



PRESS RELEASE

28 January 2008

BUILDERS BLAST PROPOSALS TO ABANDON LOCAL PLANS
Betrayal of those who urgently need new homes

The home building industry today blasted Perth and Kinross Council over proposals to abandon its review of the Perth Area / Central Area and Eastern Area Local Plans.

Allan Lundmark, Director of Planning at Homes for Scotland, the organisation which represents companies building 95% of the country's new homes, said:

"We are simply flabbergasted by these proposals and urge members of the Enterprise & Infrastructure Committee to reject them out of hand when they meet on Wednesday (30 January).

There is already a shortage of land for housing in the Perth and Kinross area. Abandoning these Plans will be a complete and utter betrayal of the people of Perth and Kinross who urgently need new homes. The Council will further slow up production and house prices, which last year increased by 22%¹ in Perth, will be fuelled even more, hitting the local population, especially first time buyers, extremely hard."

The preparation of the draft Plans has already seen considerable delay with the review of the Perth Area/ Central Area Local Plan beginning in 2001. The home building industry, together with a wide range of other business and community interests, has been participating in the review process in good faith but the course of action now being recommended by council officers means that the consultation exercise which has taken place for both Plans would effectively be nullified and left hanging until the Council decides to embark on alternative plans.



Lundmark continued:

“Councillors must take urgent action to ensure that much needed investment in housing in Perth and Kinross, and the associated jobs, infrastructure and facilities this brings, will not be frustrated by delays and bureaucratic process.”

-Ends-

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Notes to the Editor:

1. Bank of Scotland House Price Index Q4 2007.
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 £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