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## CONSULTATIONS

**VALUING VOLUNTEERS – HISTORIC SCOTLAND’S OPERATIONAL POLICY FOR PROMOTING VOLUNTEERING (EXTENSION OF DEADLINE AND RE-SUBMISSION OF RESPONSES)** This consultation was previously included in BEFS Bulletin (57). Historic Scotland advises stakeholders that due to technical problems with the e-mail address given for the consultation responses, all those that have replied should re-send their responses to: [hs.shep@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hs.shep@scotland.gsi.gov.uk), in order to ensure all replies have been received. The consultation period has been extended to 31 March 2006.

**REVIEW OF BUILDING STANDARDS - SECTION 1: STRUCTURE, INCLUDING AN UPDATED AND EXPANDED EDITION OF THE SMALL BUILDINGS GUIDE (SE 01/03/06)** Scottish Ministers are presently considering proposals for amending regulations under the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and the guidance provided in the Technical Handbooks giving guidance on ways to comply with the building regulations. The purpose of this consultation is to seek comments on proposed amendments to Section 1: Structure, including an updated and expanded edition of the Small Buildings Guide. Deadline for response: 26/05/06  
[http://www.sbsa.gov.uk/current\\_standards/sectiononeconsultation.htm](http://www.sbsa.gov.uk/current_standards/sectiononeconsultation.htm)

**REVIEW OF BUILDING STANDARDS - SECTION 4: SAFETY AND SECTION 3: ENVIRONMENT (SE 01/03/06)** Scottish Ministers are presently considering proposals for amending regulations under the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and the guidance provided in the Technical Handbooks giving guidance on ways to comply with the building regulations. The purpose of this consultation is to seek comments on proposed amendments to Section 4: Safety and Section 3: Environment. Deadline for response: 26/05/06  
[http://www.sbsa.gov.uk/current\\_standards/sectionfourconsultation.htm](http://www.sbsa.gov.uk/current_standards/sectionfourconsultation.htm)

**REVIEW OF BUILDING STANDARDS - SECTION 6: ENERGY AND SECTION 3: ENVIRONMENT (SE 01/03/06)** Scottish Ministers are presently considering proposals for amending regulations under the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and the guidance provided in the Technical Handbooks giving guidance on ways to comply with the building regulations. The purpose of this consultation is to seek comments on proposed amendments to Section 6: Energy and Section 3: Environment. Deadline for response: 26/05/06  
[http://www.sbsa.gov.uk/current\\_standards/sectionsixconsultation.htm](http://www.sbsa.gov.uk/current_standards/sectionsixconsultation.htm)

**SCOTTISH FORESTRY STRATEGY REVIEW 2005-2006 (FCS 06/03/06)** When the Scottish Forestry Strategy was published in 2000 there was a commitment to review its 'Priorities for Action' within five years. The first part of this review was completed in September 2005, and a draft revised Strategy prepared. A second consultation now seeks views on two topic papers; the first describing the full context for forestry, and the second looking at the possible opportunities for future forest expansion. Deadline for response: 29/05/06  
<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/sfs>

## FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS

**SCOTTISH HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT POLICY 1** Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) is a new series of policy documents that will set out Scottish Ministers' strategic policies for the historic environment and the operational policies that Historic Scotland will follow in implementing them.

**SCOTTISH HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT POLICY 3** The document will set out for consultation Scottish Ministers' policies for gardens and designed landscapes in respect of their identification and protection, the management of change, and how Historic Scotland will implement these policies.

**HISTORIC SCOTLAND'S SUPPORT FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR** The draft operational policy paper will invite views on Historic Scotland's policies and plans for providing support to the voluntary sector.

## PUBLICATIONS

**PEOPLE AND PLACE: REGENERATION POLICY STATEMENT (SE 28/02/06)** This policy statement outlines the Government's commitment to maximising Scotland's potential for regeneration, and to making it work for the benefit of Scotland's people.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/02/24092959/0> (full statement)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/02/24092635/0> (summary report)

**AUCTIONS FOR CONSERVATION CONTRACTS: A REVIEW OF THE THEORETICAL AND EMPIRICAL LITERATURE (SE 27/02/06)** This report aims to provide SEERAD with a comprehensive review of the literature on conservation contract design and the use of auctions in agri-environmental policy and natural resource management.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/02/21152441/0>

**PUBLICATION OF HOUSING TRENDS IN SCOTLAND: QUARTER ENDING 30 SEPT 2005 (SE 28/02/06)** This bulletin presents data on housing activity in Scotland for the third 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/2006/02/23090710/1>

**BUILDINGS AND SPACES: WHY DESIGN MATTERS (CABE 01/03/06)** This publication demonstrates how good design can make a difference to people's quality of life. It calls on MPs and peers to raise awareness of the benefits of quality design, and pushes for stronger recognition of design quality in policy formulation.

