

2 NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK FOR SCOTLAND 2 - DISCUSSION DRAFT (AN39-2008)

The Scottish Government published "The National Planning Framework for Scotland 2" for discussion in January 2008. The consultation period extends to 15th April, 2008.

The first National Planning Framework (NPF) was published in April 2004. It set out a strategy for Scotland's development to 2025, providing a national context for development plans and planning decisions and helping to inform the wider programmes of government, public agencies and local authorities. The second National Planning Framework (NPF2) will guide Scotland's spatial development to 2030, setting out strategic development priorities to support the Scottish Government's central purpose of promoting sustainable economic growth.

NPF2 will provide the strategic spatial policy context for decisions by the Government and its agencies, complementing the statements of national planning policy set out in the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) series. Planning authorities are required to take the Framework into account in preparing development plans and it will be a material consideration in determining planning applications. NPF2 also identifies 'National Developments' in an attempt to provide an important signal of long-term infrastructure priorities that will contribute to Scotland's sustainable economic growth.

NPF2 recognises that Dundee has a key role as a driver of economic activity and it is essential it is well connected to Edinburgh and Glasgow, their wider regions and the rest of the world. NPF2 acknowledges that Dundee has made great strides in improving the quality of the city centre, enhancing cultural facilities and establishing new centres of expertise in key areas of the knowledge economy. In regard to this it is recognised that reducing the rail journey time to Edinburgh to under an hour would help to attract more high value jobs to the city.

It is considered that NPF2 recognises the main strategic issues facing Dundee and as such the document is to be welcomed.

It is recommended that the Director of Planning and Transportation submit comments to the Scottish Government generally welcoming the direction of NPF2 and provide comments on the detailed aspects of the document.