



# What you need to know: Infrastructure Commission for Scotland – Phase One Key findings report

## Background

The [Infrastructure Commission for Scotland](#) was asked to undertake a review in 2019 by the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity. The purpose of this was to advise on a 30-year strategy, and the delivery of that strategy, for Scotland's infrastructure. The remit for the Commission was broad, incorporating areas such as housing, transport, health, and flood defences.

To build an evidence base to underpin their work, the Commission carried out a programme of engagement involving 200 organisations and 1,000 individuals across Scotland. Evidence was also sought from similar organisations across the UK and internationally.

In January 2020, the Commission produced a [key findings report](#) for Phase One of the programme, focusing on the "why and what" for Scotland's infrastructure. It outlined 23 specific recommendations that stemmed from eight core areas. This briefing outlines the key recommendations that relate explicitly to the housing sector.

## Core Area Two: Place

The Commission suggests that to achieve an "inclusive net zero carbon economy" the Scottish Government needs to put 'place' at the heart of planning and infrastructure prioritisation.

To enable this, part of recommendation five suggests that the Scottish Government should lead and develop place-based assessments of long-term housing supply and demand by 2021.

For details on how this recommendation was formed, see pages 98-100.

## Core Area Four: Heat and transport

This core area covers recommendations for decarbonization of heat and transport at an accelerated rate to reach net-zero carbon.

To help achieve this, the Commission suggests that by the end of 2020 the Scottish Government should outline proposals to accelerate the

development, and implementation, of a range of support mechanisms, incentives and standards for "energy efficient, net zero carbon buildings across Scotland".

Part of this should include 'whole building' solutions and public engagement which is systematic and tailored to different groups to ensure property owners' participation and engagement with the changes proposed.

Additionally, in recommendation 13, the Commission suggests that the Scottish Government, local authorities, regulators and industry need to work together by 2022 to establish "the viability, incentivisation mechanisms and a route map" to enable transition to net-zero carbon which addresses heating in domestic, commercial and public properties and "surface-based transportation".

For details on how these recommendations were formed, see pages 106-108.

## Sector Summary: Housing

For a useful overview, Section Five in Part B of the report sets out a summary of the housing sector in Scotland. It covers the demand for housing, strategic planning, house building and the challenges that the sector faces.

## Next Steps

Currently, the Commission is 12 months into the 18-month programme. The Phase Two report will focus more on the "how" and be aimed at the "more downstream aspects of the work to date".

## The CIH View

During the evidence gathering, CIH Scotland called for recognition of housing as a key aspect of infrastructure and we welcome the recommendations made by the Commission. Housing has a vital role to play in meeting net-zero carbon by 2045. The targets outlined in the report are ambitious, but with robust planning, political and financial commitment they are not unattainable.