

NPF4: Positive Effects for Biodiversity



Our Planning system is changing...

Draft NPF4

- A vision for Scotland to 2045

New-style Local Development Plans

- Draft Regulations
- Draft Local Development Planning Guidance

New statutory requirements, e.g.

- Open Space Strategies
- Forestry and woodland strategies

What is NPF4?

- A long term plan setting out an approach to planning and development to help achieve a net zero, sustainable Scotland by 2045
- 5 parts:-
 - National Spatial Strategy
 - National Developments
 - National Planning Policy
 - Delivery section
 - Annexes

What's different?

- bringing together **spatial** and **thematic** planning policy for the first time
- part of the 'development plan' once adopted. This means NPF4 will have a stronger role in day-to-day planning decision making.
- 'New style' **Local Development Plans** – no need to repeat national policies, helping to streamline the system and focus on place and delivery.
- Individual PAs can still bring forward local policies, if good reason to depart from national framework

What's different?

- **National Planning Policies: Key changes**

Less:

- high emissions developments
- development in climate vulnerable areas
- impact on ecosystems
- out of town retail
- greenfield development
- housing development outwith planned areas
- car dependent development
- peat and fossil fuel extraction
- disused land and buildings

More:

- localism / mixed use
- town centre development
- quality and diverse homes
- blue green infrastructure, nature restoration, play
- flexibility for work and business
- renewable electricity and heat
- circular economy facilities
- public transport and active travel connectivity
- reuse of vacant and derelict land
- rural development

Summary: NPF4 and Biodiversity

- Focus on **enhancing connectivity** - nature networks across Scotland embedded throughout
- Promoting **nature-based solutions** to climate change, which also protect and restore biodiversity
- Climate change and nature recovery as primary guiding principles for all plans and decisions (**universal policy 3**)
- Focus on on-site enhancement, avoiding the use of complex metrics
- Continuing role for **developer contributions** – where relevant statutory tests are met

Draft Universal Policy 3: Nature Crisis

- Builds on, **expands** and **strengthens** current policies in NPF3 / SPP
- Informed by NatureScot's 2020 report and Biodiversity working group including PAs, industry, key agencies and NGOs.
- Supported by **draft NatureScot guidance** on appropriate measures to enhance biodiversity – also out to consultation

Draft Universal Policy 3: Nature Crisis

- **local development plans** to facilitate biodiversity enhancement across the plan area
- Measures to enhance biodiversity should be designed-in to applications for **local development** from outset
- Larger scale applications / applications likely to have **significant environmental effects** – only supported if proposal will conserve and enhance biodiversity. This means leaving biodiversity in a demonstrably better state than before.
- Certain exceptions apply, e.g householder development and aquaculture.

Opportunities

- Shaping **new style LDPs** which
 - *‘facilitate biodiversity enhancement, nature recovery and nature restoration across the development plan area’* [draft NPF4: policy 3a)]
 - *‘set out proposals and actions to protect, restore and enhance biodiversity’* [draft LDP guidance: section 3]
 - set out the circumstances in which developer contributions for enhancing biodiversity may be required [draft LDP guidance: section 3]
 - identify priority enhancement measures from NatureScot guidance & any additional measures to be considered [draft LDP guidance: section 3]

Opportunities

- Preparing Open Space Strategies which:-
 - *identify **green networks** wholly or partially within their area, which the planning authority consider to be strategic, by reference to a map.*
 - ...identify how green networks....within their area **may be enhanced.**

Have your say:

- Consultations on
 - Draft NPF4
 - Local Development Planning, and
 - Open Space Strategies open to **31 March 2022**
- Consultation resources available online to help inform responses
- See web pages for more info
www.transformingplanning.scot



THANK YOU

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