

ITEM No ...5.....

REPORT TO: CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 23 JANUARY 2023
REPORT ON: NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 4
REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT
REPORT NO: 14-2023

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the publication and content of the Revised Draft National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) as well as its impacts on statutory planning functions.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- a notes the content of the Revised Draft National Planning Framework 4 (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/>);
- b notes that until it is approved and adopted, the revised NPF4 is a material consideration in determining planning applications; and
- c notes that when adopted, NPF4 will form part of the statutory development plan alongside the Dundee Local Development Plan. At that point, TAYplan Strategic Development Plan (2016 - 2036) will cease to be part of the Statutory Development Plan.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There will be additional duties to undertake as a consequence of new and expanded policies in the NPF4 and the ongoing implementation of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. We seek to fund additional resource requirements to carry out these new duties through recent increases in planning fee income. The Council will work closely with the Scottish Government, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) and Heads of Planning Scotland (HOPS) to ensure that additional resources are in place to deliver the responsibilities of NPF4 and the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The National Planning Framework is a long-term plan for Scotland that sets out where development and infrastructure is needed to support sustainable and inclusive growth. The NPF4 brings a long-term spatial strategy for Scotland together with a comprehensive set of national planning policies to form part of the Statutory Development Plan.

- 4.2 Members will be aware from Report 72-2022 (Article X of the Minute of this Committee of 7 March 2022 refers) that the Council produced a consultation response on the draft NPF4 which was submitted to the Scottish Government in March 2022. On 8 November 2022, the Revised Draft National Planning Framework was laid before the Scottish Parliament for approval. It is accompanied by an Explanatory Report, which explains the Scottish Government's consideration of responses received during the preceding period of parliamentary scrutiny and public consultation and outlines the changes from the previous draft. It is also accompanied by a Delivery Programme which sets out key actions to be taken in the short and medium term. The revised NPF4 was laid before the Scottish Parliament for 6 weeks and was approved on 11 January 2023. The Scottish Government will now progress to formally

adopt and publish NPF4, and this will be a significant milestone for Scotland's ongoing reforms to the planning system.

4.3 Whilst laid before Parliament, the revised NPF4 was debated. However, its terms were not subject to change and it was approved without amendment. Heads of Planning Scotland, the Royal Town Planning Institute, and other stakeholder groups provided evidence to the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee to support for an informed debate and were on the whole supportive of the revised draft.

4.4 The revised draft NPF4 and associated documents can be found here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4-revised-draft/>.

5 CONTENT OF THE REVISED DRAFT NPF4

5.1 NPF4 has been substantially re-designed compared with the previous draft in terms of content, clarity, consistency and detail. A total of 427 changes have been made, many of these being minor. As with the previous draft NPF4 there is a key focus on the climate and nature emergency in the document. The original four themes have been revised to three: Sustainable, Liveable and Productive Places, with Distinctive Places being incorporated into the other themes. Graphics and a glossary have been added to set a wider context and connections between policies have been clarified with cross-referencing. There are six policy areas which are significant changes to the current Scottish Planning Policy and NPF3. These are: local living and 20-minute neighbourhoods; infrastructure first; play, recreation and sport; health and safety; community wealth building; and culture and creativity.

6 IMPACT ON PLANNING FUNCTIONS

6.1 The adopted and published NPF4 will form part of the Statutory Development Plan. As such, the determination of planning applications must be made in accordance with it, along with the Dundee Local Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The TAYplan Strategic Development Plan (2016-2036) will subsequently cease to be part of the Statutory Development Plan.

6.2 A key provision coming into effect is that in the event of any incompatibility between a provision of NPF4 and a provision of a local Development Plan, whichever of them is the later in date will prevail. That will include where a Local Development Plan is silent on an issue that is now provided for in NPF4. Local Development Plan regulations due to be published in early 2023 will provide more clarity on this.

6.3 Following Parliamentary Approval, the Scottish Government will publish two Chief Planner letters which will provide more information on the next steps towards adoption and transitional/handling arrangements. These are expected in late January.

6.4 All planning applications, including those decided at Local Review Body, will be assessed on their compliance with the policies in NPF4 and Dundee Local Development Plan 2019.

7 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 NPF4 has been subject to a number of Integrated Impact Assessments during its preparation. This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate Senior Manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

8 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The Council Leadership Team were consulted in the preparation of this report.

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None.

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