

## **EXPLANATION: LPPs. A Scottish Community Position**

**Where did it come from?** This Position Statement originated with a group of community councillors who met at a learning exchange workshop on LPP (LPPs) in November 2019 hosted by Planning Democracy. During the workshop they shared experiences of working on their own [community](#), [local](#) or [life plans](#), which were done prior to the legislation intended to enable communities to draw up their own LPP. All agreed that, although their plans worked well in engaging their communities and providing coherent well considered proposals, they all had difficulty getting their plans acknowledged and taken notice of by planning authorities. In January 2019 the Statement the group had agreed was shared and discussed in meetings of Community Councils from Ayrshire, Mid-Lothian and Falkirk, resulting in proposals and agreement on improvements, and a website for Community Councils to host and adopt it.

**Why is it needed?** New planning legislation (Planning (Scotland) Act 2019) gives communities new legal 'rights' to draw up their own LPPs. However, there is considerable scepticism about how much influence these LPPs will have when it comes to planning decisions.

The group agreed that any new legislation and guidance around LPPs must ensure that they are taken notice of and that they contribute to the decision-making processes on planning issues. True empowerment requires community control of plans and the potential to influence other plans, not be dictated to by Government policy or plans.

**How will the Position Statement be used?** The intention is to send the Community Position to the Scottish Government to try to influence the secondary legislation and guidance on LPPs currently in development.

**Why is it important for Community Councils to sign the Position Statement?** As the representative bodies of communities, the more Community Councils (CCs) that adopt the Statement, the more powerful it becomes. The Government needs to understand the strength of feeling and the community perspective. Should CCs wish to circulate it to other local CCs, community bodies or representatives for adoption, it will help build the case.

**What does the Position Statement say?** The Statement says that LPPs have the potential to be very powerful and can help change Scotland and its places for the better, but only if communities have greater control over them. They need to be written by communities for communities, in ways most appropriate to that community. Different areas and communities will want to draw up their LPPs in different ways and this is important for the community to feel the plans are theirs. If a community has ownership of their own plan, they are more likely to make what is in them happen and that could be key to changing our communities for the better. However, the concern is that LPPs will be controlled by Scottish Government, because they have to comply with existing national and local authority plans and timescales. This leaves very little room for a community's own plan and ideas to have any influence and they are unlikely to be adopted, so the process of drawing up an LPP becomes meaningless. We have put forward ten conditions we think should be adopted by the Government to make LPPs acceptable and meaningful for communities.

**Why does the Declaration talk about the Climate Emergency and Place Principle?** We know that the Climate Emergency is an overriding priority for Government. We also know that the language in planning circles talks about place making and the Place Principle. Showing how LPPs relate directly to these priorities will capture the attention of policy makers, as these terms have a lot of traction at the moment.

## Glossary of Terms:

- **Climate Emergency:** declared by the First Minister in April 2019, a reorientation of national policy around the national response to Climate Change. **The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019** amends the **Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009** setting targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net-zero by 2045
- **LPP:** included in the new **Planning (Scotland) Act 2019** gives community bodies an 'opportunity' to develop their own local place plan "*A local place plan is a proposal as to the development or use of land. It may also identify land and buildings that the community body considers to be of particular significance to the local area.*" LPPs must *have regard* to the Local Development Plan for their area, and the National Planning Framework.
- **National Outcomes:** 16 measures of success in Scotland's **National Performance Framework** which describe what the Government wants to achieve over the next ten years. Outcomes include the development of communities which are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe. That healthy and happy communities are shaped by the quality and character of the places they live, and that this requires residents to engage and collaborate in place-making.
- **Place-Making Agenda:** a range of Scottish Government policies and strategies which aim to encourage and bring about National Outcomes at a local level and include the [Place Principle](#); while delivering on the Climate Change, Planning, Land Reform and Community Empowerment Acts.
- **The Place Principle** is intended to support local communities and partners to apply the **National Performance Framework** to how they collaboratively shape where they live and work. It states: "*Place is where people, location and resources combine to create a sense of identity and purpose and is at the heart of addressing the needs and realising the full potential of communities. Places are shaped by the way resources, services and assets are directed and used by the people who live in and invest in them. A more joined-up, collaborative, and participative approach to services, land and buildings, across all sectors within a place, enables better outcomes for everyone and increased opportunities for people and communities to shape their own lives.*"
- **The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019**, passed by the Parliament on 20th of June 2019. Secondary legislation and guidance are currently being produced. Here is the implementation [timetable](#).
- **National Planning Framework (NPF4)** and **Scottish Planning Policy (SPP4)**, will govern all *national* planning objectives and matters. These have been strengthened to have greater weight and to inform Local Development Plans, showing a more centralised approach to planning. Consultation and development of NPF4 begins 2020. Due to be adopted 2021.
- **Local Development Plans** govern all *local authority* planning objectives and matters and are required for each council area across Scotland. These allocate sites, either for new development, such as housing, greenspace, industrial use etc. They must align with the NPF4 and SPP and guide decisions on all planning applications. Currently, LDPs must be adopted within five years of the previous plan, now lengthened to 10 years with the new legislation.
- **The Community Empowerment Act (2015)** aims to strengthen community planning to give communities more of a say in how public services are planned and provides a legal requirement for Community Planning Partnerships to work with communities to develop local plans. The Act is intended to work in partnership with **The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016** towards improving Scotland's system of land ownership, use, rights and responsibilities, to support a fairer, more just, society while balancing community and private interests.