



## BULLETIN (49) 29 JULY 2005

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### CONSULTATIONS

**SETTING TARGETS FOR RECYCLED CONTENT IN PUBLIC SECTOR PROCUREMENT (28/07/05)** This paper outlines proposals that could make a significant contribution to the Scottish Executive's goal of sustainable development – the outcomes from the consultation will feed into the Scottish Sustainable Development Strategy which is currently being developed. The consultation seeks views as to whether targets should be set on public bodies in relation to specifying recycle. It is noted that various mainstream products, notably in paper and construction applications, are available with a range of recycled content at no extra cost and equal quality. Deadline for responses: 18 November 2005.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/07/27153127/31293>

### PUBLICATIONS

**DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT BUSINESS PLAN (SE 21/07/05)** Business Plan for the Scottish Executive Development Department 05/06 – 07/08.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/07/1594656/46585>

**MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR OPEN SPACE (SE 19/07/05)** This research report recommends minimum standards of open space for different types of developments - specifying how much there should be and how it should be used. It will inform the forthcoming review of National Planning Policy Guideline 11: Sport, Physical Recreation and Open Space. Some councils already have their own strategies for open space, but the research suggests that there should be a requirement on all councils to prepare strategies and to develop open space standards. There is a Partnership Agreement commitment to set minimum standards for including public open space in new developments.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/07/18104215/42175>

**SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY (SPP) 16 OPENCAST COAL – SUMMARY REPORT OF RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION EXERCISE (SE 13/07/05)** Highlights the main issues raised by respondents to the consultation exercise.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/07/13111517/15196>

**SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY (SPP) 16 OPENCAST COAL (SE 13/07/05)** Sets out the national planning policy framework for the working of opencast coal. The policy states that applications for new sites should only be approved if they are environmentally acceptable or provide local benefits, such as jobs or land improvements.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/07/13111617/16198>

**SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE ENVIRONMENT GROUP: SCOTTISH COASTAL FORUM AND A STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND'S COAST AND INSHORE WATERS - A SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES (SE 08/07/05)** This is a summary report on the consultation carried out by the Scottish Executive on behalf of the Scottish Coastal Forum for their publication of "A Strategy for Scotland's Coast and Inshore Waters". The strategy is part of the on-going debate on marine and maritime policy, and has particular regard for the development of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/07/08105413/54158>

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR SCOTLAND (AMENDED FEBRUARY 2005) (SE 01/07/05)** This Plan sets out a description of rural Scotland, with particular emphasis on the agricultural and forestry sectors, strategic priorities for the investment of EU and domestic funds to support certain activities which fall within the scope of the Regulation, and forecast levels of expenditure.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/54357/0013214.pdf>

**ENGLISH HERITAGE STRATEGY 2005 – 2010 (EH 08/07/05)** Making The Past Part Of Our Future: English Heritage Strategy 2005 - 2010 outlines what English Heritage will be doing over the next five years to make a real difference to England's historic environment and to address its most urgent needs.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.8755>

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## EVENTS

**PLANNING IN SCOTLAND** A one-day conference to take place on 6 September, at the Edinburgh Corn Exchange. The conference will examine the future of planning in Scotland; the Executive's vision for the planning system; whether the White Paper meets the Executive's Partnership Agreement commitment to make the planning system more efficient and more inclusive; the practical impacts the reforms will have on planning authorities, developers and communities. Cost £99 (supported rate), £199 (reduced rate), £249 (full rate) + VAT. To register call 0131 272 2130, email [planning@holyrood.com](mailto:planning@holyrood.com) or visit:

<http://www.holyrood.com>

**THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT** This will take place between 6-8 September at the University of Westminster. The conference will focus on sustainability, management, heritage and tourism and education, training and research. Full conference cost: £490; day rate: £250 (15% discount for early booking).

