



PUBLICATIONS

SCOTTISH AWARDS FOR QUALITY IN PLANNING 2004 (06/06/05) Report of the Judges.
<http://www.scottishexecutive.gov.uk/Publications/2005/06/06110954/09559>

TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS – OVERVIEW OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES (06/06/05) This overview summarises the key issues raised in the responses to the recent consultation. It concludes that the consultation has revealed considerable support for the Executive's proposals to improve the effectiveness of Tree Preservation Orders and to make the Forestry Commission a statutory consultee. It notes that all the comments received will be taken into account as the Executive finalises its package of reforms to the planning system.
<http://www.scottishexecutive.gov.uk/Publications/2005/06/03155410/54115>

SCOPING STUDY INTO THE COST OF FLOODING USING THE AUGUST 2004 EVENT AS A CASE STUDY FINAL REPORT (25/05/05) This study, commissioned by the Scottish Executive Environment Group, Air Climate and Engineering Division, sought to identify the full range of impacts of the recent extreme weather event - financial and non-financial; estimate the cost of this extreme weather event; and propose a method to enable the costs of any such future events to be captured with a greater degree of accuracy.
<http://www.scottishexecutive.gov.uk/Publications/2005/05/17151735/17383>

NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON PLANNING: REPORT OF SECOND MEETING 15 NOVEMBER, 2004, DUNDEE (23/05/05) The report is a synopsis of comments made during the meeting.
<http://www.scottishexecutive.gov.uk/Publications/2005/05/2394121/41225>

NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON PLANNING: REPORT OF SECOND MEETING 30 NOVEMBER, 2004, INVERNESS (23/05/05) The report is a synopsis of comments made during the meeting.
<http://www.scottishexecutive.gov.uk/Publications/2005/05/2394408/44094>

STRATEGIC REVIEW OF THE FUNDING OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR (20/05/05) A paper presenting a statement which has been jointly agreed by central government, local government and the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations (on behalf of the voluntary sector in Scotland). The paper identifies the value of the voluntary sector, outlines a strategic approach to supporting the sector, and identifies a set of core objectives and key issues as priority areas for action.
<http://www.scottishexecutive.gov.uk/Publications/2005/05/NewPage>

EVENTS

YOUR CHANCE TO INPUT INTO THE DRAFTING OF THE SCOTTISH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY: 20 June 2005, 9.15–12.15: BEFS workshop at the Scottish Parliament. An opportunity for built environment stakeholders to feed into the Scottish Sustainable Development Strategy. For further information contact Jo Robertson on 0131 556 5353, jrobertson@befs.org.uk. RSVP by midday, Thursday 16 June.

HISTORIC MASONRY WORKSHOPS: 21 June 2005, School of Engineering & Science, University of Paisley. 'Development of Modern Lime Mortars for Conservation and New Build Applications, Using Traditional Low-Energy Processes' (10–1pm); 'Improving Materials Testing & Technical Information in the UK Roofing Slate Industry' (2–5pm). Cost £50 (inclusive of lunch and both workshops). Registration forms at www.acmcentre.com/hmworkshops, tel: 0141 849 4260, email: joan.walsh@paisley.ac.uk.

EDINBURGH & EAST LOTHIAN ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE: 10 September 2005, 9.30 – 5pm, Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh. Cost £15, concession £10. Further information available from the BEFS office or contact Biddy Simpson: bsimpson1@eastlothian.gov.uk; or John Lawson: john.lawson@cecas.freeserve.co.uk. To book a ticket: contact the Brunton Theatre booking office on 0131 665 2240.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE NEWS RELEASES

NEW DAWN FOR SCOTLAND'S CHARITIES (10/06/05) The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Bill has been passed by the Scottish Parliament. It creates a single framework for charity registration and regulation in Scotland and modernises fundraising activities undertaken in Scotland. The Bill establishes the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) as an independent statutory regulator and enshrines a Scottish definition of charity, requiring all charities to demonstrate public benefit. OSCR will maintain a statutory public register of charities and will have the power to investigate misconduct by charities and take action to prevent this or protect charitable assets.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/06/10081739>

WORK UNDERWAY TO CREATE PILOT BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS (10/06/05) Finance Minister Tom McCabe has announced that all the recommendations of a working group set up to consider the way forward for Business Improvement Districts have been accepted. One of the recommendations is to establish pilot BID areas and work will now get underway on these. The Working Group has proposed two types of BID pilot projects, Pathfinders and a Demonstration Project. Pathfinders will be funded by the private sector, with a small contribution from the Executive to cover start-up costs. Expressions of interest will be invited to take forward a Pathfinder project in each of the following categories: Prospering City Centre Area; City Centre Renewal Area; Prospering Town Centre; Business Park/Science Campus. Demonstration projects will be fully funded by the Executive and will serve as an example of how BIDs can help to regenerate a medium-sized town centre in need of renewal.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/06/10153427>

DEPUTY CHAIR APPOINTED TO SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE (27/05/05) Keith Geddes has been appointed as Deputy Chair of Scottish Natural Heritage. Mr Geddes, who has been a Board Member of SNH since April 2001, will serve until 31 March 2007. He has been appointed as Deputy Chair following the retirement of Michael Scott in April. Keith Geddes is Policy Director with Pagoda Public Relations. He is presently Chair of the SNH Audit and Risk Management Committee and of Greenspace Scotland.

