

## Briefing for the Public Petitions Committee

**Petition Number:** [PE1748](#)

**Main Petitioner:** Isobel Kelly on behalf of Gartcosh Tenants & Residents Association

**Subject:** Provide protection for small communities in Scottish planning policy

Calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to provide specific provision within the National Planning Framework 3 (NPF 3) and the Scottish Planning Policy for small communities which:

- Provides for a pre-development community asset and infrastructure audit when an area is identified as being able to accommodate large-scale, urban growth and;
- Protects areas considered by its community to be high value scenic assets and at risk of the coalescence of communities.

### Background

The Scottish Government sets out its key planning priorities and policies in two documents:

- The [National Planning Framework for Scotland 3](#) (NPF3), published in June 2014, sets out the Scottish Government's strategy for Scotland's spatial development over a period of 20 to 30 years. It also designates 14 national developments. Planning authorities are required to take account of NPF3 policies when drafting development plans and making development management decisions.
- The [Scottish Planning Policy](#) (SPP), also published in June 2014, sets out the Scottish Government's national planning policies and priorities for the operation of the planning system and the development and use of land.

### Scottish Government Action

The Scottish Government is currently leading a significant planning reform programme. The legislative change required to support this programme is set

out in the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, which received Royal Assent on 25 July 2019. The Act includes several provisions relating to the NPF, including:

- The definition of the NPF is extended to allow it to include the policy aspects of the SPP, allowing the two documents to be merged into one in any future version
- The NPF will form part of the development plan for every area, alongside the local development plan
- Ministers can direct local authorities to provide information to them on matters relevant to the preparation of a revised NPF
- Ministers may not adopt a revised NPF until a draft has been approved by a resolution of the Scottish Parliament
- The current requirement to review the NPF every 5 years is increased to 10 years and the period for parliamentary consideration from 60 to 120 days

These provisions are yet to be enacted. In addition to this legislative change, the Scottish Government has also [committed to](#) "...work with stakeholders to design and take forward a collaborative process for preparing NPF4".

The specific suggestions made by the petitioners were not raised during the planning reform process or development of the Planning (Scotland) Bill.

### **Scottish Parliament Action**

While the Scottish Parliament has invested considerable time in the scrutiny of the Planning (Scotland) Bill and issues related to the NPF, it has not considered the specific issues raised by the petitioners.

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**Senior Researcher**  
3 September 2019

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