

improving living in scotland



PRESS RELEASE

29 SEPTEMBER 2007

HOMES FOR SCOTLAND ATTENDS FIRST HOUSING TASK FORCE

Homes for Scotland, the representative body for the house building industry in Scotland, was represented at the first Housing Task Force meeting held today, Wednesday 29th September at the Scottish Parliament. Director of Planning Allan Lundmark attended. He said:

“Homes for Scotland is pleased to have been asked to join the Minister’s Task Force and we are encouraged by his acknowledgement that there is a serious undersupply of new homes in Scotland. For some time we have been arguing the case for a political commitment to increasing production of new homes at all levels of the market, and for a high level mechanism to bring this about.

Everyone recognises that there is a problem with land supply and the planning system but this issue is going to need political commitment at both national and local levels to see the problem solved. The Minister has already indicated that there are important planning issues and wants the Task Force to address these first. We support this but there are other challenges which will need to be tackled if production is to be increased. Infrastructure such as water, services and local amenities need to be planned and developed along with new homes. In addition,

building standards, particularly in relation to climate change and energy conservation, also need to be addressed.

House builders stand ready work with the government on the sustainability agenda however a consistent approach among local authorities is currently lacking with some setting unrealistic targets in excess of national standards.

Homes for Scotland is keen to play a full part in the task group and will be ready to take whatever steps we can to deliver the additional homes that Scotland clearly needs.

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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
- builds 25,000 new homes per annum
- employs more than 110,000 people
- is the largest user of the planning system in Scotland

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