

## A Vaccine for the Twenty-first Century

The Sir Patrick Geddes Commemorative Lecture was given by Dr Harry Burns, Chief Medical Officer of Health for Scotland, on Wednesday 4 June 2008. The lecture was kindly sponsored by the Glasgow Centre for Population Health; Scottish Natural Heritage; the Scottish Environment Protection Agency; and the Sustainable Development Commission Scotland.



**Dr Harry Burns, Chief Medical Officer for Scotland.**

### Crucial issues of health and well-being

Dr Burns' lecture, entitled '*The Biological Consequences of Living in Adverse Circumstances*', addressed crucial issues of health and well-being and their implications for planning. Dr Burns provided an in-depth exploration both of the complex influences on health and social circumstances and the profound biological effects of poor environments. He raised disturbing questions of why, whilst the gap between rich and poor may be narrowing, the gap in their experience of health has widened. This was a ground-breaking lecture which will stay in our minds, challenging and influencing perceptions and offering new directions to think of in the future. It raised fundamental issues of concern in addressing sustainability in Scotland, and identified an area where Scotland can take an international lead in beginning to plan for improved health in a very positive way. For the audience, this was an inspiring and thought-provoking lecture. It raised questions as to why so many well-meaning planning initiatives founder in addressing issues of health, poverty and environment.

### The importance of understanding and engagement

Dr Burns was introduced by Stewart Stevenson, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change. The improvement of health, particularly

in deprived areas, is a prime focus for Scottish Government, and the Minister noted the need for planners to adopt Geddesian principles of understanding place and engaging with individuals, to ensure that planning is not just a paper exercise but brings all factors together in an understanding of the interrelations of '*folk, work and place*'.

Dr Burns' lecture illustrated that we are on the verge of greater understanding of how external influences affect biological responses: from this we may begin to understand how we can intervene to improve both health and living environments.

He led a spell-bound audience through what in the time available could only be an enticing glimpse of emerging international research on health and poverty; biological responses to stress, fear and anxiety; the influence of attitudes and feelings of 'hopelessness' on life expectancy; and the importance of the early years of child development. For many planners in the audience this was an exciting introduction to the work of the Glasgow Centre for Population Health (<http://www.gcph.co.uk/>); an example of which is its input into the Glasgow East End Local Plan.

### Complex interactions

There is a strong need to strengthen the 'social' component of sustainable

development. However, Dr Burns showed that changing someone's environment will not make people healthier unless it changes the way they feel about themselves - and results may take time. There is much that we do not understand such as how feelings of lack of attachment and hopelessness may be handed down from one generation to the next, and how enriching environments may alter circumstances and increase resilience. One thing is clear: health is created through a complex series of interactions and the environment in which we live has biological effects which can modify our ability to be healthy, emphasising the need for positive and supportive surroundings.

In thanking Dr Burns, Cunison Rankin, Convenor of the Saltire Society, noted that Geddes himself would have approved of the essential message of this absorbing lecture and, like the audience, would have been inspired and challenged by its content. He would have encouraged planners to examine the unintended consequences of their work, and to create supportive environments which encourage a sense of social cohesion and empowerment.

*A copy of Dr Burns' presentation will be made available on the RTPI in Scotland website.*

## Convener's Comments

On 4 June we were put on alert by a Patrick Geddes Memorial Lecture by Harry Burns, Scotland's Chief Medical Officer.

A full audience gathered to hear him at the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He was introduced by Stewart Stevenson, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change. It was a chance to reconnect our own work in planning with its vital roots in public welfare. And it recalled Geddes' own lectures at the same Society more than 120 years earlier. As a lecturer and demonstrator in the Medical School, Geddes' first presentation to the Society looked at variegation and multiplication in seaweed. By his second, spread over three sessions, Geddes was ready to tackle social statistics, relating each small fact to a broad canvas of territory, production and community.

Like other Scots raised in a land of high relief, Geddes had learned to think big in three dimensions looking down from his garden on Kinnoull Hill to the town and country spread out in the Tay valley below. That interrelatedness could be seen in the city too; especially in a high-relief city like Edinburgh where Geddes and Anna Morton began their work in the insanitary old town. No wonder contemporary Scots medics like Joe Bell, the real Sherlock Holmes, were able to divine every detail of someone's early life and surroundings from the symptoms they presented. No wonder Geddes struggled to



bring green spaces to the darkest parts of the city - "by leaves we live" - and no wonder his Edinburgh follower in the next generation, milkman Thomas Adams, devoted his own life to: town planning, garden cities and affordable housing; drafting the first planning legislation; founding Planning Institutes in Britain, Canada and the United States; to advising Asquith, Churchill, Mackenzie King and Franklin Roosevelt; and funding the first Town and Country Planning Summer School from his own pocket.

The idea of a doctor understanding patients-in-place through a camera obscura was picked up by filmmaker Michael Powell in his 1945 classic "A Matter of Life and Death". The big picture was evident, too, in the great Scottish regional studies of Abercrombie, Mears and Dobson. The big picture connecting place and well-being also appealed to General Maczek, the Polish commander, when he decided to create a great relief model of Scotland at Eddleston as his tribute to the hospitality of its people after the war. Now the Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH) has started to revive the big picture through its work with the Glasgow East End Local Plan. For more on the vital connection between public health and urban design see Howard Frumkin's US perspective in his Glasgow talk to GCPH, linked from my website: [www.makers.org.uk/place](http://www.makers.org.uk/place).

**Roger Kelly**



At the Great Polish map.

## Editorial

I would like to draw your attention to a survey of members on the RTPI website. The Institute is concerned that professionalism within some Local Authority planning services may be under threat, and that the difficulties in retaining and recruiting qualified planning staff, and reports of pay cuts through job evaluation, may be adding to the problem. The questionnaire is available on the RTPI website at: <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/cgi-bin/item.cgi?id=1719>. The survey is led by Chris Sheridan, RTPI Planners in the Workplace Manager. Chris would be grateful if members in Scotland could respond by Friday 4 July.

Resources and skills development are fundamental to issues of 'culture change', and in Scotland the RTPI will be addressing these through a newly constituted Task Group; through the work of the Scottish Planning Education Forum; and through proposals to extend work on CPD resources and a proposed collaborative working group on planning reform at Chapter level. We are also in discussion with other professional groups who share concerns. If you would like to be involved in this work, which is fundamental to the future of the profession, please get in touch.

Themes of CPD, education and training abound throughout this issue of the Scottish Planner. The Geddes lecture opened our eyes to complex biological, social and environmental interrelations.

The Planning Summer School, which will be held this year at Scotland's oldest University, St Andrews, will provide another opportunity to explore new ideas and to interact with fellow professionals. On page 12, Alistair Hackston provides us with an insight into the planned programme of events. It would be good to see record Scottish attendance.

Other articles in this issue address the rapidly-changing world in which planners work, and illustrate the need for continuing learning and development. On page 10, Mike Culshaw gives us insight into the changing world of the DPEA. I am sure you will join me in thanking him for his contribution to planning over the years and in wishing him well in his retirement.

**Veronica Burbridge**  
Editor

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# Scottish Young Planners' Conference 2008

*Fiona Clandillon, Chair of the Scottish Young Planners' Group, reports on this year's very successful event.*



The annual Scottish Young Planners' Conference is a major highlight for those in the relatively early stages of a planning career: the topic this year, housing, was a popular one and the conference attracted record numbers. The event was kindly sponsored by Gladedale, the Scottish Government, Sheppard+Wedderburn and Stirling Developments Ltd.

