NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING OF TOWNS AND COUNTRYSIDE

L'AMENAGEMENT SUR LE PLAN NATIONAL ET REGIONAL DES VILLES ET DE LA CAMPAGNE

SCOTLAND
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING IN SCOTLAND
AT THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

Chairman of the Scottish National Housing and Town Planning Council.
Hon. Chairman, Scottish Branch, Town Planning Union and Member of
the Scottish Housing Advisory Committee.

THE CENTRAL ORGANISATION

Ministerial Responsibility

The Secretary of State for Scotland is the Minister of the Crown
responsible for town and country planning. He is a member of the British
Cabinet. The present holder of the office is the Rt. Hon. Arthur Wood-
burn, M.P. As planning minister he exercises all the powers and functions
for which the Minister of Town and Country Planning is responsible in
England and Wales, but he also carries the responsibility in Scotland for
housing, agriculture, water supplies, main drainage, sanitation and general
local government services. He is closely in contact with forestry, fishing,
industry, and among other subjects, the development of the hydro-electric
resources of the country presently being exploited.

The Secretary of State's responsibilities bring him both directly and
indirectly into close contact with a substantial number of the subjects
germane to town and country planning.

Legislation

The central and local authorities for town planning obtain their
powers from the provisions contained in a number of Acts of Parliament.
The principal legislation is now contained in the Town and Country
Planning (Scotland) Act, 1947. While previous enactments largely tended
to be permissive in their scope and character, the new Act marks a transition
from what has been regarded as negative to positive planning. The powers
now available to both the central department and local planning authorities
provide for greater flexibility in respect of the use and development of
land, enabling local authorities, through the wide powers conferred on
them, to secure desirable development with the aid of Exchequer grants
towards expenditure incurred by them in the preparation and carrying out
of their plans. The new Act transfers all development values in land to the
State, by this means removing one of the main obstacles to good planning
in the past through heavy compensation for planning restrictions on
unsatisfactory development and the recovery of betterment in respect of
increased values accruing from planning.

Departmental Responsibility

The Department of Health for Scotland is the central department
through which the Secretary of State for Scotland exercises his control in
respect of planning, housing, general health and social services, water
supplies and the like.
Collaboration between Departments

One particular advantage possessed by the Secretary of State for Scotland arises from the fact that he is the head of a number of departments and thus can personally deal with a large variety of subjects with which planning is concerned. All the vital subjects with which planning is concerned are, however, not under his control but remain the direct responsibility of other Government departments under separate Ministers of the Crown. For example, road and rail communications are within the sphere of the Minister of Transport; civil airports and air services under the control of the Minister of Civil Aviation; the Board of Trade deals with industrial questions; the Ministry of Labour and National Service with labour; while fuel and power resources come under the direction of the Minister of Fuel and Power. These various Ministries cover the United Kingdom, thus in addition to controlling Scottish interests in these spheres they are responsible for the same subjects in England and Wales. The need for co-operation and co-ordination among these various Ministries and departments is recognised and is dealt with in two ways. On the one hand there is day-to-day contact through the ordinary administrative work of the various departments, while on the other hand there are standing inter-departmental committees dealing with subjects or groups of subjects on which the various Government departments are represented in respect of their separate functions. There is a Scottish Physical Planning Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland to consider all major development proposals affecting the use of land, through which there are kept under daily review the fundamental long-term planning problems of the country. The Department of Health for Scotland provides the chairman for this committee which is composed of representatives of all Government departments whose duties either directly or indirectly are concerned with the use of land and the distribution of population. By this means there is secured the active co-ordination of Government policy in respect of planning both as regards local and regional planning proposals.

Aspects of the Planning Department’s Work

Basic Information

A special section of the Department of Health has been set up for the collection, collation, and presentation of fundamental information and data on all matters affecting planning. This information, which is obtained through Government departments and other bodies and sources, covers such subjects as physical and economic resources, communications and services, land classification and use, population trends, employment, industrial distribution and a variety of other matters. Much of this is being presented in a series of national maps (10 miles to 1 inch) prepared in collaboration with the Ordnance Survey and other departments. Some of these are already published, and are thus available for general and educational as well as planning purposes. Special arrangements are in force for securing that co-ordinated guidance on national trends and their effects on local plans are made available to local planning authorities.

Supplementary to the work detailed above, the special section, if need arises, is responsible for special inquiries. This becomes necessary when additional information is desired.
Aerial Photographs

In co-operation with the Air Ministry the department are building up a library of aerial photographs covering Scotland. These photographs offer valuable aids to the Department of Health for Scotland and other central departments, to local planning authorities and consultants and to others desiring to make reference to them.

