



BULLETIN (39) 4 FEBRUARY 2005

CONSULTATIONS

UNDERSTANDING THE FUTURE: MUSEUMS AND THE 21ST CENTURY (DCMS 27/01/05) This consultation paper aims to look at the key issues facing museums in England in the 21st Century at a time when museums are increasingly relevant and popular. It identifies key challenges and opportunities facing England's museums in areas such as collections, to learning and research, to workforce development and leadership, but also the coherence of the sector and to advocacy. The closing date for responses is 30 June. To view the consultation document please go to the following website.

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/ezi3lrzpqedpoetu6zlap2oeuh3vh3cblumvxzxvusacovnxhIn6s22xyfsf45vaprd6ks5r24vrf7va2cbkd5l3mgb/UnderstandingtheFuture.pdf>

CONSULTATION ON DISPOSALS OF LAND FOR LESS THAN MARKET PRICE (SE 03/02/05) The Scottish Executive consultation addresses the disposal of local authority land for less than market price. Under existing legislation (Section 74, Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973), where a local authority proposes to dispose of land for less than the best that can be reasonably obtained, then consent must first be given by Scottish Ministers. The deadline for responses is 27 March. To view the consultation document please go to the following website.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/finance/dllmp-00.asp>

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLIC ATTITUDES TO THE ENVIRONMENT IN SCOTLAND (SE- 27/01/05) Final report of analysis of responses to the 'Public Attitudes to the Environment in Scotland' survey 2002 can be viewed at the following website.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/environment/pateis.pdf>

ENTERPRISE AND CULTURE COMMITTEE OFFICIAL REPORT OF MEETING (SP- 26/01/05) The official report from the meeting of the Enterprise and Culture Committee that took place on the 25 January 2005, at which the National Lottery UK legislation was discussed. The report can be viewed at the following website.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/enterprise/or-05/Col1536>

DRAFT SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY 16: OPEN CAST COAL; A DIGEST OF RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE (SE - 28/01/05) This highlights the comments made by respondents to the Executive's consultation paper on Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 16: Opencast Coal. To view the responses please go to the following website.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/planning/spp16dcr.pdf>

EVENTS

SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY, PLANNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE SCOTLAND This one day conference will take place on 21 February in Edinburgh, and will look at service provision and planning, and community solutions. The cost of the conference is £99 (supported rate), £199 (reduced rate) and £249 (full rate). For information regarding the conference please go to the following website or email services@holyrood.com

http://www.holyrood.com/nav/conference/future_events/conf_21feb2005/conference.asp?content=contents

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE NEWS RELEASES

NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF SCOTLAND (27/01/2005) Four new members were recently appointed to the board of trustees. These new members are Michael Kirwan, Sir John Ward CBE, Malcolm McLeod, and Stuart Munro. These appointments will be for the next four years. For more information please go to the following website.
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/01/27144639>

PRIORITIES SET FOR RURAL AREAS (27/01/2005) Twenty parts of Scotland have been designated Rural Services Priority Areas (RSPA) after the identification of disadvantage in service provision, access to services and subsequently opportunities. The status will enable government, local authorities and other agencies to focus improvements in services in the most disadvantaged rural communities. For more information please go to the following website.
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/01/27124659>

NEWS RELEASES

ENGLISH HERITAGE OFFERS £1 MILLION FOR REPAIR OF ENGLAND 'S CATHEDRALS (EH - 27/01/05) On 20 January English Heritage announced £1 million of grants for repairs to cathedrals. This is the fifteenth round of grants since English Heritage's Cathedral Grants scheme was launched in 1991 when a survey revealed that England's 61 cathedrals were suffering greatly from the ravages of time. Since then the scheme has contributed a grand total of £40.8 million towards the repair of some of England's greatest buildings, ensuring that none of the cathedrals are at risk. For information please go to the following website.
<http://www.englishheritage.org.uk/default.asp?wci=mainframe&URL1=default.asp%3FWCI%3DNode%26WCE%3D7282>

