

3 SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE DRAFT PLANNING ADVICE NOTE - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT "PLANNING WITH PEOPLE" (AN328-2006)

The draft Planning Advice Note seeks to raise awareness of good practice and suggests ways to help improve community engagement. Further, it aims to introduce some reforms aimed at creating more widespread trust and confidence in the planning system. It should be noted that the reforms contained in the document are dependent on the outcome of the Planning etc (Scotland) Bill due to become Law by the end of 2006.

It should be noted that the Planning and Transportation Department already operate in line with the examples of good practice contained in the document.

The most significant reform element is to remove the requirement for neighbour notification by developers and place this task within the duties of the Planning Authority. For planning applications, the resources required for such duties will be funded through a rise in the application fee. In addition to proposed developments Planning authorities will also be required to notify neighbours of any site specific proposals contained in the local development plan. No arrangements have been proposed to provide resources to support this significant extra workload.

It is therefore recommended that the Committee authorises the Director of Planning and Transportation to advise the Scottish Executive of their concerns at the absence of additional resources to support these proposals.