



CONSULTATIONS

SCOTTISH FORESTRY STRATEGY (SFS 24/06/05) When the Scottish Forestry Strategy was published in 2000 there was a commitment to review its 'Priorities for Action' within five years. Given the number of contextual changes since 2000 a wider review is now appropriate. A series of topic papers are available on the Forestry Commission website to provide further information and specific subjects. The Review will involve two 12-week public consultations. Deadline for comments on first phase: 16 September 2005.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/SFS>

PUBLICATIONS

MODERNISING THE PLANNING SYSTEM (SE 29/06/05) This White Paper sets out the way forward for Scotland's planning system. It recognises the central role of planning in the delivery of a sustainable pattern of economic growth, supported by essential new homes, infrastructure and community facilities, whilst protecting our most important natural assets. It also responds to the need for improved opportunities for meaningful public involvement in the planning system.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/54357/0014194.pdf>

SCOTTISH AWARDS FOR QUALITY IN PLANNING 2005: GUIDANCE AND APPLICATION FORM (SE 24/06/05) The Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning began in 1997 and have grown in success each year. They form part of the Scottish Executive and the RTPI's objective to raise the standard of quality in planning.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/54357/0013298.pdf>

CULTURAL COMMISSION (SE 23/06/05) The Cultural Commission has delivered its final report on cultural provision in Scotland. The Cultural Commission - chaired by James Boyle - was tasked with making recommendations to the Executive, in the light of available resources, on the development of arts and culture, promoting wider access, excellence and building on the nation's reputation for creativity.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/54357/0013577.pdf>

GOING FOR GREEN GROWTH: A GREEN JOBS STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND (SE16/06/05) This strategy fulfils a partnership agreement commitment.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/06/1693437/34516>

THE USE OF STABILISED BIOWASTE IN THE RESTORATION OF FORMER LANDFILL SITES (SE 14/06/05) This report describes a programme of research undertaken by Remade Scotland on behalf of, and funded by, the Scottish Executive. The report considers the framework to determine the basis on which stabilised biowaste - waste which has been subject to mechanical biological treatment (MBT) in a mixed waste composting facility - may be used for the treatment of land, particularly sites which are closed former landfills.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/06/1483953/40133>

EVENTS

LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK PLAN MEETING Takes place at Loch Lomond Shores, Balloch on 30 June, 6.15pm. This meeting will discuss the consultative draft of the National Park Plan. For more information please contact Ross Nimmo on 01389 737215 or email Ross.Nimmo@west-dumbarton.gov.uk

GREEN JOBS CONFERENCE As the economic benefits of activities such as recycling and renewable energy become more apparent this conference examines the Scottish Executive's Green Jobs Strategy and the wider business implications. The conference will take place on 16 September, venue to be confirmed. Cost: £116 (supported rate), £233 reduced rate, £292 full rate.

http://www.holyrood.com/nav/conference/future_events/conf_green05/conference.asp?content=contents

VACANCIES

ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN SCOTLAND A+DS is currently recruiting for a Planner. This post is a permanent, full-time appointment. For further details and an application form, please contact: Helen Brown on 0131 556 6699, recruitment@ads.org.uk. Deadline for application: Friday 8 July 2005.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE NEWS RELEASES

SCOTLAND ON ROAD TO MEETING RENEWABLES TARGETS (20/06/05) Scotland is well placed to meet its ambitious renewable energy targets, a report published by the Forum for Renewable Energy Development in Scotland (FREDS) has revealed. The report, by the Forum's sub-group on Future Generation, looks at the role and challenges renewable energy will face up to 2020. It confirms that there are no technical obstacles involved in connecting the required new generation to the electricity network, although there will be upgrades and new investment required.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/06/20110737>

ASSESSMENT WILL GIVE GREATER PROTECTION TO ENVIRONMENT (16/06/05) Key environmental agencies Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Historic Scotland are to be consulted on all public sector strategies, plans and programmes which impact significantly on the environment.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/06/16164104>

SCOTLAND AIMS FOR FIRST MARINE PARK (15/06/05) Scotland could have its first Coastal and Marine National Park by 2008 under plans made public recently. Environment and Rural Development Minister Ross Finnie recently announced a two stage process to create the first park of its kind in the UK. Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) will now undertake work to identify where and how a Coastal and Marine National Park could be established. A coastal and marine park would have the same broad purpose as terrestrial national parks.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/06/15123643>

COMMUNITIES SCOTLAND RELOCATION (15/06/05) Around 100 Edinburgh-based Communities Scotland posts will transfer to Glasgow by the end of 2007. The posts involved are in the agency's community regeneration, housing investment and regulation and inspection teams. They are among the 280 Communities Scotland posts based in Edinburgh and 500 posts in total throughout Scotland.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/06/15105807>

NEWS RELEASES

NEW ADVICE PUTS A DAMPENER ON FIRE IN HISTORIC BUILDINGS (17/06/05) With around one major historic building lost to fire every month in Scotland, fire remains one of the most serious threats to our built heritage. The latest in the Historic Scotland's series of Technical Advice Notes (TAN) sets out the vital role that effective management can have in reducing fire losses. As well as discussing methods of physical intervention to increase fire safety, such as installing sprinkler systems, TAN 28 - Fire Safety Management in Heritage Buildings - gives practical guidance and advice about fire prevention management for building professionals, owners and the fire and rescue service.