<http://www.scottishexecutive.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/05/26151507>

RESEARCH INTO GEOGRAPHY OF DEPRIVATION (25/05/05) The Scotland and Northern Ireland Research Forum (SNIFFER) has published research which studies the impact of negative and positive environmental features - such as industrial sites, derelict land and greenspace - on communities. The research is the first of its kind in Scotland and will be used to help target resources to tackle deprivation.

<http://www.scottishexecutive.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/05/25124550>

NEWS RELEASES

MSPs BACK GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT BILL (SP - 07/06/05) The Scottish Parliament's Environment and Rural Development Committee has endorsed the general principles of the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Bill which replaces the existing regulations on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and aims to improve environmental protection, by integrating environmental factors into strategic decision-making. Evidence to the Committee showed very substantial support for the Bill. However, the report points to a significant degree of nervousness about what the Bill will mean to those authorities that will be required to implement it. The Committee has recommended that the Executive prepare a training package for senior officials and councillors to equip them with the necessary knowledge to implement the Bill effectively. The Committee also recommends that the Minister should give further thought to the function of the "Gateway", which is to administer the SEA process. The Committee also noted a number of areas in the Bill where clarification and more information was required. The Committee has sought a response from the Minister on those issues before Stage 2 consideration of the Bill begins.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-comm-05/cenv05-007.htm>

MOTIONS & BILLS

***S2M-2894 MR TOM McCABE: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL: FINANCIAL RESOLUTION (02/06/05)**

That the Parliament, for the purposes of any Act of the Scottish Parliament resulting from the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Bill, agrees to any increase in expenditure of a kind referred to in Rule 9.12.3(b)(iii) of the Parliament's Standing Orders arising in consequence of the Act.

***S2M-2911# JOHN HOME ROBERTSON: AFFORDABLE RENTED HOUSING (03/06/05)** That the Parliament is concerned about the shortage of affordable rented housing in many communities and the fact that some applicants in overcrowded or unsuitable accommodation can be stuck on waiting lists for years, while others may be compelled to buy or rent housing that they cannot afford; suggests that there is a need for a clearer definition of affordability for the purposes of housing policy; welcomes initiatives by the Scottish Executive to help councils and registered social landlords to increase the supply of affordable housing, including prudential borrowing to fund new building; recognises that the high cost of development land is hindering that policy, and believes that there is a case for further measures to help local authorities to acquire and secure land for affordable housing in the Executive's proposed Planning Bill.

CHARITIES AND TRUSTEE INVESTMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL (09/06/05) Bill reprinted as passed (SP Bill 32B) (Executive Bill).

NEW PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

S2W-16937 SHIONA BAIRD (31/05/05) To ask the Scottish Executive what measures are in place to support the development of the biomass heating industry and how successful these measures have been.

S2W-16827 BRIAN ADAM (24/05/05) To ask the Scottish Executive what plans it has to introduce building construction guidelines which deliver "breathing wall" technology.

S2W-16831 BRIAN ADAM (24/05/05) To ask the Scottish Executive whether it has any plans to allow public landowners, such as NHS boards and local authorities, to enter into land leasing agreements to provide affordable, sustainable housing.

S2W-16844 LINDA FABIANI (24/05/05) To ask the Scottish Executive when the voluntary sector strategic funding review action plan will be published.

S2W-16765 FRANCES CURRAN (23/05/05) To ask the Scottish Executive what measures it is taking to develop planning across all policy sectors of government with regard to the impact of climate change.

S2W-16770 FRANCES CURRAN (23/05/05) To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will examine the feasibility of incentives in the planning system, such as fee reduction or accelerated processing, to encourage developers to meet higher energy efficiency standards and whether such measures will form part of the proposed Planning Bill.

S2W-16772 FRANCES CURRAN (23/05/05) To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will implement the EU Directive on energy performance of buildings in 2006.

