 19 April 2022, MSPs debated and agreed motion S6M-03985, in the name of Ariane Burgess:

“That the Parliament agrees that the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee’s 4th Report, 2022 (Session 6), National Planning Framework 4 (SP Paper 149), on the Scottish Government document, Scotland 2045: Our Fourth National Planning Framework, the letters from the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee and Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee included within that report and the Official Report of the Parliament’s debate on the report and letters, should form the Parliament’s response to the Scottish Government on the proposed framework.”

Impact Assessments

A number of statutory and non-statutory assessments informed the preparation and finalisation of NPF4 and we invited comments on our [Integrated Impact Assessment](#) (IIA) Reports alongside the Draft NPF4.

Representations on the IIA are also considered in the Analysis Report.

A Post-Adoption Statement that sets out how the assessment findings, as well as the consultation responses received, have informed the development of the final Framework, will also be published.

Changes to Draft NPF4

Summary of Changes in Revised Version

Figure 1: Summary of Changes in Revised Version

	Draft	Revised version
PART 1 National Spatial Strategy for Scotland 2045		Stronger overview and narrative.
		Focus on outcomes now upfront with clear integration on how these will be achieved through policies, the spatial strategy and National Developments.
	4 themes (Sustainable, Liveable, Productive and Distinctive Places)	3 revised themes: sustainable, liveable, productive. Distinctive Places now incorporated into the other 3 themes which more closely reflects the 3 pillars of sustainable development: environment, social and economy. (See Figure 2)
	Spatial Principles	Reordered and adjusted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tightened up explanations and cross referencing more explicit throughout ○ Moved from 'balanced development' to 'rebalanced' development ○ Emphasised that compact growth is particularly relevant to urban areas ○ Reflected the importance of rural development alongside this.
	Action Areas	Action Areas – refined, focus on context, challenges and delivery (Detail goes to Revised NPF4 Annex C). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ refocused as regional spatial priorities ○ focus on context, challenges, priorities and delivery ○ clearer direction on the distinct challenges facing rural and island communities ○ moved detail to annex ○ taken on board detailed comments and additions

Changes to Draft NPF4 – Summary of Changes

	Draft	Revised version
		<p>Updated mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Removed spatial strategy map and action areas schematic ○ Replaced with spatial strategy map based on strategies from 5 action areas. <p>Referencing of key SG plans, programmes and strategies and use of schematic (See Table 1 in Revised NPF4) to illustrate how the different elements of NPF4 come together at different scales. Clear links and referencing shown between NPF4 and other key SG plans, programmes and national strategies.</p>
PART 2 National Developments (NDs)	18 National Developments including statements of need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change to the number of National Developments, but refinements have been made, including adjustments to the description and classes (including occasional removal or addition of classes). The refinements have not altered the overall findings of the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment. • National developments have been reordered and renumbered under the 3 themes (see Figure 3). • National development summaries have now been embedded within the spatial strategy, with the statements of need moved to Revised NPF4 Annex B. • Numbering and amendments for clarity are reflected on the revised National Developments map. Smaller maps for some of the National Developments have been revised for consistency.
PART 3 National Planning Policy	Universal Policies	Removal of Universal Policies and priority focus moved to the climate emergency and nature crisis. Intent of draft universal policies retained but reordered or re-presented across the document.
	4 themes	Reordered under the 3 themes (see Figure 4). Policies restructured and policy intent, policy outcomes and links to

Changes to Draft NPF4 – Summary of Changes

	Draft	Revised version
		relevant spatial principles and other policies are now clearly set out. Detailed policy amendments in response to representations/ evidence (see Part 3).
	Language Use of 'should'	Work on language, certainty and clarity, internal consistency of wording/policy approach. Changed to consistent use of: 'will be supported'/ 'will only be supported'/'will not be supported'. Further advice added to the Revised NPF4 'How to Use this Document', Annex A.
PART 4 Delivering Our Spatial Strategy	Outline provided of how we will deliver NPF4	Publication of a standalone Delivery Programme. The Delivery Programme will be updated throughout lifespan of NPF4 (see Part 4).
PART 5 Annexes	3 Annexes	6 Annexes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Removal of outcomes annex. Detail supplemented and moved within main text. - New Revised NPF4 Annex B covering National Development Statements of Need (previously within main body of text). - New Revised NPF4 Annex C covering the detail of the Spatial Strategy action areas (previously within main body of text). - New Revised NPF4 Annex D covering Six qualities of Place (previously within main body of text) . - New Revised NPF4 Annex A covering 'How to Use this Document'. (Text supplemented with additional narrative including how NPF links to other plans). - Updates to Annexes on Housing numbers (Revised NPF4 Annex E) and Glossary of definitions. (Revised NPF4 Annex F) - New Revised NPF4 Annex G on Acronyms

General Changes

Summary of Representations

A number of general comments referred to the framework as a whole. These are summarised below and the following table documents changes made.

The Analysis Report identified four general themes not specific to a particular consultation question:

- Structure of NPF4
- Strategic hierarchy and relationships
- National Planning Policy Handbook (covered under Part 3)
- Language used across NPF

Structure of NPF4

Summary of representations

Respondents commented on the relationship between the different parts of the draft document, as well as its overall structure. Suggested changes or additions to the document included: setting out the interconnections across the national spatial strategy, National Developments and policy handbook; the use of schematics that illustrate how the different elements of NPF4 come together at different scales through a place-lens; and adding a statement in the early part of the document on how it complies with the various statutory requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended), and other related legislation.

Overview of changes

The structure of the document has been revised to better connect the various sections and to provide clarity on the vision and strategy. Changes to improve usability have been made including the addition of an Annex to provide further and more detailed information on how to use the document.

The document has been restructured under 3 themes rather than 4, with Distinctive Places being removed (and policies under this heading redistributed), to focus on the three pillars of sustainable development: environment, people and economy. The narratives for each theme have been strengthened and additional detail on how the strategy will meet the statutory outcomes has been added. The Regional Spatial Strategies have been sharpened, more clearly focusing on the main issue for each area, including the main priorities for action and the relevant National Developments.

The policy section (now Part 2) has also been re-presented to separate instructions for LDPs from development management policy. Extra sections have been added to show key connections to other parts of the document.

Changes to Draft NPF4 – General Changes

The spatial principles have been strengthened and better reflected throughout the document, particularly through highlighting their impact in each themed policy in Part 2 and each National Development.

A diagram has been added to show links between the national outcomes and UN Sustainable Development Goals, the spatial principles, National Developments and policies, plus wider Scottish Government plans and strategies.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Comments on the overall 'fit' of the document and how the different parts sit together.	The section setting out 'How to use this Document' has been moved to an Annex (A) and supplemented with additional content. The text in the Draft focused on the structure of that publication. The revised version provides information on the role of the NPF and how it fits with other plans and clarifies the varying roles of each section. It underlines our commitment to a plan-led planning system and the primacy of the development plan in decision making. The 'How to Use this Document' Annex makes clear NPF4 should be read as a whole, as it represents a package of planning policies to guide us to the place we want Scotland to be in 2045.	To respond to stakeholder views by providing additional detail and clarification.
Call for a greater focus on the statutory outcomes.	The Act requires NPF to set out a statement of how development will contribute to each of the 6 statutory outcomes. In the Draft we provided a high level summary within an Annex. In the revised document we have strengthened the messages on each outcome, further	To respond to stakeholder views by providing additional detail and clarification.

Changes to Draft NPF4 – General Changes

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	highlighting how we can deliver each outcome. The statements have also been embedded within the main document to provide greater prominence and to help link the spatial strategy with relevant policies.	
Themes - there was some feedback that the Distinctive Places theme was the least coherent, and that the concept is embedded in planning decisions.	We have made a shift from 4 themes to 3, removing Distinctive Places. The new structure is intended to ensure that the value of special distinctive places, as a place-based approach, cuts across all the themes, rather than as a separate issue. The policies within this section have been redistributed to reflect the three remaining themes. (See Figure 2)	To respond to stakeholder views by presenting a more logical story, based around the three pillars of sustainable development: environment, people and economy.
Concern the Draft NPF4 is currently not as well framed as many LDPs, does not appear to have adopted good practice that has emerged through the examination of LDPs by the SG's Planning and Environmental Appeals Division.	Wording has been tightened across the policies and consistency improved.	To respond to stakeholder views. We have liaised with colleagues in the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA) who have provided advice on clarity of language in the policy wording and relationships between policies, based on their experience examining LDP policies and their role in the appeals process.
Call to set out the interconnections across the national spatial strategy, National Developments and policy handbook. It was suggested that it would be helpful if the framework could be presented in way that clearly articulates the interconnectivity between these, and what this	New schematic diagram added to illustrate how the different elements of NPF4 come together at different scales and the interconnections. Spatial principles better reflected and referenced throughout document including for thematic policies and National Developments.	To respond to stakeholder views and further strengthen key messages throughout the document, creating better flow, and greater consistency.

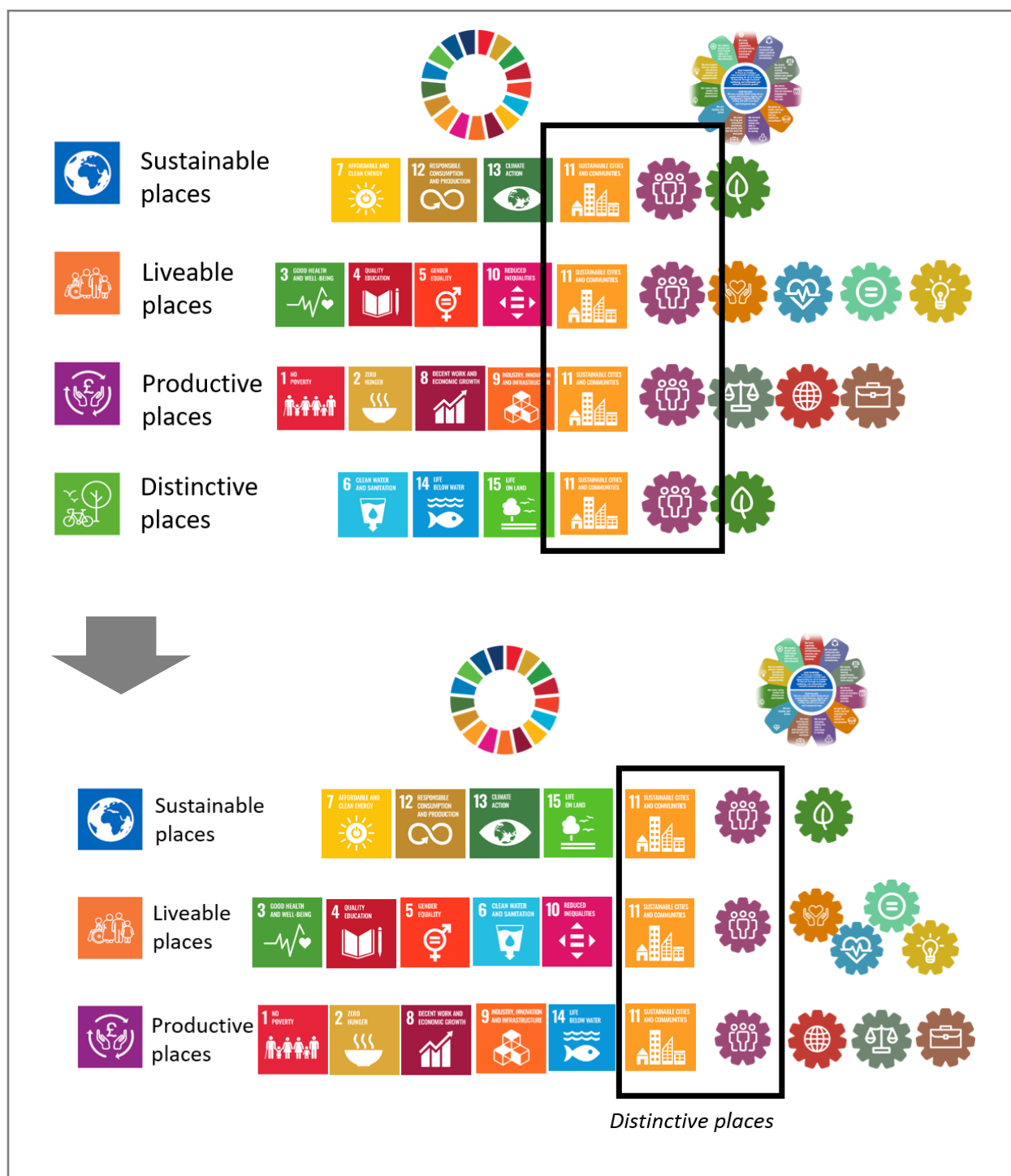
Changes to Draft NPF4 – General Changes

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
means for planning processes.	Key policy connections also identified for each policy in Revised NPF4 Part 2.	
Call for use of schematics to illustrate how the different elements of NPF4 come together at different scales through a place-lens to support the Place Principle.	No change.	The use of graphics can be a powerful tool and post approval we can take stock of any graphics and visuals that stakeholders would find useful whilst also making use of existing graphics from other partners. These can be accessed via websites, and updated throughout the lifetime of the NPF, which we believe is more practical than embedding within the document.
Call for stronger framing of the Place Principle throughout the document.	References to the Place Principle have been strengthened throughout. We have set out an expectation that National Developments will be exemplars of the Place Principle; highlighted that LDPs should be place based and created in line with the Place Principle; clarified that our policies on design and local living intend to help delivery of the Place Principle; and we have added a Glossary definition for clarity.	To respond to stakeholder views and clarify expectations of the planning system in implementing the Place Principle.
Calls for a statement on how NPF4 complies with the various statutory requirements of the Act and other related legislation.	No change.	This is addressed by the statements on the statutory outcomes. It was not considered appropriate to add multiple references to all the Planning Act's requirements and those of other related legislation in the development plan.
Call to ensure NPF4 locks-in climate positive behaviours.	A new overarching Policy 1 in the revised NPF4 has been added to set out that the contribution of	To respond to the UK Climate Change Committee.

Changes to Draft NPF4 – General Changes

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	development proposals to the global climate emergency and nature emergency should carry significant weight in planning decisions.	
How will policy be delivered and resourced including skills?	No change.	The delivery of NPF4 is a shared responsibility of all stakeholders. To support this, a Delivery Programme has been published alongside the Revised Draft version which sets out key actions to implement its priorities and policies.

Figure 2: Shift from 4 themes to 3



Strategic hierarchy and relationships

Summary of representations

A number of respondents commented on the inter-relationships between NPF4 and a range of other national, regional or local strategies or plans. A general observation was that NPF4 misses an opportunity to clearly state where it sits within the overall context of other Scottish Government plans and strategies.

At a national level, it was noted that the aims of NPF4, chiefly the just transition to net zero, adoption of place-based working and delivery of a wellbeing economy, are shared across a number of current and emerging strategies and statutory documents.

Strategies referenced included the National Strategy for Economic Transformation, Heat in Buildings Strategy, Town Centre Action Plans, Land Use Strategy and the forthcoming Biodiversity Strategy.

Being clear about the relationship between NPF4 and these related strategies was seen as offering the best chance of success, with the quality of alignment seen as key. It was suggested that this is especially important when it comes to the successful delivery of those individual planning policies which cross over into other areas and where strategies have complementary aims.

Overview of changes

The narrative for each theme now covers links and relationships with other national strategies and policies. A new schematic (Table 1 in Revised NPF4) has also been added to show key policy links. The new 'How to Use this Document' Annex covers the roles of NPF and other plans in the planning system (including Regional Spatial Strategies, Local Development Plans and Local Place Plans) and also references Regional Transport Strategies.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Lack of clear explanation of where NPF4 sits within the overall context of other Scottish Government plans and strategies.	Revised NPF4 aligns with all relevant Scottish Government plans and strategies.	To respond to stakeholder and committee views. Over the lifespan of the NPF, new strategies will emerge and others may be superseded. The NPF4 Delivery Programme includes detail of the relationship with other key national plans and strategies.
Consider what more could be done to enable users of NPF4 to better understand links to other strategies and the synergies between them, so that they can take them into account in decision making.	Table 1 in Revised Draft NPF4 shows at a glance how all the themes, spatial principles, National Developments and policies fit together as well as how they relate to wider strategies.	

Changes to Draft NPF4 – General Changes

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Calls for more cross referencing between policies.	We have added references to a number of key policies and strategies in Revised Draft NPF4 Part 1, under the narrative for each theme. These updates outline the role that these strategies play and how they link and can help deliver that theme. The Revised Draft NPF4 'How to Use this Document' Annex explains the status of NPF4 as part of the development plan in the planning system.	
The relationship between NPF4 and a number of other policies and strategies could be more explicit and the NPF4 could elaborate on how conflicts between them are dealt with – which strategies take priority.		
Calls for guidance from other parts of Scottish Government/agencies to be referenced.		
Concern that there is insufficient reference to Regional Transport Strategies.	New text added in Revised NPF4 Annex A on 'How to use this Document' to reference Regional Transport Strategies.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Call to clearly set out NPF4's connections with LDPs and Regional Spatial Strategies.	New Revised NPF4 Annex (Annex A) on 'How to use this Document', which covers the roles of NPF and other plans in the planning system (including Regional Spatial Strategies, LDPs and Local Place Plans).	To respond to stakeholder views.
Greater clarity on priorities required if the ambitions of NPF4 are to be delivered in a coherent and consistent way – consider whether more could be done to provide decision makers with clarity and certainty.	Multiple changes to structure and wording have been carried out throughout the document to add clarity and clarify intent. Revised NPF4 Policy 1 added to clarify that significant weight is to be given to the climate emergency and nature crisis.	To provide clarity in response to Committee (LGHP) and stakeholder views.
Consider how digital tools might improve the accessibility of NPF4 and understanding of the interrelationship between parts of the document.	No change.	LGHP Committee request. Improving digital tools, including the accessibility of NPF4 is part of our wider Digital Transformation

Changes to Draft NPF4 – General Changes

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		Programme. We will explore how NPF4 can be brought together with LDPs in a single development planning platform at the appropriate stage in the digital transformation programme.

Language

Summary of representations

A frequently-raised issue related to the wording used across NPF4, including the frequent use of 'should'. It was suggested that this is ambiguous, and it is not clear where this means that the relevant policy must be complied with. Another frequent concern was around references to development being 'supported' or 'not supported', and there was a question as to whether this means that development is to be approved or not to be approved?

Overview of changes

The wording, and use of language has been refined throughout the Revised NPF4 document, particularly within the policies, to provide greater clarity and consistency. Further clarity of definitions of terms provided, with both further detail provided within the [Part 3](#) policies section and with additional terms defined in the [Glossary](#).

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Use of 'should'	Policies have been reworded using 'will/will not be supported'. 'Will be supported' is often used within LDPs and is considered to be established development plan wording. Further clarification has been added to Revised NPF4 Annex A to clarify that the decision maker must take into account all relevant policies and material considerations.	To respond to stakeholder views by providing clarification.
References to development being 'supported' or 'not supported', and whether this means that development is to be approved or not to be approved.		
Policy priorities and spatial principles must be applied consistently throughout the document – NPF4 must be internally consistent.	Edits have addressed consistency, both in terms of consistent wording and policy intent. Within the policies at Revised NPF4 Part 2, details of connections to relevant spatial principles have been added for consistency in policy application.	To respond to LGHP Committee.
Work on clarity of definitions of terms – e.g.	Text throughout the document has been	

Changes to Draft NPF4 – General Changes

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
'community wealth building' and '20 minute neighbourhoods'.	reviewed and strengthened.	To respond to Committee (LGHP, RAINE, NZET, HSCS and UK Climate Change Committee).
Work on certainty and clarity in language throughout framework.	Glossary definitions have been refined and additional definitions have been added.	

Additional general points beyond text content of NPF4

Issue	Comments
A number of calls were made for further guidance on a range of issues and policy topics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wording has been improved throughout to provide greater clarity. Details of planned guidance, to support the delivery of NPF4, are set out in the Delivery Programme which will be updated throughout the life of NPF4. This is not an exhaustive list, but focuses on priority areas of guidance.
Consider how mapping could be included in future iterations of NPF.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recognised that mapping is a powerful tool. Mapped analysis informed preparation of the spatial strategy as well as regional-scale input to the collaborative preparation process. We will continue build on the use of spatial data in the wider Digital Transformation Programme.
Calls for training for elected members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Planning Act 2019 includes provisions which make the training of elected members who sit on a planning committee mandatory. We will shortly be commencing stakeholder workshops which will inform the development of a consultation paper setting out our proposed approach.
Calls for more resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We recognise the concerns over a lack of resources, in terms of headcount and skills, to implement and support the delivery of NPF4. In reviewing policies, we have sought to ensure additional requirements are reasonable and appropriate. We are taking forward collaborative work around investing in the planning service and skills in the planning system.
Role of communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new section on outcomes around 'A Fair And Inclusive Planning System' highlights that throughout the planning system, opportunities are available to engage in development planning and decisions about future development. Such engagement, undertaken in line with statutory requirements, should be early, collaborative, meaningful and proportionate.
Planning Skills - calls for a resource and skills strategy to be prepared.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not for NPF4 content. We are engaging with COSLA and Heads of Planning Scotland to understand the pressures faced by the planning service and to promote a highly performing system which can deliver on the ambitions for planning set out in NPF4. Scottish Government will work with Partners in Planning to develop a skills strategy which will identify the specialist skills required in the future planning system to ensure we have planners with the skills to deliver on our ambitions for Scotland.
Calls for more details of/funding to support delivery of NPF4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More detail is provided in Part 4 and our Delivery Programme.

Part 1- Spatial Strategy

Spatial Strategy

The draft national spatial strategy was themed around Sustainable, Liveable, Productive and Distinctive places.

Summary of representations

A number of the comments addressed the deliverability of Liveable places, with observations including that there is very little detail on how transformative social and economic change is going to be delivered. Respondents also commented on the importance of communities being empowered to be the key drivers of this change.

There was support for the focus on the just transition to net zero and a nature-positive economy. It was noted that the move to a greener economy could provide opportunities for business development, job creation and investment in communities, through community wealth building. In relation to rural, highland and islands settings, it was suggested that their distinctive socio-economic and market characteristics require a flexible, responsive approach to development, taking account of local context and need.

It was noted that the concept of Distinctive places is already well embedded in the planning system and there were concerns around how high level strategy translates into the individual policies required for delivery. There was support for a stronger commitment to placemaking, although it was argued that, at present, the design-led approach and quality outcomes identified do not feed through into policy.

Overview of changes

The spatial strategy section has been re-presented. We have moved from 4 themes to 3 to better reflect the three pillars of sustainable development. Narrative to each theme has been updated and wording sharpened. Clear linkages to other relevant policies and strategies have been added. Priorities for each theme along with National Developments that will help to deliver the theme have been more clearly presented. Text outlining cross-cutting outcomes and policy links has also been added.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
NPF4 needs to address the needs of all of Scotland's places and people and have clear outcomes and goals to deliver transformative change.	Detail of outcomes and addressing these aspects added and expanded upon upfront (from previously being in an Annex), clearer demonstration of how the spatial strategy supported	To respond to Committee (LGHP).

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	by the policies can deliver on outcomes. Outcomes and policy intent added to every Revised NPF4 policy for ease of reference.	
Reference to the Place Principle.	Place Principle references strengthened in Revised NPF4 including in relation to National Developments, design and local living. It is also a key element of the Delivery Programme.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Should be place based with rural, island, urban and peri-urban principles.	Revisions to the document as a whole have taken into account the varying need of different places.	Planning authorities can interpret the principles and provide further detail tailored to their specific needs if necessary.
Make connections to part 3 policies.	Spatial principles now embedded in thematic policies under Revised NPF4 'Policy Impact' sub-heading.	Responding to stakeholder views and ensuring ease of use of the document.
Gaelic – lack of reference or appropriate reference to the importance of the Gaelic language and culture in areas of the country.	Text added.	To respond to RAINE Committee.
Funding needed.	No change.	Delivery programme sets out information on infrastructure funding and finance.
Expand references to the pandemic.	References strengthened throughout document with particular emphasis on reflecting the impact of the pandemic under the narrative for each theme.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Should be a statutory requirement for planning decisions to favour net zero and nature recovery objectives.	Revised NPF4 Policy 1 strengthened to give significant weight to both the climate and nature crises.	To respond to stakeholder views.
National Spatial Strategy map should include further detail.	Maps have been updated. The strategy map now also shows the National Developments.	To respond to stakeholder views.

Spatial principles for Scotland 2045

The Draft NPF4 set out that, in order to build a climate-conscious and nature-positive future, our strategy and the policies that support its delivery are based on six overarching principles.

Summary of representations

Although views were mixed, more respondents agreed that the spatial principles will enable the right choices to be made about where development should be located than disagreed. It was suggested that the spatial principles seem to encapsulate what NPF4 is seeking to deliver, including by recognising that a 'one-size-fits-all' approach would not be appropriate.

However, there was also a view that, as currently formulated, the spatial principles might not enable the right choices to be made. Related concerns included that the principles lack clarity and definition. There was a concern that it is not clear how this section is intended to be used by stakeholders of the planning system, what weight these principles will have, or how the spatial principles should or would inform consistent decision-making. Compact growth was the spatial principle that most divided opinion

Overview of changes

The spatial principles have been retained and better represented throughout the document. Table 1 in Revised NPF4 shows how they fit into the overall framework. A policy impact section for each themed policy in Revised NPF4 Part 2 shows which spatial principles the policy will help to deliver.

The narrative around each principle has been strengthened and 3 principles have been renamed to respond to stakeholder views.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Not clear how spatial principles should be used/ what weight they will have.	Text added to the spatial principles section setting out how to apply the principles in practice. The updated 'How to Use this Document' section is now Revised NPF4 Annex A and provides further information.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
More spatial principles should be added.	No change.	Suggested topics for additional principles are generally well represented in other parts of Revised NPF4.

Part 1 – Spatial Strategy

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Too urban-centric.	Text refreshed and updated throughout. Revised NPF4 includes new policy 17 on Rural Homes.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Consider how priorities and principles could be built upon to more clearly emphasise the contribution NPF4 makes to addressing inequalities, health and wellbeing and the needs of rural and island areas.	New sections on outcomes drafted and moved into themed introduction.	To respond to Committee (LGHP and RAINE).
Reference to the Place Principle.	Place Principle references strengthened as noted above.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Should be place based with rural, island, urban and peri-urban principles.	No change.	NPF4 is a place-based strategy for Scotland as a whole. More detailed place-based approaches are expected to emerge in subsequent LDPs, informed also by future Regional Spatial Strategies. Planning authorities can interpret the principles and provide further detail tailored to their specific needs if necessary.
Compact growth – not relevant in rural areas.	Amended and retitled to focus on Compact Urban Growth. Updated explanation provided.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
Compact growth - not always appropriate to use derelict land.	No change.	Issue covered by themed policies including Housing and Brownfield Land.
Compact growth – delivery of housing will be reliant on land coming forward through LDPs.	No change.	Plan Led system. Issues covered by Revised NPF4 Policy 16 Quality Homes.
Local living – clarity needed on 20 minute neighbourhoods particularly in rural areas.	No change to spatial strategy but wording strengthened in the Glossary. The local living policy	To respond to Committee (LGHP and RAINE) and stakeholder views. Supporting guidance is in preparation.

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	has also been revised referring to the principles of local living more broadly, this will allow the policy to be more readily applied to rural areas through alternative solutions.	
Balanced development.	Renamed rebalanced development with updated explanation.	To provide clarity.
Balanced development - equality in digital needs to be recognised.	Digital equality now referenced.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
Rural urban synergy.	Changed to 'rural revitalisation' to provide a clearer principle which complements the refocusing on compact urban growth.	To provide a clearer steer and embed a key statutory outcome across the document as a whole.
Definitions of terms.	Various terms added and defined in the Glossary.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.

Action areas for Scotland 2045

The draft NPF stated that each part of Scotland can make a unique contribution to building a better future. It explains that our shared spatial strategy will be taken forward in five action areas and that each area can support all spatial principles.

Summary of representations

General comments included that the spatial strategy action areas provide a strong basis to take forward regional priority actions and that the Draft NPF4 does appear to have identified appropriate priorities for different parts of the country.

One of the most frequently-raised issues was the relationship between the action areas and other spatial areas, with respondents most likely to comment on their connection to Regional Spatial Strategies. It was noted, for example, that considerable work has been put into the preparation of Indicative Regional Spatial Strategies but that the extent to which those have played a part in the preparation of the Draft NPF4 is unclear.

A number of respondents thought that, rather than creating new action areas, it might be clearer if Regional Spatial Strategy areas were used as the spatial expression of policy approaches.

Another frequently-raised issue was the relationship between the action areas and local authority boundaries, with concerns raised about some local authorities being split between different action areas.

- **North and west coastal innovation**

General comments included that there is potential for conflict between the different strategic actions proposed for the North and west. In relation to creating carbon neutral coastal and island communities, the recognition that island and coastal communities will need a bespoke and flexible approach to the concept of 20 minute neighbourhoods was welcomed.

Four strategic actions were included for the North and west coastal innovation action area in the Draft NPF4. With reference to reversing population decline, there were questions about the viability of reintroducing people to previously inhabited areas. There was a call for existing communities to be supported prior to the development of projects aimed at reintroducing people to areas that are not currently inhabited.

- **Northern revitalisation**

A number of comments suggested that there is a great deal of crossover between the Northern and North and west action areas. Some respondents proposed combining them.

Four strategic actions were included for the Northern revitalisation action area in the Draft NPF4. There was support for the reference to the importance of renewable energy generation for climate mitigation, and the need for the repowering and

extension of existing wind farms. However, there were also calls for clarity on what approach will be followed for new wind farm proposals.

- **North east transition**

A general comment was that the North east action area is very much focused on the energy transition, but that there is much more to this region. A connected concern was a view that there is a lack of ambition, vision and understanding of the region.

Four strategic actions were included for the North east transition action area. General comments about the transition to net zero (Action 9) included that it is applicable to whole of Scotland. There was also a call for the action to reflect the potential of the entire north-eastern coastline.

- **Central urban transformation**

Although there were some broad statements of support, a number of respondents raised concerns about either the size of this action area, or the diversity of the communities and places that it covers. There was a particular concern that there is a strong urban focus, and that the challenges and opportunities identified, along with the strategic actions, are less relevant to the significant rural population.

Nine strategic actions were included for the Central urban transformation action area. It was noted that realising a number of the strategic actions will require a regional and catchment scale approach and that the role of the Regional Spatial Strategies to spatially coordinate activities and guide delivery at scale and across authority boundaries, will be key.

- **Southern sustainability**

There was a concern that this action area is not ambitious enough and needs to better reflect the realities of the region. In addition to generally making the language more proactive, it was suggested that the region's contribution to achieving net zero, along with the economic ambitions of the region, should be referenced.

Four strategic actions were included for the Southern sustainability action area. General comments included that the strategic actions could also be more ambitious. Regarding innovating to sustain and enhance natural capital, there was reference to the UNESCO Biosphere and its role in delivery of ecosystem services.

Overview of changes

The principle of Action Areas is retained and refined. The areas are refocused as Regional Spatial Priorities, with an emphasis on context, challenges, priorities and delivery, and the detail moved to Revised NPF4 Annex C.

The approach to these responses reflects an appropriate level of detail for a national spatial strategy. Further detail is expected to emerge in subsequent Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans. It would not be appropriate for NPF4 to seek to pre-determine regional and local placed-based responses to the Scotland-wide priorities it sets out.

The changes do however, aim to provide a clearer direction on the distinct challenges facing rural and island communities, and other detailed comments and additions have been taken on board in both the main text and more detailed annexes.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
All areas		
Spectrum of views of the utility of this part of the strategy including concerns that areas are untested and questions about application in practice.	Amended. Action Areas refocused as Regional Spatial Priorities and the interaction with Regional Spatial Strategies is set out in the Revised NPF4 Annex A 'How to use this Document'.	The Regional Spatial Priorities give a clear steer on the strategic priorities for each area, which should be considered further through both future RSS and LDPs.
Views that interim spatial strategies are not reflected.	The Delivery Programme also makes connections with regional scale planning for example by setting out the geography of city and growth deals.	This part of the document has been informed by indicative RSS, with NPF4 highlighting priorities from a broader, national perspective.
Comments on varying regional geographies and the link between Action Areas and Regional Spatial Strategies, Regional Transport Strategies and local authority boundaries.	Statutory guidance on Regional Spatial Strategies will be developed in due course.	The broader action areas are flexible, reflect cross-boundary issues and recognise the spatial issues span administrative areas.

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Concerns raised about some local authorities being split between different action areas.	Amended. The maps are indicative and some authorities may have a role to play in more than one regional area in response to cross-boundary issues. Revised text in Revised NPF4 Annex A gives clarity on the extent of the Regional Spatial Strategy areas.	Refocused Regional Spatial Priorities set out how each part of the country can help to deliver the overall strategy. Boundaries are intended to be flexible, recognising that planning authorities will define the appropriate geography for Regional Spatial Strategies, and that this may change over time.
Distinct priorities (innovation, transformation, revitalisation, transition, sustainability) apply to other/all areas.	Amended. Descriptive subtitle for areas have been removed, recognising overlaps.	Amendment responds to stakeholder views.
North and west coastal innovation		
Reasonable summary of the issues but should not be read as comprehensive.	No change.	The Revised NPF4 'How to Use this Document' Annex A provides further clarity on the role of this section.
This is a diverse area with differences including varying settlement patterns and population change.	Detailed amendments made to text.	To ensure that differences between the areas are noted and reflect stakeholder views.
Northern revitalisation/North West coastal innovation – suggestion to combine these action areas.	No change to broad areas. Amended North and West Coast and Islands remain separate from North to allow the strategy to reflect the particular opportunities and issues for coasts and islands. A stronger narrative on the links west and north to coastal and island communities is provided.	Regional Spatial Priorities sets out how each part of the country can use their assets and opportunities to help deliver the overall strategy. Within this broad framework, planning authorities are encouraged to work flexibly and to define the geography of their Regional Spatial Strategy as appropriate. The strategy has been designed to act as a clear but flexible framework for future RSS and LDPs to respond to.

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Further places to be highlighted or included in the area.	Detailed amendments made to text. Removed strategic diagram showing boundaries to allow for flexibility in application.	To reflect additional priorities and areas highlighted by stakeholders.
Proposals to add further detail on a range of issues including coastal change, environment assets, climate adaptation, connectivity, population change; housing, community wealth/ownership, cost of living, Gaelic, aquaculture and employment.	Various amendments and additional text has been included add further detail on specific opportunities and challenges.	To reflect additional detail provided by stakeholders as far as possible, whilst maintaining a strategic perspective. RSS can address many of these issues in further detail as appropriate.
Concerns about conflict between strategic actions.	These tensions are noted. Policies have been reviewed to ensure trade-offs and synergies between objectives are clearer.	The planning system has a critical role to play in balancing competing objectives.
20 minute neighbourhood concept requires bespoke approach/ cannot be delivered in communities in this part of Scotland.	Amended text to provide greater flexibility.	To ensure that the policy intention of supporting local liveability is applied in a flexible way.
Questions about the viability of reintroducing people to previously inhabited areas.	Amended wording focuses on supporting existing settlements and where appropriate encouraging people to previously inhabited areas where it can be achieved in line with our climate commitments and wider aspirations to create sustainable places. This is now supported by updated policies on rural housing and development which reflect the role of LDPs in taking this forward.	This is a statutory requirement introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. The changes aim to reverse past depopulation and support existing settlements in more peripheral and fragile areas in a way that is compatible with our low carbon agenda and which is driven by place-based LDPs.
Proposals to add further detail on renewable energy	Amended text in Revised NPF4 Annex C reflects	To reflect additional priorities and areas highlighted by stakeholders.

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
opportunities, innovation, ports, space ports, food and drink and tourism.	additional detail provided as appropriate.	
Northern revitalisation		
Comprehensive summary but focus is on extracting benefit from the area's assets rather than creating vibrant and sustainable places. Revitalisation not the priority throughout the area.	Amended text including key priorities, aims to reflect the importance of strengthening communities.	To reflect stakeholder views on the overall tone of this section.
Further detail suggested on specific projects, environmental assets, landscape protection, forestry and peatland restoration, housing, tourism, flooding and water.	Some specific/targeted additions made to text.	While these projects are recognised as important, more specific detail is expected to be appropriate for RSS to take forward.
Calls for clarity on what approach will be followed for new wind farm proposals.	No change. The detailed policy framework sets out the approach to be followed for new wind farm proposals across Scotland.	The annex text acknowledges the area's support for renewable energy generation and the potential for repowering and extending existing sites.
Comments on the title of "strengthen networks of resilient communities."	Spatial priority heading amended.	To provide a more rounded description.
Comments on economic development: flexible approach, tourism impact, renewable energy and infrastructure, ports.	Some specific/targeted additions made to text.	While these projects are recognised as important, more specific detail is expected to be appropriate for RSS to take forward.
Comments on the environmental	Some specific/targeted additions made to text.	While these projects are recognised as important, more

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
priorities under this theme including opportunities arising, questions about terminology and scope to align with Regional Land Use Partnerships.		specific detail is expected to be appropriate for RSS to take forward.
Connectivity (digital and physical) is important. Proposals to include a range of specific transport improvements.	Spatial priorities reflect importance of connectivity. Some additional references added e.g. A82 and Oban airport.	Additional detail appropriate for STPR2 and RSS/Regional Transport Strategies.
North east transition		
Too focused on the energy transition, lack of ambition, vision and understanding of the region.	Amended wording, with focus on context and priorities, gives a broader sense of the region's assets and potential and provides more detail on specific projects.	Regional spatial priorities sets out how each part of the country can use their assets and opportunities to help deliver the overall strategy. The strategy has been designed to act as a clear but flexible framework for future RSS and LDPs to respond to.
Questions about extent and boundaries.	Amended Regional Spatial Priorities highlight support for continued economic diversification and innovation.	Regional Spatial Priorities sets out how each part of the country can use their assets and opportunities to help deliver the overall strategy. The strategy has been designed to act as a clear but flexible framework for future RSS and LDPs to respond to.
Proposals for more specific detail/ commitments to a range of infrastructure/ development projects.	Some specific/targeted additions made to text.	While these projects are recognised as important, more specific detail is expected to be appropriate for RSS to take forward.
Additions suggested including on biodiversity, housing, farming and crofting,	Some specific/targeted additions made to text.	While these projects are recognised as important, more specific detail is expected to be appropriate for RSS to take forward.

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
aquaculture, timber production and processing, nature, community empowerment, skills gaps, city centres, coastal regeneration challenges, water supply delivery.		
Transition to net zero applicable to all of Scotland. Should recognise potential of the wider coastline.	Some specific/targeted additions made to text including reference to broader coastline.	Net zero has been considered across all action areas.
Detailed comments on green energy including hydrogen and CCS, solar. Opportunities from ScotWind for ports and harbours.	Some specific additions made, also acknowledging that wider consents are relevant.	Further detail is also included in the national development description.
Too great an emphasis on reducing car use/20 minute neighbourhoods in largely rural areas. Range of views on transport solutions.	Text amended to reflect flexibility of local liveability rather than only 20 minute neighbourhoods.	To reflect stakeholder views and recognise the diversity of the area.
Central urban transformation		
Concerns about the size and diversity of the area.	No change to extent of the area. Additional guidance on how to use NPF4 has been provided in Revised NPF4 Annex A. Description revised to give clearer view on geographic extent – mapping is indicative. Diversity reflected in amended text.	The scale is recognised as significant, but the area is considered to be of an appropriate scale within a broad spatial strategy for Scotland as a whole. This provides flexibility for RSS to emerge within the area which will provide additional detail on strategic priorities over time.
A range of specific projects should be referenced.	Text amended to reflect projects as far as possible and appropriate.	To reflect stakeholder views as appropriate, whilst recognising that additional detail will be provided in RSS.

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Contrasts between Glasgow and Edinburgh city regions should be amended.	Description amended to reflect local variations in levels of deprivation/ market.	To reflect stakeholder views whilst maintaining strategic point of variation across the area as shown in spatial evidence.
More emphasis on health and deprivation, town centres, tourism, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and food.	Additional text added as appropriate. Particular additions on health and wellbeing/inequality.	To reflect stakeholder views and ensure strategic challenges are reflected as appropriate.
Questions about whether all actions are relevant to all areas.	No change	The strategy is designed to provide a flexible framework within which more detailed RSS and LDPs can be developed.
More information on delivery required/ deliverability/ resources from Scottish Government.	A Delivery Programme sets out our approach to delivery, recognising the importance of partnership working in delivery.	To provide a clear pathway to support delivery.
20 minute neighbourhoods will be more deliverable here rather than in other areas. Public transport/active travel links between and within them will be important, as well as digital links.	The related policy has been updated to provide clarity on the relevant considerations for planning.	Recognition of the importance of this area in delivering 20 minute neighbourhoods is welcome.
Former coalfield communities should be prioritised	Now highlighted in the text.	To reflect stakeholder views.
Specific comments on cities and town centre challenges.	Minor changes incorporated.	Further development of this theme in regional spatial strategic are expected to take forward more detailed/ varying issues raised.
Green infrastructure – specific comments as well as emphasis on the need for collaboration and investment.	Some specific additions have been made to reflect additional projects.	To reflect stakeholder views.

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Specific comments on strategic investment sites.	Additional text added to reflect investment opportunities.	To reflect stakeholder views.
Climate impacts on urban coasts and waterfronts should be acknowledged. Wider role of ports should be recognised/specific projects and priorities for ports in the area. Further specific locations and coasts should be mentioned.	Additional reference to climate adaptation and port based opportunities added.	To reflect stakeholder views as far as appropriate, recognising that some projects will be for regional and local scale planning to take forward.
Support for reusing sites/buildings, but support required for delivery including policy and infrastructure.	A Delivery Programme sets out our approach to delivery, recognising the importance of partnership working in delivery.	To provide a clear pathway to support delivery.
Net zero housing will be a significant challenge. More homes also required. More detail on retrofit/ development sector role required.	Minor amendments to text. A Delivery Programme sets out our approach to delivery, recognising the importance of partnership working in delivery. This priority is already reflected in wider investment programmes.	It is recognised that significant investment in existing homes will be required to achieve net zero.
Questions about the meaning and extent of the urban fringe and relationships between cities and rural areas.	Urban fringe removed and replaced with more descriptive text.	To avoid confusion around terminology.
Specific suggestions for including more detail on transport including public transport projects, active travel, roads projects.	No change.	The strategic projects noted are considered appropriate for inclusion in a national spatial strategy. Further detail will emerge in RSS and Regional Transport Strategies, within the context of both NPF4 and STPR2.
Community wealth building should be properly defined.	Policy amendments have been made, complementing the broad approach of the spatial strategy.	To provide clarity and respond to stakeholder views.