<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/news-full-article.htm?articleid=16219>

TAKE ACTION NOW TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE FORESTRY SECTOR URGED (DEFRA 15/06/05) Environment Minister Elliot Morley has urged all those planting or managing trees to take action now to cope with the unavoidable climate change impacts that the UK looks set to face in future decades. Average annual

temperatures in the UK may increase by between 2 and 3.5 degrees Celsius by the 2080s with high summer temperatures becoming more frequent and winters milder but wetter.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2005/050615a.htm>

DELIVERING CULTURE CHANGE INTO LOCAL PLANNING –COOPER (ODPM 14/06/05) The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act introduces a new kind of planning at local level - the local development framework, a flexible portfolio of different documents that can be tailored to the needs of a particular area and easily updated. The new LDF system began in September 2004. It replaces the previously rigid system where all planning issues had to be addressed as part of a single development plan that often took years to agree or amend. Local planning authorities will need support during the transition to the new system and the ODPM's LDF Implementation Study is a long-term, interactive project that will form part of the government's contribution. Leading authorities are already using many of the ideas in the new system and the study will ensure continuous learning and share good practice with others.

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn_id=2005_0112

NEW PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

S2W-17539 ROB GIBSON (23/06/05) To ask the Scottish Executive, in light of the launch of the National Forest Land Scheme, whether Forestry Commission Scotland has identified how much land is in its estate, in what size of parcels and in what locations that may be of interest for community buy-outs.

S2W-17533 Δ CHRISTINE MAY (23/06/05) To ask the Scottish Executive when the Cultural Commission, undertaking the review of culture in Scotland, will submit its report to ministers.

S2W-17239 BRUCE McFEE (10/06/05) To ask the Scottish Executive whether any consideration has been given to amending the advice provided to planning authorities regarding the determination of planning applications in relation to telecommunication masts.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q (S2W-17533) CHRISTINE MAY, CULTURAL COMMISSION

A I can tell you that I have received the Cultural Commission's final report. Copies are available in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (Bib. number 36838). At the launch of our Cultural Policy Statement, on 22 April 2004, ministers announced that the Cultural Commission would start work on 1 June 2004, to undertake a comprehensive review of cultural provision in Scotland. **PATRICIA FERGUSON (23/06/05)**

Q (S2O-7243) MURDO FRASER, HISTORIC SITES

A Historic Scotland, on behalf of Scottish ministers, protects nationally important Roman sites, provides grant aid and negotiates management agreements for their care and maintenance. Twenty Roman sites are managed directly by Historic Scotland as properties in state care **PATRICIA FERGUSON (23/06/05)**

Q (S2W-17105) NORA RADCLIFFE, RENEWABLE ENERGY

A The Forum for Renewable Energy Development in Scotland (FREDS) has completed this work and I am publishing its report today (copies of which can be obtained at the Scottish Parliament Information Centre Bib. number 36765). FREDS believes that Scotland is well placed to meet its renewable electricity targets. It concludes that a total renewables installed capacity of around 6GW will be required in order to meet our 40% target, although this should not be regarded as a cap. FREDS has confirmed that it is technically feasible for this amount of renewable generation to be contained on the electricity system without threat to security of supply. **JIM WALLACE (HOLDING ANSWER FROM 17/06/05)**

Q (S2W-16935) SHIONA BAIRD, RENEWABLE ENERGY

A We do not hold this information. The Community Energy Programme is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and is administered on their behalf by the Energy Saving Trust.
MALCOLM CHISHOLM (13/06/05)

Q (S2W-16994) ROB GIBSON, CROFTING

A The table weblink below provides details of the grants and loans provided under Crofters Buildings and Grants Loan Scheme (CBGLS) (to December 2004) and Croft House Grant Scheme (CHGS) (from January 2005). Of the 188 new houses and 18 house improvements supported in 2004-05, 95 and 10 respectively received grants under the new CHGS between January and March 2005. **LEWIS MACDONALD (14/06/05)**
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-05/wa0614.htm>

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@befs.org.uk or Jo Robertson jrobertson@befs.org.uk at the BEFS office on 0131 556 5353.