Housing is always high on our personal and professional agendas. As planners, we assess housing demand, analyse sites for housing and then try to deliver them. But, building houses is rarely straightforward, and this conference aimed to investigate the contentious issues of delivering both numbers and quality; particularly relevant at a time of increasing targets for delivering homes, a planning system in transition and, latterly, a stalling market.

## High quality presentations

Stewart Maxwell, Minister for Sport and Communities, gave the opening address demonstrating real engagement with the topic: it was great to see him recognise the role young planners have in achieving culture change. Aidan Grisewood from the Scottish Government brought us right up to date with the housing market, pointing out: that interest rates are still low when compared to historic trends; surging prices will require a correction to improve affordability; and the significance of the decline in the supply of housing, in particular the impact of the cessation of public sector house-building.

Mike Galloway of Dundee City Council followed with a typically commanding and passionate argument for the central role of the local authority in delivering homes and a well-designed built environment: many in the audience commented on how good it was to be reminded of the importance of their work in the public sector and the great results they can achieve.

Sheppard & Wedderburn's Ewan McLeod focused on how the current system of developer contributions often disproportionately punished developers who were the first into areas, as first-past-the-post loses. Payment for infrastructure can cripple a proposal and he highlighted better ways of doing it.

Finally, Colin Rae reminded us of the inspiring work organisations such as Places for People do in building-in quality and equality to their developments.

The variety and quality of the speakers didn't let up, and my only regret was that there wasn't enough time to have more questions from the audience... but lunch called.

## In-depth focus sessions

The focus sessions in the afternoon allowed delegates more in-depth consideration of their chosen topics: Keith Gowenlock of WSP gave insight into how the new guidance for Designing Streets is shaping up; Jonathon Phillips of Taylor Wimpey reminded us of the detail that goes into building a sustainable home; and Tim Mitchell of Glasgow City Council, drawing on his experience of regenerating Glasgow's East End, showed us that communities need solutions that really engage with all their complexities.

In summing up, Jim Kirkwood, founder member of the Scottish Young Planners' Group and senior land and development manager for Mactaggart & Mickel, reminded us of the energy and fresh approach young planners bring. He outlined an action plan through which planners can deliver high quality development. He also remarked how strange it was for him to see how the Scottish Young Planners' Group, and the conference it organises, has grown – it had started small and now he was speaking to 180 people.

## Housing: a professional and personal concern

For my own part, the day was both gratifying and terrifying. The adrenaline rush when you see a small group of people's hard work pay off can make it hard to concentrate on what the speakers are saying. However, I did have a chance to relate my reflections on the topic at the end.

These centred on the importance of a house. This is more than just bricks and mortar. It provides security, warmth and welcome. Our desire to own a home, no matter what the cost, is so great it has brought us to the brink of economic recession. But despite their importance we often reduce housing to a numbers game. I have difficulty reconciling myself to abstract debates about housing need. The role of young planners in this debate, as I see it, is to assert a more rounded understanding of the importance of a home and our role in delivering good ones. I hope that our conference entertained, educated and will help young planners deliver not just numbers but also on their professional promise.



# A view from Holyrood

Conservative MSP David McLetchie outlines his views on the development of effective community engagement within the new planning regime.

The Scottish planning system was totally revamped as a result of legislation passed by the Scottish Parliament in 2006; legislation which had broad all-party support. As is often the case in matters of such complexity, a great many changes have still to be implemented by way of subordinate legislation, and various aspects of that are presently the subject of consultation. The full roll-out of the Act and its subordinate legislation will not be complete until April 2009.

## New requirements

A key element in the reform package is that of community engagement. Major developments will have to be the subject of pre-application consultation, and this will also extend to developments which require an environmental impact assessment. If required then the applicant has to set out the nature of the proposed development, and give details of the consultation process which he proposes to undertake. Regulations will specify minimum standards in this respect. For example, an applicant will be required to hold at least one public meeting and to distribute associated publicity materials. Planning authorities may also insist that more than the statutory minimum consultation is undertaken. An applicant has to submit a pre-application consultation report along with his planning application, and if the consultation is inadequate then the planning authority is required to decline to determine the application.

In addition to this requirement, the new legislation makes provision for a mandatory hearing prior to an application being determined for developments significantly contrary to the existing development plan and for those requiring an environmental impact assessment. At present, there is no statutory requirement to hold such hearings, but it is a practice which is becoming more widespread among Scottish local authorities.

A further aspect of these measures, which are all intended to enhance scrutiny of applications, is a provision that in cases to which predetermination hearings apply a decision on an application must be referred to the full council for ratification or refusal: no more will small committees take final decisions on major developments. This, of course, is what sparked off the whole Trump controversy.

## Culture Change

Prior to the roll-out of the detailed subordinate legislation on community engagement, the Scottish Executive issued PAN 81: Community Engagement – Planning with People. The intention was to promote a culture change whereby engagement and consultation would become central to the whole process, and to move away from a situation in which developers and community organisations are too often at loggerheads with one another.

## Evidence of a new constructive approach

In my own constituency there is already evidence of a constructive new approach to major developments. Scottish Water is proposing to build a new water treatment works to meet the future demands of the City of Edinburgh; this involves an investment of some £130 million. There have been two distinct phases to the project planning and consultation processes: the first relating to site selection where a number of options were

being considered; and the second a pre-application consultation in respect of the preferred site. Moreover, not only did Scottish Water undertake a comprehensive exercise in community engagement in relation to this project, but it also subsequently commissioned and published an independent audit which measured the engagement process against the existing standards in PAN 81 and the likely requirements of the new legislation.

This is commendable and may well become standard practice in respect of developments on this scale. I know that Planning Aid for Scotland is looking to develop further standards for community engagement which will be capable of audit, and thereby demonstrate that the principle of community engagement has been taken seriously and purposefully by applicants.

**In my own constituency there is already evidence of a constructive new approach to major developments.**

## TPRA would frustrate development

Whilst the new Planning Act did command broad all-party support, one area of dispute was in relation to Third Party Right of Appeal (TPRA). There was a strong lobby for introduction of such a measure which in limited circumstances would have enabled objectors to appeal to Scottish Ministers against the granting of planning permission. This was resisted by the then Scottish Executive, which was a Labour/Liberal Democrat coalition, and in this they had the support of the Conservatives as collectively we took the view that TPRA would only serve to frustrate development and introduce further delay and expense into the system.

The SNP supported a TPRA, but in government it has quickly changed its mind; which comes as no surprise to cynics like me. However, whether for or against TPRA at the outset, I think all of us recognised that these demands were born out of a frustration with the existing system, and its perceived failure to properly engage communities. Accordingly, a great deal rests on the effectiveness of community engagement. The developer community has a powerful incentive to make a success of it, otherwise this issue will return.

*David McLetchie is MSP for the Edinburgh Pentlands constituency. He was leader of the Scottish Conservative MSPs from 1999-2005, and is now Chief Whip and Business Manager for the group. He is a member of the Scottish Parliament's Local Government and Communities Committee.*

The views David McLetchie expresses in this article are his own.



## Modernising the Planning System

# Implementing the Planning Act

## The New Development Planning System: notes from Stephen Hall

Scotland's modernised development planning system remains on-track for commencement in early 2009, and we should all be gearing up now for the changes. The 2006 Planning Act and the draft regulations describe the new statutory procedures but much of the change will lie in policy and practice. Draft guidance on development planning should be published in the autumn. This article answers some questions that are already arising as practitioners consider the new system.