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Strong urban focus, and that the challenges and opportunities identified, along with the strategic actions, are not relevant to the significant rural population.	Amended Regional Spatial Priorities for Central focus on tackling inequalities and building a new, greener, future for this part of the country.	The detail in revised NPF4 Annex C gives further guidance on spatial planning priorities.
Southern sustainability		
More emphasis should be given to the role of the area in net zero and its economic ambitions.	Various amendments made to address both net zero and economic opportunities.	To reflect stakeholder views and ensure the tone reflects regional priorities/strategies.
Boundaries and extent of the area should be considered further.	Text as a whole reviewed to ensure geographic extent is more fully covered. Additional explanation provided. Cross border links also referenced.	To provide more clarity on the extent of the area.
Reference should be made to specific projects including the UNESCO Biosphere reserve and Galloway Forest Dark Skies Park.	References added.	To highlight additional opportunities/assets in the area and reflect stakeholder views.
More emphasis on natural capital for example peatland and competing land uses/biodiversity.	Additional references added e.g. to land based industries.	To reflect stakeholder views.
Further issues to be addressed: flood risk, onshore wind/transport/Regional Transport Strategy, food and recreation/tourism, blue green infrastructure, climate adaptation.	Changes made as appropriate for a national scale strategy. Many of these issues are addressed across the document as a whole.	To reflect stakeholder views whilst maintaining a broader perspective for the national spatial strategy.
More detail proposed on ambitions for settlements/wider coverage of low	Additional references made including to the importance of housing provisions and the importance of communities in shaping their future.	To reflect stakeholder views.

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
carbon towns. 20 minute neighbourhoods require tailored approach. Housing requirements of the area should be addressed.		
Further reference should be made to transport and travel	Broad reference to the importance of connectivity included/specific updates provided.	To reflect stakeholder views as appropriate at a national scale.
Range of comments on further opportunities for economic activity and education.	Additional projects added.	To ensure the extent of the area is reflected, for example with additional reference to projects in Ayrshire.
Concern that this action area is not ambitious enough – call for the region's contribution to achieving net zero, and the economic ambitions of the region, to be referenced.	Amended Regional Spatial Priorities for South set out a strategy which aims to ensure that the area fulfils its potential as a place to live, work and visit, with a focus on climate change, increasing the population and supporting economic development.	The detail in Revised NPF4 Annex C gives further guidance on spatial planning priorities.

Part 2 – National Developments

Summary of Representations on proposed National Developments

A number of issues were raised in relation to the implications of National Development status, including suggestions that it should carry a presumption in favour of planning consent. It was also suggested that guidance will be needed with respect to how to balance the competing priorities of different National Developments, and that it would be helpful to explain how National Developments might interact with Regional Spatial Strategies and the NPF4 action areas.

In relation to the selection of National Developments, it was suggested it would be helpful to set out the rationale for selecting those chosen and why some are conceptual, and others are existing proposals.

Overview of changes

We have reordered the National Developments to work with the three themes for the document as a whole (see [Figure 3](#)). The main document now includes a summary of each development, whilst the technical descriptions have been moved to Revised NPF4 Annex B. We have also made connections to the National Developments in each of the action areas. These structural changes also reflect Committee comments received. The preamble to the statements of need has been revised and included at Annex B with some elements taken into the Delivery Programme. An additional paragraph has been added to the preamble at Annex B to take account of impact assessment findings.

Each national development has been updated, with many of the changes being relatively minor. However, in response to both consultation views and the associated impact assessments, more substantive changes have been made to the Islands Hub for Net Zero, Dundee Waterfront, the Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities and Hunterston Strategic Asset. These changes are described in more detail below.

Some respondents also provided a range of national development suggestions in addition to those proposed in the draft. No further National Developments are proposed at this stage on the basis that the additional proposals have previously been considered following the earlier call for ideas; are more of a policy or strategy than development; are likely to be of sub-national impact in spatial planning terms; and/or already have consents in place or construction is advanced.

Figure 3: National Developments re-ordered under 3 Themes
(Titles as per Draft NPF4)

Sustainable places	Liveable places	Productive Places
Urban mass/rapid transit	National walking, cycling and wheeling network	High Speed Rail
Islands hub for net zero	Digital Fibre Network	Industrial Green Transition Zones
Pumped hydro storage	Stranraer Gateway	Aberdeen Harbour
Urban sustainable blue and green drainage solutions	Central Scotland Green Network	Clyde Mission
Strategic renewable electricity generation and transmission infrastructure	Dundee Waterfront	Chapelcross power station redevelopment
Circular economy materials management facilities	Edinburgh Waterfront	Hunterston strategic asset

Combined comments relating to multiple National Developments and their classes

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Request for further clarity on how the National Developments relate to the rest of the framework/each other.	National Developments more strongly linked to the Action Areas and overall aims of NPF4.	To respond to LGHP Committee and stakeholder views and provide further clarity. Actions to progress work with lead partners and national developments more broadly is set out in the Delivery Programme.
Request for clarity on the benefit of national development status.	Text now sets out the purpose of National Developments.	To respond to Committee (NZET) and stakeholder views.
Request for additional detail around process, handling, data, learning and delivery.	Text added to the Revised NPF4 'How to Use this Document' Annex A, including role of LDPs and decision makers.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Requests for 'presumption in favour' for certain elements of National Developments.	No change.	The need for the development is established and other policies also apply in determining applications for consent.
Concern that the 'Town and Country planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland)	No change.	National Developments are designated through the NPF rather than regulations. Some classes

PART 2 – National Developments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Regulations 2009 do not include classes specifically addressing particular National Developments.		of the Regulations will directly apply and the regulations include an 'Other Development' class which can be applied to a variety of development proposals.
Boundaries for National Developments/include additional locations within National Developments/make location specific National Developments nation-wide.	Minor amendments.	To respond to stakeholder views. More definite boundaries/locations than those set out in the draft have not been provided given the high level nature of the National Developments. As delivery progresses and project level detail becomes clearer we will seek to provide more fixed boundaries in collaboration with project leads, where relevant. It was not considered appropriate to broaden location-specific developments nationally given the alignment of the National Developments with the broader spatial strategy.
Mapping	Removal of indicative maps within Statement of Need.	For clarity. Maps not considered to add any detail not provided in the overall National Development map. As delivery progresses and project level detail becomes clearer we will seek to provide more fixed boundaries in collaboration with project leads, where relevant.
Concern that relevant contributing development that does not meet the scale thresholds identified is not mentioned in the description are considered unimportant.	No change.	Scaling designed to ensure that National Developments are applied in a proportionate way. Broader policy and the spatial strategy also highlights the combined benefit of smaller scale

PART 2 – National Developments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		developments in achieving strategic aims.
Concern energy related thresholds beyond the hierarchy of developments are too low or too high.	No change.	The 50 MW threshold for electricity generation reflects the Electricity Act thresholds for Ministerial level decision making and is considered a proportionate approach.
Expression of energy generation and transmission thresholds should align to the Electricity Act.	The expression of the thresholds has been better aligned to the Electricity Act.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
Concern that scope of designation/classes is too broad/risk of catching unintended developments.	Amended the 'designation' text to reference the national development title.	National development titles are reflected in the 'designation' text to clearly link the classes to the intended development.
<p>Suggestions that National Developments should protect certain features, habitats and species, including those that are designated and non-designated.</p> <p>Question whether there will be the right trade-off between development and protection.</p> <p>Habitat Regulations Appraisal should be taken into account.</p>	<p>Removed the class of development for quay and handling facilities for ultra large container ships in Scapa Flow, and of land reclamation for port expansion from Dundee Waterfront, as our emerging appropriate assessment identified (on the basis of information available at this stage in the planning process) that it was not possible to conclude that these projects could be progressed without adversely affecting several European sites. This conclusion must be considered again at future stages of the planning process, including at development plan and project level, when more detailed information should be available to inform assessment.</p> <p>Aspirations for relevant developments are however</p>	<p>To respond to Committee (NZET).</p> <p>National Developments focus on future development. They are supported by the wider NPF4 policy which sets out protections as necessary across a variety of topics.</p> <p>The National Developments have been informed by an Integrated Impact Assessment.</p>

PART 2 – National Developments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	acknowledged in the spatial strategy.	
Request that National Developments include further detail on a range of matters/policy detail.	No change.	NZET Committee request. The 'How To...' section outlines the relationship between National Developments and policy.
Should be aligned to STPR2.	Text amended to reflect the consultation draft STPR2.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Should reference post draft emerging priorities/ initiatives including ScotWind, Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Leasing and Green Freeports.	No change.	NPF4 reflects known priorities and commitments and has been designed to provide a long-term framework for further projects as they emerge.
Vacant and derelict land.	Changed reference from vacant and derelict land to 'brownfield land'.	Clarification. The change to brownfield land is consistent with NPF4 policy and includes but is not limited to sites identified on the vacant and derelict land register.
Minor points of detail/ project level detail.	Various amendments.	To respond to stakeholder views. Further more detailed project elements are for lead partners/applicants to take forward.
Some relevant infrastructure is permitted development or not controlled by the planning system.	No change.	National development status does not remove the need for other consents, nor create the requirement for a planning application where none exists at present.
Request to standardise classes relating to hydrogen production, transmission and storage.	Amended text.	To respond to stakeholder views. This provides clarification and has been aligned with hydrogen policy.
Request to not include any technologies that continue fossil fuel use.	No change.	Low carbon approaches are part of the transition to net-zero.
Requests to define terminology.	Amended text, where necessary. Terms have been defined in the Glossary where required.	To respond to stakeholder views.

PART 2 – National Developments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	More descriptive terms have not been defined as appropriate.	
Lifecycle Greenhouse Gas Emission Assessment should include the water requirements in calculation of carbon impacts of hydrogen production. Impact on local water supplies should be considered.	No change to text.	The greenhouse gas assessment considers emissions across the development lifecycle for both renewable and low-carbon hydrogen production technologies, including water consumption.
Request that National Developments be subject to assessment of their impact on physical activity/health, and that be equal to assessment on climate and nature.	No change.	HSCS Committee Request. The likely health effects of proposed National Developments have been considered and reported on as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment.
Request for mitigations from Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) be included.	No change.	Early IIA findings helped inform preparation of the NPF4 including the proposed National Developments.
Request to reflect on recommendations on predecessor committee.	No change.	LGHP Committee Request. The process for preparing, consulting on and scrutiny of NPF4 has evolved since the Scottish Parliament considered NPF3 as a result of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. National Developments were identified on the basis of an open call for evidence and published assessment criteria. They were included in the full Draft NPF4 which was subject to extensive consultation and Parliamentary scrutiny.

Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN)

Summary of representations

There was a view that NPF4 should more clearly set out how the CSGN's delivery will be aided through planning. Greater detail and more guidance on how LDPs and spatial strategies should be used to articulate and deliver National Developments was suggested. There were also calls for the CSGN network to be expanded to be a Scotland-wide National Development, or for the creation of a Scottish Nature Network.

Overview of changes

Minor changes to enhance inclusion of blue infrastructure. Amendment to class (a) to recognise that multi-functional green infrastructure may be about new areas for the infrastructure or enhancements of existing areas. Further points about implementation will guide future delivery. Significant changes to the locations of the National Developments were not considered necessary as the locations defined align with the spatial strategy.

Issues additional to those in the table of combined comments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Improve clarity and definition, include particular projects.	Minor change to text. CSGN will evolve over time, the high level approach allows for projects to be delivered within the identified classes.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Call for CSGN to be expanded to be a Scotland-wide national development, or for the creation of a Scottish Nature Network.	No change.	Committee request (NZET). This would be a different national development, see criteria for consideration of additional National Developments above.
Include adaptation as a function of the network.	No change.	Adaptation already referenced in the National Development.
Concern that local related supplementary guidance would be lost/reduced.	No change.	Whilst statutory Supplementary Guidance will no longer be part of the development plan, authorities can produce non-statutory guidance.
Class a. Clarify that not all works would be for new	Change incorporated.	To respond to stakeholder views.

PART 2 – National Developments - CSGN

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
land for or extensions to green infrastructure.		
Class a. Clarify that not all green spaces should be for multifunctional uses.	No change.	The description focuses on classes of development.
Class c. should move from creation of blue space to integration of blue within green infrastructure approaches.	National development text amended to better integrate blue space.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Class d. Include space for farmers markets.	No change.	Specific uses are included within the broader term of open space.
Class e. Should require incorporation of green infrastructure.	No change.	Green infrastructure is addressed by class a.

National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network (NWCWN)

Summary of representations

Inclusion of a National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network as a national development was welcomed, although it was also argued that it has limited applicability for reducing routine car journeys in rural Scotland. The importance of investment to deliver the network was highlighted, including a view that significant infrastructure investment, over and above existing budgets, will be required.

Overview of changes

These points do not necessitate a change.

Issues additional to those in the table of combined comments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Should be re-titled/adjusted to avoid confusion with National Cycle Network.	No change.	The title has been designed to reflect multi-users.
Routes should be defined, clarity on how routes trigger the classes.	No change.	All routes that meet the terms of the designation and class are included in the national development.
Request for detail on accessibility/design characteristics of the infrastructure.	No change.	Suitability for a range of users is included.

Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Drainage Solutions

Summary of representations

While the Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Drainage Solutions national development was welcomed, it was also argued that the principles apply beyond Glasgow and Edinburgh and should be extended to other cities and urban areas, or should be a Scotland-wide national development.

Overview of changes

Locational matters are addressed in the table of combined comments. A number of minor changes were made to clarify the role of the catchment areas and amend the approach to grey infrastructure to ensure sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) are not excluded as well as clarifying that released sewer capacity may not only be for new development. The title was amended for clarity.

Issues additional to those in the table of combined comments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Request for less emphasis on drainage.	Title and text amended to shift focus to surface water management and surface solutions to align with nature based solutions approach.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Request for greater emphasis on water catchment area beyond location reference.	Amended text. Reinforces the approach is beyond the city boundaries.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Request that approach to engineered solutions be softened to allow for Sustainable urban Drainage Systems.	Text amended to be more accommodating of engineered solutions whilst retain emphasis on nature based solutions.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Class should mirror those of Central Scotland Green Network.	No change.	Class is suitable for the national development. Alignment between outcomes across National Developments is possible.
Unclear if this applies to all major development.	Punctuation added to class (a) to show the types of development included.	To respond to stakeholder views.

Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks

Summary of representations

Comments in relation to Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks included that this national development should be extended to be a Scotland-wide development. The need for stronger public transport connectivity in rural areas was highlighted and it was suggested that a joined-up strategy should take account of new active travel routes as part of a NWCWN.

Overview of changes

No changes were required to address these points, the national development is in addition to the NPF4 policy on transport. Relationship to the delivery programme and mutually supporting National Developments is addressed in the table of combined comments above. Significant changes to the locations of the National Developments were not considered necessary as the locations defined support the spatial strategy.

Issues additional to those in the table of combined comments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Request for clarification through reference to specific projects.	No change.	The text is aligned to STPR2.
Calls for improvement included design with active travel synergy in mind, in particular cyclist safety, and protection for existing environments in any mass transit developments There were also calls to improve the walking environment and emphasis on the importance of buses.	No change.	NZET Committee request. National Developments work together with the wider planning policies in NPF4. Policies encourage modal shift and interconnectivity. Specific design will be taken forward at the project level, and will be required to respond to the planning policy context.

Digital Fibre Network

Summary of representations

Comments on the Digital Fibre network were largely limited to expressions of support. The importance of connectivity was highlighted in relation to remote access to services, Mobility as a Service, and reducing unnecessary travel.

Overview of changes

These points do not necessitate a change.

Issues additional to those in the table of combined comments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
New class. Add infrastructure climate resilience including through back-up systems.	No change.	The digital infrastructure is listed, back-up systems meeting the classes would be included. Detailed design is for the project level.

Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities

Summary of representations

Some respondents expressed support for the Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities national development, including a view that materials facilities could play a significant role in delivering greater sustainability in the construction and demolition industries.

There was also a call for clarity around how this national development will be delivered to avoid unintended outcomes.

Overview of changes

Points on delivery are included in the combined comments table.

Two classes have been removed: 'Repurposing facilities' and 'Reprocessing facilities' and definitions for the remaining two classes have been added to the Glossary. These two changes improve the clarity for the developments to be included in the national development.

Issues additional to those in the table of combined comments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Insufficient detail to inform decision making/clarify what isn't included, e.g. end of material life treatment.	Amended text - Number of classes reduced and definitions provided in the Glossary.	To respond to stakeholder views and improve clarity.
Call for clarity around delivery.	No change.	The Delivery Programme sets out actions to support the delivery of National Developments.
Request for support for/ policy on deconstruction.	No change.	NPF4 policy on zero waste includes minimising demolition and salvaging materials for re-use.

Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure

Summary of representations

This proposed national development was the national development that attracted the highest level of comments. Although aspects of this national development were welcomed, some respondents called for clarity that, in the planning balance, there should be significant weight attached to development that contributes directly to achieving net zero. The requirement that renewable energy generation developments should exceed a threshold of 50MW capacity in order to qualify for national development status was questioned. An alternative view was that the threshold should be raised, since the benefit of large-scale projects can clearly be seen to be of national importance.

Overview of changes

The table on combined responses includes a points on requests for further policy detail, including on climate change, and requests for alterations to the thresholds at which national development status applies. Decisions on applications for National Developments also need to include relevant policy matters. Revised NPF4 Policy 1 deals with the Global Climate Emergency. The text was amended for clarity, including for on and off-shore infrastructure and in relation to the context.

Issues additional to those in the table of combined comments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Request for presumption in favour of the development including repowering and life extensions.	No change.	National development status establishes the need for the development but other policy considerations still apply.
Request to include other electricity generating infrastructure.	No change.	It is intended that the electricity generation relates to renewable sources.
Request to focus on re-use of existing sites/infrastructure.	No change.	Re-use requiring consent would be included where the thresholds are met.
Request to include supporting role of ports/harbours.	No change.	Ports and harbours addressed in the wider spatial strategy.
Class b. Request to add reference to transmission.	Amended text.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
Class b. Request to clarify 'replacement'.	Amended text. to 'upgraded'.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
Class b. Request to clarify if high voltage electricity lines includes buried	Amended text. Reference to cables included.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.

PART 2 – National Developments –
Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation & Transmission Infrastructure

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
cables for offshore renewables/ infrastructure.		
Request to include offshore elements.	Amended text. - Reference to offshore included in class a.	To respond to NZET Committee. To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
Class c. Request to clarify if offshore infrastructure is included.	Amended text. - to clarify on and off shore infrastructure is included.	To respond to NZET Committee. To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
Request to include new class, green hydrogen.	No change.	Addressed by other National Developments.
Request to include new class, repowering.	No change.	Repowering requiring consent would be included where the thresholds are met.

Islands Hub for Net Zero

Summary of representations

General comments on the Islands Hub for Net Zero included that it is not clear why net zero projects are National Developments only if they are proposed in the Western Isles, Shetland and Orkney Island groups, and that consideration should be given to their support more widely. It was also suggested that this national development has the potential for significant impacts on nature and that it will be essential that development can be assessed for impacts on nature, in particular the cumulative effects on Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and marine mammals.

Overview of changes

Changes to this national development were mainly structural to clarify the scope and extent of the national development through reference to particular projects (Arnish Renewables Base and Outer Energy Hub, Opportunity for Renewable Integration with Offshore Networks (ORION), Scapa Flow Future Fuels Hub and Orkney Harbours), although still working within the scope of previous classes and locations.

The title was amended for clarity. The reorganisation and expression of classes within each project reflects stakeholder information received. Class (a) addressing general employment related development has been removed as part of the restructure of the national development, enhancing the focus on the energy aspects.

We have removed class (g), development for quay and handling facilities for ultra large container ships in Scapa Flow, as our emerging appropriate assessment identified (on the basis of information available at this stage in the planning process) it was not possible to conclude that this could be progressed without adversely affecting several European sites. This conclusion will need to be re-examined at project level when a greater level of detail regarding the design and delivery of the scheme will be available. New revised NPF4 class (f) under the ORION project reflects aspirations for handling captured carbon beyond infrastructure identified in class (c).

NPF4 has been informed by relevant impact assessments and individual developments will be subject to further such assessment as necessary at subsequent consenting stages.

Issues additional to those in the table of combined comments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Potential for confusion with Islands Centre for Net Zero/ Islands Growth Deal.	Amended text. Title changed and text restructured to emphasise the purpose of the national development.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
Should include specified developments/in island locations including in classes.	Text restructured and in-island locations clarified. Does not extend to aquaculture as a benefiting use as the national development focuses on the energy aspect.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
Orkney research campus already developed.	Amended text - reference to the campus deleted.	To respond to stakeholder views. Correction.
Near-arctic logistics would benefit from definition.	Text moved into spatial strategy reflecting shift in focus of the national development from shipping to low and zero carbon energy production.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
Impacts on nature, SPAs and marine mammals.	No change.	The National Developments have been informed by our Integrated Impact Assessment.
Should include scope for floating structures to support offshore wind.	No change.	The classes do not prevent proposals for floating structures from coming forward.

Industrial Green Transition Zones

Summary of representations

Industrial Green Transition Zones were welcomed, although it was also suggested that Aberdeen, Sullom Voe, Opportunity Cromarty Firth and industrial and service bases within the Inner Moray Firth should be added. Carbon capture and storage (CCS) was considered by some to have a crucial role in decarbonising industry. However, other respondents expressed opposition to the production of blue hydrogen, and it was argued that the use of CCS should not be supported.

Overview of changes

Changes made were to make it clear that this is not a Scotland-wide national development and to clarify the scope of the hydrogen related classes. Passenger facilities at Grangemouth were removed in response to a stakeholder request. Matters relating to location are addressed in the table of combined comments.

A point around enhanced oil recovery was removed. A reference to the forthcoming energy strategy was removed as this is not necessary for the finalised version. A reference to consideration, of upstream emissions and the role of thermal generation as part of finalisation of NPF4 were removed as they are unnecessary for the finalised version of NPF4. Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment has been undertaken for the National Developments. Thermal generation in the context as set out by the classes of development remains important.

The national development aligns with the Scottish Government's policy on hydrogen and approach to the Scottish Cluster, including CCS.

Issues additional to those in the table of combined comments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Mechanism for incompatibility with net zero transition ambition test needed.	No change.	The Planning (Scotland) 2019 Act provides for interim review of NPF if required. Regulations that set out procedures for such changes will be brought forward in due course.
Class d. Request to include offshore hydrogen production.	Amended text.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
Class f. Request to include hydrogen storage.	Amended text. Hydrogen storage class amended to include non-geological storage.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
Class g. Request to include off-shore hydrogen storage.	Amended text. Off shore included.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.

PART 2 – National Developments – Industrial Green Transition Zones

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Class i. Request removal.	No change.	Thermal generation is already part of the Scottish cluster and CCS technology is needed as part of its decarbonisation.
Class j. Request to remove reference to bioenergy.	No change.	Scottish Government policy on bioenergy identifies its potential as part of the transition to net-zero.
Class o. Request to amend to include electricity infrastructure.	No change.	The class is not just about electricity infrastructure. Utilities and local energy network may include electricity infrastructure.
Class p. Request to remove passenger facilities.	Amended text.	Correction, to respond to stakeholder views.
New classes requested for port and freight infrastructure.	No change.	Classes already provide for port and freight handling facilities contributing to the delivery of the national development.

Pumped Hydro Storage

Summary of representations

Comments in relation to Pumped Hydro Storage included that it should not be described as ‘all Scotland’ in view of the specific requirements of topography and landform. There was a view that prioritising Cruachan pre-judges delivery timelines for other schemes and it was argued that all pumped hydro storage above 100 megawatts (MW) in capacity should be considered as a national development.

Overview of changes

This national development applies where the thresholds are triggered by proposed development and is not intended to be the outcome of a review of sites for pumped hydro storage.

Reference to Cruachan has been softened now it has entered its consenting phase. Other locational aspects are addressed in the table of combined comments.

Thresholds for when the national development applies are addressed in the table of combined comments.

Text in particular classes which made a reference back to the pumped hydro scheme has been removed and replaced with reference to the title in the designation text, as per the point in the table of combined comments on the scope of classes/designation text.

Issues additional to those in the table of combined comments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Request to de-emphasise focus on Cruachan.	Location text amended. Reference to Cruachan elsewhere maintained as consents are outstanding but emphasis is now placed on the national development being nation-wide.	To respond to stakeholder views.

Hunterston Strategic Asset

Summary of representations

Regarding the Hunterston Strategic Asset national development, it was suggested it would be helpful to reflect the national scale of opportunity of a blue economy centred at Hunterston. The need for careful planning was highlighted in relation to potential negative effects on a number of nationally important natural assets.

Overview of changes

The changes mostly relate to reflecting the economic (blue economy) potential of the area, potential around nuclear decommissioning expertise, allowing greater flexibility in relation to the transport network and recognising that climate adaptation may be needed in the area around the site.

Locational aspects are addressed in the table of combined comments.

A new class has been added to incorporate electricity transmission infrastructure reflective of the potential uses at the site.

Protection of certain features is addressed in the table of combined comments.

Issues additional to those in the table of combined comments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Reflect scale of opportunity in the wider location.	Amended text.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
Opportunity provided by nuclear decommissioning noted.	Amended text.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Access requirements including those linked to STPR2 should be included.	Amended text - approach to transport network capacity revised to be consistent with other National Developments.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity. The text is aligned with STPR2.
Access road at flood risk by 2080s.	Amended text - point on flood risk management solutions broadened geographically.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Class c amendments including marine construction, energy generation, fabrication, and decommissioning.	No change.	Aspects are already addressed in the classes.
Class d amendments including marine energy servicing including, renewable energy	No change.	Aspects already addressed in the classes without specific linkage to marine energy servicing.

PART 2 – National Developments – Hunterston Strategic Asset

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
generation, testing, assembly, manufacture, servicing, maintenance, training, research and development.		
Class h. Request to include new nuclear.	No change.	Not supported by current Energy Strategy.
Class h. Request to include electricity transmission infrastructure.	Amended text. New class added. Consistent with intended/existing assets.	To respond to stakeholder views.
New class: Aquaculture, research and development centre.	No change.	Research and development already included in classes.
New class: digital hub and associated infrastructure.	No change.	Digital addressed in a different national development.

Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment

Summary of representations

Comments in relation to Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment included that there should be a greater emphasis on renewable energy to take advantage of the transmission lines and national grid infrastructure.

Other points related to protection of the natural environment including that retaining and enhancing an extensive area of nature-rich unimproved grassland will provide benefits for the local community.

Overview of changes

Renewable energy is already addressed in the national development.

Aspects relating to protected and natural features are addressed in the table of combined comments.

Changes made are to clarify class (c) for hydrogen.

Issues additional to those in the table of combined comments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Request for greater emphasis on renewables.	No change.	Renewable energy already included.
Request to include nuclear energy.	No change.	Not supported by current Energy Strategy.

High Speed Rail

Summary of representations

While High Speed Rail was supported, comments often related to areas of the country that will not benefit from current proposals with references to southern Scotland, Dundee, Aberdeen, and Inverness. Other points raised included that the relationship with STPR2 recommendations should be set out, including the need for further work to determine the future of high-speed rail in Scotland.

Overview of changes

Locational aspects are addressed in the table of combined comments.

The position on High Speed Rail reflects agreements made with the UK Government. An update has been made to improve alignment with STPR2.

Issues additional to those in the table of combined comments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Request to broaden classes to include associated infrastructure/land take.	No change.	The focus is on the core infrastructure.

Clyde Mission

Summary of representations

National development status for Clyde Mission was welcomed, including as aligning with the Glasgow City Region Climate Adaptation Strategy. It was suggested that combining this national development with the Urban Sustainable Blue and Green Drainage Solutions national development would help the area adapt to the impacts of climate change. It was also argued a proportionate response to flood risk is required, recognising both the hazards posed by different types of flooding and that different approaches may be acceptable, depending on the nature of the risk.

Overview of changes

Synergies between National Developments are addressed in the table of combined comments.

Changes relating to flooding have been included in the flooding policy of NPF4 rather than the national development.

Other changes are to include reference to the Glasgow Riverside Innovation District, to clarify the focus on previously developed land (brownfield land) and clarify that residential development is not a requirement of class (a).

Issues additional to those in the table of combined comments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Concern about ability to develop the area given Future Functional Floodplain policy.	Text amended in the flooding policy to provide for on-site mitigation.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Include other named investment sites/areas.	Text amended to include Riverside Innovation District, supported by the planning authority and doesn't change the location identified.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Class a. Request to clarify whether residential use is necessary or optional.	Text amended	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
Class b. Request to limit to development on previously used land.	Text amended.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.

Aberdeen Harbour

Summary of representations

Comments on Aberdeen Harbour included that the area to which the designation applies is unclear and that greenfield land near the south harbour should be explicitly excluded. There were also calls to reference delivery of the proposed Energy Transition Zone and to broaden the national development to reflect the Freeport zone being considered.

Overview of changes

Locational aspects are addressed in the table of combined comments and will form part of the onward delivery of National Developments.

The exclusion of greenfield land in this location could have a bearing on the LDP process in relation to the Energy Transition Zone, which does not form part of the national development. It is not for NPF4 to determine locations that will receive Freeport status, refer to the table of combined comments.

Changes made are about clarifying Class (e) for hydrogen, including carbon capture and to correct the reference to the North and South harbours.

Issues additional to those in the table of combined comments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Request to change name to 'Aberdeen Waterfront'.	No change.	The national development focuses on the harbour locations.
Request to clarify application to both north and south harbours/ phrasing of referencing of harbours.	Amended text - Location descriptor clarified.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Mixed views on Energy Transition Zone/await for outcome of LDP process.	No change.	The LDP process is considering the Energy Transition Zone, NPF4 has no bearing on the timing of that, the report of examination of unresolved representations to the LDP has been published and is for consideration by the planning authority prior to the LDP being adopted. The national development does not prevent the re-use of existing industrial land.

PART 2 – National Developments – Aberdeen Harbour

Request to deal differently with greenspace impacts/ preserve green space.	No change.	The LDP process is considering the Energy Transition Zone. The national development focuses on the harbours. Other relevant policies apply. Enhancement of and access to green space are identified in the statement of need so form part of onward delivery.
Does not support off-setting as alternative provision of green space not possible.	No change.	Text identifies enhancement rather than alternative provision.
Request to have broader focus, including housing, given South harbour completion due in 2022.	No change.	The national development encompasses both harbours. Classes already refer to mixed uses for the North harbour.
City centre reinvigoration does not require harbour redevelopment.	No change.	Making use of brownfield land fits with the approach of NPF4.
Presentation of statutory assessment regimes.	Amended text to remove reference and text amended.	For consistency. This could apply to a range of National Developments and so is addressed in Revised NPF4 Annex B.
Request to not include low carbon hydrogen/support renewable hydrogen only.	Amended text. but not to restrict hydrogen types, class (e) updated to reflect more standardised wording, aligned to Scottish Government hydrogen policy, as identified in the table of combined comments.	Hydrogen has potential in the location and is supported by wider Scottish Government policy.
Request to include specified port/manufacturing/commercial uses.	No change.	Classes highlighted cover a range of port and commercial uses.
Class d. Request to clarify if it applies to both harbours and to renewables/low carbon technologies specifically.	No change.	The class is sufficiently broad to include renewables, which are highlighted elsewhere in the text. The location description includes both harbours.

Stranraer Gateway

Summary of representations

In relation to the Stranraer Gateway, it was suggested that there should be a greater focus on quality of life, wellbeing and sustainability, and that 20 minute neighbourhoods, blue-green infrastructure and active travel should be considered.

Overview of changes

Changes made relate to STPR2 references, and minor clarification within classes (d), (e) and (f). The national development is not intended to be a comprehensive approach to regeneration and focuses on infrastructure and land uses, which will contribute to quality of life and wellbeing outcomes.

As noted in the table of combined comments, other policies that apply in addition to the national development do not need to be addressed in detail in the national development description.

Issues additional to those in the table of combined comments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Request for broader scope including quality of life/place and the asset of Loch Ryan.	No change.	Inequalities already included in statement of need. Wider policy applies to habitat protection/enhancement.
Request for reference to active/sustainable/multimodal travel.	Amended text - punctuation added to class d to draw out sustainable travel.	To respond to stakeholder views. The class already refers to a number of modes.
Border Control post being considered for the area.	No change.	The national development does not affect the provision or otherwise of a Border Control Post.
Role of Stranraer rail station and connections to Cairnryan should be included.	No change.	The national development aligns with STPR2 and Cairnryan access is already included.

Dundee Waterfront

Summary of representations

Continued designation of Dundee Waterfront as a national development was welcomed. However, a shift in emphasis from economic revitalisation to include a more balanced place-based aspiration for Dundee Waterfront was suggested.

The opportunity to create an outstanding and strategically important vibrant green and blue space that could serve as a regional hub and catalyst for a Tayside green and active travel network was highlighted.

Overview of changes

Changes made are for clarification.

We have removed class (e) for land reclamation as identified in the table of combined comments, as our emerging appropriate assessment identified (on the basis of information available at this stage in the planning process) it was not possible to conclude that this could be progressed without adversely affecting European sites. This conclusion would need to be re-examined at project level when a much greater level of detail regarding the design and delivery of the scheme will be available.

Aspirations for port expansion are acknowledged in the spatial strategy and an improvement in facilities remains supported. Place based aspects are already reflected and onward aspects of delivery are for lead partners, as referred in the table of combined comments.

Issues additional to those in the table of combined comments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Request to broaden scope beyond economic ambition.	No change.	Other purposes are included in the national development, including active travel, blue and green infrastructure.
Request re-wording of Class d to reflect integration of more than active travel infrastructure.	No change.	The class already includes sustainable travel.

Edinburgh Waterfront

Summary of representations

General comments on Edinburgh Waterfront included that there should be read across to the CSGN, NWCWN and Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Drainage Solutions National Developments.

It was argued that a focus on Leith to Granton needs to be set in the context of the wider coastal environment and that the potential for negative effects on landscape and seascape need to be addressed.

Overview of changes

Changes made are limited, including clarifying the location, and adjusting the designation text as referred to in the table of combined comments. The relationship between National Developments is addressed in the table of combined comments.

NPF4 has been informed by relevant impact assessments, reported in the accompanying Integrated Impact Assessment, as noted in the table of combined comments.

Issues additional to those in the table of combined comments

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Request to include reference to Edinburgh Nature Network.	No change.	This is a point of project level detail that may form part of the green and blue infrastructure already included.
Request to include foreshore access.	No change.	This is a point of project level detail that may form part of active and sustainable travel routes already included.

Part 3 – National Planning Policy

Summary of representations

Across the policies, there were frequent requests for greater clarity, including through the inclusion of definitions of key terms and/or by providing further information or guidance. There were also a number of references to policies being strengthened, including by requiring, rather than permitting, their application. This latter point was often connected to the more frequent use of 'must', rather than 'should'. There were a number of comments about how the application of the Universal Policies relates to the application of other NPF4 policies, and in particular whether the Universal Policies are expected to take precedence.

Overview of changes

Each policy has been set out to ensure that the policy intent and outcome are clear. Instructions for Local Development Plans have been separated out to remove confusion with development management policies and there is tightened wording throughout each and every policy. We have also added links to other key policy connections and identified which spatial principles will be delivered through each policy.

New structure of Policies:

- Policy intent
- Policy outcomes
- Delivery: local development plans
- Delivery: development management
- Definitions
- Language - should be supported = will be supported
- Rationalising criteria for assessing development types – focus on type specific issues only

The universal policies section, which caused confusion, has been removed. The revised document instead focuses on one Priority Policy on the Climate and Nature Crises.

Language has been strengthened throughout – moving from 'should' to 'will be supported' or 'will not be supported' to ensure clarity and consistency. The 'How to Use this Document' Annex provides additional information on this policy section.

Policies have been restructured to reflect three themes:

Figure 4 : National Planning Policies – changes to themes and order from Draft to revised version of NPF4

Draft NPF4	Revised NPF4
<p><u>Sustainable places</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan-led approach • Climate emergency • Nature crisis • Human rights and equality • Community wealth building • Design, quality and place <p><u>Liveable places</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 minute neighbourhoods • Infrastructure First • Quality homes • Sustainable travel and transport • Heat and cooling • Blue and green infrastructure, play and sport • Flood risk and water management • Lifelong health, wellbeing and safety <p><u>Productive places</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business and employment • Sustainable tourism • Culture and creativity • Green energy • Zero waste • Sustainable aquaculture • Minerals • Digital infrastructure <p><u>Distinctive places</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City, town, commercial and local centres • Historic assets and places • Urban edges and the green belt • Vacant and derelict land and empty buildings • Rural places • Natural places • Peat and carbon rich soils • Trees, woodland and forestry • Coasts 	<p><u>Sustainable places</u></p> <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 <p><u>Liveable places</u></p> <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 <p><u>Productive places</u></p> <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

General Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Request for greater clarity.	Amendments made throughout to add clarity and confirm intentions.	To provide clarity in response to stakeholder views. Further detail on each individual policy changes outlined below.
Issues around definitions of terms.	Added definitions to Glossary, refined existing Glossary definitions, and tightened language throughout.	
Language - issues with wording of should/could/must throughout policies.	Wording of each policy has been strengthened to provide clarity. For consistency and clarity we now use 'will / will only / will not' be supported.	
Call for greater clarity on the weight of the Universal Policies in relation to other policy areas.	Universal policies removed. Revised NPF4 Policy 1 'Tackling the climate and nature crises' gives significant weight to the global climate crisis in order to ensure that it is recognised as a priority in all plans and decisions.	To respond to Committee (LGHP, NZET, RAINE) views. As with current development plans, the weight to be given to competing policy areas will be a matter of judgement for the decision maker, following the approach set out in policy 1 and considering policies in the development plan. This is explained in the 'How to Use this Document' Annex. To assist users we have identified key connections between policies – these are informal. It is for the decision maker to determine which policies apply.
No clear hierarchy of policies/ weighting of universal policies in relation to other policy areas.		
Call for further guidance on how planning authorities should balance potentially competing policy areas.		
Policies do not match the ambitions of the statements in Part 1 – they appear less onerous, or loosely framed.	Strengthened the wording of each policy to add clarity of intent. Schematic added to show how individual policies help deliver overall strategy.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Calls for references to other Scottish Government documents within text/policies.	Schematic added showing key policy connections with other SG documents. The narrative around each	NPF4 is a 10 year plan and these documents may change or be superseded within its lifetime. Other SG strategies have

PART 3 – National Planning Policy

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	theme also refers to relevant strategies.	therefore not been named within individual policies.
Calls for cross-referencing other policies within policy text.	Greater internal consistency provided. Added 'Policy impacts' and 'Key policy connections' to each policy for cross-referencing Added links to spatial principles to each policy	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity. Further detail provided under individual policies.
Greater cross-consistency in policies needed.		
Calls to filter spatial principles through into policies.		
Clarity needed on what parts of policy to be addressed in LDPs and what to be considered in planning applications.	Amended the format of policies to be clear on what parts of the policy will be delivered through LDPs and what parts will be delivered through Development Management	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
Call for clarity over the extent to which planning authorities will have freedom to adapt the policies.	Added new 'How to Use this Document' as an Annex which explains 'There is no need for authorities to replicate policies within NPF4 in LDPs, but authorities can add further detail should there be a need based on the area's individual characteristics.'	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
Notable policy omissions, including on some of the matters of importance to the national economy. There was specific reference to air travel, oil and gas, the transition from fossil fuels and nuclear energy.	Added text to the national spatial strategy to confirm that Airports will provide vital connections within Scotland and beyond which will be crucial to building on a sustainable recovery whilst helping to decarbonise transport through low and zero emissions technologies. Policy on Development proposals that seek to explore, develop, and produce fossil fuels, and also on Unconventional Oil and Gas, is set out in the Minerals Policy.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.

Policy 1: Plan-led approach to sustainable development

Summary of representations

Most of those providing comment expressed their support for a plan-led policy approach, and the role of LDPs in guiding use and development of land in the long-term public interest. However, some questioned the value of Policy 1 as currently drafted, taking a view that it does not add significantly to requirements already set out in legislation.

Overview of changes

Policy 1, which supported a plan-led approach to sustainable development has been removed in response to views that it is too broad and potentially confusing. The requirement is now explained in the ‘how to use this document’ section.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Questions over the value of the policy – does not add significantly to requirements already set out in legislation.	Removed policy.	To respond to stakeholder views. An Annex has been added on ‘How to Use this Document’, providing more detail on the plan-led system and the links between LDPs, RSSs and LPPs.
Reflect further on how a public-led planning approach can be further developed and embedded.	No change.	Committee request (LGHP). Not for NPF4 content. Wider point on Delivery. The Delivery Programme and its Governance will involve a range of partners, in line with the Place Principle, to lead and enable sustainable development in line with the spatial strategy and NPF outcomes. See Part 4 Delivering Our Spatial Strategy
Reflect on concerns raised about the ability of planning departments to embrace a public-led planning system.	No change.	Committee request (LGHP). Not for NPF4 content. Wider point on Skills and Resourcing.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 1: Plan-led approach to sustainable development

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		See sections under General Comments on Skills & Resourcing.