Industry

In close co-operation with the Board of Trade, the Department of Health take steps to secure that the distribution of industry is properly balanced. An outstanding example in this connection is the siting of new industrial estates and the preparation of a register of suitable sites for industrial development available alike to firms desiring to extend their production and establish new industries. Special consideration has been given to the rehabilitation of derelict sites and the bringing of waste land into productive category as well as improving general amenities. The scope of this work is very considerable and beneficial to local authorities and industrial undertakings alike.

Planning Technique and Standards

So that the department may keep fully informed of the latest practices and developments in the many fields affecting town planning, a special section has been set up for this purpose. This section deals with the formulation of techniques and planning standards. It also deals with building densities, open spaces, the design and layout of residential areas of towns and village communities, and the technique of surveys, all with special consideration to peculiar Scottish aspects of these problems. This work has been extended to cover new towns, a number of which have been approved for Scotland, such as East Kilbride, and will doubtless prove of great assistance to the new town corporations and the local planning authorities in their respective fields.

A modelling unit has been established under this section.

Education and Publicity

Directly and through various town planning organisations the department takes an active part in the preparation of information and the publication of same in the ordinary course. Representatives of the department attend various Congresses such as those held annually in Scotland by the Scottish National Housing and Town Planning Council, the Scottish Branch of the Town Planning Institute, the Scottish Section of the Town and Country Planning Association and various professional and technical bodies. In addition, representatives of the department, when opportunity affords, contribute to discussions of various associations and groups for the information of the general public and in co-operation with the Scottish Information Office. By this means any information in relation to town and country planning is brought before the attention of the public and those engaged in town and country planning.

The publication of reports by the Scottish Housing Advisory Committee set up by the Secretary of State for Scotland has done much to stimulate public interest in housing and distribution problems.
Regional Planning

Central Arrangements

The control of regional planning in Scotland is a function of the Department of Health for Scotland. This work is carried out from St. Andrew's House, Edinburgh, and not through decentralised offices within the various regions. For planning purposes, Scotland has been divided into three regions—north, east and west—to each of which a section of the staff has been detailed. By this means and through the regional staffs, regular contact is kept between the various local authorities within the regions and the central offices. This has a double advantage in that this liaison service keeps the department in touch with local authorities on the one hand and the local authorities in touch with the Government on the other. The personal contact between the regional officers and the technical officers of planning and local authorities affords a valuable means of interchange of information and free discussion.

Regional Arrangements

Following on earlier efforts with reference to the preparation of regional planning schemes in Scotland, the Secretary of State took steps to initiate the setting up of three Regional Planning Advisory Committees to prepare outline plans covering the territory of the combining local authorities into which the various local planning schemes can ultimately be dovetailed. Each of the planning authorities within the areas of the Regional Committees enjoys direct representation on the committee which, in turn, appointed an outstanding consultant with special staffs. Three such Regional Committees were constituted, covering the vast majority of the population and a very large proportion of industry in Scotland. The work of two of the committees is now complete and the reports awaiting final publication in respect of the Clyde Valley Region and the Central and East of Scotland Region. The full implications of the proposals put forward by the two Advisory Committees have still to be explored by planning authorities and their officers in the light of present-day circumstances and the future development of the country.

The Highland area of Scotland with its vast areas of sparse population has been the subject of various governmental inquiries and reports. The view has been taken that this large region is one that can best be dealt with by other means than the Regional Advisory Committees mentioned above. The Secretary of State for Scotland appointed a panel comprising representatives of Highland interests and activities, local authorities and others to advise him and the various Government departments concerned on the development of Highland resources, the improvement of living conditions and the execution of suitable plans for securing essential improvements. Special attention is being given by this means to areas of potential development, whether these come within the administrative sphere of one or more local authorities. The startling decrease in the population of some of the Highland counties calls for very special consideration.

Acknowledgment

Full acknowledgment is hereby made of the valuable and unstinted
assistant given by the Planning Section of the Department of Health in respect of the presentation of these notes for discussion at the International Congress. Such assistance was necessary so that the picture presented may be both up to date and accurate.

Progressive developments are taking place, and since these notes were written other developments may fall to be recorded, particularly in view of the fact that the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act, 1947, is fully brought into effect on 1st July, 1948.

L'AMENAGEMENT SUR LE PLAN NATIONAL ET REGIONAL DES VILLES ET DE LA CAMPAGNE EN ECOSSÈ

**Organisation**

Le Ministre des Affaires pour l'Ecosse exerce tous les pouvoirs et toutes les fonctions qui, en Angleterre et au Pays de Galles, sont de la compétence du Ministre de l'Aménagement de la Ville et de la Campagne. Les autorités régionales et municipales de l'Aménagement doivent leur pouvoir à plusieurs actes de Parlement, dont le plus important est, actuellement, la loi pour l'aménagement de la Ville et de la Campagne (Ecosse), de 1947. Les termes de cette loi sont essentiellement les mêmes que ceux de la loi analogue concernant l'Angleterre et le Pays de Galles.