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications.aspx>

**TEN YEAR PLAN FOR TOURISM (SE 07/03/06)** A new action plan which will map the direction of Scottish tourism for the next decade has been unveiled. Key initiatives include the creation of a Sustainable Tourism Partnership; establishment of a Tourism Research Network; establishment of a workforce training plan; establishment of local product development networks linking with local authorities and cultural heritage networks.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/03/07105534>

**ACHIEVEMENT AUDIT: THE NATIONAL CULTURAL STRATEGY 2000-2004 (SE 08/03/06)** An audit of achievements under the four year action framework of the National Cultural Strategy (2000-2004).

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/02/16092122/0>

**CONSULTATION ON A PLANNING GAIN SUPPLEMENT (SE 10/03/06)** Points raised at a meeting between the Scottish Executive, HM Treasury, HM Revenue and Customs, and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, with key stakeholders in Scotland.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/03/10134722/0>

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## SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE NEWS RELEASES

**CHARITY REGULATOR BOARD APPOINTMENTS (SE 28/02/06)** Deputy Communities Minister Johann Lamont has announced the appointment of John Naylor as Chair to the Board of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), and Frank Kirwan as Deputy Chair.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/02/28151951>

**QUARRYING COMMUNITIES (SE 03/03/06)** Environment Minister Ross Finnie has allocated £725,853 from the Community Environmental Renewal Scheme (CERS) to 37 communities across Scotland. Grants ranging from £5,000 to £50,000 will fund a variety of the projects to transform the environment in communities affected by past or current quarrying. Projects include the refurbishment of a former mill to provide a museum facility on Mull and installation of artificial Sand Martin nesting walls in Renfrewshire. Communities in Dumfries and Galloway, Fife, the Highlands and the Borders, among others, will receive funding.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/03/03105540>

## NEWS RELEASES

**MAPPING SURVEY OF SCOTLAND'S HISTORIC AND CONTEMPORARY BUILT ENVIRONMENT INFRASTRUCTURE – HAVE YOU BEEN CONTACTED? (BEFS 08/03/06)** A mapping survey is currently being undertaken by Jura Consultants to identify non-governmental organisations operating within the built environment sector in Scotland. Covering organisations that work with the historic and contemporary built environment, the survey is seeking information on remit, funding and activities – in particular information on infrastructure activities. The survey has been commissioned by a partnership comprising Historic Scotland, the Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland (HEACS) and the Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS). Participation in the survey will help increase the profile of your organisation with potential funders and also with potential partner organisations. If you have any queries regarding this survey or would like to take part – please contact Jo Robertson on 0131 556 5353 or email [jrobertson@befsf.org.uk](mailto:jrobertson@befsf.org.uk).

**UK SIGNS EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION (DEFRA 24/02/06)** The UK has signed the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention. The Convention deals with protection, development and sustainable landscape management, and is the first to deal solely with all aspects of landscape; rural, urban, peri-urban – everyday and extraordinary.  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2006/060224a.htm>

**£17.5 MILLION FOR HISTORIC PLACES OF WORSHIP BUT MORE MONEY AND SUPPORT NEEDED (EH 01/03/06)** English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) have announced a package of grants worth £17.5 million for repairs to 147 Grade I and II\* listed churches and chapels across England. In May this year English Heritage will be launching a campaign called 'Inspired!', which will quantify the scale of places of worship in a state of disrepair. The campaign will establish where the need for outside support is most urgent, so that practical help can be directed to the many congregations who do not have the man-power or expertise to run a repair project or even to apply for grants.  
<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.6181>

