



PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 5th December 2007

HOMES FOR SCOTLAND WARNS AGAINST REDUCING HOME BUILDING IN FIFE

Homes for Scotland has sent a stark warning to Fife councillors about the implications of cutting back on plans to build new homes.

Fife Council is reviewing its Structure Plan Housing Land Requirement, with a view to severely restricting the supply of essential new homes, despite evidence that the Fife economy continues to grow, the local population is increasing and the pressure from the Edinburgh Housing market continues to intensify. The Council's objective is firmly at odds with the Scottish Government's commitment to increase the supply of housing in Scotland from 25,000 to 35,000 per annum by 2015.

Commenting on Fife Council's decision to alter its Structure Plan, Homes for Scotland's Planning Manager, Blair Melville said: "At a time when local families are facing an acute housing shortage, Councillors are set to abandon people who are trying to enter the housing market and to tell them, 'we do not care if you have new homes are not'.

"Fife Council should be setting ambitious housing targets in line with the forecasts set out within the most up to date population projections. These show that the local population is set to increase by 9%. The housing crisis in Fife will only get worse if a robust development plan is not agreed.

More...



“We are asking the Council to look at the Ayrshire plan which relates to a similar geographical area and population to Fife but which allows for 7,000 more units.

“We wholeheartedly agree with the principles set out in the Scottish Government’s discussion document: “Firm Foundations”. This states that we must improve the supply of all types of housing if we are to meet the community’s need for good quality affordable housing provided in places that people want to live. This is indeed fundamental to the wellbeing and success of individuals, families and communities.

“In that context, not only is Fife out of step with the current consensus on housing, but also contradicts its own stated objectives to attract employment, encourage regeneration, provide affordable housing and create economic growth.

“Homes for Scotland is working with the Scottish Executive’s Housing Supply Housing Task Force to help deliver Scotland’s new home building programme. Our member companies stand ready, willing and able to rise to the challenge of building the high quality, well-designed and sustainable homes that Fife needs”.

Ends

For further information please contact:

Beth Hocking, Homes for Scotland. Tel: 0131 455 8350



Notes to the Editor:

Homes for Scotland (www.homesforscotland.com) represents the country's home building industry which:

- is the largest source of private investment in Scotland
- contributes £5bn to the economy annually
- builds 20,000 new homes per annum
- employs more than 110,000 people
- is the largest user of the planning system in Scotland