Policy 2: Climate Emergency

Summary of representations

In relation to all development proposals giving significant weight to the Global Climate Emergency, most of those commenting supported this policy objective. Respondents suggested that transformational change is required across the planning system, and some felt that the policy is not strong enough to deliver this change. Not supporting development proposals that will generate significant emissions unless it is proven that the level of emissions is the minimum that can be achieved was seen as vital to ensuring that planning can contribute to climate change and nature recovery.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 1 'Tackling the climate and nature crises' and Policy 2 'Climate Mitigation and Adaptation'. This policy has been refined, given issues raised around implementation, emissions assessment, exceptions clauses and emissions offsetting. The new overarching policy 1 sets out that the contribution of development proposals to the global climate emergency and nature emergency should carry significant weight in planning decisions. The revised policy sets out a higher level requirement for this to be taken into account, recognising that practice in this area is evolving. The draft policy generated concerns about implementation and that all of the policies will work collectively to address the climate emergency, rather than a single policy. A simplified approach to mitigation and adaptation principles have been included in a separate policy (2). We will support emissions assessment with guidance and good practice as it evolves.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Questions about prominence, how the climate emergency will be implemented through the planning system and balanced against other priorities in decision making.	New Revised NPF4 Policy 1 gives prominence to climate emergency. LDP policy added to Revised NPF4 Policy 2.	To respond to LGHP Committee, NZET Committee, and the UK Climate Change Committee. To add clarity of policy intent in response to stakeholder views and ensure it is clear that the climate emergency is a key priority alongside the nature crisis. Matters included in NPF4 policy may be grounds for approval or refusal of applications where considered appropriate by the decision maker.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 3: Nature Crisis

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Questions about how NPF4 will match ambition with action.	The Revised Draft as a whole aims to ensure that all relevant policies contribute to addressing the climate emergency.	Committee request (LGHP). The delivery of NPF4 is a shared responsibility and it is supported by a Delivery Programme which sets out key actions to implement its priorities and policies. Embedding the need to address the climate emergency across relevant policies reinforces its importance and influence over decision-making.
Strengthen link between climate change and biodiversity / reject any development contributing to climate change or biodiversity loss.	New Revised NPF4 Policy 1 on the climate and nature crisis now added and will combine with other policies. This will ensure that in all planning decisions, contributions to the climate and nature emergencies will carry significant weight.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Location and design of new infrastructure should be chosen with climate adaptation in mind.	Revised NPF4 Policy 2 now makes reference to 'siting' to clearly address the point of location.	To respond to UK Climate Change Committee.
2 (b) development designed to minimise emissions		
LDP role in emissions reduction and adaptation omitted. Adaptation not for individual proposals.	Added LDP section.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Query whether policy applies to minor developments.	Amended text – Whilst policy 2(b) applied to all developments, 2(c) identified thresholds for further assessment and approaches for emissions management. Those thresholds and approaches have been removed given the rewording of the policy which applies to all development proposals.	To respond to stakeholder views including mixed views on assessments and thresholds.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 3: Nature Crisis

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
2 (c) development proposals that will generate significant emissions		
Emissions assessment/adaptive design is for building standards rather than planning.	No change.	It is recognised that planning complements wider regulation including building standards, which is better enabled through the broader approach set out in Revised NPF4 Policy 2. This also allows for flexibility as practice evolves.
<p>Emissions Assessment methodology unclear.</p> <p>Concerns about the resources needed for assessment, and understanding adaptation needs and the potential for disadvantaging applicants least able to pay for the assessment. Some emissions are not in the control of the applicant.</p> <p>Mixed views about the range of developments emissions assessment should apply to.</p> <p>More clarity required on when it is acceptable to allow a development that generates significant emissions.</p>	<p>The policy language has been simplified and siting and design considerations have both been noted as important.</p> <p>Amended text is more open in relation to project level assessment to reflect lack of a single assessment methodology at present.</p> <p>Additional policy on LDPs completes the policy to ensure broader spatial strategies have an important role to play.</p>	<p>To respond to committee (NZET).</p> <p>Policy revisions mean that there is more flexibility to enable authorities and applicants to take a proportionate approach ahead of further guidance and practice developing. There is currently no single accepted methodology. However, future guidance to support the application of the revised policy in practice is recognised as a priority in the Delivery Programme. In the meantime, revised policy does not impose significant additional burdens on applicants or planning authorities. Whilst this policy has an important role to play, collective effort is required across all policies. The contribution of NPF4 as a whole to reducing emissions is set out in the Revised Draft. Policy will also be applied in combination with Revised NPF4 Policy 1, which gives significant weight to the climate crisis. Policy has been simplified to remove uncertainty and</p>

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 3: Nature Crisis

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		clarify policy intent and outcomes.
Costs associated with emissions reduction should not be used to erode development benefits, such as affordable housing.	No change	NPF4 policy should be read as a whole. It is for decision makers to identify the policies relevant to the application before them and apply weighting as they consider appropriate.
Key concepts should be defined.	Amended policy removes specific terms and concepts. Glossary definitions.	To respond to Committee (NZET) and stakeholder views.
Should have greater support for/consideration of sequestration/ restoration of sequestering habitats/ carbon negative development/development supporting targets including renewables.	No change.	Sequestration may form part of an approach to emissions minimisation. Habitats that also sequester are addressed in Revised NPF4 policies (3) Biodiversity, (5) Soils, and (6) Forestry, woodland and trees. Revised NPF4 Policy 11 Energy supports renewable, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies including negative emissions technologies.
Request for further detail on assessment criteria and technologies/approaches to be deployed.	No change.	This is a matter for delivery and guidance rather than policy.
Include broader policy elements such as: public transport, active travel, circular economy, carbon sinks and stores, nature based solutions, embodied emissions.	No change.	These issues are addressed in other Revised NPF4 policies including: sustainable transport (13); Soils (5); forestry, woodland and trees (6); and zero waste (12).
Mixed views on off-setting, from support to implementation problems. Concern that it would be a	Amended text removes reference to off-setting to not over-ster the	To Respond to Committee (NZET). The approach is simplified but off-setting may remain a legitimate

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 3: Nature Crisis

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
means of justifying high emitters.	approach to emissions minimisation.	part of the response to minimising emissions for plans or proposals.
Exceptions clauses raised concerns.	Amended text removes the exceptions clauses, to avoid over-steering the approach to emissions minimisation.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Phased approach to implementation suggested.	The simplified approach, together with supporting guidance and developing practice, will achieve this.	Policy has been drafted to be flexible to allow practice to evolve over time.
2 (d) designed to be adaptable to the future impacts of climate change		
Strengthen the approach to mitigation by incentivising emissions reduction on existing sites, specify a development pathway to net zero, include retrofitting of buildings.	See 2(c) above.	To respond to stakeholder views. Specific emissions reductions and net/zero pathways for individual building types will be for consideration by building designers. NPF4 helps steer the approach by focusing on emissions minimisation.
Incorporation of mitigation measures inconsistent with approach to not support development with significant emissions.	See 2 (c) above.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Refusals on adaptation grounds should not be overturned.	No change.	Not for NPF4 content; process requirements are set in legislation.
Strengthen the approach to adaptation by referencing current climate change impacts; biodiversity; renewable energy; retrofitting and brownfield land, set out the climate impacts to design for, provide adaptation standards, separate out from mitigation. Provide guidance on adapting places and infrastructure.	<p>Policy amended to clarify the role of LDP in adaptation.</p> <p>Policy amended to clarify adaptation expected for new development.</p> <p>Retrofit policy updated to reflect support/encouragement.</p>	To respond to stakeholder views. Amendments made are for clarity. Changes have not been made in relation to specific climate change impacts or the degree of climate change to design for, as the impacts and their prioritisation will change over time. Further definition on this is not for NPF4 content as the issues and broader response are defined elsewhere including in the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 3: Nature Crisis

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		and climate change risk assessment reports from the UK Climate Change Committee.
Adaptation should be prioritised for designated sites/ buildings balanced with heritage concerns to avoid decline.	No change.	This is a matter for guidance and delivery rather than policy. NPF4 provides a supportive framework for adaptation measures.
Concerns that the approach to adaptation is excessive, building re-use is not always the most sustainable. Assessment should be made case by case.	No change.	The policy establishes a framework for adaptation to be supported and allows regional and local data to inform local approaches. Other policies also influence the approach to adaptation, for example (10) Coastal development, (19) Heat and cooling, and (22) Flood risk and water management. Although NPF4 policy promotes asset re-use more broadly the 6 spatial principles contribute towards sustainable development.

Policy 3: Nature Crisis

Summary of representations

There was support for recognition of the nature crisis within NPF4 and for the emphasis on improving biodiversity. One perspective was that the policy should be strengthened further and should require planners to give significant weight to the nature crisis when considering development proposals. An alternative view was that the approach should be more flexible, or more proportionate to the type and scale of development proposed.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 3 Biodiversity. The Revised NPF4 Policy 1 'Tackling the climate and nature crises' has also been added to set out that the contribution of development proposals to the global climate emergency and nature crisis should carry significant weight in planning decisions. Minor amendments were made to the rest of this policy to ensure consistent use of terminology and clarity.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Planners to give significant weight to the nature crisis.	Revised NPF4 Policy 1 'Tackling the climate and nature crises' sets out that significant weight is to be given to the global climate emergency and nature crisis.	To respond to stakeholder views.
To ensure that the inextricable link between the climate emergency and the nature crisis is fully taken into account, it was suggested that Policy 3 should refer to Policy 2 (Climate change).	Amended text - Universal Policy 3 is redrafted into Revised NPF4 Policy 1 'Tackling the Climate and Nature Crises' and policy 3 'Biodiversity'.	Clarity of message and to help with document flow.
Provide clearer Glossary terms; content was also suggested.	Added Glossary definition for "Nature-based solutions" and updated/expanded definition provided for "nature networks".	To respond to Committee (NZET) and stakeholder views.
Provide a range of additional technical content.	No change.	Some of the suggestions relate to matters more appropriately dealt with through other mechanisms, e.g. the forthcoming Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, or

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 3: Nature Crisis

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		are otherwise for legislation.
Greater clarity on methodology to be used/how impacts are quantified to ensure a net positive effect.	Added reference to the use of 'best practice assessment methods' to the Revised NPF4 Policy 3 'Biodiversity' at part (b). Added reference to 'national and local guidance' to Revised NPF4 Policy 3 at part (c).	To respond to Committee (NZET) and stakeholder views. The NatureScot guidance document, 'Developing With Nature' supports this policy in relation to local development proposals. Scottish Government have commissioned research to explore options for developing a biodiversity metric or other tool, specifically for use in Scotland. This work is at early stages, we will work with NatureScot on a programme of engagement with stakeholders as this work progresses
Relationship between policy 3 and policy 32 (natural places) needs to be made clearer	Structural changes made to address this issue.	To respond to stakeholder views.
3 (a) Development plans should facilitate		
The word "facilitate" queried. Calls for clarity around its meaning in this context.	Removed the word "facilitate" and language tightened to also reference the mitigation hierarchy.	For clarity and to respond to stakeholder views.
Further detail/clarity required regarding Nature Networks.	Amended text - language tightened for clarity. Expanded 'Nature Networks' Glossary definition.	To respond to Committee (RAINE) and stakeholder views. Opportunities for implementation may be identified through, e.g. LDPs and/or Local Biodiversity Action Plans and/or other existing or new mechanisms such as those developed under the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Delivery Plan, to achieve connectivity within and across urban, peri-urban and rural landscapes.

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Draft Policy 3: Nature Crisis

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Focus should be on increasing all biodiversity, not just priority species.	Amended text.	To respond to stakeholder views
3 (b) proposals should contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity		
Is not proportionate, does not take account of scale.	Amended text to provide flexibility.	To respond to stakeholder views.
3 (c) potential impacts to be minimised through careful planning and design		
Paragraph is vague and broad.	Amended text -wording strengthened for clarity. Reference to 'cumulative impacts' added.	To respond to stakeholder views.
3 (d) proposals for national, major and EIA development		
As drafted the text suggests that the policy would not apply to national and major developments that are not also EIA development.	Amended text to make clear the policy applies to national, major or EIA developments.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Appropriate Assessment should be omitted as this can be very small scale.	Removed Appropriate Assessment as a requirement.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Local Nature Conservation Sites should be added.	No change.	Policies on development proposals affecting Local Nature Conservation Sites are set out in the Natural Places policy.
Queries regarding exclusion of applications for farmed finfish/shellfish development.	Exclusion text moved to Revised NPF4 Policy 32 'Aquaculture'. Added wording to make clear that this exclusion is related to open water aquaculture. Onshore aquaculture proposals are not excluded.	To respond to stakeholder views. Open water aquaculture is excluded from some of the detailed provisions but not from the overall policy itself. We recognise that specific and unique considerations apply in the context of the marine environment, and will be exploring marine biodiversity specifically through the National Marine Plan and through the development of Scotland's forthcoming biodiversity strategy and a Vision for sustainable aquaculture.
Social and community impacts of biodiversity should be considered.	Added part (b) bullet point (v) to Revised NPF4 Policy 3 'Biodiversity' - 'local	To respond to stakeholder views.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 3: Nature Crisis

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	community benefits of the biodiversity and/or nature networks have been considered’.	
3 (e) proposals for local development		
Local developments should not be held to lower biodiversity enhancement standards by virtue of their classification.	No change.	We consider the approach in targeting the most stringent requirements to larger scale proposals and proposals likely to have a significant environmental effect (regardless of classification) as the most appropriate and proportionate.
The requirement should be to conserve, restore and enhance.	Amended text for consistency and clarity.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Householder development should not be excluded, or should otherwise be encouraged to integrate nature-based solutions and deliver positive effects for biodiversity.	Expanded text in Revised NPF4 Policy 14 ‘Design, quality and place’ more expressly encourages a design-led approach to achieving sustainable places, including by integrating nature positive, biodiversity solutions.	NatureScot guidance, ‘Developing With Nature’ supports this policy and includes enhancement measures which could be applied to householder development.

Policy 4: Human rights and equality

Summary of representations

Some respondents described NPF4 as an opportunity to build on existing legislation, while others suggested that it is not an appropriate vehicle to meet human rights and equalities duties. It was also suggested that respect for human rights and promotion of equality should be considered across all parts of NPF4, rather than being limited to a single policy.

Overview of changes

This policy has been removed, given concerns it did not add anything to existing legal requirements and could generate delays. It has been replaced by a new separate statement on the contribution of development supported by NPF4 to communities and equality.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
4 (a) planning should respect, protect and fulfil human rights, seek to eliminate discrimination and promote equality		
NPF4 contains a statement rather than a policy on human rights. Use of this policy in development management could cause excessive delays to delivery.	Amended references to affirm the importance of Human Rights and Equalities in planning. Removed as a policy for development management purposes, but now included upfront within the outcomes in Part 1 of Revised NPF4.	To respond to stakeholder views. Universal policies have been removed to focus on climate emergency/nature crisis. Human Rights and Equality now cited as a cross-cutting outcome under A Fair and Inclusive Planning System.
Human rights policy is a reiteration of what is required under planning and equality law.	Amended references to affirm the importance of Human Rights and Equalities in planning.	To respond to stakeholder views. Specific reference is now made to the legislative framework around human rights and equalities.
Policy should list key human rights issues to be addressed.	Added reference to Human Rights Act and UNCRC.	To respond to stakeholder views, reference is now made to the UNCRC – with specific reference to the participation of children and young people.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 4: Human rights and equality

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
4 (b) consult and engage others collaboratively, meaningfully and proportionally		
Consider what more can be done to ensure communities are supported to engage in shaping the places in which they live, particularly communities from more disadvantaged areas.	No change.	LGHP and RAINE Committee request. NPF4 provides a policy framework for community engagement. This is recognised as a key aspect of wider planning reform.
Consider what more can be done to alleviate consultation fatigue including ensuring that consultation is undertaken timeously and communities are involved in a collaborative rather than consultative manner.	No change.	LGHP Committee request. Policy confirms that engagement should be early and collaborative. Engagement should also be proportionate. Details of planned guidance, to support the delivery of NPF4, are set out in the Delivery Programme which will be updated throughout the life of NPF4. This is not an exhaustive list, but focuses on priority areas of guidance.

Policy 5: Community wealth building (CWB)

Summary of representations

There were some concerns that ‘community wealth building’ is not a well understood concept, including reference to differing interpretations across planning authorities and other stakeholders. It was also suggested that the policy lacks sufficient detail to ensure effective and consistent implementation. There were calls for practical examples of how development plans, and the planning system as a whole, can support community wealth building.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 25 ‘Community wealth building’. This policy has been updated to provide criteria to assess proposals against and improve definition. It has also been moved to the ‘productive places’ section to sit alongside economic/sectoral policies as part of a joined-up response to the priorities of the National Strategy for Economic Transformation.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Clarify what ‘community wealth building’ means.	Added policy outcomes section and examples given in the policy. Policy states that LDPs are to align with any strategy for community wealth building for the area.	To respond to Committee and stakeholder views and provide clarity.
Need for community wealth building objectives and examples of how planning can contribute.		
Existing policy and legislation could provide the basis for a definition of community wealth building		
Respondents also identified a range of specific considerations which they wished to see reflected in the policy.		

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 5: Community wealth building

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
5 (a) Development plans should address community wealth building		
To reference social and environmental factors alongside economic development.	No change.	To avoid repetition. NPF4 is to be read as a whole, these factors are addressed in other policies.
Include greater weighting for community-led development proposals.	Amended wording to refer to community-led proposals.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
5 (b) proposals should contribute to community wealth building objectives		
Call for further detail on how developments are expected to contribute, and thresholds on range of proposals to which it would apply.	Amended wording requiring LDPs to align with local community wealth building strategy.	To respond to stakeholder views and allow flexibility around local circumstances and priorities.
Add flexibility to enable community wealth to be tailored to local needs.	As above.	To respond to stakeholder views and allow flexibility around local priorities and needs.
Local community wealth building strategies or objectives required to enable LDPs to address priorities.	As above.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.

Policy 6: Design, quality and place

Summary of representations

The focus on ensuring good quality design and the importance of design for quality placemaking was welcomed, although some suggested that considerations of viability and delivery can often over-rule quality of design. The reference to ‘high quality’ design was seen as by some as too subjective and it was suggested that further detail is required to support a clear and objective approach to design, and to ensure consistency across planning authorities.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 14 ‘Design, quality and place’. This policy has been moved to the liveable places section, given its close relationship with 20 minute neighbourhoods and housing. The wording has been simplified to reduce scope for broad interpretation and debate. A table explaining the six qualities of successful places has been further expanded to help with application of the policy.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Consider whether ‘Place and Design’ is appropriate as a Universal Policy.	Restructured to remove reference to Universal Policies. ‘Place and Design’ now sits in ‘Liveable Places’ section.	The Universal Policies have been removed to reduce confusion in response to other stakeholder feedback. The policy is now more closely aligned with the liveable places policies including Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods.
6 (a) proposals should be designed to a high quality		
Call for greater clarity of design led approach.	‘Policy Intent’ added which now includes and is clear about the role of design led approach in placemaking. Reference to urban and rural added to criterion for clarity at a) to reiterate that design applies to all areas across Scotland.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Request to ensure consistency of implementation.	Added the need for consistency under Revised NPF4 Policy 14 Outcomes and 14 (b) includes consistency in relation to	To respond to stakeholder views.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 6: Design, quality and place

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	the delivery of the six qualities. Approach in (a) amended so proposals 'improve quality' of an area.	
Suggestions made around the elements that constitute good design.	The six qualities of successful places have been reviewed. Further details provided at Revised NPF4 Policy 14 (b).	To respond to stakeholder views.
Viability and delivery considerations can often over-rule design considerations.	No change.	NPF4 policy should be read as a whole. It is for decision makers to identify the policies relevant to the application before them and apply weighting as they consider appropriate.
Role of community engagement.	Included in LDP section.	To respond to stakeholder views.
6 (b) incorporate the key principles of Designing Streets, Creating Places, New Design in Historic Settings and any design guidance adopted by planning authorities and statutory consultees		
Calls to remove references to out of date documents.	Criterion deleted.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Some concern regarding reference to design principles and guidance produced by planning authorities and statutory consultees.	Criterion deleted. LDP section provides for local design guidance to be identified where required.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Suggestions for further cross referencing of other NPF4 policies, and other policy and guidance outwith NPF4, including to better link with placemaking.	Added Key policy connections.	To respond to stakeholder views. NPF4 policy should be read as a whole, avoiding unnecessary duplication.
6 (c) demonstrate how the six qualities of successful places have been incorporated		
Calls for clarity and some amendment to the content of the six qualities, including of additional criteria.	Six qualities have been refreshed and now sit in Revised NPF4 Annex D.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
Calls to include requirement for long-term maintenance of any development.	No change.	Maintenance already existed in the six qualities but is now also addressed in thematic policy for blue

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 6: Design, quality and place

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		and green infrastructure, and play and sport.
6 (d) development proposals that are poorly designed should not be supported		
Calls for clearer criteria to clarify how 'poorly designed' is defined.	Amended text to help clarify intent and to include impact on amenity. Six qualities improved to assist in the reduction of subjectivity when meeting the criteria.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Questioned the need for d) in addition to e) and suggested that they could be merged.	Amended and policies merged.	New Revised NPF4 Policy 14(c) is unequivocal about poor design being refused.
Call to include a clear statement of the negative impacts of poor design on placemaking and NPF4 policies.	No change.	Revised NPF4 policy section deals with the desirable outcomes and actions rather than the impacts and risks.
6 (e) detrimental to the character of appearance of the surrounding area		
Call for clarity regarding the criteria by which proposals can be judged.	Criterion deleted. Amenity is a consideration included in new 14 (c).	Reduction in ambiguous or subjective design language in response to stakeholder views.
Calls for a proportionate response to proposals that impact on character or appearance.	Criterion deleted. Amenity is a consideration included in new 14 (c).	The degree of impact will be determined by planning authorities.

Policy 7: Local living

Summary of representations

Most of those commenting on Policy 7 saw a need for further detail on how the principle of 20 minute neighbourhoods can be applied across the diverse urban and rural areas of Scotland. Many commented that the policy seems to apply primarily to urban and accessible areas, and there was some scepticism as to whether the principle of 20 minute neighbourhoods can be applied meaningfully to rural areas.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 15 'Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods'. This policy has been revised to be more flexible by referring to the principles of local living more broadly, as well as the specific solution of delivering 20 minute neighbourhoods. This will allow the policy to be more readily applied to rural areas through alternative solutions.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Greater thought around the application of concept in rural setting.	Amended policy name to Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods to recognise that the '20 minute neighbourhood' concept has momentum building around it but effectively means living locally. The 20 minute metric may not be applicable in all circumstances but is a means of understanding the ideal distance/time travelling to access local services. Language altered throughout to clarify. Added greater emphasis within policy wording around the importance of taking account of local circumstances, place-based particular characteristics and challenges faced in each place. Recognition also given within wording to the importance of considering	To respond to Committee (LGHP, RAINE and HSCS) and stakeholder views. To clarify intention around Local living policy.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 7: Local living

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	varying settlement patterns.	
Call for more information around delivery particularly in rural and island areas.	Amended language in policy to reflect the variety of contexts to which this can apply.	To respond to Committee (LGHP, RAINE and HSCS) and stakeholder views. Guidance will provide further support/detail on delivery.
Amendments sought to avoid policy being overly restrictive on new development/limiting urban regeneration.	Amended wording to give greater clarity in relation to principles of local living and 20MN and around expected contributions of development to wider outcomes. Policy determines expectations around development planning and contribution to sustainable development, including urban regeneration.	Intention is not to limit or restrict development, but to ensure that development proposals align with the principles of local living and 20MN and can contribute to wider outcomes around health, inequalities and climate change.
Concerns over policy delivery – importance of the coordination between policy and decisions/potential role of the Place Principle.	Amended policy clarifies role of LDPs in delivery. Upfront recognition that policy is means of encouraging, promoting and facilitating Place Principle.	Guidance will provide further support/detail on delivery. The Place Principle also underpins the NPF4 Delivery Programme.
7 (a) LDPs should support the principle of 20 minute neighbourhoods		
Practical applicability needs to be strengthened by setting out the underlying principles that planners can assess against. Examples would help illustrate how the concept can be applied widely across diverse geographies.	Amended policy wording sets out principles against which development will be supported and recognises that the concept is a means of implementing the Place Principle.	To respond to Committee (LGHP and UK Climate Change Committee) and stakeholder views. Guidance will provide further support/detail on delivery.
Clarity around the weighting that LDPs should give to the principle of 20MN to enable planning authorities to balance requirements.	Amended policy wording clarifies.	To respond to stakeholder views.
7 (b) proposals consistent with the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods should be supported		

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 7: Local living

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Request that the wording of b) is strengthened, draft wording is too imprecise. Query over what constitutes a 'relevant development proposal'	Amended policy language provides clarity around what development proposals will be assessed against. The criteria are not intended to be exhaustive. The primary requirement of the policy is to consider the application in relation to its local context.	To respond to stakeholder views. Guidance will provide further support/detail on delivery.
Clarity required as to what these proposals should include and that the principles underpinning the 20 minute neighbourhood should be embedded into all planning decisions, not just those where an entire new neighbourhood is being created.	Amended policy wording to ensure policy can be applied to development in both new and existing neighbourhoods	To respond to UK Climate Change Committee and stakeholder views.
Policy should link to policy 10 (Sustainable travel). Emphasis on need for mix of transport solutions – 20% car KM reduction target and linkages.	Amended text to reflect the variety of transport options that would be key to Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods.	To respond to stakeholder views. The revised version is structured so that each policy notes Key Policy Connections and Policy Impacts – helping with cross referencing.
Detail - concern that the concept is applied in a way that does not meet expectations around inclusivity and access.	No change.	Guidance will explain the use of policies, strategies, investments and tools. It will communicate that it is not just the existence of the features required for a 'full life' that makes a 20 minute neighbourhood but the quality and accessibility of those features.
Concern over centralisation of services particularly in rural and island communities which may reinforce structural and institutional barriers to addressing poverty and inequality.	Amended wording to give policy emphasis that the solutions for Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods must be reflective of local circumstances and that networks of neighbourhoods can be a	To respond to Committee (HSCS) and stakeholder views.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 7: Local living

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	solution to support local living.	
Policy needs to address all aspects of local living.	Amended wording to include crucial considerations for local living to succeed. Policies that relate to each other are now linked together under Key policy connections.	To respond to stakeholder views. Detail will be included in Guidance.
Seeking further detail on a wide range of issues such as infrastructure, town centres, VDL, brownfield site reuse, greenspace, blue and green infrastructure, local food growth and offering, local jobs, reducing commuting/travelling unsustainably, low carbon transport and heat, protecting existing assets.	Minor amendments/additions to the policy text.	To respond to stakeholder views. Further detail will be included in Guidance responding to issues around qualitative aspects of local living including sustainable travel. Alignment with other policy drivers and investments will support delivery.
Delivery – emphasis required around the role of LDPs and LPPs in delivering Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods.	Reflected in LDP section.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Importance of local communities and businesses as key stakeholders.	Reflected in the LDP section.	To respond to Committee (LGHP and NZET) and stakeholder views. Guidance will refer to application of the Place Principle and wider policies, strategies and investments for delivery.
Recognition that housing is a key plank of 20MNs and how land is allocated for housing, community-led development and self-build.	Policy is explicit in the expectations for LDPs to support local living through the spatial strategy and development planning. Policy wording references the importance of affordable and accessible housing options.. Policy is	To respond to stakeholder views.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 7: Local living

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	also reflected in the Quality Homes Policy.	
Digital Connectivity and the importance to Local living and 20MN.	Amended. Recognised in policy outcomes.	To respond to stakeholder views.

Policy 8: Infrastructure First (IF)

Summary of representations

Some respondents expressed their support for the infrastructure first approach, including supporting delivery of the infrastructure required by 20 minute neighbourhoods, providing an opportunity to improve active travel infrastructure, and reference to the importance of energy and other infrastructure for delivery of carbon reduction targets. It was suggested that effective delivery will require significant investment, both in terms of strategic infrastructure investment, and ensuring sufficient resourcing of the planning system.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 18 'Infrastructure first'. This policy has been refined, with changes made to provide clarity over the policy intention, its scope and the role of Local Development Plans. There was qualified support for the alignment of this policy with the infrastructure investment hierarchy as well as suggestions that more detail is required in this policy. Much of the detail will only be forthcoming at the level of Local Development Plans, which identify specific land allocations, consider infrastructure capacity and requirements and set out methodologies for gathering planning obligations. Whilst some stakeholders may feel that that the redrafted policy should have gone further, the delivery programme will be a tool for all stakeholders to input to, to help identify solutions to some of the questions which were raised, for example, about infrastructure funding and delivery.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Provide clarity over how the infrastructure levy will support an infrastructure first approach.	No change.	Committee Request (LGHP). This will be taken forward as part of the wider planning reform work programme. Ahead of policy development and consultation, it would be premature to make specific provision for it in the policy.
IF Policy should be Universal policy.	No change.	Universal policies have been removed in response to wider stakeholder views. Priority policies focus on climate emergency/nature crisis only.
Clarify what "infrastructure first" means.	Added policy intent.	To respond to stakeholder views and be clear of policy intention that IF means putting infrastructure

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 8: Infrastructure First

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		considerations at the heart of spatial planning.
Clearer definition of 'infrastructure' required. For example to align with IIP. Suggested specific infrastructure types included renewable energy, flood risk management, housing, electricity grid and blue & green infrastructure.	Meaning of 'infrastructure', for the purposes of NPF4 IF policy, is now included in the Glossary.	To provide clarity of message and to help with document flow. Meaning includes blue & green infrastructure, electricity generation and distribution (grid) and flood risk management. Meaning does not include 'housing' as specific provision is made for this elsewhere in NPF4.
Scope - whether IF policy relates only to enabling housing development or should other types of infrastructure be aligned with this policy.	Glossary definition of 'infrastructure' added for the purpose of NPF4 IF policy.	To respond to stakeholder views, and provide clarity.
Detail of how IF policy will be delivered - source of funding for large projects. Concerns over infrastructure capacity and funding gaps. Need additional mechanism for planning authorities to leverage delivery (beyond contributions).	No change.	Delivery is a shared responsibility and is multi-faceted. NPF4 is not a capital spend document but will be supported through alignment with wider funding programmes and strategies. Detail of actions and responsibilities to support NPF4 delivery are set out in the Delivery Programme.
Need to address infrastructure funding issues. Front funding issue – need guidance for LDP Delivery Programme.	No change.	Infrastructure funding is the responsibility of a number of sectors. NPF4 does not have a dedicated funding programme. NPF4 will be delivered through a range of stakeholders and funding commitments. Further detail on infrastructure funding is set out in NPF4 Delivery Programme.
Further detail on how planning authorities are expected to cost infrastructure requirements.	No change.	Beyond the scope of what can be included in NPF4. Guidance on local development planning will

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 8: Infrastructure First

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		provide further detail on implementing IF approach.
Greater clarity on the role of developer contributions, alongside other mechanisms for funding.	No change.	Circular 3/2012 sets out policy on planning obligations. Developer contributions remain part of the funding toolkit. A review of developer contributions will be undertaken as part of wider planning reform.
Sufficient skills/ resourcing of planning system are needed to support IF policy.	No change.	Issues of skills/resourcing is beyond scope of NPF4. The Delivery Programme sets out high level framework for delivery, which includes actions for skills/resources.
It was suggested that a national body may be required to direct and coordinate infrastructure delivery.	No change.	Consideration of a national infrastructure body/infrastructure company is outwith the scope of NPF4 policy. Delivery Programme sets out proposed approach to co-ordinating planning and infrastructure.
IF policy should support the role of communities in choosing appropriate infrastructure for their area.	No change.	IF policy emphasises the need for early engagement and collaboration with relevant stakeholders.
Welcome that IF policy recognises infrastructure development in its own right, but opportunities to deliver renewable energy may arise independent of the LDPs in future.	No change.	Other NPF4 policy deals with renewable infrastructure. Planning for renewables is not precluded by IF policy. Meaning of infrastructure for purposes of IF policy includes energy generation.
Translate national infrastructure requirements at a local level. NPF4 to set out clear links between national development and IF policy.	No change.	IF policy states that plans should align with relevant national, regional and local infrastructure plans. Responsibility for delivering national infrastructure sits in different organisations.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 8: Infrastructure First

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
8 (a) LDPs and delivery programmes based on an infrastructure-first approach		
Clarify whether a) is simply a description of what is required in the delivery programme.	Amended to clarify what LDPs will be required to do.	To provide clarity of message and respond to stakeholder views.
Plans and policies listed at (a) may have different review cycles, potentially leading to issues of alignment with LDPs.	Removed reference to IIP/NTS/STPR to address the risk that reference to specific plans will date NPF4. Reference to specific sectoral plans is contained in Delivery Programme.	To help with document flow and improve clarity of message - now refers to national, regional and local infrastructure plans and policies. Having plans/strategies at different cycles is not uncommon. Moving towards better alignment remains desirable and will be an iterative process.
Infrastructure First approach must take account of projected future need (including for projected climate change impacts).	No change.	IF policy states that LDPs are required to be informed by evidence of infrastructure “needs” which could include future need.
Infrastructure should be considered at a strategic level. IF policy should reflect the cross-boundary nature of infrastructure/impacts.	Reference to ‘within the plan area, including cross-boundary infrastructure’ has been included in LDP section.	To respond to stakeholder views, and provide clarity of message. Reference to cross-boundary infrastructure addresses catchment issues.
Focus should be on prioritising key infrastructure requirements. IF policy should identify what types of infrastructure should be prioritised.	Inserted ‘...identifying the infrastructure priorities...’.	To respond to stakeholder views. IF policy is overarching, setting out the expected approach for how infrastructure considerations, in the round, are to be taken account of in planning. Within the wider context of NPF4 policy, infrastructure priorities may vary across areas. This change supports that process through LDPs.
IF policy should highlight the importance of clarity on infrastructure requirements for developers.	Amended text - LDPs are to set out ‘... where , how, when and by whom’	To respond to stakeholder views.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 8: Infrastructure First

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	infrastructure is to be delivered.	
Inflexible – planning authorities cannot amend contributions over lifetime of plans. Also precludes exact contribution levels being set out in guidance.	Amended text - now provides clarity that it is 'level (or method of calculation)' that needs to be set out in LDPs.	To respond to stakeholder views. The purpose of this part of policy remains to secure a greater level of clarity/certainty over contribution requirements in LDPs. The addition of '(or method of calculation)' gives greater flexibility.
IF policy should include requirement for LDPs to identify the types of development to contribute.	Amended text - IF policy now clarifies that LDPs are required to identify the types of development from which contributions will be required.	To provide clarity of message and respond to stakeholder views.
Concern that Infrastructure requirements may affect viability – e.g. heat networks.	No change.	Circular 3/2012 sets out that economic viability of proposals should be considered when developing planning obligations. Decisions on infrastructure requirements are the responsibility of the decision maker.
8 (b) where development creates an infrastructure need it should demonstrate how account has been taken of the Investment Hierarchy		
Clarity over how development proposals are to be assessed against infrastructure investment hierarchy. LDPs could support this process.	Amendment – the requirement to apply the Scottish Government infrastructure investment hierarchy moved to LDP section.	To respond to stakeholder views. The application of infrastructure investment hierarchy is better undertaken at the plan making stage, through development of spatial strategy.
(a) and (b) may limit delivery of rural infrastructure and housing. Will result in new development being focused around existing 'urban' provision.	No change.	IF policy is neutral on urban/rural provision. Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP) investment hierarchy references the need to be ' <i>reflective of local infrastructure needs, such as the different level of existing infrastructure in rural and island</i>

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 8: Infrastructure First

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		<i>communities when compared to towns and cities.'</i> When applying the Infrastructure Investment Hierarchy (IIH), reference should be given to the explanatory text in IIP.
8 (c) provide for infrastructure identified in LDPs and delivery programmes		
This may lead to development proposals being supported on the basis of a relatively small contribution, even if they are contrary to other planning policies.	Added wording "in line with" to provide clarity.	To respond to stakeholder views. Adjustment made to be clear that the expectation is for a plan-led approach to be followed. NPF4 policies should be considered in the round – see 'How to Use this Document' Annex of NPF4.
Additional guidance to assess the sufficiency of infrastructure contributions.	No change.	Not for NPF4 content. As part of the separate review of developer contributions, consideration will be given to future guidance.
Clarity sought over the relationship between (c) and (d).	Amendment made to clarify the difference between two policies, i.e. developments in line with plan-led requirements and the need for development to mitigate its impacts.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity of message.
8 (d) development proposals should mitigate their impacts on infrastructure		
Lack of flexibility for planning authorities to consider acceptable mitigation on a case by case basis.	Amended wording to provide greater flexibility for the source of mitigation.	Stakeholder/consultee request. The revised wording retains the important policy principle that impacts on infrastructure should be mitigated, but the change recognises that mitigation can come from different sources. It is for the decision maker to determine applications on a case by case basis.
Seek statement on continued role of Section 75.	No change.	Section 75 remains part of planning legislation. NPF4

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Draft Policy 8: Infrastructure First

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		does not have to repeat legislation.
Clarification of use of planning obligation tests.	Amended text - planning obligation tests 'will apply'.	Clarity of message. Removed reference to tests 'should be met'. Circular 3/2012 contains relevant policy.
The relevant tests should be set out in the Draft NPF4 or cross references to the relevant circulars included.	Amended text - detail of planning obligation and planning condition tests included.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity of message.
Development proposals should go beyond 'mitigation' and seek to 'enhance infrastructure'.	No change.	In the context of securing planning obligations, the relevant tests apply.
Remove legal requirement on planning obligations - allow their usage to deliver large-scale infrastructure.	No change.	NPF4 does not replace Circular 3/2012, which contains policy on planning obligations, including the tests governing their use. As part of the separate review of developer contributions, consideration will be given to future changes required or guidance needed.
Clarity sought for planning authorities/ developers, in terms of level of mitigation/ contributions considered reasonable.	No change.	Should be considered on a case by case basis. IF policy is clear that impacts of development proposals should be mitigated. Further clarity cannot be given as it is project specific.
The approach to mitigation of infrastructure impacts in rural areas should be tailored to local circumstances/support rural repopulation.	No change.	IF policy is clear that impacts of development proposals should be mitigated. It is for the decision maker to determine the appropriate extent of mitigation. Further clarity on how to apply this in rural areas cannot be given as it is project specific.

Policy 9: Quality homes

Summary of representations

Aspects that respondents liked included that there is more of a focus on deliverability and that the overall approach has the potential to reduce the variety of approaches taken across planning authorities. A different perspective was that as drafted the policy contains a range of definitive statements, which if taken on their own, could be used to justify inappropriate development.

A number of respondents noted the lack of reference to Housing to 2040, and there was a concern that it is not clear how NPF4 links to its ambitions. There were also a range of concerns relating to the setting of Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirements and to managing the deliverable Housing Land Pipeline. A number of respondents also raised concerns about the lack of priority given to the housing needs of older and disabled people.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 16 'Quality homes'. This policy has been revised. Having weighed up contrasting arguments, the changes aim to provide clarification, rather than a significant change to our position in the draft. This includes a shift towards clear support for housing development on land identified in the Local Development Plan, further explanation, more flexibility around requirements for a statement of community benefit, and further clarity on how planning authorities can vary affordable housing contributions.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
The new policy will repeat what were described as the failures of NPF3 to deliver affordable quality housing.	The affordable housing policy has been strengthened to require at least 25% of market sites to be delivered as affordable housing. There is provision for smaller scale proposals for affordable homes which are not allocated in the plan.	This policy is a distinct, new approach to planning for new homes which intends to encourage, promote and facilitate the delivery of more high quality, affordable and sustainable homes across Scotland to meet needs in response to criticisms of the previous approach to planning for new homes.
The policy should reference encouraging, promoting, and ensuring delivery of homes across different tenures and by a range of providers.	No change.	The policy supports development proposals for new homes across different tenures which improve affordability and choice (Revised NPF4 Policy 16(c) 'Quality homes').

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 9: Quality homes

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
LDPs should allocate land for specific tenures including social, affordable, self-build and community or public-led housing only.	No change.	<p>The draft LDP Guidance provides direction on the process of preparing LDPs. Paragraph 352 states “where appropriate there should be a mix of scales of sites in a range of locations to support a balance of tenures and dwelling types”.</p> <p>The Local Housing Land Requirement (LHLR) is an all tenure requirement, and land should be allocated in the LDP to meet the LHLR. The policy states that diverse needs and delivery models should be taken into account across all areas.</p> <p>The majority of sites will not be single-tenure, but will include a mix of tenures (for example market and affordable homes).</p>
Not enough emphasis on sustainability.	No change.	<p>The Quality Homes policy does not repeat what is included in other parts of NPF4. NPF4 must be read as a whole.</p> <p>There are a number of policies across NPF which relate to sustainability and are relevant to the delivery of new homes, including tackling the climate and nature crises, climate mitigation and adaptation, sustainable transport, and design, quality and place, amongst others.</p>
A new policy of building reuse first should be developed.	No change.	Revised NPF4 Policy 9 ‘Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings’ supports development proposals that will result in the sustainable reuse of

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Draft Policy 9: Quality homes

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		brownfield land including vacant and derelict land and buildings.
Recognise and encourage a significant contribution to housing targets to be made by existing empty homes, or buildings not currently used for residential purposes, being returned or converted to use as homes.	No change.	The Revised NPF4 Policy 16 'Quality homes' relates to proposals for new homes, and policy for the preparation of LDPs in relation to new homes. The Local Housing Strategy is the more appropriate place to consider bringing housing back into effective use through remodelling and rehabilitation of existing properties.
Providing for alternative models of housing such as Smart Clachans.	No change.	LGHP Committee Request. Support is provided for proposals for new homes that improve affordability and choice: this includes self-provided homes, which includes self-build housing, custom-build housing and collective build housing.
9 (a) LDP to identify a Housing Land Requirement which at least meets the 10 year Minimum All Tenure Housing Land Requirement		
Lack of clarity regarding housing target, MATHLR and Housing Land Requirement.	Amended text to add clarity on statutory housing target and 'Local' added to 'Housing Land Requirement' to remove confusion between terms for NPF and LDPs.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Call for mechanism to trigger a review of the Housing Land Requirement if under-delivery is a persistent issue.	No change.	Annual Housing Land Audit and two-yearly Delivery Programme to monitor delivery of Local Housing Land Requirement via the pipeline. The 2019 Act provides for amendment and review of plans. We will consider further as Regulations are prepared. To inform such action, flexibility is needed

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Draft Policy 9: Quality homes

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		in order to respond to the wider context rather than a rigid trigger. We will work with stakeholders on guidance for HLAs and LDPs.
A reserve of deliverable sites should be maintained and come forward earlier if the pipeline under-delivers.	Amended text - timescales have been clarified (short/medium /long & beyond 10 years) and provision made to consider earlier delivery of sites from the long term and areas beyond 10 years where other sites are not delivering as programmed.	To respond to stakeholder views.
9 (b) deliverable housing land pipeline		
Lack of clarity on deliverable housing land pipeline.	Added definition and purpose. Time-scales clarified. Delivery Programme location confirmed. Role of annual Housing Land Audit clarified.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Request for unallocated sites to be permitted where delivery is not as expected in the pipeline (<i>behind schedule</i>).	Clarity has been added on what land can come forward when delivery is not as programmed.	To respond to stakeholder views. Quality Homes policy promotes a plan-led system. Aim of the policy is to incentivise delivery through a planned approach. Policy later provides support for new homes on unallocated sites where delivery of sites is happening earlier than identified in the pipeline.
Policy should refer to 'supply' rather than 'pipeline' as a technical term that relates to established planning procedures and policy.	No change.	This policy is a distinct, new approach to planning for new homes and should not be confused with the previous approach or terminology. The new policy includes new terms to prevent confusion with the previous approach/terms.