### What will Main Issues Reports (MIRs) look like?

MIRs will not be draft plans: primarily they will be a tool for getting the general public and other interests involved in plan-making. They will also provide the basis for Strategic Environmental Assessment. MIRs should be written in plain English and excite genuine debate about the options for spatial growth and change. They will not cover everything but may concentrate on a limited number of big decisions on new developments or major policy shifts. They will contain alternative approaches including favoured options and at LDP level will be site-specific to allow for proper environmental assessment.

### When will the first Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) and Local Development Plans (LDPs) be produced?

The Government has previously suggested that SDPs should be submitted to Scottish Ministers within 2 years of commencement of the new system (i.e. by early 2011) and proposed LDPs within 3 years (i.e. by early 2012). However, it is clear there will need to be a more tailored approach to reflect the different stages authorities have reached in preparing their Plans, and the Government will discuss appropriate timetables with individual authorities. That said, Scottish Ministers wish to see new-style SDPs and LDPs as soon as practicable: there is no need to wait five years before adopting the replacement to an old-style Plan. In the City-Regions there may be a need for 'twin-tracking' of SDP and LDP preparation.

### Where are the efficiencies in the new system that will allow plans to be adopted more quickly and more regularly?

Where plans are replaced regularly much of the content can be rolled forward from one plan to the next. The ability to remove much policy detail to Supplementary Guidance should allow SDPs and LDPs to be slimmer, focussing on areas of change.

The front-loading of public and stakeholder engagement activity around the MIRs should allow for less resource to be devoted to this later in the process. The Proposed Plan should constitute the authority's settled view as to the content of the Plan: the focus can then be on informing people and facilitating representations rather than on consultation.

To assist authorities to adopt Plans as quickly as possible the Government will no longer encourage extensive pre-examination negotiations with objectors or the use of pre-examination modifications unless absolutely necessary; both these practices can cause significant delay. The examination process will be streamlined by limiting the production of additional evidence beyond the original representation and the authority's response and by empowering reporters to determine the form of the examination. There is also a responsibility on local authorities to properly resource

their development planning function and effectively manage the plan preparation process.

### Supplementary Guidance can now be part of the development plan - subject to appropriate consultation and Ministerial scrutiny. What can it be used for?

Its main use is for policy material too detailed for inclusion in the SDP or LDP: to be part of the Development Plan Supplementary Guidance must have a proper connection to the SDP or LDP. This should involve a specific reference in the SDP or LDP to the intention to produce supplementary guidance on a topic and the broad aspects of the issue that will be addressed. Broad policy approaches should be established in the SDP or LDP as should any aspects of policy that are particularly radical, far-reaching or impact significantly on certain stakeholders. Authorities may still issue guidance on matters not covered by the SDP or LDP including any responses to issues arising between LDP reviews; such guidance will not form part of the Development Plan.

### And when can it be adopted?

Supplementary Guidance can only be adopted for an approved SDP or an adopted LDP, not a Structure Plan or Local Plan. It would be good practice to prepare key Supplementary Guidance alongside the SDP or LDP, so it could inform the consideration of the Plan and could be adopted immediately after the Plan.

When a SDP or a LDP is replaced the Supplementary Guidance adopted in connection with it falls out of the Development Plan. However, authorities may re-adopt such guidance unchanged provided the proper connection remains with the replacement SDP or LDP - and subject to scrutiny by Scottish Ministers.

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#### Further information

For further information on the implementation of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 view:  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning>.

To sign up to receive the Directorate for the Built Environment's planning e-news view:  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/news/e-news>.

# Creating healthy, supportive environments

**Martin Higgins**, senior public health researcher with NHS Lothian, considers the range of work taking place in Scotland to support the development of healthier places.

Much recent work into the links between health and planning has been about the relative importance of composition and context or, put more simply, the role of people and places in determining health outcomes. This work starts from the premise that where you live affects your health. Life expectancy, levels of illness and disease, and death rates are all substantially worse in areas of multiple deprivation even after variables such as age, gender, education and income have been taken into account.

The recent 2008 Geddes Lecture focused on how and why environmental circumstances trigger biological responses – stress and inflammation - which ultimately lead to negative health outcomes. People living in poverty are at greater risk from these processes. The presentation from Dr. Harry Burns, the Chief Medical Officer, highlighted the significance of ‘early years development’ and the importance of ‘supportive environments’ in combating the effects of such adverse circumstances.

## Wider determinants of health and well-being

A number of recent events involving health professionals and planners in Scotland have focused on the development of these supportive environments. These events have placed emphasis on the wider determinants of health and wellbeing which are often open to the direct influence of planners. Research in this subject covers three key themes: who lives in a place, what is in a place and what is a place like to live in.

There is increasing evidence about the ways in which places and place-making can influence health and wellbeing, for example:

- well-insulated, efficiently-heated homes have positive health impacts;
- reduction of traffic-related air pollution has positive health impacts;
- neighbourhood incivilities – graffiti, litter, vandalism – are associated with poor health;
- levels of health inequalities are most extreme in areas with greatest concentrations of poverty; and
- levels of physical activity are one of the key determinants of cardiac health.

The May 2008 Scottish Society of Directors of Planning annual meeting in Stirling focused on healthy urban planning. There were presentations from Manchester and Belfast as well as a session led by Bill Potts from Glasgow City Council and Russell Jones from the Glasgow Centre for Population Health (GCPH). The Council and GCPH have worked on a number of projects in recent years, notably the East End Local Development Strategy (EELDS) and Glasgow City Plan 2. The EELDS was subject to a health impact assessment (HIA), and there were a number of alterations to the plan as a result. Perhaps, most striking was the creation of an Activity Network for the area which links the infrastructure plan with water management, green space planning, walking and cycling networks. The HIA also involved a significant component of community

*Life expectancy, levels of illness and disease, and death rates are all substantially worse in areas of multiple deprivation.*



involvement and engagement which has enabled an ongoing dialogue with local residents about how the new Plan can improve local quality of life.

One of the most notable recent publications on health and planning was the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence’s Public Health Guidance about Physical Activity and the Environment. This contains a series of recommendations for health professionals and planners about maximising opportunities for physical activity in the planning process. New guidance about health impacts and greenspace is about to be published by Greenspace Scotland, Health Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage. This complements existing publications from the Scottish HIA network about health impacts of transport and housing. The GoWell research programme about the health impacts of Glasgow’s Housing Stock Transfer is starting to yield data about how regeneration and housing improvement affects people’s wellbeing over time.

Encouragingly, the RTPi’s own Environmental Planning and Protection Network is developing best practice guidance on health and planning. A group of health professionals and planners from across the country met in Edinburgh in May 2008 to ensure that Scotland-specific issues are not overlooked. This best practice note will build on the evidence base about health and planning that has been developing rapidly.

For further information on health, planning and places, view:  
 The Medical Research Council Social and Public Health Sciences Unit  
<http://www.sphsu.mrc.ac.uk/>  
 Glasgow Centre for Population Health - Healthy Urban Planning:  
<http://www.gcph.co.uk/content/view/25/41/>  
 The Scottish Health Impact Assessment Network:  
<http://www.healthscotland.com/resources/networks/shian.aspx>  
 NICE Guidance on Physical Activity and the Environment:  
<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11917>  
 GoWell: <http://gowellonline.com/>

# Energy from Waste – looking to the future



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Milan Waste Authority's Waste to Energy plant - Silla 2.

"Super incinerator risks lives of children warns former GP" and "Incinerator plans under attack" are just two of the many sensational headlines associated with proposals for Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities. However, EfW technology is increasingly investigated and promoted as an important part of the strategic approach to waste management.

