



**PRESS RELEASE**

**7 January 2008**

**HOME BUILDERS WELCOME NEW PLANNING POLICY**

Homes for Scotland, the organisation representing the country's home building industry, has welcomed the publication of draft Scottish Planning Policy 3: Planning for Housing.

Planning Manager Blair Melville, a member of the steering group set up by the Scottish Government to develop the Policy, said:

"As the Communities Minister has stated, despite rising demand for new homes in Scotland there has been no corresponding increase in building. This has largely been due to the lack of land being made available for housing and inefficiencies in the planning system.

We therefore welcome the thinking behind the new policy which seeks to align itself with the objectives of the new Planning Act by providing clear advice to local authorities to ensure significantly greater allocation of land for housing. We look forward to working with the Government to achieve, and exceed where possible, its target of increasing the number of new homes built in Scotland to 35,000 by the middle of the next decade so that everyone who wants to own their own home has the choice and ability to do so."

**Ends**



**For further information please contact:**

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

**Notes to the Editor:**

Homes for Scotland ([www.homesforscotland.com](http://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