



SCOTTISH CIVIC TRUST

BRIEFING NOTE FOR PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE 10TH NOVEMBER 2011

THE IMPORTANCE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLACE MAKING TO THE ECONOMY OF SCOTLAND

The **Scottish Civic Trust** welcomes the forthcoming debate on the importance of architecture and place making to the economy of Scotland.

The Scottish Civic Trust urges the Scottish Government to:

Support communities to have a key role in delivering change in local areas through:

- engaging communities meaningfully in the planning process. The Trust strongly feels that greater community ownership leads to increased sustainability of place making projects in the long-term
- building capacity in communities to lead regeneration and enhancement efforts. The Trust strongly believes that successful place making begins at ground level and by empowering communities to make changes for themselves. There is a clear need for both culture change at a local authority level and for investment in capacity building, in order to devolve power to local communities and allow them to lead regeneration efforts.

Engage young people in built environment and planning issues to develop the civic leaders of tomorrow through:

- supporting projects that encourage an appreciation and understanding of Scotland's built environment
- Supporting the provision of opportunities for participation and volunteering, this can produce positive outcomes in deprived areas such as increased skills and aspirations.

Ensure that Scotland's historic built environment is protected and enhanced for future generations through:

- supporting informed decision-making in a properly resourced planning system
- ensuring that the value of good places is recognised in the policy framework
- encouraging the reuse of historic buildings. Scotland's Historic Environment Audit (SHEA) 2010 notes that "The sensitive re-use of historic buildings is crucial if Scotland is to meet the target of cutting 80% of all carbon emissions by 2050." Refurbishment and repair also requires more skilled labour than new build, providing more skilled jobs, training opportunities and investment in the local economy.

Encourage the best in new design and contemporary architecture through:

- celebrating examples of best practice and exemplars of contemporary design
- promoting and encouraging the principles of high-quality design in all planning applications

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Working to Improve and Promote Scotland's Built Environment. Scottish Charity SC012569