

18 NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK FOR SCOTLAND (AN276-2004)

The Scottish Executive has published the National Planning Framework for Scotland as part of the Review of Strategic Planning process. It supports a perceived need from that exercise for the provision of a 'National Context' for strategic planning and will provide guidance, along with Scottish Planning Policies (SPPs), for those areas that in future will be beyond the proposed 4 new 'City Region' areas.

The purpose of the Framework is to guide spatial development in Scotland to 2025 setting out a vision in which other plans and programmes can share and to which they can contribute. The Framework is not an economic development strategy but highlights the importance of place and identifying priorities for investment in strategic infrastructure.

The Framework identifies the key issues and drivers of changes in Scotland and seeks to ensure that Scotland is equipped to respond effectively to these. In recognising recent trends in the locational preferences of business and industry Dundee's Kingsway is highlighted as an example of clustering of activities around transport nodes and arteries along with the M8/M9/M74 motorway network, the New Town road networks and Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen airports (Para 22).

The Technology Park is also given as an example of the growth of specialist, knowledge- dependant activities around universities, research institutes and existing industry clusters. The Framework lists among Dundee's priorities the redevelopment of the Waterfront Area and the improvement of public transport services. It highlights that the reduction of the rail journey time between Dundee and Edinburgh to under one hour would help to attract high value jobs to the City (Para 162).