EfW involves capturing the energy value of the residual factor of municipal waste by burning it directly or burning a fuel produced from it. There are various means of achieving this including: incineration, gasification, pyrolysis, anaerobic digestion and mechanical/biological treatment. Recovered energy can be in the form of heat and power, but to meet *SEPA's guidelines* Combined Heat and Power (CHP) is likely to be required in order to achieve efficiency standards.

### Planning to reducing landfill

The pressure to utilise alternative methods to treat municipal waste originates from a number of sources. The European Landfill Directive (99/31/EC) established targets for countries to reduce the amount of waste disposed to landfill. The Directive requires the amount of Biodegradable Municipal Waste disposed to landfill to be reduced to: 75% of 1995 levels by 2010; 50% of 1995 levels by 2013; and 35% of 1995 levels by 2020.

Failure to meet these targets will result in substantial financial penalties being imposed. The framework for reducing the amount of waste produced in Scotland was provided by the National Waste Strategy in 1999. The National Waste Plan (NWP), published in 2003, established targets to reduce waste production and increase recycling, with Area Waste Plans (AWPs) translating the targets to a local level. The NWP and the AWP's are material considerations when preparing development plans or determining applications.

In a statement to the Scottish Parliament in January, the Rural Affairs and Environment Secretary, Richard Lochhead, announced ambitious new targets – see table.

	Municipal waste being recycled or composted	Municipal waste used for energy	Municipal waste going to landfill
by 2010	40%	4%	56%
by 2013	50%	14%	36%
by 2020	60%	25%	15%
by 2025	70%	25%	5%

However, as the draft National Planning Framework 2 correctly recognises, "Additional facilities for the treatment of municipal, commercial and industrial wastes, other than by landfill, are therefore urgently needed." It highlights planners' responsibilities in that "The planning system has a crucial role to play in ensuring that facilities are delivered within timescales which allow waste management targets to be met." It is clear from this that development planning should be providing the spatial dimension to the targets set by the various levels of Waste Plans.

SPP 10: Planning for Waste Management recognises that "an increase in the numbers, range and types of installation will be required to manage waste arisings", and confirms the role of planning in the context of other regulatory regimes, stating that "development planning issues should focus on aspects such as location, visual impact and transport".

PAN 63: Waste Management Planning accompanies SPP 10 and provides advice on delivering an integrated network of waste management facilities. Further guidance is also given in PAN 45: Renewable Energy Technologies, as EfW is considered a renewable energy source - although not under the Renewables Obligation.

### Delivering on energy from waste

Members of Jacobs' Planning and Development team have recently visited Milan in Italy to investigate the approach being taken to EfW. The municipal government of Milan has utilised incineration as a means of treating waste and generating energy without incident for a number of years. This experience, together with a robust programme of public engagement that includes a 'real time' sign displaying the plant's low emission levels, means that there is a positive relationship between the waste authorities and surrounding communities. This is demonstrated by the speed, six years from conception to operation, within which a replacement facility called Silla 2 was completed – see photo.

For planners, the difficult issue of how to deal with municipal waste will not diminish with reduction in the extent of landfill facilities. A range of new facilities will be required to deal with the residual fraction of municipal waste, and new EfW technology will be an increasingly important part of this infrastructure. Planning and planners have key roles to play in achieving these goals by placing such facilities in a spatial context and by ensuring that local communities are effectively consulted.

**Ross Nimmo** is a Senior Planner with Jacobs and Convener of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Chapter of the RTPI.

# Breaking the code for householder development

A recent study for the Scottish Government examines a single national User/Design Code for householder permitted development. The challenge for the project team was to capture the scope of the proposal without actually drafting the Code itself. **Aileen Grant**, Senior Planner with Dundas & Wilson, explains...

In this study we were asked to 'paint a picture' of what a Householder PD User/Design Code should look like. This analogy was apt because visualisations and visual thinking were needed for the findings to be effective. The scope of the Code would be expressed in words and diagrams. The study built on earlier work by Heriot-Watt University in 2006 and also tested the previous proposed changes to PD rights.

We had anticipated that current design codes already in use would give us ideas to adapt for a code linked to PD rules, and our research sought to identify the appropriate type of code. We found a wide variety of codes and guidance but all underpinned by some form of approval process. A new Scottish Code that illustrates the PD rules set out in the statutory instrument must stand alone: without using any approval process it must provide unambiguous answers to the question, "do I need planning permission?" We could find no examples of a similar code.

Bearing in mind that our remit was to scope not just a 'PD Code' but a 'User/Design Code', we also researched recent trends in PD rights and the local design context in Scotland. The main part of the study focused on the visual thinking. We modelled maximum envelopes of current PD rules and tested the proposed PD changes. We explored these at a workshop attended by planners, enforcement officers, design experts and others. This allowed us to focus on the difficult elements of proposed PD rights and how these should be addressed. There were fraught questions to discuss: should installing new windows be controlled in flats? should dormer window extensions be PD in any circumstances?

The picture of the Householder Development Code we have painted is in three parts: part 1 explains the planning system and its role; part 2 sets out in words and graphics the mandatory code; and part 3 gives discretionary advice about good design.



The Code will not replace the PD rules as set out in the statutory instrument; rather it will describe and illustrate these rules. This will have to be accurate, unambiguous and easy for non-professionals to understand. We recommend the use of an electronic question and answer systems within a web-based Code, but we recognise that those who do not have access to a computer must still be able to use it. We also recognise that, for the vast majority of people, finding out whether or not they need planning permission may be their only direct contact with the planning system. Hence, this new Code should explain why certain changes do not require permission whereas others need to be taken through an approval system. The aim is to help people understand that the planning system is not just a set of bureaucratic hoops but is also an important safeguard, for their amenity and that of their neighbours.

Importantly, we found that a Code which explains the PD rules cannot at the same time promote design excellence: we think there is still a role here for individual planning authorities. Most authorities already produce design guidance which is aimed primarily at householder

## **Fraught questions: should dormer windows extension be PD in any circumstances?**

developments, addresses the local context and promotes a sense of place. Such localised guidance should now nest within the new Code to form part 3. Our customers can then go to a single document to find advice on what consent they need to carry out home improvements, and be encouraged to commission good quality design fit for the local context.

Publication of the new draft PD provisions is anticipated soon. The introduction of a Householder Development Code in Scotland will potentially be a groundbreaking development in planning, and we look forward to seeing how it is taken forward.

*This study was undertaken by Dundas & Wilson working jointly with Michael Laird Architects. The Project team was led by Aileen Grant, along with Graham U'ren, Brendan Diamond and Dave Edwards.*

*The views expressed in this article are those of Aileen Grant.*

# Exposing the real costs of the London Olympics: lessons for Glasgow 2014

Libby Porter of Planners Network UK (PNUK) reports on recent discussions between Network members and local people in London's East End at the 'Life outside the Blue Fence' event.

On April 10 and 11 2008, PNUK together with Games Monitor hosted a discussion to explore the real impact of planning and development for the London 2012 Olympics. The aim was to stimulate thinking, challenge assumptions, and work on alternatives for the future. The workshop, like PNUK itself, was 'critical' in the sense that it questioned political orthodoxy and the kind of taken for granted 'common sense' about what's good for society that pervades the media.

