

6 PETITION TO THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT - PLANNING APPEALS (AN97-2005)

Reference is made to Article IV of the meeting of this Committee of 28 June 2004.

The Committee noted the outcome of the meeting of the Public Petitions Committee of 9 June 2004 wherein that Committee agreed to progress consideration of the Council's Petition by seeking comments on the issues raised by The Scottish Executive and other bodies closely involved in the planning system.

The Public Petitions Committee resumed consideration of the Petition at their meeting on 23 February 2005 and considered all written responses received.

The Scottish Executive's response advised the Public Petitions Committee that "Ministers are in advance of a White Paper on planning modernisation in Spring 2005 - currently considering a wide range of issues in relation to planning and I would not wish to prejudice their decisions by commenting further on the likelihood or desirability of such a reform. I would merely recall the commitments in the Partnership Agreement to "improve the planning system to strengthen involvement of communities, speed up decisions, reflect local views better and allow quicker investment decisions." There is also a commitment to "consult on new rights of appeal in planning cases". Ministers will be considering reform of planning as a whole in light of these commitments."

The Public Petitions Committee agreed to pass a copy of the Petition and responses received to the Scottish Executive as part of its consultation on the proposed planning modernisation bill. Members are asked to note this outcome of the Council's Petition.