

Scotland Policy Conferences Keynote Seminar: Next steps for planning policy in Scotland

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 14th September 2017

Venue: Central Edinburgh



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 - 9.25 **Overview of Scotland's planning policy**
John McNairney, Chief Planner, The Scottish Government
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 - 10.10 **Perspectives on Scotland's planning framework: regional partnership working, strengthening the National Planning Framework and encouraging community engagement**
What are the potential implications of the Scottish Government's proposal to phase out Strategic Development Plans in favour of "regional partnerships" and a strengthened National Planning Framework, particularly with regard to the strategic planning of major infrastructure projects? How will proposed changes to Local Development Plans, such as their extension from 5 to 10 years and including local place plans as a statutory requirement, affect community participation in the planning process?
Craig McLaren, Director, RTPi Scotland
Clare Symonds, Chair, Planning Democracy
Ian Aikman, Chief Planning Officer, Scottish Borders Council
Senior representative, transport
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.10 - 11.00 **Developing Scotland's infrastructure: major projects, housing and moving towards an infrastructure first approach**
What are the key issues that the Scottish Government needs to take account of in seeking to increase Scotland's housing supply, whilst also ensuring the continued development of vital infrastructure projects? With simplified planning zones focused on economic growth already operating in some areas of Scotland, what are the likely outcomes of extending their focus to housing delivery? How will moves to provide resourcing for measures in the Planning Bill through raising planning fees, and the proposal for an infrastructure levy, affect the development of the Scottish Government's proposed infrastructure first approach to housing delivery? What are the potential implications of expanding permitted development rights for industries such as telecommunications?
Craig Whelton, Partner, Burness Paull
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, housebuilding
Senior representative, infrastructure
Senior representative, digital
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.00 - 11.05 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 - 11.35 Coffee
- 11.35 - 11.40 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.40 - 12.00 **Assessing implications of land reform on the planning sector**
Andrew Thin, Chair, Scottish Land Commission
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 - 12.45 **Future-proofing the planning system: skills, innovation and developing resilient places**
How can the Scottish Government take action to ensure that its planning system is fit for purpose in the long term? What are the key policies needed to maintain and upskill the planning workforce? How can digital technology be harnessed to speed up the planning system and encourage greater citizen engagement? How are proposed changes to the planning system likely to affect the development of low-carbon infrastructure, a key target of the Scottish Government's draft energy strategy?
Petra Biberbach, Chief Executive, PAS
Diarmaid Lawlor, Director of Place, Architecture and Design Scotland
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, low carbon infrastructure
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.45 - 12.55 **Closing keynote remarks**
John McNairney, Chief Planner, The Scottish Government
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Scotland Policy Conferences closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Stephanie Barr, Forum Lead, Scotland Policy Conferences