



PUBLICATIONS

SUSTAINABILITY – BUILDING OUR FUTURE: SCOTLAND’S SCHOOL ESTATE (22/12/04) This document outlines the principles to consider and the process to follow, in order to achieve a sustainable school. It covers the issues that should be considered throughout the design and construction process so that the final building meets the expectations of clients and the design team. To view the document visit:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/education/sbof-00.asp>

REPORT ON SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION CON302 – NEW CRITERIA AND GUIDANCE FOR DETERMINING NATIONAL IMPORTANCE UNDER THE TERMS OF THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979 (22/12/04) A report on the outcome of the public consultation concerning the proposed adoption of revised criteria and guidance, to determine whether ancient monuments are of ‘national’ importance under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The report can be viewed at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/culture/ncagfdni.pdf>

LAND REFORM (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 – PART 1: ACCESS RIGHTS – CONSULTATION ON DRAFT GUIDANCE TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITIES – SUMMARY OF RESPONSES (21/12/04) Summary of responses given to the consultation which ran from 16 February – 7 May 2004. The Report can be viewed at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/environment/lrasr-00.asp>

PLANNING ADVICE NOTE PAN 71: CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT (21/12/04) This Planning Advice Note (PAN) fits with Designing Places and forms part of the design series of Advice Notes, which together strive to provide the foundations for tomorrow’s conservation areas. PAN 71 contains advice on how to manage change in conservation areas, and sets out a checklist for appraising them. It also identifies sources of funding available to protect the historic environment. The document can be viewed at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/pan71-00.asp>

SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES TO THE HISTORIC SCOTLAND CONSULTATION PAPER ON HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT GRANTS: DELIVERING FOR COMMUNITIES, MAKING THE SYSTEM WORK BETTER (20/12/04) Summary and analysis of responses can be viewed at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/environment/hegcs-00.asp>

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE STAKEHOLDER SURVEY (16/12/04) Findings from a comprehensive survey of the Scottish Executive’s stakeholders undertaken in Autumn 2004, exploring the effectiveness of engagement between the SE and stakeholders. The document can be viewed at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/government/ocrb1-00.asp>

STATISTICAL BULLETIN ENVIRONMENT SERIES ENV/2004/2 SCOTTISH VACANT AND DERELICT LAND SURVEY 2004 (16/12/04) Annual statistical bulletin giving information on vacant and derelict land in Scotland. The bulletin reports that there has been a decrease in the amount of derelict land and vacant urban land recorded in the survey, from 15,400 hectares in 1993 to 10,661 hectares in 2004. The document can be viewed at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00381-00.asp>

MAKING DEVELOPMENT PLANS DELIVER: ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES (15/12/04) A summary overview of the main findings of the consultation. The report can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/mdpdacr-00.asp>

MODERNISING PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRIES: ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES (15/12/04) A summary overview of the main findings of the consultation. The report can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/mpliacr-00.asp>

RIGHTS OF APPEAL IN PLANNING: ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES (15/12/04) A summary overview of the main findings of the consultation. The report can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/roapacr-00.asp>

EVENTS

HOUSING IN THE COMMUNITY: This conference will take place on 17 January 2005 in Edinburgh, key note speaker: Malcolm Chisholm. Timed to coincide with the results of the Executive's consultation into Affordable Housing, this conference comes at a time that is crucial to the development of sustainable communities in Scotland. For further details visit www.holyrood.com, email housing@holyrood.com, or call **0131 272 2130**.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE NEWS RELEASES

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS ACT COMES INTO FORCE (15/12/04) New provisions to promote economic opportunities in rural Scotland came into effect on 15 December. New tenancy arrangements will give many tenant farmers the chance to buy the farms they rent should the landowner choose to sell. The introduction of these opportunities means the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 is now fully in force.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2004/12/15140249>

NEWS RELEASES

INQUIRY INTO CLIMATE CHANGE (SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT 10/12/04) The Environment & Rural Development Committee has announced an open call for evidence for its forthcoming inquiry into climate change. The inquiry will examine the Scottish Executive's policies on climate change in the context of the UK's international responsibilities. The closing date for the receipt of written evidence is 28 January 2005. Further details at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-comm-04/cenv04-005.htm>

INQUIRY INTO SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT POLICY (HOUSE OF COMMONS 20/12/04) The Environmental Audit Committee (Westminster) has launched an inquiry into how environmental considerations are incorporated into public procurement policy. The Committee expects to examine several areas relating to this issue. We would particularly like to receive evidence on two matters: firstly, how EU regulations influence or restrict public procurement policy; secondly, how the drive for public sector efficiency may impact on the inclusion of environmental considerations within procurement policy. Further details at:

http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/environmental_audit_committee/eac_20_12_04.cfm

MOTIONS & BILLS

S2M-2171#ROBIN HARPER: SIR PATRICK GEDDES 150TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION (20/12/04) That the Parliament congratulates the Ballater Geddes Project on the work it has done over the last year to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Sir Patrick Geddes; welcomes the project's exhibition to the Parliament's garden lobby; notes Sir Patrick Geddes's extraordinary and profound contribution to the theory and practice of socially and environmentally-sustainable town planning and his historic connections with improving Edinburgh in particular which are being continued by the Geddes Foundation at this present time, and welcomes the exhibition as a timely reminder of how the thoughts of Sir Patrick Geddes should continue to inspire the planners of today for tomorrow.

NEW PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

S2W-13139 MARY SCANLON (22/12/04) To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will promote a criteria-based or map-based approach to onshore wind farm planning policy.

