

Report

Report to:	Community Wealth Building Commission
Date of Meeting:	5 September 2023
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Spatial Planning and Community Wealth Building
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Community Wealth Building Commission of spatial planning policy direction on Community Wealth Building (CWB) as set out in National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)
- ◆ summarise the process involved in the preparation of the Council's next Local Development Plan and the key issues the plan will address in terms of Community Wealth Building.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Community Wealth Building Commission is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) note the adoption of National Planning Framework 4 by the Scottish Government and the implications for decision making in relation to planning matters
- (2) note the process involved in the preparation of the Council's next Local Development Plan and the key issues the plan will address in terms of Community Wealth Building

3. Background

3.1. The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, which received Royal Assent in July 2019, sets out the legislative response to the transformation of the planning system the Scottish Government has been developing. This includes the introduction of a statutory requirement for the Scottish Government to prepare and adopt a new National Planning Framework which, unlike previous versions, will form part of the development plan alongside the Council's own Local Development Plan. This means all planning decisions, including the preparation of Local Development Plans and the determination of planning applications, have to accord with NPF4.

In addition, the Act sets out the legislative requirements for the preparation of a new style of Local Development Plan. This report focuses on the issues in relation to CWB.

4. National Planning Framework 4

4.1. NPF4 is the Scottish Government's National Spatial Strategy for Scotland to 2045. It seeks to support the role the planning system has in achieving the target of net zero emissions by 2045; supporting nature restoration and recovery; tackling underlying disadvantage and poor health issues; and supporting the principles of local living by improving access to local services, learning, work and leisure.

The Strategy is underpinned by the principle of a Just Transition and making sure the needs and aspirations of local communities are addressed.

- 4.2. The Strategy includes 33 policies on separate topics for the development and use of land which are to be applied in the preparation of local development plans and for determining planning applications. For the first time in spatial planning context, CWB has been given distinct policy direction in recognition of the impact the delivery of the overarching principles can have on the quality of a place and in tackling inequality.
- 4.3. NPF4 explains that the overall policy intent, in relation to CWB, is to encourage, promote and facilitate a new strategic approach to economic development that also provides a practical model for building a wellbeing economy at local, regional and national levels. Outcomes include the delivery of local economic development that focuses on the community and place benefits in order to support local employment and supply chains.

In addition, the policy is intended to support community ownership and the management of buildings and land. Other key policies that are identified as having a close connection to CWB are listed as brownfield and vacant/derelict land; local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods; and business and industry.

- 4.4. Local Development Plans (LDPs) should be aligned with the strategy for CWB for the area. The plans are required to address CWB priorities; identify community assets; set out opportunities to tackle economic disadvantage and inequality; and seek to provide benefits for local communities.
- 4.5. When it comes to determining planning applications, proposals which contribute to local or regional CWB strategies and are consistent with local economic priorities are to be supported in principle. Examples of what this may involve include:-
 - ◆ improving community resilience and reducing inequalities
 - ◆ increasing spending within communities
 - ◆ ensuring the use of local supply chains and services
 - ◆ local job creation
 - ◆ supporting community led proposals, including the creation of new local firms and enabling community led ownership of buildings and assets

In addition, proposals linked to community ownership and management of land are to be supported.

5. Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 3

- 5.1. The Council has a statutory duty to prepare a Local Development Plan for all parts of its area. The process for preparing LDPs and their format and content is set out in regulations and guidance that was published in May 2023. One key matter to note is that the new style LDP will have a 10 year lifetime instead of 5 years previously. The current LDP2 was adopted in April 2021 and there is no policy reference to CWB.
- 5.2. At its meeting on 8 August 2023, the Planning Committee gave approval for officers to start preparation of a third Local Development Plan (SLLDP3) for South Lanarkshire. LDP3 will have to take account of NPF4 (the issues in 4.4 above are relevant) and the Council's Community Plan. It will be a corporate document drawing together the objectives of the Council Plan and other Council strategies and plans as well as of those of its partners and other stakeholders.

The LDP will include a Delivery Programme which will set out how the Council will implement the plan, including a list of actions required to deliver the policies and proposals and the timescales involved.