**STRONGER CODE FOR SUSTAINABLE HOMES AS GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTS NEW BUILDING STANDARDS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE (ODPM 09/03/06)** The Government has announced that it will strengthen the Code for Sustainable Homes alongside the introduction of new tougher building regulations, in order to address climate change. The regulations, which come into effect on 6 April in England and Wales, raise the energy efficiency of new buildings by 40 per cent compared to 2002. The revised code will form the basis for the next wave of improvements to building regulations.  
<http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2093>

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## RECENT MOTIONS & BILLS PROGRESS

**CROFTING REFORM BILL (03/03/06)** The Crofting Reform Bill has recently been launched. It includes proposals to extend the rights of crofters to small holdings beyond the Highlands and Islands and give landowners the ability to create new crofts for the first time. The Bill aims to dampen down speculation in croft land and enable crofting communities to buy renewable energy leases over land acquired under the Land Reform Act.  
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/bills/57-croftingReform/index.htm>

**MOTION: \*S2M-4024 MALCOLM CHISHOLM: REGENERATION IN SCOTLAND - PEOPLE AND PLACE (28/02/06)** That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the Scottish Executive's statement "People and Place: Regeneration Policy in Scotland"; notes the current support for the regeneration of communities across Scotland; supports the commitment from the Executive and its agencies to work with local authorities and other partners to ensure that communities benefit from economic activity and to attract further investment from the private sector, and welcomes the Executive's determination to tackle those land, property and other issues that can act as a barrier to regeneration and to create successful, mixed and vibrant communities.  
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-06/bb-02-28f.htm>

**MOTION: \*S2M-4042 PATRICIA FERGUSON: ARCHITECTURE (01/03/06)** That the Parliament appreciates the importance of architecture to many aspects of life in Scotland; recognises its vital role in delivering successful places and sustainable regeneration; acknowledges the wide range of progress that has been made to date in implementing the commitments of the Scottish Executive's policy on architecture, and supports the Executive's intention to publish a renewed policy statement this year.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-06/bb-03-01f.htm>

## PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q (S2W-22820) MARK BALLARD (DATE LODGED 31 JANUARY 2006)** 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.

**A ANSWERED BY ROSS FINNIE (21 FEBRUARY 2006)** A revised set of sustainable development indicators will be published at the end of March 2006. Any changes in comparability between the two sets will be clearly set out.

**Q (S2W-22819) MARK BALLARD (DATE LODGED 31 JANUARY 2006)** 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.

**A ANSWERED BY ROSS FINNIE (21 FEBRUARY 2006)** The revised set of sustainable development indicators will be used to measure progress across the different dimensions of sustainable development.

**Q (S2W-22613) PATRICK HARVIE (DATE LODGED 24 JANUARY 2006)** 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.

**A ANSWERED BY MALCOLM CHISHOLM (24 FEBRUARY 2006)** National Developments set out in the National Planning Framework will be subject to public consultation at four stages. First, there will be extensive consultation around the drafting of the National Planning Framework, involving seminars across Scotland and a full public consultation on a draft document. Second, there will be extensive scrutiny by Parliament, including a new procedure to allow Parliament to express its views at the end of the process, with MSPs accountable to the electorate in the normal ways. Third, national developments which need to go through the planning system will need to be included in development plans, with all the existing and proposed new opportunities for public involvement available. Fourth, individual planning applications for projects identified as national developments will also be subject to all the existing and proposed new opportunities for public participation. The issue of whether an individual development is required will be settled in a national debate, focused on the Executive and Parliament: all other issues, including specific location and design will remain to be settled by processes at a local level.

**Q (S2W-22842) RICHARD BAKER (DATE LODGED 1 FEBRUARY 2006)** To ask the Scottish Executive what plans it has to improve the strategic management of investment in affordable housing.

**A ANSWERED BY MALCOLM CHISHOLM (2 FEBRUARY 2006)** We will consult soon on a new strategic framework for the affordable housing investment programme. We have allocated more than £1.2 billion over this and the next two years for affordable housing, and set a target of 21,500 new and improved affordable homes to be approved over that period. It is vital that we target and manage this investment effectively.

We need to ensure that decisions about where we invest take account of both national and local perspectives. The new arrangements will strengthen the role of councils and ensure that their Local Housing Strategies are the primary basis for housing investment decisions at the local level.

