

## Response ID ANON-VDDE-RPF6-1

Submitted to **Proposed Scottish Borders Local Development Plan**

Submitted on **2020-11-29 16:50:59**

### About you

Are you responding as an: individual, group / organisation, agent?

Individual

### Individual

What is your name?

Individual name:

pete ritchie

What is your email address?

Individual Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your address?

Address line 1:

[REDACTED]

Address line 2 :

[REDACTED]

Address line 3:

Town / city:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

What is your contact telephone number?

Contact number:

[REDACTED]

### Proposed Local Development Plan Menu

Where would you like to go?

Quick Comment / Supporting Information

### Quick Comment / Supporting Information

Leave a quick comment about the **Proposed Scottish Borders Local Development Plan, or planning and development in general.....**

**Quick Comment:**

The plan comes across as predominantly reactive, and not in tune with the challenges and opportunities for the Borders over the next ten years. The plan should specifically address the question: what will life be like in the Borders in a net-zero Scotland, and how can our planning support this?

1. The shift in working patterns following the pandemic means that many more people will want to live in rural areas yet work remotely in well-paid jobs. A rural renaissance is within grasp, reversing decades of declining population: but there is nothing about this in the plan. We should be looking seriously at the creation of one or more zero carbon new towns as well as boosting the population of existing settlements to make them more economically and socially sustainable.
2. Residents in the Borders tend to have a high carbon footprint due to the need to travel more by car and the poor thermal performance of much of our housing stock. The plan merely suggests some charging points in new developments. We should be much more proactive, setting out to retrofit as much as possible of our housing stock in the coming decade while creating local jobs; and at the same time enabling all Borders residents to convert to electric vehicles, for example through a Council interest-free loan scheme. We should also be looking at how we can enhance access to low-carbon mobility to those Borders residents who don't have a car.
3. The plan has almost nothing on land use. The Borders has a massive untapped energy resource along with an opportunity to work with farmers and landowners to sequester carbon, restore biodiversity, reduce flooding and create jobs through agroforestry, native woodland, biochar production, new uses for fibre, and woodland-based tourism. The plan has little or nothing to say about the 95% of land in the Borders which is not within settlements. Again, the references to a food-growing strategy are reactive: instead the Council should be actively supporting the creation of market gardens in and around our towns.

**Do you wish to submit supporting information?**

**Submissions:**

No file was uploaded

**Where would you like to go now?**

Submit your response to the consultation (Exit)