



BULLETIN (57) 20 DECEMBER 2005

CONSULTATIONS

CHARITIES AND TRUSTEE INVESTMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005: THE SCOTTISH CHARITY APPEALS PANEL: CONSULTATION PAPER (SE 15/12/05) This consultation paper outlines the Scottish Executive's proposals for the rules for the Scottish Charity Appeals Panel to be made under Schedule 2 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Deadline for response: 10 March 2006.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/1590256/02562>

CHARITIES AND TRUSTEE INVESTMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005: PROPOSALS FOR CHARITIES AND BENEVOLENT FUNDRAISING REGULATIONS: CONSULTATION PAPER (SE 15/12/05) This consultation paper outlines the Scottish Executive's proposals for the regulations under section 83 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Deadline for response: 10 March 2006.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/1590029/00305>

VALUING VOLUNTEERS – HISTORIC SCOTLAND'S OPERATIONAL POLICY FOR PROMOTING VOLUNTEERING (SE 05/12/05) This draft operational Policy paper invites views on the broad principles by which Historic Scotland will promote, manage and recognise the involvement and contribution of volunteers to the work of the Agency. Deadline for response: 3 March 2006.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/05101504/15252>

PUBLICATIONS

MODERNISING THE PLANNING SYSTEM: ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES (SE 19/12/05) Analysis of responses to the White Paper.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/0195339/53401>

CHOOSING OUR FUTURE: SCOTLAND'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (SE 14/12/05) This document provides the strategic framework for a number of the Executive's new and emerging strategies on climate change, transport, renewable energy, energy efficiency, green jobs and biodiversity. It does not attempt to replicate the detail of those programmes. It looks at these issues from different perspectives: from a focus on the health and well-being of individuals in Scotland through to the sustainability of the planet, with learning to live more sustainably a theme which runs across them all. Some key issues - travel, food, waste and the built environment - are considered in the round, to help illustrate the connections between both problems and solutions.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/1493902/39032>

REVIEW OF PROGRESS ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PAPER 2005/37 (SE 14/12/05) This review of work by the Scottish Executive and its associated agencies and public bodies is divided into two sections reflecting the two central strands of environmental justice: 'environmental quality' and 'involving communities'. It covers work delivering the aims identified by the First Minister in his 2002 speech and the relevant commitments in A Partnership for a Better Scotland. It also includes new activities and targets, which contribute towards the environmental justice agenda.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/12161827/18283>

CONSTRUCTION WORKS PROCUREMENT GUIDANCE (SE 16/12/05) This Manual provides the Scottish Executive's Departments, Associated Departments, Executive Agencies and most sponsored bodies with mandatory policy and procedures for construction works projects that will deliver value for money. It supersedes the (former) Building Division's 'Client Pack', as well as Building Directorate Practice Notes 1 to 8 and Construction and Building Control Group Practice Notes 2A and 7A. The Manual addresses a number of issues relating to the procurement and management of major capital projects including: mandatory use of the independent Gateway

Review process on high risk or mission critical capital projects exceeding £5 million budget; clearer decision-making and accountability in relation to choice of procurement route; and clarification of appointment processes for design teams in accordance with EU procurement rules.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/11/28100404/04045>

A VISION FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR: THE NEXT PHASE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP (SE 12/12/05) In this vision, the Scottish Executive sets out: a definition of the voluntary sector; why working with the voluntary sector is part of the Executive's vision for Scotland; the Executive's role in supporting the vision; what the Executive is doing and what more it could do to promote the role of the sector; what others can do - the challenges for the sector; next steps to realise the vision.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/12103306/33063>

GUIDANCE ON THE TENEMENTS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004 AND THE TITLE CONDITIONS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 FOR HOUSING PROFESSIONALS (SE 30/11/05) Guidance for the benefit and assistance of professional staff who are involved in advising owners of flats in tenements, including housing officers, solicitors, surveyors, architects and staff in advice bureaux.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/11/2194749/47506>

RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION ON DRAFT SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY 21: GREEN BELTS (SE 02/12/05)

