Local Government and Communities Committee

Planning (Scotland) Bill

Submission from David Valentine

My views on the new planning bill are as follows.

The proposed bill has two major shortcomings.

The planning process needs to be more accountable to, and to better reflect the needs of, local communities. This could be achieved if applicants did not have an automatic right of appeal, especially when rejection is based on a breach of the local development plan.

Only Local Authorities should be able to acquire land for housing development, and they should have control of the processes for development, master planning and the provision of infrastructure.

These two inclusions would make for a more sensible, fair and affordable approach to planning and development for the benefit of communities rather than private developers.

David Valentine