



Preparation of the second **NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK (NPF2)**

PARTICIPATION STATEMENT and CONFORMITY REPORT **(June 2009)**

INTRODUCTION

1. The National Planning Framework (NPF) is an important part of the modernised planning system, guiding Scotland's long-term spatial development. The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 places the second National Planning Framework (NPF2) on a statutory footing and commits the Scottish Government to reviewing it regularly. The preparation of the NPF provides the opportunity for a national debate about Scotland's development and a means of efficiently delivering national policies and programmes to create a Scotland that is wealthier and fairer, healthier, safer and stronger, smarter and greener. The Framework is about what we want Scotland to be like in 20 to 25 years time and where things need to happen to make that possible.

2. [Scotland's second National Planning Framework \(NPF2\)](#) was published on 25 June 2009, providing a strategy for sustainable spatial development to 2030. The Scottish Government has been committed to ensuring that a full range of stakeholders and the public have been involved in its preparation. This Participation Statement summarises how and when this has been achieved. The [first Participation Statement](#) was published in February 2007 and it has been updated regularly to reflect progress. This is the latest and final version of the participation statement for NPF2. [The annex to this Participation Statement](#) reports on the extent to which Ministers consider they have conformed with the requirements of the Participation Statement in preparing the second National Planning Framework for Scotland.

PREPARATION PROCESS AND TIMETABLE

3. The preparation process involved the following 6 stages:
- [Stage 1](#): Initial engagement on scope and content of NPF2: February – October 2007 (Complete)
 - [Stage 2](#): The issue of [NPF2: Discussion Draft](#): 8 January – 15 April 2008 (Complete)
 - [Stage 3](#): Revision in the light of reaction to the discussion draft: April – November 2008 (Complete)
 - [Stage 4](#): Consideration of Proposed NPF2 in Parliament: Dec 2008 - March 2009 (Complete)
 - [Stage 5](#): Final considerations and publication of NPF2: Summer 2009 (Complete)
 - [Stage 6](#): Monitoring and evaluation: Beyond Spring 2009 (Current stage)



WHAT IS THE NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK?

4. NPF2 sets out the Scottish Government's strategic development priorities. It will play a key role in ensuring the effective co-ordination of policies with a spatial dimension, integrating and aligning strategic investment priorities and indicating where inter-regional choices need to be made. It will set out strategic aspirations as a key means of delivering projects and proposals of national significance. There are close links between the Framework and the Government's Infrastructure Investment Plan and the investment programmes of public agencies and infrastructure providers.

5. NPF2 focuses strongly on priorities for the improvement of infrastructure to support Scotland's long-term development. For transport infrastructure, NPF2 takes full account of current transport investment programmes. It takes forward the spatial aspects of the Government Economic Strategy and reflects the Government's commitments on sustainable economic development, climate change, regeneration and housing supply. It identifies strategic priorities for investment in energy, drainage and waste management infrastructure. It helps Scotland move towards more sustainable patterns of development and a low carbon economy. A [strategic environmental assessment](#) (SEA) has tested the effects of the NPF2 on the environment, ensuring that issues of environmental sustainability are explicitly addressed throughout. As required by the Planning Act, Scottish Ministers have exercised their functions in preparing NPF2 with the objective of contributing to sustainable development.

6. As a statutory document, planning authorities have to take account of NPF2 in the preparation of development plans and when making decisions on planning applications. The provision of a stronger context for development plans and planning decisions will help establish and deliver a clear strategy for Scotland's spatial development in the long term.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

7. The Planning Act makes provision for the NPF to be used to identify certain projects as "national developments". John Swinney MSP, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth made a Parliamentary Statement on 13 September 2007 regarding the considerations that Ministers will take into account in designating national developments. The full statement and the debate on the statement can be viewed [here](#). If you are reading a paper version of this document, the official report can be downloaded on the NPF webpage or on the Scottish Parliament webpage at www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-07/sor0913-02.htm#Col1786. The essential test in deciding whether a project is a national development has been whether it is of strategic importance to Scotland's long-term development. Projects identified as national developments are those which:

- make a significant contribution to Scotland's sustainable economic development;
- strengthen Scotland's links with the rest of the world;
- deliver strategic improvements in internal connectivity;



- make a significant contribution to the achievement of climate change, renewable energy or waste management targets;
- are essential elements of a programme of investment in national infrastructure; or
- raise strategic issues of more than regional importance (projects with impacts on more than one city region, for example).

8. Identification as a national development in NPF2 establishes the need for such developments and the new legislation requires planning authorities to take the NPF into account in preparing their development plans. Projects identified as national developments are likely to have been the subject of consultation and debate as part of the development of other strategies and programmes, projects such as the Forth crossing, for example.

PARTICIPATION COMMITMENT

9. The Scottish Government has been committed to encouraging interest and wide public involvement in the preparation of the NPF. In line with the Planning Advice Note on Community Engagement (PAN 81) and the National Standards on Community Engagement, the Government has set out to ensure that:

- arrangements for participation are inclusive, open and transparent;
- the selection of participants is representative of the public, private, voluntary, academic, community sectors and of the various equality groups;
- information is provided early to allow full consideration;
- communication is provided through a range of formats and locations, including easily understood jargon-free formats;
- all representations are fully considered; and
- feedback is provided promptly on the conclusions drawn.

10. The participation programme has included engagement with a wide range of stakeholders in the public sector (including key directorates and agencies, planning authorities (including national park authorities), regional bodies, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA)), the private sector (including business interests, developers and planning consultancies), the community and voluntary sector (including community councils, other community and voluntary groups and environmental organisations), as well as elected representatives, academic experts, professional bodies and learned societies. A particular effort has been made to reach beyond the constituency of organisations normally involved in planning consultations to a wider range of public interests such as young people, older people, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities.

11. The schedules below set out the nature of stakeholder engagement undertaken in preparing NPF2; and set out when, how and with whom engagement in the preparation of Scotland's second National Planning Framework is or has taken place. The schedules have been kept up to date on the NPF webpage so that stakeholders and the public know exactly how the preparation process for the NPF is being conducted and what opportunities they have had to participate and engage with it. We have kept the participation process under continuous review and provided additional opportunities for engagement where a need was identified.



12. NPF2 is the product of an extensive programme of engagement with a wide range of interests across the country, with full consideration of all representations received.