Le département de la Santé Publique pour l'Ecosse constitue le département central, par l'entremise duquel le Ministre exerce son contrôle, en ce qui concerne l'aménagement, l'habitation, la Santé Publique, les services sociaux, les services d'eaux, et ainsi de suite. En sa qualité de Chef de divers départements, le Ministre des Affaires Ecossaises peut s'occuper, personnellement, de toute une gamme de sujets intéressant l'aménagement. Son contrôle, cependant, n'est pas universel puisque diverses questions intéressant l'aménagement, telles que le transport, l'industrie et le travail restent de la compétence de Ministères distincts qui, en plus du contrôle des intérêts écossais, sont responsables des mêmes sujets en Angleterre et au Pays de Galles. La nécessité de la coopération et de la coordination parmi ces divers Ministères, est satisfaite par des rapports quotidiens au cours de la routine ordinaire de l'administration, et par moyen des Comités permanents interdépartementaux. Un de ces comités est le Comité Ecossais de l'aménagement matériel, dont la fonction est de prendre en considération toutes les propositions importantes de développement, qui intéressent l'emploi du terrain et la distribution de la population.

**Quelques Aspects du Travail du Département de l'Aménagement**

Renseignements Fondamentaux.—Une section spéciale du département de la Santé Publique a été établie pour recueillir, collationner et présenter les renseignements et les données fondamentaux sur tous les sujets intéressant l'aménagement. La plupart de ces renseignements, intéressant des sujets tels que les ressources matérielles et économiques, les communications et les services, la classification et l'usage des terrains, les mouvements de la population, le travail, la distribution de l'industrie, seront indiqués sur une série de cartes nationales. Des conseils coordonnés au sujet des tendances nationales et leurs effets sur des plans locaux sont mis à la disposition des autorités municipales de l'aménagement.
Industrie.—Des mesures seront prises, avec le concours du Ministère du Commerce, pour assurer une distribution convenablement équilibrée de l'Industrie. Citons, comme exemple, la location des nouvelles cités industrielles et la préparation d'un registre de locations convenables, qui sont disponibles pour des firmes désirant augmenter leur production et établir des industries nouvelles. Des considérations spéciales ont été accordées à la réhabilitation des sites abandonnés et la récupération des terrains vagues.

La Technique et les Standards de l'Aménagement.—Une section spéciale a été établie pour tenir ce département bien au courant des dernières améliorations et pratiques techniques. Elle s'occupe de l'écartement des bâtiments, des parcs et jardins publics, des plans et de l'aménagement des quartiers d'habitation des villes et des villages et de la technique des études, le tout avec une considération spéciale pour les aspects écossais, particuliers, de ces problèmes. Le travail a été élargi pour englober plusieurs villes nouvelles, qui ont été approuvées pour l'Ecosse.

Service des Renseignements.—Le département joue un rôle actif, tant directement que par l'entremise de diverses organisations de l'aménagement. Il s'intéresse vivement à coopérer avec diverses organisations professionnelles et techniques, ainsi qu'avec des groupes pour renseigner le public. La publication de rapports par le Comité consultatif de l'habitation en Ecosse fait beaucoup pour stimuler l'intérêt public dans les problèmes de l'habitation et de la distribution de la population.

L'aménagement sur le plan régional.—La contrôle de l'aménagement sur le plan régional est également une fonction du département de la santé publique pour l'Ecosse. Ce travail est dirigé d'un bureau central à Edimbourg. Pour les besoins de l'aménagement, l'Ecosse a été divisée en trois régions : Nord, Est et Ouest, et une partie du personnel a été affectée à chacune de ces régions. Trois comités consultatifs d'aménagement sur le plan régional ont été institués pour établir les grandes lignes des plans avec lesquels les divers projets d'aménagement local peuvent être raccordés ultérieurement. Il a été accordé à chacune des autorités d'aménagement, en dedans des territoires des Comités régionaux, une représentation directe dans le Comité. La majorité de la population, et une grande partie de l'industrie de l'Ecosse, se trouvent dans le territoire de ces trois comités régionaux.

Des rapports sur la région de la vallée de la Clyde et de la région comprenant le Centre et l'Est de l'Ecosse, viennent d'être achevés, mais la pleine portée des propositions reste encore à être approfondie. La région de la Haute Ecosse, avec sa population clairsemée, présente un problème spécial. Au lieu d'établir un Comité consultatif régional, une commission consultative a été nommée pour enquêter sur les possibilités de développer les ressources de la Haute Ecosse et d'améliorer les conditions générales de l'existence dans cette partie du pays.