[http://www.iccmbe.com/conference\\_files/Conservation%20Conf.pdf](http://www.iccmbe.com/conference_files/Conservation%20Conf.pdf)

**EXTERNAL TIMBER CLADDING – DESIGN FOR DURABILITY** A one day conference to take place on 22 September at the Hilton Coylumbridge Hotel, Aviemore. The conference will consider how timber details should be detailed, appropriate species, weathering, maintenance and fire risk. Conference offers 6 hours of CPD. Cost: £50 + VAT. For further details and registration form, contact [kate.hendry@thelighthouse.co.uk](mailto:kate.hendry@thelighthouse.co.uk).

**REGENERATING SCOTLAND – PARTNERSHIPS FOR COMMUNITIES** A one-day conference to take place on 4 October at the Royal Museum, Edinburgh. The conference will examine regeneration in Scotland, in both an urban and a rural context, including: what is understood by regeneration, what makes a project successful, what are the roles and responsibilities of developers, community groups and local government. Cost £99 (supported rate), £199 (reduced rate), £249 (full rate) + VAT. To register call 0131 272 2130, or visit:

<http://www.holyrood.com>

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## SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE NEWS RELEASES

**BORDERS RAIL BILL (22/07/05)** The Waverley Rail Committee has recommended the re-introduction of the Borders Rail-link to Galashiels and Tweedbank. The Scottish Parliament Committee responsible for scrutinising the Private Bill to re-establish the Waverley Railway has published its preliminary report – the Bill now goes forward for Parliamentary debate.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/07/22115134>

**FURTHER INVESTMENT IN NATIONAL PARK (20/07/05)** The deputy Minister for Environment Rhona Brankin has announced £9 million in funding for a new headquarters for the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority, which will be built in Balloch. She also launched Osprey I, a new patrol boat which will enhance the work of rangers in monitoring safety and enforcing byelaws on the loch. An additional £70,000 from the government will help buy the vessel and employ additional park rangers.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/07/20105436>

**ST KILDA GAINS WORLD HERITAGE STATUS (15/07/05)** The remote island of St Kilda has been awarded UNESCO World Heritage status for both natural and cultural significance. Already acknowledged for its magnificent physical beauty and its biological character, St Kilda has now been inscribed as a cultural record of a lost crofting community, that once lived on what has been described as "the edge of the world". The UNESCO World Heritage Committee accepted the extension to the existing marine and terrestrial natural heritage World Heritage inscriptions to now include the 'cultural landscape' left by thousands of years of human occupation. The

Comparative Analysis was prepared on behalf of the UK Government by The National Trust for Scotland, with support from Historic Scotland.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/07/15112949>

**EDINBURGH'S ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN (29/06/05)** A new state-of-the-art visitor centre for the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh (RBGE) is to receive a £2 million contribution from the Executive towards the fundraising target of £13 million. The new Gateway centre will underpin RBGE's mission to explore and explain the world of plants by offering enhanced visitor facilities, encouraging new and existing visitors to enjoy greater understanding the RBGE's work.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/06/29122953>

## NEWS RELEASES

**HOME INFORMATION PACKS DRAW ONE STEP CLOSER (ODPM 25/07/05)** The introduction of Home Information Packs - aimed at transforming home-buying and selling - has received a boost with plans recently announced, showing there has been real progress following discussions between Government and the industry about how the scheme could operate and the shape of a 'dry run' planned for 2006. Home Information Packs, which will be introduced early in 2007 in England and Wales, will inject much needed transparency into the home-buying and selling process by bringing together key information about a property's condition, energy efficiency and ownership before homes are marketed.

[http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn\\_id=2005\\_0151](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn_id=2005_0151)

**DELIVERING CLEANER, SAFER, GREENER COMMUNITIES - TWO NEW GUIDES LAUNCHED (ODPM 22/07/05)** Two new trouble-shooting guides to help councils and local agencies uncover better ways of creating cleaner, safer, greener communities have been launched by the ODPM. The guides are a strand of the How to programme, which aims to support councils and local agencies in taking action to improve the quality of life in communities across England. "How to improve residential areas" and "How to create quality parks and open spaces" offer advice on what action can be taken, what powers can be used and what resources are available to improve the local environment.