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Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Local authorities do not control the rate of house building other than their own developments: avoid imposing a requirement that is not within their remit.	No change.	Planning authorities have a duty to prepare an LDP and NPF4 policy sets out expectations for the LDPs. A collaborative effort is required to achieve delivery with all stakeholders playing their role, including identifying a deliverable housing land pipeline.
Policy will not address LDPs not allocating enough deliverable housing land to meet need and demand.	No change.	The new approach to delivering quality homes includes new policy in NPF4 and new processes relating to LDPs, Delivery Programmes and Housing Land Audits. Some stakeholders have recognised the delivery focus of the new policy approach in NPF4.
Call for mechanism to bring forward longer term or unallocated sites: suggestion of percentage buffer.	No change.	Quality Homes policy promotes a plan led system. Change in policy approach focuses action on delivery instead of conflict over precise numbers or percentages. Flexibility is needed in order to respond to the wider context rather than a rigid trigger. We will work with stakeholders on guidance for HLAs and LDPs.
Clarity on site de-allocation – frequency, process and evidence required.	No change.	LDP Guidance provides further information on plan preparation and review.
Reference should be to the Delivery Programme and Housing Land Audit being used to ‘monitor’, not ‘manage’, the development pipeline.	Amended text to clarify.	To respond to stakeholder views.
9 (c) land should be allocated to meet the Housing Land Requirement		
Definition of ‘sustainable locations’ needed.	Amended wording of policy to refer to “locations that	References causing confusion

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Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	create quality places for people to live” to add clarity.	removed/amended in response to stakeholder views.
9 (d) Development proposals for homes should be high quality and contribute towards making great places		
Terms like ‘high quality’ and ‘great places’ are subjective.	Amended wording to focus on a plan-led system and Key policy connection to design, quality and place added.	To respond to stakeholder views. LDPs to promote quality development through being place-based, people-centred and delivery-focused. NPF should be read as a whole, including policy on quality development.
Lacks any meaningful detail which could be used to assess whether proposed housing is adaptable to changing and diverse needs and lifestyles.	Reinforced the affordability and choice policy (Revised NPF4 Policy 16(c)) to refer to adaptability.	With an ageing population, and to support disabled people to live in their own home, it is important that people live in homes which are able to adapt to their changing needs.
NPF4 would benefit from design guidance that reinforces the commitment to delivering high quality homes set out in Housing to 2040, including by identifying how the planning framework will support these efforts.	No change	NPF4 must be read as a whole. Revised policy 14 ‘Design, quality and place’ supports the delivery of places that consistently deliver healthy, pleasant, distinctive, connected, sustainable and adaptable qualities.
9 (e) Statement of Community Benefit		
Application -comments on who to be involved in preparation, what should be included and size of development to be applied to.	Amended wording to provide for flexibility for smaller developments where appropriate.	We will work with stakeholders to consider application in practice.
9 (f) Support for proposals for new homes that improve affordability and choice		
Content not sufficient to meet requirements of the Act in relation to housing for older and disabled people.	Expanded explanation on outcomes to provide further evidence of how the statutory requirements are met.	To respond to stakeholder views. The policy already promotes affordability and choice and the adaptability of homes to changing and diverse needs. This includes accessible, adaptable and wheelchair

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Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		accessible homes, and homes for older people including supported accommodation, care homes and sheltered housing.
Minimum 10% of new build homes should be wheelchair accessible.	No change.	Policy supports proposals for accessible, adaptable and wheelchair accessible homes. Local Housing Strategies contain targets for delivery of wheelchair accessible housing.
Call for NPF4 to support and promote the community-led housing approach further.	No change.	NPF4 supports proposals for new self-provided homes, which includes collective build housing.
NPF4 should consider what high quality homes look like for younger people and the services they need.	No change	NPF4 must be read as a whole. Other policies relate to younger people including Revised Policy 21 on play, recreation and sport, and also Policy 15 on Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods.
9 (g) Proposals for Gypsy/Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation on land not identified for this use		
Policy should not include text that is biased against Gypsy/Traveller/ Travelling Showpeople communities or be less flexible than policy for other types of homes.	Amended policy to give parity with the exceptions policy for housing for settled communities and to ensure no unintended bias is included.	To respond to stakeholder views. Reworking of policy ensured it is based on decision making and the plan-led system rather than on value judgements of the type of accommodation.
Terminology should reflect Travelling Showpeople yards and Gypsy/Traveller sites/family yards for accuracy.	Amended policy to represent community definitions of accommodation more accurately.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Requests to include human rights and equalities legislation references.	Added reference to human rights and equality.	To respond to stakeholder views.
9 (h) – affordable homes in areas where there is an identified requirement		

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Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Query over what is meant by 'area' and what the 'requirement' refers to.	Amended policy wording to remove ambiguous terms and to add clarity. 'Identified requirement' changed to 'identified need' to align with terminology of HNDA process.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Concerns about change from SPP "no more than 25%" to NPF "at least 25%".	No change.	Flexibility built into policy to increase or decrease the 25% figure with an evidence-based approach. Mix of views - a number of responses support the policy.
Flexibility to increase/decrease affordable housing percentage will encourage variation and produce a mosaic of requirements, creating uncertainty and confusion.	No change.	Affordable housing delivery cannot be achieved through a one-size-fits-all approach. NPF4 sets out a percentage of at least 25% but provides important flexibility for this to be decreased or increased where there is local justification, in an evidence based approach.
Current text could be interpreted to mean that affordable housing is required even if there is no justification for it.	Text clarified to refer to 'identified need'.	The first sentence of Revised NPF4 Policy 16(e) 'Quality Homes' includes 'to meet an identified need'. This sets the context for the whole policy: 'makes provision for' can apply to proposals for market homes as well as affordable homes.
A definition of the limits of locations and circumstances where lower contribution may be appropriate is required, particularly in complex cross boundary market areas and where joint HNDAs are required.	No change.	The policy provides flexibility for the LDP to set out locations or circumstances where a lower contribution is justified. This will be evidence-based and specific to each area.
Serviced land as affordable housing contribution not widely	Removed reference to the provision of serviced land. Text now expects contributions to be provided	To respond to stakeholder views.

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Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
used at present – suggest change.	in accordance with local policy or guidance.	
9 (i) New homes on land not identified for housebuilding		
Request for less ambiguous wording – particularly ‘exceeding delivery timescales’.	Amended policy wording to add clarity/remove ambiguity, including ‘delivery happening earlier than identified in the pipeline’.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Concerns policy too limited & suggest permitting housing on unallocated sites where there are not enough deliverable short and long term sites to meet the HLR or where sites are consistent with the site assessment methodology confirmed in the Evidence Report.	No change.	The Quality Homes policy promotes a plan-led system. The aim of the policy is to incentivise delivery rather than non-delivery. The policy allows for proposals for new homes on land not identified for housebuilding to be supported where delivery of sites is happening earlier than identified in the pipeline.
Use of ‘or’ at third bullet suggests proposals would not have to be consistent with spatial strategy/ other relevant policies.	Amended policy bullet list formatting for clarity.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Concern that if policy applies to brownfield windfall sites, it will be overly restrictive.	No change.	NPF4 is to be read as a whole. Revised NPF4 Policy 9 ‘Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings’ supports the reuse of brownfield land and buildings. Brownfield policy referenced in Key policy connections.
Call for mechanism to enable unallocated sites if delivery exceeds or falls short of the pipeline: suggestion of a percentage buffer.	Added text to clarify the route to establishing whether delivery is happening earlier than identified in the deliverable housing land pipeline.	To respond to stakeholder views. Quality Homes policy promotes a plan led system. Change in policy approach focusses action on delivery instead of conflict over precise numbers or percentages. Flexibility is needed in order to respond to the

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Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		wider context rather than a rigid trigger. We will work with stakeholders on guidance for HLAs and LDPs.
9(j) Householder development		
Householder applications should be dealt with through LDP design policies, not a national planning document.	No change.	NPF4 is part of the Development Plan together with the LDP. Local policy and guidance may include policy which reflects local circumstances.
Clarification sought on policy wording.	Divided policy to add clarity.	To respond to stakeholder views.

Policy 10: Sustainable travel and transport

Summary of representations

Most of those commenting supported the principle and overall direction set out, although there were concerns that some parts may not be workable in rural and island communities. There were also calls for clearer financial commitments to provide the investment required to support the policy, especially around active travel and public transport infrastructure, and achieving a modal shift from private car use.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 13 'Sustainable transport'. The policy has been reframed to focus on positive changes to support sustainable modes, rather than focusing solely on a reduction of unsustainable travel. The policy has been supplemented to make reference to including equalities groups in the earliest stages of decision making.

Further consideration has been given to the applicability of the policy in rural areas and the Glossary entry for sustainable travel hierarchy clarifies how it applies in rural areas.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Concerns that the policy is urban centric and not realistic in rural/ island areas and that it will be problematic to use it as a reason for refusal (in particular policy relating to significant travel generating uses).	Amended rural policy now indicates that the transport needs should be taken into account as appropriate for the rural location. The Glossary entry for 'sustainable travel' has been amended to reflect that in some areas, particularly rural, the top three tiers may be judged as unfeasible and there will remain a role for electric vehicles and shared transport options.	To provide clarity of message and respond to stakeholder views.
Calls for clearer financial commitments to provide the investment required. Low cost transport should be available to those on low incomes.	No change.	NPF4 is not an investment programme. The Delivery Programme sets out a proposed approach to improve alignment with wider investment programmes.
Request for references to other documents such as	No change.	NPF does not refer to documents which may become dated/superseded

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Draft Policy 10: Sustainable travel and transport

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
'Cycling by Design' and 'Designing Streets.'		during the lifetime of the framework.
References to RSS and RTS.	RSS are referenced in NPF4 and explained in the Glossary. Reference has been added to RTS in the 'How to Use this Document' Annex.	Regional Transport Strategies and local transport strategies may be material considerations in decision making. LDP guidance can make reference to RTS and we are working with Transport Scotland on aligning LTS and LDP guidance.
Concern that the policy overly focussed on passengers over freight. Need to allocate land for rail freight hubs – safeguarding in LDPs. Existing terminals should be protected.	Added reference to mode shift of freight from road to rail and last mile delivery. Amended wording to widen emphasis to the movement of people and goods.	To respond to stakeholder views. LDP guidance will refer to LDPs looking at freight issues at an authority wide level and consider issues of freight transfer and safeguarding.
Lack of reference to the importance of Scotland's airports for external connectivity, especially in comparison to Scottish Planning Policy (2014).	Amended text in 'productive places' section to re-emphasise the importance of external connectivity for both passengers and freight and the importance to the wider Scottish economy.	To respond to stakeholder views.
10 (a) LDPs should be aim to reduce the need to travel unsustainably by prioritising locations for future development		
Requests for the policy to be more positively worded, e.g. not simply reducing and mitigating unsustainable modes but actively supporting delivery of a mode shift.	Amended wording throughout to reflect this change in emphasis.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Reducing unsustainable travel should be reflected elsewhere in NPF4.	No change.	This is a key driver of several other policies including Revised NPF4 policies: 15 'Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods'; 27 'City, town, local and commercial centres'; and 28 'Retail'. The spatial principles also cover local living.

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Draft Policy 10: Sustainable travel and transport

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Calls for a definition of the term 'sustainable transport' and views expressed that this should include electric vehicles especially in rural areas to make the policy viable.	Added definition of sustainable travel to Glossary. Clarifies that sustainable transport refers to the top three tiers of the STH. In rural areas these top three tiers may not be feasible. There will remain a role for the private cars, including electric vehicles.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity of definition.
LDPs should be required to identify potential for retrofitting sustainable transport infrastructure.	No change.	Whilst it is recognised that this could provide benefits, it is not considered to be precluded by the broader policy intent, outcomes and text. Local Transport Strategies will identify projects for transport improvements and the LDP guidance will call for close links between LDPs and the LTS for the area.
a) and b) should be merged.	Amended policy combines requirements for LDPs.	To respond to stakeholder views.
10 (b) LDPs should be informed by an appropriate and effective transport appraisal undertaken in line with DPMTAG		
Appraisal mechanisms will need to ensure that co-benefits can be captured in analysis performed to guide decision-makers.	No change.	Appraisal mechanisms are covered in Transport Scotland guidance, updating of Transport Scotland guidance is outwith the scope of NPF4.
Strengthen by making clear that developments not supporting the sustainable travel hierarchy will not be approved.	Amended wording at Policy 13b which supports proposals which have been considered in line with the sustainable travel hierarchy	To respond to stakeholder views. There also needs to be flexibility to local circumstances especially in rural areas.
Remove references to DPMTAG and DMRB as they are outdated guidance. Calls for the guidance to be updated as a matter of urgency. Some responses highlighting how the process is expensive and could be streamlined.	Amended text. Reference is now made to relevant transport appraisal guidance. Updating of Transport Scotland guidance is outwith the scope of NPF4.	To respond to stakeholder views.

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Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Need to set out the sustainable travel and investment hierarchies.	No change.	These are set out in National Transport Strategy 2 and in the Glossary.
Make clear links to policy on local living and rural places.	Addition of key policy connections includes local living, rural homes and rural development.	NPF4 should be read as a whole, to avoid unnecessary duplication.
Reference cross-boundary movement and partnership working through RSS.	The How to Use this Document Annex highlights regional spatial priorities should be considered through LDPs and where appropriate RSS and Regional Transport Strategies, including in working in partnership with others.	The spatial strategy highlights strategically important connections. To respond to stakeholder views.
10 (c) a transport assessment is required where a development or change is likely to generate a significant increase in person trips		
Clarity on the recommended approach to transport assessment.	Amended, revised wording indicates transport assessments should be undertaken in accordance with the relevant guidance.	To respond to stakeholder views.
10 (d) significant travel generating uses and Travel Plans		
Monitoring of travel plans should be linked to targets set by LDPs and LTSs.	No change.	The policy wording refers to monitoring and evaluation of travel plans. Proposals for monitoring will be subject to the circumstances of the proposal.
10 (e) affect the operation and safety of strategic transport network		
Clarification on whether capacity of existing infrastructure and mitigation are expected to be identified through a transport assessment and whether it refers only to Transport Scotland (TS) interests.	No change.	Transport assessments should be undertaken in accordance with the relevant guidance. See Glossary entry.
Expand to consider proposals that may affect any part of the transport network.	Revised policy 13b applies to all proposals, it sets out that proposals will be supported where they are considered in line with the sustainable travel	To respond to stakeholder views.

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Draft Policy 10: Sustainable travel and transport

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	hierarchy it also indicates proposals. It will be designed to incorporate safety measures.	
10 (f) new junctions on trunk roads		
Resource still going into road network. This should not be the case if net zero targets are to be met. Whilst other responses looking for road investment to continue. New junctions on trunk roads is a function of TS and should not be included in this policy.	No change.	Transport Scotland has a duty to maintain a safe trunk road network. Retained policy on new junctions. Early conversations required between TS and the developer to deliver new junctions.
10 (g) proposals should put people and place before unsustainable travel		
Support for references in the policy to blue and green infrastructure. Calls for this to be expanded to include green bridges.	Amended text - reference to blue green infrastructure has been relocated further up the policy to give it more emphasis. It has also been expanded to include examples such as natural planting or water systems.	To respond to stakeholder views. Green bridges can be captured under the policy which encourages proposals which build in resilience to the effects of climate change and incorporate green infrastructure and natural habitats.
Provide clarity on application in rural areas with poor existing travel infrastructure.	Amended text refers to the sustainable travel hierarchy which promotes a place based approach, working through the levels as appropriate to the place. The new Rural Development policy 29b provides that development proposals in rural areas should take into account the transport needs of the development as appropriate for the rural location.	To respond to stakeholder views.
10 (h) locations which would increase reliance on the private car		
Amend h) to remove reference to 400m and refer to Sustainable Travel Hierarchy.	Removed this reference. Emphasis is placed on the Sustainable Travel Hierarchy and contribution	To respond to stakeholder views. Considered more appropriate for the

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Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	to 20 minute neighbourhoods and local living. The Glossary definition of these terms provides more information.	distance to be removed, to reflect the policy shift to local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods.
Need to emphasise Scottish Government's target of reducing car km by 20%. This requires not only avoiding increasing reliance on the private car, but also actively reducing it. The Framework should mention schemes to actively reduce car usage, such as low-traffic schemes, occupancy requirements and parking restrictions.	Amended policy refers to government reduction targets. Amended wording shifts emphasis away from avoiding unsustainable travel towards actively reducing it. Widened policy on parking to reflect these suggestions of other schemes to reduce car usage.	To respond to UK Climate Change Committee. The specific 20% reduction target has not been mentioned in the policy as they may be achieved/ superseded over the course of the life of NPF4. This will be relevant in the updating of associated Transport Scotland guidance.
Many consultation responses highlighted the need to consider inequalities issues associated with restricting car use and promoting active travel.	Amended text at Revised NPF4 Policy 13((b)(vii)) and (e) 'Sustainable transport' to emphasise the needs of users of all abilities and to ensure disabled people do not face additional barriers from low car policies. Policy states that the transport needs of all users including those with protected characteristics should be considered at the earliest stages in the design of new development.	To respond to Committee (NZET) and stakeholder views. LDP guidance will also set out how equalities groups should be involved in the early stages of plan development. The Sustainable Travel Hierarchy has been developed to be relevant to people with varying transport needs.
10 (i) sustainable travel and investment hierarchies; integrate transport modes; access by reliable public transport; provision of electric, hydrogen and other low or zero-emission vehicle and cycle charging points		
Call for more emphasis on public transport including connectivity and multi-modality. Views expressed that present services are inconsistent and not a viable solution to sustainable travel.	No change.	Existing policy supports proposals in locations which can be accessed by sustainable travel modes. Planning decisions are required to consider the infrastructure investment hierarchy and NPF4 takes an 'infrastructure first'

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Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Concerns that existing public transport infrastructure and investment is inadequate to present public transport as a viable alternative to the car in many parts of Scotland. S75 should be used to support and contribute to sustainable travel projects.		approach. The NPF4 Delivery Programme will give greater focus to aligning plans and strategies to identify where additional benefits can be made from existing committed investment. Transport infrastructure investment comes from a number of sources including both national and local government funding as well as developer contributions. Regional Transport Partnerships' delivery mechanisms, prioritisation and funding are addressed through proposed Scottish Government/Transport Scotland/RTP/CoSLA liaison arrangements, liaison with private sector partners, Community Planning Partnerships and the travelling public, and regional action as appropriate.
Policy needs to encourage other ownership models. Car clubs and shared transport as a viable alternative to car ownership.	Added Glossary entries for Sustainable Travel Hierarchy and 'sustainable travel' include reference to shared transport and highlight its role. Retained reference to shared transport in the LDP section.	To respond to stakeholder views. Shared modes are not included in the NTS2 definition of sustainable travel.
Calls to align electric vehicle charging with renewable energy sources.	Amended policy states that electric vehicle charging infrastructure including electric vehicle forecourts should be supported where fuelled by renewable energy.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Call for separate guidance to local authorities on	No change.	UK Climate Change Committee request. Rollout of EV is being progressed by Transport

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 10: Sustainable travel and transport

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
(i) how many EV chargers are likely to be needed, and when; and (ii) how to appraise and quantify the co-benefits offered by sustainable transport (e.g. congestion, air quality, and health impacts, plus emissions reductions), beyond the classical metrics such as travel time and economic connectivity (which often favour car travel).		Scotland/Building Standards Division. Building Standards consulting on legislative requirements for EV chargers in new developments. Work on permitted development rights to enable roll out of charging infrastructure is ongoing, consultation completed and responses being analysed.
Mixed views on references to Hydrogen vehicles. Some supportive of this as an alternative to cars. Other respondents pointing out that Hydrogen charging was not feasible at the development scale.	Removed references to Hydrogen vehicles in favour of zero carbon vehicle charging.	Clarity of message and to build in longevity to the policy.
10 (j) active travel infrastructure or public transport and multimodal hubs		
More needs to be done for active travel to be a practical alternative to road transport, especially in rural areas. - including; making them part of wider green routes, requiring LDPs to have active travel policies and powers to assemble land for infrastructure.	No change.	LDP guidance will cover active travel considerations at the plan wide level. National development on walking and cycling considers wider network. Existing policy refers to new transport routes as an opportunity for green infrastructure.
Authorities should be encouraged to use planning obligations to deliver active travel projects and car clubs.	No change.	It is for decision makers to consider the content of planning obligations in line with policy tests.
10 (k) consider the needs of users of all ages and abilities		
Many consultation responses highlighted the need to consider inequalities issues associated with restricting car use and promoting active travel.	Amended text at Revised NPF4 Policy 13((b)(vii)) and (e) 'Sustainable transport' to emphasise the needs of users of all abilities and to ensure disabled people do not face additional barriers from low car policies.	To respond to Committee (NZET) and stakeholder views. LDP guidance will also set out how equalities groups should be involved in the early stages of plan development.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 10: Sustainable travel and transport

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	Policy states that the transport needs of all users including those with protected characteristics should be considered at the earliest stages in the design of new development.	The Sustainable Travel Hierarchy has been developed to be relevant to people with varying transport needs.
10 (l) cycle parking		
Secure and accessible cycle parking and e-charging points for powered mobility devices.	Added reference to cycle charging points. It is considered that the policy fulfils this and no further amendment is required.	To provide clarity.
10 (m) proposals which are ambitious in terms of low/no car parking		
Calls for lower parking standards in areas well served by sustainable modes. Some calls for restrictions on one space per home in new developments whilst others concerned about the impact of restricting parking for visitors/deliveries/disabled users. Support for car share as a means to enable fewer private parking spaces.	Amended emphasis to a place-based approach to parking for clarity of message. Place-based considerations mean a national level approach to car parking is not appropriate. Retained policy support for low/no car parking options. Added reference to low traffic schemes and bus cycle priority schemes.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity of message.
Clarification on whether previous parking standards are being retained. Consistency on parking requirements required.	National level parking standards in SPP are not being carried forward. Amended policy promotes a place-based approach to car parking provision, with support for low and no car parking developments.	Clarifying query from stakeholders. Given the differences in circumstances, some locations can support lower parking standards, and a national approach is not appropriate.
Need for safe routes to enable disabled and elderly to walk wheel and cycle. Blue badge parking close to entrances.	Amended parking policy in response to consultation to state that low/no parking developments should not create barriers to access for disabled people. Retained reference to the safety and inclusivity of sustainable travel and given priority as a policy outcome.	To respond to stakeholder views. The exact location of blue badge parking is a matter for local decision making. Policy encourages a place based approach to this so solutions may differ in different scenarios.

Policy 11: Heat and cooling

Summary of representations

There was reference to the contribution that this policy can make to the decarbonisation of heat. Reference was made to the Heat in Buildings Strategy, and there were calls for greater consideration of the affordability of zero emissions heat and cooling, for example through links to the Fuel Poverty Strategy. Others raised issues regarding the potential scale of resources required, for example in the assessment of technical proposals.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 19 'Heat and cooling'. Some technical changes have been made to the policy which has also been rationalised to improve clarity. Reference to domestic biomass energy systems have been removed, based on consultation responses that highlighted the New Build Heat Standard, which will come into effect 1 April 2024, as a more appropriate means to determine what heat systems within buildings should be supported.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Calls for greater consideration of affordability, for example through links to the Fuel Poverty Strategy.	Revised NPF4 Policy 11 'Energy' sets out support for all forms of renewable, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies, whilst at the same time, Revised NPF4 Policy 19 'Heat and cooling' encourages, promotes and facilitates development that supports decarbonised solutions to heat and cooling demand and adaptation to more extreme temperatures.	To respond to NZET Committee. We recognise that addressing fuel poverty will require greater energy efficiency and affordable, low carbon, distributed heat and electricity networks.
Calls for clarity on the anticipated role of the policy in relation to the role of Building Standards.	Amended policy wording as detailed below.	Building Standards will complement the delivery of the policy.
NPF4 should better recognise what were seen as commercial, practical and viability constraints on the integration of heat networks with new residential developments.	Policy d) has been removed and the suite of policies a) to i) have been rationalised to improve clarity.	To respond to stakeholder views.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 11: Heat and cooling

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Further detail on the role of low carbon heat pumps, particularly in replacing fossil fuel and wood-fire domestic heating.	No change.	The New Build Heat Standard would be a more appropriate means to determine what zero emission heat system within buildings should be supported.
Greater emphasis on the retrofitting of existing buildings and heat networks.	Whilst previously included, Revised NPF4 new policy 19(b) 'heat and cooling' expressly sets out that proposals for retrofitting a connection to a heat network will be supported.	To respond to stakeholder views.
11 (a) LDPs should take into account the area's LHEES and areas of heat network potential and any designated HNZ when allocating land		
Support for the integration of heat networks into planning policy, including the expectation that LDPs consider the area's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and heat network zones for new buildings, existing building retrofit and energy infrastructure. Clarification sought whether this is an expectation or a requirement.	Revised NPF4 Policy 19(b) 'heat and cooling' sets out that proposals for retrofitting a connection to a heat network will be supported.	To respond to UK Climate Change Committee.
11 (b) connect to existing heat networks		
Missed opportunity to include proposals to convert existing heat networks to low-carbon sources or to expand existing heat networks.	Revised NPF4 Policy 19 'Heat and Cooling' new wording makes clear policy intent to encourage, promote and facilitate development that supports decarbonised solutions to heat and cooling demand.	To respond to UK Climate Change Committee. Detailed proposals are outwith the scope of NPF4.
11 (c) locations where a heat network is planned		
Some concerns were raised around the role of heat networks, with some thinking the policy was too narrowly focused on technology and others felt there would be constraints on heat networks in areas of lower density.	No change.	The policy has been aligned with the Heat Networks (Scotland) Act 2021 which requires a local authority to determine where there are areas that are most appropriate for the development of heat

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 11: Heat and cooling

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		networks and where the opportunities are greatest.
On 11 (c), (e) & (f) there were calls for guidance in relation to (c) exceptions to be added to policy (e) with a range of suggested changes and additional considerations noted in relation to policy (f).	Rationalised wording to make the policy easier to understand.	To respond to stakeholder views.
11 (d) proposals with no demonstrable effective solution to connecting to a heat network		
Calls for greater prominence on the role of low carbon heat pumps contributing to heat decarbonisation and on the retrofitting of existing buildings and heat networks. Respondents also outlined that several aspects of 11(d) required further clarity.	Removed draft policy 11(d).	The New Build Heat Standard is expected to set out how the Scottish Government will regulate the use of zero direct emissions heating, such as heat pumps.
11 (e) national/major development with waste heat should be co-located in areas of heat demand, and include a heat and power plan for use of waste heat		
Concerns regarding the potential for the co-location of national and major development to adversely affect residential amenity and safety.	Revised NPF4 Policy 19(d) 'heat and cooling' now sets out support providing wider considerations, including residential amenity, are not adversely impacted.	To respond to stakeholder views.
11 (f) energy infrastructure proposals should take account of heat maps and zoning		
Some respondents wanted to see 11 (f) set out a wider range of considerations for energy infrastructure proposals.	New Revised NPF4 Policy 19(e) combines Draft NPF4 policy criteria 11(f) and (h) and more clearly sets out the considerations to be applied.	To improve clarity.
11 (g) domestic biomass energy systems		
Mixed views regarding domestic biomass energy systems. Whilst some called for a tightening of policy, others called for more clarity, felt this was a matter better delivered through building standards	Removed draft policy 11(g).	To respond to stakeholder views. The New Build Heat Standard is expected to set out how the Scottish Government will manage bioenergy systems in new builds.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 11: Heat and cooling

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
or otherwise raised concerns about implementation.		
11 (h) development proposals should be supported where they repurpose former fossil fuel infrastructure for low carbon energy		
Most of those commenting sought clarity on aspects of 11 h).	New Revised NPF4 Policy 19(e) combines Draft NPF4 policy criteria 11(f) and (h) and more clearly sets out the considerations to be applied.	This is still an emerging technology and development proposals will have to be carefully considered by decision makers on a case by case basis.
11 (i) reduce overheating and reliance on air conditioning systems		
Support for the requirement for development proposals to reduce overheating, prioritising natural or passive solutions.	Minor drafting changes to provide greater clarity.	To respond to UK Climate Change Committee.

Policy 12: Blue and green infrastructure, play and sport

Summary of representations

Most respondents were supportive of the policy, although it was suggested that 'blue and green infrastructure' should be separated from 'play and sport'. Some respondents addressed the issues of 'overall integrity' and 'net loss' and there were concerns that if small amounts of fragmentation are allowed, over time the impact will be cumulative.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 policies 20 'Blue and green infrastructure', and 21 'Play, recreation and sport'. This policy was widely supported but has been amended to clarify its application. We have also separated blue and green infrastructure (BGI) from play and sport in recognition of their different roles and to better reflect their respective importance in ensuring wellbeing for the environment, place and people. The separate policy on play, recreation and sport reflects the importance of outdoor leisure opportunities for people of all ages.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Policy would benefit from being split into two separate policies: one for blue and green infrastructure and the other for play and sport.	Split policy into two: new Revised NPF4 policies 20 'Blue and green infrastructure' and 21 'Play, recreation and sport.'	To respond to stakeholder views. The two separate policies help in improving clarity of their respective significance. They continue to work alongside each other in promoting and enhancing accessible BGI in providing for play and recreation.
Importance of BGI's role in SUDs and biodiversity not adequately supported in the policy criteria; and cross reference other related policies.	New section to clearly set out policy outcomes, including BGI designed to deliver multiple functions etc. New Revised NPF4 Policy 20(b) states that development proposals that incorporate such BGI will be supported.	To respond to stakeholder views. The role of individual BGI is covered in separate individual policies. A list of key policy connections is added in the new drafting structure.
Policy clauses on blue infrastructure must align with regulations governed by LA Roads departments, Scottish Water and SEPA.	Amended to include Key policy connections and the split of policy into two provides a clearer focus on BGI.	Wider issue of regulations which is not for NPF4 content. NPF4 should be read as a whole and does not repeat other legislation.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 12: Blue and green infrastructure, play and sport

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
The policy fails in protecting access to BGI, including protection of core paths & right of access as there is in current SPP, etc.	Amended text includes the requirement for LDPs to safeguard access rights and core paths, including active travel routes, as well as enabling new access and connectivity.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Suggestion the policy would benefit from making reference to Open Space Strategies and Play Sufficiency Assessments to inform existing provisions/ networks and future needs and demands.	Direct references to both Open Space Strategy and/or Play Sufficiency Assessment inserted. Definition of Play Sufficiency Assessment added to the Glossary.	To provide clarity and respond to stakeholder views.
Various consultees have suggested the policy should ensure BGI includes natural places, woodlands and historic environments, etc., which can support play and recreation; as well as community gardens and growing spaces, etc.	Amended policy structure includes key policy connection. Policy on health and wellbeing covers community growing spaces.	BGI is as defined in the Glossary. The respective role of individual blue or green infrastructure is covered in separate individual policies. A list of key policy connections is added in the new drafting structure.
Implementation-related issues including the need for standards, an approach to assessing requirements and monitoring delivery, as well as further guidance.	No change.	Not for NPF4 content.
Add opportunities to connect with nature.	Added reference at new Revised NPF4 Policy 21(f)(ii).	To respond to stakeholder views.
Strengthen in relation to climate resilience and flood risk management.	No change. Issues addressed by other policies.	To avoid repetition. NPF4 should be read as a whole.
Require biodiversity contribution of brownfield sites to be assessed.	Added wording in policy on brownfield land includes consideration of the biodiversity value of sites.	To respond to stakeholder views.
12 (a) LDPs should identify and protect blue and green infrastructure		
Needs explicit reference to the role of BGI in nature-based solutions and biodiversity and protection of existing paths.	Other policies cover and key policy connections refer to biodiversity. Amended wording for LDPs includes	To respond to stakeholder views. NPF4 should be read as a whole, to avoid unnecessary duplication.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 12: Blue and green infrastructure, play and sport

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	safeguarding of access rights and core paths.	
Comment on community growing spaces and allotments as types of BGI.	Amended the definition of “Green space” in the Glossary to omit the reference to “horticultural” land as exclusion.	To respond to stakeholder views.
12 (b) LDPs should identify new, enhanced provision or improved access to play opportunities for children		
Should include specific mention of identifying and protecting ‘wild places’ for children.	No change. Definition of BGI is sufficiently broad and separation into two distinct policies on BGI and play, recreation and sport aids clarity.	The two separate policies help in improving clarity of their respective significance.
Outdoor sports facilities are part of open space and should be included.	New Revised NPF4 policy 21 ‘Play, recreation and sport’ gives more focus on outdoor sports facilities.	To respond to stakeholder views. The two separate policies help in improving clarity of their respective significance.
Embedding BGI design at early stage in terms of placemaking and provide better link to Infrastructure First Approach.	One of the key policy outcomes for Revised NPF4 Policy 20 ‘Blue and green infrastructure’ addresses this point. Further, Revised NPF4 Policy 20(b) supports development proposals that incorporate BGI and promote this to be an integral element of the design that responds to local circumstances.	To respond to stakeholder views. The revised drafting gives general support to all BGI and promotes making BGI an integral part of design, not ruling out those BGI which are good but not integral.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 12: Blue and green infrastructure, play and sport

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
12 (c) fragmentation or net loss of existing blue and green infrastructure		
Support for the protection against fragmentation of BGI network, but question of how to assess “overall integrity”, and highlighted the importance of protecting against net loss of BGI.	The Revised NPF4 Policy 20(a) ‘Blue and green infrastructure’ is strengthened to protect against resulting in deficit. Cross reference is made to planning authorities’ Open Space Strategy to be used to inform this.	To respond to stakeholder views.
12 (d) proposals in regional and country parks		
Should reference the historic environment and cultural heritage of regional and country parks.	No change. Issues addressed by other policies.	To avoid repetition. NPF4 should be read as a whole.
12 (e) safeguarding outdoor sports facilities		
Clarity needed around which stakeholders will assess proposals and for an evidence-based approach.	No change.	Not for NPF4 content.
12 (f) loss of children’s outdoor play provision		
Loss of outdoor play provision should not be limited to formal play areas but should include loss of natural places and other open spaces where informal play occurs, and in turn, the protection against the loss of those spaces should be included in the policy.	No change to drafting in the new separate Revised NPF4 Policy 21 ‘Play, recreation and sport’. Cross reference is made for this to be informed by planning authorities’ Play Sufficiency Assessments and Open Space Strategies.	The protection against loss of individual open space types are covered in individual policies, including natural places; forestry, woodland and trees; greenbelts, etc. A list of key policy connections is added to sign-post.
Protection against loss of outdoor play provision should be extended to protect also public outdoor access to informal recreation.	Strengthened support for outdoor recreation for all ages now included in policy intent and outcomes.	To respond to stakeholder views.
12 (g) temporary or permanent open space, green space or play space on unused or under-used land		
Request for “unused or under-used land” to be defined.	Added definition to the Glossary.	To provide clarity and respond to stakeholder views.

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
12 (h) incorporate and enhance blue and green infrastructure		

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 12: Blue and green infrastructure, play and sport

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Needs flexibility around accessibility and for brownfield sites in meeting all the requirements set out.	Amended wording at Revised NPF4 Policy 20(b) 'Blue and green infrastructure' directs that design should respond to local circumstances and be informed by relevant strategies, including the planning authority's Open Space Strategy.	To provide clarity and respond to stakeholder views.
Reference to the objective of enhancing biodiversity would strengthen connections with wider green networks.	No change. Network connections remain a key consideration in Revised NPF4 Policy 20(b) 'Blue and green infrastructure' and new LDP section includes the role of the plan in identifying network connections. Issue of biodiversity is covered in key policy connections.	To avoid repetition. NPF4 should be read as a whole.
12 (i) major development should incorporate good quality provision for play, recreation and relaxation		
Define 'well designed' and 'good quality provision'.	No change.	Six qualities of successful places is an overarching policy covering good design principles.
Should apply to all developments.	Removed reference to national and major developments.	To provide clarity and respond to stakeholder views.
Consider creation, restoration and enhancement of wild places close to new developments.	No change. Issue covered by Key policy connections/ other policies.	To avoid repetition. NPF4 should be read as a whole.
12 (j) development proposals that include new public streets and public realm		
Comment raised regarding review and update of Designing Streets policy statement.	Removed reference and replaced by amended wording on new Revised NPF4 Policy 21(e) 'Play, recreation and sport'.	Details of planned guidance will be set out through the delivery programme.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 12: Blue and green infrastructure, play and sport

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
12 (k) New, replacement or improved play provision		
Remove reference to replacement as it is outwith the scope of planning decisions.	No change. We do not see “replacement” as being limited to replacing play equipment only, but extends to replacement of play opportunities.	The policy highlights the link with the planning authority’s Play Sufficiency Assessment, which will be informed by engagements with children on what forms of play opportunities they would like, whether they are new, replaced or enhanced.
A few consultees highlighted that the requirements for long term maintenance and renewal of play equipment should be included.	Added new Revised NPF4 Policy 21(g) ‘Play, recreation and sport’.	To respond to stakeholder views.
12 (i) effective management and maintenance plans		
Definition of ‘maintenance’ needed and requirements set out, including responsibilities and funding.	No change.	The requirements are considerations for individual proposals.

Policy 13: Flooding and water management

Summary of representations

While most respondents agreed with the overall ambition of developing transformative approaches to future flood risk management, some were concerned about gaps that could undermine the policy aims. Other general concerns included that Policy 13 only addresses future development, whereas strategic, solution-based approaches are needed for areas already at risk of flooding.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 22 'Flood risk and water management'. This policy has been revised in response to comments received. Development is not supported in areas at risk of flooding, with some exemptions including previously developed land where regeneration priorities have been identified in LDPs. The requirement in rural areas for a connection to a water main has been reworded to avoid adversely impacting on rural areas.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Support for the policy on surface water flooding, but clarification sought on whether it applies to all developments.	No change.	UK Climate Change Committee request. The policy applies to all development proposals.
Clarity sought on the requirements or criteria for essential infrastructure to be allowed to be built in the future flood plain.	Added definition of essential infrastructure in the Glossary.	To respond to UK Climate Change Committee views.
Clarity sought on whether NPF4's monitoring and evaluation framework will include collection of data on development in flood risk areas.	No change.	UK Climate Change Committee request. Actions for monitoring and evaluation are set out in Delivery Programme.
Cross reference to Policy 35 Coasts.	New 'Key Policy Connections' section makes reference.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Policy fit with SEPA's position statement on elevated buildings in areas of flood risk.	Revised NPF4 Policy 22 'Flood risk and water management' includes new part (a). Bullet point (iv) and further additional text on specific requirements is provided that aligns with SEPA	To respond to stakeholder views. Policy recognises that in managing climate change there may be a need to bring previously used urban land near our rivers and coasts back in to positive use and to

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 13: Flooding and water management

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	position statement on elevated buildings.	enable existing built-up areas to adapt to increasing flood risk in line with SEPA's position statement.
Reference to climate agenda and early consideration of use of natural flood management systems in developing plans/ proposals.	Specific reference made to resilience to future flood risk and use of natural flood risk management measures in Revised NPF4 Policy 22 'Flood risk and water management' outcome. LDP policy section and part 22(e) reference support for inclusion of natural flood risk management and blue-green infrastructure in design.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Highlight the importance of flood risk management plans as part of the planning system.	Added requirement in Revised NPF4 Policy 22 'Flood risk and water management' LDP section that plans need to take into account the probability of flooding from all sources and make use of relevant flood risk and river basin management plans for the area.	To respond to stakeholder comments. Further guidance on flood risk management will be provided in LDP guidance.
Too focused on developments in urban and coastal land, with need to consider wider context to support flood risk management solutions.	Existing draft policy extended beyond scope of urban and coastal context. Amended wording and editing changes to text, which help demonstrate that the policy extends across all areas, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised NPF4 Policy 22 outcomes citing wider use of natural flood risk management and support for this in LDP section. • Revised NPF4 Policy 22 reference made to need for plans to take into account the probability of flooding 	To respond to stakeholder comments.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 13: Flooding and water management

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	from all sources and make use of relevant flood risk and river basin management plans for the area.	
13 (a) community resilience to current and future impacts of climate change		
Seeking clarity on terms used, e.g. 'development proposals' and 'community resilience'.	New LDP text in revised NPF4 Policy 22 'Flood risk and water management' to improve clarity on approach to be taken to flood risk. Development proposals' term is removed from this section. 'Community resilience' is retained and considered appropriate and well defined in context of the policy.	To provide clarity and respond to stakeholder views.
Request to include reference to climate adaptation requirements/ needs and potential need for managed retreat/ relocation of development aware from areas of significant flood risk.	New LDP text in Revised NPF4 Policy 22 'Flood risk and water management' includes reference to adaptation and makes clear areas where climate change is likely to result in increased flood exposure that becomes unmanageable, consideration should be given to alternative sustainable land use.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Clarity sought on the coverage of natural flood management and relationship to biodiversity improvement. Additional requests to including reference to relevant plans.	New LDP text in Revised NPF4 Policy 22 'Flood risk and water management' includes reference to identifying opportunities to improve the water environment and to make use of relevant flood risk and river basin management plans.	To respond to stakeholder views. Policy aligns with the Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 (WEWS) that places duties on the Scottish Government, Responsible Authorities and SEPA to protect and improve the water environment.
13 (b) Future Functional Floodplain		
Clarity of terminology used and the level of protection against flood risk that the policy offers.	Part b) is now Revised NPF4 Policy 22(a) 'Flood risk and water management' with Future	To respond to stakeholder views.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 13: Flooding and water management

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	Functional Floodplain terminology removed in favour of 'at risk of flooding or in a flood risk area' which are defined in the Glossary. Clearer wording included on the types of development proposals that can be considered, when at risk of flooding or in a flood risk area. Clearer wording given on what information is needed and what design requirements must be met.	
13 (c) small scale extensions and alterations to existing buildings		
Clarification on terminology.	Replaced part c) with Revised NPF4 Policy 22(b) 'Flood risk and water management' and wording more concise.	To respond to stakeholder views.
13 (d) areas outwith functional floodplains		
No definition of most vulnerable/civil infrastructure.	Removed part (d). Deleted due to 1:1000 year return period now being included in those areas that should be avoided due to flood risk.	To respond to stakeholder views.
13 (e),(f),(g) risk of/avoid surface water flooding and public water mains		
Need for greater clarity on requirements and the terminology used.	Part (e), (f) and (g) amended and replaced with Revised NPF4 Policy 22(c) and (d) 'Flood risk and water management'. Clearer wording is offered on requirements that are sought by the policy.	To respond to stakeholder views.
13 (h) natural flood risk management and blue-green infrastructure		
Links to Policy 12 and support natural flood risk and blue green infrastructure.	Amended part (h) (Now Revised NPF4 Policy 22(e) 'Flood risk and water management') and links to Policy 12 (Blue and Green Infrastructure) provided in new key policy connections.	To respond to stakeholder views.

Policy 14: Health and wellbeing

Summary of representations

There was support for health and wellbeing being part of the planning process, and an appreciation that the planning system could do more to support healthier places and tackle health inequalities. Some were looking for an explicit statement that development proposals detrimental to active lifestyles and wellbeing will not be supported.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 23 'Health and safety'. This policy has been reviewed to clarify the role of the development plan and development management. Links are made to exercise and food growing. Suicide risk is a new element included in the policy. Other additional text in NPF4 sets out the cross-cutting nature of health and makes explicit links to a wide range of policies such as natural environment, housing, transport, blue and green infrastructure and play.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Increase prominence of/ emphasis on health and wellbeing, e.g. equal with climate and nature/make into a universal policy.	Amended text - the NPF4 spatial principles highlight empowerment, sustainable transport, local living, climate change and creating opportunities. 'Lifelong Health and Wellbeing' included as a cross cutting outcome with supporting policy links. Policy outcomes added for Revised NPF4 Policy 23 'Health and Safety'.	To respond to Committee (LGHP and HSCS) and stakeholder views.
More emphasis on health/wellbeing impacts of planning policy and place design including housing (all scales), positive outcomes sought, issues include derelict land, low density housing, lack of sustainable transport options.	Amended text - Six qualities of Successful Places include 'healthy' as well as 'pleasant', 'connected', 'distinctive', and 'sustainable' which all have connections to health and wellbeing. Revised NPF4 includes policy on 'Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings' as well as liveable places, which can influence density considerations.	To respond to Committee (LGHP and HSCS).

