

The Lodge
Earlsgate House
St Ninian's Road
Stirling
FK8 2HE

Tel: 0560 0010 560 / 0870 4711 666
Fax: 0560 0010 580 / 0870 4711 777
email: enquiries@forward-scotland.org.uk
Website: www.forward-scotland.org.uk

Sandra Carey
Scottish Executive
Planning Division
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

planningandsusdev@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

22 June 2007

Dear Sandra

**Statutory Guidance on Planning and Sustainable Development
Consultation Response from Forward Scotland**

Forward Scotland welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Scottish Executive's consultation on its draft Statutory Guidance on Planning and Sustainable Development. Overall, we support the proposed actions detailed in the draft Strategy.

Our enclosed response recommends that the Executive:

- ensures that sustainable development is seen as a strategic priority directing the whole planning process, and mainstreamed throughout every planning document
- provides sufficient training for planners on the implementation of sustainable development policies to ensure comprehensive, consistent approach across authorities

Forward Scotland would be delighted to offer our experience and expertise to help mainstream sustainable development principles into the planning process, and looks forward to supporting the work of the Executive in making sustainable development a reality in Scotland. We would be pleased to meet with you if clarification or further detail is required.

Yours sincerely



Theo Leijser
Chief Executive

Statutory Guidance on Planning and Sustainable Development *Consultation Response*

A CONTRIBUTION FROM FORWARD SCOTLAND

Introduction

Forward Scotland welcomes the opportunity to respond and provide feedback to the Scottish Executive's consultation paper regarding Statutory Guidance on Planning and Sustainable Development. We are happy to have this response placed in the public domain, and invite questions or further discussion on any issues raised in this document.

Forward Scotland supports action for sustainable development through practical projects and research. Our mission is to champion innovative approaches to sustainable development. We work to inspire a culture where the benefits of sustainable development are understood, valued and achieved. To do this we aim to promote sustainability in the widest sense in ways that change people's perceptions, attitudes and behaviour, while also achieving economic vitality, social wellbeing and a good quality environment for all.

Our response is based on ten years of experience promoting sustainable development in Scotland, and of managing and delivering grant schemes which have supported a significant number of communities, social enterprises and other organisations to contribute to sustainable development in a number of areas.

Overall Comments on the Draft Guidance

Forward Scotland welcomes the requirement in the Planning Etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 for Scottish Ministers, in preparing the National Planning Framework, and planning authorities, in drawing up development plans, to carry out those functions with the objective of contributing to sustainable development. We support the detailed guidance provided in the consultation paper as a means of supporting the delivery of this requirement.

We would, however, urge that sustainable development in relation to planning is not merely viewed by Scottish Ministers, the Scottish Executive and planning authorities, as a discrete area to be considered alongside all other aspects. Sustainable development **must** be regarded as a strategic priority directing the whole planning process, and mainstreamed throughout **every** planning document including the National Planning Framework, SPPs, statutory guidance, planning advice notes, development plans and supplementary guidance. This draft consultation document is useful in explaining the principles of sustainable development and how these should guide the planning process, but it should not act as a separate consideration to be merely fed into the process, and we would urge that all planners be made fully aware of this imperative and trained accordingly through undergraduate and postgraduate courses and through continuing professional development.

Forward Scotland welcomes the points made in paragraph 49, with respect to education and training. However, in order to ensure that planning policies are implemented appropriately – contributing as fully as possible to sustainable development - and in a consistent manner across all planning authorities, we would urge the Scottish Executive to ensure that sufficient resources are available to implement these policies with complete confidence. Forward Scotland would be delighted to work with the Executive to bring together

organisations and individuals with the appropriate experience and expertise to develop this training.

Conclusion

Forward Scotland welcomes and supports the detail provided in the draft Guidance as a means of assisting Scottish Ministers and planners to prepare the National Planning Framework and development plans with the objective of contributing to sustainable development. We would be delighted to offer our experience and expertise to support the delivery of this requirement.

The Executive has consistently supported the approach taken by Forward Scotland as we have worked across the spectrum of sustainable development related activity with public bodies, private companies and community organisations.

As a result the organisation, with its multi-disciplinary team, has developed a range of skills and experiences that we intend to apply to meet the emerging challenges of sustainable development in Scotland. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to this consultation and we look forward to supporting the work of the Executive in promoting sustainable development. We would be pleased to meet with you if clarification or further detail is required.

Forward Scotland
June 2007

Forward Scotland
The Lodge, Earls Gate House, St Ninians Road, Stirling.
FK8 2HE
Tel: 0560 0010 560
Fax: 0560 0010 580
www.forward-scotland.org.uk

RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM: Statutory Guidance on Planning and Sustainable Development

Please complete the details below and return it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately. Thank you for your help.

Name: JENNY HOGAN

Postal Address: FORWARD SCOTLAND, THE LODGE, EARLSGATE HOUSE, ST. NINIAN'S ROAD, STIRLING, FK8 2HE

1. Are you responding: (please tick one box)

(a) as an individual (go to Q2a/b and then Q4)

(b) on behalf of a group/organisation (go to Q3 and then Q4)

INDIVIDUALS

2a. Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Executive library and/or on the Scottish Executive website)?

Yes (go to 2b below)

No, not at all (We will treat your response as confidential).

2b. Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (please tick one of the following boxes):

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:

3. The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Executive library and/or on the Scottish Executive website). Are you also content for your **response** to be made available?

Yes

No (We will treat your response as confidential)

SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

4. We will share your response internally with other Scottish Executive policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?

Yes

No