In scrutinising the Scottish Government draft budget 2012-13 and spending review 2011, the Committee considered a number of areas that could have implications from an equal opportunities perspective.

I attach the Committee’s report to the Finance Committee and draw, in particular, your Committee’s attention to the following key issues—

- **Support for safer streets** (paragraphs 66-72). The Committee sought reassurances from the Cabinet Secretary about the Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) funding for local authorities. The Committee recommended that the Cabinet Secretary seeks to maintain CWSS funding at the current level of £7.5 million per annum and ensures that the fund continues to be ring fenced.

- **Concessionary bus travel** (paragraphs 78-80). The Committee recognised the importance of continuing to provide funding for concessionary travel. It called for the Government to look at ways to make efficiencies and savings that could potentially be used to maintain future spending on other revenue lines. The Committee will monitor the Government’s response as part its consideration of the forthcoming review of bus services in Scotland.

- **Support for housing adaptations** (paragraphs 134-138). The Committee notes that the Supporting Transitions budget line declines by 45.1% (real terms) in 2012-13 and declines year-on-year thereafter. The Committee intends to examine the issue of adaptations in more detail as part of its consideration of the Government's forthcoming national strategy on housing for older people.

- **Welfare reform legislation** (paragraphs 146-150). The Committee notes that the spending review does not factor in the impact of the changes proposed in the Welfare Reform Bill. It calls on the Scottish Government to monitor developments closely and to maintain a close dialogue with stakeholders should the proposed changes impact on the allocations in the spending review for the provision of housing and homelessness services. This may be of particular interest to your Committee in relation to your inquiry into homelessness and young people.