



## CONSULTATIONS

**DRAFT SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY 8: TOWN CENTRE (18/08/05)** This document sets out the Executive's policy for town centres and the key uses which contribute to their economic growth and enhancement. While the underlying policy remains unaltered, the document acknowledges the importance of a broader range of land uses rather than a specific focus on retailing. When finalised, the document will replace NPPG8: Town Centres and Retailing. Deadline for responses: 11 November 2005.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/planning>

## PUBLICATIONS

**INDICATORS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR SCOTLAND: PROGRESS REPORT 2005 (SE 31/08/05)** The report records progress against the 24 indicators included in Meeting the Needs...Priorities, Actions and Targets for Sustainable Development in Scotland, published in April 2002. The 24 indicators cover the key Scottish priorities for sustainable development against which the Scottish Executive measures activities to ensure that the action being taken contributes towards sustainable development.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/26122734/27353>

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND THE PLANNING SYSTEM (SE 26/08/05)** The report (research findings and publication) examines criticism of the performance of the planning system in dealing with major planning applications and recommends measures to make the system more "business friendly". The study presents evidence about the nature, type and extent of problems and makes recommendations to address them.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/23181358/13592>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/23181826/18268>

**A GUIDE FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR TO SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE GRANTS 2005-6 (SE 22/08/05)** This guide covers the Scottish Executive's Direct Grant Schemes only. In line with best practice in the strategic funding of voluntary organisations, Scottish Executive funding is available: for activities that promote Scottish Executive objectives; to support capacity building within organisations on the basis of agreed outputs; to fund core management, administrative and relevant training costs where an organisation has a continuing role in the delivery of particular policy objectives; for local networks to promote the growth and effectiveness of voluntary and community organisations; and on a time-limited basis, for innovative projects where the Scottish Executive has a particular interest in taking forward an experimental approach.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/2291032/10331>

**SURVEY OF THE BUILDING DESIGN PROFESSIONS' ATTITUDES TO THE POLICY ON ARCHITECTURE FOR SCOTLAND – EDUCATION RESEARCH FINDINGS No. 6 (SE 18/08/05)** A 'web only' full report surveying the views of building design professionals towards the Policy on Architecture for Scotland and the impact made on the profession. The survey shows that 90% of design professionals who responded to a MORI poll agreed with the Governments policies on architecture.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/07/0195611/56139>

**SPP17 – PLANNING FOR TRANSPORT (SE 17/08/05)** This SPP replaces NPPG 9 The Provision of Roadside Facilities on Motorways and Other Trunk Roads in Scotland, NPPG 17 Transport and Planning and SPP17 Transport and Planning Maximum Parking Standards Addendum to NPPG 17. Background material and good practice is in Planning Advice Note 75. This updated policy aims to integrate landuse and transport planning – to ensure that people can reach developments by walking, cycling and public transport as well as by car.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/16154406/44078>

**PLANNING ADVICE NOTE: PAN 75 – PLANNING FOR TRANSPORT (SE 17/08/05)** This PAN aims to create greater awareness of how linkages between planning and transport can be managed. It highlights the roles of different bodies and professions in the process and points to other sources of information.  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/16154453/44538>

**SPP17 – PLANNING FOR TRANSPORT – CONSULTATION REPORT (SE 17/08/05)** This report explains the consultation process that was undertaken on the drafting of SPP 17 Planning for Transport and the changes that have been made to the SPP in the light of the consultation responses and input from other key stakeholders.  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/1792229/22298>

**PLANNING – TRANSPORT ASSESSMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION: A GUIDE (SE 17/08/05)** Most new developments and changes of use will have some form of transport implication. Given the policy significance of the links between land use and transport the likely transport impacts of development proposals need to be identified and dealt with as early as possible in the planning process. This document seeks to provide a better practice guide to help identify and deal with the likely impacts.  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/1792325/23264>

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## EVENTS/TRAINING

**EUROPA NOSTRA (UK) CONFERENCE: REGENERATING HISTORIC PLACES – A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE ON CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS** This one day conference will take place on 16 September (preceded by AGM and lecture on 15 September, and coach tour on 17 September) at the Gateshead Visitor Centre. Presentations will include case studies from Grainger Town, Newcastle, the Derwent Valley World Heritage Site in Derbyshire and the Ancoats project in Manchester. Further information and registration form available from Lester Borley CBE: 0131 332 2364, [lesterborley@waitrose.com](mailto:lesterborley@waitrose.com).

**THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT EXPLAINED** A one day educational conference run by Holyrood Communications; to take place on 26 September in Edinburgh. Fees: £99 + VAT - £249 + VAT. Further details available at [www.holyrood.com](http://www.holyrood.com), or call 0131 272 2130.

**THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE EXPLAINED** A one day educational conference run by Holyrood Communications; to take place on 31 October in Edinburgh. Fees: £99 + VAT - £249 + VAT. Further details available at [www.holyrood.com](http://www.holyrood.com), or call 0131 272 2130.

**SCOTTISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPLAINED** A one day educational conference run by Holyrood Communications; to take place on 28 November in Edinburgh. Fees: £99 + VAT - £249 + VAT. Further details available at [www.holyrood.com](http://www.holyrood.com), or call 0131 272 2130.

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## SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE NEWS RELEASES

**ST KILDA STONE MARKS WORLD HERITAGE STATUS (29/08/05)** A special marker stone has been unveiled on the remote islands of St Kilda in recognition of their dual World Heritage status as internationally important natural and cultural landscapes. St Kilda is one of only 24 sites in the world to hold this dual status. The unveiling ceremony, by Culture Minister Patricia Ferguson, was timed to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the voluntary evacuation of the islands on August 29, 1930.  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/08/29155024>

**EXTRA FUNDING FOR URBAN WOODLAND (23/08/05)** Deputy Minister for the Environment Rhona Brankin has announced that a further £1 million of Forestry Commission Scotland funds will be added to the £3.5 million already allocated to the Woods in & Around Towns (WIAT) challenge fund, as part of the drive to use woodlands to improve the lives of people living in urban areas. A new WIAT publication gives valuable advice and information on how landowners can and are helping to green towns and cities.  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/08/23114907>

## NEWS RELEASES

**NEW WEBSITE PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR VILLAGE HALLS (SCVO 18/08/05)** Village and community hall committees in Scotland can now access a website that will help them manage their buildings. The website will provide up to date information on the increasingly complex issues involved in managing a hall and also provide an opportunity for isolated rural halls to network with each other and share their experiences. The website has been developed by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) with funding from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust – it can be viewed at:

[www.scvo.org.uk/VillageHalls](http://www.scvo.org.uk/VillageHalls)

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## PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

**S2W-18492 SARAH BOYACK (22/08/05)** To ask the Scottish Executive what plans it has to publish an energy efficiency strategy.

**S2W-18518 ROB GIBSON (22/08/05)** To ask the Scottish Executive how many agreements under section 75 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 have been signed by planning authorities in each year from 1999 to 2005 and for what purposes such agreements were concluded.

## PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

**Q (S2W-18141) RICHARD LOCHHEAD: FOREST PLANNING**

**A** The following table provides details of the forest planting rates in each of the last five years, also showing year-on-year percentage changes. The figures refer to areas for which Forestry Commission Scotland paid grants and the area planted by Forestry Commission Scotland on the national forest estate. To view the table, follow this web link: **RHONA BRANKIN (19/08/05)**  
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-05/wa0819.htm>

**Q (S2W-18279) MICHAEL MATHESON: ARCHITECTURE**

**A** The Executive continues to promote Scottish architecture through its policy on architecture. A progress report which details both the achievements of policy to date and our future plans was published in February 2005, a copy of which is available in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (Bib. number 35568). Recent initiatives have included events promoting Scottish architecture abroad in Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and France. The establishment of Architecture and Design Scotland in April 2005 as a national champion for good architecture and design represents a major step forward in encouraging and promoting quality development in the built environment across Scotland. In 2006 we plan a formal review of policy which will take into consideration the Cultural Commission's recent recommendations on architecture and the built environment. **PATRICIA FERGUSON (24/08/05)**

**Q (S2W-18201) STEWART STEVENSON: DERELICT LAND**

**A** The Scottish Executive has since 1993 published an annual statistical bulletin estimating the amount of vacant and derelict land in Scotland by local authority area. The information requested can be found in the Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey 2004 which was published on 16 December 2004. The Survey can be viewed on the Scottish Executive website – follow the web link below: **JOHANN LAMONT (24/08/05)**  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00381-00.asp>.

**Q (S2W-18139) RICHARD LOCHHEAD: LAND REFORM**

**A** The Scottish Executive is already successfully delivering its wide-ranging land reform agenda, which includes legislation to abolish Scotland's archaic feudal system; to simplify agricultural tenancies and provide an agricultural tenant's right to buy; to establish statutory rights of responsible access to land and inland water for recreational purposes; to provide opportunities for rural and crofting communities to purchase land; to address local government issues, and to create National Parks in Scotland. Implementation of this programme is on-going and we have recently consulted on, and are now considering responses to, a draft of a Crofting Reform Bill, which I hope will be introduced to Parliament in the 2005-06 legislative session.

The Scottish Executive has also delivered non-legislative measures, such as increasing local community involvement in land management; introducing the Forestry Commission Scotland's National Forest Land Scheme; increasing awareness of compulsory purchase powers; providing information on sources of land ownership; co-ordination of activity between public landowning bodies; encouraging community management of croft land and tackling absenteeism; evaluating the impact of new planning guidance; reviewing compulsory purchase and compensation legislation, and reviewing deer control measures.

I intend to take stock and to report to Parliament next year on the effects of the measures already implemented. In taking stock, we will also look at the need and scope for, and the best way to achieve, any further land reform measures.

The Executive continues to build on its success in delivering land reform for the benefit of the people of Scotland. It is vital, therefore, that any new proposals are built upon secure foundations and are carefully considered and consulted upon in the same way as our present agenda. **RHONA BRANKIN (26/08/05)**

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