



PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 16th November 2006

HOMES FOR SCOTLAND WELCOMES PLANNING BILL PASSED TODAY

Homes for Scotland, welcomed the decision taken by Parliament today (Thursday 16th November 2007) to reform the country's planning system. The Planning (Scotland) Bill is designed to make the system more inclusive and efficient by ensuring communities are involved in planning at the early stages.

Executive Director Bruce Black said: "Today's decision recognises that the planning process has to be quicker if we are to maintain investment and growth in Scotland. It also needs to be far more inclusive, in terms of ensuring that communities remain at the heart of decision-making. Well-structured consultation at the front-end of the planning process is good news for everyone, as it will mean less delays and uncertainty for communities, developers and investors alike.

"However the Planning Bill is only a start – it needs to be accompanied by a culture shift within local government, more resources put into the planning departments, and a far more strategic housing supply policy. The home building industry is ready and willing to work with local authorities and communities to shape dynamic and sustainable communities of which we can all be proud. We know that at present insufficient new homes are coming through the system. There is a chance to do something about it."

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For further information please contact:

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Notes to the Editor:

1. Homes for Scotland represents the country's home building industry which:
 - is the largest source of private investment in Scotland
 - contributes £5bn to the economy annually
 - employs more than 110,000 people
 - builds 25,000 new homes per annum
 - is the largest user of the planning system in Scotland