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Dr Fiona Simpson
Director of Planning, Planning Directorate
Scottish Government

1 October 2026

Cc. Craig McLaren, Planning Improvement Service

Dear Dr Fiona Simpson,

Delivering Local Development Plans: Action Plan letter

We write in reference to your recently issued joint letter relating to [Local Development Plans and action plans](#).

We note that it says "To support the delivery of this Action Plan, the Improvement Service, working in partnership with the National Planning Hub, will host a face to face workshop in Edinburgh on 12th November 2026 to bring together planning authorities, Scottish Government, the Improvement Service, DPEA, key agencies and representatives from the development industry. Further information will follow shortly."

We would understand if this event was only for parties which have identified actions in the Action Plan, but given it includes 'representatives from the development industry' we are very disappointed that no community or environmental voices seem to be given the opportunity to participate. This would seem to go against the recognition in the Advice Note of the need for plans to be 'People Centred' and for community engagement.

The letter states: 'The decisions we make now will establish important precedents for the future, so it is essential that we take this opportunity to set the right direction, demonstrate the value of the new approach, and deliver on the ambitions and aspirations that underpin the new system.'

We hope that the inclusion of developer representatives and no community or environmental representatives is not an indication of the direction the Scottish Government intends to take. We ask that representatives, for instance from community councils, eNGOs, or LINK are included.

Please also find attached a copy of the letter LINK sent to the Minister for Public Finance in relation to proposed planning reforms.

Regards,

Co-Conveners of LINK Planning Group

Esme Clelland (RSPB Scotland) and Arthur Keller (CIEEM)



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