

## **2 SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY - PLANNING FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT - CONSULTATION DRAFT, JANUARY 2004 (AN180-2004)**

The latest in the Scottish Executives series updating the National Planning Policy Guidelines (NPPG's) this SPP proposed to replace NPPG15 - Rural Development issued in 1999. The Council generally welcomes the updating of advice contained in the document, however, while the Council is generally supportive of the aims and objectives expressed in the consultation document, as there is so little of what can be really described as 'rural areas' within the Council's boundaries, it is not particularly relevant to Dundee's situation.

Dundee does, however, have a significant rural hinterland and has always recognised the importance of an active and thriving rural economy (paragraph 7) as well as the importance of its shopping and employment catchment areas that extend well beyond the City limits. The Dundee and Angus Structure Plan emphasises Dundee's role as a regional centre for these as well as other important services such as further education and health services. Nevertheless care should also be taken to guard against inappropriate development (paragraphs 7 and 9) in terms of 'suburbanising the countryside'.

Dundee's position in having very little rural area within its boundary also makes it vulnerable to 'boundary hopping' development that does not have regard to the principles of sustainability promoted by the document. It is for this reason that the City supports the 'City Region' concept.

Comments on Green Belts (paragraph 10) may pre-empt forthcoming advice.