

**THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS
SCOTTISH ASSOCIATIONS JOINT COMMITTEE**

OPEN FORUM ON SCOTTISH DEVOLUTION AND I.C.E.

TUESDAY 23 MARCH 1999 - NOTES FROM MEETING

*Following further discussion
at ICE Council + elsewhere
The Scottish proposals were
accepted.*

J McCafferty

1.0 INTRODUCTION - D. McBETH

D. McBeth, Chairman of the East of Scotland Association opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the Open Forum. The form of the evening was defined as follows:

Introduction on Devolution - J. Moore, Scottish Office
Progress on the New Parliament Site - E. Kinsey, Scottish Office
Scottish Associations Joint Proposals - J. McCafferty, Chairman of West of Scotland Association
Open Forum - Chaired by G. Fleming, Chairman of I.C.E. Working Party

2.0 INTRODUCTION ON DEVOLUTION - J. MOORE

J. Moore described the Primary Legislation involved including reference to Reserved Issues and the passing of The Scotland Act. The Election on 6 May 1999 will form a Devolved Scottish Parliament with First Minister, Lord Advocate, Solicitor General and Various Ministers. Full power and functions will come into being on "D-Day" 1 July 1999. The Scottish Parliament will receive a budget as per the Barnett Formula but will also be able to vary taxation by +/-3p/£.

3.0 PROGRESS ON THE NEW PARLIAMENT SITE - E. KINSEY

E. Kinsey described the selection of a Designer and the appointment of a Design Team on 6 July 1998. Work on site is ongoing, consisting of demolition works and archaeological investigation. The proposed programme of works is as follows:
Stage 'D' - April 1999
On site piling - April 1999
Completion - Autumn 2001
The Church of Scotland Assembly Hall will be used as the Debating Chamber in the interim.

4.0 SCOTTISH ASSOCIATIONS JOINT PROPOSALS

J. McCafferty described the proposals submitted by the Joint Committee for a more meaningful and permanent presence for the I.C.E. in Scotland, including the appointment of a Scottish Secretary based at a permanent address. Reference was made to the RICS and RIAS who have already a permanent presence in Scotland.

The East and West Associations met prior to the President's visit in November 1998 and compiled "The Way Ahead" document which defined these proposals, requiring funds from I.C.E. The proposals were discussed with the President and met with a somewhat muted response. However, the Working Party was formed by Head Office and they are here to listen to the views of the membership. In principle the views of the membership have been tested by the return slips for this Forum and can be defined as follows:

Responses	325	4.3% of members
Agree With Proposals	309	95.1% of those responding
Disagree With Proposals	16	4.9% of those responding
Will Attend Forum	103	1.4% of members

Glasgow & West Chairman J McCafferty BSc CEng FICE FStructE FIHT ACI Arb FConsE
East Chairman D. G. McBeth BSc CEng FICE FStructE FIHT
Glasgow & West Honorary Secretary Gavin Gibson, BSc MICE MCIWEM
Babbie Group, 95 Bothwell Street, Glasgow G2 7HX (0141 566 8330) E-Mail address: ice.glasgow.west@dial.pipex.com
East Honorary Secretary Jamie Baxter, BEng CEng MICE
Thorburn Colquhoun, 17 Albany Street, Edinburgh. Eh1 3PY (0131 556 8216) E-Mail address: ice.scotland.east@dial.pipex.com

5.0 DEVOLUTION WORKING PARTY - G. FLEMING

G. Fleming introduced the members of the Devolution Working Party which has been formed "to consider the effects of Devolution on the ICE and propose actions."

Northern Ireland has already had a similar Open Forum and are preparing an outline of the role and responsibilities of the new post(s) along with an estimated budget. This will be circulated to the Working Party by mid April.

Scotland's Open Forum date is 23.03.99 while Wales' is 12.04.99.

Final Devolution Working Party Meeting is scheduled for 04.05.99 to finalise a report to present to The Executive on 18.05.99 and place before Council on 08.06.99.

The result of the Open Forum should go back to the Joint Committee to word a similar document for submission to the Working Party. The Working Party applauded and welcomed Scotland's initial proposal and are very committed and sympathetic to achieving a solution.