13. Newsletters on how the representations have been taken into consideration and any conclusions which have been drawn have been made available on the NPF webpage promptly. 11 editions of the [NPF newsletter](#) have been issued and distributed widely. A diagram of how the participation process has influenced the preparation of the second National Planning Framework can be viewed [here](#) (paper copies can be provided on request).

Stage 1) Initial engagement on scope and content of NPF2 (Now complete)

14. The objective of stage 1 was to raise awareness about the preparation of NPF2 and to seek views on its scope and content and on projects which might be identified as national developments. Six seminars were held throughout the country during February 2007 involving a wide range of stakeholders including planning authorities, business, community groups and environmental organisations. There was a discussion on the Framework at the meeting of the Convention of the Highlands and Islands in Stornoway on 5 March 2007. Meetings were also held with Government Directorates, key public agencies, business, environmental and voluntary organisations, professional bodies and educational establishments. A lot of valuable material was collected during this initial phase of engagement on scope and content and the NPF team would like to thank everyone who contributed. Stage 1 of the participation exercise is now complete. The schedule below provides information on where to find further information about NPF2 and about how and with whom engagement on scope and content took place.

Details	Target	Timing
a) NPF Webpage	Stakeholders and the public	Throughout the process
A dedicated NPF webpage at www.scotland.gsi.gov.uk/topics/planning/national-planning provides immediate access to NPF publications, including Scotland's second National Planning Framework and supporting documents; as well as the first NPF published in 2004 and the Monitoring Report; publications relating to the strategic environmental assessment; newsletters providing feedback on the preparation process and key papers submitted during the participation process. The NPF webpage is updated as new information is published, so add it to your favourites list to keep up-to-date with the latest information.		
b) Register to receive information about the NPF.	Stakeholders and the public	Throughout the process
To receive information by email about the NPF, you can register your details at http://register.scotland.gov.uk/?rt=22 . You will be asked to select which categories you would like to receive news about – please select the National Planning Framework category and any other topics that you are interested in.		
Members of the NPF team are available by phone and email to provide assistance with any queries you have on the preparation process. Phone the NPF helpline on 08457 741741 or send an email to: NPFTeam@scotland.gsi.gov.uk .		



d) Leaflet – “Small Country – Big Plans”	Stakeholders and the public	February – October 2007
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An awareness-raising leaflet was distributed widely to stakeholders including local authorities, public agencies, interest groups, representative organisations, communities of interest and individuals during the first half of 2007. It was designed so that a recipient could respond via a freepost tear-off section, while retaining the informative elements. The leaflet was made available in local authority planning offices and in libraries. It can be viewed on the NPF webpage or obtained in hard copy from the NPF team. The leaflet sets out the purpose of the NPF, why it is important to get involved and where to get further information. The leaflet sought views on the scope and content of NPF2 and on the main themes to be addressed. At the end of October 2007, 300 responses to the “Small Country – Big Plans” leaflet had been received. Responses were used to inform the content of the NPF2: Discussion Draft. [The second edition of the NPF Newsletter](#) (also available on the NPF webpage or by contacting the NPF team) provided feedback on the responses to the consultation leaflet.

e) Seminars on regional and thematic issues	Local authorities, public agencies, interest groups, communities of interest and individuals.	February 2007
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Six regional seminars took place in February 2007 (listed below).

Date	13/02/07	14/02/07	19/02/07	20/02/07	22/02/07	23/02/07	Total Delegates
Location	Aberdeen	Dundee	Stirling	Inverness	Newtown St Boswells	Ayr	
Local Authorities	15	10	27	15	12	27	106
Government Departments + Agencies	5	5	8	5	3	5	31
Other Public Bodies	0	1	1	0	3	6	11
Development Industry and Related Organisations	1	8	12	1	4	5	31
Other Businesses and Business Organisations	3	7	12	3	2	4	31
Professional Organisations	1	2	1	0	0	2	6
Consultants and Lawyers	10	9	8	1	7	12	47
Academic Institutions	8	2	2	1	1	1	15
Community Councils	10	12	15	0	8	15	60
National and Local Voluntary Organisations - General	1	0	3	2	2	5	13
National and Local Voluntary Organisations - Environmental	1	5	4	0	5	1	16
Private Individuals	3	3	4	0	1	1	12



Politicians and Political Parties	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Delegates	58	64	97	28	48	84	379

The purpose of the seminars was to raise awareness, assist in determining the scope and content of the draft NPF2 and obtain views on candidate national developments. 379 people signed up for the seminars including: representatives of planning authorities, members of community councils and amenity groups, students and academics, developers, enterprise and industry groups, environment and heritage groups, consultants and lawyers, national and regional agencies and professional bodies.

The seminars were independently chaired by Professor Greg Lloyd of the University of Ulster. Following an introductory presentation and discussion on the role and scope of the NPF, stakeholders were invited to participate in workshops on key policy themes (economy, sustainability, connectivity and communities) and to offer views on projects which should be identified as national developments.

[The first edition of the NPF Newsletter](#) (also available on the NPF webpage or by contacting the NPF team) contained feedback from the seminars. The newsletter was issued to everyone who participated in the seminars. [General Evaluation of the first round of regional seminars](#) can be viewed at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/04/10140941/0>. Comments from each seminar can be viewed on the NPF webpage.

f) Convention of the Highlands & Islands	First Minister, MSPs, Councillors, central and local government and key agency officials	5 March 2007
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A paper on NPF2 was presented to Convention members for discussion.

g) Meetings with the public sector.	Government directorates, agencies, regional bodies, local planning authorities, national park authorities and Councillors.	January to September 2007
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Key Agencies:

- Meeting with Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Inverness: 26 January 2007
- Meeting with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Battleby: 4 April 2007
- Meeting with Scottish Enterprise Competitive Place and Transport Scotland Strategic Transport Project Review teams on Place Potential, Glasgow: 25 April 2007
- Meeting with Forestry Commission for Scotland: 30 April 2007
- Meeting with Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA): 14 May 2007
- Meeting with Scottish Water: 15 May 2007
- Meeting with the Defence Estate: 15 May 2007
- Meeting with Communities Scotland: 17 May 2007
- Meeting with Historic Scotland: 23 May 2007
- Meeting with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH): 24 July 2007
- Meeting with Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA): 18 September 2007
- Meeting with SEA Consultation Authorities: 31 October 2007
- Meeting with Scottish Prison Service: 2 November 2007
- SEPA Training Event: 28 November 2007

