

CONSULTATION RESPONSE**COMMISSION ON PARLIAMENTARY REFORM – CALL FOR WRITTEN VIEWS
MARCH 2017****PAS**

PAS (www.pas.org.uk) is an independent organisation that helps people in Scotland engage with the places around them. Community engagement is a key aspect of enhancing local democracy and empowering communities to ensure that Scotland is a fairer and more equal place in which to live. PAS provides impartial planning advice, training, education programmes, facilitation, mediation and community visioning (charrettes), to ensure everyone has a voice in planning and placemaking.

COMMENTS

This submission relates primarily to Question 1.

In the context of the Commission on Parliamentary Reform, PAS would like to highlight the central role that Scotland's planning system plays in the delivery of development, and in promoting future investment and associated opportunities, including new homes. The current consultation on the future of the Scottish planning system proposes Scotland's key planning documents - the National Planning Framework and Scottish Planning policy - should be subject to increased scrutiny by parliament.

The opportunity exists for the National Planning Framework and Scottish Planning Policy to be combined into a "national development plan" which would link housing, infrastructure and service provisions (through a requirement for spatial planning and community planning to be aligned). This would have to be signed off by MSPs, thus requiring debate in parliament. This level of scrutiny can provide a much needed framework for local development plans and the local place plans (community-led plans) proposed in the current consultation document.

Planning offers communities around Scotland to have an active say in shaping the future of the places around them. **It is thus highly appropriate that greater parliamentary scrutiny should take place of key planning documents.**

CONTACTS

PAS would be pleased to respond to any queries with regard to this response.

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PAS: Background Information

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Advice Service – PAS provides impartial planning advice and is the trusted body for anyone looking to understand the planning process..

Training – PAS promotes education for all in the planning process to encourage community engagement in creating positive places. With over 20 years' experience, the expertise of our staff and volunteers inspires and empowers people across Scotland.

Influencing Place – PAS is a trusted organisation which inspires individuals to be aware of planning and placemaking, and their role within this, while raising civic awareness of the positive effect good planning can create for all.

Education and Events – PAS believes that education is key to enabling young people and communities to engage with the built places around them, and we support that process in schools, communities and in our nation's life.

Volunteer based – PAS services are delivered by a combination of staff, associates and a large volunteer network of more than 400 built-environment professionals offering their time and professional skills. PAS volunteers include planners, architects, landscape architects and legal experts. Volunteering is at the heart of what we do.