6.0 OPEN FORUM

- 6.1 Brian Gill Atrocious that ICE was not considering a local presence
(a) Mott Macdonald in Scotland prior to these proposals.
- 6.1 Professor George Fleming The decision on a presence in Scotland is open for
(b) Chairman of the Working Party discussion
- 6.2 Bob McLellan Has provision been made in the budgets for the proposals,
(a) Angus Council pending the outcome of the work from the Working Party?
- 6.2 Professor George Fleming Debate on financial needs for 1999/2000 has already
(b) Chairman of the Working Party started prior to debate at the Council meeting in June. There are also other demands on funds, including the ongoing refurbishment of Great George Street
- 6.2 Jim McCafferty The budget for a Development Officer has already been
(c) Chairman, Glasgow and West of discussed by the Scottish Joint Committee. A requirement for approximately £70,000 was calculated. Scotland
- 6.2 Professor George Fleming Recommended that a detailed budget requirement,
(d) Chairman of the Working Party including running costs, be identified and submitted for consideration as soon as possible.
- 6.3 Professor Bill Cranston There is going to be real power in Edinburgh and we must
Emeritus Professor of Civil be in a position to create local centres of excellence.
Engineering Often the most effective way to ensure influence is join a
University of Paisley political party. We must also network with other organisations to ensure that our role is effective.
- 6.4 Dr David Coats This is a huge opportunity and we must not see it as a
Retired Member problem. We must realign our thinking. From past experience, government may not be interested in hearing from civil engineers. We should be considering construction as a whole. We need to work to make SCIG more effective in the future. Some have mentioned a role for the Engineering Council, however, we have less in common with marine engineers than we have with builders. There is also a question over what the Development Officer is going to do. At present, ICE doesn't influence well. Scotland is small enough that we can be very effective as a unit. It is important that we have a Development Officer - but what is the role? We need to integrate the activities of those such as Architects and builders. If we have to act as hosts then so be it. Lets do more. We are a major organisation who can head up

- 6.5 Professor Paul Jowitt
Member on Council
construction.
It seems likely that we will get a devolved presence. However, there is likely to be a delay and it is important that we fill that gap. We need to let parliament know who we are. We should use the Institution's website. The Institution needs to devote more resources.
- 6.6 Professor George Fleming
(a) Chairman of the Working Party
How many people are in favour of building closer ties with parliament by creating the post of Scottish Secretary and a permanent address in Scotland? (one against)
- 6.6 (unknown - against)
(b)
Not in favour of the proposal as it stands. It is amateurish in its approach. Why do we not involve the structurals.
- 6.7 Walker Hamilton
immediate past Chairman Glasgow and West of Scotland
The Institution recognises the importance of representation to government. Efforts have been made in the past to encourage members of parliament to attend functions but its very difficult to get them to attend because of their commitments and time spent travelling to and from Westminster. It is important that we have someone who can progress this. At present, there is no one in London who is salaried and does this on our behalf. A Development Officer who is 'on the spot' and able to direct and encourage interest. It is important to encourage interest. Look at the recent budget shortfalls. Our new Chief Executive, Mike Casebourne, has said that Local Associations need to have more responsibility devolved to them.
- 6.8 Professor George Fleming
Chairman of the Working Party
Do you want this changed role? This will require revamping of the organisation. Or are you content with the existing relationship between the Institution and the Scottish Office?
- 6.9 Roderick Macdougall
(a) Glasgow City Council
At the AGMs it was suggested that the two Local Associations in Scotland be combined into one, with a strong devolved branch structure. These proposals are a first step.
- 6.9 Gordon Masterton
(b) Vice Chairman Glasgow and West of Scotland
We are concerned with improving the service to members. It's illogical to argue for devolution and then combining the Local Associations. Present arrangements are voluntary and we are very effective at setting up technical meetings. We are potentially missing a voice in Westminster. There are still some London issues that we need to be concerned with.
- 6.10 Alex Macaulay
Chairman Edinburgh Branch
There is now an opportunity for us to influence MPs. At present it is very difficult for us to influence Westminster MPs. Other Institutions have a presence in Scotland. Of the 325 responses to the proposals of the Scottish Joint Committee some 95% agree. It's a pity that around 7300 members in Scotland didn't respond. Many members feel remote. It's important that the Institution has premises in Scotland.

7.0 CONCLUSION - G. FLEMING

The Working Party will await a formal response. It is apparent that the meeting is very much in favour of the proposals of the Scottish Joint Committee. The Working Party recognise the aspirations of the Scottish, Northern Irish and Welsh groups. There are a number of recommendations although it is not necessary to decide on all of them now. Budget and running costs do need to be decided now. Some 25% of members are international. The Scottish dimension is a local dimension and shouldn't be seen out of context. For significant change, the current structure may have to be devolved. There is a feeling that Scotland is not particularly well served by London but this is something which is repeated at every Local Association. The Institution has to become more of a listening organisation. This is a good opportunity and we should aim high.

