

Scottish Planning Review Participation Statement January 2017



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Introduction

In September 2015, Scottish Ministers appointed an independent panel to review the Scottish planning system.

The panel's report [Empowering Planning to Deliver Great Places](#), together with a [statement from the panel](#), was published on 31 May 2016.

The review looked at:

- development planning
- housing delivery
- planning for infrastructure
- improvements to development management
- leadership, resourcing and skills
- community engagement

The review was undertaken in an open way, and the panel's recommendations were grounded in the extensive evidence they received over the course of the review. Over 400 submissions were received in response to the call for written evidence. Over 100 individuals also gave oral evidence.

An online discussion forum gave stakeholders an opportunity to put forward their views and ideas. The responses are [still available to view](#). A [report prepared by Kevin Murray Associates analysing submitted written evidence also](#) formed a part of the evidence base considered by the panel.

Scottish Government Response

Scottish Ministers published their [response to the report of the independent planning review panel](#) on 11 July 2016.

In the response Ministers committed to delivering a Consultation Paper, which will include proposals for legislative change, by the end of 2016. Ten immediate actions were also identified which are to be taken forward alongside the development of a Consultation Paper.

Participation Commitment

Our experience has shown that national planning policy and advice has benefited significantly when prepared in an open and inclusive way. Building on this experience, we are taking a collaborative approach to producing the Consultation Paper. We are putting stakeholders at the centre of our engagement and the development of future policy proposals. We are committed to ensuring the work is undertaken in a transparent way, so that anyone with an interest in planning has an opportunity for their view to be heard.

We will ensure that:

- Arrangements for participation are inclusive, open and transparent;
- Information is provided early and through a range of formats and locations to allow full consideration; and
- Feedback is provided promptly on the conclusions drawn.

Stage 1 - Drafting the Consultation Paper (September – December 2016) Working Groups

Since the publication of our response we have been engaging with stakeholders to develop proposals for change.

We invited more than 130 people to participate in **6 working groups**. The first meeting of the groups was 12 / 13 September. The groups were tasked with identifying possible actions and options for inclusion in the consultation paper. We published the outputs from the working groups [online](#). We will reconvene the working groups following the publication of the consultation paper to discuss how their views have informed the proposals and to discuss the findings of the research which has been carried out.

We [commissioned research](#) to inform our thinking on key issues including: options for an infrastructure charging mechanism; enforcement; planning permission in principle for allocated sites; 3D visualisations; barriers to engagement in planning; and proportionate environmental assessment. Further research, including on aligned consents, will also be commissioned as required.

We also held discussions with a wide range of policy areas across the Scottish Government as many of the proposals are cross cutting and planning has a key role in contributing to the Government's Strategic Objectives and National Outcomes.

Wider Involvement

We were aware that there was significant interest in getting involved in taking forward the panel's recommendations, and conscious that not everyone could be directly included in the working group discussions. We considered ways to involve those who were not involved in the workshops by publishing a summary of the outputs from working group sessions. We also participated in a number of conferences and events including hosting events for Heads of Planning and Planning Conveners. Full details of the commitments and our actions during Stage 1 are listed in Annex B.

We had suggested that we would utilise both twitter and the Scottish Government's Dialogue platform to provide opportunities for people to get involved in discussions around the Panel's recommendations. After further consideration we decided that this wider awareness raising and input would move the debate forward more effectively if undertaken alongside the consultation paper. The design of stage 2 has therefore taken the need for wider dissemination and discussion into account.

Stage 2 – Consultation on the future of planning in Scotland (January – March 2017)

Encouraging wide debate

We have learned from our experiences during stage one of the process and this has informed the development of our activities during the second stage of the project. We have now published our proposals for change in the Consultation Paper "places,

people & planning”. We are looking to build further on the engagement which has already taken place since the Review of the Planning System was initiated in September 2015. We have set out below how we will raise awareness of the Consultation Paper, to stimulate debate, and to encourage responses to the proposals it contains.

