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Welcome to the sixth edition of the BEFS e-Bulletin. If you have been forwarded this Bulletin but would prefer to receive it directly into your inbox, please [click here](#) for details on how to be added to the distribution list. For further information on BEFS, visit <http://www.befs.org.uk/>.

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Consultations

Building (Fees) (Scotland) Regulations 2004: Amendment Proposals (SG 10/10/07)
 Consultation on proposals to amend the Building (Fees) (Scotland) Regulations 2004
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/10/e10103841/link>

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Publications

Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning 2007 (SG 09/10/07)
 SAQP 2007: Nominations
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/10/09113958/0>

Planning Performance Statistics 2004-2007 (SG 10/10/07)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/10/09143946/0>

Planning and Sustainable Development draft consultation: Consultation responses (SG 12/10/07)
 Consultation responses.
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/10/12145909/0>

Options for and alternatives to the Planning Gain Supplement (PGS) - The Scottish Government's view (SG 12/10/07)
 The Scottish Government's views on the options for modifying or replacing the proposed planning gain supplement, as set out in the Department for Communities and Local Government's Green Paper, Homes for the Future.
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/10/11111829/0>

Guidance to help industry respond to the zero carbon challenge (DCLG 01/10/07)
 The Code for Sustainable Homes provides an all-round measure of the sustainability of new homes, ensuring that sustainable homes deliver real improvements in key areas such as carbon dioxide emissions and water use. The Government's ambition for the Code is that it becomes the single national standard for the design and construction of sustainable homes, and that it drives a step-change in sustainable home building practice. This technical guidance manual sets out the requirements for the Code, and the process by which a Code assessment is reached.
http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/code_for_sustainable_homes_techguide.pdf

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Scottish Government News Releases

FM comments on UK spending review (SG 09/10/07)

Following the announcement of the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review by the UK Government, First Minister Alex Salmond said:

"The Treasury claim that the real-terms increase in Scotland over the next three years is 1.8 per cent per annum. That in itself is dramatically different from settlements of recent years.

"What they haven't revealed is two things. One is that the actual, real-terms increase over the next 3 years is only 1.4 per cent. The difference is explained by re-drawing the baseline for English health expenditure. Therefore, what we are seeing is the consequences for the Scottish baseline figures - therefore the actual increase is not 1.8 per cent, it's 1.4 per cent.

"What we have learned in analysis is something much more serious even than that. That is the profile of the increases over the next three years. The first year will be 0.5 per cent in real terms, followed by 1.6 and 2.3 per cent. The real problem comes in year one.

"This creates an extremely serious position in terms of Scotland's finances. It means that Scotland is effectively being both squeezed and short-changed by the Treasury.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2007/10/10084746>

Building Standards Advisory Committee (SG 03/10/07)

Infrastructure Minister Stewart Stevenson has announced five reappointments to the Building Standards Advisory Committee as follows: Dr Stephen Garvin; Professor Bimal Kumar; Ian Paterson; Mervyn Toshner; Bryan Woodley.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2007/10/03140004>

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News Releases

Members appointed to the Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland (HS 02/10/07)

Linda Fabiani, Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture has announced the appointment of four new members to the Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland (HEACS).

Eila Macqueen, Dr Colin Martin, Colin McLean and Dr Richard Oram join the eight existing members of HEACS, an advisory Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) which provides Scottish Ministers with strategic advice on the historic environment.

<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/news-full-article.htm?articleid=27187>

Seminar stresses need to look after Scotland's finest landscapes (SNH 05/10/07)

A seminar hosted jointly by the Scottish Government and Scottish Natural Heritage has heard how Scotland's landscapes are essential to Scottish identity and central to the country's economic well-being, and must be looked after. It focused on the management of Scotland's suite of National Scenic Areas (NSAs) and the application of recent legislation, which gives NSAs a statutory basis.

<http://www.snh.org.uk/press/detail.asp?id=1803>

Taking the Cultural Olympiad to The UK's Regions - Culture Minister Margaret Hodge Names Eight Creative Programmers For England (DCMS 26/09/07)

Culture Minister Margaret Hodge has appointed eight 'Creative Programmers' across the country to take forward plans for an inspiring Cultural Olympiad in the run up to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Olivia Grant, Chair of Chairs for the Regional Cultural Consortiums said: "London won the 2012 Olympics and Paralympic Games in part because of its promise to deliver an event that would be of benefit to the whole of UK. The four year Cultural Olympiad will play a crucial role in turning that vision into a reality, offering a once in a lifetime opportunity for the whole country to celebrate its rich and diverse cultural heritage. Northern Ireland has appointed a Cultural Programmer. Wales have appointed an interim Creative Programmer, and Scotland is currently considering what arrangements would best fit their plans to participate in the Cultural Olympiad. London is looking to put in place a framework for developing the Cultural Olympiad on a city-wide basis.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2007/dcms109_07.htm

