

Scottishplanner

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Journal of the RTPI in Scotland

New European programme for Edinburgh

The UK Contact Point for a new six-year European planning research programme will be based at the RTPI's Edinburgh office. The RTPI has been contracted to provide this service for the European Observation Network on Territorial Development and Cohesion (ESPON). RTPI's Jenny Crawford and Cliff Hague will carry out the work which will involve developing a new RTPI Network for people interested in ESPON. This new ESPON programme runs until 2013. A key feature will be the opportunity for local authorities to propose and participate in research work that will help them to develop visions and other planning policies.

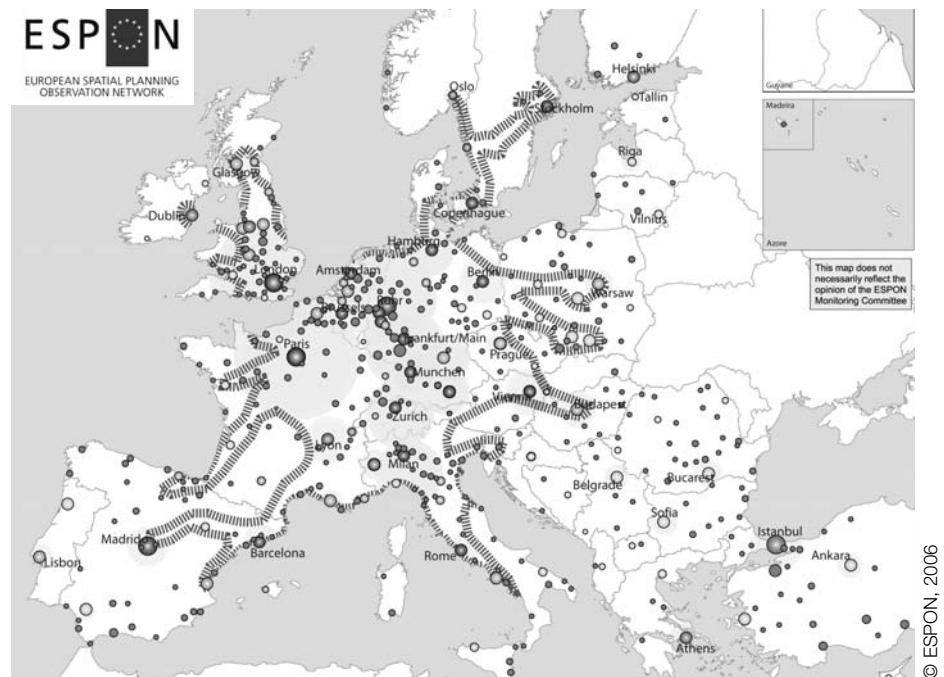
What has ESPON found so far?

The first phase of ESPON ran from 2002 to 2006 and produced over 30 studies that mapped trends and policy impacts across 29 European countries at regional level. The reports include in-depth analyses of a range of topics: transport and accessibility; demography and migration; urban-rural relations; telecommunications and the development of information society; hazards; and the spatial impacts of key European policies - Structural Funds, Agriculture, R&D, the Environment.

ESPON's research highlighted regional divides across Europe as a whole but also within countries. It enabled countries and regions to compare themselves with others in Europe. For example, in terms of GDP, the regional divide in the UK is significantly wider than anywhere else in Europe. West London and the Isle of Anglesey sit at either end of the UK spectrum on this measure. In contrast, countries like Spain, Finland, Sweden and the Netherlands recorded a much more homogenous pattern of regional incomes.

One particularly thought-provoking ESPON study developed scenarios for Europe in 2030. The trend scenario shows a Scotland with an aging population and facing increasing relative disadvantage in terms of transport access to European markets. Higher energy prices would increase the problems of peripherality both for Scotland vis-à-vis continental countries, and, within Scotland, for our more remote regions.

More positively, most of Scotland, like Scandinavia, would be expected to perform relatively well in terms of CO₂ emissions from inter-urban transport though the growth



The Trend scenario: one of a series of European development scenarios explored by ESPON.

Please note texts and maps stemming from research projects under the ESPON programme presented in this report do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the ESPON Monitoring Committee.

of traffic would be likely to see the current levels in the Central Belt get worse and spread beyond the Clyde-Forth areas.

In this scenario, Glasgow and Edinburgh, like Dublin, but not Dundee or Aberdeen, become nodes in an extended European core where flows and activities are concentrated. However, in an alternative scenario, in which the EU, and nation states prioritise 'competitiveness', the edge of the European economic heartland would stop well short of Hadrian's Wall. And, in a third scenario where 'cohesion' is given priority, Scotland gets little benefit: here the main winners would be the peripheral regions in eastern and southern Europe.

ESPON 2008-2013 – what's new?

The new ESPON programme will be bigger and better. The funding has more than doubled and four more countries have now joined – Bulgaria and Romania, who joined the EU in 2007, and Iceland and Lichtenstein. The new 'ESPON space' will cover 31 countries as Norway and Switzerland are also included, and projects will also be encouraged, wherever possible, to include an overview of the Western Balkans and Turkey. By developing indicators, maps and spatial data on this epic scale, ESPON will create exceptional opportunities for those involved in strategic planning and work on Structural Funds.

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mediation of space · making of place

Convener's Comments



A happy new year and big thanks to Alistair Stark for his convenership last year. Let's do our best to make 2008 a year when the potential of the work we do is recognised and valued; a year when we strengthen links inside and outside Scotland; a year when we begin to attract even more new talent into the planning profession; and a year when we and all our fellow citizens really start to make a visible contribution to better place-making.

As ever, we're looking for more connections and joined-up thinking. Places that ease and please, that don't frustrate our daily life and our hopes for a sustainable future. People have been talking of the need to discriminate: to distinguish between planning's role as a place for vision, and its regulatory elements; to separate the national from the local. I'm a firm believer in horses for courses but let's be careful not to divide up the way we think. Our national decisions have to be informed by an appreciation of the local realities on the ground. Our policy vision has to be connected to what we're able to achieve day by day at the hands of development management. It's through small steps in the decisions we make here and now that we can really begin to make a difference.

When I first got the urge to be a town planner, Ian Nairn was hammering out warnings about the way we were covering every part of Britain with formless, careless development. He saw dreary

roadsides, signs, wires and mess beginning to engulf the landscape from Land's End to John O'Groats. In the *Architectural Review* and in his book, *Outrage*, he charted a journey of sameness from the outskirts of Southampton to the Highlands of Scotland. The subtopian sprawl Nairn saw fifty years ago is still with us. US public health director, Howard Frumkin, points to sprawl and the lack of proper place design as a big contributor to the health problems our nations face today. I'm happy the longstanding links between planning and public health are being rediscovered. The West of Scotland Chapter has a good meeting on this key theme coming up on 13 March, and Scotland's Chief Medical Officer, Dr Harry Burns, has agreed to give our Geddes Lecture in Edinburgh on 4 June.

The Geddes Lecture is jointly presented with the Saltire Society. Their excellent exhibition of the last 70 years of the Saltire Housing Awards is still touring. In the current rush for more house-building, let's remember that we've been here before. Surely the big lesson of recent decades is that provision of new housing is not just about numbers. Good design, quality of environment, and proper maintenance need to be fundamental to all developments. We can't afford to make the same mistakes again.

Roger Kelly
www.place.makers.org.uk



Editorial

The expectation that 2008 would be dominated by the detailed dissection of statutory instruments was swept away by unprecedented public interest in a single planning application: that at Balmedie in Aberdeenshire.

This has been a testing time for the planning system and for those involved. The Institute provided evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Communities and Petitions Committees and noted the importance of the scrutiny of all planning cases being politically impartial and according to planning law and planning policy.