This meeting was not a talk-fest, nor a conference. It was about engaging the professional planning knowledge and expertise of PNUK members with people who have least access to it but most need for it. Attending the seminar were PNUK members and local people from London's East End communities who have been most disrupted by Games developments - including those displaced from their homes. The format was varied: we heard from local novelist Iain Sinclair as well as local solicitor, and OPEN Dalston founder, Bill Parry-Davies. A screening of *The Five Ring Circus*, a documentary exposing the impacts of hosting the Winter Olympics on Vancouver's people and environment, proved excellent, if worrying, food for thought and grist for debate. A series of workshops allowed local people to share their experience and knowledge of how things have really happened, and for

PNUK members to share their expertise and support.

## The barriers to being heard

Developing a clear perspective on the benefits and costs of the London Olympic Games is not easy. The unanimity among the major political parties about the Olympics being 'a good thing', and the rather triumphalist way that preparations for the Games are reported in the press, make the job so much harder. So those who want to question the wisdom of hosting the Olympics and/or the way preparations are being handled have a tough challenge just getting a fair hearing. An indication of this challenge was the visitations to the seminar, uninvited, from the local police. All were very friendly and polite, but all were sent by their superior officers to find out the agenda of the seminar and whether we were 'anti-Olympics'.

Workshop participants aired a lot of grievances about the planning process underpinning the Games' developments and preparation. The planners attending the meeting were disturbed, though not surprised, to hear stories of the variety of

*Developing a clear perspective on the benefits and costs of the London Olympic Games is not easy.*

small, but deeply powerful, mechanisms used to marginalise the voices of those who had most to lose from Olympic developments. On issues like compulsory purchase, residents were given ridiculously short amounts of time to digest and respond to reams, up to 800 pages, of technical reports; some of which could not be downloaded from the Internet and were made 'available' to local people at the cost of £500.

Participants shared their concerns about the levels of noise and dust pollution on the site and the persistent inability they felt to influence any of the decisions. We talked about how difficult it is to influence or shape a set of decisions that have already been made, at the pre-bid stage, and are inevitably going to be built. 'Consultation' under those conditions seems a strange beast indeed.

## Considering good planning practice

Not all of the chaos and pain expressed by workshop participants was the direct result of planning processes. Planning processes are, in some ways, simply the mechanism by which the stuff to host the Games gets built. Yet those mechanisms are powerful shapers of local people's experience, and influence their sense of the fulfilment of basic human needs and rights. Those mechanisms can be used well and executed in the spirit of 'good planning', or they can ride roughshod over those least able to understand the intricacies of the system. Findings from the workshop seemed to indicate a tendency toward the latter.

Much can be learnt from the experiences of these local people as we in Scotland prepare for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. Though the scale is smaller, the potential for displacement, social dislocation and the ability of corporate power to determine local futures is present everywhere. In Scotland we have the chance to do it so much better than London. Let's hope we can grasp the opportunity.

*If you are interested in learning more about the workshop, the action research project that is developing out of it, or about PNUK itself, then please contact Libby Porter at [l.porter@lbss.gla.ac.uk](mailto:l.porter@lbss.gla.ac.uk) or view [www.pnuuk.org.uk](http://www.pnuuk.org.uk).*



# A Planner's profile



**Mike Culshaw**, who retires this coming August from the Scottish Government's Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals, reflects on the work of the Directorate and the modernisation of planning appeals.

If there's one thing that 20 years in the Civil Service teaches you, it's the importance of acronyms. After 14 years in PINS (the Planning Inspectorate for England and Wales) in 2002 I joined SEIRU (Scottish Executive Inquiry Reporters Unit), formerly SOIRU (for Executive read Office), as DCIR (Deputy Chief Inquiry Reporter). However times move on, and I am now getting used to being DD(D) and DCR in the DPEA (Deputy Director (Decisions) and Deputy Chief Reporter in the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals). But not for long, in August I will be retiring.

## Scope of the work

The Directorate deals on behalf of the Scottish Ministers with planning appeals as well as with appeals related to Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and advertisements. We also handle a wide range of other environmental casework, including inquiries on Ministers' behalf into objections to Compulsory Purchase Orders, various Roads Orders, and applications under the Electricity Act 1989 for overhead power lines and power generation. At the request of planning authorities we hold inquiries into objections to Local Plans.

## Falkirk office

The staff at our office base in Falkirk handle the administrative arrangements of most appeals, from receipt through to the issuing of the reporter's decision. They have day-to-day contact with appellants, planning authorities and the public; handling all with skill, good humour and a patience to which I can only aspire. They are the friendly, cooperative outward face of the Directorate; which is not to say that reporters represent any other face, of course.

## Role of Reporter

Reporters are responsible for the vast majority of planning appeal decisions. The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 grants applicants the right of appeal to the Scottish Ministers against planning decisions, and the same Act enables the Scottish Ministers to delegate much of the

workload to 'appointed persons'. Those appointed persons have traditionally been drawn from a pool of people known as inquiry reporters because historically their prime responsibility was to hold inquiries into appeals and write reports on their findings for Ministers.

It is often not appreciated that each reporter is appointed individually to each appeal, and is personally responsible for the decision or report. The management of the Directorate has no say in the outcome: there is no prior vetting of reporters' work to ensure consistency and no 'party line'. The fact that we achieve a high degree of consistency across our caseload is through rigorous initial training and continuous professional development; and through insisting that reporters, in making their judgements, follow sound principles of reasoning based on the requirement of section 25 of the Act that decisions should be made, "in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise".

Reporters' tasks are now much less concerned with the holding of inquiries than was the case in earlier years. Most appellants now choose to have their appeal 'heard' through an exchange of written submissions. Even when an oral process is requested this often involves the more informal process of a hearing – a discussion led by a reporter round a table.

## Changing emphasis in the appeal process

The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 has reinforced that shift. In future the Scottish Ministers, or their reporters, will decide the most appropriate means of obtaining the information needed to determine an appeal based on an examination of the appeal submissions. We expect that, as at present, most cases will be determined through the parties' written submissions, but in significant or complex cases there will be a need for more detailed examination: this may be achieved for each case by the use of inquiry process, hearing process, written submissions or, most likely, a combination of these procedures.

Reporters have already contributed to the improvement of the appeal process through the introduction of new succinct forms of decision notice. As I leave my present post, I anticipate that implementation of the new Act's modernised system will enable reporters to bring a fresh and streamlined approach to the determination of appeals, while losing none of the fairness, openness, impartiality and rigour for which they have rightly been commended in the past. I am confident that all reporters are committed to ensuring that these remain the cornerstones of the new processes.



*"As I leave my present post, I anticipate that the implementation of the new Act's modernised system will enable reporters to bring a fresh and streamlined approach to the determination of appeals, while losing none of the fairness, openness, impartiality and rigour for which they have rightly been commended in the past.."*

## Chapter News

# A dam fine time was had by all ...

Neil Huggan from Highlands and Islands Chapter reports on a recent site visit.

Picture the scene: eighteen hardy souls bouncing along on an unfeasibly tall Icelandic bus - great ground clearance, enormous tyres, no suspension - on their merry way up 2500ft to visit Scottish and Southern Electricity's (SSE) soon-to-be-finished hydro-electric scheme at Glendoe. Weather was fresh, the jokes were stale.

Our day started on a high note with ample teas, coffees and biscuits at SSE's 'base camp' near Fort Augustus. Here, George Wilkinson from SSE presented us with a potted history of the Glendoe project, including the remarkable fact that the 100MW scheme on its own could supply all of Glasgow's electricity needs. With the highest head - the drop from reservoir to turbine - of any hydro station in the UK, the scheme can generate more energy per cubic metre of water than any other facility in the country.

