

**To: Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board**

**On: 18 January 2022**

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**Report by: Chief Executive**

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**Heading: Draft National Planning Framework 4**

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report is for the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board to note that the Scottish Government has published the Draft National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) for consultation.
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**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board notes:

- (i) the publication of the draft NPF4 and the intention to prepare a formal response to be considered by the Communities, Planning and Policy Board at its meeting on 15 March 2022.
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**3. Draft National Planning Framework 4**

- 3.1 NPF4 sets out the Scottish Government's priorities and policies for the planning system up to 2045 and for the first time incorporates Scottish Planning Policy and the National Planning Framework into a single document.
- 3.2 The draft NPF4 is split into four parts:
- National spatial strategy for Scotland to 2045;
  - 18 national developments which will support the spatial strategy;

- National planning policy handbook consisting of 35 policies which set out the policies for the development and use of land which are to be applied in the preparation of local development plans and assessing planning applications; and,
  - Delivery programme which will set out how NPF4 will be delivered once it has been approved and adopted.
- 3.3 Once approved by the Scottish Parliament, NPF4 will form part of the statutory development plan for Renfrewshire with the current Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan (July 2017) no longer forming part of the development plan.
4. **Spatial Strategy for Scotland**
- 4.1 The Draft NPF4 recognises that Scotland in 2045 requires action to tackle and adapt to climate change, restore biodiversity loss, improve health and wellbeing, build a well-being economy and create sustainable places.
- 4.2 The spatial strategy is based around the principles of sustainable places, liveable places, productive places and distinctive places and sets out spatial principles and action areas for Scotland.
- 4.3 There are 6 overarching principles to support the delivery of sustainable, liveable, productive and distinctive places:
- Compact growth;
  - Local living;
  - Balanced development;
  - Conserving and recycling assets;
  - Urban and rural synergy; and,
  - Just transition
- 4.4 The Glasgow City Region is part of the central urban transformation area which also includes the Ayrshires, Edinburgh City Region including the Forth Valley, the Tay Cities and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

The focus for this area is aimed at:

- transforming and pioneering a new era of low carbon urban living;
- Reinventing and future proofing city centres;
- Accelerating urban greening;
- Rediscovering urban coasts and waterfronts;
- Reusing land and buildings;
- Investing in net zero housing solutions;
- Growing a wellbeing economy;
- Reimagining development on the urban fringe; and
- Improving urban accessibility.

## **5. National Developments**

5.1 Eighteen national developments are proposed in the Draft NPF4 to support the delivery of the spatial strategy. These national developments range from single large scale projects or collections and networks of several proposals.

5.2 National developments relevant to Renfrewshire include:

- Clyde Mission;
- Central Scotland Green Network;
- National walking, cycling and wheeling network;
- Urban mass/rapid transit network;
- Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage;
- Circular Economy Materials Management;
- Digital Fibre; and,
- Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure.

## **6. Housing**

6.1 Draft NPF4 sets a 10 year minimum all-tenure housing land requirement for all local authorities across Scotland on an individual authority basis, which will require the identification of land to meet these requirements through the preparation of the next local development plan.

6.2 The 10 year minimum all-tenure housing land requirement for Renfrewshire is identified as 4,900 homes (or approximately 490 new homes per year).

## **7. National Planning Policies**

7.1 Once approved NPF4 will be part of Renfrewshire Council's statutory development plan. The framework contains 35 policies including 6 universal policies which will apply to all planning decisions.

7.2 The 6 universal policies are:

- Policy 1: Plan-led approach to sustainable development
- Policy 2: Climate emergency
- Policy 3: Nature crisis
- Policy 4: Human rights and equality
- Policy 5: Community Wealth Building
- Policy 6: Design, quality and place

7.3 In addition, a number of subject specific policies are also proposed under the following headings:

- Liveable Places;
- Productive Places; and
- Distinctive Places.

## **8. Next Steps**

- 8.1 Officers will be attending a series of workshops and meetings with other local authorities and wider stakeholders to consider the detail of these policies and the draft NPF4.
  - 8.2 The Draft NPF4 consultation closes on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and it is the intention for a formal response to be considered by this board at the meeting on 15 March 2022.
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## **Implications of the Report**

- 1. **Financial** – None.
- 2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None.
- 3. **Community/Council Planning** –  
Reshaping our place, our economy, and our future – Draft NPF4 is a key document in establishing a land use framework for supporting, encouraging, and delivering economic development through investment and regeneration.
- 4. **Legal** – None.
- 5. **Property/Assets** – None.
- 6. **Information Technology** – None.
- 7. **Equality & Human Rights** -
  - (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
- 8. **Health & Safety** – None.
- 9. **Procurement** – None.
- 10. **Risk** – None.
- 11. **Privacy Impact** – None.
- 12. **COSLA Policy Position** - None.

13. **Climate Risk** - The Draft NPF4 sets out a framework, spatial strategy and policies to ensure sustainable development and places, aiming to facilitate the transition to a low carbon economy and adaptation to climate change.
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