SUBMISSION FROM THE SCOTTISH LANDFILL COMMUNITIES FUND FORUM

The Scottish Landfill Communities Fund Forum (SLCFF) which represents organisations with an interest in best practice in the use of Landfill Communities Funds (LCF) in Scotland, having previously responded to a call for evidence in January 2011, wish to respond to this call for written evidence by the Committee.

The SLCFF do not express any view on the contents of the Scotland Bill or its associated documentation, but do wish to make observations prompted by Key Question 5, Third Point;

The Scottish Government have stated its desire for greater taxation powers. What is your opinion on:
- the practical challenges that may arise in implementing these taxation changes?

The SLCFF wish to comment on the proposal to devolve Landfill Tax to the Scottish Government and in particular to remind the Committee of the existence of and achievements of the Landfill Communities Fund, and to express the hope that legislation for any Scottish Landfill Tax or equivalent would contain provision for a Landfill Communities Fund similar to that in the existing UK Landfill Tax legislation.

The existing Landfill Communities Fund which was established when Landfill Tax was introduced in 1996 has since then, injected money into local communities providing and enhancing much needed amenities.

The LCF has, since 1996:
- awarded over £100 million across Scotland
- levered over £500 million of matched funding
- resulted in over 2000 projects
- empowered communities

I hope the Committee will agree that the Landfill Communities Fund has been and continues to be demonstrably successful and will move to ensure that a Scottish landfill Communities Fund is incorporated in the legislation establishing a Scottish Landfill Tax.

James C Graham
Chairman, The Scottish Landfill Communities Fund Forum
6 September 2011