2008 could well prove to be a turning point in planning with a new National Planning Framework out for consultation and much more to follow. In this issue Scottish Government staff cover developments in planning reform and a further article reports on recent RTPi discussions on the consultation proposals.

From March 2008 the Melville St office will be home to the European Observation Network on Territorial Development and Cohesion project (ESPON). Jenny Crawford and Cliff Hague describe the focus of this work and the research funding available. Elsewhere in this edition, we continue the theme of climate change with George Eckton's article on the Greenhouse Gas Regional

Inventory Project. Ben Train also picks up on this theme in his article on his work as Town Planning Manager for Tesco.

Housing will be another key theme in 2008 and in this edition Alasdair Morrison looks at housing supply. Housing is also the theme of the Scottish Young Planners' conference which will be held in Glasgow on the 3rd April.

Alan Prior continues the series on planning education in Scotland with his article on the work of the Heriot Watt School of Planning. Other topics include the first article in a series on historic environments, conservation and planning by Jack Gillon and Bob Heath; and the role of A+DS advice at appeal by Sebastian Toombs.

2008 started with the good news that in the New Year's Honours List Mike Galloway Director of Planning and Transportation at Dundee City Council was awarded the OBE for services to Urban Design and Regeneration. Many congratulations to Mike on this well deserved recognition of his work.

Veronica Burbridge
Editor

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National Planning Framework: The Key to Sustainable Economic Growth

The Scottish Government launched the National Planning Framework for Scotland 2: Discussion Draft on 8th January and this is out for consultation until 15th April.

The Framework outlines a vision for Scotland's development to 2030. It will help to improve competitiveness, contribute to tackling climate change, protect the quality of natural and built environments and promote improved opportunities and a better quality of life. It builds on the Government Economic Strategy, setting clear priorities for the improvement of infrastructure to support sustainable economic growth.

At the launch, John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, indicated that nine national infrastructure projects should have a vital role to play in creating a more successful Scotland. These developments are identified as potential national developments within the Framework and such a designation will establish the need for these projects as being in the national interest.

The proposed national developments are:

- the facilities and infrastructure to support the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games;
- grid reinforcements to support renewable energy development;
- a replacement Forth crossing;
- enhancements to Edinburgh Airport;
- enhancements to Glasgow Airport;
- the Grangemouth Freight Hub – enhanced access;
- the Rosyth International Container Terminal;
- the Scapa Flow Container Transshipment Facility; and
- the Glasgow Strategic Drainage Scheme.



John Swinney said, "The Government Economic Strategy requires a planning framework that supports the sustainable growth of economic activity across Scotland while protecting the quality of the natural and built environment. That is why we have identified our strategic priorities for investment in transport, energy and environmental infrastructure in the draft National Planning Framework. Enhancing our national infrastructure with national developments will create a more successful country, increase

sustainable economic growth and create opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish."

Five conferences to discuss this draft will be held in February and March - more details are available on the Scottish Government's website. Once the consultation is completed on 15 April, the Framework will be considered by Parliament and it is anticipated that the final version will be published in winter 2008.

Jane Macrory, *National Planning Framework Team, Scottish Government*

To view the draft National Planning Framework visit:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Planning/Consultations>

See page 13 for details of consultation events.

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The most exciting innovation is the launch of a new stream of work which will be shaped by practitioners who will be able to get customised results that can underpin their work. This will be a bottom-up approach, though one connecting also at a European scale. It will allow, for example, the Scottish Government or local authorities or Scottish Enterprise to propose and take part in one of three types of study - see the box below.

The changes in the planning system in Scotland give real opportunities to put forward proposals under this new ESPON priority. For example, the work on the

National Planning Framework might be linked to similar initiatives in other countries to explore how ESPON findings might inform national strategies, or how such national approaches can tackle issues such as climate change, peripherality, and so on.

Similarly the new development plan system, with its emphasis on developing visions for city-regions, would seem an obvious starting point for projects on 'innovative actions'. However, time is short: the cut-off for submitting ideas for research is 22 March.

Scottish universities, too, may be interested in being part of a Transnational Project

Group to bid for any of the first six, more conventional, projects that have been announced - again with a 22 March cut-off. The topics in this first round of projects are:

- Cities and urban agglomerations: their functionality and potentials for European competitiveness and co-operation.
- Development opportunities in different types of rural areas.
- Demographic and migratory flows affecting European regions and cities.
- Climate change and territorial effects on regions and local economies.
- Effects of rising energy prices on regional competitiveness.
- Territorial Impact Assessment of policies.

Jenny Crawford is RTPI Head of Research and ESPON UK Contact Point Coordinator.

Cliff Hague is the ESPON UK Contact Point Team Leader.

To discuss involvement contact the RTPI in Scotland at 0131 226 1959 or research@rtpi.org.uk; see also www.espon.eu.

Categories of study under ESPON's new priority for work based on 'user demand':

1. **Studies of particular types of territories** – e.g. rural/island areas, capital cities, fisheries areas, sub-regions experiencing strong housing demand, and so on. These studies can look at regional potential within a European and comparative context, exploring how regions and cities with similar challenges develop and implement strategies.
2. **Experimental and innovative actions** – on trends and policies. There is a strong emphasis on support for creativity and new ideas, e.g. in developing visions and strategies to improve the economic, social and environmental situation in a region.
3. **Joint actions related to other Structural Funds Programmes** – e.g. new research undertaken in support of an INTERREG project.

Implementing the Planning Act

The Modernisation of the Planning system in Scotland moves on apace. November and December saw the publication of consultation papers containing draft regulations on Development Plan examinations and the Hierarchy respectively, whilst January saw the publication of the consultation on the Development Management Regulations covering changes to the planning application process. The Modernising Planning Appeals consultation completes this series of papers that cover the main elements of the new system.

Development Management

This consultation paper introduces some of the key changes required to implement the modernised planning system to not only increase transparency and efficiency but also to provide a consolidated and up-to-date piece of legislation on planning application procedures. The consultation paper includes draft regulations which will eventually replace the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Scotland) Order 1992. Views are also sought on the draft mezzanine floors Order which is also contained within the consultation paper. Two summary sheets outlining the main changes for businesses and communities also accompany the consultation.

This is an important consultative document and the Government is keen to receive your comments on the practicalities of the wide-ranging yet detailed arrangements set out in the paper. The closing date for comments on the content of the above consultation is 2 April 2008.

Contact:
alan.cameron@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Modernising Planning Appeals

This consultation paper covers the proposed arrangements relating to schemes of delegation, appeals and local review bodies. It puts forward provisions to implement section 43A of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 which allows local authorities to prepare schemes of delegation for proposals within the category of local developments. In future, applicants who are unhappy with a decision taken under this scheme of delegation will request a review of the decision by the local review body rather than appealing to Scottish Ministers as is presently the case. The local review body

is intended to comprise locally-elected members who will carry out an independent review of the officer's decision. The draft legislation aims to provide a framework within which planning authorities have the scope to develop schemes which are appropriate to local circumstances whilst improving the efficiency of the planning process overall. This approach is intended to allow elected members to focus their attention on the more controversial or complex applications – the types of applications that would fall outwith the terms of the scheme of delegation. Changes are also proposed to those appeals made to Scottish Ministers to enable an effective review of the decision to take place whilst promoting greater efficiency in the appeal process.

Contact:
john.mcnaurney@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Dates for your diary

Of the current crop of papers and draft regulations out for consultation, most will close before the next issue of Scottish Planner is published. Therefore, as a reminder of timescales, your comments on the following consultations should be received by the Planning Directorate by the following dates:

Draft Regulations on the Planning Hierarchy
21 March 2008

Development Management
2 April 2008

Draft Regulations on Development Plan Examinations
4 April 2008

Two of the earlier consultation papers from October 2007 closed on 20 February 2008, namely the Draft Regulations on Development Planning and Planning Enforcement. Planning Directorate staff will now consider the responses to these consultations and take into account comments made in finalising the Regulations and Orders.

