

SPP Review - Priorities for Change

Contact Details

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Policy Ideas

The review is of the SPP as a whole – please consider connections and tensions between policy subjects

Policy Subject/s : Housing + Rural Development

What works?

The language of the SPP is positive in relation to affordable housing development, rural housing development and rural housing as part of wider rural development. Being part of the same document should enable cross referencing between different and related sections.

What doesn't work?

We continue to have concerns that the distillation of SPP15 to 4 paragraphs does not sufficiently describe the enabling tone of the previous SPP. The language is too general and enables planning authorities to quote the SPP in policies both pro and against rural housing development. The strategic priorities for the Scottish Government for rural development and rural communities need to be reflected better within the document with the expectation that these will be reflected by planning authorities.

Rural housing for example is a priority area for the Scottish Government and read carefully the SPP describes that innovative and flexible approaches to rural housing are needed in rural areas, yet insists that housing should be integrated with public transport and that prime agricultural land should be protected. This caveat regarding a flexible and innovative approach for rural housing requires greater prominence to highlight that such development either outside of public transport networks or on prime agricultural land can be possible.

Why?

See above

Whilst we need to understand the issues, we ask that comments focus on the possible solutions.

What changes and/or solutions could be made to the policy to focus it on sustainable economic growth and to emphasise place making?

Further guidance to planning authorities of good practice with case studies will help to illustrate how the language within the SPP should be interpreted.