

100,000 at risk in Scotland

The importance of Planning for Flooding in Scotland was underlined by full day attendance of three Scottish Ministers at the Perth Summit on Flooding in September.

The key note speech introducing the Summit was given by Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment. He stressed that some 73,000 properties were at risk from river flooding and some 26,000 properties at risk from coastal flooding and that more innovative approaches were required to provide a long term solution to the issue.

This was followed by Paul Hendy from the National Flood Forum who pointedly underlined the heartache and loss suffered by those who had experienced floods and the importance of the issue to society as a whole.

Issues

The morning session, "Dealing with Floods", provided the delegates with an up-to-date background to the issues facing the country from flooding, with speakers from SEPA, Environment Agency, Glasgow City Council, Association of British Insurers, and the Scottish Government Planning Directorate. This session was chaired by Michael Russel Minister of Environment, and the facilitated discussion at the end of the session raised a number of important issues from the audience.

The afternoon session, "Towards Sustainable Flood Management", chaired by Stewart Stevenson, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change, gave an insight into the potential way forward with presentations from representatives of the Flood Issues Advisory Committee, Forest Research, WWF and Scottish Water. The facilitated discussion at the end of this session, which also raised a number of very topical concerns, was followed by a Panel discussion with the Ministers and was chaired by George Thorley, Non-Executive Director of Scottish Government.



Flooding at South Edinburgh
(pic courtesy of Scottish Government)

This session underlined the commitment to finding sustainable and efficient solutions to the flooding issues facing Scotland and many positive and constructive views were expressed to the ministers.

Recommendations

The Summit was concluded by Michael Russel who thanked the delegates for their attendance and contributions and stated that "Scotland cannot ignore the threat which climate change brings in increasing the occurrence of wet, stormy weather and we must act now to protect ourselves from that threat".

He went on to conclude that one of the recommendations from the Flood Issues Advisory Committee report was to "Streamline flood protection and planning processes and replace the 1961 Act" and that the Government's intention was to "introduce a new Flooding Bill to address inadequacies of current legislation and allow a more sustainable approach to flood risk management".

Planning role

In this context, the planning profession, particularly those in local government with responsibility in the Local Plan policy arena, have an important role to play and now should be seriously preparing positive proactive policy statements to address flooding issues where it affects land and properties in their areas. It will no longer be satisfactory to merely prepare a negative statement limiting development due to potential flooding matters, but it is clear that a more definitive and constructive policy stance is required. Good practice suggests that planning authorities should consider preparing statements and incorporating them into their Local Plans, indicating how they intend to address such flooding concerns, and how they will work together with all other relevant agencies to assist in promoting sustainable flood mitigation proposals to address the 100,000 properties that are at risk in Scotland.

A number of supporting data and research systems are available. SEPA have recently produced and made available to all authorities their 1/200 year flooding map exercise identifying all locations potentially at risk from flooding and a Scottish Flood Defence Asset Database Final Report has just been published, which provides a national repository for information relating to flood risk and flood defences.

Flooding will come under further scrutiny in the recently announced Scottish Parliament's Rural and Environment Committee Inquiry into Flooding and Flood Management for which written submissions are requested by 12th December 2007.

John Smith

Convenor's Comments



Location, location, location

Property shows are constantly on the telly these days, demonstrating how to make serious money through development. Little thought is given to possible detrimental effects on the neighbourhood. This well-known free market flaw influences all developers, large and small, but more worryingly is also evident in many public bodies, from the enterprise movement to the NHS.

That's where planning comes in, of course. In economic jargon, you could say that planning is concerned with the external costs and benefits that flow to the community as a result of development's location. Some costs are trivial, but some are very significant indeed – no more so than at city region scale.

Take, for example, commuting, which is the outcome of disparate distributions of homes and workplaces. The average Scot driving 15 miles per day will spend about £1,000 per year just getting to and from work. If 1.1 million drive this sort of distance to and from work, that's a total of £1,100,000,000 going into the pockets of the motor trade – every year! Then think of the cost of road building and maintenance. Add pollution and noise – environmental costs. Safety is a social cost. And the list is far from complete. Yet it must be worth paying these costs, or it wouldn't happen.

You can make similar lists of the spatial effects of health care, waste disposal, universities, airports and so on. The agencies responsible scarcely know that the others exist, so tend to compete rather than co-operate with each other. So we, as a society, stand to gain benefits and reduce costs through better spatial organisation. The potential rewards are enormous.

At a national level, the Scottish Government is in a position to act – the National Planning Framework is heading in that direction. Community planning can do the job at local authority level. City region strategic plans will go some of the way, but they won't integrate the spatial programmes of the health, (newly revamped) enterprise, education, sport and other agencies at city region level. If you want pointers to how it might be done, look at some of the old Regional Reports or the French regional plans.

This need not be a massive undertaking. All that's needed is a forum for agencies to talk to each other, and a few planners to add professional rigour. We won't even insist on a telly show. Is it too much to ask, Mr Swinney?

Alistair Stark
Any comments to
secconvenor@rtpi.org.uk

Editorial

Two important aspects of the climate change agenda where planning will take a key role are flooding and microrenewables. On page 1, John Smith reports from the 'Flooding Summit' held recently in Perth and points to the need for more definitive and proactive policy statements addressing flooding issues and for more partnership working on sustainable flood management. On page 5, Jeremy Raemaekers continues the series of articles on the GPDO, this month looking at microgeneration.

Our actions on climate change are integral to achieving sustainable development. Strategies for sustainable economic growth need to be underpinned by the other principles of environmental protection and social justice. Planning has a crucial role in this balancing act and on page 4, Martin Higgins looks at the relationship between health impact assessment and development planning in achieving sustainable communities.

A common observation during the passage of the Planning etc (Scotland) Bill, was that the 'devil will be in the detail'. Various consultations on secondary legislation will soon emerge from the Scottish Government, and on page 6, Rosie Leven updates us on progress on the development planning proposals and forthcoming consultations.

The availability of resources for implementation of planning reform remain a crucial issues. We need to encourage more young people into the profession and to engage and support the energy of young planners in the workplace. On page 8, Bill Neill presents the first article in a series on planning education in Scotland. On page 11, Young Planners report on the visit to the ISOCARP Congress in Antwerp; on page 13 Richard Holland reports on the Young Planners lunch, and on page 10, Cat Quigley talks about her career and her views on the planning reform agenda.

Partnership working and community involvement are also fundamental issues in the planning reform agenda. On page 7, Dorothy Fenwick describes the approach being taken in the Irvine Bay UDC, and on page 3 Ian Davison Porter sets out how private and public sectors can work together through Business Improvement Districts.

Elsewhere in this edition, you can catch up on news from the Chapters and find details of forthcoming CPD events. Trish Cookson also provides information on RTPI networks. If you are not already familiar with networks, they are well-worth further investigation. They offer great value in keeping you up-to-date with recent developments and in providing useful contacts across the UK.

As always, I am grateful to all contributors for their varied and interesting articles. Sadly, this month we say goodbye to a well known and much valued member of staff at Melville Street. Shirley James, our Administrator for the past nine years, is moving to pastures new. We are very grateful to Shirley for all her work with RTPI in Scotland, including her support for Chapters, for the Young Planners and for the SEC and of course, her talents in the production of the Scottish Planner. We wish her every success in her future work.