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 14: Health and wellbeing

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	Amended wider NPF text to include 'Lifelong Health and Wellbeing' as a cross cutting outcome with supporting policy links. Revised NPF4 Policy 23(a) 'Health and safety' is new and supports proposals that will have positive health effects and Revised NPF4 Policy 23(b) has been amended from draft policy 14 'health and wellbeing' so that Health Impact Assessments are not limited to only larger scales of development.	
Emphasise how the approach to inequalities, health and wellbeing addresses rural and island needs.	Amended text – the LDP section of Revised NPF4 Policy 23 'health and safety' includes that health and social care services and infrastructure needed should be identified. This applies to all authorities. The spatial strategy has been strengthened, the Priorities for the North area include regeneration and 20 minute neighbourhoods in addition to economic diversification. For the North West it supports a positive approach to rural development that strengthens networks of communities, and in the South it supports increased population, sustainable rural development and local economic development.	To respond to LGHP Committee.
Health and wellbeing evidence based approach to decisions needed, e.g. role of health and social care partnerships, health boards and third sector; material status for health	Amended text - to clarify in Revised NPF4 Policy 23 'Health and safety' the role of the LDP to identify health and social care services and infrastructure needed in an area in	To respond to Committee (RAINE and HSCS).

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 14: Health and wellbeing

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
and wellbeing; how are policies prioritised.	partnership with Health Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships. Revised NPF4 Policy 23(b) retains the potential for use of Health Impact Assessment.	
Policy should not support proposals detrimental to physical activity, health and wellbeing.	No change.	Revised NPF4 Policy 23(b) 'Health and safety' does not support proposals with a likely significant adverse effect on health. Revised NPF4 Policy 23(a) supports developments with positive effects on health and the LDP instruction is to create healthier places and references matters promoting health and wellbeing.
Health and social care assessments should be required, particularly for needs of older/Vulnerable groups.	No change.	Such assessments can form part of Health Impact Assessment.
Should reference mental health and its links to the environment and physical activity.	Amended text – mental health referenced in Revised NPF4 policies: 14(a) 'Design, Quality and Place'; and 21 'Play, Recreation and Sport'. Link between health, nature and physical activity included in the 'Cross-cutting Outcome and Policy links: Lifelong Health and Wellbeing'.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Suicide risk.	Suicide risk included in 'Cross-Cutting Outcome and Policy Links: Lifelong Health and Wellbeing'. Locations of concern for suicide referenced in Revised NPF4 Policy 23 'Health and safety' LDP section. New criterion 23(f) on suicide risk added.	Following on from the consultation on a New Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan for Scotland, to reflect built environment attributes of risk of suicide.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 14: Health and wellbeing

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Should consider health of the environment, given the role of nature in wellbeing.	Amended text - link between health and nature and managing effects of development on biodiversity and natural places included in the 'Cross-cutting Outcome and Policy links: Lifelong Health and Wellbeing'.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Should recognise health and wellbeing effects of arts and cultural engagement.	No change.	Revised NPF4 Policy 31 'Culture and Creativity' supports new provision and resists loss of provision of opportunities for arts, culture and creativity.
Omission of creation of a healthier food environment.	Amended text – Revised NPF4 Policy 28 'Retail' updated so LDPs identify areas where proposals for healthy food and drink proposals can be supported (was previously a criterion for determining applications). Policy 28(c) seeks demonstration of contribution to health and wellbeing of new small-scale neighbourhood retail. The food environment is addressed across three Revised NPF4 Policies: 23 'Health and safety'; 27 'City, town, local and commercial centres'; and 28 'Retail'.	To respond to Committee (LGHP and HSCS). Policy Revised NPF4 Policy 27(c) 'City, town, local and commercial centres' retains resistance to hot food takeaways, including permanently sited vans, where further provision undermines health and wellbeing of communities, particularly in disadvantaged areas. Support for food growing remains in Revised NPF4 Policy 23 'Health and Safety.'
Good quality, safe homes suitable for a variety of needs are important for people to remain in their community.	Text amended – link between housing and health and wellbeing included in the 'Cross-cutting Outcome and Policy links: Lifelong Health and Wellbeing'.	Revised NPF4 Policy 16 'Quality homes' supports new homes meeting diverse needs and addressing gaps in provision as well as adaptations to existing homes for particular needs.
Community is important to wellbeing, needs connected places and communities with transport	Text amended – link between accessibility, public facilities and services, and health and	To respond to stakeholder views.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 14: Health and wellbeing

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
links and access to public services.	wellbeing included in the 'Cross-cutting Outcome and Policy links: Lifelong Health and Wellbeing'. A policy outcome supporting connectivity is added for Revised NPF4 Policy 13 'Sustainable transport'. Revised NPF4 Policy 18 'Infrastructure first' includes a key policy connection reference to 'Health and safety'.	
Health and wellbeing assessment of National Developments should have parity with the climate/nature assessments.	No change.	To respond to Committee (HSCS). The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 includes provisions that an assessment of the likely health effects of national and major development is undertaken in relation to decision making on planning applications. National development status does not grant planning permission. However, the likely health effects of proposed National Developments have been considered as part of the SEA process.
14 (a) health inequalities		
Clarity needed on expectations, duties and responsibilities on planning authorities.	Text amended for clarity. Criterion (a) deleted and replaced with text on the role of the LDP, which includes elements from criterion (a). Development management responsibilities set out in Revised NPF4 Policy 23 'Health and safety' criterion (a)-(j).	To respond to stakeholder views.
Define health and social care infrastructure.	No change.	More information about health and social care infrastructure is anticipated to be included in the

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 14: Health and wellbeing

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		forthcoming Capital Investment Strategy.
Incorporate the Place and Wellbeing Outcomes developed by the Spatial Planning, Health and Wellbeing Collaborative Group.	No change.	Committee (HSCS) and stakeholder request. The outcomes are a helpful resource for planning authorities. Their scope includes development based attributes and procedural ones. They have been reviewed in the context of NPF4 and are considered to be addressed where relevant by NPF4 content.
More emphasis should be given to health care facilities and infrastructure.	Amended text – clarification in Revised NPF4 Policy 23 ‘Health and safety’ that LDPs are to be informed about the health and social care services and infrastructure needs in the area. Revised NPF4 Policy 23(c) supports proposals for health and social care facilities and infrastructure.	To respond to stakeholder views. Revised NPF4 Policy 18 ‘Infrastructure first’ supports development proposals that provide or contribute to infrastructure in line with that identified as necessary in the LDP.
Policy should be more than just facilities and infrastructure, e.g. should require access to natural environment and green spaces.	Revised NPF4 Policy 23 ‘Health and safety’ adds text on outcomes for health. Amended text - ‘Lifelong Health and Wellbeing’ added as a cross-cutting outcome with supporting policy links; such as blue and green infrastructure, play and sport.	To respond to stakeholder views. The policy is not intended to be the entirety of NPF4 approach to health, wellbeing and safety. These issues are addressed throughout NPF4 but some tools and particular approaches are grouped under this policy.
14 (b) significant adverse health effects		
Uncertainty if health impact is an issue for planning.	No change.	Health outcomes have long been a matter for the planning system, as part of movement towards sustainable development. The Planning (Scotland) Act requires an assessment of health effects for major and National Developments.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 14: Health and wellbeing

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Define/further details on 'significant adverse health effects' sought.	No change.	'Significant adverse health effects' are not defined as the parameters of what is significant will vary between developments and locational context.
Call for clarity of trigger for requirement for HIA.	Text amended to simplify the approach, case by case judgement needed for application of HIA.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Health Inequalities Impact Assessment (HIIA) should be a requirement for development proposals/NPF4.	No change.	HSCS Committee request. The HSCS Committee recommendations for NPF4 in its 'Tackling Health Inequalities in Scotland' report, which reinforce recommendations made by the committee on the Draft NPF4 have been noted. The wording of NPF4 does not prevent planning authorities from choosing to undertake HIIA for development planning purposes. Health effects are included in Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) undertaken for LDPs. Legislation already requires that LDPs include a spatial strategy that takes account of a range of prescribed matters including the health of the population of the district. HIIA would likely be less appropriate for individual applications and NPF4 refers to Health Impact Assessment for those.
Places/housing should be connected and with access to services for wellbeing and health.	Amended text - clarification that LDPs are to identify the health and social care services and infrastructure needs in the area, including potential for co-location of complementary	To respond to Committee and stakeholder views. Health Boards are key agencies for the preparation of LDPs and therefore expected to

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 14: Health and wellbeing

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	services, in partnership with Health Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships.	participate in their preparation.
Health and wellbeing evidence based approach to decisions needed, e.g. material status for health and wellbeing; guidance requested.	Amended text to clarify role of LDP and decisions on planning applications including use of health impact assessment and engagement of Health Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships in LDPs. Inclusion in NPF4 enables the matter to be addressed in plans and decisions as a material consideration.	To respond to Committee (HSCS and RAINE).
14 (c) <i>air quality</i>		
Define 'significant adverse effect on air quality'.	No change.	'Significant adverse effect on air quality' not defined as this would be informed by an air quality assessment, now provided for by the policy.
Detail sought on implementation of approach to air quality.	Amended text – policy purpose clarified and trigger for air quality assessment included.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Air quality assessment should be required.	Amended text - includes trigger for air quality assessment.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Detail sought on method/scope of air quality assessment.	No change.	Out of scope of NPF4.
Policy is inconsistent with Cleaner Air for Scotland 2.	Amended text – to further align with CAFS2.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Some operations have adverse air quality impacts including mineral extraction, incineration, biomass power, domestic cooking/ heating systems.	No change.	This policy applies to any development that triggers it. Air pollution is also addressed in Revised NPF4 policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33(d)(iv) Minerals; and • 12(ii) Zero Waste.
14 (d) unacceptable levels of noise		
Detail sought on approach to implementation of policy on noise, should align with	Amended text - to align with PAN 1/2011 which	To respond to stakeholder views.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 14: Health and wellbeing

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Planning Advice Note (PAN) 1/2011.	sets out guidance on noise and the planning system.	
Define 'unacceptable levels of noise'.	No change.	'Unacceptable levels of noise' would be informed by a noise impact assessment, provided for by the policy.
Refer to Agent of Change principle for those developments in areas where noise impacts can't be fully mitigated.	Amended text - includes the Agent of Change principle.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Refer to ETSU – R – 97 for wind farms and noise assessment.	No change.	ETSU – R – 97 refers to 'The Assessment & Rating of Noise from Wind Farms' report an methodology. It is a commonly applied methodology for wind farm noise impact assessment.
Other amenity issues could be included e.g.: odour; vibration; light pollution.	No change.	LDPs may include other amenity matters as considered relevant to the area.
14 (e) local community food growing and allotments		
Food should be more prominent/ stand-alone policy.	Policy criterion deleted, food growing and allotments included in Revised NPF4 new policy 23(a). Food growing and allotments included in LDP section.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Community food growing should be required of certain developments/set triggers.	LDP section clarified to include community food growing.	Ensuring there is support for community food growing in the LDP spatial strategy helps provide strategic direction for the opportunities rather than this only being dealt with case by case through planning applications.
Policy is a loophole allowing for inappropriately sited development.	No change.	NPF4 should be read as a whole in reaching decisions on planning applications and relevant policy applied.

Policy 15: Safety

Summary of representations

Comments noted that the policy is not a general policy on safety but relates to specific land uses and hazards. A number of specific comments were made about development proposals in the vicinity of major accident hazard sites. Definition of terms was sought, major accident pipelines were highlighted for inclusion as well as a variety of factors to be addressed in decision making.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 23 'Health and safety'. This is now a combined policy that covers both Health and Safety (which in the Draft was split over draft policies 14 and 15). The combined policy helps to protect health and wellbeing, including by ensuring that air and noise pollution are taken into account, and by planning and managing development to take into account hazards. It aims to protect people and places from environmental harm, mitigate risks arising from safety hazards and encourage, promote and facilitate development that improves health and wellbeing.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Request for more explicit references to safety needs of children, women, older people, disabled people.	Text amended – enhanced text on women's safety included in: the revised NPF4 new 'Cross-Cutting Outcome and Policy Links: Policy 14(b) Design, Quality and Place; Lifelong Health and Wellbeing' section; and Annex D 'The Six Qualities of Successful Places'. Incorporation of safety measures and user safety is included in Revised NPF4 Policy 13(b) 'Sustainable Transport'. New Revised NPF4 text 'Cross-Cutting Policy: A Fair and Inclusive Planning System' highlights the contribution of children and young people, women, disabled people and their representatives in terms of design barriers and challenges.	To respond to Committee (LGHP).

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 15: Safety

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Development proposals in the vicinity of major-accident hazard sites		
Include major accident hazard pipeline.	Amended text refers to development proposals within the vicinity of a major accident hazard site or major hazard pipeline.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Clarity on wording in relation to the decision maker receiving advice from statutory consultees.	Amended text refers to advice from statutory consultees.	To respond to stakeholder views.

Policy 16: Land and premises for business and employment

Summary of representations

There were mixed views on the policy. While there was general support for its ambitions, including the linking of investment with the transition to net zero and supporting a nature positive approach, there were concerns that the policy, as it currently stands, will not achieve its aims. There were calls for guidance on how critical aspects of the policy, such as net economic benefit, could be demonstrated and assessed.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 26 'Business and industry'. This policy has been restructured to provide clarity and avoid duplication, and wording revised to address definitions, terminology and ensure consistency with other policies.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Clarify overall purpose and strengthen deliverability of policy.	Changed title and refocussed policy on business and industry. The policy intent contributes to wider goals such as the wellbeing economy and community wealth building.	To respond to stakeholder views.
To clarify terminology, including "wellbeing economy", "net economic benefit", "green jobs" and "community wealth building initiatives".	Definitions of some key terms provided in the Glossary. Not all requested definitions are given as they are intended as broad descriptions rather than specific terms.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity where feasible.
To enable localised approaches to policy implementation, particularly noting the omission of reference to business land audits in comparison to SPP (2014), and circumstances of rural and island communities.	Inserted reference to business and industry land audits under LDP section, which also includes reference to local economic strategies. Inserted key policy connection to Rural development policy.	To respond to stakeholder views.
To reference the role of business in enabling a circular economy, in terms of building reuse, and the	The policy intent contributes to wider goals, such as the wellbeing economy and community wealth building.	NPF4 should be read as a whole; some of these issues are addressed in other policies.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 16: Land and premises for business and employment

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
provision of relevant services.		
To make a link between this policy and digital infrastructure and connectivity, in general and specifically in relation to c).	Key policy connections inserted, including to Digital infrastructure.	To clarify links between NPF4 policies, and to respond to stakeholder views. NPF4 should be read as a whole.
To include a reference to mixed use sites.	No change.	Site allocations and the consideration of complementary uses within mixed use sites are a matter for LDPs. NPF4 should be read as a whole.
Request to consider impacts on historic environment and ensure consistency across NPF4.	No change.	Impact on the historic environment included in policy 16 (g) carried through to Revised NPF4 Policy 26(e)(i). NPF4 should be read as a whole.
Request for reference to National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET).	No change.	Cross referencing of other relevant national strategies is included in the NPF4 Delivery Programme.
Not a clear enough link with the National Developments.	Added Table 1, a new schematic diagram showing connections between NDs, policies and themes.	To respond to stakeholder views.
No explicit requirement for business and employment proposals to be climate resilient, including with respect to energy supply.	Key policy connections inserted.	To improve clarity and respond to stakeholder views.
To reference complexity of sustainability of location decisions, in particular that brownfield sites are not assumed to be the preferred option for development.	Clarification of wording of policy regarding impact on the natural environment.	To respond to stakeholder views. NPF4 should be read as a whole, including policy on brownfield land.
16 (a) LDPs should set out proposals to meet requirements for employment land, infrastructure and investment which supports a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy		
To request a consistent methodology for	No change.	Outwith scope of NPF4.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 16: Land and premises for business and employment

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
determining employment land needs and demands.		
To reference specific needs of certain industry sectors.	No change.	Outwith scope of policy. NPF4 should be read as a whole, reference to specific land and building uses, e.g. creative activities, is made under relevant policies.
16 (b) business and employment uses in sites allocated for those uses in the LDP		
To clarify the use of 'net economic benefit'.	Removed references to "net economic benefit" from the policy.	To provide clarity and respond to stakeholder views. Outwith scope of NPF4 to provide guidance on net economic benefit.
To clarify policies regarding allocated business and employment sites.	Amended wording of policy to business and industry.	To provide clarity and respond to stakeholder views.
Clarification sought of what is considered an 'employment use', within the NPF4 Glossary or guidance.	'Other employment uses' is clear as being other than 'business and industry'.	Clarification not required due to amended text referring to other employment uses apart from business and industry.
16 (c) Home working, live-work units and micro-businesses		
To define 'home working' for planning purposes	No change.	No universally agreed definition of 'home working'.
To reference 'community and social businesses' and crofting in particular.	No change.	Community wealth building and rural development policies reference these issues. NPF4 should be read as a whole.
Concerns expressed about amenity and environmental impact of expanding businesses.	No change.	Policy requires amenity of neighbouring uses and impact on the natural environment to be taken into account.
16 (d) business, general industrial and storage and distribution uses		
To expand policy coverage to include energy or data storage facilities.	No change.	General industrial use allows for broad definition.
16 (e) conditions for site restoration		
Strengthen policy regarding conditions for	Amended text in Revised NPF4 Policy 26(e)(ii).	To respond to stakeholder views. NPF4 should be

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 16: Land and premises for business and employment

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
site restoration, including request to require financial guarantees.		read as a whole, including the relevant tests for planning obligations.
16 (f) business, general industrial and storage and distribution uses outwith areas identified for those uses		
Strengthen the plan-led approach of NPF4 as a whole. Reference to rural areas in particular.	Amended to include key policy connections.	To respond to stakeholder views. NPF4 should be read as a whole, to avoid unnecessary duplication.
Include reference to the sustainability of the location in terms of the acceptability of the site.	Amended to include key policy connections.	NPF4 should be read as a whole, to avoid unnecessary duplication.
To clarify use of 'unacceptable impacts'.	Amended text.	To clarify and respond to stakeholder views.
16 (g) other issues for development proposals to take into account		
This part of the policy duplicates other parts, while also being incomplete.	Amended policy structure and text to remove duplications and clarify policy intent.	To clarify and respond to stakeholder views.

Policy 17: Sustainable tourism

Summary of representations

Whilst most respondents recognised the importance of sustainable tourism and supported the key principles set out, there were mixed views about the proposal that LDPs should be used to support the tourism sector and identify proposals for tourism development.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 30 'Tourism'. This policy has been rationalised and revised to ensure clear terminology and definitions.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Definitions sought for a range of terms, including 'sustainable tourism', 'support' and 'resilience'.	Added definition of 'sustainable tourism' to Glossary. Policy title changed to 'tourism'.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Clarity sought on role of planning policy with regards to 'inspiring tourists to visit Scotland'.	Amended structure and wording of policy to clarify policy intent.	To clarify and respond to stakeholder views.
17 (a) LDPs and tourism		
Appropriateness of identifying sites for tourism development in the LDP.	No change.	Consistent with plan-led approach to development.
Concerns that the policy does not account for the role of planning in alleviating adverse impacts of tourism.	New LDP section includes reference adverse impacts and where further development is not appropriate.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Mention 'sector driven tourism strategies'.	No change.	National and local strategies evolve over time, current wording gives flexibility to reflect local contexts.
17 (b) proposals for new or extended tourism facilities		
Consider impacts on the historic environment, also at (c).	Added in key policy connections.	NPF4 is to be read as a whole, avoiding unnecessary duplication.
Consider impacts on the natural environment, also at (c).	Added in key policy connections.	NPF4 is to be read as a whole, avoiding unnecessary duplication.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 17: Sustainable tourism

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Include definitions of 'viability, sustainability and diversity of the local economy', along with methodology for demonstrating compliance of proposals.	Amended structure and wording of policy.	To improve clarity and respond to stakeholder views.
Suggestion that to deliver the policy, planning authorities would be required to identify whether their areas can support further tourism development or whether tourism is having adverse effects.	Amended structure and wording of policy.	To improve clarity and respond to stakeholder views.
Include mention of sustainable access to facilities.	Addition of key policy connections lists Sustainable transport policy and Revised NPF4 Policy 30(b)(iv) references sustainable transport.	To respond to stakeholder views.
17 (c) impacts on the environment / quality of life / health and wellbeing of local communities		
Include methodology for assessing relevant impact of proposals.	Amended structure and wording of policy, in particular Revised NPF4 Policy 30(b).	To improve clarity and respond to stakeholder views.
Clarify how infrastructure capacity will be considered, and the scope for developer contributions to mitigate the adverse impacts of tourism development.	No change.	NPF4 should be read as a whole, to avoid unnecessary duplication. Relevant tests for developer contributions are included in policy on Infrastructure First.
17 (d) proposals for huts		
Concerns about the potential impact of huts on the natural environment and local amenities.	No change.	Policy requires proposals to be compatible in nature and scale with the surrounding area, and makes reference to relevant good practice guidance, providing scope for planning authorities to manage the impact of huts at the local level.
17 (e) short term holiday lets		

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 17: Sustainable tourism

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Mixed views on short term lets. Some requests for further guidance to minimise adverse impacts, while others sought less regulation.	No change.	Policy wording provides adequate scope for planning authorities to consider acceptability of proposals at local level.
17 (f) change of use of a tourism-related facility		
Request to define 'tourism-related facility'.	Deleted term.	To respond to stakeholder views and improve clarity.
17 (g) development proposals for tourist facilities, matters to take into account		
Requests to define methodology for assessing impacts of proposals	No change.	Outwith scope of NPF4 to provide detailed methodology. Policy wording provides adequate scope for planning authorities to consider acceptability of proposals at local level.
Consider other impacts, including on the natural and historic environment, and sustainable transport access.	Added key policy connections.	NPF4 should be read as a whole, to avoid unnecessary duplication.

Policy 18: Culture and creativity

Summary of representations

Many respondents welcomed the inclusion of a specific policy covering culture and creativity, including the recognition this gives to our important and diverse creative and cultural sector. However, some were concerned that the policy silos culture, and does not embrace the ways in which cultural activities can support the delivery of other NPF4 policies.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 31 'Culture and creativity'. This policy has had minor revisions to make wording clear and consistent.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Concern that policy silos culture and does not embrace ways in which it can support the delivery of other policies.	Added new 'Key policy Connections' section which emphasises the links across policy areas.	To respond to stakeholder views. NPF4 is to be read as a whole, avoiding unnecessary repetition.
Criteria to be used when considering applications for new arts or cultural proposals.	No change.	Allows local flexibility around needs and priorities.
Local Place Plans could play a role, including: how children and young people can be involved; the role of museums; gardens, parks and other spaces; grassroots music venues.	No change.	The LDP guidance will cover considerations for LDPs. More appropriate to cover in guidance to allow local flexibility around needs and priorities.
18 (a) LDPs recognise and support opportunities for jobs and investment		
Further information on how LDPs should recognise and support jobs and investment, including in the creative sector.	No change.	The LDP guidance will cover considerations for LDPs. More appropriate to cover in guidance to allow local flexibility around needs and priorities.
18 (b) provision for public art		
Lack of definition of public art and open spaces and tests in relation to conditions and planning obligations.	No change.	No definition of 'public art' has been included to allow local flexibility, and 'public art' that fits the local place and context. There is existing guidance on

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 19: Green energy

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		conditions and planning obligations.
Query on limitation of public art provision to public open spaces.	No change.	LDPs have local flexibility around needs and priorities.
Define open spaces, scale and type.	Amendment. Key policy connections refers to policy on open space.	NPF4 should be read as a whole, avoiding unnecessary duplication.
Heritage, history and interpretation should be included in definition of public art.	Amendment. Key policy connections refers to policy on historic environment assets and places.	NPF4 should be read as a whole, avoiding unnecessary duplication.
18 (c) creative workspaces or other cultural uses		
Should balance proposals against any negative impacts, e.g. amenity, transport.	No change.	NPF4 is to be read as a whole, avoiding unnecessary duplication.
Locational test for site allocation.	No change.	NPF4 is to be read as a whole. To allow local flexibility around needs and priorities.
Query focus on temporary use, longer-term opportunities would benefit tenants and owners.	Amendment. Key policy connections refers to policy on vacant land and property.	NPF4 should be read as a whole, avoiding unnecessary duplication.
18 (d) loss of an arts or cultural venue		
Should apply to spaces used by community arts groups, including public halls.	No change.	Existing wording does not exclude these spaces.
Agent of Change (AoC) principle should be cross-referenced to Policy 14 (Health and Wellbeing).	New 'Key policy connections' includes reference to 'Health and safety'.	NPF4 should be read as a whole.
AoC principle definition should be amended to reflect the 1997 Act.	No change to the policy. Minor correction made to the Glossary definition.	The wording reflects how the provisions of the Act are applied.
Protection should extend to spaces used by community arts groups, such as village halls, scout huts and libraries.	No change.	Existing wording does not exclude these spaces.

Policy 19: Green energy

Summary of representations

Respondents were relatively evenly divided between those who thought the policy will meet the stated objectives and those who thought it would not. It was argued that it lacks detail on how the planning system should support renewable energy development or the implications of such an approach where a range of planning considerations need to be balanced.

Some respondents considered that, in the absence of a development management test that recognises the status of the climate emergency and the national importance of renewable energy developments, much of the approach will be 'business as usual', while others argued that Policy 19 could potentially represent a backward step.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 11 'Energy'. This policy has been substantially revised to make it clear that all types of renewable energy are supported, other than wind farms in National Parks and National Scenic Areas. The criteria for assessing proposals have been updated including stronger weight being afforded to the contribution of the development to the climate emergency, as well as community benefit.

Natural Places policy on wild land has also been revised in tandem to expressly support development that assists in meeting renewable energy targets, subject to an impact assessment, and appropriate mitigation, management measures and monitoring. These changes have been made given the scale of development required to reach net zero.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Title of policy.	Changed from 'Green Energy' to 'Energy'.	To respond to stakeholder views and reflect that the policy covers many types of energy generation including renewables, low-carbon and net zero technologies.
Make clearer what is expected of local authorities when considering applications for renewables.	Clearer policy in Revised NPF4 Policy 11 'Energy' parts (b) to (f) with updated criteria for consideration in part (e). This replaces list in Draft NPF4 Policy 19 part (k). Amended policy wording as detailed below.	To respond to Committee views (LGHP) and provide clarity of message.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 19: Green energy

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Policy to reflect that technology is changing.	Wording amended from draft, with reference made to 'emerging low-carbon and zero emissions technologies' in policy intent section. Additionally, 'all forms of renewable, low-carbon and zero emission technologies' are supported in policy part a).	To respond to Committee views (LGHP).
All applications for energy generation should require a decarbonisation strategy, not just those from low-carbon sources. Also, that climate resilience should be mentioned in this context.	Removed requirement for decarbonisation strategy from energy policy. The requirement remains to be applied to all major applications for manufacturing or industry and has been moved to Business and Industry policy 26. New Policy 2 provides mechanism for addressing climate resilience of development proposals.	To respond to UK Climate Change Committee. New Policy 2 applies to both Policy 11 and 26 Business and Industry and includes both a need for development proposals to be sited and designed to adapt to current and future risks from climate change AND to be sited and designed to minimise lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible.
Issue of grid capacity impacting on planning process.	Change, with inclusion of text in new part e), which states that grid capacity should not constrain renewable energy development.	To respond to NZET committee.
Clarity on whether transmission and distribution infrastructure are to be considered/ supported in this policy.	Whilst included in original draft, express reference to transmission and distribution infrastructure now included and supported within policy wording at Revised NPF4 Policy 11 'Energy' Part (a) bullet (ii).	To respond to stakeholder views.
Need for better clarity of definitions used in the policy.	Updated terminology, including the list of technology that is to be supported in policy, including: ' <i>renewable, low-carbon and zero emission technologies</i> ' Removed the term 'unacceptable.'	To respond to stakeholder views and to better align terminology with that used across wider Scottish Government plans and strategies .

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 19: Green energy

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Policy balance between support for renewable, low carbon and zero emission technology and wider NPF4 policy objectives.	Amended draft policy with Revised NPF4 Policy 11 'Energy' parts (b) to (e) which provide a rationalised suite of policy and list of considerations for assessing development proposals.	To respond to Committee (LGHP) and stakeholder views.
The extent to which Policy 19 offers support for renewable energy development in context of the global climate emergency.	On determining proposals, Revised NPF4 Policy 11 'Energy' sets out that the scale of contribution to renewable energy generation targets and effect on greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets will carry significant weight in determining whether any adverse impacts clearly outweigh the benefit of development.	To respond to Committee (LGHP) and stakeholder views.
19 (a) area's potential for electricity and heat from renewable sources		
Clarity sought on how LDPs practically support energy development. With queries regarding the spatial framework and importance of considering environmental impacts including biodiversity, nature and landscape sensitivities.	Amended wording to improve clarity, citing the need to identify a range of opportunities for energy development. Extensive amendments to rest of policy 19 to create Revised NPF4 Policy 11 'Energy', as outlined in this table. Relevant NPF4 policies listed in the key policies connections. All relevant policies provide clarity on the key considerations to be made in identifying potentially suitable sites for the full range of renewable, low-carbon and zero emission technologies.	NPF4 is to be read as a whole, with all relevant policies offering the clarity required to help identify a range of opportunities for energy development within LDP areas.
19 (b) all forms of renewable energy and low-carbon fuels		
Is overly permissive and requiring more meaningful caveats.	No change.	Revised policy provides a rationalised suite of policy and list of considerations for assessing development proposals.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 19: Green energy

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		Other respondents were supportive of the proposed approach.
Requests for clarity on terms used or types of energy generation referred to.	New amended text in Revised NPF4 Policy 11 'Energy' part (a) replaces energy generation technologies referred to in original draft parts (e), (f), (i), and (j).	To respond to stakeholder views. Consolidation of development forms and new wording provides greater clarity on the types of energy generation offered policy support.
19 (c) Development proposals for wind farms in National Parks and National Scenic Areas should not be supported		
Policy should not be seen as an automatic acceptance of windfarms in other areas.	No change other than policy moved to Revised NPF4 Policy 11(b) 'Energy'.	NPF4 is to be read as a whole. For onshore wind, outside of National Parks and National Scenic Areas, the remainder of the area is potentially suitable for appropriately located wind energy development guided by the considerations as set out in this and all relevant NPF4 policy, including in relation to the sensitivity of other national and international designated sites.
19 (d) outwith National Parks and National Scenic Areas		
Definition required of 'unacceptable impacts' and issue of the degree of policy support offered to appropriate energy generation proposals vs the degree of protection to other areas or designations.	Deleted part (d). Revised NPF4 Policy 11 'Energy' new parts (b) to (f) are now in place, providing a rationalised suite of policy and list of considerations for assessing development proposals.	To respond to stakeholder views. Policy support for renewable, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies is clearer, with improvements in clarity given to the main considerations to be taken in decision-making.
19 (e) repower, extend and expand existing wind farms		
As above reference to use of term 'unacceptable impacts'.	Deleted part (e). Revised NPF4 Policy 11 'Energy' new part (a) sets out support for development proposals for repowering, extending and	To respond to stakeholder/consultee views.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 19: Green energy

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	expanding existing wind farms. Revised NPF4 policy 11 'Energy' new parts (b) to (e) are now in place, providing a rationalised suite of policy and list of considerations for assessing development proposals.	
19 (f) small scale renewable energy generation technology		
To be removed as duplicated, but also issues around need to consider proposals for their potential significant impacts.	Deleted (f). Revised NPF4 Policy 11 'Energy' new part (a) sets out support for small scale renewable generation technology. Revised NPF4 Policy 11 'Energy' new parts (b) to (f) are now in place, providing a rationalised suite of policy and list of considerations for assessing development proposals.	To respond to stakeholder views.
19 (g) areas identified for wind farms		
Need for clarity on terminology and implementation of policy.	Deleted (g) - it is replaced with Revised NPF4 Policy 11 'Energy' new part (f). Impacts on communities and individual dwellings as a consideration under Revised NPF4 Policy 11 'Energy' new part (e).	To respond to stakeholder views.
19 (h) decarbonisation strategy		
Clarity sought on which applications require decarbonisation strategies.	Removed requirement for decarbonisation strategy from energy policy and moved to Revised NPF4 Policy 26(f) 'Business and Industry', to cover all major applications for manufacturing or industry.	To respond to stakeholder views.
19 (i) negative emissions technologies and carbon capture		
Concerns with costs, technological readiness, implementation and residual emissions related to novel technologies	Part (i) has been removed, with negative emission technologies and carbon capture included in	Development proposals for novel technologies associated with energy generation will be required to comply with all NPF4

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 19: Green energy

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
associated with energy generation.	Revised NPF4 Policy 11 'Energy' new part (a).	policies, including the energy, climate and nature crisis and climate mitigation and adaptation policies. NPF4 supports achievement of the statutory climate emissions reduction targets.
19 (j) solar arrays		
Reference to technology in policy.	Deleted part (j). Solar arrays are now referenced in Revised NPF4 Policy 11 'Energy' new part (a).	To respond to stakeholder views.
Issue of balance of policy support for solar technology and clarity sought on the list of considerations that are included.	Solar arrays are now referenced in new part (a). Revised NPF4 Policy 11 'Energy' provides a rationalised suite of policy and list of considerations for assessing development proposals.	To respond to stakeholder views.
19 (k) considerations for renewable energy developments		
Greater clarity sought on list of considerations for decision-making. Including balance of these considerations in context of range of objectives and targets.	Deleted part (k). Revised NPF4 Policy 11 'Energy' includes new rationalised suite of policy and list of considerations for assessing development proposals at parts (b) to (f).	To respond to stakeholder views and aid the flow of the document. Changes mean policy support for renewable, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies is clearer, with improvements in clarity also given to the main considerations to be taken in decision-making.

Policy 20: Zero waste

Summary of representations

In terms of an overall balance of opinion, respondents tended to support the policy. However, there were calls for a stronger focus on developing a circular economy. Reuse of existing buildings was highlighted as an important element of the circular economy that currently has limited coverage. Suggestions included that it might be preferable to draft a circular economy policy, with zero waste as a component part, or that a standalone circular economy policy would allow many other aspects to be explored more fully.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 12 'Zero waste'. This policy has been updated in line with the independent report on the incineration review, to make it clear that we do not support incineration other than in exceptional circumstances. The wider policy has also been rationalised to support its application by planning authorities.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Support for content on resource efficiency and embodied emissions. Call for more detail if possible.	Amended wording to improve clarity and make it easier for the reader to understand.	To respond to the UK Climate Change Committee and stakeholder views. Guidance around embodied emissions would not be for NPF4 but could be considered as practice develops.
Calls for stronger support for developing a circular economy	Amended wording to improve clarity and make it easier for the reader to understand.	The principles of a circular economy are both evident and supported within the policy.
20 (a) LDPs should identify appropriate locations for new infrastructure to support the circular economy		
(a) should be reworded or combined with 20(f).	Amended wording to improve clarity and make it easier for the reader to understand.	Draft NPF4 policy (a) applies to LDPs, whereas policy (f) concerned development proposals.
20 (b) aim to reduce, reuse, or recycle materials in line with the waste hierarchy		
Call for more detail as to how the principles around the waste hierarchy and circularity will be applied in practice, e.g. demonstrating consistency with the waste hierarchy	No change.	UK Climate Change Committee Request. Guidance around how this would work in practice would not be for the NPF4, itself but could be

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 20: Zero waste

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
and how circular economy principles will be considered as part of design and construction.		considered as practice develops.
Circular economy principles should be applied more widely, rather than being restricted to national and major developments. Concerns raised that the policy could encourage applicants to submit multiple local scale developments instead of a single major planning application.	Amended wording in Revised NPF4 Policy 12(a)(b) 'Zero waste'.	To respond to stakeholder views. It is important that the Circular Economy principles are applied widely, not just to national and major developments.
20 (c) take into account circular economy principles		
Concern that demolition can take place prior to application and about enforcing the reuse of materials.	No change.	It is important that the Circular Economy principles are applied widely.
20 (d) development proposals that are likely to generate waste		
Call to widen the type of waste related topics covered e.g. food and agricultural waste.	No change.	It was considered that the topics covered by NPF4 were comprehensive and reflected planning and waste specifically arising from development at this strategic level.
Call for improved clarity; consideration of terminology and further guidance.	Amended drafting to aid understanding. Wording has been altered and restructured to ensure it is easier to follow and therefore better understood.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity of message. Some terminology has been retained, for example 'maximise' and 'minimise' within development proposals that are likely to generate waste, as these terms are readily understood within a planning context.
20 (e) Development proposals for waste infrastructure and facilities		
Importance of adopting an infrastructure first approach	No change	This is already evident within the requirements around the preparation of LDPs, in ensuring needs are identified. Addressed

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 20: Zero waste

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		by the Infrastructure First Policy.
What is an 'acceptable' or 'adequate' buffer zone.	No change	These will be matters for planning authorities to consider taking into account the specific circumstances of individual proposals.
20 (f) Development proposals for new waste infrastructure		
Criteria set out at (e) should also apply at (f); policies (e) and (f) should be combined.	Wording in Revised NPF4 Policy 12 'Zero waste' has been simplified and restructured to ensure it is easier to follow and the policy intention is better understood.	To respond to comments received.
20 (g) Development proposals for new or extended landfill sites		
Alignment with Scottish Government waste targets for 2025 and with the goal to stop landfill by 2030; requirement to comply with other relevant policy including on biodiversity.	Policy connections added.	The policy has been already aligned with the Scottish Government objectives on waste management. NPF4 should be read as a whole.
2 (h) Proposals for the capture, distribution or use of gases captured from landfill sites or waste water treatment plant should be supported		
Capture of gas from landfill should be mandatory, not just supported.	Revised NPF4 policy 12(f) 'Zero waste' now makes clear such proposals will be supported.	To respond to comments received.
20 (i) recovery of energy from waste		
View that incineration of municipal waste is not acceptable.	This policy has been amended to establish the principle of no support for development proposals for energy-from-waste, except in exceptional circumstances. The policy criterion have also been rationalised and better aligned with our response to the independent review of the role of incineration in the waste hierarchy in Scotland.	To respond to stakeholder views and the Independent review of Incineration.
Some considered it was unclear what would be required by demonstrable	Policy section removed.	To respond to stakeholder views.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 20: Zero waste

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
community benefits if treating waste from an area wider than the local authority and why it would only apply to Energy from Waste.		

Policy 21: Aquaculture

Summary of representations

Most of those commenting supported the focus on the sustainability of aquaculture, including minimising environmental impacts. Some suggested that the policy is too focused on supporting investment and does not give sufficient priority to the environment. Others suggested that the policy could be more supportive of growth in the aquaculture industry and wanted to see new aquaculture activities supported by the planning system.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 32 'Aquaculture'. This policy has been updated for clarity and improved definition of a number of terms. Many of the matters raised relate more to guidance than the policy itself. Wording regarding exclusion of open water aquaculture development from Biodiversity Policy 3(b) and 3(c) moved from Biodiversity policy to Aquaculture policy.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Mixed views on the level of support the policy gives to supporting investment and growth in the aquaculture industry. Some suggested the policy could be more supportive whilst others felt it did not give sufficient priority to the environment.	Amended wording including new wording setting out policy intent. Amended text on LDPs to reflect feedback.	Competing views from consultees. Our Vision for Sustainable Aquaculture will set out our long term aspirations for Scottish aquaculture.
Widening the scope of the policy was suggested, to include a range of aquaculture activity such as seaweed farming, multi-trophic aquaculture, microalgae culture and recirculating aquaculture systems.	No change.	The scope of the policy is in line with the Town and Country Planning Act, which regulates land, freshwater and marine based shellfish and finfish farms. It does not extend to other types of aquaculture.
Suggestion that NPF4 should take account of the review of aquaculture regulation and the Scottish Vision for Aquaculture currently in development. Concerns were also raised regarding the complexity of spatial planning for	No change.	The regulatory review on aquaculture is ongoing, through the review we will work to improve aquaculture consenting processes and to ensure local authorities are supported in guiding

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 21: Aquaculture

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
aquaculture development; views that it is not feasible for LDPs to direct development as suggested; views on the need for more technical expertise (within planning authorities); and requests for further guidance.		aquaculture development to the right places. LDPs should guide development as appropriate for the local area.
21 (a) LDPS should reflect industry needs and take account of environment impact, including cumulative impact		
Reference should be made to the role of National and Regional Marine Plans in informing LDPs.	Wording included in Revised NPF4 Policy 32 'Aquaculture' LDP text to reference wider marine planning. Revised NPF4 Policy 32(b) 'Aquaculture' specifically references compliance with LDPs, National Marine Plans and Regional Marine plans.	To respond to Committee (RAINE) and provide clarity of message.
Need to highlight linkages between policy 21 and policy 35 (Coasts).	Added 'Key policy connections'.	To respond to stakeholder views.
21 (b) safeguard migratory fish species		
Calls for (b) to be expanded to protect migratory fish species in other parts of Scotland – primarily the west coast.	No change.	It is important for NPF4 to work at a national level whilst also providing flexibility to take account of local circumstances.
21 (c) compliance with the LDP, National and Regional Marine Plans		
Policy too focused on industry growth, rather than ensuring environmental sustainability.	Amended wording including new wording setting out policy intent. Amended text on LDPs to reflect feedback.	Competing views from consultees.
21 (d) development proposals for fish farm developments		
Policy criteria should be more explicit/less open to interpretation and should focus on considerations not covered by other regulatory regimes. A range of specific suggestions were also made.	Amended text to improve clarity. Where relevant and applicable suggested additional criteria have been incorporated.	To respond to stakeholder views.