Regional & Other Bodies:

- Meeting with Wales Spatial Plan team, Edinburgh: 30 January 2007



- Meeting with Central Scotland Forest Trust, Shotts: 31 January 2007
- Contribution to Community of Practice event, Scottish Enterprise, Glasgow: 16 February 2007
- Meeting on cross-border project for Northern Ireland and Western Scotland: 29 March 2007
- Meeting with Government Office for the North West of England: 11 April 2007
- Meeting with Regional Transport Partnerships: 14 June 2007
- Meeting of European Spatial Planning Observation Network (ESPON) UK Steering Group: 20 June 2007
- Meeting with North East of England officials on the East Coast Corridor: 17 October 2007

Planning Authorities and National Parks

- Meeting with East Ayrshire Council: 17 April 2007
- Meeting with Falkirk Council, Falkirk Stadium: 18 April 2007
- Video Conference with Comhairle nan Siar – Western Isles Council: 11 May 2007
- Meeting with Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and Cairngorm National Park Authorities: 8 June 2007
- Meeting with indicative Strategic Development Plan authorities: 13 June 2007
- Meeting with local authority Heads of Planning, Kinross: 18 & 19 June 2007.

Councillors

- Seminar for Councillors: City of Edinburgh Chambers: 29 June 2007

Minister's summer tour

- The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, John Swinney MSP, used his summer tours to seek further views on the scope and content of NPF2.

h) Meetings with representative sectoral organisations.	Business, enterprise and industry groups, environmental and organisations.	January – September 2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting with Built Environment Forum for Scotland (BEFS): 26 April 2007 ▪ Meeting with Confederation of British Industry (CBI) Scotland: 9 May 2007 ▪ Meeting with Scottish Environment Link: 18 May 2007 ▪ Glasgow City Collaboration Workshop: 22 May 2007 ▪ Meeting with Network Rail: 24 May 2007 ▪ Meeting on East Coast Corridor Model: 24 May 2007 ▪ Strutt & Parker Planning Seminar: 6 June 2007 ▪ Video Conference with Locate in Scotland – Global Scots: 11 June 2007 ▪ Meeting with Scottish Financial Enterprise: 12 June 2007 ▪ Meeting with Scottish Power: 27 June 2007 ▪ Meeting with British Property Federation / Scottish Property Forum: 28 June 2007 ▪ Meeting with Scottish Renewables Forum: 4 July 2007 ▪ Meeting with the Scottish Youth Parliament: 5 July 2007 ▪ Meeting on energy transmission issues: 24 July 2007 ▪ Meeting with Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure Scotland: 1 August 2007 ▪ Meeting with Forth Ports plc: 31 August 2007 ▪ Meeting with the Scottish electricity network owners: 8 October 2007 ▪ Meeting with Homes for Scotland: 9 October 2007 ▪ Meeting with the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network: 29 October 2007 ▪ Meeting with Scottish Wildlife Trust: 5 November 2007 ▪ Scottish Construction Forum Conference: 9 November 2007 		



i) Meetings with professional bodies and educational establishments	University Students, Royal Town Planning Institute	January – September 2007
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- Student seminar at the Institute of Geography, University of Edinburgh: 12 March 2007
- Meeting with Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) NPF Task Group: 16 April 2007
- Student seminar at School of the Built Environment, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh: 27 April 2007
- Student seminar at the Department of Urban Studies, University of Glasgow: 16 May 2007
- Meeting with Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) NPF Task Group: 15 August 2007
- Student seminar at School of the Built Environment, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh: 12 October 2007

j) Events	A range of interest groups and representative organisations	February - September 2007
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Display material has been erected at conferences and events to raise awareness and maintain interest throughout the preparation process. Officials have been available to discuss issues, answer questions and receive feedback. To date, exhibition boards have been displayed at the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning Event (8 March 2007), “Making the Planning Act a Reality” Holyrood Events Conference (9 March 2007) and the Scottish Young Planners’ Conference (29 March 2007). A dedicated conference on the NPF “Small Country, Big Plans” was held on 4 September 2007 in Edinburgh. Display material can be made available on request for appropriate events. Please contact the NPF team for further details.

k) Advisory Group	Key experts	Throughout the process
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An Advisory Group comprising individuals with expertise in key areas of strategic policy has been established to provide expert advice on the content of the NPF and to comment on the SEA as it progresses. The members of the Advisory Group are:

- Margaret Bochel: City Development, Aberdeen City Council
- Sandy Brady: Highlands & Islands Enterprise
- Adrian Colwell: Senior Research Fellow, EPRC, Strathclyde University
- Iain Docherty: School of Business Management, University of Glasgow
- Brian Farrell: City strategy expert
- Stuart Housden: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- Steve Inch: Development & Regeneration Services, Glasgow City Council
- Paul Lewis: Scottish Enterprise
- Greg Lloyd: University of Ulster
- Veronica Burbridge: Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)
- Veronica Noone: Scottish Enterprise

The Group met twice during stage 1 (28 March and 11 June 2007).

l) Meetings with the Scottish Parliament.	Members of the Scottish Parliament.	Throughout the process
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The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth answered questions on the National Planning Framework at the meeting of the Local Government and Communities Committee on 27 June 2007. The Cabinet Secretary made a Parliamentary Statement on the criteria which Ministers will use to designate national developments on 13 September. Official reports of Parliamentary proceedings can be viewed on the Scottish Parliament webpage on www.scottish.parliament.co.uk.



m) Communications Strategy

All stakeholders and the public

Throughout the process

The participation process has been supported by a communications strategy, involving the use of electronic newsletters and the briefing of the national and local media and relevant technical and specialist publications at key stages. The first edition of the NPF newsletter provided feedback from the regional seminars and was issued in March 2007. The second edition of the NPF newsletter was issued in July 2007 and contained feedback from the meetings with stakeholders which took place between February and September 2007 and from responses to the leaflet campaign “*Small Country, Big Plans*”. The third edition of the newsletter was issued in October 2007 and provided information on the statement made to Parliament on the criteria for the designation of national developments. Newsletter number 4 was issued in December 2007 and gave advance notice of the publication timescale for the NPF2: Discussion Draft. If you are reading a paper version of this document, the newsletters can be obtained from the NPF webpage or by contacting the NPF Team. Articles have been posted in various bulletins and magazines including editions of *Planning Magazine*, *Scottish Planner*, *SEPA view*, *Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure Scotland Update*, *Community Voices Network* and *Scottish Youth Parliament* press. A presentation on the National Planning Framework was given at the *Future of the Periphery* conference at the Japanese Centre in Berlin on 18th September 2007. If you have a community newsletter or business bulletin and would welcome an article on the NPF please contact the NPF team.

n) Networking out information

Throughout the process

The NPF team encourages all stakeholders to share information you have received, or know, about the NPF widely within your organisations and networks.

o) Additional Sources of Information and Advice

Throughout the process

In addition to the NPF helpline, webpage and email box, Planning Aid for Scotland provides free and independent advice about specific planning issues for individuals and groups across Scotland. Phone 0845 603 7602 or visit <http://www.planning-aid-scotland.org.uk/>.