2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review (DCMS 09/10/07)

Backing success, investing to increase participation and promoting creativity - a generous funding settlement for the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS), which will allow continued investment in the arts and cultural sectors, has been announced by the Government.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2007/dcms112_07.htm

Lord Bruce-Lockhart Chairman of English Heritage Responds to DCMS CSR Settlement (EH 10/10/07)

Lord Bruce-Lockhart Lord Bruce-Lockhart, Chairman of English Heritage has said: "It is great news that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has received an inflation-proof settlement.

"Secretary of State James Purnell is to be congratulated in persuading the Chancellor that the Department oversees an area of activity that contributes so much to our humanity, quality of life and identity.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.12191>

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Recent Parliamentary Questions

S3W-5151 Marilyn Livingstone: To ask the Scottish Executive what support will be available for business improvements districts and urban regeneration. (SP 05/10/07)

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Recent Parliamentary Answers

S3W-4442: Answered by Stewart Stevenson (01/10/07): Planning Aid for Scotland has already received increased funding for its work in facilitating community engagement in planning with £161,711 in 2005-06, £253,307 in 06-07 and up to £282,159 in the current financial year. Future funding for Planning Aid for Scotland will be considered as part of this year's Spending Review.

S3W-4445: Answered by Stewart Stevenson (01/10/07): Planning Aid for Scotland already provides a national service of training and advice with volunteers from across Scotland. The case for a regional network of offices has never been put to the government. Should such a case be made, we would carefully consider the business plan to ensure that it afforded value for money to the Scottish budget.

S3W-4716: Answered by Stewart Maxwell (03/10/07): The purpose of the Housing Supply Task Force is to promote action and to make a practical difference to the delivery of housing across Scotland. The task force will be challenging those with responsibility for delivery and pressing for change where this is hampering housing supply rather than writing reports. While it is not the intention to prepare a formal report, the detailed studies of specific issues that the task force will undertake are likely to produce conclusions of wider interest and these will be published. Minutes of meetings and other documentation will be placed on the Scottish Government website and I intend to keep Parliament informed of progress. Fundamentally, though, the role of the task force is not to analyse the problems of housing supply - it is to press for solutions.

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Motions and Bill Progress

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Events

Deconstructing Building Stone; One day Seminar from BRE and NSI

23rd October 2007, East Kilbride; 8th November 2007, Inverness; 28th November 2007, Watford; 22nd January 2008, Port Talbot

This seminar reviews the different types of building stone, including slate, used in Britain. It poses the question of how to assess the quality of building stones, looking at British and the new European standards.

Presentations will cover the importance of selecting the correct building stone, new methods of testing relative durability of a slate, whole life cycle costs, regional building practices and stone extraction. To conclude there will be a review of the challenges of sourcing regional building stones for the repair and maintenance of the built heritage.

For further details and to book at the special online price of £145 per delegate, go to www.bre.co.uk/events or e-mail events@bre.co.uk

Stone in Context

14th and 15th November 2007, Tolbooth, Stirling

This conference seeks to explore current issues relating to stone in Scotland, in terms of technical issues and technological development, education, training and research. Delegate fee: £47 for the two days.

To book visit www.rics.org/stoneincontext or email events-scotland@rics.org.

Strategic planning for the nations; RTPI conference

22nd November 2007, London

This conference will enable planners to identify why the UK needs a national framework and how it can be achieved. It will also look at the way spatial planning works in Europe and its impact on private and public sector planners.

For details visit www.rtpiconferences.co.uk, or call 0845 082 1171.

Regeneration: the ways forward for Scotland

20th November 2007, Glasgow

At this conference experts from the public and private sectors and the Scottish Government will share their insights into the way forward for the continued renewal of Scotland's communities. Speakers are drawn from some of the most exciting projects underway in Scotland and the rest of the UK. They will explore the likely impact of the new administration and of the squeeze on public spending.

For details visit www.holyrood.com/conferences. For queries email regeneration@holyrood.com, or call 0131 272 2130.

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Information in the Bulletin is extracted from a number of websites; including the Scottish Government (SG); 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 Communities and Local Government (DCLG); Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS); Department of Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA); National Assembly for Wales (NAW); Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS); Scottish Building Standards Agency (SBSA). 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 or call the BEFS Office on 0131 220 6241.

Partnerships promoting Scotland's cultural environments

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