



Scotland Policy Event

# National Planning Framework 4

Experiences since its introduction

Sarah Kydd – Co-Chair Scotland Policy Group. 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026

WEBINAR TITLE

# AGENDA

- 1 Introduction to NPF4, including a summary of CIEEMs involvement to date
- 2 An ecological consultants view - presented by Rachel Hirst, Applied Ecology Ltd)
- 3 A LPA's view – presented by Julia Dewar, City of Edinburgh Council
- 4 A LPA's view – presented by James Hewitt, Aberdeenshire Council
- 5 A Developers view – presented by Kevin Murphy, Homes for Scotland
- 6 Break-out session discussions and feedback
- 7 Final Reflections
- 8 Description of this part of the webinar as a short paragraph. Keep word count low.

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# Presenters



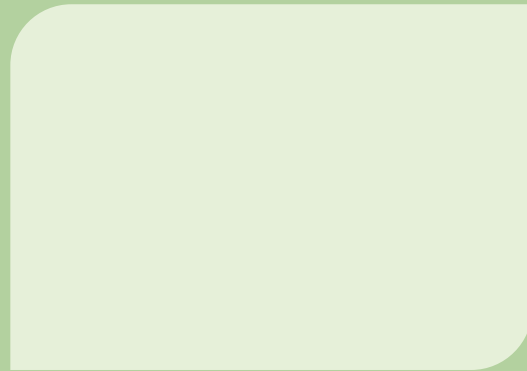
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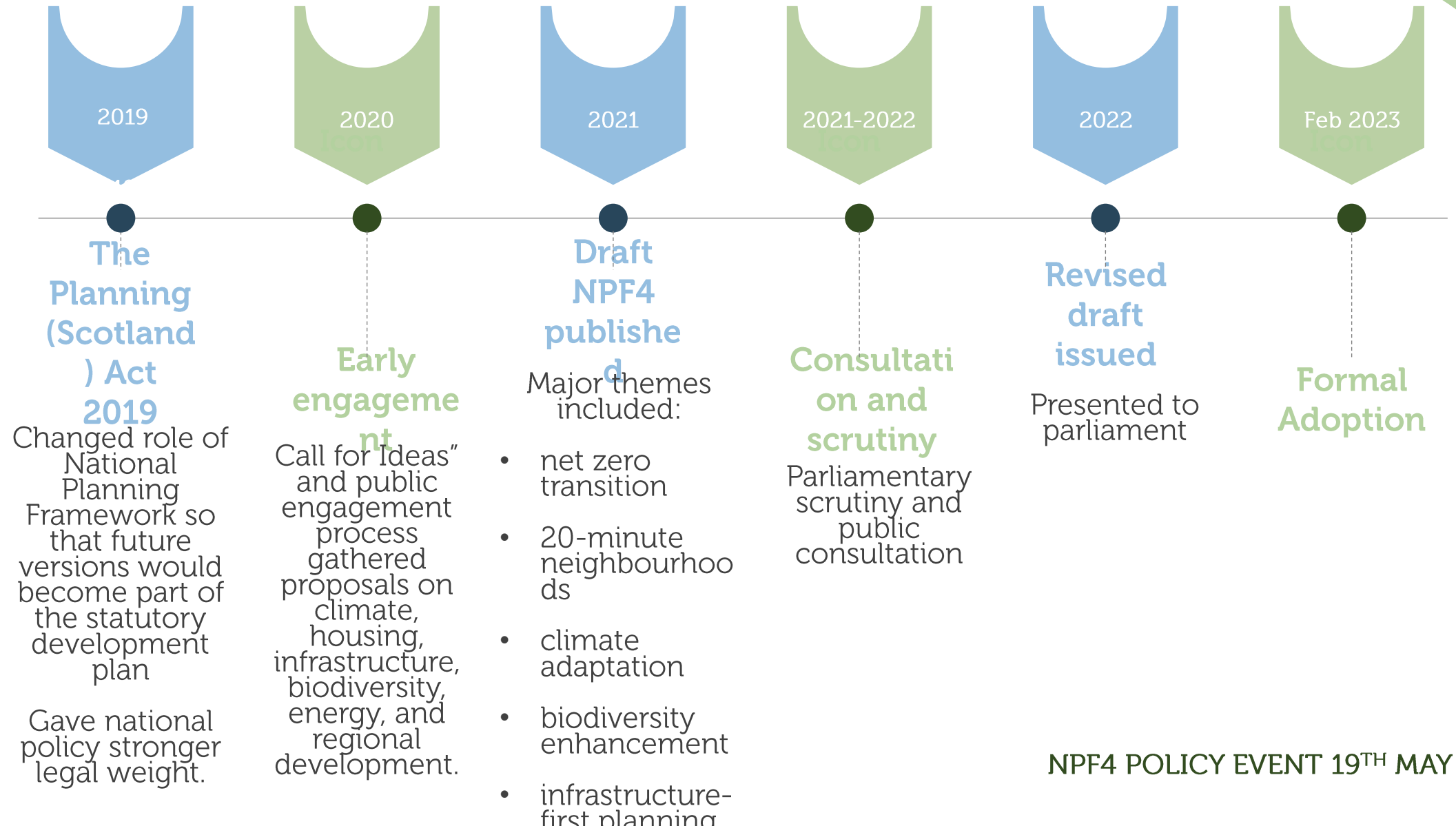


