

Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority

**To: Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority
Joint Committee**

On: 13th December 2021

**Report by
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National Planning Framework 4

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report is for the Joint Committee to note the publication, for consultation, by the Scottish Government of the Draft National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4).

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Joint Committee note
- the publication of the Draft NPF4;
 - it's consultation timeline; and,
 - the intention to prepare a formal response to be considered by the Joint Committee at its meeting in March 2022.

3. NPF4 - Status

- 3.1 NPF4 once approved by the Scottish Parliament will form part of the statutory Development Plan with the current Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan (July 2017) will no longer being part of the Development Plan.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 The Draft NPF4 consultation closes on 31st March 2022 and it is the intention for a formal response to be considered at the Joint Committee's meeting in March 2022 and to the Steering Group prior to this. It is also proposed to take the response through the Glasgow City Region governance structures for their endorsement.

5. Draft NPF4

5.1 The Draft NPF4 consists of 4 parts, namely

- Part 1 - sets out a National Spatial Strategy for Scotland to 2045. The Strategy is based around sustainable places, liveable places, productive places and distinctive places and sets out spatial principles and Action Areas for Scotland.

In the context of the Glasgow City Region this is included as part of what is described as '*Central urban transformation*' aimed at transforming and pioneering a new era of low carbon urban living.

The Strategy will also guide the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies, Local Development Plans and Local Place Plans. The Strategy will also be relevant to wider policies and strategies relating to land use.
- Part 2 - sets out the 18 National Developments which will support the Spatial Strategy.
- Part 3 - is the 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; local place plans; masterplans and briefs; and for determining the range of planning consents. This part should be taken as a whole, and all relevant policies should be applied to each application.
- Part 4 - sets out an outline of how the Scottish Government will deliver this strategy. This will be developed into a standalone, live delivery programme once NPF4 has been approved and adopted.

6. Spatial Principles to 2045

6.1 NPF4 set out six overarching principles in relation to where development should be located. These are

- a) Compact growth - limit urban expansion where brownfield, vacant and derelict land and buildings can be used more efficiently and by increasing the density of settlements we will reduce the need to travel unsustainably and strengthen local living.
- b) Local living - create networks of 20 minute neighbourhoods to support local liveability, reduce the need to travel unsustainably, promote and facilitate walking and cycling, improve access to services, decentralise energy networks and build local circular economies. Virtual connectivity and active travel links will also be important.
- c) Balanced development - create opportunities for communities in areas of decline, and manage development more sustainably in areas of high demand. In particular, enable more people to live and remain in rural and island areas, and to actively transform areas of past decline

- d) Conserving and recycling assets - protect and enhance the assets of each of our places with a focus on making productive use of existing buildings, places, infrastructure and services, locking in embedded carbon and minimising waste, and supporting Scotland's transition to a circular economy. This includes nationally significant sites for investment which are well served by existing infrastructure and sustainable travel modes,
- e) Urban and rural synergy - 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.
- f) Just transition - rapid transformation required cross all sectors of our economy and society with a need to reduce emissions and respond to a changing climate.

7. Central Urban Transformation

7.1. 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.

7.2 In this area the Draft NPF4 seeks to

- pioneer low-carbon, resilient urban living;
- reinvent and future-proof city centres;
- accelerate urban greening;
- rediscover urban coasts and waterfronts;
- reuse land and buildings;
- invest in net zero housing solutions;
- grow a wellbeing economy;
- reimagine development on the urban fringe; and
- improve urban accessibility.

7.3 In addition to all Scotland wide National Developments e.g. National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling, Digital Fibre Network, Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure, Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities in a Glasgow City Region context this transformation is supported by a number of other National Developments including

- Central Scotland Green Network;
- Urban Mass/Rapid Transit systems - 'Glasgow Metro';
- Urban Sustainable Green/Blue Networks - MGSDP;
- High Speed Rail; and,
- Clyde Mission.

- 7.4 In the context of the above the Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy submitted in June 2020 by Clydeplan to support the development of the Draft NPF4 the regional spatial themes (housing, vacant and derelict land and sustainable connectivity) and key elements of the Spatial Investment Framework (Clyde Mission, Green Network, MGSDP) have all been reflected in the Draft NPF4.

8. Housing

- 8.1 As part of the development of the Draft NPF4 all local authorities were asked to supply a 10 year Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR). For the City Region this process was undertaken by the Glasgow City Region Housing Market Partnership (HMP).
- 8.2 The figure for the City Region submitted by the HMP of 50,350 has not been amended in the Draft NPF4.

