

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND

MINUTES OF MEETING 16 DECEMBER 2005

APEX HOTEL, DUNDEE

Present: Liz Burns (Chair)
Peter Burman
Neil Galbraith
Mark Hopton
Martin Hulse
Ian Johnson
Eleanor McAllister
Charles McKean
Clare Meredith
Ross Noble
Andrew Wright
Malcolm Bangor-Jones (Secretary)

In attendance: Sheenagh Adams, Director of Heritage Policy, Historic Scotland
Susan Williamson, Head of Heritage Policy, Historic Scotland

Introductory remarks

1. Apologies were received from Finlay Lockie and also Raymond Young, Chair of Architecture and Design Scotland who had been invited to meet with Council.

Minutes of the meeting of 23 September 2005

2. The minutes of the meeting were approved.

Matters arising

HEACS Budget

HEACS(05)39

3. Council noted the budget paper. It was agreed that, as the £2500 identified for the Economic Significance study would not be spent before 31 March, it would be earmarked for next financial year.

Historic Environment Audit

4. Council noted that the first meeting of the Historic Environment Audit Stakeholders Group would take place on 19 December. It was pointed out that the number of references to the Audit continued to grow.

Local Authority Working Group as a Standing Committee

5. Council noted that the Local Authority Working Group would consider at its next meeting the suggestion that there should be a HEACS Standing Committee on Local Authority involvement in the historic environment.

Communications Group

6. Council discussed the issue of communications, particularly in relation to the publication of its forthcoming reports. It was agreed that Mark Hopton, with Ian Johnston and Eleanor McAlister, would review the matter, with a view to discussing it with the Chair's Group.

Review Meeting 21 November

7. The minutes of the meeting were approved subject to the following amendment: paragraph 17, fifth sentence to read: "Council should not feel obliged to produce a full report on every issue: there might be..."

Matters arising

Impact of reports

8. Council considered the potential impact of its forthcoming reports. It was agreed that the Annual Conference in September should be devoted to an overview of its five reports.

Topics for Council's second term

9. The possibility of adding tourism to the provisional list of topics for Council's second term was suggested. It was noted that the Economic Significance Working Group would be considering the issue.

Meeting with John Graham, Chief Executive of Historic Scotland

10. The Chair reported that she had recently met with John Graham to discuss a range of matters. Mr Graham had provided an update on changes within Historic Scotland, particularly the Inspectorate restructuring, and work in hand on policy development. The political profile of Historic Scotland and the historic environment had been discussed. The Chair had raised issues covering appointments to Council and the possibility of drawing on external advice. The case for additional resources had been made. The relationship between HEACS and Historic Scotland and how contact could best be maintained between the organisations had been considered. It was noted that Historic Scotland had concerns about officials participating in HEACS Working Groups. Council noted that the Chair's Group would meet with Historic Scotland to consider this and other issues on 7 February. The possibility of writing to the Minister on issues raised at the Review Meeting would be considered after that meeting.

11. Council gave further consideration to the time commitment to be expected from Members. It was agreed that Members should be appointed to serve for at least 12 days per year.

Historic Scotland participation at Council meetings

12. Historic Scotland officials expressed concerns at the comments which had been made at the Review meeting about participation by agency staff at Council meetings. Council noted that Historic Scotland would raise these concerns in correspondence with the Chair.

Working Group reports

Legislation Working Group

13. Council noted progress with the draft report on the need to review the legislation.

Local Authorities Working Group

HEACS(05)40

14. Council gave careful consideration to the draft report on the role of local authorities. The Working group would provide a further draft for consideration at the Council meeting in March.

Skills and Materials Working Group

HEACS(05)41

15. Council noted progress with the draft report on craft skills and traditional materials. Council noted the record of the meeting of the Group.

Infrastructure Working Group

16. Council noted progress with commissioning the Tripartite Infrastructure research project involving HEACS, Historic Scotland and BEFS. It had been agreed by the partners that BEFS would manage the project with input from a steering group comprising two representatives from each of the three partners.