Veronica Burbridge

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Editor Veronica Burbridge

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BIDS: A New Opportunity to regenerate Scottish towns

BIDS Project Director for Scotland, **Ian Davison Porter**, highlights how Business Improvement Districts can benefit local economies and assist with the regeneration of Scotland's towns.

Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) have been a major success story across the world with some 1400 having been established to support regeneration, the asset management of town centres and grow local economies.

BIDs are a business-led strategy, normally a partnership with the statutory authorities, where businesses work together and invest collectively in local improvements to their business environment. A BID is not a substitute for government services, but is an innovative and effective way that additional funding can be raised, with the businesses deciding how it should be spent to strengthen the local business economy.

BIDs are a proven strategy that has demonstrated their ability to deliver more vibrant and viable town centres which are safer and offer a more attractive environment. They have helped deliver strong and meaningful partnerships between the private and public sectors which have brought additional investment to support town centre strategies. This collective investment works harder and smarter for the businesses involved. BIDs also

provide a strong local voice for business and involves them in consultations on the town centre and the development and management of the town centre area.

This business strategy arrived in Scotland in March 2006 when the Scottish Government established six pilot projects in Bathgate, Clackmannanshire, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow and Inverness.

This strategy is also attracting interest from a number of other locations in Scotland which are considering establishing their own BID.

BIDs are widely used to support and assist the regeneration, management and asset management of town centres. A BID is most effective where there is a single agreed vision embodied in a town centre strategy. Our town centres are the heart of many of our communities and the key driver of local economies. Done properly, BIDs can help deliver improved town centres and make a vital difference to a centre's prospects.

The Business Improvement Districts Scotland (BIDS) information brochure on town centres



Falkirk Town Centre.

sets out how the private and public sectors can work together through the mechanism of a BID to deliver a range of improvements and services for businesses in town centres.

For more information contact
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www.bids-scotland.co.uk

Conference Diary and training events 2007

Information on all events is listed on our website at www.scotland.rtpi.org.uk/diary/

■ 31 October

Planning Law Update

Event organised by Idox, Edinburgh
Email cathie.pringle@idoxplc.com

■ 2 November

Maximising planning and regeneration benefits of major sporting events

Lunchtime seminar at Heriot Watt University
Tel 0131 541 8093

■ 2 November

How Scotland's Government Works

Training event run by Holyrood Events,
Edinburgh
Tel 0131 272 2130.

■ 8 November

Today's Suburbia: Tomorrow's Conservation Areas?

SSDP Autumn Conference at Parish Halls,
Glasgow
Email ssdpsec@btconnect.com

■ 7 November

The Wild Side of Planning

Planning Aid for Scotland young
planners event, Edinburgh
Contact Mark Armstrong 0131 220 9730

■ 13-15 November

Northern Europe - planning together for a sustainable future

Conference organised by Spatialnorth,
Naim www.spatialnorth.eu

■ 14-15 November

Stone in Context

Historic Scotland event on stone built
heritage, Stirling
Email events-scotland@rics.org

■ 15 November

Vital and Vibrant Town Centres

Conference organised by Fife Council,
Dunfermline
Contact Jenna Hetherington 08451 555555
ext. 442402

■ 16 November

Fulfilling Planning's Potential

RTPi in Scotland's annual conference,
Royal Society of Edinburgh
Contact RTPi Conferences 0845 082 1171

■ 26 November

Demand Responsive Transport

Conference and workshops organised by
Angus Transport Forum, Ingleston
Contact 01241 878727

■ 27 November

The Participant: the place of people in the planning system

SHN seminar in association with RTPi
Contact Karen Smith 01738 458555

Implementing the Planning Act Events on development planning and enforcement

Scottish Government supported by
Grampian, Central and West of Scotland
chapters

■ 29 November

Aberdeen
Email grampian.scotland@rtpi.org.uk

■ 4 December

Stirling
Email central.scotland@rtpi.org.uk

■ 6 December

Glasgow
Email west.scotland@rtpi.org.uk

■ 1 December

Planning Aid Training Day

Planning Aid for Scotland event at the
Quality Hotel, Perth
Contact Mark Armstrong 0131 220 9730

■ 3 December

Engaging with Communities – a benefit not a curse

Planning Aid for Scotland event at COSLA,
Edinburgh
Contact Mark Armstrong 0131 220 9730

Health Impact Assessment and development planning

Recent years have seen renewed interest among health professionals, especially those working in public health, in the relationships between health and the built environment. Interest in Healthy Urban Planning has been complemented by the World Health Organisation's Healthy Cities initiative. One of the Healthy Cities key themes in recent years has been the development of health impact assessment (HIA). The recent report on the urban environment by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution recommended that the UK government and devolved administrations "develop a statutory framework for including Health Impact Assessments in the planning process."

What is Health Impact Assessment?

The aim of HIA is to identify the potential health impacts of development and maximise positive benefits and minimise negative health impacts. HIAs try to reduce future health inequalities. It is crucial that assessments are conducted while plans are being pieced together so that there is sufficient time for the findings of HIAs to be incorporated. Ideally HIAs should be an integral part of the plan making process. Most commonly HIAs are undertaken in conjunction with public health departments from the NHS, university public health departments or independent consultants that specialise in HIA. Research has shown that Environmental Impact Assessments do an incomplete job of considering health.

What does development planning have to do with health?

Development planning is integral to health because it affects the determinants of health. Although good health is related to the quality of healthcare available, equally, if not more significant to people's wellbeing, are things such as: good quality housing and well-planned neighbourhoods; good quality transport; education and jobs; leisure facilities and green space. Development planning sets parameters for health determinants.

But planners already consider health, don't they?

Healthy, sustainable communities are a common aim of development planning. And many plans take cognizance of the need for hospitals and, sometimes, primary care/GP services. But although health services are a key component of development planning, the health impacts of transport, education, housing, community development, employment etc also need to be considered.

Crucially, the NHS is not a statutory planning partner so its input is not routinely sought as part of the planning process.

Why should HIA be part of development planning?

The impacts of major planning decisions are long-lasting so the health consequences are also significant. Research suggests that, "how we design the built environment may hold tremendous potential for addressing the nation's greatest current public health concerns, including obesity, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, asthma, injury, depression, violence and social inequities."

What can development planners do?

Most importantly, make sure that health input is part of the development planning process before consultation. There are 15 area NHS boards throughout Scotland. Each of these boards has a **public health department** and a **healthcare planning department**. It is important to contact and work with professionals from these different disciplines.

Public health staff can advise on health impacts of development planning. They have expertise across the range of topics common to planning and health: housing, transport, education, employment, community development, sustainability, green space and environment.

Healthcare planners focus on facilities and services that will be required in the future. The NHS in Scotland has no dedicated funding to upgrade or rebuild health centres. As a result, and especially because most new health centres are joint developments involving councils and the NHS, it is important that Section 75 negotiations take into account healthcare provision.

What development planning HIAs have been completed?

There are an increasing number of HIAs being undertaken across the UK. A number of the major construction projects in the south and east of England are now incorporating HIAs, which are often paid for by developers. Notable among these are HIAs on the Olympic Park in east London, the Kings Cross development and the Cambridgeshire Horizons scheme. There are also HIAs being completed as part of Strategic Environmental Assessments e.g. Greater Manchester Local Plan, the London Development Plan. In Scotland there have been HIAs on the Craigmillar Urban Design Framework in Edinburgh and the Winchburgh development in West Lothian as well as work on developments in Stirling. One of the most ambitious HIAs in Scotland is the recently completed HIA of the East End Local Development Strategy in Glasgow.

