



BULLETIN (56) 29 NOVEMBER 2005

CONSULTATIONS

EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM MANIFESTO (DFES 04/11/05) This e-consultation sets out a vision and key aims for a manifesto for education outside the classroom. A number of activities relate to the built environment. Deadline for responses: 30 January 2006.

[http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/consultationDocument%20\(MASTERv2\).doc](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/consultationDocument%20(MASTERv2).doc)

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE SHARE OF NATIONAL LOTTERY SUPPORT TO THE ARTS AND FILM, HERITAGE AND SPORT (25/11/05) For the first time the Government is to ask the public what kind of arts, film, heritage and sporting projects should receive Lottery funding. People will be able to make their views known through a dedicated website www.lottery2009.culture.gov.uk. The responses will be used to help the Government decide in June 2006 how Lottery money should be shared between the good causes after 2009 and whether the Government should change the policies affecting how the money is spent. Deadline for responses: 28 February 2006.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/consultations/2005+current+consultations/lottery2009_consultation.htm?properties=2005+current+consultations%2C%2Fglobal%2Fconsultations%2Fdefault%2C&month=

PUBLICATIONS

SCOTTISH TOURISM – A DRAFT FRAMEWORK FOR CHANGE (SE 18/11/05) Following the 2002 document 'A Tourism Framework for Action 2002 – 2005' – this strategy document looks at what is happening in the tourism markets and how the market in Scotland might change over the next decade.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/11/18110937/09377>

SCOTTISH AWARDS FOR QUALITY IN PLANNING 2005 (29/11/05) List of received applications.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/11/29100944/09447>

HOUSING TRENDS IN SCOTLAND: QUARTER ENDING 30 JUNE 2005 (29/11/05) This Bulletin provides data on housing activity in Scotland for the second quarter of 2005. It includes information on public sector house sales, new house building, and local authority lettings and evictions.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/11/29103329/33303>

VALUATION OF THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT (DCMS 23/11/05) This study was commissioned because the partners – English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Transport - perceived a joint need for an in-depth review of existing valuation studies concerned with the historic environment.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/publications/archive_2005/vhe.htm?properties=archive%5F2005%2C%2Fglobal%2Fpublications%2Fdefault%2C&month=

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE NEWS RELEASES

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT BILL (09/11/2005) The Scottish Parliament has passed by 98 votes to 12 the Executive's Environmental Assessment Bill which requires all public strategies, plans and programmes to be subject to environmental assessment. Environment Minister Ross Finnie said: "This legislation is good for people, good for places and good for development. It extends environmental assessment to all public plans and strategies. It will help to raise our awareness of the impacts of our public plans on the environment from habitats, culture and landscape to human health and climate change and help to improve the plans we deliver."

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/11/09172439>

SINGLE SURVEY TO REFORM HOME BUYING SYSTEM (24/11/2005) The Housing Bill introduces a single survey scheme which gives house buyers far more detail on properties and simplifies the whole buying and selling process. Private sector tenants will get new rights to basic standards of accommodation and a new route of appeal if the landlord does not carry out necessary repairs. Communities Minister Malcolm Chisholm said: "The single survey, commissioned by sellers at the start of the marketing process, will provide in depth, quality information to buyers about the condition of the house."

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/11/24171426>

NEWS RELEASES

NEW HOUSING IN THE NORTH FAILS TO MEASURE UP (CABE 18/11/05) 94% of new private housing built over the last three years in the north of England fails to measure up on design quality, according to an audit published today by CABE, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment. In the latest audit of new housing, CABE reviewed the design quality of 93 schemes by the 10 largest volume housebuilders in the North East, North West, Yorkshire and Humber. It revealed that: 24 % of the schemes were judged 'poor'; a further 70 % are 'average'; and only 6 % are 'good' or 'very good'.

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/news/press/showPRelease.asp?id=754>

CABE RESPONSE TO "TOWARDS A STRONG URBAN RENAISSANCE", THE NEW URBAN TASK FORCE REPORT (CABE 22/11/05) CABE has welcomed this report, the momentum it provides to this debate, and the commitment of Government to keep the quality of our towns and cities at the top of its agenda. In order for public investment to deliver design excellence consistently, CABE recommends two key actions: first, that incentives should be made available related to design quality; and second, that public investment strategies relating to the built environment should be integrated.

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/news/press/showPRelease.asp?id=756>

RURAL HERITAGE COUNTS (EH 16/11/05) English Heritage, the National Trust, the Country Land and Business Association, the Heritage Lottery Fund and others have all contributed research and analysis for Heritage Counts 2005, published on Tuesday 15th November 2005. This year's annual audit of the historic environment focuses on rural issues and is the most comprehensive report ever on the state of England's rural historical environment.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.5837>

TIMBER PROCUREMENT WEBSITE LAUNCHED (DEFRA 14/11/05) A new website (www.proforest.net/cpet) has been launched to provide information and advice on how legal and sustainable timber can be purchased, in line with the UK Government's timber procurement policy. The website is aimed at government and companies supplying government. Buyers and suppliers will find advice on how to specify legal and sustainable timber, how to assure themselves they are getting what they ask for, background information on how these practical solutions were developed, and under what criteria evidence should be assessed.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2005/051114d.htm>

