



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

Scottish Government Consultation: [National Planning Framework: Position Statement](#)

Submitted: February 2021

Consultation Report Available: [Fourth National Planning Framework - position statement: consultation analysis](#)

Consultation Questions

1. Do you agree with our current thinking on planning for net-zero emissions?

Creative Scotland broadly agrees with this section. We would like to see more detail about retrofitting older buildings to reduce carbon emissions, as arts and creative organisations are often housed in old buildings, for example, theatres, and face unique challenges to reduce carbon emissions and achieve efficient energy use. Older buildings help retain the character of places and a specific focus should be included to help owners to be able to retrofit. It is noted that this is addressed later in the statement, but highlighting this issue here would also be welcome.

2. Do you agree with our current thinking on planning for resilient communities?

We do agree with this section. We believe there is scope to acknowledge the role of culture in resilient communities, especially around equality of access and ability to fulfil potential, along with improving health and wellbeing. Culture does not often feature in local development plans, although we know that it can make a strong contribution to community cohesion through the physical buildings which they occupy which often also fulfil the function of community space, and the work of creative organisations in bringing communities together. In addition, the opportunity to take part in cultural and creative activity can contribute to people's wellbeing and health. Finally, the cultural sector can provide a vehicle to open up discussion and to engage those who would not always participate in more traditional avenues of engagement. Cultural organisations are often crucial in the infrastructure of communities, as part of the intangible structure, and we would welcome acknowledgement of this role in the NPF.

3. Do you agree with our current thinking on planning for a wellbeing economy?

We do agree with this and we particularly welcome the acknowledgement of the role that culture can play. We would like to see this reflected in planning across Scotland and how to translate this into local planning. It would also be beneficial to acknowledge the cross-policy contribution that culture can make to learning, health and wellbeing and to social and economic health. It is encouraging to see a focus on digital, as this can enable a more diverse community if people are able to work remotely and would help the spread of those working in the creative and cultural sector in communities across Scotland.

4. Do you agree with our current thinking on planning for better, greener places?

Creative Scotland does agree with this section and we welcome the focus on buildings and rural development and development of land. Affordable space is often an issue for cultural and creative organisations, so any opportunity to redevelop to accommodate cultural and creative organisations would be welcomed. As above, many organisations are based in historic buildings which are costly to maintain and run, but which are often crucial in maintaining a sense of identity or civic pride for a community.

We therefore welcome the emphasis placed on them in the strategy and would welcome the opportunity to be involved further. Equally the emphasis on rural development is something which we have seen a need for. All too often we find that those working in the sector need to move to Glasgow, Edinburgh, London or further afield to pursue their career. Any initiative which enables people to work closer to home or to stay in communities, contributing to their vibrancy is positive.

5. Do you have further suggestions on how we can deliver our strategy?

As demonstrated above, much of the strategy impacts on and involves the cultural and creative sector. As a result, we would urge that as holistic an approach as possible is taken towards the development of NPF4, with wide consultation and we would welcome the opportunity to be part of further discussions.