We also need to ensure that budgets are managed in the most efficient way. Having considered carefully the views of local authorities, housing associations and others, I have concluded that this can best be achieved by retaining the current arrangements with no further transfers of budget responsibility. Communities Scotland will therefore keep the direct responsibility for managing the budget for housing association developments in all areas except Glasgow and Edinburgh where the budgets are large enough to justify separate administration by the councils.

**Q (S2W-23338) FRANCES CURRAN (DATE LODGED 21 FEBRUARY 2006)** 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.

**A ANSWERED BY JOHANN LAMONT (2 MARCH 2006)** I have asked Dr. Paul Stollard, Chief Executive of the Scottish Building Standards Agency (SBSA), to answer. His response is as follows:

The development of building regulations is underpinned by current research findings and includes joint working with the other UK administrations. There is also regular liaison on regulatory best practice with the Consortium of European Building Control and the Inter-Jurisdictional Regulatory Collaboration Committee.

On 1 March 2006, the Executive commenced public consultation on further amendments to energy standards, the principle aim of which is to reduce the CO2 emissions that occur as a result of energy usage in heated/cooled new buildings and existing ones that are being converted, altered or extended. A secondary objective is to cause designers of buildings to give consideration to the incorporation of building integrated low and zero carbon energy generating technologies, such as solar water heating and photovoltaics.

The SBSA is presently working on the implementation of the EU Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings and how it impacts on the regulations. It is intended to issue a further consultation package on this in the near future.

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## EVENTS

**INSPIRING CITIES: ORGANISATION OF WORLD HERITAGE CITIES NORTH WEST REGION CONFERENCE 31 MAY - 2 JUNE 2006, EDINBURGH** This conference will focus on the challenge that Heritage Cities face in protecting their historic values whilst allowing new development that will sustain the city for future generations. Hear from some of the UK's top architects on how Edinburgh is facing this challenge and the lessons that can be learned from around the world. For further information and booking details contact Holyrood events on 0131 272 2137, or visit the websites:

[http://www.ads.org.uk/download/ewh\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.ads.org.uk/download/ewh_flyer.pdf)  
[www.holyrood.com](http://www.holyrood.com)

**SCOTTISH YOUNG PLANNERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 23 MARCH 2006, GLASGOW** The theme of the conference is 'Question Time for Scottish Planning' looking at the future of planning in Scotland following publication of the Planning Bill, and some of the key issues involved. The day will follow the format of BBC's programme 'Question Time', and will involve four debates led by a panel of speakers, followed by questions and discussion. For further information and booking please visit the website:

<http://www.scotland.rtpi.org.uk/whats-new/new/html>

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## VACANCIES

**TRAINING DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, ICON (EDINBURGH) £35k** The Institute of Conservation (ICON) is looking to appoint a Training Development Manager. This is a 4 year post with possibility of extension. Key duties: directing, managing and promoting Icon's UK-wide strategy and work programme for training, from entry level to in-service training for professionals. To view the job description and person specification visit:

[www.icon.org.uk](http://www.icon.org.uk)

Applications by CV to: [amccapra@icon.org.uk](mailto:amccapra@icon.org.uk) before Friday 17 March 2006. Interviews (in London): 28 March 2006.

**ADMINISTRATOR, ICON (EDINBURGH) £12k PART-TIME** The Institute of Conservation (ICON) is looking to appoint an Administrator. This is a 4 year post with possibility of extension. Key duties: supporting the Training Development Manager and the Icon Scotland Group. To view the job description and person specification visit:

[www.icon.org.uk](http://www.icon.org.uk)

Applications by CV to: [amccapra@icon.org.uk](mailto:amccapra@icon.org.uk) before Friday 17 March 2006. Interview (in Edinburgh): early April.

**DIRECTOR, THE COCKBURN ASSOCIATION, CIRCA £22,500** As a Civic Trust we are looking to further our ambitions to protect and improve the amenity of Edinburgh. As a registered Scottish charity and a membership campaign group we seek to influence decision-making on planning, development, conservation, environmental and transport issues. Fundraising, advocacy and communication skills are sought. Applications are welcome from a wide range of backgrounds. Closing date: 20 March, 11AM. Application pack by email only: [cockburn.association@btconnect.com](mailto:cockburn.association@btconnect.com)

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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); Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS). 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 Fiona Binning: [fbinning@bef.s.org.uk](mailto:fbinning@bef.s.org.uk), 0131 556 5353.