SNH WELCOMES STRATEGIC MOVE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY (SNH- 26/01/2005) SNH welcomes strategic move on renewable energy proposals by The Highland Council, to develop a strategic approach to the handling of renewable energy casework in the region. SNH has experienced a huge increase in the number of consultations its staff has been involved in responding to over the last few years. As a statutory consultee in most cases, the organisation has responsibility for evaluating the potential impact of developments on the natural heritage, particularly in relation to UK and international wildlife legislation, and promoting appropriate mitigation of these impacts. SNH also set out a strategic view on natural heritage sensitivities to wind farm developments in its 'Strategic Locational Guidance for Onshore Windfarms' document, published in 2002. In addition it published a supportive statement on marine renewables and undertook a national seascape study looking at the suitability for areas for offshore wind farms. For information please go to the following website.
[http:// www.snh.org.uk](http://www.snh.org.uk)

PRESCOTT SETS OUT EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES VISION (ODPM 01/02/05) A drive to develop a European approach to creating sustainable communities was launched recently by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott. His keynote address to the Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit in Manchester, Mr Prescott said he wanted to use the UK Presidency of the European Union to set up a new, Europe-wide framework for creating places where people want to live. Mr Prescott said this would provide a forum for exchanging views and experiences across the member states. It would build on work already taken forward by previous Presidencies and could be particularly relevant to Eastern European states that have recently joined the EU. The idea received strong support from European partners during discussions at the Summit, and Mr Prescott will use a high-level meeting of European ministers, later this year, to consider how to achieve sustainable communities in the context of emerging Regional Policy. For information please go to the following website.
http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn_id=2005_0026

BECKETT MAKES GLOBAL CALL TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE (DEFRA 01/02/05) The world needs to make radical changes in how it generates and uses energy to combat climate change, Environment Secretary Margaret Beckett told a conference of scientists recently. Speaking at the UK's international conference on climate change in Exeter, Mrs Beckett said an international approach to combat climate change was vital as no single country could solve the problem by acting alone. For more information please go to the following website.
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/latest/2005/climate-0201.htm>

MOTIONS & BILLS

S2M-2343 ROBIN HARPER: THE ROYAL INCORPORATION OF ARCHITECTS IN SCOTLAND SUSTAINABLE DESIGN ACCREDITATION (01/02/05) That the Parliament welcomes the launch of the RIAS Sustainable Design Accreditation Scheme on 1 February 2005 at Holyrood; notes that this is believed to be the first such scheme in the world and as such offers an opportunity for Scotland to take a global lead in sustainable building design and so reap the rewards for communities, for the environment and for Scottish entrepreneurship; further notes the pivotal role of building design in tackling fuel poverty and reducing overall energy use, thus reducing climate change emissions, and supports setting targets for improving the existing, and future, housing stock in Scotland that are both realistic and ambitious.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-02-01f.htm>

S2M-2293 LEWIS MACDONALD: THE DRAFT LAND REFORM (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 (MODIFICATION) ORDER 2005 (24/01/05) That the Justice 1 Committee recommends that the draft Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (Modification) Order 2005, be approved.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-01-24f.htm>

S2M-2320 ALEX JOHNSTONE: ENERGY POLICY (26/01/05) That the Parliament is concerned that the Scottish Executive's renewable energy policy is unduly biased in favour of wind power to the detriment of other renewable technologies, which has led to widespread local opposition to wind farm developments throughout the country and to higher costs for electricity; furthermore agrees with Allan Wilson MSP, Deputy Minister for Enterprise and Lifelong Learning, that the concerns of security of supply and the need for emission reductions mean that it is time for an open-minded debate into the future of nuclear energy in Scotland; supports John Home Robertson MSP's proposal for a Cross Party Group on the civil nuclear industry, and calls on the Executive to work in partnership with the UK Government to create a long-term plan for Scotland's energy needs