Stage 1 is now complete. The NPF Team is grateful to everyone for their input on the scope and content of NPF2.

Stage 2) Issue of NPF2: Discussion Draft for consultation – (Consultation ended on 15 April 08).

15. The aim of the second stage of the participation programme was to seek feedback on the content of the [National Planning Framework 2: Discussion Draft](#). The [discussion draft](#) and accompanying documents were issued on 8th January 2008 for a 14 week consultation. The consultation period closed on 15th April 2008. The table below provides further information about consultation on the draft NPF2.

16.

Details	Target	Timing
a) Issue of NPF2: Discussion Draft and associated documents.	Stakeholders and the public	January 2008
<p>The National Planning Framework 2: Discussion Draft was issued for 14 weeks consultation on 08 January 2008 and was accompanied by a National Planning Framework 2 SEA Environmental Report and Non Technical Summary and National Planning Framework 2 SEA Annex to the Environmental Report: Assessment of Strategic Alternatives.</p> <p>The consultation closed on 15 April 08. The 283 responses received from 242 individuals and organisations were independently analysed by an independent consultant and used to inform the preparation of the Proposed Framework. These documents are available on line at: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/National-Planning-Policy/themes/npf, and in paper copy by contacting the NPF Team.</p> <p>The NPF Team would like to thank everyone who made a response to the discussion draft.</p>		

b) National Discussion Tour	Stakeholders and the public	February – April 2008.					
Six national discussion conferences took place during February and March 2008 (listed below).							
Date	15/02/08	20/02/08	21/02/08	07/03/08	14/03/08	14/04/08	Total Delegates
Location	Glasgow	Aberdeen	Inverness	Edinburgh	Dumfries	Edinburgh	
Local Authorities	19	19	9	20	39	16	122
Government Departments + Agencies	26	1	6	18	20	14	85
Other Public Bodies	3	0	3	5	2	4	17
Development Industry and Related Organisations	8	7	1	8	12	9	45
Other Businesses and Business Organisations	16	0	4	10	4	16	50
Professional Organisations	0	0	0	0	0	1	1



Consultants and Lawyers	13	9	5	20	12	29	88
Academic Institutions	6	3	1	3	2	5	20
Community Councils	5	4	16	7	0	5	37
National and Local Voluntary Organisations – General	0	1	5	1	2	0	9
National and Local Voluntary Organisations – Environmental	4	1	6	10	7	6	34
Private Individuals	9	5	8	4	9	20	55
Politicians and Political Parties	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total Delegates	109	50	65	106	109	125	564

The objectives of the discussion conferences were as follows:

1. To seek to build consensus on the NPF2 strategy;
2. To seek views on the proposed national developments;
3. To identify ways in which the draft can be strengthened;
4. To seek views on the content of the Action Programme; and
5. To seek views on the content of the Strategic Environmental Report

564 people signed up for the discussion conferences including representatives of planning authorities, members of community councils and amenity groups, students and academics, developers, enterprise and industry groups, environment and heritage groups, consultants and lawyers, national and regional agencies and professional bodies.

The discussion conferences were independently chaired by Professor Greg Lloyd of the University of Ulster and Professor Alan Prior of Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh. Following an introductory presentation a plenary session provided the opportunity for open and free flowing discussion, with questions, answers and debate between delegates and officials. The consensus building sessions were followed by optional workshops on National Developments and Action Programming as well as Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

Additional Discussion Event: Due to popular demand, an additional event was held at the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh on 14 April 08. 125 people registered to attend that event.

The national discussion conferences provided very useful feedback and the NPF Team would like to thank everyone who took the opportunity to attend. The [NPF Newsletter \(May edition\)](#) (also available on the NPF webpage or by contacting the NPF team) contains a summary of the key issues from the discussion conferences and a link to the minutes of each event. The newsletter has been widely circulated to stakeholders.

c) Register to receive information about the NPF. Stakeholders and the public Ongoing To receive information about the NPF, you can register your details at

<http://register.scotland.gov.uk/?rt=22>. You will be asked to select which categories you would like to receive news about – please select the National Planning Framework category and any other topics that you are interested in.

d) Non-technical summaries	Stakeholders and the public	Late 2007
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17. A [Non Technical Summary](#) of the SEA Environmental Report that reflected the Environmental Report relating to the Discussion Draft can be viewed here or on the NPF webpage (Now superseded by a Consolidated Non-Technical Summary of the whole NPF2 SEA, available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/256946/0076296.pdf>). A post adoption SEA Statement will be published alongside the final version of NPF2 in Spring 2009 and advertised widely.

e) NPF Webpage	Stakeholders and the public	Throughout the process
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The dedicated NPF Webpage (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/National-Planning-Policy/themes/npf>) on the Government's Planning homepage provides access to all NPF2 related information and provides access to the discussion draft NPF2, Environmental Report and Annexes and Non Technical summary.

f) Bi-lateral meetings with key stakeholders	Government Directorates, key agencies and representative organisations	January - May 2008 during the consultation period
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In addition to meetings with Scottish Government Directorates, the following meetings have been held with key agencies and representative organisations throughout the consultation period to discuss the discussion draft NPF2 and the accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment report:

Meetings with the public sector:

Key Agencies

- Freight hub meeting with Scottish Enterprise, Edinburgh: 5 February 2008
- Meeting with Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Consultation Authorities: 11 February 2008
- Meeting with Scottish Enterprise and City Collaboration Team: 29 February 2008
- Meeting with SNH on National Habitat Network: 17 March 2008
- Meeting with SEPA: 19 March 2008
- Liaison meeting with Transport Scotland Strategic Transport Project Team, Edinburgh: 26 March 2008
- Meeting with Defence Estate: 26 March 2008
- Meeting on Central Scotland Green Network, Forestry Commission, Edinburgh 27 March 2008
- Meeting with Transport Scotland Strategic Transport Project Review team, Glasgow: 31 March 2008
- Meeting with SEPA: 21 April 2008
- Meeting with SESTRANS Freight Quality Partnerships, 29 April 2008.
- Meeting with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT), 12 May 2008.