In addition to the systematic consideration of the health impacts of the plan, the HIA of the Glasgow East End Local Development Strategy facilitated open and meaningful communications between planners and the local community. Further work is underway in Glasgow among the planning team to develop a robust model for planning and health. We will report on this in detail in a future issue of Scottish Planner.

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Permitted development rights and microgeneration

Alan Prior's article in the previous edition described research carried out by Heriot-Watt University for the Executive into householders' permitted development rights, as part of a review of the GPDO. A second focus of the review was microgeneration. This brings together two of the most significant planning policy agendas, the deregulation of planning controls and reducing carbon emissions through raising energy efficiency and shifting from fossil to renewable energy.



Microwind Turbine. ©Scottish Renewables www.scottishrenewables.com.

The householder development article set the review of the GPDO in the context of the deregulation agenda. With regard to the energy and carbon agenda, microgeneration could help to reduce fossil fuel burn by embedding generation within developments, primarily using renewables. Planning is addressing this in new development via so-called Merton rules (e.g. SPP6 para 36), by which the planning regime is seeking to run ahead of the building regulations' tightening energy performance requirements in the race towards zero carbon development. But there is also potential to retrofit existing development, and this is where the two agendas meet.

Balances

Applications for microgeneration development have raised two irritations. The first is the lack of planning policy designed to cope with them, which has meant that policy intended for large scale proposals has been applied to small scale ones, for example single wind turbines on farms, dismaying applicants at the demands made of them. The second is that the GPDO has not been written to deal with and does not refer to microgeneration, which renders it haphazard and hard to decide whether or not proposals fall within PD rights. Our job was to propose how the GPDO should deal with microgeneration, balancing the desire to facilitate its uptake against the risk of negative environmental impacts.

First we think the GPDO should deal with the technology explicitly. To align with energy legislation, we prefer microgeneration to PAN45 Annex's microrenewables. But what is microgeneration? We confine it to

generation of heat and electricity, excluding fuel production; this excludes biogas digesters such as a farmer might install to handle waste. To align with the intent of policy to reduce carbon emissions, we think it should include generation plant that reduces carbon emissions by raising overall efficiency, even though it may burn non-renewable fuel, e.g. gas fired micro CHP. But it should exclude passive plant that raises efficiency but does not generate heat or electricity, e.g. external sun blinds, because there is no way of drawing a conceptual boundary round these. The resulting definition still includes many technologies. These should be grouped into: solar thermal panels and photovoltaic (PV) arrays; wind turbines; biomass and micro CHP; heat pumps; and micro-hydro. The GPDO should deal with these separately. For non-householder development they should be classes in a dedicated new Part; and for householder development they should be sub-classes within a new microgeneration class under our revised Part 1.

Limits

We think PD limits should be set for each technology using the most practicable attributes, and we made detailed proposals for each. Without prejudice to these, we propose noise limits on all installations, expressed as a condition. The combined microgeneration installations within the curtilage of a single building should not exceed 50kW or 45kW thermal, the threshold used to define microgeneration in the Energy Act 2004. There should be a general condition of compliance with a design code.

We see no case to withdraw PDR automatically in all types of protected area. PDR should be granted to installations attached to a listed building, since in such a case the building is already protected by listed building consent; but not to installations not attached to the building, when it is not thus protected. In conservation areas, PDR should be withdrawn where the installation would adversely affect an elevation facing a public way. PDR should apply in National Scenic Areas and National Parks. As part of our general proposal to abolish prior notification for general amenity reasons, it should not be required for microgeneration.

Approach

In conclusion, we adopted a risk-based approach to balance enabling the uptake of microgeneration with protecting private and public amenity. Yet in some instances we advocated increasing PDR for microgeneration beyond those for other development, where we believed it to be the price of encouraging uptake, or to be the price of clarity and simplicity in the GPDO. We think that's safe, because technical limitations make it clear that we would not face a tide of retrofits pouring over our townscapes, even if universal PD rights were granted to microgeneration.

Dr Jeremy Raemaekers, School of the Built Environment, Heriot-Watt University



Modernising the Planning System

Implementing the Planning Act

On 13 September the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, John Swinney, made a parliamentary statement which affirmed the new administration's keenness to implement the Planning Act 2006. He said: "I have been struck by the general support for the purpose of the legislation. However, there is much still to do to deliver a modern, effective, efficient and responsive planning system, and we will continue to develop the direction of travel that was set by the Act".

Following much work over the summer period, a number of Scottish Government consultations are now starting or expected shortly, which will set out how key elements of the modernised planning system may be implemented. At the end of October, we will see the start of two consultations on secondary legislation flowing from the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006, covering development planning and enforcement.

Development Planning

The consultation on development planning introduces the main elements of the process for preparing strategic development plans and local development plans to complement the provisions in the 2006 Act. The Government is keen to receive a wide range of views on the practicalities of the detailed arrangements, which will include:

- Content of strategic and local development plans;
- Notification and publication procedures for plans;
- Grounds for departing from the recommendations of an examination report;
- Content of and procedures for development plan schemes;
- Content of and procedures for action programmes;
- Coverage and procedures for supplementary guidance; and
- Bodies to be specified as "key agencies".

The consultation also discusses the proposed transitional arrangements for development plans, moving from the current system to the new system. This covers two elements: plans started before the new system commences, and the bringing forward of new plans after commencement of the relevant provisions in the 2006 Act.

Of greatest interest at this stage will be what happens to plans started before the new system commences. The consultation states that structure plans and local plans that have reached the point of carrying out adequate publicity on proposals, (for example, the publication of a consultative draft or issues report), will be able to proceed to approval/adoption. These plans will proceed by following the provisions flowing from the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, with the exception of the inquiry process, where they will follow the new examination procedures under the 2006 Act. If the necessary consultative stage has not been reached, then authorities will have to start a new strategic development plan or local development plan under the 2006 Act.

It is important that planning authorities in particular are aware of the proposed provisions on transitional arrangements and consider how this might impact on current plan programmes. Please see the consultation paper for further details.

Contact: stephen.hall@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Enforcement

A strengthened system of enforcement with new powers for planning authorities is a key part of the modernisation package. Planning authorities will be given new powers to complement their existing enforcement options and enable them to

respond to breaches more quickly and efficiently. The enforcement consultation expands on the new powers, covering issues such as when a planning authority can issue a Temporary Stop Notice, proactive measures such as information that will be required from developers to alert planning authorities that work is about to commence on-site, and the requirement for developers of major or bad-neighbour developments to display information for the public on how suspected breaches of planning control can be reported. The consultation also sets out proposals for Fixed Penalty Notices with increasing fines for developers who do not comply with Enforcement Notices or repeatedly breach conditions.

The Scottish Government has already implemented some enforcement measures in the Act, with planning authorities required to produce, and regularly update, Enforcement Charters. The Charters, which will be available publicly on the internet and through local libraries, set out the planning authority's policies and timescales for investigating allegations of breaches of planning control.

