

## Scottish Renewables Briefing Paper

### Places, People and Planning: Position Statement

The Scottish Government has published [‘Places, people and planning: Position Statement’](#) which sets out future priorities for the planning system in Scotland. The Position Statement sets out the Scottish Government’s current position on the 20 proposals for change.

Key points relating to renewables are as follows:

- **Aligning community planning and spatial planning**
  - The Scottish Government are minded to propose a statutory link between development planning and community planning in the Planning Bill.
- **Regional partnership working**

Current requirements for strategic development plans to be prepared are to be removed and replaced with more flexible, but clearly defined duties and powers.
- **Improving national spatial planning policy**
  - An enhanced National Planning Framework (NPF) and Scottish Planning Policy will be developed.
  - The potential to establish a stronger model of shared responsibility and co-production in delivering the National Planning Framework will be explored.
  - A full collaborative programme for preparing NPF4 will be issued in due course, but currently expectations are for its preparation to commence in 2018 with a view to adoption in 2020.
  - Scottish Planning Policy will be reviewed in parallel to NPF4.
- **Stronger local development plans**
  - Main issues reports will be removed and replaced with a ‘draft plan’.
  - Supplementary guidance will also be removed
  - The lifetime of Local Development Plan’s is to be extended to 10 years, with greater clarity on how this would work to be provided.
  - The Scottish Government will look to achieve more straightforward examinations as a result of gate-checks.
- **Making plans that deliver**
  - Local development plan delivery programmes are to be strengthened in the Planning Bill and through changes to secondary legislation
  - More specific proposals for adjusting pre-application consultation requirements which are more proportionate for allocated sites are to be developed.
- **Giving people an opportunity to plan their own place**
  - The Planning Bill will include proposals for local place plans that are consistent with the local development plan.
- **Getting more people involved in planning**
  - Changes to ensure that children and young people are specifically encouraged to get more involved in planning will be established.
- **Improving public trust**
  - A number of changes to improve public trust will be taken forward in line with proposals in the initial consultation.
- **Keeping decisions local – rights of appeal**

- The Scottish Government has no intention to pursue the proposal for Ministers to take decisions more frequently, rather than reporters.
  - There is also no intention to introduce fees for lodging either reviews or appeals.
  - There is merit in reviewing the effectiveness of local review bodies.
  - The scope for mandatory training for elected members who are serving on a planning committee or Local Review Boards will be explored.
  - There is no change in the Scottish Government's position on third party rights of appeal, they remain "...convinced that stronger early engagement through the extensive measures set out above would be much more constructive".
  - There is a commitment to 'island proof the Planning Bill'
- **Embedding an infrastructure first approach**
    - The Scottish Government will continue to consider options for a national delivery group to support improved coordination of development and infrastructure issues.
- **Creating a fairer and more transparent approach to funding infrastructure**
    - Further consideration will be given to the merits of an infrastructure levy.
    - The Scottish Government is not currently minded to remove the provisions at Section 75A for modifying planning obligations. However, changes to Section 75 may be required in connection with future decisions on the role of a levy.
- **Innovative infrastructure planning**
    - There is no intention to remove Section 3F of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as introduced by Section 72 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
- **Investing in a better service**
    - The Planning Bill will include additional enabling powers that provide scope to widen discretionary charging and to extend the range of services for which fees can be charged
- **Making better use of resources: efficient decision making**
    - Further consideration will be given to broadening the scope for permitted developments
    - The Scottish Government are minded to take forward a range of improvements to development management procedures