Regional & Other Bodies:

- East Coast Corridor cross-border liaison meeting, Edinburgh: 11 January 2008
- Meeting of European Spatial Planning Observation Network (ESPON) UK Steering Group: 3 March 2008



- Meeting on EU Territorial Cohesion: 16 May 2008

Planning Authorities and National Parks

- Meeting with Strategic Development Planning Authorities: 19 February 2008

Councillors

- Seminar for Councillors, CoSLA offices Edinburgh, 20 March 2008

Meetings with representative sectoral organisations:

- Meeting with Forth Ports plc: 13 February 2008
- Meeting with Clydeport plc: 14 February 2008
- Meeting with Babcock re Rosyth International Container Terminal: 27 February 2008
- Scottish Renewables Conference: 19 March 2008
- Meeting with Clydeport plc: 16 October 2008.
- Series of Action Programme Meetings. Please refer to section g, below.

Meetings with professional bodies and educational establishments:

- Student seminar at the Department of Urban Studies, University of Glasgow: 17 January 2008
- Seminar with students and staff from University College Dublin: 11 March 2008
- Meeting with Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) NPF Task Group: 1 April 2008

g) Making it Happen Discussion Sessions with key stakeholders | Local Authorities and other key stakeholders. | February– June 2008

The NPF Team sought views on the deliverability of the NPF strategy and the national developments identified within it from local authorities and other key stakeholders in order to identify the tasks and timescales required to ensure effective deliverability of the Framework. That process will result in a series of commitments from stakeholders which will be included in the Action Programme to be published with the final published version of NPF2. Relevant actions will then be taken forward as part of stakeholders' own service delivery plans.

Action Programming meetings and associated work strands:

- Meeting to develop an agenda for co-ordinated action in the Inverness to Nairn Corridor: 21 February 2008.
- Meeting to develop an agenda for co-ordinated action in West Edinburgh, Edinburgh 17 March 2008.
- Meeting to discuss infrastructure to support the implementation of the National Waste Plan, 19 March 08 & 21 April 2008
- Meeting to develop an agenda for co-ordinated action in the Clyde Corridor including the Clyde Gateway, the 2014 Commonwealth Games facilities; implementation of the Glasgow Strategic Drainage Plan; and the Clyde Waterfront, Edinburgh 25 March 2008.
- Meeting on energy issues for the Action Programme: 28 March 2008
- Meeting on Action Programming for Ayrshire, Prestwick, 24 April 2008.
- Meeting on the concept of developing a Central Scotland Green Network, Edinburgh, 27 March 2008
- Meeting to develop a strategy for the Upper Forth on development of the Grangemouth Freight Hub, Rosyth International Container Terminal, Forth Crossing and Waterfront regeneration, Edinburgh 25 April 2008.
- Meeting to develop the concept of a National Habitat/Ecological Network, Edinburgh, 19 May 2008.
- Meeting on Action Programming for Aberdeen City and Shire, Aberdeen, 20 May 2008.
- Meeting on Action Programming for Edinburgh Waterfront and Lower Forth, 17 June 2008.
- Work to secure the delivery of Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative – Ongoing.



h) Targeted engagement with communities of interest	Communities with a particular interest in an aspect of the NPF	Early 2008
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Communities of interest were encouraged to attend the discussion events noted before in (b) and there were optional workshops at five of the six discussion conferences on the proposed national developments. Regional concerns were evident at a number of the conferences, particularly at Inverness, where discussion focused strongly on electricity transmission issues. Concerns about aspects of the strategy relating to the North-East, Ayrshire and ports were explored further at meetings on action programming.

i) Involving Young People	Event in conjunction with Scottish Youth Parliament and the Lighthouse.	April 2008
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An educational event for young people was held at the Lighthouse in Glasgow on 7th and 8th April in conjunction with the Scottish Youth Parliament.

j) Events	A range of interest groups and representative organisations	Early 2008
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Display material was erected at appropriate conferences and special events. To date, exhibition boards have been displayed at the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning Event (13 March 2008) and the Scottish Young Planners' Conference (03 April 08). Display material can be made available on request for appropriate events. Please contact the NPF team for further details.

k) Advisory Group	Key experts	Throughout the process
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The Advisory Group has provided expert advice on the content of the draft NPF and the Environmental Report. The third meeting of the Advisory Group was held on 12 March 2008.

l) Meetings with Scottish Parliament's Committees.	Members of the Scottish Parliament.	January 2008 – September 2008
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The Local Government and Communities Committee was briefed on NPF2 on 30 April.

m) Communications Strategy	All stakeholders and the public at large	Throughout the process
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The participation process has been supported by a communication strategy involving the use of electronic newsletters and the briefing of national and local media and relevant technical and specialist publications at key stages.

n) Helpline and email inquiry point		Throughout the process
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For any queries relating to National Planning Framework, phone the NPF helpline on 08457 741741 or send an email to: NPFTeam@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Stage 2 is now complete. Thank you to everyone for their input on the draft NPF2.



Stage 3) Revision in the light of reaction to the discussion draft (April to November 2008, now Complete)

18. Written consultation responses were analysed by an independent consultant and were taken into account in drafting the proposed NPF2. The consultant's Analysis Report was published to coincide with the laying of the proposed NPF2 before Parliament in December 2008. The Analysis Report can be viewed at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/12/04155027/15>. A paper copy can be provided on request, please contact the NPF Team.

19. In September 2008 a second Annex to the SEA Environmental Report was published for consultation. It described the environmental effects of a large number of candidate National Developments. The consultation responses to Annex 2 of the Environmental Report were subsequently analysed and taken into account in the preparation of the Proposed NPF. A report setting out the analysis of the responses was published in December 2008 and can be viewed at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/01/08150027/0>. At this stage Annex 3 to the Environmental Report was published. This provided a Consolidated Non Technical Summary of the SEA as a whole, setting out the key findings and consultation responses from each stage in the process. Annex 3 can be viewed at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/01/12110011/0>.