Towards the new Strategic Development Planning Authorities

Responses to the consultation on the draft designation orders for the new Strategic Development Planning Authorities (SDPAs) are currently being analysed, following the close of the consultation at the end of October. 112 responses were received, around half of which were from residents of the Scottish Borders raising concerns about the inclusion of the Borders in the proposed SDPA for the Edinburgh city region. The majority of the other responses were content with the proposed membership of the new SDPAs while some responses sought further guidance on how the new arrangements will work in practice. The full analysis of responses will be available shortly and, following further discussions on the membership of some of the SDPAs, the intention is to lay the final designation orders before Parliament around spring 2008. This will give the relevant authorities time to put in place effective working arrangements before the new Development Planning system commences around the end of 2008.

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

Further information

For information on the latest timetable for the implementation of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 and links to consultation papers, please visit the Scottish Government's website at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Planning/Modernising>. If you have not already signed up to receive Planning Directorate's e-newsletter you may wish to do so by registering through the website at: <http://response.questback.com/scottishexecutive/planning/>. This will also ensure that you are alerted to future consultations as they are published.

Design at Appeal

A recent appeal decision underlines the importance of advice from Architecture + Design Scotland's Design Review Panel

Since the publication in 2005 of SPP 20 on its role, Architecture + Design Scotland (A+DS) has had a remit to provide design advice to Local Planning Authorities, prospective developers and their professional teams through design reviews, as well as client-focussed support from a panel of enablers and a programme of events and publications.

In June 2005, at the request of West Dunbartonshire Council, A+DS's Design Review Panel considered a proposal for over 300 houses and commercial space at the former Allied Distillers (Ballantine's Distillery) site on Dumbarton's waterfront. The Panel noted that the proposals, which included the retention of a tower from the otherwise demolished distillery complex, did not accord fully with the Dumbarton Waterfront Design Framework, as prepared by Page and Park Architects and adopted by the Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

The Design Review Panel advised that:

- "On balance, A+DS has strong reservations about the isolated retention of the tower and departures from the framework to which it leads".
- "The retention of the (tower) as an isolated element of a former, unlisted, industrial complex appears to prevent the redevelopment project discovering an appropriate new character for this area of the town".
- The proposals should "respond to the variety of materials, building heights and urban grain of Dumbarton's High Street".
- "The framework's proposal for a visual link between the High Street, in front of the (Category A Listed) Parish Church, and the main body of the (Dumbarton) rock should be delivered".

Subsequently the planning application was refused by the Planning Authority and an appeal was lodged by the developers. A public inquiry was held in August 2007.

In the 15 October 2007 decision letter (SEDPEA ref P/PPA/160/95) the Reporter highlighted that, in relation to the determining issue of consistency with the Development Plan and whether an exception to its provisions was justified by other material considerations, the considerations included the design documents:



Credit: A+DS

- The Dumbarton Waterfront Design Framework - as Supplementary Planning Guidance;
- SPP 20 - 'The Role of A+DS'; and
- PAN 76 - New Residential Streets.

The Reporter, noting that "The preparation of design frameworks accords with national policy (and)... that it is appropriate to attach significant weight to the Design Framework", concluded that there was no justification in this case for setting aside the vision outlined in the Framework.

In relation to the advice from A+DS, the Reporter stated that the organisation was established as the national champion for good architecture, design and planning in the built environment, with design review as one of its key responsibilities; and that Ministers attach great importance to this process, as explained in SPP 20. The fact that A+DS decided to consider this case through a Design Review Panel recognised the importance of design in the context of this particular location.

The A+DS Design Review Panel's concern that the retention of the isolated distillery tower would mark a departure from the Design Framework, and prevent new development appropriate for Dumbarton from taking place, was evaluated by the Reporter alongside Historic Scotland's view. This latter view was that, whilst the loss of context of the tower through surrounding demolitions was unfortunate, it did not negate its intrinsic historical and cultural meaning as a significant heritage asset. Having carefully noted Historic Scotland's comments, the Reporter considered that their main focus was much narrower than

that of A+DS and that compliance with the Design Framework, and its wider benefits, would allow a much improved scheme to be designed. Accordingly the inquiry decision attached more weight to the advice from A+DS in this case.

In dismissing the appeal the Reporter noted that the proposal was contrary to the Development Plan, the draft Local Plan, the Design Framework and PAN 76, whilst gaining little if any support from SPPs 17 and 20 and related issues.

In the light of this decision, planning authorities and the development community should be confident that, in the processing of development applications:

- design quality is important;
- SPP 20, and the views of A+DS, may be regarded as significant material considerations;
- the acceptance of a proposal as a case for A+DS design review may be regarded as an indication of its design significance;
- Design Frameworks, and other elements of the 'design toolkit', adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance, also constitute significant material considerations; and,
- if a case is taken to appeal, due weight will be given to the advice from A+DS on design when it is considered in relation to advice from other sources.

Sebastian Tombs is Chief Executive of Architecture + Design Scotland

For further information on the work of A+DS see: www.ads.org.uk

CHAPTER AND SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION EVENTS

More questions than answers?

Scottish Government staff met RTPI Chapter members in late November and early December in Aberdeen, Glasgow and Stirling to discuss the proposed new Development Plan procedures.

Major changes

Development Plan preparations should follow four main stages, each of which may require environmental assessment - Main Issues; Proposed Plan; Modified Plan; and Examination (the outcome of which, in the case of Local Development Plans, will be largely binding on the Planning Authority). Plans are not expected to be as detailed as at present; particular changes include the mandatory inclusion of a Glossary, an Executive Summary, and the inclusion of a map base for appropriate Strategic Development Plan proposals.

Major concerns

Concern was expressed that Development Plans will need to be re-established in the first new cycle which will require a lot of work. Participants considered that this will make it difficult to be quicker, better and more effective. Questions were also raised about: the role of key agencies; the status of 'special areas' such as Conservation Areas and SSSIs; and the effectiveness of Monitoring Statements.

Strategic Development Plan (SDP) boundaries raised issues for authorities such as Fife. It was noted, that although SDPs must take account of proposals in neighbouring areas, there appears to be no equivalent requirement placed on Local Development Plans.

Questions also addressed transitional arrangements and the differences between the incoming and outgoing Draft Plans. The current proposal is that new Plans will be restricted to the main 'big idea' plus outlines of possible alternatives. This raised concerns about establishing what constitutes a 'key issue' especially in the context of the Local Development Plan. In some communities every proposal is 'key' and every objection and issue must be examined and possibly negotiated.

Only minimal participation requirements are set out in the draft Regulations which some felt was insufficient. The intention is to address good practice through advice.

The new Neighbour Notification procedures also raised questions relating to the adequacy of notifying only occupiers, and the availability of suitable datasets.

Some of the proposed arrangements for the Examination of Plans raised other concerns. It was suggested that restrictions on the right of objectors to appear before the Examination may be challenged under human rights legislation, with judicial review being the only remedy. Also, it was considered that making Examination findings largely binding went against the principle of giving more responsibility to local authorities. It was noted that, following an Examination, there will be no formal opportunity for a local authority to engage with the Scottish Government on the detail or principle of proposed changes to a Plan. Another, possibly contrary, view expressed was that as Local Development Plan examination findings would be binding on local authorities, a similar constraint should be placed on Ministers when approving Strategic Development Plans; although there are constitutional reasons that make such a constraint impractical.

Development Management

Turning to the general thrust of the proposed Development Management regime, the view from Victoria Quay was that procedures would be proportionate to the importance of issues. Regulations would set down only the basic requirements for validity of applications. Major applications would be subject to enhanced scrutiny, and pre-application consultation and processing agreement requirements would be specified. Schemes of delegation would allow Development Plan departure, Environmental Assessment and other controversial applications to be reserved to councillors. Delegated decisions could be appealed to a Local Review Body, to be serviced by the Chief Legal Officer, with planning advice perhaps from the Head of Planning.

In discussion the following points were made:

- A shortage of resources would make it difficult for planning authorities to adhere to timetables.
- As those consulted needed time to respond, but would not be party to Processing Agreements, best practice would be to involve them in preliminary discussions.
- Increases in fees and changes in appeal timescales needed further consideration.
- The general quality and adequacy of information submitted with planning applications was of concern, although the problems of including detailed specifications in Regulations were recognised. Guidance on validation would be useful to augment a local authority's own processes.
- Specific concerns included establishing the appropriate level of detail to accompany *applications in principle*, where Environmental Assessment would be required and identification of the requirements for Design & Access Statements.
- The constitution of Local Review Bodies (LRB), which replace the appeal procedure for delegated decisions was seen as problematic; many councillors will have Development Management and Development Plan responsibilities. This raised issues of eligibility to sit on the LRB. Additional issues related to monitoring process, other than the auditing of overall patterns of decision-making.
- Although perhaps not amenable to Regulation, it was noted that if reasons for decisions were to refer to relevant policies, this would considerably help Development Plan monitoring.

Alistair Stark, *Convenor of the RTPI Scottish Executive Committee (2007); with contributions from Alasdair Finlayson and Ian Angus of the West of Scotland Chapter.*

Chapter **News****EDINBURGH LOTHIAN
FIFE & BORDERS**

Annual Quiz: In a hotly contested competition at Edinburgh's Cumberland Bar on Wednesday 23rd January, seven talented teams competed for the prestigious title of RTPI Quiz Supremos – including teams from City of Edinburgh, Scottish Borders, West Lothian, Halcrow, Turleys...as well as a team representing the Hickman Clan.

Robert Pickles from **Planning Aid** kicked off the event with a brief presentation updating the audience on Planning Aid activities and the various opportunities to get involved. Contact Planning Aid on office@planningaidscotland.org.uk for more information.

The Annual Quiz was admirably delivered by talented Quizmasters Nikola Miller (GVA Grimley) and Katherine Pollock (Turleys), and hotly contested with the promise of a crate of Cava, chocolate bunnies and the coveted trophy. In the end it was the reigning champions who romped through – the 'Halcronies'. Winning team captain Stefano Smith said, "I thank all those that organised, supported and participated in this event, including Planning Aid".

Anyone interested in joining the Chapter Committee to form, shape and participate in future Chapter CPD events please contact Stefano Smith – smithsb@halcrow.com.

Stefano Smith, Convenor, RTPI ELFB Chapter - for a full version of this report see the Chapter webpage at: www.scotland.rtpi.org.uk

Tesco and Planning Modernisation in Scotland

The planning system in Scotland is going through a period of rapid and fundamental change. Responding to change is something that retailers are used to: they appreciate that flexible and responsive business processes are needed to survive changing patterns of consumer behaviour and government regulation. However, change is always easier to discuss than it is to deliver.

Tesco saw the need to change its property and planning functions in Scotland, and set up a Scottish Property Office based in Livingston in 2007. The office is headed up by Douglas Thornton and his team includes planners, surveyors, an architect and dedicated experts in community engagement. One of its responsibilities is to improve engagement with central and local government and local communities, to ensure that the changes stemming from planning modernisation are implemented in Tesco, and in the architectural, planning and environmental consultancies it employs across Scotland.

Tesco welcomes the changes introduced by the Planning Act. One of the areas where change will be felt the most is within Development Plan functions. New processes such as neighbour notification of proposals will undoubtedly increase the level of engagement and require all involved in the Local Development Plan process to raise their game, whether within the public or private sectors.

Delivering Local Development Plans within the required timescale is strongly supported but it will require a more structured and well-resourced approach, and also necessitate a move away from overly-prescriptive policies and proposals towards a more flexible approach which acknowledges the short timescales that govern development processes. They will also need to be more focused on land use issues. Local Plans will get bogged down if they are used as a mean to deliver other agendas. They should focus on the effective use of land to support environmental, economic and social goals. These principles are also true for Strategic Development Plans.

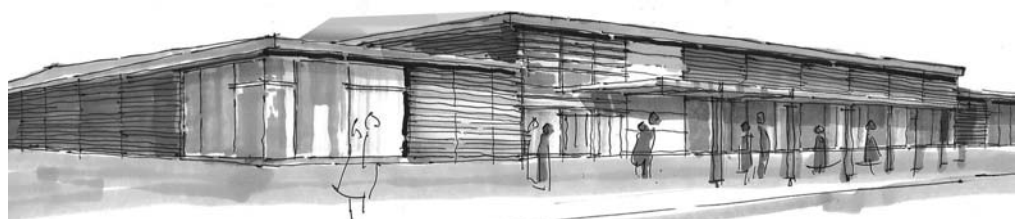
Much of Tesco's success as a retailer has been attributed to the fact that we listen to our customers. It is therefore encouraging to see the changes being proposed in Development Management to strengthen the role of community consultation. As a developer Tesco takes seriously the need to listen to local communities. A recent example is the

regeneration of Linwood town centre where Tesco used a range of techniques to engage with the local community. We therefore support the requirement to produce pre-application consultation reports, and the greater emphasis on early and effective consultation. There may be some additional costs but consulting communities effectively promotes more successful projects for both the developer and local people.

Tesco also recognises the need for higher standards of environmental sustainability, and has set an objective to cut the emissions from our stores by 50% by 2020. We have started to drive forward the use of low and zero carbon technologies, and sustainable construction, such as the use of timber frames and walls and increased natural light. In parallel with sustainability measures we are looking at how we can continue to improve the design of our developments and provide a range of store formats to suit different locations.

Taking people with you in the change process is demanding, and dealing with the detailed implications of change can at times be arduous. It will therefore be critical over the coming months that planners fully engage with the detail of the legislation, policy and advice from the Scottish Government; not an easy task when we all have our day jobs. This is, however, a one-off opportunity to influence the way the planning system operates, so better to engage now rather than berating some aspect of the system once the ink is dry. We all need to get used to the fact that the output of planning modernisation will be a more complex system. We need to start to rethink the way we work so that we manage effectively the limited resources, and focus on where each of us can add value. Finally, we should not forget that getting the best outcomes on the ground, rather than the process itself, is what is important - it is on quality of places that the planning system will ultimately be judged.

Ben Train is Town Planning Manager (Scotland) for Tesco Stores Limited.



Tesco sustainable store construction.

Credit: Ian Burke Associates.

Greenhouse Gas Regional Inventory Glasgow and Clyde Valley Case Study



Tackling the gathering clouds of climate change.

Over the last 12 months, the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee has been the lead partner in an INTERREG IIC¹ funded extension project 'InterMETREXPlus' looking at the role of spatial planning in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The original InterMETREX project began in 2003 and ran for three years, working to provide a benchmark for effective spatial planning, and highlighting that climate change was not being effectively addressed. So further funding was provided which enabled piloting of the Greenhouse Gas Regional Inventory Project methodology (the GRIP model²) in four partner regions – Glasgow and Clyde Valley, Stockholm in Sweden, Emilia-Romagna and Veneto in Italy.

This model is one of the first to address auditing and inventory work on greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) across a metropolitan-wide area or region. It can also be used to generate 'energy futures scenarios' for modelling the impact of a range of mitigation policies. Of the partners only the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley area took this latter approach, developing scenarios aimed at reducing GHGs for the region by 80% by 2050. This target is in line with the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change's requirement for an 80% reduction in GHGs by 2050 which is aimed at limiting the risk of a greater-than-two-degree rise in global temperature³.

Scottish Climate Change Policy

The project links to the current development of climate change and energy policies in Scotland. Proposals for a Scottish Climate Change Bill aim to achieve a 3% year on year reduction of GHGs with the long-term target to reduce by 80% by 2050. The Scottish Government is also developing a Planning Advice Note (PAN 85) for calculating reduced carbon emissions when producing Development Plans, and when assessing planning applications. Whilst at the level of local government, all 32 local authorities signed up to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration in January 2007.

Glasgow and Clyde Valley Metropolitan Area GHG Inventory

The 2004-based GHG inventory outlines the level of emissions of six main greenhouse gases: Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄), Nitrous Oxide (N₂O), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF₆). Table 1 shows the GHGs for four sectors: Energy, Industrial Processes, Waste and Agriculture.

Table 1 Glasgow & Clyde Valley Metropolitan Area – Total Emissions ('000) Tonnes

Source		CO ₂	CH ₄	N ₂ O	HFC	PFC	SF ₆	Total CO ₂ equivalent
Energy Sector	Total	12,827	40.49	0.28				13,841 (89%)
Domestic		4,668	1.53	0.11				4,737 (31%)
Industry		2,245	0.25	0.08				2,275 (15%)
Services		1,330	0.18	0.04				1,347 (9%)
Energy Transformation		90	0.02	0.01				93 (0.6%)
Energy Industry Own Use		396	0.04	0.01				400 (3%)
Fugitive Emissions		404	38.4	0.0				1,287 (8%)
Other		297	0.01	0.0				299 (2%)
Transport		3,395	0.07	0.03				3,406 (21%)
Industrial Sector	Total	0	0	0	242.86	2.65	0	322 (2%)
Waste	Total	12.53	24.1	0.13				750 (5%)
Agriculture	Total	14.24	1.36					606 (4%)
Total		12,852	66	0.41	243	2.65	0	15,520
GCV Population (1,747,080)								
Per Capita (tonnes)		7.34	0.77	0.3	0.14	0.002	0	8.8

The energy sector accounts for 89% of regional CO₂ equivalent emissions. Overall emissions for the region work out at 8.8 tonnes per person which is below the national average, reflecting its economic profile.

ory Project



Scenario Workshops

As part of the project, three day-long scenario workshops were held in Glasgow in April/May 2007 with a range of stakeholder organisations, to consider energy futures that might meet the target of 80% GHG reduction by 2050.

The three workshops each reached a consensus on the GHG reductions possible by 2050 and the related reduction in energy usage – see table below.

	GHG emission	Energy usage reductions change
Day 1 Workshop	78%	- 37%
Day 2 Workshop	77%	- 29%
Day 3 Workshop	78%	- 34%

None of the workshops managed to reach the stated aim of an 80% reduction. Each took a slightly different approach to reaching the GHG emissions target through: energy efficiency measures; proportion of energy supplied from less-carbon intensive sources; and, using less energy overall.

Spatial Planning Implications

Current spatial planning policy responses to climate change focus on two approaches:

- Adaptation – adapting spatial planning strategy so that climate change is integral, i.e. ‘climate-proofing’
- Mitigation – producing a spatial planning strategy that seeks to reduce CO₂ emissions

This InterMETREXPlus project focussed on the mitigation approach, whilst recognising the links between effective adaptation and longer-term mitigation.

The Stern Review highlighted the role of spatial planning in implementing adaptation and mitigation measures, stating that decisions will need to be taken over the next ten years to stabilise current increases in GHG emissions and to move



towards low carbon technologies for power, heat and transport. It sees the need for new large developments to incorporate combined heat and power systems; for balancing renewable energy developments with environmental resources; and for biodegradable waste being used as biomass for CHP purposes. The spatial planning system is an obvious channel for supporting discussions and decisions on such developments.

Our conclusions

The combination of regional GHG inventories and the innovative engagement of partners and stakeholders via the GRIP scenario tool has provided a platform for constructive debate on what can and needs to be done to meet the challenge of a target of 80% emissions reduction by 2050. Our project has shown the key role the spatial planning system has in reducing GHG emissions which is very much in line with the current thinking from the Stern Review and recent European Union Energy and Climate Change publications.

George Eckton is Strategic Planner for the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee. For more information contact him on: george_eckton@gvcvcore.gov.uk.

InterMETREX project extension final report is available to download from: http://www.gvcvcore.gov.uk/downloads/GRIP_InterMETREXPlus.pdf

1 The INTERREG IIC programme is financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Its aim is to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies through large-scale information exchange and sharing of experience in a structured manner. InterMETREX – INTERREG IIC project work between 30 partners within METREX, the Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas, to achieve an improved understanding of Metropolitan spatial planning brochures with regard to the European Spatial Development Perspective (EDSP).

2 The GRIP model has been developed by the Tyndall Centre (UK), see: www.grip.org.uk.

3 See the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's website at: <http://www.ipcc-wg2.org/>

Members News

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

Corporate

Iain Bailey	-
Thomas Barratt	Environment Agency
Derek Hughes	-
Alistair Gemmell	West Dunbartonshire
Alison Martin	City of Edinburgh Council
Michael Thorndyke	Consultant

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

Associate

Karol Swanson	Planning Aid for Scotland
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Licentiate

Andrew Robertson	-
Ziyad Thomas	Drivers Jonas

Student

Mahnaz Abdulqasim	Ministry of Municipalities
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Seonaid Carr	Heriot-Watt University
Ruth Foxon	Jacobs UK Ltd
Miriam Frier	Orkneys Islands Council
Kathryn Hume	Heriot-Watt University
Caitlin McFarland	Heriot-Watt University
Catherine McLaughlin	Heriot-Watt University
Matthew Topsfield	ERM
Iain Weston	Heriot-Watt University

Planning Education at Heriot-Watt University



Contemplating Planning at Heriot-Watt University?

Planning education in Edinburgh changed significantly in 2002 when the School of Planning and Housing transferred from Edinburgh College of Art to Heriot-Watt University, and combined with the departments of Civil Engineering and Building Engineering and Surveying to form a new interdisciplinary School of the Built Environment.

The School has two RTPI-accredited undergraduate courses: a BSc (Hons) in Urban and Regional Planning - 4 years full-time, or 5 years with a sandwich year; and a BSc (Hons) in Planning and Property Development - also accredited by the RICS. Together with the RICS-accredited BSc (Hons) in Real Estate Management, these courses form the Urban Studies undergraduate programme, the first year of which is common to all three courses. Intake is around 50 students to a common first year, plus some direct entrants with relevant qualifications, e.g. HND, to year 2.

The MSc in Urban and Regional Planning is the RTPI-accredited postgraduate course; 12-months full-time or 2 years part-time. It has recruited strongly from its launch in 2004, with around 50 full-time and 20 part-time students, most of the latter in technical posts in Scottish planning authorities. The RTPI's restructuring of accredited postgraduate planning courses, from two academic years of 30 weeks each, to one intensive year of 48 weeks, has not only revolutionized provision but also made gaining a planning qualification through postgraduate study much more attractive.

As well as planning, the School provides accredited courses in civil engineering, construction management, project and facilities management, housing, building and quantity surveying, with approximately 1000 students studying on the Riccarton Campus, plus another 700 studying as distance learners, supported through an international network of local centres from Malaysia to the West Indies. Construction and real estate management courses are also being delivered at the University's Dubai campus. Central to the School's strategy for professional education in the built environment is interdisciplinary education and flexible delivery.