A DIGITAL FUTURE FOR THE PAST (DCMS 16/11/05) Minister for Culture David Lammy has launched a new Action Plan to make Europe's cultural heritage more accessible through the internet. The development of this Plan has been one of the Culture Department's priorities for the UK Presidency. Action Plan objectives include: Strengthening co-ordination and forging stronger links between Member States' digitisation initiatives, EU networks and projects; Improving online access to European cultural content.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/press_notices/archive_2005/dcms160_05.htm

RECENT MOTIONS & BILLS PROGRESS

S2M-3606 ALEX JOHNSTONE: ARBROATH ABBEY WORLD HERITAGE SITE STATUS (22/11/05) That the Parliament supports a campaign to encourage the UK Government to obtain World Heritage Site status from UNESCO for Arbroath Abbey, not only on the basis of its connection with the Declaration of Arbroath of 1320 but also for its outstanding architecture; recognises that the Declaration of Arbroath more than satisfies UNESCO's requirement

for the site to be directly associated with literary works of outstanding universal significance, and considers that the Scottish Executive should support Arbroath Abbey as an excellent Scottish candidate for the UK Tentative List.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL The Bill has been reprinted as passed (SP Bill 38B) (Executive Bill).

HOUSING (SCOTLAND) BILL The Bill has been reprinted as passed (SP Bill 40B) (Executive Bill).

RECENT PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

S2W-20629 MARY SCANLON (14/11/05) To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S2W-19830 by Allan Wilson on 9 November 2005, what plans are being made to increase the number of trained planners in order to implement the proposed planning Bill.

S2W-20986 PATRICK HARVIE (24/11/05) To ask the Scottish Executive how the proposed Planning Bill will ensure the protection of the historic environment.

S2O-8238 JIM MATHER (24/11/05) To ask the Scottish Executive what plans it has to continue to teach history in S1 and S2 as a distinct subject, in light of recent announcements and public concern.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q (S2W-19872) MARY SCANLON: PLANNING - RESOURCES

A The report has not yet been published. We expect to publish it around the time the Planning Bill is introduced to Parliament. While the Executive will not be publishing a formal response to the report, it will assist in informing debate on the proposals for reform, in particular any financial implications. **JOHANN LAMONT (11/11/05)**

Q (S2W-19891) NORA RADCLIFFE: ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY

A The Scottish Executive has worked with others, notably Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and UK departments, to assess the impact of the Directive's requirements and to prepare for public consultation on its transposition into Scottish legislation. We aim to consult on policy issues early next year and on more detailed arrangements in autumn 2006. **ROSS FINNIE (14/11/05)**

Q (S2W-19944) MARY SCANLON: PLANNING – MIXED COMMUNITIES/ZONING

A Development planning provides a framework to deliver better outcomes, by coordinating economic, social and environmental factors and ensuring that long term consequences and short term effects of development and change can be addressed. The white paper proposes that development plans will be updated every five years to ensure that they are relevant to conditions on the ground and able to take into account the latest policy and advice on the creation of more sustainable communities. **JOHANN LAMONT (16/11/05)**

Q (S2W-19968) NORA RADCLIFFE: BUILDING REGULATIONS

A I have asked Dr Paul Stollard, Chief Executive of the Scottish Building Standards Agency (SBSA), to answer. His response is as follows: The duty to comply with the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 lies with the owner or, in some cases the tenant, who is carrying out the work for which a building warrant is required. It is the responsibility of all local authorities, as verifiers of the system of building standards, to enforce the provisions of the Building (Scotland) Act 2003 and the SBSA will be monitoring the authorities on their performance. **JOHANN LAMONT (16/11/05)**

Q (S2W-20103) SANDRA WHITE: PLANNING – ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT TPRA

A The Executive has not undertaken any specific economic assessment of the possible impact on the economy of introducing of a third party right of appeal. The Scottish Executive's consultation paper Rights of Appeal in Planning, issued on 1 April 2004, was accompanied by a Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment, which indicated the type of costs that might arise from the various models of appeal mechanism considered in the consultation paper. **MALCOLM CHISHOLM (08/11/05)**

Q (S2W-20104) SANDRA WHITE: PLANNING - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A The Executive does not hold this information centrally. The forthcoming Planning Advice Note on Community Engagement will look at issues of public participation in the planning system, building on previous research contained in Getting Involved in Planning: Summary of Evidence and Planning and Community Involvement in Scotland. Copies of both research documents are available in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (Bib. numbers 24757 and 33268 respectively). **JOHANN LAMONT (09/11/05)**

Q (S2W-20125) DAVID DAVIDSON: PLANNING - SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A The proposals in the White Paper Modernising the Planning System will increase the opportunities for the planning system to play its role in delivering sustainable development. We are currently considering the content of the Planning Bill, which we intend to introduce shortly. **MALCOLM CHISHOLM (08/11/05)**

Q (S2W-20268) SARAH BOYACK: ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS

A We are working closely with the Department of Trade and Industry on their proposed Microgeneration Strategy and Low Carbon Building Programme (LCBP). Linked to this, we propose to begin shortly, work to determine what might be an appropriate such strategy for Scotland. **ALLAN WILSON (14/11/05)**

Q (S2W-20629) MARY SCANLON: PLANNING - RESOURCES

A The research recently commissioned by the Executive on the subject of Resources for Planning examined, among other matters, issues relating to the supply and demand for planning staff and their professional education and training. The Executive will be discussing the report's conclusions and recommendations with planning authorities, higher education institutions and other interested bodies. **JOHANN LAMONT (22/11/05)**

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); Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM); Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS); 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 Jo Robertson jrobertson@befso.org.uk at the BEFS office on 0131 556 5353.