Prior to climbing into the aforementioned Icelandic behemoth, George kindly supplied us with hard hats, hi-vis vests and some serious, steel toe capped wellies, fit for any safety-conscious gardeners out there. Guides for our tour of the vast development site were the two Martins, Deane and Hewitt, a double-act with a fine line in patter that would not have been out of place on a double-decked London sightseeing trip.

We proceeded to bounce our way up, around hairpin after hairpin, to our first vantage point with views of the surprisingly modest dam (max. 35m high)

as well as the workers' village on the plateau which includes accommodation, restaurant and 24-hour concrete manufacturing plant: see for yourself at <http://www.glendoe.co.uk/webcam.html>.

After a breezy ten minutes admiring the view and failing to hear all our guides' words which were whisked away on the prevailing winds, we headed down past the workers' village and onwards to the base of the dam itself. One factoid I managed to glean from our guides was that the snow drifts in March/April were around 2-3 metres in places due to the fantastic skiing weather earlier in the year, and this has knocked non-critical works back by 2-3 months.

From the base of the 950m long dam, we could see the crews applying the concrete facing slabs to its 'reservoir-side'. It appeared to be a giant bathroom tiling exercise, albeit with enormous concrete tiles, copper expansion joints, and industrial strength 'grout'. It takes around 16 hours to complete 1 concrete 'tile' - when compared to my efforts at home that is exceptionally quick.

Back to the stats: the reservoir will be filled through natural drainage from an area of 15 square km and from a system of underground pipes and tunnels gathering water from another 60 square km of the surrounding hills. Glendoe's network of tunnels is extensive - the system will be served by over 16 km of passageways. An 8.6 km tunnel, 4.6 m in diameter, will collect water and bring it to the reservoir while 8 km of tunnels, 5 m

in diameter, will channel water from the reservoir - via the over-sized 'plug-hole' in the photo bottom left - to the underground power station and then out into Loch Ness.

The underground power station cavern is around 250m below ground, and 50m long, 18m wide and 32m high. Contained within it will be the turbine and generator which together convert the water's force into the 100MW. A separate, smaller cavern will be located adjacent to the power station cavern to house the main station transformer.

We headed back down the mountain in the bouncy bus to see the works at the tailrace. The tailrace is currently a landlocked hole in the ground but will eventually flow into Loch Ness with one final - and probably **LARGE** - rock blast to ensure that the 'exit' to Loch Ness is properly cleared. Might be spectacular!

Now bathed in warm sunshine and with the spectacular views over a calm Loch Ness to Fort Augustus Abbey, all that was left to do was to return our safety gear to George at base camp and wend our myriad ways home.

*Our thanks to SSE for a great day-out and to Laura Cheetham (on-site fixer), Martin Deane and Martin Hewitt (tour guides), and George Wilkinson (presentation + health & safety guru).*

The Glendoe scheme is on course for completion by February 2009 - see [www.glendoe.co.uk](http://www.glendoe.co.uk).



Entrance to tunnel carrying water to turbines.



Highlands and Islands Chapter on tour.



## PLANNING SUMMER SCHOOL 2008... 'INSPIRATION AND EXPERIENCE' GUARANTEED

*Alistair Hackston, President of Planning Summer School, discusses the programme for this year's event at St Andrews.*

On 29 August the Planning Summer School will arrive in St Andrews for thirteen days of presentation, workshop discussion, study tours and networking. We will celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in one of the School's favourite venues, benefiting from the great support of our host Fife Council and other Local Committee colleagues. This is already shaping up to be the 'must-do' planning event of this year.

### Three planning schools in one

We run three Schools: one for Elected Members from 29 August to 2 September; and two for Planning professionals and other regeneration, economic development, or environmental colleagues from 2 to 6 Sept and 6 to 10 Sept. The content of the three Schools will appeal broadly across the different parts of UK and across the whole spectrum of planners' interests. Our theme days include: 'Working with Communities',

'Updating your skills', 'Delivering development', 'Making and delivering the Plan' and 'Eco Day'. We have 10 varied study tours taken on foot, by cycle, or coach... and some unusual offerings within the evening events!

### We need attendance and participation

I am delighted that we are already receiving a good response in early bookings. Given that the School is based in Fife, *I am particularly anxious to encourage a good turnout of planners based here in Scotland* to experience the value of four days of concentrated CPD and networking discussion, or by using our Day Tickets.

We try very hard to offer 'Inspiration and Experience' and all we need from you, to guarantee this, is attendance and participation. Let's meet in St Andrews in September!



*For constantly updated information on speakers and events check: [www.planningsummerschool.org](http://www.planningsummerschool.org).*



## Lessons from the SpatialNorth Project

Clive Bowman from the Centre for Mountain Studies at the UHI Millennium Institute reports on the development of a 'toolkit' for integrated spatial planning for Europe's northern peripheral regions.

SpatialNorth, or Spatial Planning in Northern Peripheral Regions, was a 30-month project part-financed by the European Union through its Northern Periphery Programme. The project ran until December 2007 and involved a partnership of thirteen organisations in four regions: Iceland, Västernorrland (Sweden), North Karelia (Finland) and the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Together the partners aimed to identify and develop best practice techniques and processes for effective strategic spatial plan-making and implementation in the northern peripheral regions of Europe.

As well as the exchange of knowledge between partner regions, the primary objective of the project, was to develop a

'toolbox' or set of good practices for integrated and participatory spatial planning and development. This is presented on a new website [www.spatialnorth.org](http://www.spatialnorth.org). It provides planners, policy makers and politicians with an overview of: research and knowledge; practical information about spatial planning processes; and the results from the work in SpatialNorth in the different regions. It also has an extensive data base of good practice, termed the SpatialNorth Planning Wheel, which aims to be a one-stop shop of practical information for all practitioners involved in spatial planning.

In Scotland, the project was implemented by the Centre for Mountain Studies at the UHI

Millennium Institute.

Researchers at the Institute looked at a range of case studies and research areas focusing on policy and plan alignment; the use of SMART targets, indicators and plan performance monitoring; the development of visions; spatial data and GIS activity; intra-organisational alignment, and stakeholder participation in plan-making.

A wide range of methodologies and tools can be used by plan and policy makers, and several good practice examples of plan-making can be found in Scotland. Many aspects of the plan-making process have multiple outcomes: as important as the maps, plans and policies produced are other outcomes, including social learning and

capacity-building, increased trust, more effective governance and better stakeholder relationships. Typical northern peripheral regions with poor accessibility, low dispersed population, an economy relying heavily on agriculture, forestry and tourism, and a wealth of natural resources need a sustainable approach to the pressures of development. To deliver sustainable development, a coordinated, fully-integrated, strategic approach to planning is essential.

*For further information contact: [Clive.bowman@perth.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:Clive.bowman@perth.uhi.ac.uk)*



## RTPI News

### Forthcoming Events

**29 Aug – 10 Sept:** Planning Summer School at St. Andrews University. For more information view: [www.planningsummerschool.org](http://www.planningsummerschool.org) see also the article p12 in this edition of Scottish Planner.

**15-17 Sept:** RTPI National Regeneration Convention in Glasgow; this year's theme, *Building Successful Communities*.

Full details to be posted on RTPI website shortly, view: [http://www.rtpi.org.uk/events\\_awards\\_and\\_networking/events/](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/events_awards_and_networking/events/)

**13 Nov:** The RTPI in Scotland's Annual Conference will be held in Edinburgh at the Royal Society of Edinburgh. This year's theme will be *Climate Change*; further details to follow in the next edition of Scottish Planner.