[http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn\\_id=2005\\_0150](http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn_id=2005_0150)

**COMMISSION TO EXAMINE AFFORDABLE RURAL HOUSING (DEFRA 20/07/05)** The Government has announced the establishment of a new commission that will identify practical ways to access affordable rural housing. The Affordable Rural Housing Commission will aim to report quickly on this issue to DEFRA and the ODPM.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2005/050720c.htm>

**CONSTRUCTIVE CONSERVATION (EH 13/07/05)** Simon Thurley, Chief Executive of English Heritage, announced recently what English Heritage will be doing over the next five years to make a real difference to England's historic environment and to address its most urgent needs. These include transforming the image of conservation, an extension of the Buildings at Risk Register to cover all aspects of the historic environment, a campaign to save historic churches and a solution to the threats to rural heritage.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.5348>

**MINISTERS LAUNCH MEASURES TO PROVIDE MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING (NAW 11/07/05)** A package of measures aimed at helping local authorities provide more people in Wales with affordable housing has been announced by the Welsh Assembly Government. The proposed measures - which will be subject to a consultation process before being formalised - include changes to planning policy and guidance to increase the quantity of affordable housing provided through the planning system.

[http://www.wales.gov.uk/servlet/PressReleaseByDateServlet?area\\_code=37E752F2000942E000000A2E0000000&document\\_code=N000000000000000000000000033716](http://www.wales.gov.uk/servlet/PressReleaseByDateServlet?area_code=37E752F2000942E000000A2E0000000&document_code=N000000000000000000000000033716)

**PUBLIC SPACE WILL MAKE OR BREAK GOVERNMENT AMBITIONS FOR HOUSING MARKET RENEWAL (CABE 01/07/05)** A new report, Start with the Park, from CABE (The Commission for Architecture & the Built Environment) demonstrates the vital importance of having clear plans for the use of redundant housing land. The report highlights many other opportunities in renewal areas to regenerate neglected green spaces, and explore new uses such as urban forests, which can help link cities into their surrounding landscape.

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/news/press/showPRelease.asp?id=736>

## MOTIONS & BILLS

**PROPOSED THIRD PARTY PLANNING RIGHTS OF APPEAL (SCOTLAND) BILL (01/07/05)** Proposal for a Bill to provide third parties with a right of appeal against decisions made in planning applications under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (LODGED 22/06/05, SANDRA WHITE)

**\*S2M-3104 ROBIN HARPER: ENERGY EFFICIENCY (25/07/05)** That the Parliament congratulates the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee on the publication of its latest report on energy efficiency; welcomes the findings of the report, in particular the finding that the UK Government is currently providing neither clarity nor leadership in promoting energy efficiency; notes that over 60% of the energy content of power station fuel is lost as waste heat or through losses of conversion or transmission; further notes that all sectors currently use energy inefficiently and wastefully; believes that drastically improved energy efficiency, particularly in the domestic sector, must be at the heart of any strategy to tackle climate change, and urges Scotland to become a nation of efficient energy generators and users.

**\*S2M-3115 DONALD GORRIE: FUNDING OF SCOTTISH CIVIC FORUM (25/07/05)** That the Parliament is concerned that neither the Scottish Executive nor the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body is prepared to provide funding to help keep the Scottish Civic Forum going; is conscious that the forum was a major plank in the Consultative Steering Group's proposals for the new parliamentary arrangements in Scotland; recognises that the Scottish Civic Forum has done some good work and has also been the target of some criticism; believes that the forum or some similar body outwith the Parliament and the Executive should be an essential part of a vigorous Scottish democracy, and urges the Executive and the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body to meet the forum, MSPs and other interested parties to discuss how best to provide this democratic structure.

