



PRESS RELEASE

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CHIEF PLANNER TOLD TO CARRY ON WITH REFORM

Young planners working in the Scottish house building industry have told the Chief Planner at the Scottish Executive to carry on with the proposed reforms to the country's planning system.

The clear message of support came at a recent groundbreaking event organised by industry body Homes for Scotland which brought together over 40 young professionals to hear Chief Planner Jim Mackinnon talk about planning reform and the challenges which lie ahead.

With Edinburgh Castle as the stunning backdrop to a wide-ranging discussion that looked at the issues facing an industry that employs over 100,000 people and contributes £5bn to the economy, the young planners called for a more efficient planning system whilst recognising the need to engage with communities on the plans that will shape our towns and cities.

The audience also heard from Mike Pocock of event sponsors DLA Piper who spoke about the reforms implemented in England and Wales a couple of years ago.

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Notes to editors:

Homes for Scotland (www.homesforscotland.com) is the representative membership body for the home building and residential development industry in Scotland. Its member companies provide 95% of all new homes in Scotland. The largest user of the planning system in Scotland, the industry is also the largest source of private investment in the Scottish economy contributing around £5 billion and employing more than 110,000 people.

Photo Captions:

1. Chief Planner Jim Mackinnon responds to questions from the floor.
2. Edinburgh Castle was the stunning backdrop for Homes for Scotland's recent Planning & Development lunch which brought together over 40 young professionals from within the house building industry to hear Chief Planner Jim Mackinnon talk about Scotland's planning reform and the challenges which lie ahead.