During this stage we will use the following methods of engagement:

- Continuing use of the internet and social media to promote the consultation paper and any engagement activities.
- Raising awareness of the consultation amongst community councils across Scotland through distribution of an information pack.
- Visiting local authority planning departments to meet with ‘frontline’ planning staff, to hear their views and discuss technical aspects of the work in detail.
- Holding a series of drop-in awareness raising sessions around Scotland which will be open to everyone.
- Participating in discussions with each of the seven Royal Town Planning Institute’s regional chapters.
- Meeting directly with representative bodies and other key interests to discuss views relating to their specific sectoral interests.
- Developing ‘easy read’ materials to be made widely available to members of the public.
- Attending conferences and events to raise awareness of the Consultation Paper.
- We will also investigate the potential of using innovative methods of engagement such as a Citizens panel/Jury.
- Building on the information in partial Business, Equality and Child Right’s and Wellbeing Impact Assessments to ensure that the impacts on such groups are appropriately assessed.

We do not feel that we should be leading or participating in every discussion about the proposals in the consultation paper and we hope that stakeholders will be proactive in holding their own discussions to inform their responses. We will be happy to support events but also wish to encourage a wider ranging, free and frank discussion amongst all those with an interest in planning, including the general public.

Engagement throughout the Process

We will keep stakeholders updated on the progress of the review throughout the process. Updates will be published on our website and blog and maintain a dedicated electronic mailbox (planningreview@gov.scot). Through the @Scotgovplanning account, we will use Twitter and the hashtag #SGPlanningreview to keep stakeholders updated. Our e-alert system will also be used to highlight when new information has been published.

Annex A sets out our approach to each of the communication methods we intend to employ.

Annex B sets out the engagement activities we undertook during Stage 1 - production of the Consultation Paper.

Annex C provides a breakdown of our intended promotion and engagement activities during Stage 2 – the consultation.

Statutory and Other Assessments

A number of impact assessments will need to be completed in support of the Consultation Paper. During our engagement activities we are keen to hear about the potential impacts the changes put forward in the Consultation Paper may have. If there are any potential impacts or area which you believe we should be aware of, please contact the Planning Review Hub at planningreview@gov.scot.

Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA)

Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessments (CRWIA)

We are also considering the requirement for environmental assessment under the terms of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and will discuss this further with the statutory consultation authorities during Stage 2. We currently expect to undertake additional consultation on the proposed legislation, supported by an Environmental Report, at Stage 3.

Next Steps

Prior to the commencement of each of the following stages we will update the participation statement outlining the opportunities to get involved. The timeline for taking forward the next stages are:

Stage 3 – Analysis and Planning Bill Preparation – Spring/ Summer 2017

Stage 4 – Parliamentary Process – 2017 / 2018

For further information

- Visit the Webpage – <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/planning-architecture/review-planning-system/>
- Email the Review Team: planningreview@gov.scot
- Follow us on Twitter: [@ScotGovPlanning](https://twitter.com/ScotGovPlanning)
- Subscribe to our e-alerts: <http://register.scotland.gov.uk/Subscribe/Step1>
- Follow our Blog: <http://blogs.scotland.gov.uk/planningarchitecture/>
- Write to:
The Planning Review
Scottish Government
Planning and Architecture Division
Area 2-H South
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Communication Methods

Annex A

Target Audience	Details	Timing
All Stakeholders	Planning Review Webpage - We have established a specific Planning Review webpage on the Scottish Government's website which will provide access to information about the review.	Throughout the process
All Stakeholders	Ealerts - We will issue SG Planning ealerts at key stages throughout the process.	Throughout the process
All Stakeholders	Blog - We will update our blog to provide information to stakeholders on the progress with the review and highlight any opportunities to get involved.	Throughout the process
All Stakeholders	Twitter - We will use our twitter account (@ScotGovPlanning) to disseminate information and provide updates and reminders throughout the review process.	Throughout the process
All Stakeholders	Planning Review Mailbox - We have established a dedicated mailbox (planningreview@gov.scot). Stakeholders are encouraged to contact the Review Team with any queries regarding the process for taking forward the review recommendations. Members of the team monitor the mailbox and will provide help and assistance to correspondents.	Throughout the process
All Stakeholders	Published Articles - We will identify opportunities to publish articles in relevant magazines to draw attention to and provide updates on the review.	Throughout the process
Attendees	Events - We will attend events/conferences to update people on the review and generate discussion about how the proposals can be taken forward.	Throughout the Process
All stakeholders	Easy read materials – we will support consultation on the planning bill proposals by making non-technical supporting information available	Consultation Paper Consultation

