

Response ID ANON-VB35-UVHE-R

Submitted to **Developing an Environment Strategy for Scotland**

Submitted on **2018-08-17 11:37:08**

Questions

1 What are your views on the following draft vision for Scotland's environment and climate change policies?

What are your views on the following draft vision for Scotland's environment and climate change policies?:

No comment.

2 What are your views on the following draft outcomes that will help to achieve this vision?

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No comment.

3 What are your views on the draft knowledge accounts which will be used to help identify priorities for action in the coming years? What additional sources of key evidence can you add?

What are your views on the draft knowledge accounts [LINK] which will be used to help identify priorities for action in the coming years? What additional sources of key evidence can you add?:

RTPI Scotland welcomes the identification of a role for the planning system in several of the knowledge accounts. Planning and planners are skilled in joining together different policy objectives and helping to deliver them in a particular place. The discussion paper highlights several areas where Scottish Government priorities, such as public health, interact with environmental ambitions. RTPI Scotland therefore urges the Scottish Government to ensure that the priorities for action and resource to deliver the Environmental Strategy use the opportunity that planning presents - at the local, regional and national scales - to create joined up policy making and delivery.

In particular the knowledge accounts identify a role for planning in delivering new high quality green space, and in joining up spaces to create a network of high quality green infrastructure. Likewise planning is identified as an available mechanism for taking action of ecosystems and wildlife, and improving access to the natural environment.

The Planning Bill currently progressing through the Scottish Parliament includes enabling provisions for the introduction of an infrastructure levy, to support the delivery of strategic infrastructure that in turn supports new development. RTPI Scotland understands however that the Scottish Government is still exploring how such a levy could be raised and used to best effect. Funding for infrastructure (including green infrastructure), and in particular to 'frontload' infrastructure provision, so that facilities are already in place when new residential or commercial development takes place, is one of the principle challenges facing the planning system in Scotland, and indeed the development sector as a whole. The future provision of high quality green space, and therefore equality of access to it, will to some extent depend on efforts to resolve this challenge.

The National Planning Framework is due for renewal, with work on its fourth iteration due to begin in 2019. This will be a crucial opportunity to ensure that quality green space and green infrastructure that supports biodiversity and access to the outdoors is a major priority for the future spatial development of Scotland.

The air quality knowledge account does not cite planning as one of the tools available for driving change, instead focusing on technological transformation. RTPI Scotland urges the Scottish Government to take into account how the design and layout of our places can help to tackle poor air quality, including by supporting modal shift from private cars to walking, cycling and public transport. This approach not only help to address air quality issues, but also has benefits for public health and other climate change objectives.

With regard to further information that may help to enrich the knowledge accounts, RTPI Scotland highlights the following:

Promoting healthy cities, RTPI, 2014: <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/knowledge/research/planning-horizons/promoting-healthy-cities/>. This paper examines the drivers behind healthy cities, including the provision of open space and green infrastructure.

RTPI Scotland written evidence to the Scottish Parliament Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee regarding air quality, 2017, <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/2471505/Written%20evidence%20on%20Air%20Quality%20in%20Scotland%20to%20Environment,%20Climate%20Change%20and%20Land>

Future proofing society, RTPI 2014, <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/knowledge/research/planning-horizons/future-proofing-society/>. This paper explores the role on planning in preparing for and responding to climate change and demographic change.

About you

What is your name?

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What is your email address?

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Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

RTPI Scotland

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this exercise?

Yes

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this exercise?:

Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

Please enter comments here.:

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this exercise?:

Slightly satisfied

Please enter comments here.: