



Press Release

12th May 08

New Chairman for Scottish Home Building Industry Body

Homes for Scotland, the representative body for the home building industry in Scotland, has elected Andrew Mickel, Director of Mactaggart & Mickel, as new Chairman for the year 2008/9. He assumed his new role at the organisation's annual meeting in Edinburgh on 9th May 2008 and Annual Lunch, attended by 750 senior industry representatives and Communities Minister Stewart Maxwell.

In his inaugural speech Andrew Mickel said: "Our continuing aim as an industry is to encourage excellence and improve the quality of living in Scotland through the provision of modern homes in places people want to live.

"It is my belief that our industry can deliver the Scottish Government's aspirations and work with them to build 35,000 homes a year, meet higher environmental standards, offer more choice that is affordable, and create sustainable mixed communities.

"This is done in interesting times – rising costs, market consolidation, new entrants to the market and despite any short-term tremors and less mortgages available, we are very confident about the long-term stability of the Scottish Housing Market.

"The Housing Task Force set up by the Scottish Government is helping to shine a more formal light on the issues the industry is facing. Homes for Scotland is keen to deliver some quick results and, by working with Government, provide them greater understanding of the housing market and what we need most to run our businesses – clarity and certainty."

Communities Minister Stewart Maxwell said: “The Scottish Government wants to see an increase in the number of homes that are being built across all sectors.

“Scotland can and should have the prosperous sustainable future it deserves and meeting the housing aspirations of our population is an essential step towards that goal. In our housing discussion paper, Firm Foundations, we set a national goal of increasing supply to at least 35,000 each year, by the middle of the next decade - this ambition is a major challenge, not just for the Government but for housing providers and the construction industry.

“The drive for these new homes to be of a high standard, energy efficient and well designed, lies at the heart of the Government’s housing policy and I welcome Homes for Scotland’s work to improve standards in the industry.”

1. Homes for Scotland represents the country’s home building industry which:

- is the largest source of private investment in Scotland
- contributes £6bn to the economy annually
- builds 25,000 new homes per annum
- employs more than 100,000 people
- is the largest user of the planning system in Scotland

Notes to Editors:

1. Images are available on request
2. Homes for Scotland (www.homesforscotland.com) represents the country’s home building industry which:

- is the largest source of private investment in Scotland
 - contributes £6bn to the economy annually
 - builds 20,000 new homes per annum
 - employs 100,000 people
 - is the largest user of the planning system in Scotland
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