Policy 22: Minerals

Summary of representations

Reasons given for supporting the policy included the need to ensure an ongoing supply of minerals and that, without a steady and adequate supply, the delivery of housing, infrastructure, other developments and manufacturing cannot be assumed. Others had broad concerns, including that there does not appear to be an assessment of the level of need for the products extracted. There was a call for more emphasis on minimising the use of new minerals in line with the principles of a circular economy.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 33 'Minerals'. This policy has been clarified to explain what is meant by the 10 year land bank. Wording has also been amended to improve clarity, including in relation to mineral extraction generally. The policy on borrow pits has been amended to reflect their temporary nature.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
22 (a) LDPs should support the 10-year landbank		
Clarification sought around what the 10 year landbank applies to.	Amended wording, added 'construction aggregates' to clarify the policy only extends to aggregates.	To respond to stakeholder views. A landbank helps ensure we have an adequate supply of construction aggregates, it has no relevance to other mineral extractions.
Lack of clarity about the range of minerals and extraction covered under the policy and concerns regarding too narrow a focus construction aggregates. No reference is made to development of new mineral opportunities, other than in relation to aggregates and fossil fuels.	Amended wording to improve clarity and confirm application to mineral extraction.	To respond to stakeholder views.
The lack of cross referencing to policy 29 (Zero waste) was highlighted and there was a call for more emphasis	Now referenced in 'key policy connections'.	NPF4 should be read as a whole. Zero Waste policy sets out support for the reducing, re-using or recycling materials in line with the waste hierarchy.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 22: Minerals

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
on minimising the use of new minerals.		
22 (b) planning applications to explore, develop and produce fossil fuels		
The reference to exceptions within the policy should be deleted.	No change.	Any such exceptions will be required to demonstrate that the proposal is consistent with national policy on energy and targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Scottish Government will publish its Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan later this year.
NPF4 does not recognise the need for critical minerals and role they would play in the indigenous supply chain for renewable energy industry.	Amended wording to improve clarity and confirm application to mineral extraction.	Revised NPF4 Policy 33(c) 'Minerals' sets out that development proposals that would sterilise mineral deposits of economic value will only be supported in certain limited circumstances.
22 (c) unconventional oil and gas		
There was a view that it would be better to simply state that the development of unconventional oil and gas is not supported, in line with other policies. Others suggested that (c) should state that such development is effectively prohibited.	No change.	Wording is clear that unconventional oil and gas is not supported.
22 (d) extraction of aggregates		
Extraction criteria set out are relevant for all types of minerals, the reference should not be only to aggregates.	Amended wording to improve clarity and confirm application to mineral extraction.	Revised NPF4 Policy 33(c) and (d) 'Minerals' refer.
A range of comments on minimising potentially adverse impacts, including that the policy should require biodiversity net gain, not just no adverse impact and that Historic Environment text is not proportionate or workable.	Amended wording to refer to 'significant' adverse impacts.	NPF4 should be read as a whole. A list of key policy connections has been added.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 22: Minerals

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
For restoration and aftercare, clarity needed on what constitutes a 'high standard'. Buffer zone is being left to authorities to determine, guidance needed.	No change.	These will be matters for planning authorities to consider taking into account the specific circumstances of individual proposals.
22 (e) development proposals for <u>borrow pits</u>		
The requirement for borrow pits to be subject to the mineral extraction criteria and specifically having to have their own restoration bonds.	Added to the policy criteria for borrow pits: 'taking into account the temporary nature of the development'.	To respond to stakeholder views. This should allow planning authority some degree of flexibility to take into account local circumstances based around the development proposal itself.

Policy 23: Digital infrastructure

Summary of representations

Most supported the focus on ensuring all of Scotland's places are digitally connected and felt that the policy provides a positive framework against which delivery of digital infrastructure can be assessed. There was also support for the particular focus on areas with no or low connectivity. Respondents highlighted the importance that all parts of Scotland have access to suitable digital infrastructure, with reference to the negative economic impacts of poor digital connectivity, particularly in rural areas.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 24 'Digital infrastructure'. This policy has had minor technical amendments which provides support to; the provision of appropriate, universal and future proofed digital infrastructure; ensure all parts of Scotland have access to suitable digital infrastructure to eliminate the digital divide; a sharp focus on delivery of digital infrastructure in remote and rural areas and areas with no or low connectivity; and ensure there is a suitable balance between any adverse impacts with social and economic benefits.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason
23 (a) LDP should support delivery of digital infrastructure		
LDPs should focus on the provision of quality digital infrastructure available across their areas.	Further detail has been added to later policy criteria 'including fixed line and mobile connectivity'.	To respond to stakeholder views.
23 (b) appropriate, universal and futureproofed digital infrastructure		
Support for delivery, detail needed to ensure consistent assessment of proposals.	Amended wording to give stronger support to proposals. Removed 'this should be done in consultation with service providers'.	To respond to stakeholder views by strengthening policy and aiding clarity.
23 (c) deliver new digital services or provide technological improvements		
Highlighted potential for gaps in connectivity.	Amended to clearly support delivery - 'Development proposals that are aligned with and support the delivery of local and national programmes for the roll-out of digital infrastructure will be supported'. Deleted – 'planning authorities should not question the need for the	To respond to stakeholder views by strengthening policy and aiding clarity.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 23: Digital infrastructure

Issue	Change	Reason
	service to be provided where’.	
Highlighted potential for digital exclusion	Amended policy strengthened - ‘Development proposals that deliver new connectivity will be supported where there are benefits for communities and local economy’ Deleted ‘in areas with no or low connectivity where there are benefits of this’.	To respond to stakeholder views by strengthening policy and aiding clarity.
23 (d) proposals for telecommunications development		
Concerns raised to ensure that infrastructure is sited to avoid any adverse visual, amenity, environmental and landscape impacts. Technical constraints were acknowledged and the need to balance adverse impacts with social and economic benefits to local communities.	Amended ‘telecommunications’ to ‘digital infrastructure’. Inserted additional text which now reads ‘ the visual and amenity impacts of the proposed development have been minimised through careful siting, design, height, materials and landscaping, taking into account cumulative impacts and the relevant technical constraints’. Amended wording to aid clarity which now reads ‘it has been demonstrated that, before erecting a new ground based mast, the possibility of erecting antennas on an existing building, mast or other structure, replacing an existing mast and/or site sharing has been explored.	To respond to stakeholder views by strengthening policy and aiding clarity.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 23: Digital infrastructure

Issue	Change	Reason
23 (e) operation of existing digital infrastructure		
Concerns for impacts on surroundings.	Amended to refocus wording on what will be supported. Deleted section 'Development proposals that are likely to have an adverse effect on the operation of existing digital infrastructure or on the delivery of strategic roll out plans should not be supported unless appropriate mitigation measures can be provided' and replaced with criteria focused on visual and amenity impacts, consideration of using existing sites and physical obstructions.	To respond to stakeholder views and strengthen policy and aid clarity.

Policy 24: Centres

Summary of representations

There were positive comments on the role of LDPs in creating sustainable futures for cities, towns and local centres, alongside the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods. There was also support for the focus on town centres and the recognition of their importance in many aspects of placemaking, health and quality of life.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 27 'City, town, local and commercial centres'. Policies 24, 25 and 26 cover city, town, local and neighbourhood centres and retail. These policies have been rationalised but the intent remains the same. Revised NPF4 Policy 27(d) has been drawn out from Policy 26(a) to specifically limit drive through facilities other than where supported in the LDP. This section has also been moved to the 'productive places' section, recognising the importance of centres to the economy.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason
24 (a) supporting sustainable futures		
20MN will not be realistic in many rural areas.	Amended to reflect wording on local living and key policy connection to relevant policy.	To respond to stakeholder views. Policy on Local living also updated.
Could be a standalone policy for city centres.	Amended policy to bring together all centres and avoid repetition.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
Definition of Sequential approach.	Policy wording has been changed to set out the policy more clearly. The policy sets out all development proposals will be consistent with town centre first approach.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity. Supports the town centre first approach which was supported by most responses.
24 (b) improve the vitality and viability		
Concern that wording unclear and counter to policy on Retail.	Amended to include reference to enhancing and increasing mix of uses.	To help with clarity.
Several consultees queried Policy 25 and 26 and why non-retail issues were listed under the retail policy.	Wording on development proposals for non-retail uses has been moved to Revised NPF4 new policy 27 'City, town and commercial centres'.	To help with clarity and document flow in response to stakeholder views.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 24: Centres

Issue	Change	Reason
Drive Through Developments - Several responses commented that drive throughs should be banned.	Amended policy wording from Draft policy 26(a) that development proposals for drive throughs will only be supported where specifically supported in the LDP.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarification.

Policy 25: Retail

Summary of representations

The further restrictions on out-of-town shopping proposals were supported.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 28 'Retail'. The policy has been amended to broaden its scope, the locational aspect that applied to development that will generate significant footfall now applies to all retail proposals to direct investment towards centres. The policy has also been strengthened to support local neighbourhood shopping to support local living.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
25 (a) development generating footfall		
Concerns that (a) could damage existing out of town centres.	Amended wording to clarify areas for retail development. Wording has been clarified to so that retail development will support existing centres, and areas for development can be allocated in the LDP in edge of centre sites. They should not be supported in out of town locations.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Policy fails to appreciate the challenges in smaller villages and towns across Scotland.	No change. Covered in other policies. NPF4 to be read as a whole.	To avoid repetition.
Query on defining edge of centre areas and the types and scale of development not appropriate for town centres.	No change.	Not for NPF4 content.
How to assess significant footfall?	Strengthened wording to direct all scales of retail development to be consistent with the town centre first principle.	To improve clarity and respond to stakeholder views.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 25: Retail

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
25 (b) impact on character and amenity of an area		
How to demonstrate compliance and address acceptable impacts?	No change.	Not for NPF4 content.
25 (c) avoiding clustering of some non-retail uses		
Query about the degree of clustering acceptable and how it can be avoided.	No change. Wording remains, has moved section to Revised NPF4 Policy 27 'City, town, local and commercial centres' LDP section and part (c).	Not for NPF4.
Policy could consider food vans in the vicinity of primary and secondary schools, as well as play and sports areas and prevent clustering of outlets that damage health and wellbeing.	No change.	Revised NPF4 Policy 27(c) 'City, town and commercial centres' includes permanently sited vans in the non-retail uses that will not be supported under certain circumstances, which includes undermining the health and wellbeing of communities. Clustering evidence included in Revised NPF4 Policy 27 LDP section. Schools and community facilities are not specifically addressed as the policy outcome is to promote development in city, town and local centres.
Should include a presumption against drive-through retail.	Amended policy wording that development proposals for drive throughs will only be supported where specifically supported in the LDP.	To respond to stakeholder views.
25 (d) neighbourhood shopping		
A more proactive approach could be taken to support access to healthy food.	Strengthened support for new neighbourhood shopping where it supports local living and principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods and/or contributing to health and wellbeing of local community.	To respond to stakeholder views.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 25: Retail

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	Revised NPF4 Policy 28 'Retail' LDP section encourages planning authorities to identify areas where proposals for healthy food and drink outlets can be supported.	
Should be expanded to include a broader range of businesses that negatively impact health outcomes.	No change.	To avoid repetition NPF4 is to be read as a whole. Addressed in Revised NPF4 Policy 27(c) 'City, town, local and commercial centres' provides for not supporting uses, including examples, if they undermine health and wellbeing. This is flexible to allow other non-retail uses to be included locally.
25 (e) islands and rural areas		
'Ancillary uses..' unhelpful and restrictive.	No change to use of ancillary, given its common/established use in the planning system.	Policy more widely amended for clarity. Revised NPF4 Policy 28(d) 'Retail' is intended to enable appropriate development in rural and island areas (not in town/local centres).

Policy 26: Town centre first assessment

Summary of representations

There was support for the focus on town centres and the recognition of their importance in many aspects of placemaking, health and quality of life.

Overview of changes

This policy was removed as a standalone policy, and incorporated into the Revised NPF4 Policy 27 ‘City, Town, Local and Commercial Centres’.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
26 (a) other uses which will generate significant footfall		
For education and healthcare facilities, may be more appropriate to reference locations that support 20MN.	Amended to state that will be supported in existing city, town and local centres.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Proposals within existing business parks should not have to undergo a town centre first assessment.	No change.	Proposals will be supported in commercial centres if allocated as sites suitable for new retail development in the LDP.
Should address ‘mini town centres’.	Amended to clarify the role of LDPs in identifying a network of centres.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Clarify that appears to apply to non-retail uses.	Amended policy addresses proposals for non-retail uses.	To respond to stakeholder views.
26 (b) relationship of the proposed development with a network of centres		
Requirement for sequential test to consider supply chains queried.	No change.	Consideration of supply chains, local suppliers and workers can help to support community wealth building.
26 (c) community, education, health and social care, sport and leisure facilities		
Strengthen by stating that facilities will be accessible through walking, wheeling and cycling.	No change.	To avoid repetition. Addressed in Revised NPF4 Policy 13 ‘Sustainable transport’. NPF4 is to be read as a whole.

Policy 27: Town Centre Living

Summary of representations

There were positive comments on the role of LDPs in creating sustainable futures for cities, towns and local centres, alongside the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 27 'City, town, local and commercial centres'. This policy has been amended to reflect concerns about the impact of residential development in town centres, particularly at ground floor level, and to emphasise the need for residential amenity to be taken into account. This policy section has been integrated into Revised NPF4 Policy 27.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
27 (a) encouraging town centre living		
Requirement for LDPs to include a proportion of local housing land. Some consultees requested more detail or a percentage that should be allocated.	Moved to LDP requirements. Percentage not added.	No further detail has been added as each city/town will have individual opportunities for more housing, while maintaining (or improving) the vitality and viability of the centre.
Needs cross-referencing to policy on homes.	Added 'key policy connections' including 'Quality homes'.	To respond to stakeholder views. NPF4 is to be read as a whole.
Queried whether city centre living was included in this policy.	'City' added to Revised NPF4 Policy 27(e-g) to clarify.	To clarify scope in response to stakeholder views.
27 (b) new residential development		
Clarity on whether both new build and reuse of buildings can be used for city/town centre living.	Changed wording to clarify both new build and reuse of buildings can deliver city/town centre living.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Contradicts policy on reuse of existing buildings.	No change.	To avoid repetition. NPF4 is to be read as a whole.
27 (c) conversion or reuse of vacant upper floors for residential use		
No change.	No change.	No change.
27 (d) residential use at ground floor level		
Residential use at ground floor is inconsistent with 20MN concept and planning authorities should be able to apply discretion.	No change.	The Draft NPF4 policy wording allows for consideration of vitality and viability of centre.
27 (e) residential amenity		

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 27: Town Centre Living

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Include entertainment venues in list of uses.	No change.	To avoid repetition. NPF4 is to be read as a whole and Revised NPF4 Policy 31 'Culture and Creativity' covers arts venues.
Lack of mention of design, public realm, etc.	No change.	To avoid repetition. NPF4 is to be read as a whole.
Achieving residential amenity.	Wording changed to emphasise that the developer must show how residential amenity can be achieved.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Call for consideration of climate adaptation and mitigation to be explicit in these developments, and following the six principles of quality design.	No change.	UK Climate Change Committee Request. To avoid repetition. Covered in other Revised NPF4 policies: 2 'Climate mitigation and adaptation' and 14 'Design, quality and place'.
Ensure that residences are suitably located relative to amenities as to avoid locking in dependence on high-carbon modes of travel.	Added 'Key policy connections', including: 'Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods'.	UK Climate Change Committee Request. The policy approach recognises that city and town centres are generally well connected by active travel and public transport, with potential to contribute to broader aims including car kilometre reduction.

Policy 28: Historic assets and places

Summary of representations

Many respondents welcomed the protection and enhancement of the historic environment, and there was support for the reuse of redundant or neglected historic buildings. However, there were also concerns that the policy could prevent developments that address climate change issues from going ahead.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 7 ‘Historic assets and places’. This policy remains largely the same, although wording has been refined for consistency. We remain of the view that the policy is proportionate and in line with the Historic Environment Policy for Scotland. This policy has been moved to the ‘sustainable places’ section, recognising its protective approach and the role of maintaining and reusing the historic environment as part of our response to climate change.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
28 (a) LDPs and their spatial strategies should identify, protect and enhance valued historic assets and places		
Omits reference to the Historic Environment Policy for Scotland.	Clarification has been included within Revised NPF4 Policy 7(a) ‘Historic assets and places’ that proposals should be ‘informed by national policy and guidance on managing change in the historic environment...’	To respond to stakeholder views. Broad reference to national policy and guidance has been included in Revised NPF4 Policy 7(a) ‘Historic assets and places’. Naming specific documents may date NPF4 as these may change during its lifetime.
Definition of status of assets should be clarified.	No change.	The Glossary provides definitions of historic assets, including their status.
Amend to ensure delivery of public benefit.	No change.	Note that the inserted ‘policy outcomes’ recognise key elements of the value of the historic environment.
Clarify that proposals should result in positive enhancements.	No change.	Policy sets out that LDPs ‘...should identify, protect and enhance valued historic assets and places.’

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 28: Historic assets and places

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
28 (b) impact on historic assets or places		
Not clear how 'potentially significant impact' is determined.	No change. Reference to 'potentially significant impact' remains, but within broader amended wording.	Beyond the scope of NPF4. This will need to be determined on a case by case basis.
The requirement for planning authorities to consider 'whether further and more detailed assessment is required' could result in disproportionate levels of scrutiny.	Wording removed.	To respond to stakeholder views. Clarification provided over when assessment is required to accompany development proposals.
Strengthen policy with cultural significance as starting point for assessing proposals.	Amended policy text - stronger wording with cultural significance as a basis for assessment.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Clearer on mechanisms to establish benchmark for assessment.	No change.	Mechanisms to establish benchmark are for those who are undertaking the assessment, in liaison with the decision maker to ensure the appropriate level of information is established to inform the decision making process.
Include reference to Historic Environment Records.	Added reference to Historic Environment Record (HER).	To respond to stakeholder views. This recognises the role of HERs in managing Scotland's historic environment.
Reference Circular 2/2009, PAN 2/2011 and consider terms of 1997 Act with regard to Listed Building and Conservation Areas.	No change.	Naming of PANs/Circulars not included to avoid dating the document. Naming legislation does not change the status or relevance of any such legislation, nor the need to comply with it.
28 (c) demolition of listed buildings or other works that adversely affect the special interest of a building or its setting		
Potential tension between protection of historic assets and meeting climate and net zero goals.	No change. Revised NPF4 Policy 1 'Tackling the climate and nature crises' gives significant weight to the global climate emergency in order to ensure that it is	Committee Request (NZET). NPF4 should be read as a whole and other policies cover climate and net zero. Every application should be considered on its own merits. Also note that 'Key

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Draft Policy 28: Historic assets and places

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	recognised as a priority in all plans and decisions.	policy connections' have now been added to policies identifying inter-relationships.
Opportunity to strengthen protection with stronger presumption against demolition.	Amended wording from 'should not' to 'will not' be supported. Greater detail provided on considerations for exceptional circumstances.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity.
Policy should include support for demolition where proposals contribute to net zero and deliver other benefits.	No change.	Other policies within NPF4 deal with net zero objectives. Any such proposals need to be considered on a case by case basis in line with the policy. NPF4 should be read as a whole.
Definition of exceptional circumstances required for clarity.	Amended. Greater detail provided on considerations for exceptional circumstances.	To respond to stakeholder views.
(c) and (d) overlap in the development proposals they cover.	Amended. Removal of 'or other works'.	To respond to stakeholder views and to provide clarity over policy intent.
28 (d) reuse, alteration or extension of a listed building		
Could be more support for positive change.	No change.	This policy is intended to protect listed buildings, by only supporting those proposals for their reuse, alteration or extension where they will preserve its character, special architectural or historic interest and setting. The policy does not preclude supporting positive change, where the above is achieved.
Challenge of compliance with energy efficiency regulations could be more explicit.	No change.	NPF4 should be read as a whole. It is for the decision maker to determine applications in view of the policy position.
Should recognise that loss of heritage assets may be acceptable in some circumstances.	No change.	Policy relating to demolition of listed buildings sets out exceptional circumstances

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Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		and relevant considerations.
28 (e) preserve or enhance the character and appearance of conservation areas and their settings		
Should acknowledge statutory duties of planning authorities to preserve and enhance listed buildings and conservation areas.	No change.	Not necessary for NPF4 to repeat the legislation and list the statutory duties of planning authorities.
Clarity on whether the policy relates to development outside a conservation area that impacts the setting or those inside that affect the character and appearance.	Amended. The revised policy wording refers to both 'Development proposals in <u>or affecting</u> conservation areas...'	To respond to stakeholder views and add clarity to policy.
Reference to Conservation Area Character Appraisal/ Management Plan	Amended. Reference removed	Not necessary inclusion for national policy.
Where development is outside a conservation area or other heritage sites boundary, and will have a negative effect, should be a material consideration.	No change.	It is not the role of NPF4 to identify material considerations. NPF4 will be part of the development plan, which means that planning decisions should be made in accordance with it, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
Other NPF4 policies should refer to the character and appearance of historic assets as an important material consideration.	Amended. No reference to 'material consideration', however, policy connections are now included for relevant NPF4 policies.	To respond to stakeholder views and add clarity. It is not the role of NPF4 to identify material considerations.
28 (f) demolition of buildings in a conservation area		
Does not address removing assets that are beyond repair/ have no useful future or can't be safely maintained.	No change.	Criteria are considered robust and cover the relevant elements for planning purposes.
Policy should consider environmental impact of buildings, e.g. alterations could improve climate resilience and biodiversity, and reduce carbon emissions.	No change.	NPF4 policies need to be considered in the round. It is for the decision maker to determine applications on a case by case basis.

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Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
28 (g) existing natural and built features which contribute to the character of the conservation area and/or its setting		
Should balance protection of historic assets vs protection of environment, where latter is in broader public interest.	No change.	It is for the decision maker to balance competing interests depending on the circumstances of each individual case. NPF should be read as a whole.
28 (h) Scheduled monuments		
Text setting the context around Scheduled Monuments and their designation.	Amended. Wording removed.	Unnecessary context for policy.
Scheduled Monument policy too restrictive for impacts on setting. Seek concept of 'integrity of setting' to be referenced. Equally other comment that supported no reference to 'integrity of setting'.	Amended key elements of policy wording: 'will only be supported' and 'significant adverse impacts' on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided.	To respond to stakeholder views and add clarity to policy. Wording amended to clarify the level of impact on setting, that should not be supported. 'Integrity of setting', which was included in SPP, introduced to focus on setting in terms of cultural significance.
Exceptional circumstances - impacts on the monument or its setting should be minimised and mitigated as far as possible.	Amended. Reference to 'mitigated as far as possible' removed.	To respond to stakeholder views. Focus on minimising impacts.
Some development should take precedence over heritage.	No change.	Criteria sets out circumstances which will be supported, including prospect for 'exceptional circumstances'.
Seek clarification that development located outwith protected areas which impact scheduled monuments will be a material consideration.	No change.	It is the role of the decision maker to determine what is a material consideration, taking into account the specifics of each case.
28 (i) Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes		
Should set out measures to protect areas where development takes place close to boundaries.	Amended wording to clarify it is development proposals affecting nationally important Gardens and Designed Landscapes, more	To respond to stakeholder views.

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Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	broadly, that should be considered.	
Impact on important views to, from and within the GDL, or its setting.	Amended. 'Significantly' has been added.	To clarify the level of impact on views and setting that should not be supported.
Technical references within policy.	Amended. Removed technical references to 'setting of component features'.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Flexibility should be included for critical infrastructure where there are no suitable alternatives.	No change.	Not necessary to include an exemption for critical infrastructure. It is for the decision maker to determine the merits of a proposal.
28 (j) Inventory of Historic Battlefields		
Need consistent approach to wording of tests in (i) and (j). Historic Battlefield policy considered to be weaker.	Amended. Historic Battlefield includes strengthened wording 'will only be supported where'.	To respond to stakeholder views and add clarity to policy.
Proposal should not have to be within boundary of battlefield to require consideration of potential impact.	Amended wording to clarify that it is impacts on Historic Battlefields in the round which need to be considered.	To respond to stakeholder views and add clarity.
28 (k) Historic Marine Protected Areas		
Should also cover construction of coastal defences, etc.	Amended wording to include 'proposals at the coast edge...'	To respond to stakeholder views and add clarity.
28 (l) World Heritage Site or its setting		
Natural heritage sites such as St Kilda would be better covered under Policy 32 (Natural Places).	No change.	NPF should be read as a whole. See 'How to Use this Document' Annex.
28 (m) enhance and bring back into beneficial use historic environment assets identified as being at risk		
Extend policy to cover all currently unused historic buildings, rather than limited to the Buildings at Risk Register (BARR).	Amended. Policy extended to cover both BARR and local identified buildings at risk.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Reference to historic environment assets.	Amended. Reference to 'historic environment assets' replaced with 'historic buildings'.	To respond to stakeholder views.

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Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
28 (n) Enabling development for historic assets or places that would otherwise be unacceptable		
Query over whether climate change adaptations constitute securing 'the future of the historic environment'.	No change.	The specific circumstances of applications which may qualify under this policy are for the decision maker to determine.
28 (o) adverse impacts on non-designated historic environment assets, areas and their setting		
Include a definition of non-designated assets/details on their scope.	No change.	Definitions for designated assets are in the Glossary. It is not for NPF4 to define the scope of non-designated assets.
Include a requirement for pre-determination evaluation. Reinstate SPP requirement for developer to provide information on archaeological features.	Amended wording to clarify that where there is the potential for non-designated archaeology, developers to provide an evaluation at an early stage.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Should reference activities to provide public benefit.	Added reference to public benefit.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Better alignment with focus on retention and reuse of buildings and emphasis on finding viable uses.	Amended wording now includes reference to historic buildings as part of the pre-determination evaluation.	To respond to stakeholder views. Provisions in NPF4 policy on Brownfield, Vacant and Derelict Land and Empty Buildings also relevant. NPF4 should be read as a whole.
Where impacts cannot be avoided they should be minimised and mitigated as far as possible.	Amended to remove 'and mitigated as far as possible'.	To respond to stakeholder views. Focus on minimising impacts.
28 (p) archaeological discoveries		
Focused on known assets, must ensure evaluation of archaeological potential is protected.	Amended. Policy wording strengthened, setting out that ' new archaeological discoveries... must be reported to the planning authority...'	To respond to stakeholder views. See also response to Draft NPF4 policy 28(o) with regard to requirement for pre-determination evaluation.
Role of HES should be acknowledged.	No change.	Not necessary for NPF4 to set out the roles of other public bodies.
Policy on non-designated archaeology is weakened	Amended text to include reference to pre-determination evaluation.	To respond to stakeholder views.

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Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
compared to that contained in SPP.		The policy on non-designated archaeology is in line with the thrust of policy in para 150 of SPP.
Policy does not acknowledge that mitigation can occur during development. Re-word in line with para 31 of PAN 2/2011.	No change. Note, the policy does reference 'appropriate inspection, recording and mitigation measures'.	To respond to stakeholder views.

Policy 29: Urban edges and green belt

Summary of representations

There was general support for the policy, with respondents welcoming the use of green belts to help regulate development outside urban centres and limit urban expansion. However, some respondents had concerns, including that it refers to the green belt. The connected concern was that this may encourage planning authorities to adopt a brownfield-only approach.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 8 'Green belts'. This policy has been renamed 'green belts' to provide more clarity on its purpose and limit its application to designated green belts. It has been restructured to provide more clarity on the tests to be applied to proposals. It has also been moved to 'sustainable places'.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Title - Various respondents noted the title was not consistent with the policy's contents.	Changed title from 'Urban Edges and the Green Belt' to 'Green Belts'.	To respond to stakeholder views and reflect that the policy is focussed on green belt matters.
Scope - Several respondents including planning authorities asked about, and for reference to equivalent style policies e.g. 'Countryside around towns'.	No change.	This policy is focussed on green belts, the Rural Homes and Rural Development policies cover other aspects of countryside policy.
Purpose/Policy Outcomes - Various comments, including the green belt campaign sought more detail and clarity on the purpose of the green belt.	Added new sections on 'policy intent' and 'policy outcomes'.	To respond to stakeholder views. The new policy outcomes, are essentially the purpose of green belts and provide direction on the roles, uses and benefits of green belts.
29 (a) LDPs should consider using green belts where appropriate		
Delivery through Development Plans – spatial strategy.	Added text to make a direct link to green belts' potential to support LDPs' 'spatial strategy'.	Clarity of message. To emphasise the role of green belts as a settlement management tool to support the spatial strategy of LDPs, and the plan led system.
Delivery through Development Plans	Removed phrase	To respond to stakeholder views.

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Draft Policy 29: Urban edges and green belt

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
– most accessible or pressured rural or peri-urban area/ suburbanisation. Housebuilders argued that peri-urban' development is not inherently unsustainable, and that the most accessible areas 'are the most sustainable, where 20 MN could be easily introduced'.	'in some of the most accessible or pressured rural or peri-urban areas'	The amended text retains the message about where green belts should be used where there is 'significant danger of unsustainable growth in car-based commuting or suburbanisation of the countryside.'
Clarity on types of changes possible as a result of green belt review Several respondents expressed concern that the draft policy could solely relate to extending green belt areas, but not considering land releases as part of the LDP.	Added wording to confirm changes can be made following reviews to accommodate planned growth, or to extend, or alter the area covered as green belt.	To respond to stakeholder views. This point had been set out in the Draft LDP guidance (para 445).
29 (b) development proposals within a green belt designated within the LDP should not be supported unless for		
Some responses suggested this policy be worded more positively, as to what is acceptable development in the green belt.	No change.	This policy is intended to be a more restrictive policy to protect zoned greenbelt land. However, the policy outcomes now emphasise the positive roles and contribution of green belts.
Residential accommodation for a worker in a primary industry within the immediate vicinity of their place of employment - 'key workers'.	Amended wording clarifying that the reference to the accommodation for workers in a primary industry to be for 'key' workers	Clarity of message.
Homes for Retired workers - a few comments expressed concern about this use, and tying the property to those types of residents.	No change.	We understand retired workers in a primary industry e.g. retired farmers can have strong ties to their land and may wish to build a retirement home to remain there, and that this could support succession planning in primary industries. Conditions can

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Draft Policy 29: Urban edges and green belt

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		be used on the design of such homes in the limited number of cases no other suitable residential accommodation is available.
Horticulture and 'directly connected retailing' - some responses queried the use of this term.	No change.	This wording is already in established use (in SPP 2014).
Play – a respondent suggested adding reference to 'play' within the section on recreation, outdoor sport and leisure.	Added reference to outdoor play.	To respond to stakeholder views and in recognition of wider policy promotion of play opportunities and the Child's Right to Play.
Core Paths - Ramblers Scotland sought further text be added on access rights.	Added reference to 'core paths' as being an acceptable use in green belts.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Development meeting a national requirement or established need if no other suitable site is available – calls for certainty on what constitutes a 'national requirement or established need'	Removed bullet.	To respond to stakeholder views, and as it is considered that these types of development would be covered by other bullets within Revised NPF4 Policy 8 'Green belts' part (a)(i) e.g. essential infrastructure, or renewable energy developments.
'Essential infrastructure' - some responses suggested additional types of infrastructure to be included in the green belt policy's explanation of this term i.e. 'water and waste water infrastructure' and 'healthcare facilities'.	Removed the illustrative list of types of 'essential infrastructure' from the green belt policy, and added a definition of the term within the Glossary.	To help with document flow. It is considered more appropriate to provide a definition of 'essential infrastructure' in the Glossary.
A small number of comments from individuals, concerned that minerals operations should not be an acceptable use in green belts.	No change.	We acknowledge that minerals operators need to go to where the resource is. Revised NPF4 Policy 8 'Green belts' part (a)(ii) ensures there will be no significant long-term impacts on the environmental quality. Additionally the Revised

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Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		NPF4 Policy 33 'Minerals' applies, and provides that proposals should not result in significant adverse impacts on the natural environment and should include schemes for a high standard of restoration and aftercare.
Concern about the reference to Areas of Search, noting no such areas of search exist, as Draft NPF4 does not carry forward SPP's Spatial Framework for onshore wind farms, or require areas of search for minerals.	Policy amended to delete 'where located within an identified area of search'.	Correction responding to stakeholder views. The removal of the reference to areas of search promotes consistency with the Revised Draft's renewable energy and minerals policies.
Intensification of established uses – clarification sought on whether this meant intensification within the boundary of an existing use, or whether this would permit increasing its extent. Some energy responses queried if this includes repowering	No change.	Not considered necessary – it is a matter for the decision maker. The policy provides for renewable developments (which could include repowering) and the Energy policy provides support for repowering and expanding existing wind farms.
'One-for-one replacements of existing permanent houses currently in occupation' – editing analysis identified repetition within this wording, that could be sharpened.	Policy amended to delete 'currently in occupation'	To use more concise language. The policy still requires the properties to be existing permanent houses.
29 (c) reasons as to why a green belt location is essential		
Statement identifying search area and site options assessed. Renewable interests were concerned the wording would be a barrier to development, that the draft policy was essentially developers to requiring provide a 'sequential test'	<p>Changed from requiring a 'statement', and setting out what that should cover, to just requiring 'reasons as to why a green belt location is essential'.</p> <p>Removed reference to search areas and assessing site options.</p>	To respond to stakeholder views. The revised version provides a more proportionate approach to information to support a planning application, by reducing the number of statements required. The requirement for reasons is still considered

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Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
and that there is no cap on renewables deployment.		appropriate for development green belts, given its protective nature, the policy leaves opportunity for prospective developers to make their case as to why they wish to develop within it. Reasons could now be simply incorporated within a general planning statement.
Various responses suggested that all the potential exceptions should be compatible with a countryside or natural setting not just the fourth bullet on recreation and sport.	Removed wording from individual policy bullet. Revised NPF4 Policy 8(a)(ii) 'Green belts' ensures the 'compatible' wording applies to all types of development in green belts.	To provide consistency of requirement across the list of acceptable uses.
Cross references to other policies.	Third sentence of draft policy (c) removed. The Revised Draft now contains 'Key policy connections'.	To help with document flow. The new Key policy connections highlights links to other policies, including those that had been in the removed sentence in part (c) on design, the historic environment and green and blue infrastructure.
29 (d) proposals on sites in green belt		
'Proposals on sites in the green belt for other types of development should not be supported' - several respondents suggested this part of the policy be removed to remove repetition.	Removed policy sub-section.	To respond to stakeholder views and avoid duplication. The policy intent of this sub-section remains covered. Revised NPF4 Policy 8(a)(i) 'Green belts' is clear that 'Development proposals within a green belt designated within the LDP will not be supported' unless for one of the listed types of development, therefore we do not need the further reiteration that was in part (d).
A definition of green belt in the Glossary was	No change.	The purposes of green belts are covered within the

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Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
sought by a series of campaign responses.		policy itself under the Policy intent and Policy outcomes.

Policy 30: Vacant and derelict land

Summary of representations

There was broad support for this policy, which was seen as critical to protecting greenfield land and the reuse of underused land. A number of respondents noted the challenges associated with the reuse of vacant and derelict land and buildings, including around costs limiting the market's ability to develop sites. It was noted that public sector investment is often required, and also that many of the more straightforward sites have already been developed, with those remaining generally needing more significant remediation.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 9 'Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings'. This policy has been reworded for clarity with a minor addition to reflect the benefit of reusing empty buildings for embodied energy. It has also been moved to 'sustainable places'.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Policy title to include buildings.	Clarified policy title to include buildings.	To respond to stakeholder views.
While the high-level policy talks about using vacant or derelict land to contribute to climate targets and support biodiversity and resilience, it is not mentioned in the listed policy proposals.	Revised policy layout includes key policy connections.	To respond to UK Climate Change Committee and stakeholder views. Revised NPF4 Annex A 'How to Use this Document' outlines that NPF is to be read as a whole.
Policy does not acknowledge rural locations, e.g. sites in rural areas not suitable for new development.	Added reference to sustainability of sites and biodiversity value. Policy wording amended to take into account biodiversity value of sites and sustainable reuse of brownfield land, directing development to the right locations.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Query if only sites on VDL Register apply.	Amended text to cover all brownfield land.	To respond to stakeholder views. See definitions of brownfield and VDL.
Should be explicit policy for developing VDL into productive greenspace.	Use for productive greenspace recognised as potential policy outcome.	Revised policy layout includes key policy connections.

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Draft Policy 30: Vacant and derelict land

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
30 (a) reuse VDL and buildings as a priority		
No evidence to support prioritising VDL at expense of greenfield release.	No change.	NPF4 should be read as a whole. It is widely recognised that the sustainable reuse of vacant and derelict land will provide benefits to society, including by helping to address the adverse impacts of legacy sites on neighbouring communities for example, see the work of the Scottish Land Commission and Vacant and Derelict Land Taskforce. This is also reflected as a priority in the Land Use Strategy.
Should make clear that some sites may naturalise.	Reference added to sustainability and biodiversity value.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Clear commitment to CPO and sales orders needed.	No change.	SG has already made separate commitments regarding compulsory purchase reform. See delivery programme.
30 (b) permanent or temporary reuse supported		
Should be a distinction between urban and rural brownfield land.	Amended text to cover all brownfield land.	To respond to stakeholder views. See definitions of brownfield and VDL.
Not all VDL is in sustainable locations.	Amended policy wording to take into account sustainability of sites. Reference made to sustainability and biodiversity value	To respond to stakeholder views.
30 (c) proposals on greenfield sites not supported		
Definition of 'sustainable brownfield alternatives'.	Wording removed.	To add clarity and respond to stakeholder views.
Consider potential biodiversity value of some brownfield sites.	Wording amended to take into account biodiversity value of sites. Refers to sustainability and biodiversity value.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Remove criterion.	No change.	Criterion remains, with amendments to strengthen commitment to climate emergency.

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Draft Policy 30: Vacant and derelict land

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Include approach that would consider greenfield sites where assessment determines are more viable than brownfield.	No change.	Policy is clear that greenfield will only be supported if supported through site allocation or policies within the local development plan.
30 (d) demonstrate that unstable/contaminated land is, or can be made, safe		
Should apply to all developments and not just VDL.	No change.	NPF4 should be read as a whole.
30 (e) reuse of existing buildings		
Would benefit from standard requirement for justifying a building being demolished rather than reused.	No change.	Revised policy layout includes key policy connections. Demolition is the least preferred option and should have overall benefits in terms of emissions including embodied carbon.
Stronger emphasis on demolition only as last resort.	No change.	NZET Committee request. Stakeholder request. This is stated in the policy.
Should be cross-referenced with requirements on carbon life cycle assessment.	Policies now include links to key policy connections.	NPF4 should be read as a whole.

Policy 31: Rural places

Summary of representations

Some respondents welcomed the inclusion of a policy specifically for rural places or indicated support for the intent and ambitions set out. However, it was also suggested that the policy is too broad, or that the support for new development in rural areas risks undermining sustainability and climate change objectives. There was also a view that, as drafted, the policy will not deliver the outcome of increasing the population of rural areas.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 policies 17 'Rural homes' and 29 'Rural development'. This policy has been updated and split into two sections – rural housing and rural development and revised drafting to give greater clarity on the overall intent of supporting vibrant and sustainable rural communities. More clarity on the policy for resettling previously populated areas has been provided in both, making clear support for development in principle but requiring suitable areas to be identified in the Local Development Plan and proposals to be designed to a high standard and compatible with climate targets. The policy is now explicitly linked to the urban-rural typology mapping, so that it is clear where rural and remote rural policies apply.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Some felt the policy is weak, confusing, vague, or too broad, whilst some felt the support for new development in rural areas risks undermining sustainability and climate change objectives. It was asked that NPF4 offer more of a vision for rural communities, with particular emphasis on population growth and affordable housing.	Rural Places policy has been split into two policies: Revised NPF4 policies 17 'Rural Homes' and 29 'Rural Development'. Re-structured text and wording changed throughout to improve clarity. Drafting changes made to ensure fragile communities are considered and to enable homes where there is an essential need for a worker of a rural business and to provide for retirement succession.	To provide clarity of message and help with document flow in response to Committee (RAINE) and stakeholder views.
Particularly with respect to housing, the categories of acceptable rural development in Policy 31 are too narrow and will not deliver the outcome of increasing the population of rural areas.	Rural Places policy has been split into two policies: Revised NPF4 policies 17 'Rural Homes' and 29 'Rural Development', with the Rural Homes policy bringing greater clarity of meaning and better	To respond to stakeholder views, and provide clarity of message and help with document flow. Splitting the policies has enabled the text to be clearer on the overall intent of supporting vibrant and

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 31: Rural places

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	alignment with other policies throughout the document with regards to housing.	sustainable rural communities. Close link with housing policy provides flexibility to respond to rural circumstances.
Policy fails to recognise the role rural areas will play in helping to deliver additional generation of renewable energy and that some aspects of rural places will inevitably change as a result.	No change.	NPF4 is intended to be read as a whole, and therefore this policy will apply alongside other policies including 1: Tackling the climate and nature crises, and 11: Energy.
Comments included that it will be important to establish what is meant by 'accessible', 'intermediate', 'remote' and 'areas of pressure and decline' and to be clear which form of the Scottish Government's Urban/Rural Classification is to be applied.	Rationalisation of terms to avoid confusion and improve clarity of drafting. Clarification added to the LDP text to specify which classification should be used to identify remote rural areas.	Responding to stakeholder views and providing clarity of message. The Scottish Governments 6 fold Urban Rural Classification 2020 should be used to identify remote rural areas.
31 (a) LDPs set out proposal to support rural communities and economies		
The requirement at a) for LDPs to 'set out an appropriate approach to development in areas of pressure and decline...' is undermined by later sections that set out the approach, irrespective of local conditions.	Re-structured text to help document flow and clarity of message. Wording, formatting and language changes made.	To respond to stakeholder views. Provide clarity of message and help with document flow.
The range of rural spatial concepts should be rationalised to ensure deliverability.	Formatting and rationalisation of terms to avoid confusion and improve clarity of drafting.	To respond to stakeholder views. Changes made in line with wider changes to wording within the spatial strategy section of NPF4 – wording now consistent throughout.
31 (b) resettlement of previously inhabited areas		
Clear tensions between the resettlement of previously inhabited areas and sustainable placemaking.	LDPs to identify areas which are suitable for resettlement. More clarity on the policy for resettling previously populated areas, making clear support for	To respond to stakeholder views. To provide clarity of message and help with document flow.

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Draft Policy 31: Rural places

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	development in principle but requiring suitable areas to be identified in the LDP and proposals to be designed to a high standard and compatible with climate targets.	
Calls for clarification of what by is meant by 'previously inhabited areas' including: at what point in history; how long; what types of habitation; and whether this refers to areas or individual sites.	No change.	It is neither possible nor appropriate to define this in detail at a national scale. Previously inhabited areas which are suitable for resettlement should be identified in the LDP spatial strategy.
Suggestion that supporting development only where climate change mitigation targets are being met could act as a veto on almost all proposals for resettlement, and that such a test should not be applied to small scale rural housing proposals.	Re-worded policy to offer better clarity on what type of proposals would be acceptable.	Clarity of message.
20 minute neighbourhoods present challenges for rural areas or it is inappropriate for rural areas.	Removed reference to 20 minute neighbourhoods.	To respond to stakeholder views. We recognise concerns that the term is not as easily translated to rural populations/locations as urban locations. Guidance will demonstrate through the use of exemplars, how rural places can be supported through the concept of Local living. Reference to Local living more appropriate, see Revised NPF4 Policy 15 'Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods'.
It was suggested that NPF4 should recognise that people are required to live in these areas in order to manage them most effectively.	Amended drafting to ensure NPF4 is supporting development in principle but requiring suitable areas to be identified.	To respond to Committee (RAINE).