Stage 4) Consideration of a Proposed NPF in the Scottish Parliament (12 December 2008 to 6 March 2009, now Complete)

20. The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 requires the Scottish Ministers to lay the Proposed NPF2 before the Scottish Parliament for a period of 60 days for consideration. The Scottish Government laid the Proposed NPF2 before Parliament on 12 December 2008.

Details	Target	Timing
a) Parliamentary Consideration	Members of the Scottish Parliament	12 December 2008 – 6 March 2009

The report of the Local Government and Communities Committee (including reports of the Energy, Economy and Tourism as well as Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committees) and the official report of the debate about the Proposed NPF2 in the full chamber of the Scottish Parliament form the Parliament's response to the Government on the proposed NPF2.

The report from the Local Government and Communities Committee was published on the 25th February 2009 and is available at: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/lgc/reports-09/lgr09-05-00-vol1.htm>.

The official report of the debate in Parliament on 5th March 2009 is available at: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor0305-02.htm#Col15526>.

Further Information on the Parliament's process of considering the Proposed NPF2:



The Local Government and Communities Committee was designated as the lead committee in the Parliament's consideration of the Proposed NPF2. The Economy, Energy and Tourism as well as the Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee also considered the Proposed NPF2. The local Government and Communities Committee invited written representations (of which there were 60 responses) and heard evidence from expert witnesses as well as Government Officials and the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change. The local Government and Communities Committee published a report about the consideration of the Proposed NPF2 on 25th February 2009.

Link to the Parliament's home page for consideration of the Proposed NPF2: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/lgc/inquiries/NPF2/index.htm>.

Official reports of the Committee evidence sessions:

Local Government and Communities Committee:

17 December 2008 <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/lgc/or-08/lq08-3302.htm#Col1513>

14 January 2009 <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/lgc/or-09/lq09-0102.htm#Col1532>

21 January 2009 <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/lgc/or-09/lq09-0202.htm#Col1567>

Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee:

14 January 2009 <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/eet/or-09/ee09-0102.htm#Col1387>

Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee:

6 January 2009 <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/ticc/or-09/tr09-0102.htm#Col1219>

13 January 2009 <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/ticc/or-09/tr09-0202.htm#Col1254>

Stage 5) Final considerations and publication of NPF2: Summer 2009 (NPF2 was published on 25 June 2009)

Details	Target	Timing
a) Final Modifications	Scottish Ministers, Advisory Group	March – April 2009
Scottish Ministers are required to have regard to the views of the Parliament in deciding the final content of NPF2.		
An Advisory Group meeting was held on the 13 th March 2009 to discuss any changes required in light of the Parliament's consideration of the Proposed NPF2.		
b) Publication of NPF2	All stakeholders and the public at large	Spring 2009
Scottish Ministers published the finalised NPF2 on 25 June 2009.		
c) Published NPF2 to be laid before the Scottish Parliament	Members of the Scottish Parliament	Spring 2009
The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 requires that the <u>published</u> NPF2 be laid before the Scottish Parliament. In laying the published NPF before Parliament, Ministers will report on (a) the extent to which their programme of engagement and involvement of the public at large has conformed with or		



gone beyond the terms of the Participation Statement and (b) how the views of Parliament have been taken into account.

Scottish Ministers laid the final version of Scotland's second National Planning Framework (NPF2); the Participation Conformity Report and response to the views of the Scottish Parliament on the Proposed NPF2 before Parliament on 25 June 2009..

Stage 6) Monitoring and Evaluation (Spring 2009 and beyond) (Current stage)

21. Monitoring and evaluating success are important elements of the NPF process. The monitoring report from the first NPF (2006) has been crucial in helping inform the latest Framework and the Scottish Government is committed to an ongoing cycle of monitoring and evaluation for NPF2.

22. As identified above a proposed Action Programme has been published alongside NPF2. Information gained from the monitoring of the Action Programme will inform the next NPF Monitoring Report (likely to be published 2011) and future review of NPF2 in accordance with the Planning Act.

STATUTORY ASSESSMENT OF NPF2

Strategic Environmental Assessment

23. The NPF is subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to ensure that issues of environmental sustainability are explicitly addressed. Stakeholders and the public have been consulted at key stages in the SEA process and a statement on how the SEA was conducted will be published along with the final version of NPF2, as required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

24. The [National Planning Framework 2 SEA Environmental Report](#) with an Annex detailing the Assessment of Strategic Alternatives and a [Non Technical Summary](#) accompanied the NPF2 Discussion Draft. Both documents were available for a 14 week consultation period, from 8 January 2008 until 15 April 2008. During this time, we sought views and comments on the Environmental Report and encouraged consultees to refer to its findings in responding to the wider consultation on the draft NPF2 itself. All consultation responses referring to the SEA were analysed by an independent consultant and used to inform the drafting of the Proposed Framework. The SEA workshops at each of the NPF2 conferences were attended by a wide range of interests and provided valuable feedback on the findings of the assessment.

25. The Discussion Draft NPF2 proposed nine National Developments. Following this, a large number of ideas and proposals for other National Developments were put forward by stakeholders, including members of the public. Environmental effects of these Candidate National Developments were considered as part of the SEA, prior to the Proposed NPF2 being laid before Parliament. The Report setting out the findings from this part of the process can be viewed on the NPF webpage and on the consultation pages of the Scottish Government website at:



<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/09/17124524/0>. The consultation on this report closed 31 October 2008 and the analysis of these responses can be viewed at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/256793/0076213.pdf>.

26. A Consolidated Non-Technical Summary of the whole NPF2 SEA is available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/256946/0076296.pdf>.

27. A [National Planning Framework Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\) Easy-read Guide](#) is also available.