S2W-16773 FRANCES CURRAN (23/05/05) To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will review the Scottish Forestry Strategy with the objective of comprehensively addressing climate change considerations, such as through the potential for carbon sequestration and the impact that increased use of timber in construction and energy generation can have on emissions.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q (S2W-16770) FRANCES CURRAN, PLANNING INCENTIVES FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY

A The feasibility of incentives to encourage developers to meet higher energy efficiency standards will be examined in a research project to be commissioned as part of the Executive's review of the Scottish

Climate Change Programme. We will await the outcome of the research before considering any measures. **JOHANN LAMONT (07/06/05)**

Q (S2W-16827) BRIAN ADAM, GUIDANCE ON BREATHING WALL TECHNOLOGY

A I have asked Dr Paul Stollard, Chief Executive of the Scottish Building Standards Agency (SBSA), to answer. His response is as follows: The agency has no plans to introduce specific guidance on this subject. However, current guidance offering ways to comply with the mandatory functional standards in the Scottish Building Standards Technical Handbooks does not prohibit the use of breathing wall constructions. Several proprietary products have been granted a British Board of Agrément (BBA) certificate for use in these constructions, and it is the responsibility of verifiers to assess compliance of this technology against the standards. **JOHANN LAMONT (01/06/05)**

Q (S2W-16765) FRANCES CURRAN, CLIMATE CHANGE AND PLANNING

A We are reviewing our Scottish Climate Change Programme and developing a revised programme that will expand on our existing adaptation response. The revised programme will outline established adaptation measures, those in the pipeline and any to be subjected to further analysis, with the intention of assisting everyone in Scotland prepare for the unavoidable impacts of climate change. **ROSS FINNIE (01/06/05)**

Q (S2W-16772) FRANCES CURRAN, ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS

A I have asked Dr Paul Stollard, Chief Executive of the Scottish Building Standards Agency (SBSA), to answer. His response is as follows: The EU Directive 2002/91/EC on the Energy Performance of Buildings is to be implemented in Scotland by the Scottish Building Standards Agency on behalf of Scottish ministers. The intention is to implement in 2006 but to make use of the derogations permitted by the Directive to phase in energy certification and the inspection of boilers and air-conditioning over three years. In relation to energy performance certification, there are insufficient independent experts currently available for the system to be fully in place by January 2006 which is why implementation will be phased. In the interim, priority in Scotland will be given to the certification for display in public buildings, expected in 2006, and roll-out of certification for construction, sale and rental of other buildings which is expected in spring of 2007. **JOHANN LAMONT (01/06/05)**

Q (S2W-16599) RICHARD LOCHHEAD, STUDIES ON SUSTAINABLE HOUSING DESIGN

A Research studies on these topics have been commissioned by Communities Scotland as follows: (follow link for table of information) <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-05/wa0531.htm#13>
MALCOLM CHISHOLM (31/05/05)

Q (S2W-16844) LINDA FABIANI, VOLUNTARY SECTOR STRATEGIC FUNDING REVIEW

A In partnership with the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), the Scottish Executive is currently working up a detailed action plan to implement the principles identified in the Strategic Funding Review Joint Statement, which was published last week. The action plan will be published in the summer. Further information about the review can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/viu>. **MALCOLM CHISHOLM (31/05/05)**

Q (S2W-16773) FRANCES CURRAN, SCOTTISH FORESTRY STRATEGY

A We shall shortly embark on a review of the Scottish Forestry Strategy, led by Forestry Commission Scotland. The review will encompass a wide range of issues, one of which will be climate change. The first public consultation exercise will specifically ask for views about how forestry in Scotland could play a greater role in dealing with issues associated with climate change. **LEWIS MACDONALD (26/05/05)**

Q (S2W-16598) RICHARD LOCHHEAD, FUNDING R & D INTO INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

A I have asked Angiolina Foster, Chief Executive of Communities Scotland, to respond. Her response is as follows: (follow link for table and full response) <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-05/wa0524.htm> **MALCOLM CHISHOLM (24/05/05)**

Q (S2W-16600) RICHARD LOCHHEAD, HOUSING SUBSIDY CONDITIONS AND SUSTAINABILITY

A I have asked Angiolina Foster, Chief Executive of Communities Scotland, to respond. Her response is as follows: Communities Scotland through its unit approval funding process encourages the incorporation of sustainable design principles in all developments. This involves taking account of the following indicators for all projects: energy efficiency as measured by average performance SAP ratings; average energy

(space and water heating) costs per annum (£); average CO2 emissions per annum (tonnes); number of new units built on "brownfield" sites; existence of a verifiable sustainable development policy (for registered social landlords engaged in housing development); space standards as per average resident capacity; the level of housing for varying needs barrier free compliance; the level of secured by design dwellings. **MALCOLM CHISHOLM (24/05/05)**

Q (S2W-16437) RICHARD LOCHHEAD, IMPACT OF OFFSHORE WINDFARMS

A We aim to commence a Strategic Environmental Assessment of parts of Scotland's coastline this summer. The assessment will provide valuable information on environmental considerations which will steer our decisions on the future development of offshore renewable energy technologies. **JIM WALLACE (23/05/05)**

Information in the Bulletin is extracted from a number of websites; such as the Scottish Executive (SE); the Scottish Parliament (SP); Architecture and Design Scotland (A+DS); Historic Scotland (HS); Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH); Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO); English Heritage (EH); Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE); Department of Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA); National Assembly for Wales (NAW). For further information, links are provided to the relevant documents. 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.