Stage 1 – Consultation Paper Preparation Timetable

Annex B

Target Audience	Commitment	Timing	Progress
Local Government and Communities Committee	Parliament - The LGC Committee has invited the Independent Panel and Minister for Local Government and Housing to appear before them. The Committee session will be available to watch online at: http://www.scottishparliament.tv/	7 September	The Independent Panel, Minister for Local Government and Housing and Chief Planner appeared before the LGC Committee on 7 th September 2016. The official report can be accessed on the Scottish Parliament website ¹ where you can also view the committee meeting ² .
Working groups	Theme Working Group Workshops - Working Groups will hold their first Workshops on 12/13 September. Over 130 individuals and organisations were invited to participate {how many did?}. Further details about the workshops was available on the website, and highlighted via the blog and Twitter. Further meetings of the working groups were arranged as required.	12 & 13 September 2016 onwards	2 Day Workshops held on 12/13 September. Leadership, Resources and Skills WG met again on Monday 24 th September. Development Planning WG met again on 1 st November. Infrastructure WG met again on 2 nd November Summary of the key issues discussed on 12 & 13 September can be found on The Scottish Government Website ³ .
All Stakeholders	Dialogue Forum - We planned to post weekly questions on Dialogue and promote them via twitter and the website.	September - November	We reconsidered our approach to using dialogue following discussions with our Digital Engagement Team due to the time involved for both

¹ <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10508&mode=pdf>

² <http://www.scottishparliament.tv/Archive/Index/08973ede-546b-49d8-8b68-68f5bb0cdaba?Area=&categoryId=3ba7097e-58ac-46dc-8d98-e1cf898946ba&parentCategoryClicked=False&pageNumber=2&orderByField=ScheduledStart&queryOrder=DES>

³ <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/planning-review-working-group-summary-september/>

Target Audience	Commitment	Timing	Progress
			ourselves and stakeholders and doubts about how the information gathered could be used to inform our proposals.
Agriculture and Planning Summit	Sector specific discussion – We planned to hold a summit with rural interests and this will explore opportunities for planning reform to assist farm businesses at all scales.	October 2016	This event has been rescheduled for January 2017.
Planning Conveners	One day workshop - We held a one day workshop for Elected Members who chair Planning Committees. The purpose of the workshop was to debate the recommendations and seek views and ideas on potential changes to the system.	October 2016	Conveners' event held on 26 th October to discuss options for change.
Key Agencies Group	Round table discussion – We planned to hold a detailed discussion with members of the key agencies group.	October 2016	We agreed with the Key Agency group that a meeting once the consultation had launched would be more appropriate.
Heads of Planning Event	One day conference – We will focus on the Consultation Paper and the planning review at the annual one day conference with Heads of Planning.	November 2016	Our annual event for Heads of Planning was held on 9 th November.
Twitter	Ongoing - We planned to hold weekly Twitter Polls to coincide with the Dialogue Forum questions. Polls will be conducted throughout the process to help shape our thinking and the way ahead.	September - November	We reconsidered this approach as we were unsure about the benefits of conducting any polls or how we could usefully use the results. We also felt that with a formal consultation to follow this could feel like over consultation.