RTPI accreditation is through the Partnership Board established between the University and the RTPI, and is the principal means of assuring compliance with RTPI education policy. It includes representation from the University, the RTPI, and local practitioners, and is chaired by an RTPI-appointed practitioner. The Board receives copies of annual reports of external examiners and other University quality assurance reports, and meets at least once a year to investigate in-depth aspects of the School's planning provision. As a continuous process, it builds on established internal and external quality assurance arrangements.

Like the other Scottish planning schools, Heriot-Watt supports the Scottish Planning Education Forum, a sub-group of the Scottish Society of Directors of Planning, which includes representation from the RTPI, RICS, the Scottish Government Planning Directorate and the Scottish Planning Consultants' Forum. Planning modernisation has stimulated a joint action plan to boost

recruitment into planning courses and means of supporting graduate planners during their initial two years of relevant practice essential to RTPI corporate membership.

The era has long gone when most graduates of Scottish planning courses anticipated a career in Scottish local government. As well as home students, planning courses also attract overseas students who expect to return to their home country after graduation, whilst many home students aspire to what they perceive as a more stimulating career in the private sector. Universities themselves are under financial pressure to recruit full fee paying overseas students to ensure the financial viability of courses, meaning that they have to ensure the value and relevance of their courses to these students as well as home students. So courses have to be financially viable in terms of student numbers, and educationally as well as professionally relevant. Whilst permanent academic staff must be research-active in terms of attracting research grants from Research Councils, contracts from government and others, and regularly publish research papers, planning courses also rely on teaching contributions from practitioners through projects and tutorials as well as occasional lectures.

One advantage of being located within a large School of the Built Environment is the capacity to locate planning education and research within wider built environment perspectives, essential if the planning professionals of tomorrow are to help deliver sustainable development and the international climate change agenda, as well as a modern Scottish planning system.

Alan Prior is Professor and Deputy Convenor at the School of the Built Environment, Heriot-Watt University.



Redhall Doocot Restoration

The Category 'A' Listed mid-18th century doocot at Redhall House in Edinburgh has recently been the subject of a comprehensive restoration project. The House is located in the Craiglockhart area of Edinburgh, approximately three miles from the City Centre.

References to Redhall date back to the 13th century, and the name 'Redhall' is understood to refer to the original Redhall Tower. The estate was bought by George Inglis, Attorney in Exchequer Records, in 1755, and in 1758 the architect, James Robertson, received over £928 for the design and construction of a new house in the French chateau style. The House stood in a large estate that included stables, a doocot, a walled garden, and ornamental gardens designed by James Bowie in 1758. In 1944 Redhall House was acquired by Edinburgh Corporation and was converted for use as a children's home. In 1978 Graysmill and Cairnpark schools were built in the grounds.

In 2004 the Council considered options for the disposal of the Redhall House properties and the site was the subject of a development brief. In 2006 Miller Homes obtained planning permission for the development of houses in the grounds, and also agreed a financial contribution to meet the costs of the repair and preservation of the doocot.

Prior to the 18th century doocots were a standard feature of Scottish landed estates and they form prominent features in the rural landscape of many parts of Scotland. Pigeons provided a valuable source of year-round fresh meat and eggs, adding variety to meals in the winter months. Their droppings, which built up in the doocots, also made an excellent fertiliser, and they were used as well in the production of gunpowder and the processes of leather tanning and cloth dyeing.

Early surviving Scottish doocots are of two main types. The first purpose-built doocots, dating from the 16th century, are beehive shaped, circular in section and tapering towards the top with a flat domed roof. The other early style, which superseded the beehive design in the late 16th century, is the rectangular lectern type which appears to be peculiar to Scotland. These have a distinctive sloping mono-pitched roof often with crow-stepped gables that provided a perch for the pigeons and are normally divided into separate chambers.

Dooocots are not all that rare nationally but the Redhall doocot is a more unusual hexagonal shape built in red sandstone. It dates from 1756 and was built by John Christy for the Inglis family at a cost of £40.

On its north side the doocot has an interesting armorial stone panel. This bears the arms and motto of the Otterburn family and can be dated to the middle of the 16th Century. The panel was taken from the ruins of Redhall Tower which previously stood just north-west of the present house. Sir Adam Otterburn was King's Advocate, 1524-38, and was also Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

Dooocots are not all that rare nationally but the Redhall doocot is a more unusual hexagonal shape built in red sandstone.

The doocot stood empty and roofless for many years before restoration works in 2007. The detail for reinstatement was informed by photographs published in *Old Dovecotes In and Around Edinburgh* which indicated that the doocot had lost its original lime harl coating and conical roof crowned with a rod carrying a star.

The restoration works included replacement of the roof incorporating a dormer flight box and topped by the reinstated 2.2m high 'fairy wand' with five-pointed star in iron and copper. The lime harling has also been restored along with five coats of traditional lime wash. The main contractor was Wm Black & Sons, with lime works by Master



Plasterer Alex Hylands of the Plaster Restoration Company.

The doocot now forms a major focal point for the new residential development and for visitors to Colinton Dell.

Jack Gillon is a Planner dealing with conservation issues with the City of Edinburgh Council.

Bob Heath, architect, has worked exclusively for the last thirty years repairing and conserving historic buildings and ancient monuments.



Scotland's Housing

Can the NPF2 help to meet the house-building targets?



In January 2008 the Scottish Government published a revised version of its national spatial plan, the 'National Planning Framework 2' (NPF). With the number of households in Scotland forecast to increase by almost 15,000 each year up to 2024, the NPF is a real opportunity for the Government to clarify how it intends to meet Scotland's housing supply requirements in the future.

In England, Gordon Brown has campaigned to see large increases in the rate of home building through initiatives such as the Sustainable Communities Plan, Growth Areas and Eco-Towns, and backed this through substantial additional public funds aimed at delivery.

North of the Border the new SNP administration have set out targets of 35,000 new homes per year, which is a 40% increase on 2005 levels, and similar to the proposed target in England; although considerably below the Homes for Scotland quoted aspiration of 50,000 new dwellings per year. But, crucially, can the Government target actually be achieved? If so, where should the new housing be located? And should Scotland mirror the approach from England by designating specific locations for large-scale housing growth?

In recent years, demolition of existing dwelling stock has accounted for about 5,000 dwellings annually in Scotland, leaving a net annual gain to the housing stock of around 20,000 dwellings: this is against a backdrop of still immature housing market renewal plans when compared to England. This is where the spatial question comes to the fore. These demolitions have been focused on the large urban areas. As a result the housing stock in the four largest cities has only increased marginally in recent years, as shown in the table below.

Number of DWELLINGS

City	Sep-04	Sep-06	Sep-07	Average annual increase
Glasgow	293,075	295,295	298,831	0.4%
Edinburgh	221,536	226,247	228,523	1.0%
Aberdeen	106,754	108,618	109,425	0.9%
Dundee	72,210	72,165	72,736	0%

Source: Scottish Government Housing Statistics Bulletin Feb 2007

This suggests that urban renewal programmes are at least partly negating the supply of new housing in the big cities. Scotland's four cities will all begin preparation of new City-Region land use plans in 2008 and it will be interesting to see how they propose to tackle this issue of future housing supply.

The political clamour for more house-building has coincided with the steep rise in the absolute price of homes across Scotland. The theory that increasing housing supply will reduce price is unproven and tends to ignore the fact that only about 10% of house purchases in Scotland are for new homes. Therefore the demand for the existing supply is likely to have a much more significant effect on absolute price than will the supply of new homes.