Appropriate Assessment

28. The National Planning Framework (NPF2) has been subjected to a strategic level Appropriate Assessment (AA) to ensure that it does not result in adverse effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites: Special Areas for Conservation, and Special Protection Areas. Ramsar Sites have also been taken into account within the assessment, in the interests of good practice. The findings from this assessment have been published alongside the final NPF2 and can be viewed <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/283240/0085767.pdf>

Equality Duties

28. There is a requirement to assess how our policies may impact on different sectors of the population. NPF2 is the spatial expression of established policies which are subject to Equality Impact Assessment as part of their development. The planning procedures which will apply to projects designated as national developments were subject to Equality Impact Assessment as part of the recent review of Planning Regulations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Visit the NPF webpage: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/National-Planning-Policy/themes/npf>
- E-mail the NPF team: NPFTeam@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
- Phone the Planning Helpline on 08457 741741
- Write to: National Planning Framework Team, Scottish Government, Directorate for the Built Environment, Area 2-H, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

29. Requests for material in large print, or in other formats or languages should be directed to the NPF Team.

NPF Team
June 2009



Annex

NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 2: PARTICIPATION STATEMENT CONFORMITY REPORT

(June 2009)

30. This report is required by the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 (Part 1A, 3A (10)) and sets out the extent to which the Scottish Government's actions with regard to consultation and the involvement of the public at large in the preparation of Scotland's second National Planning Framework have conformed with (or have gone beyond the requirements of) the NPF participation statement. An interim 'Conformity Report' was published in December 2009 to inform the Parliament's consideration of the proposed NPF2. That report identified general conformity and some areas where the Government had gone beyond the objectives set out in the Participation Statement. This is the Scottish Government's final 'Conformity Report' following Parliament's consideration of the Proposed NPF2. As required by the Planning Act, this report was laid before Parliament on 25 June 2009.

31. The Scottish Government has sought to encourage interest and wide public involvement in the preparation of NPF2. It has set out to ensure that:

- **Objective 1**: Arrangements for participation were inclusive, open and transparent,
- **Objective 2**: The selection of participants was representative of the public, private, voluntary, academic, community sectors and of the various equality groups;
- **Objective 3**: Information was provided early to allow full consideration;
- **Objective 4**: Communication was provided in a range of formats and locations, including easily understood jargon-free formats;
- **Objective 5**: All representations would be fully considered; and
- **Objective 6**: Feedback would be provided promptly on the conclusions drawn.

32. These commitments have been carried through all iterations of the Participation Statement and are the measures against which conformity can be assessed. The Scottish Government's actions in seeking to fulfil these commitments are set out below.



Objective 1: Arrangements for participation are inclusive, open and transparent

33. The Scottish Government has ensured openness and transparency in the preparation of NPF2 by undertaking the following actions:
- a. An up-to-date Participation Statement has been maintained, setting out when, how and with whom engagement on the preparation of NPF2 is taking place and letting stakeholders and the public know exactly how the preparation process is being conducted and what opportunities they have to participate and engage with it.
 - b. Participation in the preparation of NPF2 has been open to individual members of the public, people representing private, public and voluntary organisations, local authority officials and elected members.
 - c. Eleven editions of the NPF newsletter have been produced, each issued to the 7,366 registered users of the Planning e-news system during the preparation process, providing updates on the stage in the process reached, feedback on information provided, notice of future events and points of contact.
34. Inclusivity has been achieved by the following actions:
- a. The Scottish Government has sought to ensure that the venues used for participation events have been fully accessible.
 - b. No fee was charged for entry to the regional seminars or national conferences.
 - c. Information regarding NPF2 has been readily available in paper and electronic formats, as well as alternative formats on request.
 - d. There has been a wealth of on-line information available throughout the process.
 - e. The NPF Team has been accessible by telephone, e-mail and written correspondence throughout the process.

Objective 2: The selection of participants is representative of the public, private, voluntary, academic, community sectors and of the various equality groups

35. The Scottish Government has ensured that individual members of the public and a representative cross section of interest groups have had the opportunity to participate by undertaking the following actions:
- a. A contact database comprising groups and people with an interest in planning issues was developed early in the process. This was maintained and regularly updated by the NPF Team as further groups and individuals expressed interest in being involved in the preparation of NPF.
 - b. 50,896 copies of an awareness-raising leaflet, *Small Country-Big Plans*, were issued to all public libraries in Scotland, community councils, individuals and organisations on the contact database. The leaflet was also published on the NPF website, and circulated electronically to 7,366 addresses. This ensured that a wide range of people were informed about the preparation of Scotland's second NPF.



- c. 12 engagement events were held across the country, 6 on scope and content in 2007 and 6 following the publication of the Discussion Draft in 2008. Just under 1,000 people registered to attend (the Participation Statement provides a breakdown of registered participants).
- d. The second round of conferences proved so popular that an additional conference (5 were planned originally) was held in Edinburgh to accommodate the demand.
- e. At least 104 meetings were held with key stakeholders across Government directorates, key agencies and representative bodies.
- f. An expert Advisory Group comprising individuals with expertise in key areas of strategic policy was established and met regularly during the preparation process.
- g. News releases have been issued to the media, articles provided to publications and issues have been widely covered in the Scottish media and the technical press.
- h. Information was also made available at a variety of conferences and events where the Scottish Government had a sponsoring role.

36. Over the 2 rounds of participation events, 16.7% of registered participants (almost a fifth) were either individual members of the public or representatives of community councils. Almost the same proportion, 16.8%, were representatives of the development industry or business organisations.

37. The first round of seminars was notable for a strong turn out by representatives of community councils and local action groups, though this was less pronounced in the second round.

38. The Government has noted that the response from equality groups has been relatively low and this is a matter to which further consideration will have to be given in exercises of this kind.

39. Of those submitting written responses to the Discussion Draft, (283 responses from 242 individuals and organisations), 205 were individuals or organisations who registered to attend the regional seminars. 37 written responses were received from individuals or organisations who did not attend public engagement events in 2007 or 2008. The independent consultant analysing the written responses to the NPF2 Discussion Draft commented *"The NPF2 Consultation Document attracted a healthy level of written responses, given the scale of the documentation and other consultation exercises which had taken place. These responses were also well distributed across the various stakeholder interest groups, so that it is fair to conclude that a good cross section of concerned opinion was obtained"*.

Objective 3: Information is provided early to allow full consideration

40. The Scottish Government has provided information at appropriate times to ensure that it could be considered fully. It has undertaken the following actions:

- a. The First National Planning Framework (2004) and Monitoring Report (2006) have been made available on the Scottish Government's Planning web site and in paper copy.



- b. An awareness-raising leaflet was issued in the first half of 2007 which set out key issues under the themes of Sustainability, Economy, Environment and Communities. It was designed so that recipients could respond via a tear-off Freepost section, while retaining the informative elements. Further copies were distributed at events and meetings.
- c. In advance of the regional seminars, information packs were issued to participants, allowing them (and the organisations they represented) to consider the issues prior to the event. On the day, delegates were provided with information in paper copy to allow them to circulate it to their networks and give further consideration to the issues raised.
- d. Newsletters have provided early notice of significant stages in the preparation process, such as the publication of the discussion draft, and reported back on significant events. This has provided people with the information necessary to make further comment or report to their networks.