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-01-26f.htm>

S2M-2319 MR TOM McCABE: CHARITIES AND TRUSTEE INVESTMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL FINANCIAL RESOLUTION (26/01/05) That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Bill, agrees to any increase in expenditure payable out of the Scottish Consolidated Fund in consequence of the Act.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-01-26f.htm>

NEW PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

S2W-13994 MARK RUSKELL (01/02/05) To ask the Scottish Executive whether guidance issued to Scottish Water or its predecessor organisations on sustainable development was made available to the Water Industry Commissioner between 1999 and 2004.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-02-01e.htm>

S2W-13716 DES McNULTY (25/01/05) To ask the Scottish Executive whether, as part of its consideration of new planning arrangements, it will introduce tighter restriction on permitted development rights to prevent these being used to avoid local authority development planning or environmental controls.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-01-25e.htm>

S2W-13898 RICHARD LOCHHEAD (26/01/05) To ask the Scottish Executive how many planning applications for housing have been received in each year since 1999 and, of these, how many, and what percentage of, applications was (a) accepted and (b) rejected by each local authority.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-01-25e.htm>

S2W-13679 DES McNULTY (24/01/05) To ask the Scottish Executive what progress has been made in implementing those parts of the Landfill Directive relating to the engineering, operation and regulation of landfill sites.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-01-24e.htm>

S2W-13710 RICHARD LOCHHEAD (25/01/05) To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will publish national strategic guidance on the location of wind farms and provide a summary of existing guidance on this matter.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q S2W-13325 DES McNULTY, ABOLITION OF FEUDAL TENURE ETC. (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000

A Abolition of Feudal Tenure etc (Scotland) Act made provision for former superiors to preserve certain rights. The Scottish Executive is not aware that these are being used in a way which was not anticipated. **HUGH HENRY (20/01/05)**

Q S2W-13046 RICHARD LOCHHEAD, ENERGY

A The Executive has commissioned a research study which is currently developing projections of future energy consumption in Scotland. The report will be published later this year. **ALAN WILSON (20/01/05)**

Q S2W-13177 ROSIE KANE, PLANNING

A The Executive has no plans to introduce planning regulations in this regard. However, the planning system has a role to play in preventing and minimising the impact of noise through its influence over the location and design of new developments. Further guidance in this regard is contained in Development Department Circular 10/1999 (Bib. number 34898) and Planning Advice Note 56 (Bib. number 1153) published by the Executive and available in the Parliament's Reference Centre. In addition, I refer the member to the answer to question S2W-12955, on 10 January 2005, concerning implementation of the EU Environmental Noise Directive. **JOHANN LAMONT (20/01/05)**

Q S2W-13291 MARY SCANLON, RURAL DEVELOPMENT

A For target H, the Executive is working with an Advisory Group of representatives from key delivery agencies and rural communities to agree the rural areas to be targeted, to consult with local communities to identify the key services to be improved, and, later in 2005, to agree with the relevant community planning partnerships the specific targets for improvements to be achieved in terms of accessibility and quality. For each area and target, measurements will be made at baseline and in 2008 and changes from baseline calculated. Research will shortly be commissioned to establish local views on key services and how they might be improved and to collect data to measure baseline service provision. As target improvements for access and quality are agreed with community planning partnerships **ROSS FINNIE (20/01/05)**

Q S2W-13031 SHIONA BAIRD, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A The Executive has established an advisory group to assist in preparing a new Scottish strategy for sustainable development. Membership of the group consists of representatives from each Executive department (nominated by their departmental head) and the external members of the Cabinet sub-committee on Sustainable Scotland, the two Scottish members of the Sustainable Development Commission and the Chair of the Scottish Sustainable Development Forum Steering Group. **ROSS FINNIE (25/01/05)**

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@befso.org.uk or Jo Robertson jrobertson@befso.org.uk at the BEFS office on 0131 556 5353.