**S2M-3071# RICHARD BAKER: MARINE ENERGY PRODUCTION IN SCOTLAND (01/07/05)** That the Parliament notes the current review of the Renewables Obligations Certificate (ROCs) system to encourage the production of renewable energy; recognises that Scotland is at the forefront of technological development in the marine energy industry and that there are great opportunities for marine energy production in Scotland, and believes that the ROCs system should be amended in order to provide greater incentives for the production of marine energy in Scotland.

## PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

**S2W-17837 SHONA ROBISON (18/07/05)** To ask the Scottish Executive what its position is on the Scottish Building Standards Agency developing a new tool that will display an energy performance certificate on housing when local authorities and Communities Scotland use the National Home Energy Rating system.

**S2W-17646 JOHN SWINBURNE (29/06/05)** To ask the Scottish Executive what action it is taking to promote sustainable activity around the coast and in the territorial waters of Scotland to ensure their protection, in light of proposals by the UK Government to introduce a draft Marine Bill for the protection of the waters around England and Wales.

## PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

**Q (S2W-17837) SHONA ROBISON: ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

**A** I have asked Dr Paul Stollard, Chief Executive of the Scottish Building Standards Agency (SBSA), to answer. His response is as follows: The National Home Energy Rating methodology (NHER) is neither publicly owned nor does it currently comply with the technical requirements of the EU Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings. For the purposes of directive implementation, it is not considered to be in the public interest to place total reliance in a methodology that is not in government ownership. Should the NHER methodology become directive compliant, this could be used to produce an energy performance certificate and would be an acceptable alternative to one generated by the Scottish Energy Rating Tool (SERT). SERT is currently under development and ways of converting existing NHER input data into SERT input data will be investigated. **JOHANN LAMONT (26/07/05)**

**Q (S2W-17646) JOHN SWINBURNE: SUSTAINABLE COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS**

**A** I announced on 15 June the outline of a new Scottish strategy for the long-term sustainability of Scotland's marine and coastal environments, including work to identify Scotland's first coastal and marine national park. A copy of my letter of 14 June to the Convener of the Environment and Rural Development Committee, setting out the main elements of that strategy, is available at the Parliament's website: [www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/envirment/papers-05/rap-20.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/envirment/papers-05/rap-20.pdf). I expect to publish more detail of the strategy within the next two months. **ROSS FINNIE (27/07/05)**

**Q (S2W-17539) ROB GIBSON: NATIONAL FOREST ESTATE**

**A** The national forest estate, owned by Scottish ministers and managed by Forestry Commission Scotland, extends to 656,200 hectares (as recorded in Forest Facts & Figures, 2004, published on 30 September 2004). The estate includes 601,016 hectares of forest land (which includes 135,810 hectares of open land within the forest) and 55,202 hectares of non-forest land. The size of the parcels that comprise the estate varies enormously, and we do not hold records of locations that may be of interest for community buy-outs. Communities can apply to acquire parts of the national forest estate provided they satisfy the criteria set out in the new National Forest Land Scheme. In addition, under a predecessor scheme of the National Forest Land Scheme (the Sponsorship Scheme for the Purchase of Land Managed By Forestry Commission Scotland) we are dealing with community groups at Minard and Tyndrum regarding the possibility of their purchasing small, local areas, surplus to the national forest estate.

A map, showing the location of the entire national forest estate, is available at: [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcs\\_managed\\_woodlands.pdf/\\$FILE/fcs\\_managed\\_woodlands.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcs_managed_woodlands.pdf/$FILE/fcs_managed_woodlands.pdf)  
**RHONA BRANKIN (19/07/05)**

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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](mailto:cstuart@befso.org.uk) or Jo Robertson [jrobertson@befso.org.uk](mailto:jrobertson@befso.org.uk) at the BEFS office on 0131 556 5353.