



## BULLETIN (59) 24 FEBRUARY 2006

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### CONSULTATIONS

**ENHANCING OUR CARE OF SCOTLAND'S LANDSCAPES (SE 30/01/06)** This consultation paper contains proposals for legislation to give Scottish Ministers powers to designate, de-designate, or revise the boundaries of any National Scenic Area (NSA). A statutory definition of purpose including criteria for designation of NSAs is proposed. The paper also contains proposals for promoting a non-statutory approach for the management of NSAs utilising the expertise of SNH and working towards preparation of management strategies and implementation of action plans for individual NSAs. Deadline for responses: 24 April 2006.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/01/27145442/0>

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR SCOTLAND 2007 – 2013 THE STRATEGIC PLAN (SE 08/02/06)** This consultation paper invites views on the key themes and priorities for the Rural Development Strategy for Scotland. The Strategy will guide the use of European Union (EU) funds and other resources for rural development in the 2007-2013 Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP). 'Safeguarding and enhancing landscapes and the historic environment' is included as a priority. Deadline for responses: 29 March 2006.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/02/08132503/0>

### PUBLICATIONS

**SCOTLAND'S CULTURE – SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE RESPONSE ON THE CULTURAL REVIEW (SE 19/01/06)**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/01/18091052/0>

**SCOTLAND'S BUDGET DOCUMENTS 2006 – 2007: BUDGET (SCOTLAND) (No.3) BILL SUPPORTING DOCUMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2007 (SE 19/01/06)** This booklet provides supporting information for the Parliament and others in support of the "Budget (Scotland) (No.3) Bill". The Bill was laid before the Parliament by the Executive in January 2006. The booklet itself has no statutory force - it is produced as an aid to understanding the Bill. The purpose of the Bill is to seek Parliamentary approval to the Executive's spending plans for the financial year 2006-07.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/01/16161641/0>

**PILOT MODEL POLICY STUDY: CONCLUSIONS & NEXT STEPS (SE 31/01/06)** This report sets out the finalised model policies on the built environment and natural heritage, which are suitable for most local authorities to use in the preparation of new development plans.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/01/24141301/0>

**PLANNING BULLETIN: ISSUE No 24: DECEMBER 2005 (07/02/06)** Planning news update.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/02/03113018/0>

**THE REVIEW OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) (SCOTLAND) ORDER 1992 (SE 17/2/06)** Minute and meeting papers from the first meeting of the GDPO Research Steering Group.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/02/16152503/0>

**SPP6: STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: SCOPING REPORT (SE 14/02/06)** The purpose of this scoping report is to establish the scope of, and methodology for, the SEA and to identify appropriate data that may be of relevance to the study.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/02/14104926/0>

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## SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE NEWS RELEASES

**MAPPING OUT SCOTLAND'S CULTURAL FUTURE (SE 19/01/06)** Scotland's cultural landscape will be transformed by radical plans for the future, MSPs have been told. Culture Minister Patricia Ferguson said plans to invest an extra £20 million per year from April 2007 will support plans to nurture the best creative and cultural talent while cutting back on unnecessary bureaucracy. The plans include: concrete local entitlements for every person backed by a framework of rights; a new cultural development agency to be called Creative Scotland; direct government funding of the main national performing companies.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/01/19093710>

**DECREASE IN HOUSE PRICES (SE 17/02/06)** The average price for a residential property in Scotland decreased by 0.5 per cent in the last quarter (October to December 2005) and is now £125,934, according to figures released by Registers of Scotland. This compares with a figure of £126,538 in the previous quarter (July to September 2005).

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/02/17093644>

## NEWS RELEASES

**HISTORIC SCOTLAND SECURES LANDMARK LOTTERY CASH TO HELP DEFUSE SCOTLAND'S SKILLS SHORTAGE TIME-BOMB (HS 19/01/06)** Scotland is to benefit over the next four years from a £2.28 million investment in traditional skills training with £1 million being awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The money will be used to train 154 people in masonry conservation skills.

<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/news-full-article.htm?articleid=19820>

**DESIGNED WITH CARE: A CAMPAIGN TO RAISE STANDARDS IN NEIGHBOURHOOD HEALTHCARE BUILDINGS (CABE 14/02/06)** With the new health white paper signaling a strategic shift for healthcare in England, and services being provided closer to home instead of from big hospitals, CABE is launching a new campaign, 'Designed with Care', to demonstrate the impact of high quality design on local healthcare facilities. CABE is calling for the built environment to be part of the debate on health and well-being.