Responses to the consultation.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/02114906/49066>

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE CULTURAL COMMISSION SINCE THE FINAL REPORT WAS ISSUED IN JUNE 2005 (SE 02/12/05)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/11/25140906/09062>

SAFEGUARDING SEA LIFE (DEFRA 08/12/05) The four administrations within the UK have published the joint UK response to the Review of Marine Nature Conservation. The response sets out our shared policies for marine biodiversity in the context of our shared approach to sustainable development. Our focus is on the conservation of marine ecosystems alongside thriving marine industries and the communities that rely on them.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/ewd/rmnc/index.htm>

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PLANNING AUDIT UNIT 2004 (20/12/05) The Seventh Annual Report of the Planning Audit Unit follows the same format as last year with the full complement of performance statistics along with a brief commentary on the tables of council, national park, and Executive performance on planning. The year 2005-2006 will focus on the preparation of the new Planning Bill, and there are therefore no audits planned for this period.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/1994855/48566>

RESOURCES FOR PLANNING: RESEARCH FINDINGS NO. 212/2005 (20/12/05) The research looks at the adequacy of the existing staff and financial resources available to local authority planning departments. An assessment of the potential staffing and cost impacts of the proposals for reform and modernisation is included as an extension to this report.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/1591145/11453> (main findings)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/1591239/12397> (full report)

PLANNING REFORMS: AN IMPACT ASSESSMENT: RESEARCH FINDINGS NO. 212/2005 (20/12/05) The research provides an initial independent assessment of the resource implications of the Planning reform proposals contained in the Planning White Paper Modernising the Planning System (June 2005), relative to the resource burden of the existing Planning System in Scotland. The assessment follows Arup's Resources for Planning (2005) study.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/1694940/49410> (main findings)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/1694823/48239> (full report)

MODERNISING THE PLANNING SYSTEM: DIGEST OF RESPONSES TO THE WHITE PAPER (20/12/05) Digest of responses.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/2084221/42223>

DEFRA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLANS (DEFRA 15/12/05) One of the commitments in the UK Government sustainable development strategy, *Securing the Future*, was for all government departments and their executive agencies to produce a Sustainable Development (SD) Action Plan by December 2005. This action plan brings together Defra's actions towards sustainable development for its policies, operations and as an employer.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/sustainable/action-plan.htm>

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE NEWS RELEASES

SKILLS FOR SUCCESS (06/12/05) Around 1,000 youngsters are taking part in new Developing Skills for Work courses designed to offer third and fourth year pupils of all abilities the chance to develop skills and knowledge in broad vocational areas. The pilot courses include construction and craft skills.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/12/05103908>

STREAMLINED ROUTE TO FUNDING OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS (12/12/05) A new cross-cutting group will help reduce red tape and offer a more streamlined route to funding for voluntary organisations. The Group will: work to spot new opportunities for the sector in policy engagement and in delivery of services; oversee the streamlining of the funding around Departments; ensure consistency in the messages on national and local priorities and the voluntary sector; monitor use of the sector in service delivery; develop appropriate indicators to ensure that the policies that are in place to support the sector, actually make a difference.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/12/12143931>

HOUSEHOLD ESTIMATES FOR 2005 (13/12/05) The number of households in Scotland continues to rise and there are fewer empty dwellings and second homes than in recent years, according to the latest Household Estimates for 2005.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/12/13101351>

THE FUTURE FOR PLANNING (20/12/05) The new Planning (Scotland) Bill is 'the most fundamental and comprehensive reform of the planning system' since it was created in 1948. Communities Minister Malcolm Chisholm said there had been extensive consultation since publication of the White Paper Modernising the Planning System in June. As a result, the Executive will introduce a range of additional proposals, including: new obligations for the planning system to contribute to sustainable development; a formal role for the Parliament in drawing up the National Planning Framework; new measures to ensure greater transparency in the handling of local authority interest cases; further measures to encourage public participation in planning, including on major applications; additional proposals on enforcement of planning control. Where these measures require legislation, provisions will be introduced during the course of the bill.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/12/20102725>

NEWS RELEASES

HISTORIC SCOTLAND AWARDS MORE THAN £2.4 MILLION IN GRANT AID (HS 09/12/05) Listed buildings across Scotland will benefit from more than £2.4 million in grants from Historic Scotland. Glasgow's impressive School of Art, an internationally renowned example of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's work; the A-listed Auchaven Cottage in the Cairngorms National Park and the Midsteeple on Dumfries High Street are just three of the 18 projects to get funding for vital repairs in the latest grants programme.

