



# National Planning Framework 4

- The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 changed the planning system to remove the requirement to prepare Strategic Development Plans, and to make the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework part of the Development Plan. This is important because the law requires that all decisions on planning applications are made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) sets out the national spatial strategy for Scotland to 2045, regional spatial priorities and policies on the development and use of land. It also identifies 18 national developments and sets a minimum all tenure housing requirement to be met by the Local Development Plan.
- NPF4 came into force on 13 February 2023 and is a major change to the planning system in Scotland. It will have a direct influence on the form and content of Midlothian Local Development Plan 2, and is a primary consideration when decisions are made on planning applications.
- The global climate emergency means that we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. We also need to respond to the nature crisis. Decisions about our built and natural environment are an essential part of this. The aim is for Scotland's places to be net zero, nature-positive places, with neighbourhoods that are healthier, affordable and vibrant places to live.
- Regional spatial priorities for our area include extending heat networks, improving energy efficiency, greening our urban areas, improving low carbon transport, enabling low carbon urban living, and targeting economic investment and community wealth buildings to overcome disadvantage and support a greener wellbeing economy.
- NPF4 sets out requirements that Local Development Plans need to comply with across 33 policy areas, including sustainable transport, biodiversity, energy, infrastructure, green spaces, town centres, economic development, local living, housing and water management. The Local Development Plan must be consistent with NPF4.
- The Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement set by NPF4 for Midlothian is 8,850 units. This means that Midlothian Council must allocate enough land for at least 8,850 new homes to be built by 2036. This land includes sites allocated in the 2017 Midlothian Development Plan which have not yet been built on.

## How do I find out more?

**Website:** [www.midlothian.gov.uk/MLDP](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/MLDP)

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