### News from the Improvement Service – new training opportunities planned

The Planning Development Programme has recently published two tenders for new training opportunities for planning authorities.

The *first tender* was for the provision of training support (for elected members with planning responsibilities) which will supplement the training and development opportunities provided internally by authorities and the introductory training offered through the Planning Development Programme following the 2007 elections. Two priority topics that have been identified for immediate action are 'Decision Making' and 'Development'.

The *second tender* is for the development and delivery of training opportunities linked to the theme of sustainability. The training will cover a range of interconnected issues including climate change, sustainability, sustainable development, energy efficiency, renewable energy and eco-buildings. The tender document for this project can be downloaded at: <http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/tenders.html>. Closing date for submissions is Friday 25 July.

A *third new project* which is under way is a 'Leadership in Planning' scoping study. The study will develop an explanation of what is meant by leadership in planning, consider examples of leadership in planning being demonstrated, and assess whether additional targeted leadership support is needed.

New design awareness training opportunities will be offered this year. This is in addition to the six workshops that are already available: design principles; developing design policies; housing; residential streets; masterplanning; and design statements.

For more information on the Planning Development Programme contact Emma Richardson on 01506-775558 or view: [www.improvementservice.org.uk/core-programmes/planning-development/](http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/core-programmes/planning-development/)

## Members News

*We would like to welcome the following Members in Scotland who have recently been elected to the Institute:*

#### Corporate:

Christopher Bell	WSP Development
Stuart Borrowman	BDS
Claire Burton	West Dunbartonshire Council
Christopher Cornell	City of Edinburgh Council
Kevin Dalrymple	Renfrewshire Council
Angus Dodds	Fife Council
Mhairi Douglas	Dumfries and Galloway Council
Dennis Kasap	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Craig McMurtrie	Highland Council
Katherine Pollock	Turley Associates
Julie Stanfield	South Lanarkshire Council
Derek Taylor	North Lanarkshire Council
Maria-Catherine Veerapen	East Dunbartonshire Council
Mandy Walsh	CB Richard Ellis

#### Associate:

Kristina Bell	Scottish Borders Council
Tadhg Daly	RPS

*We would also like to welcome the following in Scotland who have recently become Licentiate or Student Members within the Institute:*

#### Licentiate:

Lynn Clarke	WSP
Patrick Dunne	Savills (L&P) Ltd
Lucy Forte	Farningham McCreadie
James Grant	Terence O'Rourke
Patrick Hanna	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Eamon Hansberry	Daly International
Arlene Henderson	Argyll and Bute Council
Kirsty Hope	Falkirk Council
Catherine Leary	Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar
Derek Manson	Hardie Planning
Ross Middleton	City of Edinburgh Council
Sally Miller	West Lothian Council
David Russell	Glasgow City Council
William Shand	North Lanarkshire Council
Suzanne Yendell	Jacobs UK

#### Student:

Tracey Adams	GVA Grimley
Robert Beaton	East Ayrshire Council
Donna Bogdanovic	Heriot-Watt University
Gavin Clark	University of Dundee
Andrew Grey	University of Dundee
Isaac Kagezi	Heriot-Watt University
Deirdre McCarthy	Heriot-Watt University
Lisa Mackenzie	University of Glasgow
Jamie Mallan	CEIS – Community Enterprise
Neil Miller	
Andrew Morrow	Heriot-Watt University
Garrie Watson	University of Dundee

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

Judith Chalmers	Renfrewshire Council
Gordon Edgar	Victorian Government
Iain Godfrey	RPS Group
Claire Sandilands	
David Sutton	North Lanarkshire Council

*We regret to announce the recent deaths of Nicholas Randall MRTPI and Donald Skelley MRTPI*

### FORTHCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

#### CENTRAL SCOTLAND:

- **12 July** - Conservation Area management in Rothesay/ social event; Saturday visit to the Isle of Bute.
- **3 September** - Grangemouth Freight Hub: A National Development - including visit to Grangemouth Docks.

#### EDINBURGH LOTHIAN BORDERS FIFE:

- Planned for September/October - Modernising the Planning System

#### GRAMPIAN:

- Planned for September - Trees and Planning

#### HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS:

- Planned for September - a day session on the Development Process from both sides of the development fence

#### WEST OF SCOTLAND:

- **31 July** - Sustainable Communities
- **21 August** - Renfrew Riverside Visit
- **September** - Urban Design Week - event being planned

For Chapter contact details view the RTPI in Scotland web-pages at: <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/item/499/23/5/3>

## Policy Briefing

### CONSULTATIONS

#### CONSULTATIONS BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT AND OTHER PUBLIC BODIES

Current consultations 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 p2 or the RTPPI website - ideally no less than 14 days prior to the end of the consultation period.

#### ■ Taking Forward the Government Economic Strategy: A Discussion Paper on Tackling Poverty, Inequality and Deprivation in Scotland

The overarching Purpose of the Scottish Government is "to create a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth." This discussion paper aims to inform the Scottish Government's development of a framework for delivering those aspects of the GES related to tackling poverty, inequality and deprivation.

The framework is also intended to explain how the various policies being pursued across the Government come together to contribute to a coherent and unified approach to tackling these challenges; to audit and review these policies and identify any gaps, setting the future direction for work on tackling poverty in Scotland, in the context of the GES; and to articulate how national policy will connect with local policies and delivery on the ground, working with partners to maximise the impact on poverty, particularly child poverty, in Scotland. (30/06/08)

#### ■ Mining Waste Directive

Views are sought on proposals to transpose the Mining Waste Directive into Scots Law so that waste material - such as rock, tailings and overburden from

Scottish mines and quarries - is managed in a way that prevents harm to the environment and human health. (30/06/08)

#### ■ Housing (Scotland) Act 2006: Consultation on Draft Guidance and Regulations

Comments are invited on draft guidance and regulations which will support new local authority powers and duties in the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006. The Act gives local authorities a new set of tools to assist and, where necessary, compel private owners to take action to improve the condition of their houses. It also opens the way to a new approach to helping owners adapt their houses to suit disabled occupants. (1/07/08)

#### ■ Introduction of Banding to the Renewables Obligation (Scotland) - Preliminary Consultation April 2008

Scottish Government is committed to developing Scotland's renewable energy resource, with a target that 31% of the whole Scottish electricity demand should be met by renewable generation in Scotland by 2011, rising to 50% by 2020. The Renewables Obligation (Scotland) (ROS), has led to significant increases in renewable output across Scotland since its introduction in 2002. In order for it to remain effective, support under the ROS must be targeted appropriately. New powers enabling the banding of the mechanism are intended to do just that. (4/07/08)

#### ■ A Fairer Local Tax for Scotland

This consultation seeks views on changes to local taxation in Scotland, including the abolition of council tax and its replacement with a fairer local tax based on ability to pay. (18/07/08)

#### ■ Draft Noise Action Plan for the Edinburgh Agglomeration

#### ■ Draft Noise Action Plan for the Glasgow Agglomeration

#### ■ Draft Transportation Noise Action Plan

These draft Noise Action Plans

are from the six plans (the other three relate to Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow Airports) published for consultation by Scottish Government under the European Noise Directive (END). The three main objectives of the END are as follows:

- To determine the noise exposure of the population through noise mapping.
- To make information on environmental noise available to the public.
- To establish Action Plans based on the mapping results, to reduce noise levels where necessary, and to preserve environmental noise quality where it is good.