Contact: david.reekie@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Other consultations in the pipeline

Consultation on draft regulations covering development plan examinations is expected towards the end of November. Around the same time, the package of proposed provisions on development management will be published for consultation. This will involve draft secondary legislation that will eventually replace the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Scotland) Order 1992. This will be a key consultation, covering the full extent of development management procedures, from validation of planning applications, to neighbour notification, to decision notices and reports of handling.

For information on the latest timetable for the implementation of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006, please visit the Scottish Government's website at www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/planning/modernising.

Rosie Leven

Five Ayrshire towns set for makeover

Five Ayrshire towns are to be regenerated as part of the ambitious £100 million programme planned by Irvine Bay Regeneration Company.

The towns of Irvine, Kilwinning, Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston in North Ayrshire are now to be the subject of new proposals which seek to develop and transform the town centres and boost the economic growth of the area.

The Urban Regeneration Company (URC) is now inviting tenders to be submitted for three separate plans: Irvine, Kilwinning and one plan for the three towns of Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston.

Aims

Patrick Wiggins, Chief Executive of Irvine Bay sees the regeneration of the five town centres as central to the overall masterplan for the entire area which chiefly aims to boost economic growth in these communities. He says, "We want town plans which will guide the sustainable regeneration in the central areas of each of our five towns. It is an immense challenge but a wonderful opportunity to build on the assets which exist and create more vibrant and economically active town centres."

The principal aims of the town plans are to :

- Develop a clear vision for the towns, which has the support of the local community and its main businesses, residents and visitors
- Provide clear guidance to facilitate the sustainable and high quality urban regeneration of the central area of the town and key developments areas
- Prepare a robust delivery strategy with projects that can be phased and realised within the overall masterplan for the area.

In all its town plans, the URC is emphasising the need for proposals to be developed through extensive public consultation and community engagement.

Community needs

The town plans will address how each town centre can better meet the needs of the community in relation to retailing, leisure and community facilities, office space and housing opportunities.

They will include new mixed use town centre activities, consider the demand for office space and identify suitable new office developments, include proposals for improvements to the local public realm, consider the existing town centre housing stock and identify new opportunities for housing.

The guiding principles will include partnership and collaborative working, an approach which will tackle holistically the social, economic and environmental aspects of the town centres, ensure excellent community engagement, demonstrate the principles of sustainability and show how a commitment to high quality design is fundamental to a successful outcome.

All the Town Plans will be prepared to be suitable for adoption as supplementary planning guidance and will include Design Codes for the key development areas.

Investment

Over the next ten years, Irvine Bay Regeneration Company and its partners, North Ayrshire Council, Communities Scotland, Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire and the Scottish Government, expect to invest around £100 million in the overall area.

Patrick Wiggins indicated that the URC was pleased to have been able to make an early start on the type of developments it was keen to encourage, and added, "We know also that we are here for the long term, as regeneration is a long term business if we are to make a difference which will last for generations to come. We are also very keen that people in the local community get involved with our work. We want to make sure that, as much as possible, people can make their own contribution to the improvements planned in their neighbourhoods."

Proposals

Plans proposed by the Irvine Bay regeneration company include:

In Ardrossan more improvement work in the town centre, the development of new housing, along with the Cunninghame



Irvine waterfront.

Housing Association, improvements at the marina, the development of new business office space and a major new "headland" development overlooking the bay.

In Saltcoats, the plan is to create a modern, upmarket seaside resort which is seen as a good place to visit and to live. Work is planned on seafront improvements, improvements to streets and open spaces, the establishment of a new business centre and the creation of a coastal park with cafes and places of interest.

In Stevenston, the plan is to create an attractive coastal town which is also connected to a coastal park and new leisure facilities, additional housing and modern business space including offices and workshops.

In the historic abbey town of Kilwinning, the plan includes improvements to the high street, a gateway to the town centre with infill housing and business space and the development of local leisure and sporting facilities.

In Irvine, projects are already underway to bring a large mixed use development at the harbourside and create a high quality links golf course, new hotel and leisure facilities around the Beach Park.

Dorothy Fenwick, Communications Manager, Irvine Bay URC

For further information about the proposals please contact Irvine Bay Regeneration Company on tel. 01294 608634

Planning Education at the University of Aberdeen looks to the future



CPEM staff with RTPI Accreditation Panel members, May 07

Spatial Planning and Rural Surveying education at the University of Aberdeen has undergone a significant reorientation in the last few years with the phasing out of the former Department of Land Economy and the establishment earlier this year of a new Centre for Planning and Environmental Management (CPEM) within the new academic home of the School of Geosciences. This represents a substantial investment by the university in the discipline of spatial planning including the appointment of Bill Neill to a Sixth Century Chair.

Professor Neill, a member of the RTPI international committee and recent member of the General Assembly, has wide research and practice experience of planning in the United States, Europe, Ireland and Britain. His particular area of publication centres on cultural identity and the representation and marketing of places. This sits easily within the new Geography and Environment university setting for planning with more emphasis in realigned programmes on the environmental quality and identity of places. Particular specialisms include: Landscape research, Cultural pluralism and contested space, Design and regeneration, Rural planning and management and Environmental justice.

Goal

The goal of the Centre is to engage in research, consultancy and teaching of international standing and scope while responding to the spatial planning challenges and unique opportunities in Scotland and the Grampian region in particular. Professor Duncan Rice, Principal of Aberdeen, puts it well in his recent characterization of the University of Aberdeen as a whole:

'We combine a proud Scottishness with a wholly international commitment. Over these five hundred years we have consistently served Scotland and the north, and continually attracted scholars and students from all over the world... We are an ancient university that is constantly transforming itself. We are pluralistic, Scottish but never only Scottish. We are rooted in our past, but always diverging from it, never stepping in the same river twice.'

Challenge

The spatial planning river at Aberdeen has taken a different course but the flow remains strong. The teaching challenge is to produce keen graduates capable of taking seats at the top table (referred to

by Government Minister Stewart Stevenson in the last issue of this publication), who are able to engage with the environmental and economic challenges of place making in a century where energy and climate concerns loom large.

The Aberdeen Planning School, now living cheek by jowl with petroleum geologists and other experts on the natural environment, is uniquely placed here. Full and unconditional accreditation status for all planning undergraduate programmes (MA Spatial Planning, MA Rural Surveying and Planning and MA Property and Spatial Planning) was conferred by an RTPI Visiting Board in May and the planning school, centred on CPEM, after a period of some change, has been invested with the confidence to move to full RTPI Partnership status. The first Partnership Board meeting will take place in the autumn. Student entry to existing undergraduate programmes in the new academic year is encouraging with two new one year post graduate fast track masters coming on stream in 2008.

International

An increasingly international staff compliment contributes to an outward looking research agenda with relevancy to concerns closer to home. The appointment of Dr Hanns-Uve Schwedler, Director of the European Academy of the Urban Environment in Berlin, to an honorary professorship links CPEM to a laboratory for applied planning research at the heart of Europe.

Samer Bagaeen's research assesses the relationship between market processes and sustainability policy with a particular emphasis on brownfield regeneration. Samer has also written extensively on the political use of urban planning in the Middle East. Gunter and Bärbel Tress bring German and Danish experience to interdisciplinary landscape research. Scott Kelmann brings Canadian experience on regeneration and urban development.