<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/news-full-article.htm?articleid=19361>

RECENT MOTIONS & BILLS PROGRESS

PLANNING ETC. (SCOTLAND) BILL INTRODUCED (20/12/05) - A Bill for an Act of the Scottish Parliament to make further provision relating to town and country planning; to make provision for business improvement districts; and for connected purposes. (SP Bill 51) (Executive Bill).

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/bills/billsInProgress/planning.htm>

***S2M-3661 ANDREW ARBUCKLE: WORLD HERITAGE SITE STATUS FOR THE FORTH RAIL BRIDGE (01/12/05)** - That the Parliament supports the continued inclusion of the Forth Rail Bridge on the UK Tentative List for World Heritage Site Status; considers that the bridge has outstanding universal value and cultural qualities and should therefore be awarded this status; believes that Historic Scotland, the Scottish Executive and Fife Council should back the motion passed by the City of Edinburgh Council to support the inclusion of the bridge on the list; considers that the UK Government should make the appropriate representations to UNESCO, and believes that the award of this status for the Forth Rail Bridge would be a welcome addition to Scotland's four other World Heritage Sites.

***S2M-3751 DONALD GORRIE: SCOTTISH CIVIC FORUM (20/12/05)** That the Parliament greatly regrets the winding-up of the Scottish Civic Forum because of the lack of financial support from the Scottish Executive and the Parliament; congratulates the Scottish Civic Forum on the good work it has done to involve more Scottish people in the democratic decision-making process; believes that this work must be continued, and calls on the Executive, the Parliament and those who have been involved in the Scottish Civic Forum, or other organisations working in the same field, to get together to evolve a new mechanism to produce better democratic structures outwith the parliamentary process.

RECENT PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

S2W-21245 ELEANOR SCOTT (30/11/05) To ask the Scottish Executive how comments received in response to the consultation on the siting of a coastal and marine national park will be taken into account and whether a summary of these comments will be published together with a rationale for the site selection which sets out how these comments have been taken into account.

S2W-21276 ALEX NEIL (01/12/05) To ask the Scottish Executive what its policy is on the construction of motorways through major urban settlements.

S2W-21319 TRISH GODMAN (01/12/05) To ask the Scottish Executive what recent discussions have taken place with appropriate interested parties, including representatives of the architectural profession and those representing the interests of older people, concerning the design and adaptation of houses to meet the requirements of people aged 60 and over.

S2W-21366 MARY SCANLON (05/12/05) To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will revise National Planning Policy Guideline 14 on the Natural Environment to take account of the draft revised Scottish Forestry Strategy, due to be published in 2006.

S2W-21551 MARY SCANLON (09/12/05) To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will conduct a review of National Planning Policy Guideline: NPPG 19 - radio telecommunications.

S2W-21571 MURRAY TOSH (12/12/05) To ask the Scottish Executive whether the proposed second National Planning Framework will identify the need for wind farms which generate more than 50 megawatts of electricity and whether it will prescribe areas of search for wind farm development.

S2W-21572 MURRAY TOSH (12/12/05) To ask the Scottish Executive whether it plans to publish draft regulations to define major and local developments before Stage 3 consideration of the proposed Planning Bill.

S2W-21726 MURRAY TOSH (15/12/05) To ask the Scottish Executive how it will enforce the statutory duty it proposes to place on local authorities in the forthcoming Planning Bill to update their development plans every five years.