These Plans are intended to facilitate compliance with the third objective, the first two having already been attained. (21/07/2008)

#### ■ The Scottish Historic Environment Policy on Historic Battlefields

This consultation document sets out Scottish Ministers' proposed policies for significant historic battlefields in respect of their identification and protection, the management of change and development within them, and the implementation of these policies. (25/07/2008)

#### ■ Review of Building Standards - Section 2

Review of standards and guidance in Section 2 - Fire - of the Technical Handbooks. (29/07/2008)

#### ■ Review of Building Standards - Section 5

Review of standards and guidance in Section 5 - Noise - of the Technical Handbooks. (29/07/2008)

#### ■ Review of Building Standards - Sections 0, 3 & 4

Review of standards and guidance in Sections 0, 3 & 4 of the Technical Handbooks. The purpose of this consultation is to seek comments on the proposed changes to Sections 0 (General), Section 3 (Environment) and Section 4 (Safety) of the Technical Handbooks. The main focus of

the changes are related to sustainable development issues including land contamination, flooding, surface water, ventilation, condensation, solid waste storage and security. (29/07/2008)

#### ■ Consultation on Model Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils and Code of Conduct for Community Councillors (01/08/2008)

#### ■ Environmental Liability Directive 2nd Consultation

This is the second public consultation exercise on transposition of the Environmental Liability Directive 2004/35/ EC and seeks comments on the draft regulations, draft guidance, a quick guide and the draft Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA). The aim of the Environmental Liability (Prevention and Remediation) (Scotland) Regulations 2008 is to place the responsibility on the operators of activities which cause or threaten to cause significant environmental damage. (8/08/08)

#### ■ Safeguarding Our Rural Schools and Improving School Consultation Procedures: Proposals for Changes To Legislation

This consultation seeks views on proposals to improve the way school closures are handled and to ensure the decision to close a rural school is one of last resort. (19/09/2008)

#### ■ Future Implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy in Scotland: A Consultation Paper

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is the main form of support to farmers in Europe. Legislation aims to make the direct aid system more effective and simpler, to make remaining market support measures more relevant to the world we live in and to tackle new challenges such as climate change, bio-fuels, water management and the protection of biodiversity. This consultation seeks views on which options best meet Scottish needs. (5/8/2008)

# Policy Briefing

## PUBLICATIONS

### PUBLICATIONS FROM THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

■ **PAN 65 Planning and Open Space**  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/225179/0060935.pdf>

Provides advice on the role of the planning system in protecting and enhancing existing open spaces and providing high quality new spaces. (2/06/08)

■ **All Pain, No Gain? Finding the Balance**  
<http://www.cih.org/scotland/policy/All-Pain-no-gain.pdf>

Delivering affordable housing through the planning system in Scotland. Chartered Institute of Housing. (January 2008)

■ **The Scottish Government's Plan for Engagement with China**

The Scottish Government's refreshed China Plan sets out the Government's aims and aspirations for engagement with China. (07/05/08)

■ **Estimates of Households & Dwellings in Scotland, 2007**  
 Estimates of the number of

households and dwellings in Scotland, including occupied and vacant dwellings, second homes, and trends in household types (08/05/08)

■ **Household Projections for Scotland, 2006-Based**

This report, essential reading for planners, gives forward projections of the numbers of households in Scotland up to 2031, based on the estimated population of Scotland in mid-2006. (08/05/08)

■ **West Edinburgh Planning Framework 2008**

The West Edinburgh Planning Framework 2008 provides a detailed basis for future investment in the area. (13/05/08)

■ **Taking forward the Scottish Futures Trust**

The aim of the SFT Initiative is to support the effective planning, funding and delivery of public sector infrastructure investment across Scotland, providing a better deal for taxpayers as a result. The SFT initiative will be supported by a new organisation established in the public sector, intended to have broad governance representative of central and local stakeholders in public sector infrastructure development. (20/05/08)

■ **An Assessment of the Value of Planning Agreements in Scotland**

The report assesses the number and value of planning agreements secured in Scotland between 2004 and 2007, highlighting trends in the use of agreements and forecasting the value of contributions that may be secured to 2010. (22/05/08)

■ **Scotland's Climate Change Programme: Second Annual Report, April 2007-March 2008**  
 (22/05/08)

■ **A Guide to Minerals Information in the Central Belt of Scotland**

Focuses on mineral information within the central belt of Scotland. (28/05/08)

■ **New Government website: Scotland Performs**  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/scotPerforms>

This website gives the latest information on how Scotland is performing on a range of topics affecting all aspects of Scottish life. Scotland Performs follows the National Performance Framework, which was published as part of the 2007 Spending Review. It draws on the success of the outcomes-based performance model used in the Commonwealth of Virginia in the United States. (06/08)

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

■ **Greenspace quality: a guide to assessment, planning and strategic development.**

<http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/default.asp?page=438>  
 This Greenspace Quality Guide published by Greenspace Scotland and the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network, explains the process of developing quality greenspace: it provides a strategic framework, an audit tool and a monitoring & evaluation framework. (28/05/08)

■ **Joseph Rowntree Foundation: Housing policies for Scotland: challenges and changes**  
*Duncan MacLennan and Tony O'Sullivan.*

A timely contribution to the debate on housing policy in Scotland started by the Scottish Government's Firm Foundations paper. Major changes in tenure over the last 25 years mean that two out of three people in Scotland are home-owners, and half of social housing is provided by independent non-profit organisations. Despite these changes, old challenges still remain to be met, and new challenges keep emerging. (28/05/08)

■ **Letter to Chief Planning Officers: Model planning conditions for development of land affected by contamination**

This circulates a new set of model planning conditions intended for use during the development of land affected by contamination. (30/05/08)

■ **Joseph Rowntree Foundation Commission on Rural Housing in Wales: Final Report**  
*JRF Commission on Rural Housing in Wales and Paul Milbourne*

An independent analysis of the levels of housing need in rural Wales, its causes, and recommendations for positive policy and practice change, this report:

explores the current state of rural housing need in rural Wales, in terms of -

- the current statistical evidence base of need;
- an analysis of the oral and written evidence on need received by the Commission; and
- an assessment of the current blockages to meeting rural housing need.

assesses current policy and practice responses by local and national government and wider housing organisations to meeting identified need; and outlines the Commission's conclusions and recommendations for policy and practice changes. (04/06/08)

■ **Joseph Rowntree Foundation Residents' views of new forms of high density affordable living**  
 Joanne Bretherton and Nicholas Pleace. A review of whether new high density developments can provide an affordable, attractive place to live.

New forms of high-density, affordable housing are often advocated as a response to current policy concerns related to housing shortages, containing suburban sprawl, and the desire to promote an 'urban renaissance' in some cities. This study explored residents' views about living in new affordable higher density housing, and how far residents' expectations of living in high-density developments were met. In particular it explored:

- reasons for moving in;
- the impact of architecture and design;
- community cohesion, including integration across tenures;
- crime and antisocial behaviour;
- the impact of the surrounding neighbourhood;
- future housing aspirations, including whether residents wanted to move;
- housing management; and
- affordability. (11/04/08)

### FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS

■ **Adapting our Ways – Scotland's Climate Change Risk: consultation on proposals for Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.** (Summer 2008)

■ **Scottish Climate Change Bill - Proposals for Improving the Energy Performance of Existing Buildings**

Public consultation on a range of energy performance and carbon impact measures, for domestic and non-domestic buildings, which are proposed as part of the Scottish Climate Change Bill. (Summer 2008)

### OTHER CONSULTATION

■ **Protection of World Heritage Sites: Consultation paper**

This consultation seeks views on proposed measures designed to enhance the protection of World Heritage Sites in England. (22/08/08)



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