William Walton brings research experience in urban growth management in Washington, Oregon and California, in particular through the use of local / statewide ballot initiatives. In a private capacity he is Chairman of RoadSense, the action group opposing the proposed Aberdeen bypass.

Planning outcomes

Students in the School are not short of exposure to the contested nature of planning outcomes. Alister Scott brings Welsh experience to the themes of rural planning and practice, landscape management and rural sustainable development.

A series of part time appointments has strengthened links to local practice enhancing regional relevancy. Professor Maggie Gill is Chief Scientific Advisor with the Scottish Government Environment and Rural Affairs Department. Gill Wall with Australian experience and Marsaili Aspinall with American experience bring a strong GIS and design background to the Aberdeen planning programmes. Tom Hardie brings the perspective of the private planning consultant and Yvonne Buckingham as Secretary to the Planning School, is a valued face of familiarity stretching back to Land Economy.

Success

All in all, the staff changes at Aberdeen since the closure of the Department of Land Economy have been considerable. Things have now settled down with the new CPEM a major investment by the University in the future of spatial planning education in the northeast of Scotland and Scotland generally. Graduating students this year have successfully attained jobs mainly in the private sector. However, we need to do more on recruitment and here the launch of the postgraduate Masters programmes next year with specialisms in urban real estate (joint with the Business School) and rural environmental planning, is the next major educational challenge.

Bill Neill, Professor of Spatial Planning, University of Aberdeen.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2008

Nominations closed at the end of September for next year's Scottish Executive Committee with all nominees being elected unopposed. John Esslemont was elected Senior Vice Convenor and Ian Angus elected as Junior Vice Convenor. Emma Richardson was elected as a Corporate Executive member. There were no nominations for student or technical members, and an election ballot will not be necessary this year.

FULFILLING PLANNING'S POTENTIAL

RTPI in Scotland's annual conference will explore how to enhance planning's role in managing change against the background of the first statutory National Planning Framework and secondary legislation implementing the new Planning Act.

The day will look at a future planning framework for Scotland, how different stakeholders will contribute to the new system, achieving better community engagement and a range of workshops. Details are available on our website at www.scotland.rtpi.org.uk

The conference is on 16th November at the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

To book a place, contact RTPI Conferences at 0845 082 1171 or visit www.rtpiconferences.co.uk

Have you joined any of the RTPI Networks yet?

Over 5000 people from all over the world have now signed up to one or more of the RTPI Networks. They benefit not just from the networking opportunities afforded to exchange knowledge, expertise and good practice with their professional colleagues, but also by keeping themselves up-to-date with all the latest news.

What's on offer?

We can offer you membership of a network in any of these specialist topics:

- Rural Planning
- Transport Planning
- Urban Design
- Regeneration
- Housing
- Environmental Planning

We have networks just for you if you are a:

- Young Planner, or an
- Independent Consultant

We can cater for anyone who is in anyway involved in:

- Development Planning, or
- Development Management

We also have interest and outreach networks where you can enrich your professional knowledge and gain professional friendships:

- International Development
- Politicians in Planning
- Planning with Communities

And we have an association:

- The National Association for Planning Enforcement (NAPE)

This provides a central voice for all planning enforcement officers and we are working with them to help enhance their professional status.

How to join

All the Networks are currently free of charge for all RTPI members and joining is easy. Go to the RTPI website at www.rtpi.org.uk and put your mouse over the 'Events, Awards and Networking' tab at the top of the page. Then click on the 'Networks and Associations' tab that appears in the dropdown menu and you have access to information about all of our networks. To join any network that interests you, click on the network name, then click on the 'Members' Area' icon at the left-hand side of the network page. This reveals a 'Request access' tab – click on that and we'll do the rest!

Why bother?

All of our networks have a professional Network Manager dedicated to providing excellence in delivering a member service. Besides sending you a regular e-bulletin, s/he will be in touch offering a host of activities which you can get involved in. Just a few current examples:

- A conference on Spatial Plans and Transport Planning
- Maintaining a web-based Introductory Guide to Environmental Planning and Protection
- The Young Planners' Network annual conference – this year in Glasgow
- Urban Design regional evening meetings across the UK
- Guided walking tours of eco-neighbourhoods

Over 5000 people can't be wrong. Come and join them. Visit www.rtpi.org.uk or contact networks@rtpi.org.uk.

Trish Cookson Networks and Associations Developer

A Planner's Profile

Catherine Quigley talks about her role as Senior Consultant at DTZ

How did you come into planning in the first place?

I've always been interested in social geography and place making. I studied A Level Geography and Sociology and my career advisor recommended a degree in town planning, which merged elements of both subjects. I went on to study Town Planning at Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh. I'm really grateful that I received the right advice at the right time in my studies, otherwise I may not have become a Planner, which I credit as being one of my lifetime achievements.

What has been your career path to date?

Student Planning Officer, South Lanarkshire Council	1999-2000
Assistant Development Planner, Farningham McCreadie Partnership	2001-2002
Planning Officer, South Lanarkshire Council	2002-2003
Senior Conservation Planner, RSPB Scotland	2003-2006
Senior Consultant, DTZ	2007-Present



What does your job involve?

As Senior Consultant within DTZ's Scottish Development Team, I am responsible for a broad range of development and regeneration projects across Scotland and Northern Ireland. These involve undertaking planning policy research and evaluations, retail impact assessments, town centre healthchecks, regeneration and masterplanning studies and employment land reviews.

For example, I am currently project managing the Mile End Industrial Area Study commissioned by Glasgow City Council to examine options for securing the future of this key employment area, which forms part of the Clyde Gateway URC. The purpose of the study is to protect and enhance the area's role as an employment location whilst ensuring it integrates with the surrounding residential communities. The commission requires a thorough analysis of the industrial & commercial property market opportunities in Glasgow.

Another example of my work is in Erskine, Renfrewshire. DTZ, in conjunction with an urban design team, were appointed by Renfrewshire Council to produce a masterplan for the managed expansion of Erskine Town Centre. This provides a market focused framework for the future development of the Town Centre and articulates a clear vision combined with detailed actions to secure that vision in the short, medium and longer term.

I am also involved in the submission of a wide range of planning applications, objections, project managing

environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA), formulating defensive planning strategies and preparing evidence for public enquiries and hearings.

How do you see planning reform influencing your work and that of your Company?

As a result of the planning reform there has been increased integration among a number of DTZ work areas, namely Planning, Regeneration, Housing, Environmental Assessment, Economics, Agency and Valuation. DTZ has also established a new Sustainability Team promoting the new building regulations and environmental benefits and advocates a greater emphasis on sustainable development.

In what aspects are you involved with the Institute?

I first became involved with the Institute in 1999 when I was appointed as the student representative on the Scottish Executive Committee (SEC), and have been a Corporate Member since 2000. Through this position I have been involved in various aspects of planning, including setting up the Scottish Young Planners Group (SYPG) with James Kirkwood in 2002. I was subsequently elected Chair of the Group in 2005. The Group has grown from strength to strength since its formation. In 2007 I was elected as a Trustee onto the RTPI Executive Board. My role as a Trustee means being responsible for furthering the interests of the Institute.

Finally, how optimistic or pessimistic are you about the future of planning in Scotland?