S2W-21803 DAVID DAVIDSON (16/12/05) To ask the Scottish Executive what additional burdens will be placed on local authorities by the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and how these will be paid for.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q (S2W-21245) ELEANOR SCOTT: COASTAL AND MARINE NATIONAL PARK

A I have asked Scottish Natural Heritage to report to Scottish ministers in early 2006 with an initial assessment of potential candidate areas for a coastal and marine national park. SNH is working closely

with stakeholders in considering Scotland's coastal and marine environment against assessment criteria, including the three conditions for National Park proposals set out in the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000.

I envisage that there would be a full Executive consultation with all stakeholder interests following receipt of the SNH report including the preparation of a report in the usual way on the consultation responses to provide an analysis of the views submitted. The SNH report and the views received in response to the consultation will be fully considered prior to the Scottish ministers making any statutory proposal to establish a National Park under the provisions of the National Park (Scotland) Act 2000. **ROSS FINNIE (09/12/05)**

Q (S2W-21276) ALEX NEILL: MOTORWAY CONSTRUCTION IN URBAN SETTING

A There is no pre-defined policy. The options for the route of a new motorway are judged against the Government's five assessment criteria of Integration, Economy, Safety, Environment, and Accessibility. **TAVISH SCOTT (15/12/05)**

Q (S2W-21319) TRISH GODMAN: HOUSING DESIGN

A I have asked Dr Paul Stollard, Chief Executive of the Scottish Building Standards Agency (SBSA), to answer. His response is as follows:

The SBSA is presently carrying out a review of standards on the access and use of buildings, including dwellings, and the review focuses on the need to provide dwellings that can accommodate the needs of all occupants, older people amongst them. The aim is to ensure that new dwellings better meet the varying needs of both occupants and visitors and are of a form that will enable future adaptation to suit the changing needs of occupants over the years.

The Building Standards Advisory Committee working party carrying out the review includes members from the architectural profession, the Disability Rights Commission, local authority building standards, private house builders and the Building Research Establishment.

Discussions on the issues of accessibility and use of buildings are in progress with a range of other key stakeholders, including: The Joseph Rowntree Foundation; Scottish Disability Equality Forum; Royal National Institute for the Blind; Royal National Institute for the Deaf; Homes for Scotland, and Ownership Options. It is anticipated that other interested parties will become involved prior to public consultation on proposed changes in March 2006. **JOHANN LAMONT (12/12/05)**

Q (S2W-21366) MARY SCANLON: REVIEW NPPG 14

A We plan to begin a review of NPPG14 on Natural Heritage in the second quarter of 2006. Although it is too early to say what will be contained in the revised NPPG14, strategies such as the Scottish Forest Strategy will be considered as we take the review forward. **JOHANN LAMONT (14/12/05)**

Q (S2W-21571) MURRAY TOSH: NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK - WINDFARMS

A Spatial planning issues relating to wind farms will primarily be considered through the current review of National Planning Policy Guideline 6: Renewable Energy. The outcome of this work will be reflected in the second National Planning Framework. **MALCOLM CHISHOLM (15/12/05)**

Q (S2W-20986) PATRICK HARVIE: PLANNING BILL – PROTECTION OF HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

A The Planning Bill will lay the foundations for a planning system that will serve Scotland's aspirations for prosperity, a better environment and greater participation. Its primary purpose is not to address the protection of the historic environment but it will provide an opportunity to update some of the detailed provisions of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997. The Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland has been asked by Scottish ministers to advise on whether there is a need to review heritage protection legislation in Scotland. They are due to report in May 2006. Ministers will then consider whether revised legislation for the protection of the historic environment is required. **PATRICIA FERGUSON (05/12/05)**

Q (S2W-19942) MARY SCANLON: PLANNING BILL – UP TO DATE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A The white paper proposes that there will be a statutory duty placed on local authorities to update all development plans within five years of the date of adoption or approval. We will work in partnership with planning authorities to deliver the package of reforms contained in the white paper and to support authorities where difficulties arise. The Executive will continue to monitor development plan progress under the new development plan system and to make this information publicly available. **JOHANN LAMONT (29/11/05)**

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.