

Proposed Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill

Introduction

A proposal for a Member's Bill to ensure policy development and implementation by public bodies is in line with principles of sustainable development and wellbeing by introducing a duty for public bodies to promote these principles and establishing a Commissioner for sustainable development and wellbeing.

The consultation runs from 14 December 2022 to 24 March 2023

All those wishing to respond to the consultation are strongly encouraged to enter their responses electronically through this survey. This makes collation of responses much simpler and quicker. However, the option also exists of sending in a separate response (in hard copy or by other electronic means such as e-mail), and details of how to do so are included in the member's consultation document.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) require an answer.

All responses must include a name and contact details. Names will only be published if you give us permission, and contact details are never published – but we may use them to contact you if there is a query about your response. If you do not include a name and/or contact details, we may have to disregard your response.

Please note that you must complete the survey in order for your response to be accepted. If you don't wish to complete the survey in a single session, you can choose "Save and Continue later" at any point. Whilst you have the option to skip particular questions, you must continue to the end of the survey and press "Submit" to have your response fully recorded.

Please ensure you have read the consultation document before responding to any of the questions that follow. In particular, you should read the information contained in the document about how your response will be handled. The consultation document is available here:

[Consultation Document](#)

[Privacy Notice](#)

I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Notice which explains how my personal data will be used.

On the previous page we asked you if you are UNDER 12 YEARS old, and you responded Yes to this question.

If this is the case, we will have to contact your parent or guardian for consent.

If you are under 12 years of age, please put your contact details into the textbox. This can be your email address or phone number. We will then contact you and your parents to receive consent.

Otherwise please confirm that you are or are not under 12 years old.

No Response

About you

Please choose whether you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation.
Note: If you choose "individual" and consent to have the response published, it will appear under your own name. If you choose "on behalf of an organisation" and consent to have the response published, it will be published under the organisation's name.

on behalf of an organisation

Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

No Response

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Representative organisation (trade union, professional association)

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what the organisation does, its experience and expertise in the subject-matter of the consultation, and how the view expressed in the response was arrived at (e.g. whether it is the view of particular office-holders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) is the champion of planning and the planning profession. Our mission is to advance the science and art of town planning, working for the long-term common good and well-being of current and future generations. We campaign to promote healthy, socially inclusive, economically and environmentally sustainable places. We have around 2,100 members in Scotland and a worldwide membership of over 27,000. RTPI Scotland's members represent both the public, private and third sector interests and are extensively involved in all areas of planning matters across Scotland.

Please choose one of the following:

I am content for this response to be published and attributed to me or my organisation

Please provide your Full Name or the name of your organisation. (Only give the name of your organisation if you are submitting a response on its behalf).

(Note: the name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication". Otherwise this is the name that will be published with your response).

RTPI Scotland

Please provide details of a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number.

We will not publish these details.

{REDACTED}

Aim and approach - Note: All answers to the questions in this section may be published (unless your response is "not for publication").

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill? (Please note, that this question is compulsory.)

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

RTPI Scotland support the laudable intentions of the proposed Bill but wish to see full considerations and alignment is made to legislative landscape of the planning system, with its critical role in delivering sustainable development and moving towards a well-being economy.

Q2. Do you think legislation is required, or are there other ways in which the proposed Bill's aims could be achieved more effectively? Please explain the reasons for your response.

As set out in response to the previous question RTPI Scotland believe that the planning system is a critical means by which we can achieves sustainable development and move towards a well-being economy. The recently adopted National Planning Framework 4 is a clear example of this, with significant weighting given to the climate and biodiversity crisis. However, to enable the planning system to deliver the clear aspirations set out in the NPF4, over and the above the development of more legislation, a clear plan needs developed to provide the sufficient resources for the long-term.

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view on whether 'sustainable development' should be defined in legislation?

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response, including any views on what the definition should include.

RTPI Scotland recognise the need to legally to define sustainable development, however we also recognise the problems set out in the consultations of attempts to define sustainable development experienced elsewhere. The planning system itself is a good example of challenges around defining sustainable development. We note the definition used in the NPF4 is as follows:

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (The Brundtland Definition. Our Common Future, The World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987).

If a definition of sustainable development were to be set out in a proposed Bill, RTPI Scotland would support the use of the above definition to provide a consistent and aligned approach.

In many regards in the NPF4 the approach to encouraging sustainable development has evolved to set out more specific criteria and expectations around what sustainable development should look like on the ground. This can be seen with, for example, a new policy around 20 minute neighbourhoods.

Q4. Which of the following best expresses your view on whether 'wellbeing' should be defined in legislation?

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response, including any views on what the definition should include.

It should be noted that unlike sustainable development no definition for well-being has been provided in the NPF4. It should also be noted that proposals for legislation for Community Wealth Building is currently being consulted on. Therefore clear consideration and alignment with both the planning system and other

Q4. Which of the following best expresses your view on whether 'wellbeing' should be defined in legislation?

key areas of Scottish Government policy and legislation should be made before this proposal is developed further.

Q5. Which of the following best expresses your view on whether there should be a Commissioner for sustainable development and wellbeing?

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response, including any views on what the key functions of the proposed Commissioner should be (see pages 19 to 20 of the consultation document), what model of governance could be adopted (see page 22 to 23), and whether the Commissioner could play a role in strengthening existing duties or legislation.

Clarity over the relationship and alignment of the proposed Commissioner with the planning system would be beneficial. This includes how the role would interface with the appeals process and the DPEA, the call-in protocol and the emerging role of the National Planning Improvement Champion.

Q6. What, in your view, should the title of the proposed Commissioner be?

Please explain the reasons for your response.

The Future Generations Commissioner

Q7. Which of the following best expresses your view on whether there is a need for duties for public bodies to promote sustainable development and wellbeing in policy development and implementation?

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response including views on any barriers to implementation of these duties and on how the effectiveness of implementation could be measured.

RTPI Scotland would support this proposal provided that appropriate resources are made available to public bodies to discharge any new duties.

Financial Implications

Q8. Any new law can have a financial impact which would affect individuals, businesses, the public sector, or others. What financial impact do you think this proposal could have if it became law?

Don't know

Please explain the reasons for your response, including who you would expect to feel the financial impact of the proposal, and if there are any ways you think the proposal could be delivered more cost-effectively.

More details would need to be provided to enable us to make any costing estimates.

Equalities

Q9. Any new law can have an impact on different individuals in society, for example as a result of their age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

What impact could this proposal have on particular people if it became law? If you do not have a view skip to next question.

Please explain the reasons for your response and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts on particular people.

No comment.

Sustainability

Q10. Any new law can impact on work to protect and enhance the environment, achieve a sustainable economy, and create a strong, healthy, and just society for future generations.

Do you think the proposal could impact in any of these areas? (If you do not have a view then skip to next question)

Please explain the reasons for your response, including what you think the impact of the proposal could be, and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts?

No comment

General

Q11. Do you have any other additional comments or suggestions on the proposed Bill (which have not already been covered in any of your responses to earlier questions)?

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