Economic Significance Working Group

17. Council noted the report of the Group.

Funding Working Group

18. Council noted that it had been agreed to defer beginning the Funding Working Group's work until the commencement of Council's second term. Membership of the Group would be re-considered at that stage.

Properties in Care Working Group

HEACS(05)42

19. Council gave careful consideration to the draft report on the criteria for taking properties into state care. The Working group would provide a further draft for consideration at the Council meeting in March.

Chair's Group meeting

HEACS(05)43

20. Council noted the record of the Chair's Group meeting.

21. Council agreed, after discussion, that its reports to the Minister might be illustrated where appropriate. The possibility of producing shorter, or more accessible, versions of Council's reports would be considered at a later stage.

22. The Chair reported that she had been invited to join what might become an advisory board for the Glasgow Caledonian University Scottish Centre for Historic Environment Research. She had concluded that would not be appropriate for HEACS to join such a board.

23. Council agreed that the Conference and Public Meeting should, subject to further investigation, be held in Falkirk.

Consultation papers

Cultural Commission Report

HEACS(05)44

24. Council noted the response to the Cultural Commission Report which had been submitted to the Minister on behalf of a range of organisations in the Historic Environment/Heritage sector. The response encapsulated views which had been expressed at a meeting convened by Council in October. Council noted that it had been decided that HEACS should not submit a separate response.

UK ratification of the 1954 Hague Convention

HEACS(05)45

25. Council noted its response to the DCMS consultation on the Hague Convention. Council thanked Neil Galbraith.

Historic Scotland Volunteering Policy

HEACS(05)46

26. Council agreed that it should respond to the consultation on Historic Scotland's Operational Policy for Promoting Volunteering. Members were invited to send comments to Neil Galbraith.

Heritage Lottery Fund Strategic Plan
Government consultation on Lottery Share
Meeting with Heritage Lottery Fund

HEACS(05)47

HEACS(05)48

HEACS(05)53

27. Council agreed that it should respond to the Heritage Lottery Fund's consultation on its future plans and to the Government (DCMS) consultation on National Lottery money for arts and film, sport, and heritage from 2009. Members

were invited to send comments to Andrew Wright. Council noted the record of the meeting with the HLF.

Historic Scotland SHEPS

HEACS(05)49

28. Council welcomed the opportunity for an early sight of the three draft Historic Scotland SHEPs (Scottish Historic Environment Policy Series). It was noted that, when SHEPs 1 and 3 were issued for consultation, each would be accompanied by an explanatory covering letter. It was agreed that Council would consider the documents at the formal consultation stage.

Meetings with other agencies

Historic Scotland Non-Executive Board Members

HEACS(05)52

29. Council noted the record of the meeting. The Non-Executive Board Members had been asked to support the case for movement on the heritage audit. The possibility of future meetings had been discussed. The Non-Executive Board Members had expressed an interest in being included in whatever consultation HEACS might conduct on any of its draft reports.

VisitScotland

HEACS(05)50

30. Council noted the record of the meeting with VisitScotland. The main focus of the meeting had been the forthcoming Tourism Framework for Change. Council agreed that it would be useful to arrange for a presentation from VisitScotland at a future Council meeting.

Tall Buildings

HEACS(05)51

31. Council agreed that the discussion of tall buildings should be held over to its next meeting.

Historic Scotland briefing

32. It was reported that the restructuring of the Historic Scotland Inspectorate was now complete. A booklet would issue in due course.

33. Gordon Barclay had been appointed to head the new branch in Heritage Policy Group dealing with domestic policy. Susan Williamson would head the branch dealing with international policy, sponsorship of HEACS, and voluntary sector issues.

34. The Strategic Environmental Assessment Bill had been enacted and would come into effect in February. SEA would apply to policies, programmes and plans.

A O B

Europa Nostra Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe

35. It was agreed that the document should be circulated to Members.

Council meeting in December 2006

36. It was agreed that the Council meeting in Paisley would take place on 8 December rather than 15 December.

Date of next meeting

37. The next Council meeting would take place on 17 March in Dumfries.

**HEACS
January 2006**