

29 June 2007

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Planning Division
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Dear Ms Carey

Statutory Guidance on Planning and Sustainable Development – Consultation Paper

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Statutory Guidance on Planning and Sustainable Development. A+DS's role is to champion good quality design in the built environment, a key component of which is giving consistent and due regard to the creation of sustainable places and thriving communities.

We welcome this guidance, which in its breadth reinforces the proposition that to achieve sustainable development a multiplicity of aims has to be met – including the creation of buildings, places and spaces of quality. We are particularly pleased to see that the principle of good quality design features significantly throughout the consultation document. Good quality design and sustainable development are interdependent, and the document would be the stronger if this were stated robustly at the outset.

We recognise that, for such guidance to have practical effect in local policy-making, tools will be required to provide assistance in decision-making. Indicators for sustainable development have been explored in work undertaken by Tim Birley for the Scottish Executive, and by Chris Butters for the Norwegian Government, and these could perhaps be developed as approaches that could be helpful. We enclose the 'wind vane' diagrams relating to these methods, for information.

Good design and sustainable development are too often presented as 'bolt ons' to decision-making about investment and planning. A+DS would be pleased to work with the Planning Division on describing how these two principles are mutually supportive, and are themselves essential to successful long-term planning.

Yours sincerely

Sebastian Tombs
Chief Executive

Encl.

RESPONDEE INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the details below and attach it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately:

Name: Sebastian Tombs

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Consultation title: **STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION**

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

- (a) an individual (go to 2a/b)
(b) **on behalf of** a group or organisation (go to 3)

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

- Yes (go to 2b below)
No, not at all

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

3 **ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:**

Your name and address as respondents **will be** made available to the public (in the SE library and/or on SE website). Are you content for your response to be made available also?

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No

4. We will share your response internally with other SE 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 for consultation or research purposes?

- Yes