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# NPF4 Timeline



# CIEEM's involvement with NPF4

- Responded to the consultation
- Participated in Scot Gov working group on securing positive effects
- Supported wider Scottish Environment Link Responses
- Held an event for LPAs to discuss emerging policies (over 70% of Scotland's LPAs were represented)
- Published Policy Group Position Paper on Biodiversity Metric

CIEEM's activity has centred on:

- strengthening biodiversity policy;
- improving practical implementation guidance;
- advocating for ecological expertise within planning;
- facilitating collaboration between government and practitioners; and
- promoting consistent, evidence-based delivery of nature-positive planning outcomes across Scotland.

NPF4

# Policy 3

## Biodiversity

Focuses on protecting, restoring, and enhancing biodiversity through the planning system.

It is one of the most influential environmental policies in Scottish planning because it introduces a requirement for many developments to deliver positive effects for biodiversity, not just avoid harm.

The policy seeks to:

- Protect biodiversity and reverse loss;
- Deliver positive effects from development;
- Strengthen nature networks;
- Align planning decisions with Scotland's climate and environmental commitments.



# Policy 3

## Structured in 4 parts: Biodiversity

### 3 (a) Development proposals should:

- contribute to biodiversity enhancement;
- restore degraded habitats where possible;
- build and strengthen nature networks;
- integrate nature-based solutions into design.

### 3 (b) National, major, and certain other developments must demonstrate:

- Significant biodiversity enhancement.
- Where feasible, integrate nature-based solutions
- That community benefits and/or nature networks have been considered

3 (c) Proposals for local development to include appropriate measures to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, proportionate to the development

3 (d) Any potential adverse impacts of development proposals on biodiversity, nature networks and the natural environment to be minimised through



NPF4

# Current Guidance

[Scottish Government Planning Guidance: Biodiversity \(December 2025\)](#)

[NatureScot – Scottish Planning Biodiversity Metric](#)

Web page outlines the work that NatureScot is undertaking to develop a biodiversity metric for Scotland's planning system, to support delivery of Policy 3b.