- 5.3. The plan will be place-based and presented as a series of maps, site briefs and masterplans for individual sites and localities. The plan should also be people-centred so that it meets the needs and aspirations of people and communities. Extensive engagement is to be carried out with stakeholders, key agencies and partners and local communities so that the plan is prepared collaboratively taking into account a diverse range of views.
- 5.4. The Act has introduced a new requirement to prepare an evidence report at the start of the plan-making process. The evidence will be used to inform what to plan for before the Proposed Plan looks at where new development should take place. The evidence to be gathered includes a wide range of quantitative data from a national to a local level. It also involves local, regional and national strategies and policy priorities that will have an impact on the direction of the LDP. Internal and external partners will provide valuable input.

The evidence report is also to be informed by the views of those affected by the plan and involved in its delivery and therefore, extensive early engagement will be carried out with key agencies, stakeholders, interest groups and local communities to ensure evidence gathering is collaborative and transparent. In this way, the lived experience of those who live and work in a place will be captured. It is expected that validation and agreement of the evidence by stakeholders will be carried out.

- 5.5. The Council is also required to invite community bodies to prepare a Local Place Plan for their area at the start of the evidence report process. While not mandatory, it allows local communities to set out their aspirations to make their place better in order to feed into the development plan process.
- 5.6. The newly published guidance provides advice on the information that should be gathered and taken into consideration for each of the 33 policy themes. In terms of CWB, this includes the location; use and condition of community assets; the CWB priorities that have been identified for the area; and the identification of areas of economic disadvantage and inequality. Both the CWB and Social Enterprise Strategies are relevant in this context. Using the data gathered, the evidence report will show how a wellbeing focussed local economy will be developed.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1. NPF4 now forms part of the Council's Development Plan alongside the currently adopted South Lanarkshire LDP2. As the latter contains no policy reference to CWB, NPF4 is currently the sole source of policy direction when determining planning applications. This includes the criteria described in 4.5 above. To aid officers assess applications and give direction to landowners and developers on how they can address these matters, local planning guidance will be produced as an interim position until LDP3 is adopted (the current programme anticipates this being at the end of 2027).
- 6.2. In the meantime, officers will gather data and information to inform the preparation of the LDP3 evidence report. The type and range of this is described in 5.6 above and officers will be approaching other Council services and members of the CWB Commission to aid this exercise. In addition, the planning service will engage with our partners and stakeholders to validate our assessment of the information and make sure the policy direction on this subject is appropriate.

6.3. As noted in 4.3 above, CWB has direct links with a number of other policy themes that will have to be considered in a wider context. The planning service will work with other services within the Council and other partners and stakeholders including NHS Lanarkshire, VASLan, further and higher education bodies and the business sector/other anchor organisations. This will inform the direction of LDP3 and the preparation of the associated Delivery Programme. Further updates to the CWB Commission as this work evolves may be appropriate.

7. Employee Implications

7.1. The implementation of NPF4 and the preparation of LDP3 in relation to the CWB policy theme will have an impact on the day to day work of planning officers including developing partnership working with other Council services and partners.

8. Financial Implications

8.1. The costs of the preparation and production of the next Local Development Plan will be expected to be met from existing budgets.

9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

9.1. The theme of tackling the Global Climate Emergency, meeting the Scottish Government's targets for net zero emissions and the promotion of sustainable developments are central to the spatial strategy in NPF4 and in turn, through the preparation of the Council's next Local Development Plan and in decision making on planning applications.

10. Other Implications

10.1. Since its adoption, NPF4 now forms part of the Development Plan for the Council as Planning Authority alongside its adopted SLLDP2 and is a material consideration for determining all planning applications. Similarly the proposed LDP3 must take account of NPF4 as well as the Community Plan.

11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

11.1. NPF4 was subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment, Child Rights and Wellbeing and a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment. LDP3 will also be subject to these assessments.

11.2. Extensive engagement and consultation by the Council will be carried out during the preparation of LDP3.

David Booth

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

28 July 2023

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

◆ Good quality, suitable and sustainable places to live

Previous References

◆ None

List of Background Papers

◆ Planning (Scotland) Act 2019

◆ National Planning Framework 4 approved by Scottish Parliament on 11 January 2023

- ◆ Town and Country Planning (Development Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2023
- ◆ Scottish Government Local Development planning guidance published May 2023

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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