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/default.aspx?contentitemid=1160>

**CULTURE MINISTER DAVID LAMMY SPEECH ON HERITAGE (DCMS 26/01/06)** Text of key heritage speech given at the 'Capturing the Value of Heritage' conference, at the Royal Geographical Society.

[http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/press\\_notices/archive\\_2006/david\\_lammy\\_speechJan2606.htm](http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/press_notices/archive_2006/david_lammy_speechJan2606.htm)

**SECRETARY OF STATE'S SPEECH TO ARCHITECTS JOURNAL BREAKFAST CLUB (DCMS 02/02/06)** Text of speech given by Tessa Jowell.

[http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/press\\_notices/archive\\_2006/Tessa\\_Speech\\_feb06.htm](http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/press_notices/archive_2006/Tessa_Speech_feb06.htm)

**BOTANIC AND HISTORIC GARDENS SKILLS CRISIS (EH 23/01/06)** New research shows that the historic and botanic garden sector is now at severe risk from an increasing shortage of vital skills, a danger that is exacerbated by an aging workforce. In response to this skills crisis, English Heritage has taken the lead in establishing a partnership of organisations who are working together to address the problem. This group successfully bid for an HLF grant towards the Historic and Botanic Gardens Bursary Scheme which will enable a number of employees in the sector to undertake detailed training placements and exchanges.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.6028>

**HERITAGE WORKS (EH 17/02/06)** The British Property Federation, English Heritage, The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and Drivers Jonas have launched a new publication called Heritage Works. This is a new practical step-by-step guide for developers, owners, practitioners or community groups for creating successful heritage-led regeneration projects. It is designed to be a one-stop reference document or "checklist" for regeneration in the historic environment, and includes information on issues such as breaking cycles of decline, concept development, economic benefits, using characterisation, VAT, fund-raising, the public realm and management plans.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.6136>

## BILLS – PROGRESS

**PLANNING ETC. (SCOTLAND) BILL – STAGE 1** The Bill and accompanying documents can be viewed at: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/bills/billsInProgress/planning.htm>

The lead committee managing the Bill is the Communities Committee. Official reports of the Communities Committee meetings can be viewed at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/communities/meetings.htm>

Call for written evidence: The Communities Committee has issued a call for written evidence with a deadline of 6 March 2006:

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/communities/05\\_Events.htm](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/communities/05_Events.htm)

## RECENT PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

**S2W-22613 PATRICK HARVIE (25/01/06)** To ask the Scottish Executive what opportunities would exist under the terms of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Bill for individuals to object to specific proposals contained in a future national planning framework.

**S2W-22819 MARK BALLARD (01/02/06)** To ask the Scottish Executive how it intends to use the revised set of sustainability indicators announced in paragraph 14.16 of Choosing Our Future: Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy.

**S2W-22820 MARK BALLARD (01/02/06)** To ask the Scottish Executive whether differences between the initial set of sustainability indicators introduced in April 2002 and those announced in December 2005 will affect comparison between the two.

**S2W-22842A RICHARD BAKER (02/02/06)** To ask the Scottish Executive what plans it has to improve the strategic management of investment in affordable housing.

**S2W-23338 FRANCES CURRAN (22/02/06)** To ask the Scottish Executive what examples of international best practice in the energy performance of buildings it has (a) identified and (b) implemented to protect and enhance Scotland's new environment, in line with paragraph 13b of International Strategy.

## PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

**Q (S2W-21726) MURRAY TOSH: PLANNING BILL – UPDATE DEVELOPMENT PLANS**

**A** We will work in partnership with planning authorities to deliver the package of reforms and to support authorities where difficulties arise. Where serious failures occur, ministers will have powers in the Planning Bill to request information from planning authorities on the operation of their functions and to direct an audit of those functions with a clear process for making and following up on recommendations. Ministers will retain existing powers to take over from an authority the function of preparing a plan, although these will only be used where other measures have failed. **JOHANN LAMONT (17/01/06)**