41. The NPF website has been operational since late 2006. Since 1 April 2008 it has had 2,697 hits.

42. The meetings with agencies, local authorities and representative organisations held in 2007 and 2008 have also helped to raise awareness and disseminate information at appropriate stages.

Objective 4: Communication is provided in a range of formats and locations, including easily understood jargon-free formats

43. The Scottish Government has ensured that information has been provided in a variety of formats and locations. It has pursued this objective by undertaking the following actions:

- a. Communication with civic Scotland has been through published documents, in meetings and public events, by e-mail, by electronic publication, by telephone and by correspondence.
- b. The awareness-raising leaflet was distributed to a wide range of stakeholders in paper copy and was available to download on the NPF website.
- c. A flow chart detailing the participation process and its influence on the preparation process was published and was available to download on the NPF website.
- d. Twelve regional seminars were held at locations across Scotland during 2007 and 2008, at which people were able to explore issues in workshop and plenary sessions.
- e. A series of meetings was undertaken and members of the NPF Team have made themselves available at a number of conferences to discuss issues with delegates.
- f. Information has been provided in alternative formats on request and we have advertised this in the Participation Statement.
- g. The NPF2: Discussion Draft was issued in paper copy and electronic format.
- h. An 'Easy Read Guide' and Non-Technical Summary of the Strategic Environmental Assessment was produced to promote understanding of the SEA process and its role in the preparation of NPF2.

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- i. The National Planning Framework website has been a key source of information and has been regularly refreshed to provide up-to-date information and documents as necessary.

Objective 5: All representations are fully considered

44. The Scottish Government has fully considered all relevant issues raised by undertaking the following actions:
- a. 300 responses to the awareness-raising leaflet were analysed by Scottish Government officials to inform the preparation of the Discussion Draft.
 - b. Scottish Government officials recorded and analysed the issues raised during the regional seminars in 2007.
 - c. Scottish Government officials recorded and analysed the issues raised during the national conferences in 2008.
 - d. Written representations on the Discussion Draft were analysed by independent consultants. The report of that analysis has informed the Proposed NPF2. Scottish Government officials undertook follow-up meetings with respondents where necessary.
 - e. Verbal and written responses were given equal weight in preparing the Proposed NPF2.
 - f. Final modifications to the Framework were made in light of the views of the Parliament on the Proposed NPF2 before publishing the final document.

Objective 6: Feedback is provided promptly on the conclusions drawn

45. The Scottish Government has sought to ensure that feedback was given at appropriate times by undertaking the following actions:
- a. Feedback on comments made at the regional seminars in 2007 was published in edition 1 of the NPF2 Newsletter (Spring 2007).
 - b. Feedback on representations made in response to the awareness-raising leaflet was published in edition 2 of the NPF2 Newsletter (Summer 2007).
 - c. Feedback on comments made at the national conferences in 2008 was provided in edition 7 of the NPF2 Newsletter (May 2008)
 - d. The independent analysis of written representations on the Discussion Draft was published to inform consideration of the Proposed NPF2 by the Scottish Parliament.
 - e. All non-confidential individual consultation responses to all the consultations were made available promptly on the NPF webpage
 - f. The Analysis of Consultation Responses on the National Planning Framework for Scotland 2 Strategic Environmental Assessment: Environmental Report Annex 2 on Candidate National Developments was published on the NPF webpage in January 2009.
 - g. The Assessment Matrix is the Government's record of the assessment of suggested national developments against the criteria announced by the Cabinet Secretary was published on the NPF webpage in January 2009.
 - h. The [Report on the Proposed National Planning Framework 2 by the Local Government and Communities Committee of the Scottish Parliament](#) was



published on February 25, 2009 and was made available on the NPF webpages.

- i. The official report of the debate about the Proposed NPF2 in the full chamber of the Scottish Parliament on 5 March 09 was made available on the NPF webpages.
- j. Regular newsletters were used to advise stakeholders of the latest progress in the preparation of Scotland's second National Planning Framework.

Conclusions: has the Scottish Government conformed to its Participation Statement aim and objectives?

46. The NPF2 Participation Statement is the first of its kind in Scotland and the Scottish Government recognises that there are challenges faced in achieving effective public consultation at a national level. Overall, the Scottish Government considers that engagement with the public and local communities has played a very important part in the development of the Framework and that the participation exercise in general conforms with and in some areas has gone beyond the objectives set out in the Participation Statement.

47. The Scottish Government has ensured that the arrangements made for participation were accessible for all interested parties. The Government has consulted very widely over the past 2 years, and the final Framework reflects that. There have been two rounds of engagement, one before the publication of the Discussion Draft and one afterwards. In addition to the consultation undertaken on the Framework itself, the strategic environmental assessment has also involved the public at a number of stages. Comments on the NPF strategy and the candidate national developments have been received from a wide variety of stakeholders including individual members of the public, local communities, business and development interests, environmental groups, non-governmental organisations, public bodies and professional organisations.

48. The consultants who analysed the responses to the Discussion Draft of the Framework concluded that the Government had achieved a good balance of responses from stakeholders. The largest proportion were from members of the public and community organisations. The independent charity, Planning Aid for Scotland has concluded that the methods used to raise awareness and seek comments have been wide ranging and have incorporated a variety of consultation methods. It has commended the efforts made to engage harder-to-reach and diverse sections of society in discussion of the overall vision.

49. A small proportion of the people who participated in the preparation of the Framework have expressed dissatisfaction with aspects of the approach to engagement and there are, of course, always lessons to be learned. The Government will continue to benchmark against best practice elsewhere and will give careful consideration to the recommendations that stakeholders and the Parliament's Committees have made on consultation and will look to ways to strengthen the Participation Statement and improve the engagement process for future editions of the NPF.



50. The NPF team are always looking to improve the process, so if you have examples of best practice in engaging people in national spatial strategies that you'd like to share, please do contact us.

June 2008

CONTACT DETAILS

- Visit the NPF webpage: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/National-Planning-Policy/themes/npf>
- E-mail the NPF team: NPFTeam@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
- Phone the Planning Helpline on 08457 741741
- Write to: National Planning Framework Team, Scottish Government, Directorate for the Built Environment, Area 2-H, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

NPF Team
June 2009