

Rural Affairs Climate Change and Environment Committee to consider extending Community Right to Buy

Following a request by the Minister for Parliamentary Business the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee will be considering Part 4 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill which makes a range of changes to the community right to buy land.

The Committee will review the written evidence¹ received by the Local Government and Regeneration Committee and will take evidence on the Bill, over a number of meetings, in November and December and report its views in January 2015.

Convener of the Committee, Rob Gibson MSP said:

“The Committee has a longstanding interest in empowering communities in rural Scotland to take ownership, in the widest sense, of local assets and use them for the common good. We, and our predecessor committee, considered the implementation of the Land reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and reported our findings to Government in 2011”.

“The Committee notes a number of success stories involving communities forming groups to take ownership of community land and assets and is keen to see the momentum towards increased community ownership continue”.

“The Committee will examine how the Bill, as introduced, seeks to simplify the process of community ownership and make it less onerous, how it proposes to extend the right to buy land and under used assets, including neglected and abandoned land, to communities across Scotland and how it seeks to support communities and strengthen their voices”.

Background

The Bill was introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 11 June 2014 and the Local Government and Regeneration Committee is the lead committee on the Bill. The call for evidence issued by the Local Government and Regeneration Committee, which closed on 5 September, sought responses to the following questions:

- To what extent do you consider that the Bill will empower communities?
- What will be the benefits and disadvantages for public sector organisations as a consequence of the provisions in the Bill?
- Do you consider communities across Scotland have the capabilities to take advantage of the provisions of the Bill? If not, what requires to be done to the Bill, or to assist communities, to ensure this happens?
- Are you content with the specific provisions in the Bill, if not what changes would you like to see, to which part of the Bill and why?
- What are your views on the assessment of equal rights, impacts on island communities and sustainable development as set out in the Policy memorandum?

¹ <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/79891.aspx>

Contact information

You can keep up to date with the Committee's scrutiny of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill via its Twitter and web pages—

Twitter: https://twitter.com/#!/SP_RuralClimate;

Website: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/29876.aspx>

If you wish to discuss the Committee's scrutiny of the Bill please contact

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