Local Authority	10 year Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement
East Dunbartonshire	2500
East Renfrewshire	2800
Glasgow	21350
Inverclyde	1500
North Lanarkshire	7350
Renfrewshire	4900
South Lanarkshire	7850
West Dunbartonshire	2100
Glasgow City Region	50350

9. National Planning Policy Handbook

9.1 The Draft NPF4 contains 35 policies including 6 Universal policies which should apply to all planning decisions.

9.2. The 6 Universal policies are

- Policy 1: Plan-led approach to sustainable development - All local development plans should manage the use and development of land in the long term public interest
- Policy 2: Climate emergency - When considering all development proposals significant weight should be given to the Global Climate Emergency
- Policy 3: Nature crisis - Development plans should facilitate biodiversity enhancement, nature
- Policy 4: Human rights and equality - Planning should respect, protect and fulfil human rights, seek to eliminate discrimination and promote equality. Planning authorities, applicants, key agencies and communities have a responsibility to consult and engage others collaboratively, meaningfully and proportionately
- Policy 5: Community Wealth Building - Development plans should address community wealth building priorities by reflecting a people-centred approach to local economic development. Spatial strategies should support community wealth building; address economic disadvantage and inequality; and provide added social value. Proposals for development within the categories of national developments and major developments should contribute to community wealth building objectives
- Policy 6: Design, quality and place - Development proposals should be designed to a high quality so that the scale and nature of the development contributes positively to the character and sense of place of the area in which they are to be located. Development proposals should 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

9.3 The 35 other subject based policies relate to

Liveable Places	Productive Places	Distinctive Places
<u>20 Minute Neighbourhoods</u> Policy 7 - Local living	Policy 16 - Land and premises for business and employment	<u>City, Town, Commercial and Local Centres</u> Policy 24 - Centres Policy 25 - Retail Policy 26 - Town Centre First Assessment Policy 27 - Town Centre Living
Policy 8 - Infrastructure First	Policy 17 - Sustainable tourism	Policy 28 - Historic assets and places
Policy 9 - Quality Homes	Policy 18 - Culture and creativity	<u>Urban Edges and the Green Belt</u> Policy 29 - Urban edges
Policy 10 - Sustainable Transport	Policy 19 - Green energy	Policy 30 - Vacant and derelict land
Policy 11 - Heating and Cooling	Policy 20 - Zero waste	Policy 31 Rural places
Policy 12 - Blue and green infrastructure, play and sport	Policy 21 - Aquaculture	Policy 32 - Natural places
Policy 13 - Sustainable flood risk and water management	Policy 22 - Minerals	<u>Peat and Carbon Rich Soils</u> Policy 33 - Soils
Policy 14 - Lifelong health, wellbeing	Policy 23 - Digital infrastructure	Policy 34 - Trees, woodland and forestry
Policy 15 - Safety		Policy 35 - Coasts

9.4 Clydeplan through its joint working processes will be considering these policies with its local authorities and wider stakeholders.

10. Regional Economic Strategy

- 10.1 The Glasgow City Region has developed a new Regional Economic Strategy addressing 3 Grand Challenges - *Creating an Inclusive Economy, Enhancing Productivity, and Climate Emergency*.
- 10.2 In the context of the transformation opportunities around Place a number of the key themes identified in the RES align strongly with the Draft NPF in particular
 - tackling deprivation;
 - reimagining places;
 - vacant and derelict land;
 - metropolitan infrastructure;
 - green infrastructure;
 - high quality places and spaces;
 - good quality affordable housing.

11. Delivery of NPF4 - Role of Regional Spatial Strategies

- 11.1 In the context of the new Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) are to replace Strategic Development Plans though they won't form part of the statutory Development Plan system.
- 11.2 The NPF states new regional spatial strategies will also play a vital role in delivering the national strategy at the regional level. New RSS's can identify areas for future population growth, align with regional economic strategies and identify key sectors and clusters for future development and investment.
- 11.3 The Scottish Government expect RSS's to set out a clear place-based spatial strategy that guides future development across different areas of Scotland.
- 11.4 This will include identification of networks of regionally significant centres, growth and investment areas and ensuring that future development and infrastructure works with each area's assets and whilst conserving and enhancing nationally and regionally recognised natural and historic areas and assets.
- 11.5 Guidance to support the preparation of RSS's is to be prepared by the Scottish Government late in 2022. Clydeplan has offered its support to the Scottish Government in the development of the RSS guidance.