Gavin Gibson
Honorary Secretary
Glasgow & West of Scotland

Jamie Baxter
Honorary Secretary
East of Scotland

THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATIONS JOINT COMMITTEE

THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS RESPONSE TO
SCOTTISH DEVOLUTION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE INSTITUTION IN SCOTLAND



**THE INSTITUTION OF
CIVIL ENGINEERS**

**Glasgow and West of
Scotland Association**

OPEN FORUM

TUESDAY 23RD MARCH 1999

6.00 for 6.30pm at THE MERCHANT'S HALL, 22 HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH

The attached paper was prepared by the Scottish Associations Joint Committee and presented to our President during his visit to Scotland last November. Following this, the Institution has set up a Working Party to consider our response to Scottish Devolution. This Working Party is chaired by Prof George Fleming, Senior Vice President.

Prof Fleming along with members of the Working Party will be attending our meeting on 23rd March 1999. This will be a wonderful opportunity to raise the issues and express our points of view.

You are encouraged to come along, to take part in the debate, and contribute to the planning of the future of The Institution of Civil Engineers in Scotland.

*The Devolution Proposals from Scotland presented to
the Forum by JPM Cafferty*

**THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS
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**THE INSTITUTION OF
CIVIL ENGINEERS**

The Way Ahead

The following matters have been agreed by the Scottish Associations Joint Committee:-

1. The Scottish Associations Joint Committee is to meet more often, on a regular basis, to prepare itself to respond jointly to, and interact effectively with, the new Scottish Parliament.
2. The Scottish Associations Joint Committee should be strengthened by the appointment of a Scottish Development Officer, or such other title as is decided, and an Administration Assistant to be based at a permanent address, probably in Edinburgh or Glasgow and preferably with a reception facility and access to a conference room.
3. The Scottish Development Officer needs to be a person of considerable presence, with an in-depth knowledge of the profession and wide contacts in industry, business and parliament. He or she would work closely with, and be directly responsible to, the Scottish Associations Joint Committee and would be expected to make contacts at the highest level on their behalf.
4. The full extent of the duties of The Scottish Development Officer have yet to be defined in depth but will include, among other things, assisting the Scottish Associations Joint Committee to raise the profile of the Institution in Scotland and improve contacts with the media, universities, schools and SCIG.
5. Funds would be required from ICE Great George Street for the appointment of the Scottish Development Officer and Administration Assistant and for the rent of suitable premises.
6. A source of funds already exists at ICE Great George Street for Branch Development Officers and Administration Assistance which has not been tapped to any great extent by the Scottish Associations.
7. The Regional Liaison Officer, who reports directly to ICE Great George Street, will continue to work closely with the Scottish Associations Joint Committee and might usefully share the proposed permanent address and facilities.
8. These issues to be discussed with President Roger Sainsbury during his forthcoming Presidential visit to Scotland with a view to obtaining his support and guidance for this new course of action.

Douglas G McBeth
Chairman
East of Scotland Association

James P McCafferty
Chairman
Glasgow and West of Scotland Association

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SCOTTISH DEVOLUTION AND ICE

Background

23 November 1998

- A devolved Scottish Parliament is to be elected in May 1999.
- The Scottish Parliament will be housed in new Parliament Buildings in Edinburgh.
- Government Departments are to be located throughout Scotland at locations yet to be decided.
- The Scottish Parliament will administer the national budget and have responsibility for, among other matters, infrastructure, the environment, transport, water and sewage services, education and health.
- All of these matters, which are of interest to The Institution and its members, are currently legislated for, and dealt with, at the Westminster Parliament.
- The Institution currently exerts an important influence on the Westminster Parliament through its HQ in Great George Street, London adjacent to Parliament.
- The Scottish Associations Joint Committee are of the view that the ability of The Institution to consult with Parliament and hence influence matters of direct interest to its members will be diminished by Scottish Devolution unless there is established a more meaningful and permanent presence than currently exists in Scotland.
- Some related professional bodies already have long established organisations in Scotland, notably The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland and The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Scotland.
- The Institution of Electrical Engineers has a permanent address in Scotland through its ownership of The Scottish Engineering Centre in Glasgow (currently supported by ICE).
- At a meeting of The Scottish Associations Joint Liaison Committee held on 16 November 1998, it was agreed that The Institution must maintain close contact with, and exert influence upon, the Devolved Scottish Parliament, to preserve the interests and aspirations of the membership and to provide Parliament with the benefit of our considerable expertise in a wide range of matters.
- It was also agreed that the existing structure of ICE would need to evolve to meet the challenge.