

8 PLANNING APPEALS (AN437-2003)

Reference is made to the meeting of the Development Quality Committee of 28th April, 2003 wherein it was remitted to the Legal Division to further consider ways in which the present system of Planning Appeals, where Reporters have the last opportunity to consider afresh the planning merits of an application, could be improved to address the perception of a democratic deficit in the system.

The Scottish Executive in both their original reply to the Council's letter outlining their concerns and in recent consultation papers continue to support the present arrangements.

As the legal powers which underpin this aspect of the appeals system are contained in primary legislation only an amendment of these provisions can make any changes. It may now be appropriate that the Council considers approaching the Petitions Committee of the Scottish Parliament to progress this matter and the instructions of the Committee are sought.