Key factors for housing supply:

- the preparation timescales for Local Plans in order to identify and release land for housing;
- overcoming tensions between local authorities for the optimum provision at a strategic level;
- development economics which has seen a significant shift towards higher density residential supply especially in urban areas;
- the capacity of the construction industry in Scotland/UK; and
- the maintenance of a pre-determined target sale price for the homes by the developer.

Dilemma

Even assuming that the ambitious new build targets can be realised, a far greater emphasis must be placed by the National Planning Framework on increasing the land supply for housing in and around the major cities. As well as being the drivers for the economy in years to come, cities also have to continue to be the principal centres of population of all ages. This is an important point as the city authorities take decisions relating to falling school roles and the provision of health services. Given the amount of public money that will be spent on delivering these services in the future, greater emphasis needs to be placed on their concentration in and around urban areas.

By way of example we can offer Dundee, which has a similar population to the much more rural authorities of Falkirk and West Lothian, yet the latter have both seen higher rates of house building in recent times than Dundee.

This re-emergence of Scotland's cities as the residential location of choice will only be maintained through the provision of quality residential environments. The fact that most practitioners will probably be able to name highly desirable new residential environments in each of our largest cities on one hand says it all.

Land supply could take many forms but one would be to concentrate supply where it is highly accessible to the key employment locations of the future and where infrastructure and services can be provided cost effectively to serve the needs of the existing cities as well as new residents. This could be partially targeted at housing market renewal locations to assist regeneration objectives. This has parallels with the approach being taken in the South East Wedge development in Edinburgh but there are few comparators elsewhere in Scotland.

New towns, and new villages, have been tried and tested in Scotland and with hindsight one of their shortcomings may have been location. It is interesting to note that the Government believes that there is still significant mileage in this type of development and is actively promoting new and significantly expanded settlements as part of the supply solution - see Firm Foundations; Oct 2007.

Perhaps now is the hour for a more widespread debate about where to locate future housing land supply. Distinct new settlements, more often than not, will bring significant challenges in terms of delivery timescales. We should perhaps be asking whether the time has come for large-scale physical expansion of our four great cities to meet longer-term housing needs. The eagerly awaited National Planning Framework 2 and new City-Region plans offer ample opportunity for the planning system to grasp the nettle.

Alasdair Morrison and Dr Ed Trevillion are Associates with GVA Grimley's Scottish Planning Team and Research Team, respectively, and the views expressed in this article are their own.

Forthcoming Events

February and March 2008: National Conferences to consult on the draft National Planning Framework 2.

These will be held at:

- Glasgow: Royal Concert Hall: 15 February 2008
- Aberdeen: The Foyer: 20 February 2008
- Inverness: Ramada Jarvis: 21 February 2008
- Edinburgh: Victoria Quay: 7 March 2008
- Dumfries: Easterbrook Hall Conference Centre, Crichton University Campus: 14 March 2008

For further information see:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Planning/national-planning

■ 6 March

Sustainable Scotland Development Forum's Spring 2008 Plenary: The Rural Economy & Tourism - Contributors to a Sustainable Scotland?

To be held at the Perth Concert Hall.

For further information see: www.ssdforum.org.uk

■ 11-12 March

SEPA study tour to Shetland to view sustainable waste management solutions.

The tour includes visits to the Waste to Energy Plant and District Heating scheme, Enviroglass, and the landfill directive compliant landfill site and recycling centre. For further information contact Fiona Weatherly at: fiona.weatherly@sepa.org.uk

■ 3 April

RTPI in Scotland - Scottish Young Planners Annual Conference 2008: The Scottish Housing Challenge: can planners deliver?

Opening Address by Stewart Maxwell MSP, Minister for Sport and Communities.

Speakers include: Aidan Grisewood (Communities Analytical Services, Scottish Government); Mike Galloway (Director of Planning and Transportation, Dundee City Council); Ewan MacLeod (Partner, Shepherd and Wedderburn); Colin Rae (Development Director, Places for People); Jim Kirkwood (Senior Land Development Manager, MacTaggart and Mickel)

To be held at Scotland's National Stadium, Glasgow.

For further details contact: services@rtpiconferences.co.uk or ring 0845 0821171

■ 4 June: RTPI in Scotland's Annual Geddes Lecture.

This year's speaker will be Dr Harry Burns, Chief Medical Officer for Scotland - full details to be announced.

IMPROVEMENT SERVICE NEWS

Additional Funding for the Planning Development Programme

The Scottish Government's spending plans for 2008-2011 include funding to support the planning modernisation programme in Scotland: one of the beneficiaries will be the Planning Development Programme. Therefore the Improvement Service will be continuing to support skills and knowledge development in planning authorities during the next 3 years.

The forward plans for the Programme will be developed in consultation with authorities over the next few months. If you would like more information on the Planning Development Programme, please contact me on 01506 775558 or 07990 531029, or at emma.richardson@improvementservice.org.uk

Emma Richardson, Planning Development Programme Manager

Policy Briefing

POLICY BULLETIN

A Message from the Planning Directorate of the Scottish Government: We have changed the way that we communicate with our stakeholders. From now on only a few documents will be published in hard copy. Instead we have committed to electronic publication, supported by an improved web-site (due to be launched in spring 2008) and a news e-newsletter system. The e-newsletter system will allow us to alert you to changes in policy, new e-publications and other planning news. To sign up for e-newsletters and to read more about our e-communication strategy, please visit www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Planning/ecommsplanning

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

PUBLICATIONS FROM THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

available from <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/Recent>

■ **Timetable for Implementation of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006:** Updated: February 2008

■ **Planning Performance Statistics 2004-2007**

■ **Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: Permitted Development Rights for Domestic Microrenewables – Consultation Paper: Strategic Environmental Assessment – Screening Report**

■ **International Review of Recycling Policies**

A literature review of recycling policies across 13 international jurisdictions, drawing out the salient comparative aspects of waste strategies that have achieved the highest recycling rates, for Scotland to learn from.

■ **Preparation of the Second National Planning Framework (NPF2): Participation Statement (Updated January 08)**

■ **Initial Scoping Review of the High Level Strategic Themes for the next Scottish Government Rural, Environment and Marine Research Strategy: Final Report** Initial Scoping Review of the High Level SNIFFER report on the Strategic Research Review 2007 - Strategic Themes for the next Scottish Government Rural, Environment and Marine Research Strategy

■ **Scotland's Budget Documents: The 2007-08 Spring Budget Revision to the Budget (Scotland) Act for the year ending 31 March 2008**

■ **Scotland's Budget Documents 2008-09: Budget (Scotland) Bill Supporting Document for the year ending 31 March 2009**

■ **National Planning Framework 2 SEA Environmental Report:**

Non-Technical Summary Reflects the content of the Environmental Report, which in turn describes and evaluates the likely significant environmental effects of the National Planning Framework 2 Discussion Draft.

■ **National Planning Framework 2 SEA Environmental Report**

■ **National Planning Framework 2 SEA Annex to the Environmental Report: Assessment of Strategic Alternatives**

This supplementary paper has been prepared as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment of Scotland's Second National Planning Framework.

■ **The Effectiveness of Housing Land Audits in Monitoring Housing Land Supply in Scotland - Research Findings**

An assessment of current practice in respect of preparing and publishing Housing Land Audits in Scotland.

■ **Town Centre and Retailing Methodologies: Final Report** SPP8 Town Centres and Retailing, published in 2006, sets out the Scottish planning policy framework for town centres and retailing. The SPP identifies a range of techniques to support planning for town centres and retailing, and indicates that updated guidance for these techniques will be published in the form of a Planning Advice Note (PAN). This research provides the basis for the preparation of the PAN for these town centre and retailing techniques.