Target Audience	Commitment	Timing	Progress
Attendees	<p>Conferences/Events - We attended events and conferences to generate and facilitate discussion around taking forward the review recommendations.</p>	September - November	<p>The Minister for Local Government and Housing, Chief Planner and Planning and Architecture Officials have attended a number of events over the past few months to discuss the Review. Events have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-Build Conference - 15th September • SPEL Conference – 29th September • Fife Housebuilders Forum – 20 October • Rural and Islands Housebuilders - • Scottish Forum for Planning – 28 September • Meeting with Volume Housebuilders – 27 September • Rural Parliament – 8th October • RTPI Conference – 11th October 2016 • Scottish Young Planners ‘Ask the Chief Planner’ – 13th October • Trinity Group Meeting – 24th October • Towns Week – Kirkcaldy – 9th November • Homes for Scotland Annual Conference

Stage 2 – Consultation of Planning Bill Proposals

Annex C

Target Audience	Aim	Details	Timing
All Stakeholders	Consult	Citizen Space – the consultation paper will be uploaded to our Citizen Space platform which is the main portal for accessing and responding to the consultation.	
Local Authorities	Consult	We will use existing networks and events to allow various different local authority representatives to discuss the proposals included in the consultation paper. We will also provide briefings for specific local authority officer groups on the topics we feel are most relevant to them. The groups will include SOLACE, SOLAR, HoPS, SLAED, Planning Convenors and Elected Officials.	
Community Councils	Inform/Consult	We will disseminate an easy read guide to community councils through community council liaison officers and the website - http://www.communitycouncils.scot/ .	
Community Planning Partnerships	Inform/Consult	We will disseminate an easy read guide to community planning partnerships.	
Children and Young People	Inform/Consult	We will engage with Planning Schools, YoungScot, Children’s Parliament and the Scottish Youth Parliament to identify opportunities to seek the views of young people on the proposed changes. We will also take into account the findings from the Barriers Research to help shape our approach to engaging with young people.	
Members of the Public	Inform/Consult	We will produce an easy read guide for members of the public and we will investigate opportunities to speak to them about	

Target Audience	Aim	Details	Timing
		the proposals which are most important/relevant to them. We will hold drop in sessions in accessible locations to raise awareness of the consultation amongst members of the general public.	
Third Sector Organisations	Inform	We have secured a stall at The Gathering which brings together people working in the third sector to network, showcase what they do and learn from each other.	22-23 February 2017
Sector Specific Discussions	Inform/Consult	We will hold discussions with key stakeholders from the different sectors who are affected by the proposals. Agriculture and Planning Summit – 11th January 2017 – We are holding a summit with rural interests and this will explore opportunities for planning reform to assist farm businesses at all scales.	
MSPs	Consult	We will provide a short briefing note for MSPs on the contents of the consultation paper.	
Working Groups	Consult	Theme Working Groups – we will reconvene the theme working groups to discuss the proposals which have been included in the consultation paper and the findings from the research projects which have been undertaken.	
Key Agencies Group	Consult	Round table discussion – We will hold a detailed discussion with members of the key agencies group.	
Planning Profession	Inform/Consult	We will visit each of the RTPI Chapter Events to speak to members of the planning profession around Scotland about the proposals included within the consultation.	

Target Audience	Aim	Details	Timing
Built Environment Profession	Inform	We will identify opportunities for the Minister and Chief Planner to write articles for relevant publications to promote the consultation.	
Twitter	Inform	We will use our twitter account @scotgovplanning and #SGplanningreview to promote the consultation and any events which we organise or attend.	
Blog	Inform	We will post blogs throughout the consultation period updating on what events we have attended and the people we have met and discussed the proposals with.	
Website	Inform	We will publish relevant information on our website including the briefings providing to various groups, the research findings as they emerge and any upcoming events.	
Attendees	Inform	<p>Conferences/Events - We will attend events and conferences to generate and facilitate discussion around the proposals included within the consultation paper.</p> <p>Mediation in a new planning era – facilitating a more collaborative approach – we are sponsoring this event which is being held by PAS and Scottish Mediation.</p>	

Requests for material in large print, or in other formats or community languages should be directed to the Planning Review Team.

 [@ScotGovPlanning](https://twitter.com/ScotGovPlanning)

 youtube.com/channel/UCFXVIacEAuv_YMbbaekmoTQ

 uk.pinterest.com/creativeplaceSG/

 www.flickr.com/photos/sgpad

 blogs.scotland.gov.uk/planningarchitecture

 npfactionprogramme.com

 <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/planning-architecture/>

 www.eplanning.scot/ePlanningClient