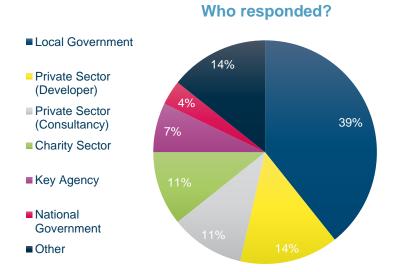# Member Survey Results

What are the key issues for NPF4?

In mid-December 2019, RTPI Scotland surveyed its members, asking the planning profession's view on what the key issues for National Planning Framework 4 are.

The survey ran for a month and twenty eight members gave their feedback.

The results revealed a number of main themes and ideas that have since been used to help inform a series of RTPI Scotland Chapter NPF4 workshops. Below is a summary of the main themes and ideas that emerged.

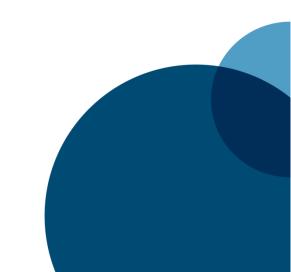Thank you to all of the members that took part in the survey – your feedback has been valuable.

Who responded?

- Local Government
- Private Sector (Developer)
- Private Sector (Consultancy)
- Charity Sector
- Key Agency
- National Government
- Other

Main Conclusions

NPF4 should:

• Have climate change at its centre, perhaps underpinning the whole framework

• Maintain the NPF3 themed format, but with each theme linked to climate change action

• Take main focus off economic drivers and be more holistic

• Be future-proofed

• Be relevant and simpler for everyone to use

• Engage cross-sector with communities and experts from the beginning to the end in a variety of inclusive and accessible methods

• Show how aims will be delivered, and have mechanisms in place to support faltering delivery

> "
> We have to act now and get people to wake up to a clear emergency. Planning needs to be at the front of this radical action.

1. What processes of engagement would you like to see to encourage participation in the preparation of NPF4? For example do you know of any engagement strategies which have worked locally well but are untested in an NPF context?	
Themes	Ideas
• Increase engagement, giving everyone the opportunity to make comments at various stages • Increasing access to engagement, taking a holistic approach • Promoting the importance and significance of NPF4	• NPF4 digital platform: stakeholders can monitor progress of document and comment on drafts • Utilise social media to engage • Citizen assembly approach • Topic based conversation workshops • Online citizens' space to present and discuss options

2. NPF4 will be part of the development plan. How do you think planners, elected members and politicians can be encouraged to develop an attachment to and a feeling of ownership for NPF4?	
Themes	Ideas
• Make it relevant to everyone/inclusive for everyone • Engagement (allowing input from the very beginning) • Make sure the significance of the document is known	• Workshops • Roundtable discussions • Training • Digital exchanges

3. NPF3 was based on four main place-based themes: A successful, sustainable place/ A low carbon place/ A natural, resilient place/ A connected place. Should this format be repeated for NPF4?

Themes	Ideas
• Theme format was liked • Themes should be interconnected with the overarching theme of climate change • Needs to show how these themes are going to be delivered	• Provide examples of good delivery • Change the wording of themes to be more specific, e.g. "successful" = nothing is guaranteed, "low carbon" = should be Net Zero 2045 • Many of the themes are linked so you could either reshuffle topics under the theme headings or create a golden thread of themes coming down from one main theme

4. How can the NPF (the 'where' strategy) and SPP (the 'how' policy) be successfully merged?

Themes	Ideas
• A lot of uncertainty and confusion around this topic • Integrate the policies, clearly showing the relationship between them	• Link the documents by theme • Use case studies to link the how to the where • Have a page/spatial diagram for each city region

5. How do you think NPF4 should manage and focus on national, as opposed to regional or local spatial priorities?

Themes	Ideas
• National priorities set the direction and overview of regional and local ones • Need to show how the aims will be delivered • Consistency is needed: should cover topics that are then subsequently talked about in LDPs	• NPF4 can show how regional and local spatial strategies nest within the big national picture • Needs to clearly state that it is to be read alongside other documents e.g. LDPs • Include a national spatial diagram with supporting report information • Some form of definition as to what makes priorities national, e.g. strategic importance • Use it as an overarching strategy: consider which regions may be most effective/suitable at contributing to different targets

6. Could the NPF be made easier to use practically speaking?

Themes	Ideas
• Overriding answer was that it could be made easier to use and there were a lot of suggestions about how to do this • The main request was that it is made clearer in terms of how the aims were going to be delivered	• Summaries or plain English 'explainers' after each section • Marketing versions of NPF4 e.g. videos • Better referencing of policies relevant to the development management decisions and clearer policies in general • More visuals, in particular maps • Click links to policy wording • Control F function to make it easy to search • Improve the outcomes/delivery performance

7. What are the national developments that should be included in NPF4?	

Themes	Ideas
• Main mentions included: environmental (dominating), transport, housing and energy • All of the categories mentioned their impact on the environment and focussed on making developments that help to mitigate climate change	• Some niche topics include: biodiversity, 5G communication, developments that are desirable for investors • Focusing on a place as a whole, introducing regeneration and place-making as national infrastructure

8. Taking NPF3's four main themes, what updates and additional or redundant topics do you think should be considered by or deleted from NPF4? Some priority policy issues to consider: Active travel, Biodiversity Design and place-making, District heating, Economic development, Energy development, Housing, Land assembly, New towns, Post-Brexit regional development, Preparing for climate change, Public health, Public transport infrastructure, Rural economic development, Town centres and high streets.	

Themes	Ideas
• 'Climate emergency' to underpin entire document • Health and wellbeing to be considered heavily also	• Many specialist topics discussed • Many responses spoke of topics that linked with climate change action • Suggested to look at everything more holistically rather than just through an economic lens

9. Would you favour a cross-sector and multidisciplinary collaborative implementation team to monitor and deliver NPF4 actions and how could that be made to work?

Themes	Ideas
• Most believed it was a great idea (as it is a multi-skilled challenge) • There was confusion as to how this could be made to work	• Could be a board panel (some chosen through their CV, others elected from community to serve for a period of time), to monitor if the NPF is delivering from a variety of perspectives • Working groups with annual reports • Make sure the monitoring is transparent and the results are published

10. What else about NPF3 has worked well?

Themes	Ideas
• Gave good overall context • Economic strategy was good but perhaps at the expense of other targets e.g. climate change	• A good identifier of national developments and raised awareness of purpose of planning • A successful guide for regions/local authorities • Good dialogue between private/public sectors • Easy to understand [This question did not have many responses]

11. What else about NPF3 has not worked well?

Themes	Ideas
• Not relevant enough for all areas of Scotland • Take a more holistic approach than dominantly economic • Be future-proof (particularly in terms of climate change)	• Be given more status • Allow for sufficient flexibility if not delivering as expected • Improve engagement from/understanding for communities