**Q (S2W-21803) DAVID DAVIDSON: ENERGY PERFORMANCE BUILDINGS**

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

It is not possible to identify all the likely burdens imposed on local authorities as a consequence of the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, as each authority will deal with the challenges imposed by the Directive in a different way. However, the readily identifiable issues for the local authority building stock are: For housing there will be an obligation to provide energy performance certificates when dwellings are sold or rented out. Large public buildings, over 1000m<sup>2</sup> floor area will need to display an energy performance certificate. Air-conditioned buildings will need to have systems that are greater than 12kW inspected on a regular basis. The local authorities will fund these obligations. The issues for local authorities in their verification and enforcement role for directive matters that are addressed directly through the building standards system are likely to be: The methodology based system of compliance with the energy standards for new buildings. The energy performance certification of existing housing through building standards assessments. The recording of energy performance certificates on the building standards register. Where non-compliance is identified regarding energy performance

certification and air-conditioning inspection matters. In all but the last of the above points, there will be a fee payable to the local authority. For the last point, enforcement duties are funded by Grant Aided Expenditure. **JOHANN LAMONT (17/01/06)**

**Q (S2W-21905) MURRAY TOSH: BROWNFIELD LAND**

**A** While important, the five core business areas identified by English Partnerships represent only some of the aspects required for successful regeneration. In Scotland, responsibility for these areas is shared between individual Scottish Executive departments, Communities Scotland and the Enterprise Networks. Our forthcoming policy statement on regeneration will articulate our vision for regeneration and define the role of the Scottish Executive and our agencies in supporting regeneration initiatives. **MALCOLM CHISHOLM (23/01/06)**

**Q (S2W-22039) MARY MULLIGAN: PLANNING RESOURCES**

**A** The information requested is not held centrally. **JOHANN LAMONT (02/02/06)**

**Q (S2W-22038) MARY MULLIGAN: PLANNING RESOURCES AND TPRA**

**A** The number of reporters which would be required would depend upon the precise nature of the third party appeal right which was introduced. Even then, estimates are bound to be highly speculative because it cannot be known with certainty how many people would exercise a new right, and for how many cases. The consultation paper, Rights of Appeal in Planning, estimated that applying a third party right to the categories of development included in the Partnership Agreement could more than double the Inquiry Reporters Unit's caseload and would probably involve a greater proportion of large scale or contentious appeals than at present. This latter effect in turn would further increase the number of cases requiring inquiry procedures, which consume the most reporter resources. It would therefore be reasonable to estimate that significantly more than double the current number of reporters would need to be employed. **MALCOLM CHISHOLM (18/01/06)**

**Q (S2W-22077) DEREK BROWNLEE: RCAHMS BUDGET**

**A** As one of its core functions, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland maintains the National Monuments Record of Scotland, our national archive of the built environment. The rapid growth of this archive, and the improvement of public access to it, have necessitated continuing investment over this period which will culminate in capital funding of £2 million in 2006-07 and £10 million in 2007-08 for new accommodation for the archive. **PATRICIA FERGUSON (17/01/06)**

**Q (S2W-22217) RICHARD LOCHHEAD: BUILT ENVIRONMENT CLIMATE CHANGE**

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

The Scottish Building Standards Technical Handbooks include reference to The Design Guidance on Flood Damage to Dwellings and Preparing for Floods. Both documents describe the likely effects of flooding on materials and elements of the building and assess various forms of construction and measures to reduce the risk of flood damage in dwellings. The resilience of buildings at risk of flooding is addressed in Scottish Planning Policy 7 – Planning and Flooding, which says that water resistant materials and forms of construction should be used as appropriate and conditions may be attached to planning permissions. Planning Advice Note 69: Planning and Building Standards Advice on Flooding, published by the Scottish Executive in 2004, includes advice on flood resistant and resilient materials, and construction techniques. It has been referenced in replacement pages for the technical handbooks, due to be issued in February 2006. Additionally, the SBSA has also contributed to research presently being carried out by the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) on Improving the Flood Resistance of Buildings Through Improved Materials, Methods and Details.

New guidance will be issued by the SBSA on 1 February on greywater recycling and rainwater arvesting to reduce dependence on mains water. Guidance on sustainable urban drainage systems has been included in building regulations for several years. The agency also is soon to go to consultation on proposals to revise the guidance to the building regulations to take account of increased incidence of driving rain and wind loading and changed snow loadings. Together with the Department for environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the other devolved administrations, the Scottish Executive is consulting on a National Adaptation Policy Framework that will develop a strategic

approach to climate change adaptation and assist in identifying key risks and opportunities from the impacts of climate change. **JOHANN LAMONT (24/0106)**

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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); 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@befs.org.uk](mailto:jrobertson@befs.org.uk) at the BEFS office on 0131 556 5353.