I welcome the planning reforms particularly their focus on community participation. Meaningful community and stakeholder engagement is essential to ensure trust and confidence in the planning system. Community consultation underpins the majority of my work at DTZ and I believe that effective community consultations can lead to better decisions on the ground enabling new development and the local community go hand in hand.

For example, DTZ is currently undertaking a feasibility study on behalf of the Comrie Development Trust to assess the development potential of Cultybraggan Army Camp. Through the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 the community, through the Trust, has successfully purchased Cultybraggan Camp from the Ministry of Defence. Over the last year, we have undertaken significant community and stakeholder consultation with respect to development of the land.

I'm fairly optimistic however the 'jury's still out' in gauging whether the planning reform will deliver what it set out to achieve. It is important that we have a system that is efficient and effective whilst at the same time achieving sustainable economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection.

Young Scottish Planners Attend ISOCARP Congress In Antwerp

Ever thought about what it would be like to be a planner outside the UK? What experiences other planning professionals encounter? Well, at the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) congress in Antwerp this year the Improvement Service, through the Planning Development Programme, sponsored six young planners from Scotland to attend. The purpose of the sponsorship was to encourage a more internationalist outlook in planning in Scotland, to learn and contribute to international practice and experience, and to expand Scottish representation and to involve younger members of the profession into ISOCARP. Eamonn Campbell (Glasgow City Council), Toby Coke (Aberdeen City Council), Ruth Findlay (South Lanarkshire Council), Naomi Sandilands (Edinburgh City Council), Michael Ward (Glasgow City Council), and Stuart Winter (Jones Lang LaSalle) were chosen to attend.

Global Association

The International Society of City and Regional Planners Association is a global association of experienced, professional planners. Founded in 1965 with a vision of bringing together recognised and highly qualified planners in an international network, the association has members from more than 70 countries. The network is a non-governmental organisation, the association is recognised by the United Nations and the Council of Europe and it also has a consultative status with UNESCO.

The objectives of ISOCARP include encouraging exchange between planners, promoting the profession in all aspects, stimulating research, improving education and training and increasing information and awareness on major planning issues. The association's main event is its annual congress, which focuses on an international planning theme – this year *Urban Dialogues: Co-productive ways to relate visioning and strategic urban projects*.

An urban dialogue essentially defines the interactions of the public and private sectors and the community in planning matters and the conference focused on co-productive ways to relate visioning to strategic urban projects. One of the main messages of the conference was that such a 'Dialogue' is crucial to achieve 'buy-in', participation and to implement successful strategic projects. The concept seeks to achieve a parity of esteem in the planning process by viewing all parties as 'co-producers' rather than seeing the community as a group to be

consulted but who have no right to directly influence development. The conference reflects the approach which has been adopted by the City of Antwerp in taking forward its planning agenda.

Perception

When we first arrived in Antwerp we attended an informative city tour followed by an evening reception where everyone received a warm welcome. On the first day there was an introduction and welcome to the congress by the Mayor and Vice-Mayor of Antwerp, which reflected their commitment to the profession, and awareness of the significance of planning. It was evident that the perception of planning in Belgium is somewhat different to Scotland in terms of the political support given to it and also the resources allocated to planning at all levels.

Following the speech from the President of ISOCARP there was a series of keynote speakers. The range of topics presented, included 'Redesigning Citizenship' to 'Reflections on the EXPO 98 Urban Project in Lisbon'. The next two days consisted of a series of smaller workshops based on four key themes. The workshops included 120 papers from 38 countries which allowed us to choose papers that related to our own work and interests and to attend sessions out with our normal areas of expertise. Sessions varied from 'The Impact of the Separation Wall in Jerusalem' to 'The Regeneration of Antwerp's Red Light District'. The conference was very much about learning about other delegates'



The cathedral in Antwerp

planning experiences at the workshops, where there was lively informed discussion on the papers presented. There was also a significant social side to the conference where lunches and dinners were provided most days, which were attended by the majority of delegates, and allowed significant networking with planners from all backgrounds.

News coverage

The congress was high on the agenda in Belgium and received significant news coverage on Belgian national television, where Toby and Michael could be seen enjoying the congress with other delegates. After seeing this on the morning news, it did make us wonder – would a planning conference in the UK make the 10 o'clock news?

Attendance at the conference was valued by all, and out of all the outcomes, the most significant was the opportunity to meet other planning professionals and learn that similar challenges and issues facing Scottish Planners are experienced by many other planners worldwide. Attendance at the ISOCARP congress has undoubtedly provided us with an internationalist outlook on planning through the sharing of experiences of international practices with planners from across the world. This has been a valuable learning exercise and has broadened the horizons of all and will undoubtedly have a positive impact on our careers and also a positive impact on delivering sound planning outcomes in Scotland.

Chapter News

EDINBURGH LOTHIANS FIFE & BORDERS CHAPTER

The Ever-changing Quatermile

On a bright but chilly late summer afternoon in Edinburgh a group of enthusiastic chapter members congregated outside the Marketing Centre of one of Edinburgh's significant city centre developments – the Quatermile.

Colin Macpherson, Development Director of Gladedale Capital Limited had kindly agreed to outline the background to the Quatermile vision and update the current position.

For those that may not be aware, the Quatermile is on the 19 acre site of the city's former Royal Infirmary, and derived its name from the fact that the site is a quarter of a mile from the key points of gravity around the city – the Castle; Waverley Station; Princes Street; Edinburgh University; and the Exchange. The Quatermile is envisaged to be another point of gravity within the evolving city.

The Quatermile's masterplan was first conceived in 2000 and whilst the core principles remain unchanged – the retention of key historic buildings; the creation of a vibrant new quarter featuring new and refurbished residential properties, commercial and retail outlets along with restaurants and a hotel; and the reintegration with the surrounding Meadows through significant new landscaping – it is clear that the plan continues to evolve and respond to design development and market demand.

The development seeks to:

- Reintegrate the site into the 'mental map' of residents so that it becomes a place of choice for people rather than a requirement when it was previously a hospital
- Open up the site and create linkages
- Create a 'heart' for the scheme – the size and scale of space are critical to the success of the experience within the Quatermile
- Introduce more 'green space' within the site – reintegrate with the surrounding Meadows – partly achieved through underground parking
- Retain as many listed buildings as possible

All demolition is now complete. Quatermile's first residents are scheduled to move in mid-October 2007, as are the first tenants – McLay Murray Spence who is moving into No.1 Quatermile Square. The entire development is due to be completed around 2012.

Only time will tell the nature of the impact that the Quatermile will have upon the evolution of the city. The fact that the masterplan is still developing however, suggests that Gladedale want Quatermile to be the very best it can be.

Stefano Smith

CHAPTERS INVOLVED IN CONSULTATION EVENTS

Central, West of Scotland and Grampian Chapters will be hosting special events with Scottish Government staff in the next couple of months to highlight some of the issues arising from the Scottish Government's forthcoming consultations on development planning and development management regulations.

29 November (**Aberdeen**)

Contact Grampian Chapter (grampian.scotland@rtpi.org.uk)

4 December (**Stirling Council Chambers**)

Contact Central Chapter (central.scotland@rtpi.org.uk)

6 December (**Glasgow**)

Contact West of Scotland Chapter (west.scotland@rtpi.org.uk)

Further details will be available from each chapter and on the website at <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/item/602/23/5/3>

SCOTLAND'S FIRST BALL IS A GREAT NIGHT OUT

RTPI in Scotland's first ball on 14th September has been a great success, with around 170 people attending. Held at the Roxburghe Hotel in Edinburgh, the evening was introduced by Alistair Stark as Master of Ceremonies, and people crowded out the dancefloor until the small hours.