**Local Authority Guidance – add some links – Highland....**

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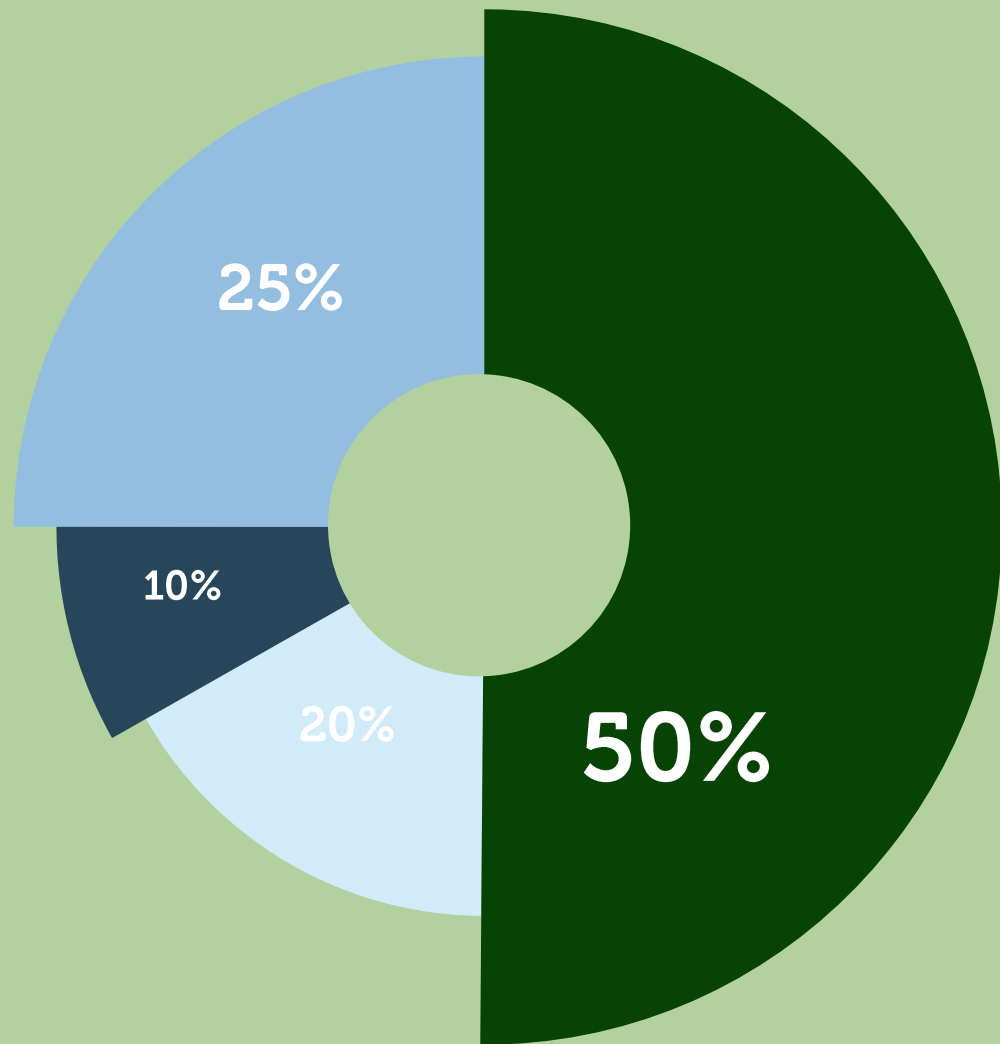
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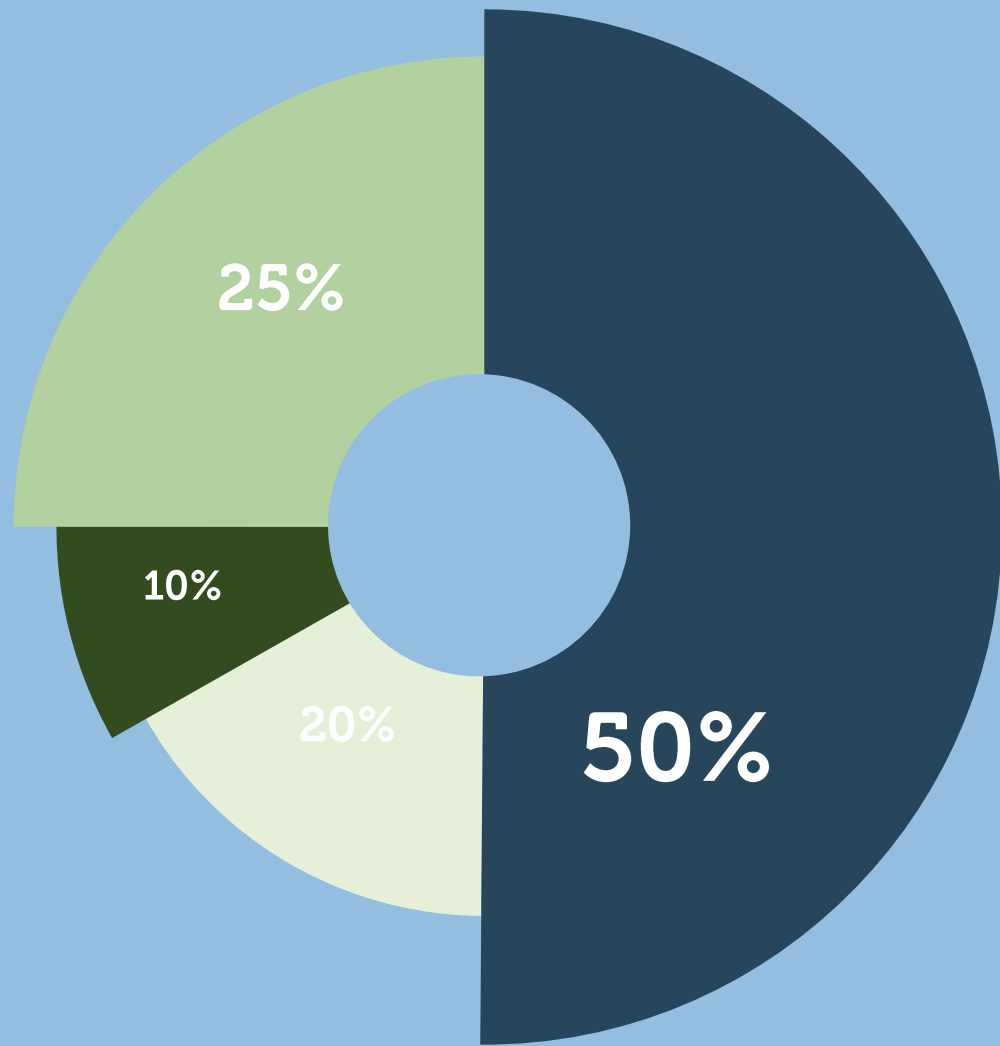
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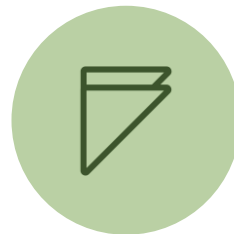
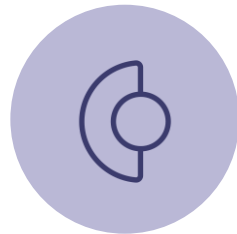
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[enquiries@cieem.net](mailto:enquiries@cieem.net)