S2W-13031 SHIONA BAIRD (16/12/04) To ask the Scottish Executive how it selects members of the steering group to develop the Scottish Sustainable Development Strategy and who the group's members are.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q (S2W-12917) ELAINE MURRAY: HERITAGE LOTTERY FUNDING

A The Scottish Executive has maintained a constant dialogue with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) during the drafting of the National Lottery Bill. Clause 7 is a power for the Secretary of State to reallocate money from the account of one distributor to the account of another, either for the same purpose or for another lottery good cause. It will only be exercised after a debate and affirmative resolution in each House of the Westminster Parliament and following consultation with the devolved administrations. The DCMS' policy is that this reserve power will only be used when a distributor has built up an excessive balance and has not implemented the National Audit Office and DCMS recommendations for reducing it. In addition, under new section 29A, it has been decided that for the Heritage good cause, money will only be reallocated for heritage purposes. Clause 8 provides for the interest which is earned on all the unspent balances to be shared on the same basis as the income itself. Currently those distributors that have built up large balances retain the interest. Sharing interest fairly among all the good causes removes a possible incentive to maintain large unspent balances. We have not taken exception to the terms of these two clauses in the Westminster Bill, and have no plans to make representations to the UK Government regarding their potential impact. **PATRICIA FERGUSON (21/12/04)**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-04/wa1221.htm>

Q (S2W-12835) WENDY ALEXANDER: TARGET DATES FOR PUBLICATION LOCAL AND STRUCTURE PLANS

A Proposals in the Executive's recent consultation on Making Development Plans Deliver include the introduction of a statutory requirement to update development plans within a defined period. A white paper outlining the Executive's proposals for modernising planning, including measures to speed up development planning, is expected to be published in spring 2005. **JOHANN LAMONT (16/12/04)**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-04/wa1216.htm>

Q (S2W-12837) WENDY ALEXANDER: SPEED OF PLANNING APPLICATION CONSIDERATION

A The planning system is based on a plan-led system by which planning authorities are required to make their decisions in accordance with the development plan for the area in question. Through the Making Development Plans Deliver consultation, we are working towards ensuring that development plans are up to date so that decisions can be made quickly and consistently. The Scottish Executive has proposed a number of specific measures to help speed up the determination of planning applications. These include the introduction of e-planning methods which allow the submission of planning applications online and the standardisation of planning application forms. A white paper outlining the Executive's proposals for modernising planning, including measures to speed up development control, is expected to be published in spring 2005. **JOHANN LAMONT (16/12/04)**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-04/wa1216.htm>

Q (S2W-12724) MICHAEL MATHESON: CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HIGH QUALITY BUILT ENVIRONMENT

A From April 2005, Architecture and Design Scotland will become the nation's champion for good architecture and design in the built environment, taking over and expanding the present activities of the Royal Fine Art Commission for Scotland. The aim of Architecture and Design Scotland will be to inspire higher design quality across the public and private sectors, so as to improve the overall quality of our built environment. Historic Scotland is responsible for safeguarding the nation's historic built environment, and the Executive's investment in Historic Scotland will increase from £39.6 million in 2004-05 to £47.7 million in 2007-08. Part of this increased funding will be used to boost Historic Scotland's spending on Historic Building Repair Grants, which support the repair of Scotland's most important historic buildings and areas, and the enhancement of the quality of Scotland's historic city centres. **PATRICIA FERGUSON (15/12/04)**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-04/wa1215.htm>

Q (S2W-12118) KENNY MACASKILL: SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE ROLE AND POWERS IN RESPECT LOTTERY

A ...The UK Government has agreed that the devolved administrations should have more influence in setting priorities for the National Lottery and in programme development, and that more decision-making should be devolved to the home countries unless there is a clear need for a UK approach. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport Bill has proposed a Lottery Bill which, among other provisions, would provide new functions and powers for the Scottish ministers in relation to the Big Lottery Fund. Under the Lottery Bill, Scottish ministers' agreement would be required to the appointment of a Scottish member to the UK board and to the appointment of a Scottish Committee. Scottish ministers would issue policy directions to the fund in relation to all "devolved expenditure" in Scotland. Scottish ministers would receive the annual accounts of the fund which will enable them to be provided to the Scottish Parliament. Within a UK framework, the Lottery Bill would therefore give Scottish ministers functions and powers in respect of the key strategic controls of the Big Lottery Fund's Scottish operations.... **PATRICIA FERGUSON (14/12/04)**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-04/wa1214.htm>

Q (S2W-12333) MARY SCANLON: ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN NEW HOMES

A Current building regulations for new-build homes require some of the most demanding thermal insulation standards for new building work in the UK. After the introduction of the new building standards system in 2005, a further review of energy standards will be undertaken. **JOHANN LAMONT (13/12/04)**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-04/wa1213.htm>

Q (S2W-12561) WENDY ALEXANDER: PLANNING AUTHORITY PERFORMANCE

A Planning authority performance is published in the Planning Audit Unit's annual report. Copies of the specific data requested has been placed in the Parliament's Reference Centre (Bib. number 34606). **JOHANN LAMONT (13/12/04)**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-04/wa1213.htm>

Information in the Bulletin is extracted from a number of websites (mainly Scottish Executive and Scottish Parliament). If you have any questions or comments on the above, or would like to submit information to be included, please get in touch with Chris Stuart cstuart@befsf.org.uk or Jo Robertson jrobertson@befsf.org.uk at the BEFS office on 0131 556 5353.