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Draft Policy 31: Rural places

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
It was suggested that there are areas where further detail is required in NPF4. For example, there are issues in relation to rural housing that need to be addressed such as lack of affordable housing in rural areas and lack of housing more generally preventing rural communities from being able to attract new residents.	Rural Places policy has been split into two policies: Revised NPF4 policies 17 'Rural Homes' and 29 'Rural Development'. Within Rural Homes Policy, drafting changes made to ensure reference to affordable housing and an addition of the 'economic considerations' as a reference to consideration of supporting employment in rural areas.	To respond to Committee (RAINE).
31 (c) development proposals in rural areas		
Not clear which criteria apply mutually or exclusively.	Drafting changes to clarify meaning.	To provide clarity and respond to stakeholder views.
The term 'development pressures' could be misapplied or contrived for different outcomes.	Drafting changes for clarity.	To provide clarity and respond to stakeholder views.
Comments around the terminology used not being consistent with other areas of NPF4, and the restrictiveness of the terms within and should be caveated.	Drafting changes to aid clarity and consistency. Caveats added.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Request for clarity on what 'a small site that may not normally be used for housing'.	Amended drafting - text now aligns with Housing policy and other parts of NPF4.	To respond to stakeholder views.
31 (d) viability, sustainability and diversity of the local economy		
Further types of diversification development were suggested to be included.	Added woodland crofts to development types. Key policy connections section added.	To respond to stakeholder views. All suggestions were considered however some were already considered to be covered by wider NPF4 policies.
Clarification of the meaning of 'good quality land'.	Amended wording.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Critical infrastructure should be expanded to include catchment management and flood risk	Re-structured policy and the split between Development and Homes	To respond to stakeholder views and help with document flow.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 31: Rural places

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
management. There were also requests to emphasise the importance of transmission infrastructure and to include housing as critical infrastructure.	addresses some of the issues raised. Glossary definition added.	
31 (e) new homes in rural areas outwith existing rural settlements		
Mixture of responses demonstrating conflicting views with regards to this policy being too conditional and limiting to make a significant impact on rural populations, or alternatively that the criteria could be more prescriptive in parts.	Split the policy into two parts and adjusted layout & drafting.	To help with document flow. Changes are considered to address both sides of the concerns raised.
Clarification of what a redundant or disused building is was sought, while the implication of the text as drafted that the reuse of redundant or disused buildings in accessible or pressured areas would not be supported was queried, since this could be the most sustainable use of such buildings.	Removed text to consolidate the intent of the policy and simplify – also re-aligns policy with housing aspects to ensure no contradictions.	To provide clarity and respond to stakeholder views. No definition has been provided for the term redundant, it is considered that this term is universally understood and used within other policy without the need for a national definition. Any nationally defined criteria would risk overlooking specific local considerations.
31 (f) accessible or pressured rural areas		
Accessible or pressured rural areas – concerns that this is not realistic, concerns over terminology of pressured areas and lack of detail provided with regards to PA determination.	Rationalisation of terms to avoid confusion and improve clarity.	To respond to stakeholder views.
31 (g) remote rural areas		
Definition of 'remote rural areas' requested.	Clarification added to the LDP text to specify which classification should be used to define a remote rural area.	To provide clarity in response to stakeholder views.
31 (h) prime agricultural land		

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 31: Rural places

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
General points on (h) included that this section could be moved to Policy 33 (Soils) or that prime agricultural land should be a standalone policy.	Moved section to sit under Revised NPF4 Policy 5(b) 'Soils' as prime agricultural land is not just present in rural areas.	To help with document structure and respond to stakeholder views.
Queries as to the definitions of land of lesser quality and prime agricultural land.	Definitions added to Glossary.	To provide clarity in response to stakeholder views.

Policy 32: Natural places

Summary of representations

Respondents were relatively evenly divided between those who broadly supported the policy and those who sought extensive changes. There were calls for a greater focus on protecting all biodiversity, following the mitigation hierarchy and stronger, plan-led action. With respect to the relationship between Policy 32 and other parts of NPF4, comments included that the fit with Policy 3 (Nature crisis) is unclear and that there are significant inconsistencies with Policy 19 (Green energy). There were also calls for linkages to be made between this policy and the Biodiversity Strategy.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 4 'Natural places'. This policy has been moved to sit alongside the policy on biodiversity. The policy on local nature conservation sites and local landscape areas has been reworded to provide clearer tests and the precautionary principle has been linked with relevant legislation and Scottish Government guidance. The policy on wild land has been revised to expressly support development that assists in meeting renewable energy targets, together with small scale development, subject to an impact assessment and appropriate mitigation, management measures and monitoring. The appropriate approach to buffer zones and development outwith wild land areas has also been clarified.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Relationship between policy 32 and policy 3 (Nature Crisis) is unclear.	Moved policy content to earlier in NPF4 document to strengthen relationship with Revised Draft Policy 1: Tackling the climate and nature crises.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Further detail on the 'best use' of nature-based solutions, including how these will be planned and targeted, and work alongside other land priorities, avoiding unintended outcomes. Development proposals should also consider the risk to carbon stocks held in the soils and vegetation of natural habitats and look to protect and enhance these.	Added Glossary definition of "nature-based solutions".	To respond to UK Climate Change Committee. Detail on specific nature-based solutions beyond the existing content/new Glossary definition would not be appropriate for NPF4. Planning authorities can interpret the principles and determine what tailored solutions may be appropriate/beneficial within their area. Impacts of development proposals on carbon stocks held in soils and other carbon stores (such

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 32: Natural places

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		as woodland) are dealt with under the Revised Draft NPF4 Policies: 5 'Soils' and 6 'Forestry, woodlands and trees', which underpin the overarching policy of tackling the twin crises.
Greater focus on biodiversity, not just designated sites.	No change.	The Revised Draft NPF4 Policy 4 'Natural places' is one aspect of the overarching policy to tackle the twin crises. Biodiversity is a cross-cutting theme that runs through NPF4 as a whole, including, but not limited to, the Natural Places policy.
Greater emphasis on following the mitigation hierarchy.	Added policy intent and outcomes to emphasise that this policy is focused primarily on the protection of important natural assets in the first instance. Illustration of mitigation hierarchy added to Glossary.	To respond to Committee (NZET) and stakeholder views.
This policy should link to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.	No change.	It is not necessary for NPF4 to reference the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy within policy text. The Natural Places policy is one aspect of the overarching policy to tackle the twin crises. Biodiversity is a cross-cutting theme that runs through NPF4 as a whole, including, but not limited to, the Natural Places policy.
Natural heritage sites such as St Kilda would be better covered under Policy 32.	No change.	Reference to World Heritage Sites sits within Revised NPF4 Policy 7 'Historic assets and places'. Natural places policy will apply in relevant circumstances and NPF should be read as a whole.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 32: Natural places

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
32 (a) LDPs should identify and protect natural assets and areas		
Further guidance will be required to identify assets, landscapes, species and habitats referenced. LDPs may not be the most appropriate vehicle to identify all of these at this level of detail.	Amended the first sentence of the LDP text to clarify that spatial strategies will identify and protect locally, regionally, nationally and internationally important natural assets. Wording amended to add clarity.	To respond to stakeholder views.
The word “valued” is ambiguous.	Changed “valued” to “important”.	To respond to stakeholder views.
LDPs should also provide further detail on local nature networks, including a requirement to identify and protect areas contributing to a nature network, set out core components of a nature network and provide guidance on development of such networks.	Text added to provide further detail and clarity to the ‘Nature Networks’ Glossary definition.	To respond to stakeholder views. LDPs are one possible delivery mechanism for nature networks. Opportunities for implementation may be identified through, e.g. LDPs and/or Local Biodiversity Action Plans and/or other existing or new mechanisms such as those developed under the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Delivery Plan, to achieve connectivity within and across urban, peri-urban and rural landscapes.
Greater guidance for local authorities about what sort of projects would best contribute to Nature Networks, where the best sites are to begin from, and how to deliver cross-boundary Nature Network projects	Added text to the ‘Nature Networks’ Glossary definition.	To respond to Committee (RAINE) and stakeholder views. To add further detail and clarity. LDPs are one possible delivery mechanism for nature networks. Opportunities for implementation may be identified through, e.g. LDPs and/or Local Biodiversity Action Plans and/or other existing or new mechanisms such as those developed under the Scottish Biodiversity

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 32: Natural places

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		Strategy Delivery Plan, to achieve connectivity within and across urban, peri-urban and rural landscapes.
32 (b) unacceptable impact on natural environment		
Uncertainty around meaning of “biodiversity objectives” in this context.	Removed reference to “biodiversity objectives”.	To respond to stakeholder views. Specific reference to biodiversity objectives is not necessary in this section. This statement is referring to impacts on all aspects of the natural environment.
Definition of “unacceptable impact”.	Added text to this section to add clarity that it is the type, location or scale of development which may have an unacceptable impact on the natural environment.	To respond to stakeholder views.
32 (c) effect on a European site		
Further clarity on how development affecting European sites will be considered.	Amended wording to add clarity that this is a statutory process.	To respond to stakeholder views.
32 (d) NP, NSA, SSSI or NNR		
Reference to National Park legislation unnecessary.	Removed reference to National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000.	Responding to stakeholder views and removing unnecessary wording.
Lacks ambition and language should be strengthened.	‘should’ changed to ‘will’ to provide enhanced strength of language with regards to the level of protection given to such designations.	To provide clarity of message and respond to stakeholder views.
‘Significant Adverse Effects’ should be explained further.	No change.	‘Significant adverse effects’ in relation to national designations is a well-known and well accepted term which has been carried forward from Scottish Planning Policy (2014).
32 (e) protected species		
What species are covered by “protected species”.	Amended wording to make clear that this section is referring to all species protected by legislation.	To provide clarity of message and respond to stakeholder views.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 32: Natural places

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	'Reasonable' added to precede evidence.	
32 (f) non-native species		
This is covered by law, not required in NPF4.	Removed section.	To respond to stakeholder views and remove unnecessary wording.
32 (g) Local Nature Conservation Site or Local Landscape Area		
As drafted, appears to favour development on local nature conservation sites.	Amended language to be clearer that this is not a presumption in favour of development on local nature conservation sites.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarification of intent.
32 (h) precautionary principle		
Greater clarity required for this section and link to Guiding Principles on the Environment: draft statutory guidance.	Amended wording to link to relevant legislation and Scottish Government Guidance on this matter.	To respond to stakeholder views.
32 (i) wild land		
Two opposing views on this section. One side seeking greater protection for Wild Land areas and other seeking relaxation for certain development types (renewables and local housing/sustainable development). Conflict between this policy and Policy 19: Green Energy raised.	Amended wording to remove sequential test that development 'cannot be reasonably located outside of the wild land area' and amended to provide for development that supports meeting renewable energy targets (as well as small scale rural developments). States that buffer zones around wild land will not be applied and effects of development outwith wild land areas will not be a significant consideration.	To respond to stakeholder views. A more explicit policy position has been provided taking into account views received.

Policy 33: Soils

Summary of representations

There was broad support for this policy, although some thought it should go further in protecting peatlands. It was suggested that it should be strengthened in terms of peatland restoration and that a proactive approach to restoration should be adopted. In terms of development on peatland, some argued that, as drafted, there are too many exceptions or too much leeway for developers. Other respondents welcomed the absence of a blanket ban on development.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 5 'Soils'. This policy has been updated, including to make specific reference to the exception given to the whisky industry. Amended text also includes new, more explicit provision on restoration and enhancement where development takes place on peatland. Protection for prime agricultural land has been moved to this policy, and the policy as a whole has been moved to 'sustainable places'.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Welcome the discussion of peatlands and soil health as part of nature-based solutions. Would like more direct consideration of climate adaptation for and climate risks to peatlands and soils.	No change.	UK Climate Change Committee Request. Noted and consider encompassed under Revised NPF4 new policy 2 'Climate mitigation and adaptation'.
Detail is required to set out what would be considered 'essential' in this context. Alongside consideration of disturbance, degradation or erosion of the peat soils, consideration should also be given to the impact on the hydrological footprint of the peat body, which may extend beyond the peat boundary.	New definition in Glossary of 'essential infrastructure' in addition to the other four development proposals listed. Consideration of impacts on soils as referred to in the issue section would be covered by Revised NPF4 Policy 5 'Soils' new part (d) requirements for assessment.	To respond to UK Climate Change Committee.
Stronger terms are required regarding the restriction of peat extraction, with this practice stopped outright and steps taken to restore	No change.	To respond to Committee (NZET and UK Climate Change) views. New development proposals for commercial peat extraction and

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 33: Soils

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
all extraction sites by 2035 (in line with previous CCC advice).		extensions to existing developments will fall within the scope of NPF4. Wider actions, outwith the scope of NPF4 include, a pledge in our 2021-22 Programme for Government to take forward work to develop and consult on a ban on the sale of peat related gardening products as part of our wider commitment to phase out the use of peat in horticulture and a 10 year programme of peatland restoration that is already underway.
Cross references required to related policies.	Added key policy connections.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Greater emphasis on full range of soil types that offer carbon and other ecologically important services.	New policy intent and outcomes establish policy focus on all soil types. Additionally LDP subsection and part a) provide specific reference to protecting valued soils.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Strengthen policy to support peatland restoration.	New part d) establishes need to consider requirements for restoring and/or enhancing peatland systems.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Reference of archaeological value of peat and carbon rich soils.	No change.	Revised Draft NPF4 Policy 7 'Historic assets and places' sets out requirements for the consideration of buried archaeological remains. NPF4 is to be read as a whole.
33 (a) <i>locally, regionally, nationally and internationally valued soils</i>		
Calls to define valued soils.	No change.	The value assigned to soils can be established via reference to the protected area network and other existing mapped data sources. Detail on these

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 33: Soils

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		information sources will be included in LDP guidance.
Refer to all soils as all soils have value.	New policy intent and outcomes establish policy focus on all soil types. Additionally LDP subsection and part a) provide specific reference to protecting valued soils.	To respond to stakeholder views.
33 (b) disturbance of soils		
Greater clarity sought.	Part (b) replaced with Revised NPF4 Policy 5 'Soils' new part (a), setting out need to follow mitigation hierarchy and the types of impacts to be taken into account.	To respond to Committee (NZET) and stakeholder views.
33 (c) peatland, carbon rich soils and priority peatland habitat		
Degree to which the policy protects carbon-rich soils.	Part (c) updated in Revised Draft NPF4 policy 5 'Soils' with list of development types that could be supported. With part (d) of Revised Draft NPF4 policy 5 'Soils' establishing the design and assessment requirements that offer protection of carbon-rich soils. Plus clarity provided on the definition of peatland, priority peatland habitat and carbon-rich soils.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Definition of essential infrastructure.	Updated definition provided in Glossary.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Recognise peatland restoration opportunity in development proposals.	Revised Draft NPF4 policy 5 'Soils' new part (d) refers to plans that may be required for restoration and enhancement.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Methods and approach to assessment.	Revised Draft NPF4 policy 5 'Soils' new part (d) offers clarity on approach to assessment and key items of consideration.	To respond to stakeholder views. Policy wording allows for application of best practice and most up-to-date tools for assessment. Work is underway to update or replace the

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 33: Soils

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		carbon calculator. Scottish Government will ensure that we develop adequate tools and guidance to help assess the net carbon impacts of development proposals on peatlands and other carbon-rich soils.
33 (d) new commercial peat extraction		
Clarification around the exception criteria for commercial peat extraction.	Amended to specify whisky industry rather than 'an industry of national importance' and tightened wording to ensure clarity.	To respond to Committee (NZET) and stakeholder views.
Concern that there should be no commercial peat extraction and no exemptions, or expressed concerns at the number of exemptions proposed.	The criteria has been reworded to ensure it will only apply to an extremely limited number of development proposal and too ensure the potential impact on the peatland itself is kept to minimum.	To respond to stakeholder views.
General points included that the Rural Places Policy 31(h) could be moved to Policy 33 (Soils) or that Prime agricultural land should be a standalone policy.	Policy moved to Revised NPF4 Policy 5(b) 'Soils'.	To respond to stakeholder views.

Policy 34: Trees, woodland and forestry

Summary of representations

General comments included that the acknowledgement of the importance of trees and woodland in meeting climate targets and reversing biodiversity loss is welcome. It was also suggested that the protections provided could be strengthened further, and the importance of preserving native woodland was emphasised. An alternative perspective was that proposed protections go too far in protecting woodland at the expense of development needed to deliver net zero.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 6 'Forestry, woodland and trees'. This policy has had minor changes to the wording including a clearer requirement, rather than suggestion, that woodland should be protected, responding to a petition. This has also been moved to 'Sustainable Places'.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Call for greater ambition and more detail on how the planning system can proactively enhance and expand woodland cover.	Amended wording/ structure to include a statement that supports development proposals that enhance, expand and improve woodland and tree cover at the start of policy text.	To respond to UK Climate Change Committee.
Policy should give greater emphasis to individual/small groups of trees.	Clearer references to 'trees' added through policy intent, policy outcomes and within the LDP text.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Small loss of trees in woodlands should be allowed for food production.	No change.	The removal of woodland is covered by the Control of Woodland Removal policy. It would not be appropriate for NPF4 to detail types of removal which may or may not be acceptable. The Control of Woodland Removal policy is interpreted and applied by Consenting Authorities as appropriate within their area and on a case by case basis.
Reference to Tree Preservation Orders	No change.	Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are made following

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 34: Trees, woodland and forestry

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
(TPOs) should be within policy.		accordance with procedures set out in legislation. It is not necessary for NPF4 to reference these procedures.
Greater clarity around terminology.	Added Glossary terms for 'woodlands', 'veteran trees', 'ancient woodlands', and 'public benefits'.	To provide clarity and respond to stakeholder views.
34 (a) LDPs identify and protect existing woodland and potential for its enhancement or expansion		
Reference to 'The Right Tree in the Right Place' and discussion of this document being updated/re-named.	Removed reference to 'The Right Tree in the Right Place'.	Clarity of message. It is not necessary for NPF4 to reference 'The Right Tree in the Right Place'. This document remains a Scottish Government adopted Guidance document which offers advice to planning authorities on planning for forestry and woodlands.
Confusion surrounding LDP text and requirements around Forestry and Woodland strategies.	Amended wording to be clearer and simpler.	To provide clarity and respond to stakeholder views.
34 (b) ancient woodlands, native woodlands, woodland habitats		
Support for policy wording but calls for strengthened protection, particularly for ancient/native woodlands.	Changed 'should' to 'will' to provide strengthened language and greater clarity surrounding the level of policy protection that will be afforded to these vital and often irreplaceable habitats A Glossary definition has been provided for 'Ancient Woodlands' which refers to 'land' that has maintained continuous woodland habitat, not just the woodland itself.	To provide clarity and respond to stakeholder views.
Proposals are too restrictive, particularly around protection for ancient/native woodlands and do not allow for	No change.	The policy wording is proportionate and representative of the importance these often

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 34: Trees, woodland and forestry

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
development needed to deliver net zero or the possibility of minor impacts.		irreplaceable habitats have. The Control of Woodland Removal Policy remains the Scottish Government's currently adopted policy document which provides policy direction for decisions on woodland removal in Scotland, including renewables.
Reference to the mitigation hierarchy should be added to the 'Fragmenting or severing woodland habitats' section.	Amended wording to make clear that mitigation will be appropriate and in line with the mitigation hierarchy.	To provide clarity and respond to stakeholder views.
Consideration should also be given to other matters such as the quality of the land.	Glossary definition has been provided for 'Ancient Woodlands' which refers to the 'land' that has maintained continuous woodland habitat, not just the woodland itself.	To respond to stakeholder views and clarity of message.
'Adverse impacts' should be defined.	No change.	Adverse impacts in relation to woodlands is a well-known and well accepted term which has been carried forward from Scottish Planning Policy (2014).
34 (c) woodland removal		
Addresses woodland removal and compensatory planting at only a high level. Further detail should be set out.	No change.	To respond to Committee (NZET and UK Climate Change) request. Woodland removal and compensatory planting is fully detailed within the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy.
The requirement to provide compensatory planting should be compulsory.	No change.	The removal of woodland is covered by the Control of Woodland Removal policy. The Control of Woodland Removal policy is interpreted and applied by Consenting Authorities as appropriate within their

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 34: Trees, woodland and forestry

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		area and on a case by case basis.
Reference to the Control of Woodland Removal Policy should be made within the policy text.	Added to policy text “in accordance with relevant Scottish Government policy on woodland removal”. Glossary term added for “public benefits”.	To respond to stakeholder views. The Control of Woodland Removal Policy remains the Scottish Government’s currently adopted policy document which provides policy direction for decisions on woodland removal in Scotland.
34 (d) existing woodland or land identified as suitable for woodland creation		
All developments should have to integrate new woodlands into their design. Not just those that include areas identified as being suitable for woodland under Forest and Woodland strategies.	No change.	This section reinforces the policy link to LDPs and the requirement for spatial strategies to identify and set out proposals for forestry, woodlands and trees in their area. This will be informed by an up to date Forestry and Woodland Strategy.
Should be strengthened and also specify that development must ensure that existing woodland is protected from direct and indirect adverse impacts.	Strengthened language to move from ‘opportunities should be considered’ to development proposals on sites which include existing woodland (or land identified as being suitable for woodland creation only being supported where both ‘enhancement’ and ‘improvement’ of woodlands is integrated into the design.	To respond to Committee (NZET).
34 (e) sustainably managed woodland		
This statement should make clear that support is subject to complying with other policies.	No change.	It is not necessary for this section to reference compliance with other NPF4 policies. NPF4 should be read as a whole and all relevant policies should be considered and applied. Details of key policy connections have been added within NPF4.

Policy 35: Coasts

Summary of representations

Respondents tended to support the policy, although there were concerns that the emphasis is on the immediate and short-term climate change risks at the coast. Respondents were looking for more of a focus on protecting the marine environment, restoring blue carbon habitats as a nature-based solution and on creating and supporting sustainable coastal communities.

Overview of changes

This is Revised NPF4 Policy 10 'Coastal development'. This policy has been updated to give more clarity on the level of support for development on developed and undeveloped coasts. It has been moved to the section on sustainable places.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Calls for greater clarity.	Changed policy name to add clarity, as 'Coastal Development' thought more specific than 'coasts'. Small amendments made to the wording throughout to ensure clarity of message and consistency with other policy areas.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity of message.
Concerns that the emphasis is on the immediate and short-term climate change risks at the coast.	Amended wording to ensure clarity over developments being supportable in the long term and to take into account projected climate change.	To provide clarity in response to stakeholder views.
Need to build in resilience for the medium term in terms of adaptation, but also a need to be thinking about the longer term.	Drafting changes made to make clear the policy intent is to protect coastal communities and assets and support resilience to the impacts of climate change.	To respond to Committee (NZET) and stakeholder views.
Scope - many suggestions were provided for this policy to widen its scope and include a range of other subjects, such as the landscape and recreation value of the coasts, further focus on protecting the	Added 'key policy connections', including: 'Biodiversity'; 'Energy'; 'Play, recreation and sport'.	NPF4 is intended to be read as a whole, and therefore this policy will apply alongside other policies. The change of policy name may also aid clarity.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 35: Coasts

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
marine environment, restoring blue carbon habitats, access and connectivity challenges, supporting coastal communities, historic environment assessments and renewable energy infrastructure.		
Calls for clearer links on how the policy relates to other policies relevant in coastal locations - such as Policy 31 (Rural places) Policy 8 (Infrastructure first) and Policy 19 (Green energy).	Added 'Key Policy Connections'.	To ensure clear links with other key relevant policies within NPF4. NPF4 should be read as a whole, and therefore this policy will apply alongside other policies.
Call for reference to other relevant plans.	No change within policy.	Wider plans and strategies referenced in overview of themes and in new Table 1 schematic.
Call for consideration to be given to the significant carbon stores held in coastal habitats, and clear steps taken to identify and protect these from disturbance and loss by development.	Reworded policy to highlight use of nature-based solutions to support resilience against the impacts of climate change – which includes carbon stores.	To respond to UK Climate Change Committee.
35 (a) consider how to adapt coastlines to the impacts of climate change		
It was thought unclear if LDP spatial strategies are required to identify developed and undeveloped coast. Others asked for a definition of 'undeveloped coastal areas' and for a clear distinction to be made between undeveloped coastal areas and settlements that are located in coastal areas.	Changed text on LDPs to reflect that we expect the spatial strategies to identify areas of developed and undeveloped coast within their plan.	To respond to stakeholder views. It is appropriate to allow local areas to identify as appropriate, making a clear distinction between settlement boundaries and coastal areas, while it was thought that an attempt to define this at a national level, without further stakeholder engagement or discussion, could be overly prescriptive.
35 (b) development proposals that require a coastal location		
It was suggested that greater clarity is needed as to what 'requires' a coastal location and whether	Amended wording where appropriate to reflect feedback.	To provide clarity of message and respond to stakeholder views.

PART 3 – National Planning Policy
Draft Policy 35: Coasts

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
developers should have to demonstrate that a coastal location is required. Others expressed concerns that the policy was too restrictive and should be amended to enable certain development where it is considered necessary or essential.	Changes made to ensure essential infrastructure is supported where appropriate.	
35 (c) undeveloped coastal areas		
It was suggested that the policy should recognise that undeveloped coastal areas will rarely be an appropriate location for new development, and that there should be a stronger presumption against development in such areas.	Amended drafting to add clarity to the message and more appropriately set out the intentions to restrict new development in these areas.	To provide clarity in response to stakeholder views.
35 (d) coastal defence measures		
Local Flood Risk Management Strategies and Plans should be included in the list of documents with which a proposal should be consistent.	No change.	The text refers to 'relevant coastal or marine plans' which would include Local Flood Risk Management Strategies.
Request to make clear whether all of the bullet points need to be satisfied.	Inserted 'and' to clarify	To provide clarity and respond to stakeholder views.
35 (e) long term coastal vulnerability and resilience		
Referred to a lack of clarity, with the terms 'may impact on the coast', 'appropriate issues' and 'long term vulnerability' all thought too vague.	Removed wording to reduce confusion and text re-drafted to clarify intent of policy and provide further direction to decision makers.	To provide clarity in response to stakeholder views.

Part 4 – Delivering Our Spatial Strategy

Summary of representations

A number of respondents commented that a delivery plan would have been helpful to support the Draft NPF4. The importance of the delivery strategy was highlighted, including to provide confidence to all sectors involved in the built environment and to demonstrate that the relevant actions, mechanisms, and responsibilities are clear.

It was agreed that a collaborative approach that aligns interests will play a central role in delivering the spatial strategy. It was described as a crucial aspect of how a radical and ambitious strategy can be effectively delivered by the practitioners tasked with management and delivery.

There was broad agreement that monitoring will be an essential part of the NPF process, and also that it will be a significant and challenging undertaking. In terms of overall responsibilities, it was suggested that monitoring of NPF4 should be led and undertaken by the Scottish Government as the coordinating authority.

Overview of approach

A delivery programme has been published alongside the Revised Draft, which sets out how the priorities in NPF4 align with wider investment programmes. This will be a live document, to be updated as delivery progresses, supported by governance arrangements.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Part 4 is short on detail and does not give confidence moving forward with delivering NPF4. Delivery plan required and clarity on SG role in delivery.	Detail on delivery actions/role of SG are set out in the Delivery Programme, published alongside the revised NPF4.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Further detail sought on delivery of National Developments.	Reference to delivery of NDs is set out in Delivery Programme.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Clarity on where funds exist and how they align with NPF4. Detail required on aligning resources and plans, programmes and strategies (e.g. IIP/ STPR2).	Reference to NPF4 funding and aligning resources is set out in the Delivery Programme.	To respond to Committee (LGHP) and stakeholder views.
Financing and delivering a net-zero Scotland.	Reference to NPF4 funding and aligning	To respond to Committee (NZET).

PART 4 – Delivering Our Spatial Strategy

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
	resources is set out in the Delivery Programme.	The delivery of NPF4 policy (which supports the transition to net zero) is supported by a Delivery Programme which includes a set of actions to progress co-ordination and alignment or funding/resources.
NPF4 needs to set out or be accompanied by a clear Capital and Revenue Investment Programme.	Reference to the relationship of NPF4 within broader SG prioritisation and capital spending plans is set out in the Delivery Programme.	To respond to Committee (LGHP) and stakeholder views.
Clarity on a financial strategy for front funding and cost recovery, use of Infrastructure Levy and link to planning obligations.	The Delivery Programme contains detail on the funding position for NPF4. Infrastructure Levy and review of developer contributions are part of the wider planning reform work programme.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Need leadership from Scottish Government for national agencies to work with planning authorities.	Expectations around (and need for) collaborative working are set out in Delivery Programme.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Call for a new national infrastructure company/ delivery agency to be established.	No change.	Out with scope of NPF4.
Respondents sought opportunity to be involved in Delivery Programme.	The Delivery Programme sets out the governance arrangements for NPF4 which includes engagement.	To respond to stakeholder views.
There is a need to maximise the opportunities presented through the digital planning programme.	The Actions Table in the Delivery Programme sets out the key actions to be progressed to support the delivery of NPF4.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Clarity on how the Digital Planning Strategy will support the implementation of NPF4.	Details of the digital transformation programme are set out in Delivery Programme.	To respond to stakeholder views.
How land value capture will interact with NPF4 and role of proactive land assembly.	No change.	Part of wider planning reform work programme.

PART 4 – Delivering Our Spatial Strategy

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
NPF4 to state that growth deals should reflect spatial strategies.	Reference to City Region and Regional Growth deals in Delivery Programme.	To respond to stakeholder views.
NPF4 should address the importance of healthcare-related infrastructure.	Revised NPF4 Policy 18 'Infrastructure First' relates to infrastructure planning, which includes healthcare. See Glossary.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Lack of clarity around the relationship between NPF4 and Regional Spatial Strategies.	Revised NPF4 new Annex A 'How to Use this Document' covers relationship between plans.	To respond to stakeholder views.
How the various components of the LDP would interact with the content of NPF4.		
Need to highlight the importance of Local Place Plans and the need for engagement with older people.		
How NPF4 will be introduced to the planning system and how it will interact with live planning applications.	Revised NPF4 new Annex A 'How to Use this Document' covers interaction with planning applications.	To respond to stakeholder views. We will also commence the appropriate section(s) of the 2019 Act which makes NPF4 part of the statutory development plan
How the issue of resourcing of planning departments will be addressed.	Details relating to skills and resourcing of the system are in the Delivery Programme.	To respond to stakeholder views.
A comprehensive resource and skills strategy is needed to be published as part of the delivery programme.	The approach to skills/resourcing is outlined in Delivery Programme.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Monitoring of NPF4 should be led by the Scottish Government and engagement and consultation sought on the development of a monitoring system.	Initial actions for monitoring and evaluation are set out in Delivery Programme.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Data - planners need to have access to reliable spatial data, references were made to particular	Details on how the Digital Planning Transformation Programme will support the National Planning	To respond to Committee (NZET)

PART 4 – Delivering Our Spatial Strategy

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
types of data including on woodlands.	Framework are set out in the Delivery Programme.	

Part 5 – Annexes

Annex A – NPF4 Outcomes Statement

Summary of representations

Some of these expressed their support for the overall policy direction and development measures set out by the Draft NPF4, and agreed that these will contribute to the delivery of statutory outcomes. However, most of those commenting raised issues or suggested amendments to better support delivery of such outcomes.

This included views that the policies set out in the Draft NPF4 will not result in a significant change in the character of development in Scotland, and specific concerns that it does not give sufficient weight to climate change and biodiversity. Stronger emphasis on the delivery of sustainable development was requested. While there was support for what was described as a positive policy framework, respondents suggested that the policies set out in the document are open to interpretation, and do not include sufficient detail to ensure effective delivery.

There were also calls for this part of NPF4 to be expanded to include other relevant outcomes and targets. Specific suggestions included reference to relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, National Performance Framework outcomes, and other duties under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

It was also suggested that the delivery of statutory outcomes should be integrated with other NPF4 components, such as the four spatial strategy themes (Sustainable places, Liveable places, Productive places, and Distinctive places) and the six spatial principles for Scotland 2045. This reflected concern around a perceived lack of integration across other parts of NPF4, such as between the Action Area regional priorities and National Developments. Some respondents wished to see the outcomes section expanded to map the relationship between all components, and how these address delivery of the statutory outcomes.

Respondents also reiterated concerns raised at earlier questions that delivery against the statutory outcomes will require significant resources and investment. This included concern around the required resourcing of the planning system (with reference to Heads of Planning Scotland's estimate that 700 additional planners will be required over the next 15 years), and investment in infrastructure. There was also reference to the need for coordinated action across a range of stakeholders to ensure delivery of NPF4's ambitions, and a view that more work is required to provide clarity on the role of various stakeholders. Overall, it was suggested that there is a delivery gap between ambitions and policies, and realisation of the statutory outcomes.

Detailed comments were provided about each of the six outcomes as set out the Analysis Report.

Overview of changes

The outcomes section within the Draft sat in an Annex, outcomes have been moved upfront within the document and are now clearly profiled within Part 1 the national spatial strategy, with explicit links to show which policies will help deliver each of the outcomes. There are now six clear sections on each of the outcomes prescribed in the Act

- Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions - to meet greenhouse gas emissions targets.
- Improving Biodiversity - to secure positive effects for biodiversity.
- A Fair And Inclusive Planning System – that helps to eliminate discrimination and promote equality.
- Homes That Meet Our Diverse Needs - in particular, the housing needs for older people and disabled people.
- Rural Revitalisation – to help increase the population of rural areas of Scotland.
- Lifelong Health And Wellbeing - to improve health and wellbeing

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Concerns that NPF4 does not give sufficient weight to climate change and biodiversity. Stronger emphasis on the delivery of sustainable development was requested.	Enhanced sections on the outcomes including those on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Improving Biodiversity. Revised NPF4 Policy 1 'Tackling the climate and nature crises' amended to clarify that significant weight is to be given to the climate emergency and nature crises.	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity of message to deliver the outcomes. The nature crisis, together with the global climate emergency, underpins the spatial strategy as a whole.
Add details of other relevant outcomes relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG) and their targets, National Performance Framework outcomes, and other duties under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.	Added new Table 1 schematic which shows the connections of each of the national outcomes to the UNSDGs and how it fits with the wider policies and themes. The introduction to each theme also ties in the relevant UNSDG and national outcomes.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Calls for integration with other NPF4 components, such as the spatial strategy themes.	Moved the outcomes upfront to be profiled within the Spatial Strategy.	To respond to stakeholder views, giving greater prominence to the outcomes.
Call for the outcomes section to be expanded to	Expanded sections on each of the statutory	To respond to stakeholder views and provide clarity of

PART 5 – Annexes
Annex A - NPF4 Outcomes Statement

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
map the relationship between all components, and how these address delivery of the statutory outcomes.	outcomes – which refers to the policies, and spatial principles, and proposals within the action areas that contribute to the outcomes.	message to deliver the outcomes.
Seeking amendments and further detail to support effective delivery of the outcomes.	Revised sections on Outcomes have closer links to the policies to support delivery of the outcomes through the policy framework.	To respond to stakeholder views.
Seeking commitment to an annual evaluation of NPF4 against outcomes set in the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act, 1997.	No change.	LGHP Committee request. Not for NPF4 content. We are committed to working with stakeholders including the High Level Group on Performance.
Consider how benchmarking in local government could be used to ensure that the ambitions of NPF4 can be delivered.	No change.	LGHP Committee request. Not for NPF4 content.
Need for resources to deliver on the outcomes.	No change.	Not for NPF4 content. The relationship between NPF4 and broader SG prioritisation and capital spending plans is in the Delivery Programme. It also includes details on Skills & Resources.
Need for coordinated action across a range of stakeholders to ensure delivery of NPF4's ambitions. Call for clarity to be provided on the role of various stakeholders.	No change.	Not for NPF4 content. Expectations around (and need for) collaborative working are set out in Delivery Programme.

Annex B – Housing Numbers

Summary of representations

Aspects that respondents liked included how the Scottish Government took an inclusive approach to arriving at MATHLR numbers with Local Authorities being consulted during the process, with most Local Authorities agreeing with the MATHLR figures set out. A different perspective was that there was a lack of input from some Local Authorities during the preparation of the MATHLR figures, while there were concerns that the MATHLR was not aligned to Housing 2040.

A number of respondents noted a lack of ambition in the MATHLR figures, with alternative MATHLR figures suggested for some Local Authorities. There were concerns raised regarding the methodology and the HNDA tool used to inform the MATHLR figures. There were some respondents who considered the approach to the MATHLR has artificially inflated housing figures and has not taken into account population declines.

Issues raised and changes made

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Differing views of MATHLR figures being too high and too low.	MATHLR figures have been updated where new HNDA information was available as shown in Figure 5 below.	To ensure figures are based on up-to-date evidence. MATHLR is evidence based, transparent and reasonable: it is a minimum to prevent it being interpreted as a cap - it is expected to be exceeded where evidence justifies.
Lack of ambition in MATHLR.	Policy strengthened to 'expected to exceed'.	To respond to Committee (LGHP) and stakeholder views. LGHP wrote to all local authorities in February 2022 regarding the MATHLR and their locally adjusted estimates. The majority of the 18 responses noted that their locally adjusted estimates increased the MATHLR from the initial default estimate supplied by the Scottish Government in February 2021. MATHLR is evidence based, transparent and

PART 5 – Annexes
Annex B - Housing Numbers

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		reasonable: it is a minimum to prevent it being interpreted as a cap - it is expected to be exceeded where evidence justifies.
Impact on affordability of homes where the level of homes is too low.	No change.	The affordability of homes relates to a range of complex factors in addition to housing land. These can include wider economic circumstances, e.g. interest rates, finance availability, cost and availability of materials and skilled labour, as well as individual business decisions, e.g. site programming and build out rates linked to local housing markets.
Suggestion to review HNDA tool.	No change.	LGHP Committee request. HNDA is a well-established and well-understood tool that uses best available data to provide a consistent approach. It informs both Local Housing Strategies and LDPs – and maintains the necessary shared evidence base between the planning and housing systems. The MATHLR uses the first two steps of the HNDA tool as a basis, which local authorities have then considered and adjusted using local knowledge and evidence, and informed by local stakeholders.
Alignment with Housing to 2040.	No change.	LGHP Committee request. Housing to 2040 and NPF4 are aligned around providing more, good quality homes at the heart of great places: Housing to 2040 indicated we would

PART 5 – Annexes
Annex B - Housing Numbers

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		make a substantial shift in our approach to planning for housing to achieve this.
Level of input from local authorities during preparation of the Draft MATHLR was not consistent.	No change	The statutory requirement for and approach to the MATHLR are new. It uses a consistent method, which included providing a consistent opportunity to all authorities to provide local adjustments to address local circumstances. It is expected that the HNDA process will be completed in full as part of the Evidence Report stage of the LDP preparation process and planning authorities will be able to use the outcome of the full HNDA to inform setting the Local Housing Land Requirement for the LDP, which is expected to exceed the NPF4 MATHLR figure. Meantime, we are content the MATHLR process provides a robust, evidence based approach to establishing the national requirement.
MATHLR methodology is not appropriate for low volume build, low populous areas.	No change.	The NPF figures are intended to be broad and reasonable. The MATHLR for Eilean Siar has not been rounded. This is because of the effect rounding to the nearest 50 can have on numbers at this scale. NPF4 expects that in rural and island areas, authorities are encouraged to set out tailored

PART 5 – Annexes
Annex B - Housing Numbers

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		approaches to housing, which reflect locally specific market circumstances and delivery approaches.
MATHLR process does not sufficiently recognise the role of regional and local housing markets, or how markets operate across boundaries.	No change.	Housing is an important cross local authority boundary consideration – the approach to the MATHLR provides for cross authority working where this is preferred – see the Housing Land Requirement Explanatory Report (November 2021), para 46.
MATHLR would be more appropriately established through regional partnership working and should remain a function of the Regional Spatial Strategies.	No change.	The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended, requires at Section 3A(3)(d) that the National Planning Framework contain “targets for the use of land in different areas of Scotland for housing”. To meet this, Annex E of Revised NPF4 proposes a Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR) for each planning authority in Scotland.
Focusing on a minimum MATHLR may discourage ambition when it comes to identifying enough land to build the number of affordable homes the Scottish Government has committed to building in the next 10 years.	No change.	The figures are all-tenure as for national spatial planning purposes it is the scale of land that is required that is relevant. We expect tenure (market and affordable) to be considered at the local level through LDPs, which should consider the potential for all types of homes across all tenures, informed by Local Housing Strategies, and where appropriate make provision for these.

PART 5 – Annexes
Annex B - Housing Numbers

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
		Affordable housing is not all delivered through new housing developments, Revised NPF4 Policy 16(f)(iii) 'Quality Homes' supports developments of less than 50 affordable homes as part of a local authority supported affordable housing plan, on unallocated land within LDPs.
The population data used for the MATHLR calculations needs to be up-to-date, rather than anticipating a continuation of recent trends. Current figures reflect the pre-Brexit and COVID situation.	No change.	The 2018-based household projections were the most up to date projections available at the time of producing the MATHLR. Authorities, as they prepare their next LDPs, will be able to consider whether more up to date information and evidence is available to inform whether the NPF minimum should be increased.
No justification is given for the additional flexibility allowance of 25% in urban and 30% in rural areas, and that these percentages are too high.	No change.	Justification for the flexibility is set out within the Housing Land Requirement Explanatory Report (November 2021) paras 52 and 53.
Concern that the MATHLR process has been undertaken without reference to other NPF policies or the climate or biodiversity crises.	No change.	The MATHLR process has been undertaken looking at NPF4 as a whole. Revised NPF policy 16 Quality Homes has a number of connections to other policies within NPF, including Tackling the climate and nature crises, Climate mitigation and adaptation, Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings, Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods and Infrastructure First.

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Annex B - Housing Numbers

Issue	Change	Reason/Comments
Close monitoring and biennial review of the impact of MATHLRs will be required.	No change.	The figures will inform the Local Housing Land Requirement and associated pipeline, which will be monitored via Housing Land Audits and LDP Delivery Programmes.
Lack of transparency for members of the public on the basis for these numbers.	No change.	A Housing Land Requirement Explanatory Report was published alongside Draft NPF4, which sets out how we have moved from the statutory requirement to the figures proposed in Draft NPF4. An Assessment Report for each authority is available, as is the material authorities provided.
Order of local authorities within Annex.	Local authorities have been reordered in alphabetical order.	For ease of reference.

Review of MATHLR Figures

The MATHLR figures have been reviewed and refined to reflect up-to-date HNDA information, using the latest available existing need figures. This has resulted in a revised MATHLR figure for Local Authority areas below. Figures which have changed from Draft NPF4 are shown in bold in Figure 5.

- City of Edinburgh
- Dundee City
- East Lothian
- Fife (Central and South)
- Fife (North)
- Midlothian
- West Lothian

Details of the above changes are set out within the Housing Land Requirement Explanatory Report – Addendum.