Guests donated over £1000 towards the Jim Boyack Trust, which was set up in 1991 in memory of James Boyack, a Senior Vice Convenor of RTPI in Scotland, and which makes an annual award to a planning student. Sarah Boyack MSP, and Jim Boyack's daughter, was on hand to announce the winners of the prize draw and make the presentations.

RTPI in Scotland would like to thank sponsors Mactaggart and Mickel for their support, and all those who generously donated prizes: Brodies, DLA Piper, Dundas & Wilson, Jim Boyack Memorial Trust, GVA Grimley, Halcrow, Homes for Scotland, IDOX, Keppie Planning Urban Design & Landscape, PPCA Ltd, Ryden, TPS Public Affairs, TPS Planning and Sarah Boyack.

Thanks also go to Joyce Hartley for all her work in organising the evening.

Members News

We would like to welcome the following members who have recently moved to Scotland.

Corporate

Peter Arnsdoft	-
Helen Atkinson	-
Iain Bell	Faber Maunsell
Richard Bowden	Scottish Government
Benjamin Ellis	-
Gareth Fairweather	-
Jonathan Molloy	Shetland Islands Council
Ian Stanworth	First Engineering
Suzanne Yendell	-

We would also like to welcome the following who have recently been elected to the Institute:

Licentiate

Catherine Armstrong	Aberdeen City Council
Jack Cook	-
Jamie Gray	Halcrow
Andrew Henderson	South Ayrshire Council
Stuart Herkes	RPS
Colin Maciver	Environmental Resources Management

Student

Iain Brodie	University of Glasgow
Craig Latimer	Savill Ltd
Frances McKernie	Dundee University

Small Steps Toward Big Change

What about Bob? is a 1991 comedy movie with Bill Murray starring as a multiphobic, compulsive, psychiatric patient who follows his successful and egotistical psychiatrist on vacation. What does this have to do with planners? Well, more on that later.



Friday 28th September 2007 saw the second annual Homes for Scotland Young Planners Lunch, which offers young planners from the development industry and local government the opportunity to participate in an open and wide ranging discussion on implementing practical changes as a result of modernisation of the planning system, guided by a series of mentors.

Mike Naysmith, Managing Director of Taylor Wimpey (Aberdeen) provided a warm welcome on behalf of the day's sponsors and intimated that, having witnessed some major changes in the planning system since the days when he became a planner, it is important that young planners feel that they are involved in the modernisation agenda as the benefactors of changes that are proposed and required.

These sentiments were echoed by Allan Lundmark, Director of Homes for Scotland and he encouraged delegates to consider not only those procedural changes that will come as a result of the drafting of primary and secondary legislation, but also in terms of the working relationships between stakeholders in public and private sectors and sustaining

Enthusiasm, drive and determination of young planners are key aspects.

improvements in the longer term.

Jim MacKinnon, Chief Planner of Scottish Government, made it clear that the enthusiasm, drive and determination of young planners are key aspects that he wants to harness in moving the planning system forward. He does though have concerns over the skills gap that exists and hopes that the new planning system will assist in developing and nurturing young planners to meet their obvious potential.

Kristian Smith of Kier Homes raised concerns over local authorities' ability to change within their current structure. It was accepted that there was massive change required not only to attitudes and culture, but also to structure and procedure. The Scottish Government and the Improvement Service is working to address some of these issues, but Mr MacKinnon raised the importance of private developers implementing changes to areas such as procedure and operation, culture and skills within

their own organisations.

Brian Frater (Scottish Borders Council), Ewan MacLeod (Shepherd and Wedderburn), Frank Bradley (Renfrewshire Council) and Jonathan Fair (Chief Executive of Homes for Scotland) all continued to question Mr MacKinnon on key areas such as resources, skills and procedures before Emma Richardson of the Improvement Service provided a summation of the response by the Improvement Service on these issues that are currently being tackled.

As the formal proceedings came to a close Allan Lundmark commented that "The atmosphere in the bar was impressive last year!" and there was no disappointment this year as everyone took full advantage of the Friday afternoon slot to have some drinks and discussion about issues that were raised (or should have been raised) during the question and answer session.

So, you might still be wondering What About Bob? Well, apart from the obvious similarities between some planners and the multiphobic, compulsive, psychiatric patient played by Bill Murray, there is a serious message behind all of the screwball antics. It is clear that small steps are essential when trying to achieve big change. Not only can they provide incremental change towards a greater goal, they can also give the person taking the small steps confidence and a sense of achievement. This in turn, can provide even greater momentum for change as belief spreads among those who are key to delivering a planning system that is fit for purpose.

What confidence was provided from the day, that the new Planning Act will improve resources, increase the ability of young planners to learn new skills that will make them fit for purpose, and overall generally raise the profile of planning and planners in Scotland? Well, from the number of business cards that changed hands during the day, I'd say that small steps are certainly being taken by young planners.

Richard Holland

Policy Briefing

POLICY BULLETIN

Recent Publications from the Scottish Government, the Scottish Parliament and other public bodies in Scotland

PUBLICATIONS FROM THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

■ Scottish Planning Policy SPP10 Planning for Waste Management

Scottish Government Planning Directorate

This SPP supports a planned approach to the identification of sites for installations using a range of technologies. Focusing on industrial land, the SPP promotes a model policy for planning authorities to adopt in their development plans. Landfill will continue to be required and should continue to be safeguarded by development plans. Other waste facilities should be protected from inappropriate surrounding development. Development management decisions should reflect development plan and National Waste Plan policies supported by other guidance referred to in the SPP including the Business Waste Framework and SEPA'S guidance on thermal treatment of municipal waste. The SPP requires planning authorities to encourage the provision for waste separation and collection of recyclable material in consideration of proposals for new development. Waste reduction at demolition and construction sites through protocols and site management should be supported.

Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/196433/0052646.pdf>

■ National Planning Framework Newsletter 3 Autumn 2007

Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/198964/0053181.pdf>

■ National Planning Framework Participation Statement Update

Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/198960/0053180.pdf>

■ Best Practice in Establishing Urban Regeneration Companies in Scotland

Liz Shiel and David Smith-Milne for Scottish Government Social Research

This report looks at 'best practice' in the set up and early operation of URCS in Scotland. It examines good practice in governance structures through to structures for community involvement and outlines some potential pitfalls for future URCS to avoid

Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/198330/0053032.pdf>
Research Findings summarised at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/198343/0053033.pdf>

■ Quality of Life fund Evaluation

David Roberts, John Nolan and Laura Henderson
SQW Ltd for Scottish Government Social Research

The Fund, which was launched in 2002, provides funding direct to local authorities allowing councils to prioritise expenditure on projects that address local concerns under two broad themes: *improving the local environment and, between 2002-2006, increasing opportunities for children and young people*. For the 2006-08 allocation, the second theme was broadened out to *improving community well-being*. The evaluation compared indicative expenditure against actual spend, established why authorities chose priorities, examined the level of partnership involvement and assessed whether the money was genuinely additional. Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/197901/0052898.pdf>

■ The Crerar Review

The Report of the Independent Review of Regulation, Audit, Inspection and Complaints Handling of Public Services in Scotland.

Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/82980/0053065.pdf>

■ Public Sector Employment in Scotland.

Estimates of employment in the public sector in Scotland from Q1 1999 to Q2 2007

Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publication/s/2007/09/11103103/0>

■ Skills for Scotland.

A Lifelong Skills Strategy

As well as aiming to promote equal access to and participation in, skills and learning for all, the strategy aims to recognise people's different needs, situations and goals and remove the barriers that limit aspirations and development.

Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/197204/0052752.pdf>

■ Principles and Priorities: The Government's Programme for Scotland

This document sets out the government's principles and priorities, including the legislative and non-legislative actions to be taken.

Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/197113/0052743.pdf>

■ Findings from a Citizens' Jury on Scottish Executive Communications

Opinion Leader Research for Scottish Executive Social Research

Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/196359/0052639.pdf>

■ Transport Research: Home Zones in Scotland Evaluation Report

Land Use Consultants, FaberMaunsell, Small Town and Rural Development Group and University of Edinburgh for Scottish Executive Social Research

The evaluation noted that the long timescales involved and the need to bridge the gap between technical design issues and community expectations and involvement, can create significant challenges. There is only limited evidence that the schemes have resulted in increased community use of outdoor space. The evaluation of Home Zones in Scotland recommended further monitoring, continued funding and updated guidance.

Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/194895/0052348.pdf>
Research findings available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/194904/0052349.pdf>

■ Key Scottish Environment Statistics

Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/195547/0052440.pdf>

■ Key Transport Statistics

Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/194670/0052299.pdf>

■ Main Transport Trends 2007

Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/194670/0052299.pdf>

■ Flooding Issues Advisory Group Final Report

This report recommends a more strategic level approach to consideration of flood alleviation options; further work to link catchment strategic planning and River Basin Management Planning; a forum to continue to advise the Scottish Government on flooding issues and the promotion of rural land use solutions as part of a strategy for flood risk management.

Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/921/0052986.pdf>

■ Proposed Flooding Bill

A proposed Scottish Executive Flooding Bill will replace the 1961 Flood Prevention Act and allow a more sustainable approach to flood risk management.

■ Scottish Flood Defence Asset Database Final Report

David Bassett, Angus Pettit, Caroline Anderton and Paul Grace JBA Consulting
The Scottish Flood Defence Asset Database provides a national repository for information relating to flood risk and flood defences.

Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/195446/0052419.pdf>
User Guide available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/195474/0052420.pdf>

■ Options for and alternatives to the Planning Gain Supplement

Letter from John Swinney to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury sets out the Scottish Government's view that planning gain is a matter that should be addressed under its devolved competence and that an option

Policy Briefing

based solely on local charging mechanisms will be both more efficient and more suited to meeting objectives for sustainable economic growth.

Available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/199978/0053424.pdf>

PUBLICATIONS FROM THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT SPICe Briefings

■ Flooding

This briefing provides an introduction to flooding. It contains information on recent flooding incidents in Scotland; future risks and the implications of climate change; flood prevention and other relevant legislation; responsibilities for flooding and flooding policy; and flood insurance.

Available at: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research/briefings-07/SB07-48.pdf>

■ Equal Opportunities

This briefing provides an overview of Equal Opportunities at EU, UK and Scottish levels. There are now six equality 'strands'; race, gender and disability are joined by sexual orientation, age, and religion and belief. The new Commission for Equality and Human Rights will be established in October 2007. The Commission for Racial Equality, the Disability Rights Commission and the Equal Opportunities Commission will all be dissolved.

Available at: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research/briefings-07/SB07-50.pdf>

PUBLICATIONS FROM OTHER PUBLIC BODIES

■ Scotland's Living Landscapes: places for people. The Landscape Forum's Report to Scottish Ministers

Scottish Landscape Forum
Available at: <http://www.snh.gov.uk/pdfs/strategy/landscapes/ReporttoMinisters.pdf>

■ SEPA's Provisional Corporate Strategy 2008 – 2011

SEPA

The Corporate Strategy sets out a programme of work on seven areas: Limiting and adapting to climate change; better environmental regulation; health and communities; reducing waste and promoting sustainable use of resources; good air quality; good land quality with healthier soils; and good water environments.

■ Lost in Transmission – the role of Ofgem in a changing climate

The Sustainable Development Commission for Scotland
An in-depth review exploring Ofgem's role in meeting the needs of future consumers in a low carbon society. The report recommends re-thinking heat provision to move to low-carbon networks across towns and cities; introducing a greenhouse gas incentive package into the Price Control Reviews for the distribution and transmission industries; providing consumers with better information through smarter metering and billing; changing the current market arrangements to make it easier for smaller, low-carbon generators and suppliers to compete in the market; increasing innovation spending on networks and addressing transmission issues in order to speed up the connection of renewable technologies and reduce losses from the system
Available at: [http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications/downloads/SDC_ofgem_report%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications/downloads/SDC_ofgem_report%20(2).pdf)

■ Sustainable Development in Scotland. A review of progress by the Scottish Executive

The Sustainable Development Commission in Scotland
Available at: <http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications/downloads/Sustainable%20Development%20in%20Scotland%20-%20a%20review%20of%20progress%20by%20the%20Scottish%20Executive.pdf>

POLICY ISSUES AND CONSULTATIONS

Current consultations published by the Scottish Government, Scottish Parliament and other public bodies in Scotland to which the Institute may wish to respond are listed below.

To assist the Institute in preparing a representative response, Members are invited to contribute their views by post or email (see page 2).

Please check the RTPi in Scotland's website for up-to-date listings of consultations at www.scotland.rtpi.org.uk

CONSULTATIONS BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

■ A Strategic Framework for Scottish Freshwater Fisheries: A Consultation Document

Responses requested by 4th January 2008

Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/197981/0052912.pdf>

■ Proposals to amend the building fees (Scotland) (Regulations) 2004

Scottish Buildings Standards Agency
Response requested by 21 December 2007

Available at: http://www.sbsa.gov.uk/latestupdates/consul_proposals_fees.htm

CONSULTATIONS BY THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

■ Flooding and Flood Management

Scottish Parliamentary Rural and Environment Committee Inquiry

Written submissions requested by 12th December 2007

Available at: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-comm-07/crae07-s3-002.htm>

POLICY NEWS

Council of Economic Advisers

A new Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) has been set up to advise on ways of improving the rate of sustainable economic growth. The Council had its first meeting on the 20th September and was addressed by Jim Mackinnon, Chief Planner. The CEA is chaired by Sir George Mathewson and will advise the First Minister about the best way to improve Scotland's sustainable economic growth; have quarterly meetings to consider the publication of the quarterly growth figures; and publish an annual report providing expert commentary on the Scottish economy.

New Chairman of SEPA

The new Chairman of SEPA is to be Mr. David Sigsworth who will take up his appointment after current Chairman Sir Ken Collins retires at the end of December. David Sigsworth is a Chartered Electrical Engineer and a Fellow of The Royal Society of Arts. He worked for over 40 years in the energy sector, latterly on the board of Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE). Mr. Sigsworth is currently Chairman of the Dundee Science Centre, Vice President of the Combined Heat and Power Association, a board member of Energy Action Scotland and a trustee of the think tank Sustainability First.