Local Government and Communities Committee

Planning (Scotland) Bill

Submission from Andy Lenthall

I’m writing in support of various calls for the addition of the Agent of Change Principle into the Planning (Scotland) Bill. Evidence leading to recent amendments in English planning law has clearly demonstrated both the positive impact of grassroots music venues and the disastrous impact on those businesses that nearby developments can have.

Grassroots music venues are the R&D departments for the UK’s live music sector which contributes £1bn GVA to the UK economy. Musicians and the all important support network of technicians and engineers (our members) New developments close to music venues can lead to noise issues which, currently, are laid at the door of the business that may have been there for many years. It should be for the developer to put in place measures, rather than the business. We have already lost venues, the industry can’t afford to lose any more.

Westminster has already grasped the importance of the issue, we hope that Scottish Parliament will do the same...or even better.