■ **Scotland's Renewable Heat Strategy: Recommendations to Scottish Ministers** Forum for Renewable Energy Development in Scotland Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/211131/0055786.pdf>

■ **Implementation of Aspects of SPP17 Planning for Transport - Research Findings**

WSP Transportation for the Scottish Government.

A review of the implementation of SPP17 demonstrates clear support for the principles and policies within SPP17 and its daughter documents.

Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/210739/0055713.pdf> (Research findings) and <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/210723/0055712.pdf> (Research report).

PUBLICATIONS FROM THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

available from <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research/index.htm>

SPICe Research Briefings

■ **SB 07-66 Scottish Ministers' Power to Call-in Planning Applications**

Scottish Ministers' recent decision to call-in an application for the development of a golf resort and housing near Balmedie for their decision has focussed attention on the call-in process. This short briefing aims to answer some of the key questions raised about the operation of the call-in process.

■ **SB 07-63 UK Climate Change Bill - Legislative Consent Memorandum**

The UK Climate Change Bill was introduced to the House of Lords on 14 November 2007. The Bill contains provisions which fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament and which therefore require the Scottish Parliament to consent to their being considered by the UK Parliament. The Scottish Government has lodged a Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) for scrutiny by the Parliament. This briefing outlines the background to the Bill, and considers which aspects have implications for Scotland. This Briefing is not intended to reproduce the information available in the Legislative Consent Memorandum.

POLICY STATEMENTS

The RTPI in Scotland has responded to the following consultations:

■ The Scottish Government's consultation on: *Firm Foundations: the Future of housing in Scotland.*

■ The Scottish Government's consultation on the *Draft Regulations on Development Planning.*

■ The Scottish Government's consultation on *Planning Enforcement Regulations.*

■ The Scottish Government's consultation on *Draft Regulations on the Planning Hierarchy.*

■ The Scottish Parliament Rural Affairs and Environment Committee Inquiry into *Flooding and Flood Management.*

■ The Scottish Parliament's Petitions Committee: Petition PE1011 by David Milne calling on the Scottish Government to (a) ensure that all relevant planning policies and guidance are adhered to and (b) consider the circumstances under which Scottish Ministers instruct local inquiries, when planning applications such as that for a housing and golf development at Balmedie are being considered.

■ The Scottish Parliament's Petitions Committee: Petition PE1100 by Bob Reid, on behalf of Scottish Auto Cycle Union and North Lanarkshire Scramble and Quad Bike Club, calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review planning and environmental regulations to allow for the provision of safe local and national off road motorcycle facilities, including a Centre of Excellence in North Lanarkshire, as a way of tackling anti-social behaviour, promoting youth citizenship and improving health.

The full consultation responses are available on the RTPI in Scotland web-pages at: <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/item/760/23/5/3>

Policy Briefing

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. They can also be viewed on the Scottish Government website at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current>. To assist the Institute in preparing a representative response, Members are invited to contribute their views by post or email - see contact details on page 2. Please also check the RTPI in Scotland's website for up-to-date listings of consultation responses.

CONSULTATIONS BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

■ New Crofting Areas

Consultation on the proposed designation of new crofting areas to include lands covered by Highlands and Islands Enterprise that are not in the Crofting Counties. (12 March 2008)

■ The role of a Scottish Futures Trust in infrastructure investment in Scotland

Consultation paper which sets out the Scottish Government's thinking on the Scottish Futures Trust initiative and seeks comments on its proposals. The main aim of the SFT is to provide alternative means to PFI for channelling public and private capital into infrastructure investment programmes and projects in Scotland. It is intended to provide a better deal for taxpayers than that currently being provided by PFI, by combining opportunities for maximising investment levels with those for securing cheaper funding costs. (14 March 2008)

■ Draft Regulations on the Planning Hierarchy

The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 introduced the hierarchy for planning in Scotland. The Act defines the three categories within which all developments will be allocated: National, Major or Local Development. While National Developments will be set out in the National Planning Framework, the Act gives Scottish Ministers powers to make regulations to describe the classes of Major and Local Development. This consultation seeks comments on draft regulations. These include a Schedule with classes and thresholds for Major Developments. Local Developments would simply be all remaining developments which are neither National nor Major. (21 March 2008)

■ **SPP3 - Planning for Housing**
SPP3 provides direction to planning authorities on the provision of sufficient land for housing in the right places through the planning system, and on

related qualitative issues such as housing design and layout, density, open space provision, energy efficiency and the creation of mixed communities. The review seeks to bring forward more land for housing, and to improve the delivery of housing. (31 March 2008)

■ Development Management

This consultation paper concerns new secondary legislation on procedures relating to processing planning applications, or 'development management' as the process is now known. The new procedures, set out in the draft Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations and contained in the consultation, stem from the provisions in the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 which amend the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. The 2006 Act sets the framework for modernising the planning system. The changes to Development Management are concerned specifically with: making the processes around planning applications fit for purpose and responsive to different types of development proposal; improving efficiency in determining planning applications; and improving public involvement in the consideration of proposals requiring planning permission.

■ Consultation on changes to Planning Application Procedures: Impacts on Business

■ Consultation on changes to Planning Application Procedures: Impacts on Communities

■ **Draft Regulations on Development Plan Examinations**
The 2006 Planning Act has made Development Plan examinations largely mandatory. These draft regulations set out proposals to govern examinations including provisions as to their scope, procedures and how their costs will be met.

■ National Planning Framework 2: Discussion Draft and Associated Documents

The second National Planning Framework (NPF2) provides an important vehicle for the national debate about the sort of place we want Scotland to be. It will guide Scotland's spatial development to 2030, setting out strategic development priorities to support the Scottish Government's central purpose - promoting sustainable economic growth. (15 April 2008)

■ Proposals for a Scottish Climate Change Bill

This consultation seeks responses on proposals for inclusion in a Scottish Climate Change Bill, including: the setting of a target for reducing emissions by 2050; setting interim targets and reporting; providing for a source of independent advice and monitoring; and creating provisions to help reduce emissions or to adapt to climate change. (23 April 2008)

CONSULTATIONS BY THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

■ Rural Housing Inquiry

The Committee's aims for the inquiry are: to identify the obstacles preventing people in different parts of rural Scotland

from gaining access to appropriate and affordable housing to rent or buy; to assess the effectiveness of existing mechanisms for overcoming those obstacles; and to identify further initiatives that could be undertaken, at local or national level, either in place of or in addition to those existing mechanisms.

■ Scotland's Ferry Services - Inquiry launched

This inquiry will address: ferry routes; frequency and timetabling of services; capacity; integration with other transport modes; competition.
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/ticc/inquiries/FerryInquiry.htm>.

CONSULTATIONS BY SNH

■ Corporate Strategy

SNH seeks comments on its draft Corporate Strategy which sets out their strategic priorities and the actions for delivering them over the next 5 years or more.

Responses requested by 24 March 2008 Available at: <http://www.snh.org.uk/strategy/pd00.asp>

POLICY NEWS

The First Minister has announced a number of changes:

■ Planning, Architecture and Building Standards are to be merged into an Integrated Directorate for the Built Environment. A commitment has been given to a further review of 'joined up' decision making for developments.

■ The Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland is to be abolished, along with the Building Standards Advisory Committee.

■ The policy and delivery functions of Communities Scotland are to be transferred to Scottish Government.

■ Enterprise Networks are to be transformed, removing 21 Local Enterprise Companies and streamlining both Scottish Enterprise and Highlands & Islands Enterprise.

■ The 14 regions of VisitScotland are to be reduced to six - in line with new structures in the Enterprise Networks.

■ A single, integrated, national sports organisation is being set up.

■ A range of skills and careers functions are to be formed into Skills Development Scotland.

■ Rural and environmental agencies have agreed to work together to develop a single rural service.



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