



Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

Response to consultation on Scottish Planning Policy

Planning policy has long-term implications for lifestyles in Scotland. Most planning decisions that are taken now are likely remain for decades to come, and have significant impacts on the sort of country we will be living in by 2020 and 2050. These are headline dates for Scotland's Climate Change Act, which requires that Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions reductions must reduce by at least 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050.

Building more roads, expanding airport capacity and building out of town shopping centres are likely to increase emissions by encouraging high carbon behaviours, whereas low carbon homes sited near workplace hubs with good public transport facilities can promote low carbon behaviours. These examples illustrate the importance of the Material aspects of the Scottish Government's new ISM low carbon behaviour change tool.

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland is concerned that the SPP focuses on economic growth and we are opposed to the use of the term "sustainable economic growth" in this context. It does not have a clear definition and could be interpreted as placing economic considerations above social or environmental factors. Use of the term "sustainable development" would be more useful and provide less scope for misinterpretation as this term is well understood, and extensive guidance on this is readily available.

The SPP also states that significant weight should be attached to the economic benefit of proposed developments. Stop Climate Chaos Scotland does not support the inclusion of this statement as it suggests a hierarchy of importance of economic, social, environmental benefits and lacks clarity on how these benefits would be identified or defined. This should be clarified in the final SPP.

We welcome the section on climate change on P10 of the draft, reflecting the existing three-part duty on public bodies under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and agree with the statement that 'The planning system should support the transformational change required to meet our climate change targets'. However, it would be more appropriate to say that the planning system *must* support this if Scotland is to deliver the required emissions reductions, as it will not be possible to deliver longer-term targets without that change.

For more information please contact:

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