PART 5 – Annexes
Annex B - Housing Numbers

Figure 5: Reviewed MATHLR Figures

Local, City Region and National Park Authority	Proposed MATHLR	Finalised MATHLR	Completions (2010-19)	Proposed MATHLR				Finalised MATHLR			
				Existing Need	Households	Flexibility %	Flexibility Amount	Existing Need	Households	Flexibility %	Flexibility Amount
Aberdeen City	7,000	7,000	7,734	500	5,100	25	1,400	500	5,100	25	1,400
Aberdeenshire	7,550	7,550	12,132	400	5,400	30	1,740	400	5,400	30	1,740
Angus	2,550	2,550	2,464	1,350	650	30	600	1,350	650	30	600
Argyll & Bute	2,150	2,150	2,025	850	800	30	495	850	800	30	495
Cairngorms National Park	850	850	850	50	600	30	195	50	600	30	195
City of Edinburgh	41,300	36,750	16,654	8,950	24,100	25	8,263	5,300	24,100	25	7,347
Clackmannanshire	1,500	1,500	1,145	900	300	25	300	900	300	25	300
Dumfries & Galloway	4,550	4,550	2,966	700	2,800	30	1,050	700	2,800	30	1,050
Dundee City	4,200	4,300	2,377	2,150	1,200	25	838	2,250	1,200	25	863
East Ayrshire	4,050	4,050	3,669	650	2,450	30	930	650	2,450	30	930
East Dunbartonshire	2,500	2,500	3,678			25				25	
East Lothian	6,400	6,500	5,124	750	4,350	25	1,275	850	4,350	25	1,300
East Renfrewshire	2,800	2,800	2,999			25				25	
Eilean Siar	192	192	1,270	81	67	30	44	81	67	30	44
Falkirk	5,250	5,250	4,579	350	3,850	25	1,050	350	3,850	25	1,050
Fife (Central and South)	5,650	5,550	9,613	1,750	2,750	25	1,125	1,700	2,750	25	1,110
Fife (North)	1,700	1,750	2,403	650	700	25	338	700	700	25	353
<i>All Fife*</i>	<i>7,350</i>	<i>7,300</i>	<i>12,016</i>	<i>2,400</i>	<i>3,450</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>1,500</i>	<i>2,400</i>	<i>3,450</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>1,450</i>
Glasgow City	21,350	21,350	15,338			25				25	
Highland	9,500	9,500	10,300	2,100	5,200	30	2,190	2,100	5,200	30	2,190
Inverclyde	1,500	1,500	2,397			25				25	
Loch Lomond & Trossachs N.Park	300	300	300	100	150	30	75	100	150	30	75
Midlothian	8,050	8,850	6,271	500	5,950	25	1,613	1,100	5,950	25	1,766
Moray	3,450	3,450	4,514	500	2,200	30	810	500	2,200	30	810
North Ayrshire	2,950	2,950	3,123	2,300	50	25	588	2,300	50	25	588
North Lanarkshire	7,350	7,350	7,567			25				25	
Orkney	1,600	1,600	1,450	250	1,000	30	375	250	1,000	30	375
Perth & Kinross	8,500	8,500	5,560	1,350	5,200	30	1,965	1,350	5,200	30	1,965
Renfrewshire	4,900	4,900	5,846			25				25	
Scottish Borders	4,800	4,800	3,512	400	3,300	30	1,110	350	3,300	30	1,105
Shetland	850	850	993	400	250	30	195	400	250	30	195
South Ayrshire	2,000	2,000	2,400	1,350	200	30	465	1,350	200	30	465
South Lanarkshire	7,850	7,850	11,341			25				25	
Stirling	3,500	3,500	2,878	300	2,400	30	810	300	2,400	30	810
West Dunbartonshire	2,100	2,100	2,601			25				25	
West Lothian	9,600	9,850	6,568	1,200	6,500	25	1,925	1,400	6,500	25	1,965

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Annex B - Housing Numbers

* The total includes Fife North and Fife Central and South. This reflects that Fife was formerly part of two Strategic Development Plan areas and contributed to separate Housing Need and Demand Assessments.

Annex C – Glossary of Definitions

Summary of representations

Around 200 respondents made a comment at Question 58 on the Glossary. This included a range of frequently suggested additional terms to define, and suggested changes to existing definitions.

Overview of changes

All of the terms suggested to be added or amended were carefully considered. This led to 22 terms being added to the Glossary following specific stakeholder suggestions, and a further 23 terms added to provide further clarity and respond to general points about tightening up the use of language. Amendments were made to some definitions to respond to points made by stakeholders, where changes help to provide clarity and certainty. Some terms raised by stakeholders were not added, or amended, this was generally because they related to a value based term, which is a matter for the decision-maker, or because the definition that was included in the Draft NPF4 is an established definition already in use, or because the term no longer appears in the revised version.

Details of changes

Terms added

Terms added following stakeholder suggestion - to respond to stakeholder requests and provide clarity.	Additional terms added - to provide clarity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient woodland • Community wealth building • Deliverable Housing Land Pipeline • Derelict land • Flooding from all sources • Flood risk area or at risk of flooding • Infrastructure First • Just transition • Local authority supported affordable housing plan • Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement • Nature-based solutions • Negative emission technologies • Prime agricultural land • Ramsar sites • Sustainable travel • Town Centre First Assessment • Vacant land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4G • 5G • Business and industry • Carbon capture, utilisation and storage • Climate change adaptation • Climate change mitigation • Essential infrastructure • Green recovery • Infrastructure first • Landbank (construction aggregates) • Local housing land requirement • Locality plan • Locations of concern • National Transport Strategy • Outcomes Improvement Plan • Place Principle • Play sufficiency assessment • Protected characteristics

PART 5 – Annexes
ANNEX C – Glossary of Definitions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veteran tree • Wellbeing economy • Wheeling • Woodland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public benefits • Town centre vision • Unused or under-used land
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Terms Amended

Terms amended in response to stakeholder views/corrections
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 minute neighbourhood • Affordable Home / Affordable Housing • Enabling development • Green space • Housing Land Requirement • Nature network

List of Acronyms Used in Explanatory Report

20MN	20 minute neighbourhood
the 2019 Act	the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019
the Act	The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended)
AoC	Agent of Change
BARR	Buildings at Risk Register
BGI	Blue Green Infrastructure
BRIA	Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment
CCC	Climate Change Committee
CCS	Carbon Capture and Storage
Circular 3/2012	Planning Circular 3/2012: planning obligations and good neighbour agreements (revised 2020)
Circular 4/1998	Planning Circular 4/1998: the use of conditions in planning permissions
COSLA	Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
Covid19	Coronavirus
CPO	Compulsory Purchase Order
CSGN	Central Scotland Green Network
CWB	Community wealth building
DM	Development management
DMRB	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges
DPMTAG	Development Planning and Management Transport Appraisal Guidance
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ETSU – R – 97	A commonly applied methodology for wind farm noise impact assessment
EV	Electric vehicle
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HIA	Health Impact Assessment
HIIA	Health Inequality Impact Assessment
HLA	Housing Land Audit
HLR	Housing Land Requirement
HNDA	Housing Need and Demand Assessment
HSCSC	Health, Social Care and Sport Committee (of the Scottish Parliament)
IF	Infrastructure First
IIA	Integrated Impact Assessment
IIH	Infrastructure Investment Hierarchy
IIP	Infrastructure Investment Plan
INTOG	Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas Leasing
LA	Local Authority
LBAPs	Local Biodiversity Action Plans
LDP(s)	Local Development Plan(s)
LGHP	Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee (of the Scottish Parliament)
LPP	Local Place Plan

List of Acronyms Used in Explanatory Report

Km	kilometre
MATHLR	Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement
MW	Megawatt
NDs	National Developments
NFU	National Farmers Union
NPF	National Planning Framework
NPF4	National Planning Framework 4
NTS2	National Transport Strategy 2
NWCWN	National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
OSS	Open Space Strategy
PAN 1/2011	Planning Advice Note 1/2011: Planning and noise
PAN 2/2011	Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning and archaeology
PAS	Planning Aid Scotland
PAs	Planning authorities
Para(s)	Paragraph(s)
RAINE	Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee (of the Scottish Parliament)
RSS(s)	Regional Spatial Strategy/(Strategies)
RTS	Regional Transport Strategy
RTPI	Royal Town Planning Institute
S75	Section 75 of the Town and Country Planning Act on planning obligations
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEPA	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
SG	Scottish Government
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPP	Scottish Planning Policy (2014)
STPR (2)	Strategic Transport Projects Review 2
STH	Sustainable Travel Hierarchy
SUDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
TPO(s)	Tree Preservation Orders
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
VDL	Vacant and Derelict Land
WEWS	Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003



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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-80525-167-5 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, November 2022

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA
PPDAS1184242 (11/22)

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National Planning Framework 4

Delivery Programme v1: November 2022

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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) will 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.

When adopted NPF4 will replace National Planning Framework 3 (2014) and Scottish Planning Policy (2014) and for the first time, is part of the statutory development plan for any given area, along with the relevant LDP(s). This is important because 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.

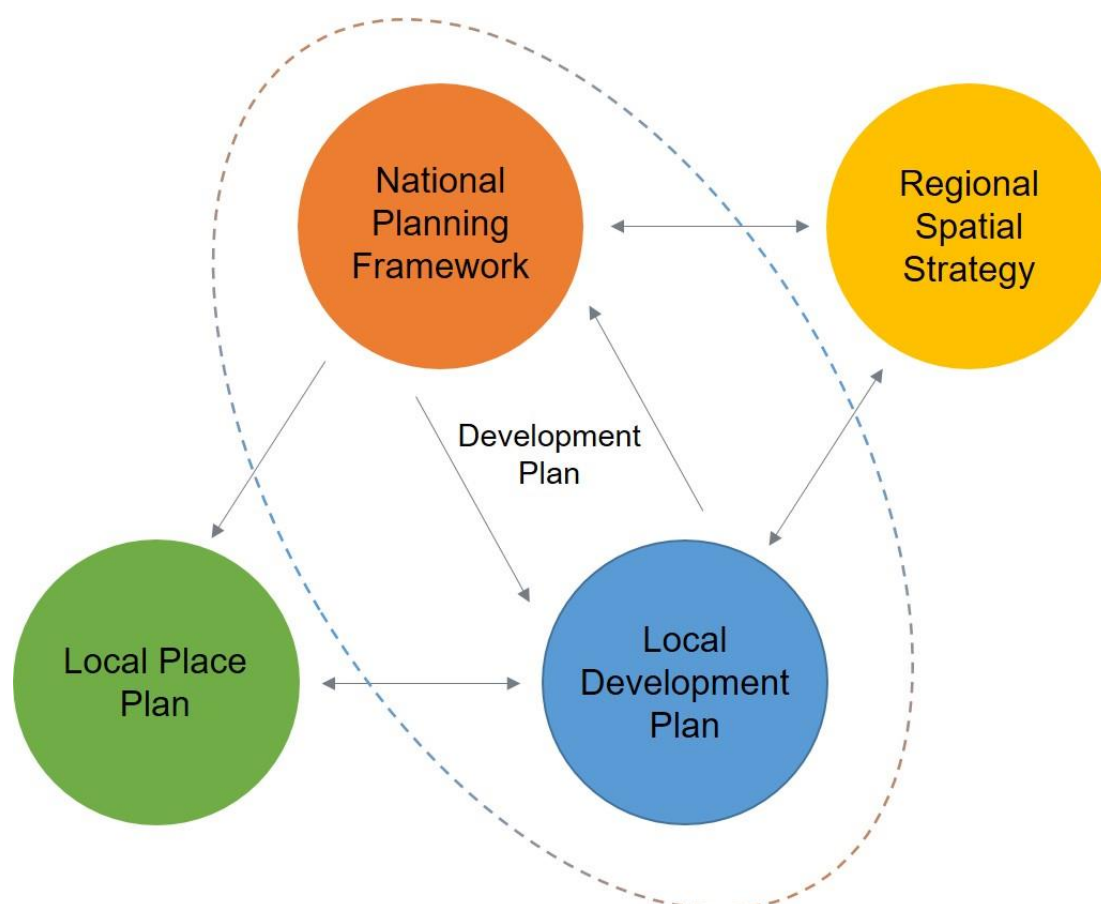


Figure 1 – Spatial plans and the statutory development plan

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 Delivery Programme will be reviewed and updated six months after the adoption of NPF4, and then annually thereafter.

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](#) 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.

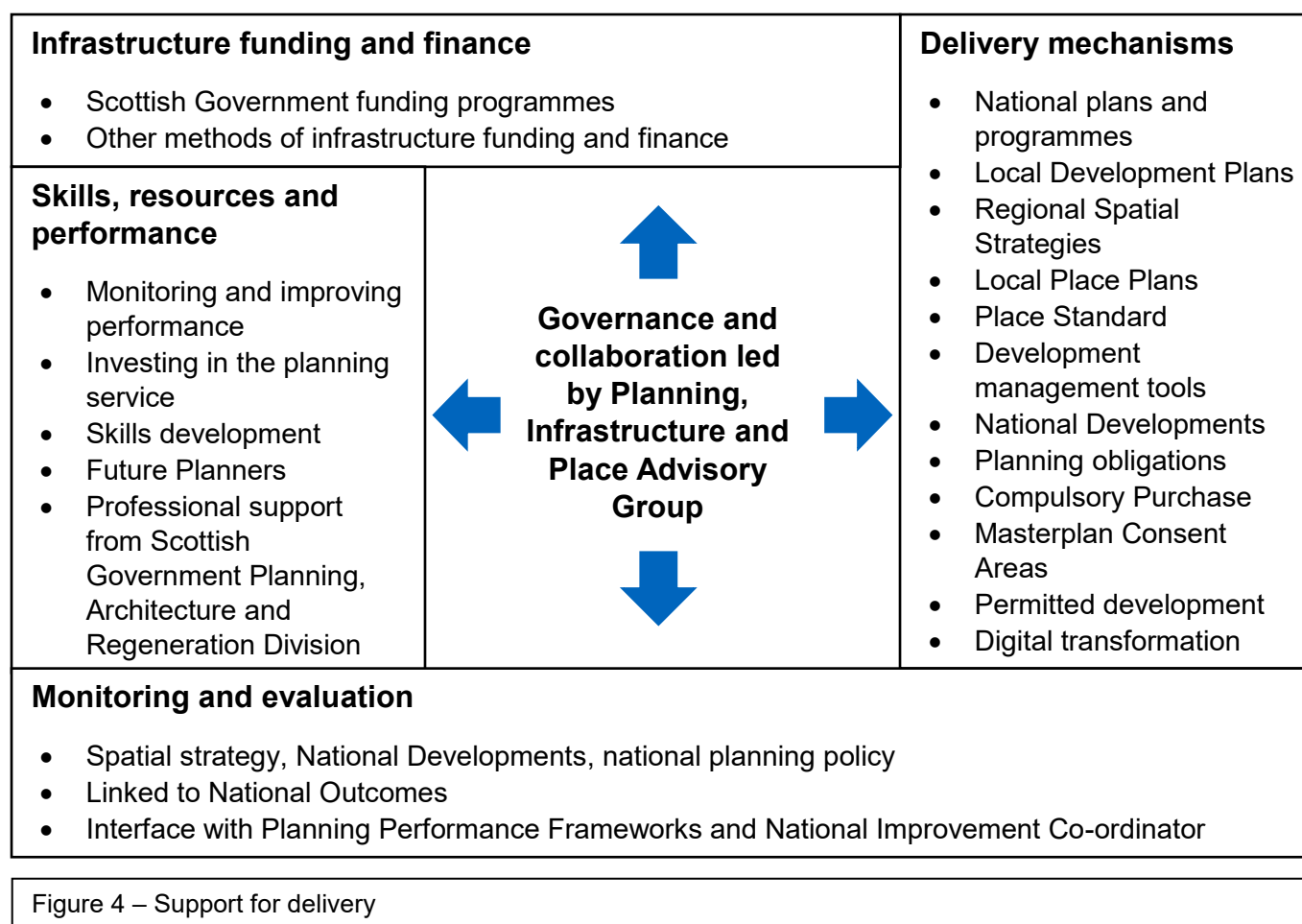
	Spatial principles	National Developments	Policies	Key policy links	Cross cutting policies
Sustainable places SDGs: 7, 11, 12, 13 National outcomes: Environment, communities, economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just transition Conserving and recycling assets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	Item 17 <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 an 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 will establish a new Planning, Infrastructure and Place Advisory Group.

This will be 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. Specifically in relation to NPF4, the remit will be to oversee and advise on the delivery of the spatial strategy, National Developments and national planning policy.

The new advisory group will be supported by a Scottish Government secretariat.

The proposed purpose of the group, to be confirmed with members, will be 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.

Membership

The group will have a core membership of key external delivery partners and key agency representation. A range of stakeholders, from across sectors, will be invited to sit on the Advisory Group, with the added flexibility of inviting specialist input as and when required.

It is proposed that the group will have a rolling chair, given its remit, fulfilled by a senior Scottish Government official at Director or Deputy Director level, to co-chair with a representative of SFT.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference will be agreed with the members but are currently expected to cover areas such as:

- reviewing progress in delivering the spatial strategy, National Developments and national planning policy, including regular NPF4 Delivery Programme updates;
- considering the implications of ongoing Scottish Government policy and programme updates;
- providing feedback on issues and blockers to development, regeneration and implementation of an infrastructure first approach in practice;
- advising on evidence-based strategies, approaches to prioritisation and exemplars;
- identifying issues to be examined more closely through task-based short life working groups;
- sharing potential solutions and scope for innovation and joint working through applying the Place Principle in practice; and
- outlining the roles of different organisations and entities on the Advisory Group.

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 Scottish Government 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 February 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 it is proposed that the IDG becomes a virtual reference group, with the option of inputting to the Planning, Infrastructure and Place Advisory Group on specific issues or if requested for expert views.

The outputs from the Advisory Group will be disseminated to members of the IDG for awareness, enabling two-way communication as appropriate.

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 (pub. Spring 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.

The intention is that 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 will be identified in the Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 (STPR2), which is currently nearing the final stages of its preparation. STPR2 will also be accompanied by a Delivery Plan, to be 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 that will provide more detail on how the new LDP system will work in practice are currently being finalised. The Delivery Programme will be updated with the relevant links once they are published.

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 preparing RSSs will be expected to begin once statutory guidance is in place. At this point support will be available to planning authorities. It is expected that pace of preparation will vary across Scotland, depending on local and regional priorities. Work to prepare new LDPs will not be contingent on RSSs being either under preparation or in place.

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.

Following adoption of NPF4, Ministers will lay before Parliament a statement 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, building upon the work undertaken by SFT, over time, where appropriate, we will support the completion of delivery templates for National Developments, prioritising those where this can add most value in the short term (case study templates for four of the National Developments can be found in the [SFT NPF Delivery Research Report](#)). This will include the identification of lead partners and utilising the SFT templates and good practice principles to guide what needs to be considered in project delivery.

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 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 can be used to support future

investment in priority areas, and so incentivise area-based regeneration, for example in town centres or the reuse of vacant and derelict land. We will consider how the Scottish Government can further support the roll out of Masterplan Consent Areas in our future work programmes.

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.

Through Phase 2 of the programme we are considering new PDR (and changes to the use classes order) to support the roll-out of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, the resilience, regeneration and recovery of our centres, and operational development in ports. Having consulted on proposals during summer 2022, we will lay regulations bringing the Phase 2 measures into effect at the earliest opportunity. Phase 3 will focus on new or extended PDR for domestic and non-domestic renewable energy equipment, and we intend to consult on proposals for change early in 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:

- a new energy for transport infrastructure programme to support long-term development of electric charging and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure;
- 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.

The aim of the Scottish Zero Emission Bus Challenge Fund (ScotZEB) is to support swift, and significant, change in the bus market in favour of zero-emission technologies.

- [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.

The Programme for Government makes clear that we are committed to delivering 110,000 affordable homes by 2032 of which at least 70% will be available for social rent and 10% will be in our remote, rural and island communities.

- [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.

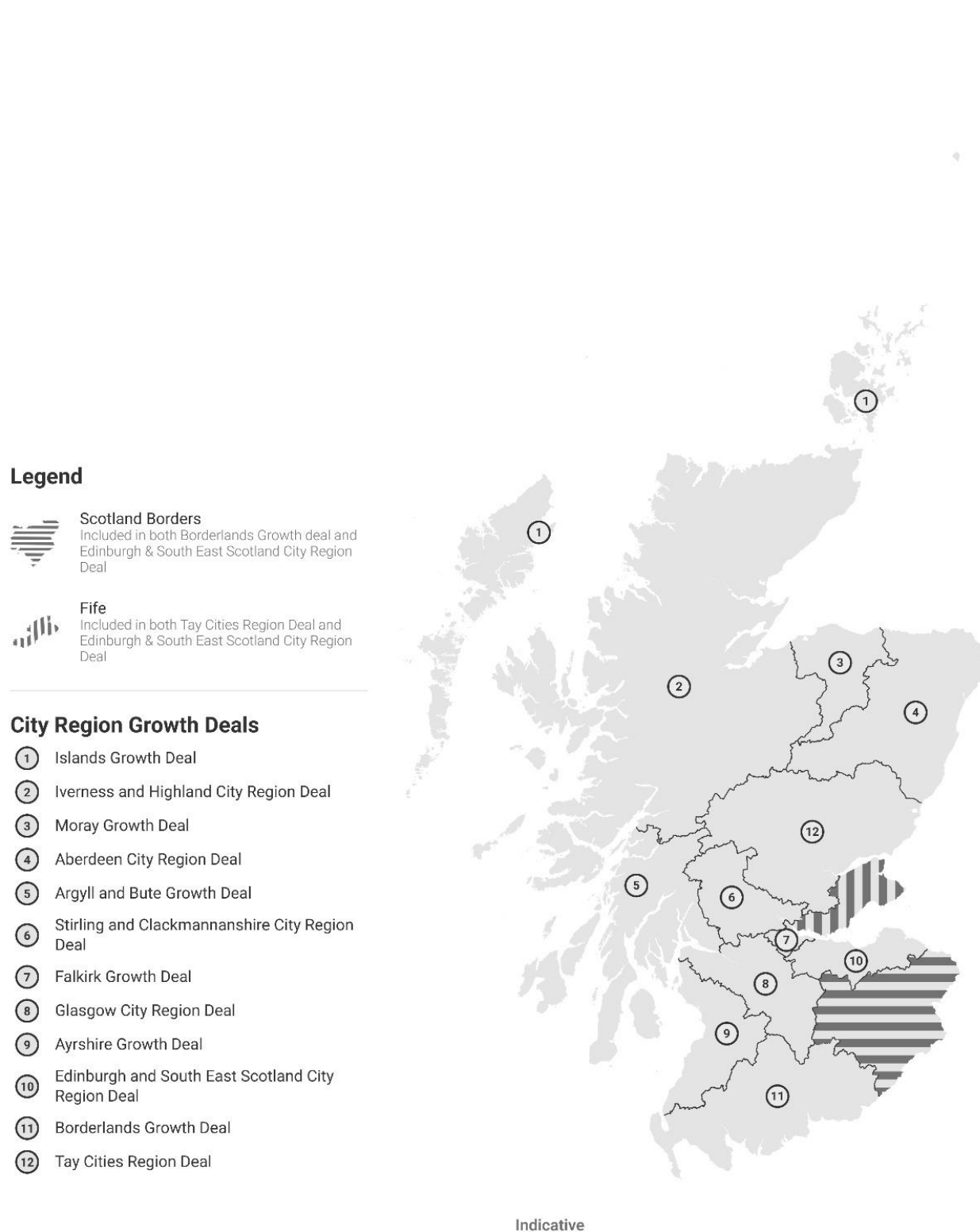


Figure 5 – City Region Deals and Regional Growth Deals

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.

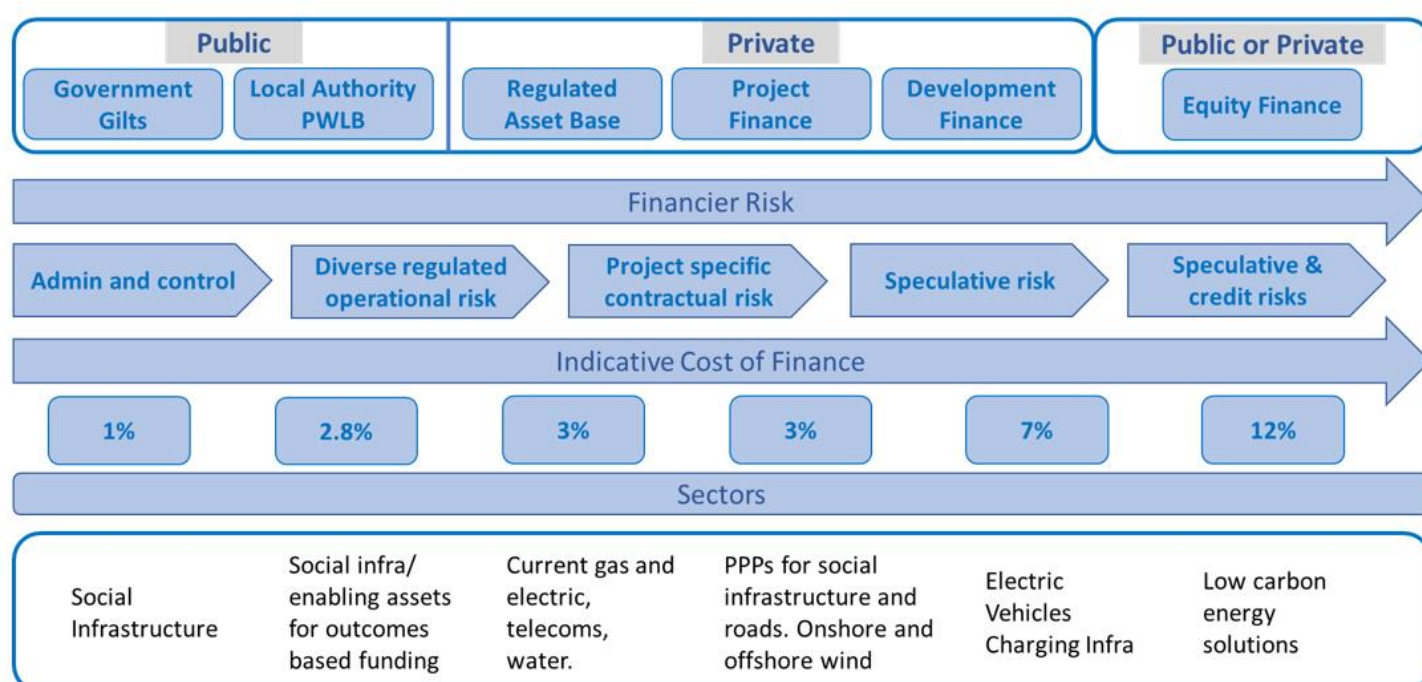


Figure 6 – Sources of infrastructure funding and finance

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 will establish an applicant stakeholder group who will feed into the High Level Group on Planning Performance in order to identify priority areas for action. 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. This will help with monitoring the implementation and effect of NPF4 and improvements to the planning system more generally.

National Improvement Coordinator

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

The purpose of this role will be to support improvement within the Scottish planning system, by providing constructive input which promotes a measurable outcomes-based approach. They will be expected to 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.

We have worked with the High Level Group on Planning Performance to shape the role and reporting arrangements and the appointment process is expected to take place in early 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.

We will shortly be commencing stakeholder workshops which will inform the development of a consultation paper setting out our proposed approach. This will follow approval and adoption of NPF4 and the Local Development Planning Regulations.

Mandatory training could include setting out those principles which apply nationally, with discretion provided to authorities to deliver training on types of development which are especially relevant locally, for example wind farms, fish farming, major housing.

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, available [here](#).

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 will work 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 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.

We are supporting the implementation of the report and exploring how to take forward the actions where the Scottish Government is identified as the key lead. A short term working group including the Scottish Government, the RTPI and the planning schools has been established by HOPS to drive forward implementation of the recommendations.

Professional support from Planning, Architecture and Regeneration Division

Within the Planning, Architecture and Regeneration Division (PARAD), 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 PARAD. This will provide all planning authorities with a single point of contact for support with the transition to the new planning system. This structure will be put in place following adoption of NPF4.

Digital transformation of planning

The Scottish Government is in the second year of a 5 year programme, backed by 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 bringing forward the delivery of a Smart Applications Service and payment system with roll out of the first new products expected in 2023 and a full new application system in place the following year.

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

As we work towards an adopted NPF4 we will 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.

As set out above, the Planning, Infrastructure and Place Advisory Group will 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.

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. As part of this, we will consider the extent to which monitoring of NPF4 can be linked to the role of the National Improvement Coordinator.

C. 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	Upon adoption of NPF4, commence establishment of the group and agree membership. Within 3 months of adoption of NPF4, hold first meeting, agree Terms of Reference and discuss outline work programme.		
	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	Upon NPF4 adoption commence work to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> collaborate with lead partners; establish early governance structures; complete a project management template for each ND; and work with planning authorities to identify sites for NDs within the broad locations indicated by the statements of need. 		
	High Level Group (HLG)/ 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	By end 2023, progress discussions with HLG to develop a NPF4 performance monitoring and evaluation framework and to champion work on future resourcing of the system. The 5 year Digital Planning Transformation Programme (2021 – 2026) will support the National Planning Framework by opening up the data needed to monitor and evaluate progress.		
	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.		
	Infrastructure Delivery Group (IDG)	Secretariat and chair of IDG Support transition of IDG to new role in NPF4 delivery	IDG members	Following adoption of NPF4, notify IDG of NPF4 governance and implications. Move to virtual reference group with attendance / input to advisory group on issue by issue basis.		

Theme	Support measure	Scottish Government (SG) role	Delivery partner(s)	Scottish Government (SG) next steps	Short-term action – 2023	Medium-term action – 2024 - 2028
	Progress alignment of IIP and NPF4	SG internally		Implementation of governance arrangements on adoption of NPF4.		
Delivery mechanisms (regulations and guidance)	NPF4 amendment regulations	SG responsible for regulations	Stakeholder engagement	Drafting, consultation, laying, coming into force by end of 2023.		
	LDP regulations	SG responsible for regulations	Stakeholder engagement carried out through previous consultation.	Lay regulations, with them coming into force shortly after adoption of NPF4.		
	LDP amendment regulations	SG responsible for regulations	Stakeholder engagement	Drafting, consultation, laying, coming into force by end of 2023.		
	Play Sufficiency Assessments (PSA) regulations	SG responsible for regulations	Supporting role - Greenspace Scotland, NatureScot, Play Scotland	Lay regulations, with them coming into force shortly after adoption of NPF4. Align with OSS regulations and LDP regulations.		
	Open Space Strategy (OSS) regulations	SG responsible for regulations	Supporting role - Greenspace Scotland, NatureScot, Play Scotland	Lay regulations, with them coming into force shortly after adoption of NPF4. Align with PSA regulations and LDP regulations.		
	Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) guidance	SG responsible for guidance	Stakeholder engagement including collaboration with HOPS and regional partners	Progress drafting.		
	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, as part of our ongoing planning reform work programme.		
	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 statutory guidance to maximise opportunities to guide long term sustainable land use.		

Theme	Support measure	Scottish Government (SG) role	Delivery partner(s)	Scottish Government (SG) next steps	Short-term action – 2023	Medium-term action – 2024 - 2028
	LDP guidance	SG responsible for guidance	Stakeholder engagement carried out through previous consultation. HOPS, Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA)	Consider consultation responses and finalise guidance. Final guidance to be published alongside coming into force of LDP regulations. The 5 year Digital Planning Transformation Programme (2021 – 2026) will improve access to the data needed to support preparation of LDPs which are evidence-led, place-based and delivery focused.		
	Housing Land Audit (HLA) guidance	SG responsible for guidance	HOPS, planning authorities, Homes for Scotland, development industry	Work with stakeholders on common approach to HLA and publish updated guidance.		
	Local Place Plan (LPP) ‘How to’ guidance	SG responsible for guidance	HOPS, planning authorities, Partners in Planning	Finalise guidance upon adoption of NPF4. Roll out ‘Placebuilder’, a community engagement tool supporting the development of Local Place Plans.		
	Effective community engagement guidance	SG responsible for guidance	Stakeholder engagement	Finalise guidance upon adoption of NPF4.		
	Guidance to support Biodiversity policies	SG lead	NatureScot	Develop guidance on NPF4 policy 3 (excluding 3c). Scottish Government have commissioned research to explore options for developing a biodiversity metric or other tool, specifically for use in Scotland. This work is at early stages, we will work with NatureScot on a programme of engagement with stakeholders as this work progresses.		
	Developing with Nature guidance	Support to NatureScot	NatureScot lead	Support NatureScot to finalise guidance to support NPF4 policy 3c upon adoption of NPF4.		
	Planning and climate change guidance	SG responsible for guidance	Stakeholder engagement	Commence preparation of guidance following NPF4 adoption.		

Theme	Support measure	Scottish Government (SG) role	Delivery partner(s)	Scottish Government (SG) next steps	Short-term action – 2023	Medium-term action – 2024 - 2028
	Update Designing Streets	PARD to lead, Transport Scotland partner	Architecture & Design Scotland (A&DS), Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS)	Collaborate to commence preparation of guidance.		
	Local Living Guidance on 20 minute neighbourhoods	SG responsible for guidance	Stakeholder engagement, local authorities, community organisations	Consultation to be launched following laying of NPF4. 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 prepared on adoption of NPF4.		
	Open Space Strategy guidance	SG responsible for guidance	Greenspace Scotland, NatureScot, Play Scotland, HOPS	Work on guidance to be initiated on adoption of NPF4.		
	Short Term Lets guidance	SG responsible for guidance	planning authorities, HOPS	Work in hand to develop revised guidance for both planning authorities and applicants.		
	Masterplan Consent Area guidance	SG responsible for guidance	Pilot local authorities	Drafting in progress. Will be progressed through our ongoing planning reform work programme in line with relevant regulations.		
	Digital Telecommunications Planning Advice Note (PAN) 62	SG responsible for PAN	SFT, stakeholders and HOPS	Drafting in progress to finalise document for publication to coincide with adoption of NPF4.		
	Our Place Website	SG responsible for website	Public Health Scotland, A&DS, Glasgow City Council, Improvement Service	Progress 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	Finalise and launch additional resources and guidance before moving more into supporting implementation and actively influencing processes.		
	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.		

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 (development management tools)	Call-in of planning applications	SG responsible		Develop Parliamentary Statement as required under section 46a of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. Post-NPF4 adoption.		
	Permitted Development Rights Review Phase 2 and 3	SG responsible for consultation and regulations	Stakeholder engagement	Implementation of Phase 2; consultation on Phase 3.		
	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.		
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.		
	Statutory Annual Performance Reporting	National Performance Improvement Co-ordinator	High Level Group on Planning Performance	Consultation undertaken in 2019. Develop in collaboration with stakeholders 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	Initial research has provided useful insights into current practice. Develop workshops to be undertaken with stakeholders to inform public consultation on content and implementation of provisions.		
	Statutory Guidance for Chief Planning Officers	SG lead responsibility	RTPI, COSLA, HOPS, The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (Solace)	Commence work with stakeholders.		
	Future Planners report recommendations	SG lead responsibility	HOPS, RTPI	Working with HOPS and RTPI to take forward recommendations from report.		

Theme	Support measure	Scottish Government (SG) role	Delivery partner(s)	Scottish Government (SG) next steps	Short-term action – 2023	Medium-term action – 2024 - 2028
	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.		
	National Planning Improvement Coordinator appointment	SG lead responsibility	High Level Group on Planning Performance	Progress recruitment campaign to appoint Scotland's first National Planning Improvement Coordinator in late 2022.		
	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.		
	Dedicated official point of contact to support local / planning authorities	SG lead responsibility	All planning authorities, HOPS	Agree broad remit of dedicated support with planning authorities.		
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.		
	£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.		
	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.		

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC

**COUNCIL EXECUTIVE****OLDER PEOPLE DAY CARE PROVISION****REPORT BY THE HEAD OF SOCIAL POLICY****A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update Council Executive on contractual developments associated with Older People Day Care provision.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council Executive:

1. Notes the contents of the report
2. Notes that the Integration Joint Board will consider contracting arrangements associated with delivery of Older People Day care on 10th January 2023
3. Notes that the implications of the Integration Joint Board's decision, including procurement requirements, will be presented to Council Executive thereafter

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Public Bodies (Joint Working) Scotland Act 2014. Standing Orders of West Lothian Council and the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015. The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 - Best Value Guidance. The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Prescribed Health Board Functions) (Scotland) Regulations 2014
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Current annual financial contract value £905,854. Saving Review of Commissioned Services associated with the reduced uptake of commissioned places £295,000
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None
VIII	Other consultations	Day Care Providers. Council Executive. Corporate Procurement Unit. Legal Services. West Lothian Integration Joint Board

D TERMS OF REPORT

1 Legal position

1.1 The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 established a complex statutory relationship amongst councils, health boards and integration joint boards. In summary:-

- It required council and health board to enter into a binding legal agreement called an integration scheme. The contents of the integration scheme were prescribed by statutory regulations
- The integration scheme was required to set out the statutory functions being delegated by council and health board to the integration joint board. Some statutory functions were legally required to be delegated. Others were optional
- The integration scheme also required to set out the mechanisms through which council and health board would calculate and allocate money to the integration joint board to allow it to carry out those delegated functions
- After approval of the integration scheme by the Scottish Ministers it becomes the legal duty of council, health board and integration joint board to abide by its terms
- After that approval, it becomes the legal duty of the integration joint board to carry out the functions delegated to it through the integration scheme
- The integration joint board must make a strategic plan setting out how it will carry out the functions delegated to it
- The integration joint board must make an annual financial statement setting out the resources it will apply to deliver the outcomes in the strategic plan
- The integration scheme must carry out its delegated functions by issuing directions to council and health board telling them what to do and how much money they have been allocated to do so
- Directions must cover each delegated function. They must say how much money is being made available or at least set out a method of determining that amount. They must specify how the money is to be used. They may regulate how the function is to be carried out. They may include any other provision the integration joint board considers appropriate
- Council and health board then have a legal duty to follow and comply with those directions in how they deliver the services related to the integration joint board's delegated functions. Departing from those directions is unlawful

1.2 The West Lothian Integration Scheme (the Scheme) delegated adults' and older people's social work and social care functions to the West Lothian Integration Joint Board (the IJB). The Scheme became effective in 2015. The IJB assumed legal responsibility for the delegated functions in April 2016. The Scheme was amended in September 2019 to take account of new duties and functions under the Carers

(Scotland) Act 2016. It has since 2021 been subject to a quinquennial statutory review process between council and health board. A revised integration scheme was approved for submission to the Ministers at Council Executive in April 2022. No significant changes were made to the list of delegated functions. The budget-setting process was updated but remained largely as it has been since 2015. The revised Scheme awaits Ministerial approval. It will not have any bearing on the legal, financial and service issues addressed in this report. The council must act in accordance with both the current Scheme and the revised Scheme when it becomes effective.

- 1.3 Adults' and older people's day care services are designed, commissioned and delivered under statutory functions delegated to the IJB. The council must comply with directions from the IJB as to how to deliver those services on behalf of the IJB.
- 1.4 National eligibility criteria for social care was agreed by the Scottish Government and COSLA in 2009. The IJB agreed the eligibility threshold for which direct funded support for non-residential adult social care be set at substantial or critical levels when it met on 23rd January 2018. This is a delegated function to the IJB and, therefore, the IJB was required to agree to any proposed change in eligibility thresholds before the council set its budget for 2018/19. Position was further ratified at meeting of West Lothian Council on 13 February 2018, the related policy was formally implemented on 1st October 2018.
- 1.5 The budget made available by the council for those services is allocated to the IJB by the council each year as part of the annual approval of the Revenue Budget. The calculation of that figure follows discussion and negotiation between officers of the council and the IJB. Those discussions and negotiations apply the mechanisms in the Scheme in relation to budgets and financial provision. They take account of budget saving measures deemed appropriate by the council as part of its overall corporate duty to set a balanced budget each year.
- 1.6 It was agreed at meeting of West Lothian Council on 15th February 2022 that budget saving measure *Review of commissioned day care services (SJ4d)* would be re phased to 2023/24. This was to enable further assessment regarding ongoing service demand following impact of Covid 19, also enabling providers to look ahead and plan future service delivery options. The IJB requires to take that into account in decisions it then makes about carrying out the services and allocating financial resources for them. The IJB issues directions to the council with which the council must comply.
- 1.7 Day care services are currently commissioned from five Older People Day Centres in West Lothian - Answer House, Acredale House, Braid Health and Wellbeing, Linlithgow and District and Rosebery Centre to meet the assessed needs of older people in West Lothian. Individual need is assessed in line the *Policy on Assessment and Application of Eligibility Criteria for Non-Residential Care*.

2 Procedural position

- 2.1 At the meeting of Council Executive on 21st June 2022 it was agreed that a further direct award be granted at the current contract value, terms and conditions until 31st March 2023, with option to extend for a further 6 months. The additional funding allowed a period for service providers to work to make the provision of services financially sustainable in the post covid period.
- 2.2 It was agreed that a further report would be presented to Council Executive detailing the revised contract position, three months before expiry of the current contract. The

extended contracts run out on 31 March 2023. This report was first presented to Council Executive on 6 December 2022. The committee agreed to defer consideration of the report until its next meeting on 20 December 2022 to bring greater clarity on the legal relationship between the council and the IJB. This report has been updated since Council Executive on 6 December 2022 to do that.

3 Service, procurement and contractual position

- 3.1 A report detailing current contract performance and proposed future contractual arrangements to achieve Best Value was considered by the IJB on 8th November 2022. It was noted that during the contractual period, providers have been paid at a minimum of 90% of the contract value and have not been impacted financially if the actual referred uptake of placements was below 90%. Some providers were and are being paid for services not being delivered by them. The IJB was informed of the procurement actions taken by the council and the intention to report again to Council Executive on 6 December 2022. No direction was issued by the IJB at that time.
- 3.2 In terms of Best Value requirements, which council is bound by, Social Policy has been engaging with the Day Care centres to identify the contract value in relation to the level of service provision being delivered. As such, there have been discussions with the Providers in relation to contract renewal on the basis of current performance.
- 3.3 Each of the five West Lothian based Older Peoples Day Care Centres engaged with West Lothian Council's Economic Development Team through the Business Gateway service over recent years to assist them with business advice and information as required. This support has covered areas including business planning, marketing, financial planning, funding applications, market research, developing new services and training.
- 3.4 Work is ongoing with centres to assist them to find new services and income streams and to assist them to improve the marketing of the services they deliver, as it was identified that some potential clients within the wider community do not have a clear understanding of the services available in each of the centres. Support is currently ongoing to assist them to identify external funding to enhance their services where required. Business Gateway support will continue to be available to each of the five organisations to review their ongoing sustainability as required by each organisation
- 3.5 The IJB will consider proposed future contractual arrangements to achieve Best Value and delivery of the budget savings measure previously instructed by full council when it meets on 10th January 2023. It will do so in the context of budget allocation by the council which assumes delivery of budget-saving measure SJ4d in 2023/24. It is anticipated that the IJB will issue a direction to the council in relation to the carrying out of the relevant delegated functions. The outcome of the IJB's consideration and any direction issued to the council will be directed to the Council Executive thereafter. Any procurement decisions that are required will be put to committee as part of that.

E CONCLUSION

Current contractual arrangements for older people day care provision expire on 31st March 2023. Further consideration by the IJB and then by Council Executive will progress delivery of budget-saving measure SJ4d and ensure legal compliance, both with procurement legislation and with IJB directions.

F BACKGROUND REFERENCES

- 1 [West Lothian Integration Scheme](#)
- 2 Social Policy PDSP22 October 2021 and Council Executive, 16 November 2021 – agreement of proposals for second phase of savings for budget saving measure SJ4d
- 3 West Lothian Council, 15 February 2022 - Revenue Budget 2022/23, including budget saving measure SJ4d
- 4 [Scheme of Administration](#) for full council, paragraph A1(h) – reserved power to full council to delete or make substantial changes to revenue budget reduction measures approved at the annual budget-setting meeting each year
- 5 Integration Joint Board, 8 November 2022

Appendices/Attachments: None

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20 December 2022