

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND

MINUTES OF MEETING 18 MARCH 2005

THAINSTONE HOUSE HOTEL, INVERURIE

Present: Liz Burns (Chair)
Neil Galbraith
Mark Hopton
Ian Johnson
Finlay Lockie
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

Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Peter Burman

Minutes of the meeting of 17 December 2004

2. The minutes of the meeting were approved subject to two amendments: (para. 9) Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport; and (para. 35) Institute of Conservation.

Matters arising

Historic Scotland Corporate Plan

3. Council noted Historic Scotland's progress in consulting on its draft Corporate Plan. The agency would provide HEACS with the latest draft before the Plan was submitted to Scottish Ministers.

Budget

HEACS(05)1

4. Council noted the budget paper. It was agreed that the full costs of Council, including the Secretariat, should be identified in Council's Annual Report.

CAP Reform

5. Council noted the correspondence with Ross Finnie, Minister for Environment and Rural Development, on CAP Reform. It was reported that a Working Group had

been established following a recent meeting between officials in SEERAD, Historic Scotland, CSA and ARIA. Historic Scotland would keep HEACS informed of further progress. Ian Johnson was thanked for his contribution.

Study Tour

6. Council gave further consideration to the proposed itinerary of the Study Tour which had been discussed by the Chair's Group. It was intended that the tour would depart Glasgow at 8.30am on 16 June and that the Council meeting at Crinan would finish at about 4pm on 18 June.

Meeting with the Minister

7. It was reported that the meeting with Patricia Ferguson, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport had been very positive. The Minister had welcomed the Audit Report, had listened carefully to Council's views, and had been particularly interested in the work of the Legislation Working Group. Neil Galbraith was thanked for his note of the meeting. The Chair would write to the Minister about the issues raised by Council in relation to the responsibility for education provision exercised by local authorities. Council agreed that the Minister should be invited to the December meeting.

Action: Chair

Historic Environment Local Authority Forum

8. Council noted that the Chair and Ian Johnson had attended the first meeting of the Historic Environment Local Authority Forum.

Annual Report 2004-05

9. Council discussed the contents and design of the Annual Report for 2004-05. It was agreed that the Report should not only cover Council's activities but should also include issues which had been considered by Council, including during the Study Tour. The Secretary would produce a draft incorporating contributions from Working Group Chairs for discussion at the next Council meeting. The Secretary would also produce a draft distribution list.

Action: Secretary and Working Group Chairs

Conference and Public Meeting

10. Council noted that the format of the Conference and Public Meeting had been considered by the Chair's Group. The Conference would be based around the theme of the Historic Environment in care. Several speakers had been invited and an approach had been made to the City Council for hospitality.

Working Group reports

Legislation Working Group

HEACS(05)2

11. Council noted the reports of the meetings of the Group. The Group felt that it needed to be aware of proposals in England which relied heavily on the contribution of local authorities. The Group had considered the implications of the Planning Bill for the Historic Environment and had identified a number of issues for further consideration. It was hoped that these could be discussed at a joint seminar to be held with BEFS at the end of May. The Group was very aware of areas of mutual interest with the Local Authority Working Group.

Audit Working Group

12. Council noted that the Audit Working Group would continue to hold a watching brief.

Local Authorities Working Group

HEACS(05)3

13. Council noted the reports of the meetings of the Group which was continuing to gather evidence. It was evident that local authorities were taking a variety of approaches to community planning and it was not clear how community planning would incorporate the Historic Environment. The Group, however, had heard of many community initiatives. It was also considering the human and financial resources available to authorities. The Arup survey of the resources available to local authorities had provided evidence that the planning system was under considerable pressure and that planning departments were having to concentrate on development control.

Materials and Skills Working Group

HEACS(05)4

14. Council noted the reports of the meetings of the Group which was working on a draft report.

Properties in Care Working Group

HEACS(05 & 6)

15. Council considered the draft report of the PIC Working Group. A number of issues were raised during discussion including; whether there should be a national portfolio; national importance; properties under threat or in peril and the process whereby they came to be 'at risk'; the widening of what constituted heritage; and the need to consider the business case and wider public benefits. It was agreed that a further draft should be produced for consideration by Council. It was noted that the preparation of the paper had involved a considerable time commitment on the part of the Chair of the Working Group. The writing of Working Group reports would be considered by the Chair's Group at its next meeting.

Action: Charles McKean, Chair's Group

Infrastructure Working Group

16. Council noted that the meeting with Historic Scotland and BEFS to discuss the possibility of the proposed research work being undertaken for all three bodies was still to be arranged.

Economic Significance Working Group

HEACS(05)7

17. Council noted the report of the Group's meeting.

Funding Working Group

18. Council noted that the proposed meeting involving Historic Scotland, HEACS and the HLF was still to be arranged. A remit for the Working Group would be drafted after the meeting.

Action: Secretary

Committee reports

Chair's Group

HEACS(05)8

19. Council noted the record of the meeting of the Chair's Group. The Chair reported that an approach had been to Historic Scotland for additional Secretariat support. Historic Scotland had not been able to respond positively but would review the position later in the year.

Communications Group

20. It was noted that the Communications Group was intending to draw up a discussion paper for Council on issues relating to communications. It was agreed that Secretary should obtain an update of the number of hits on the HEACS website.

Action: Secretary

Consultation papers

Marine Environment Strategy

21. Council noted the Scottish Executive's statement on the management of the Marine Environment.

Climate Change

22. Council noted that a standard response had been issued to the Scottish Executive consultation on Climatic Change.

Cultural Commission

HEACS(05)9

23. Council noted the report of the meeting with the Cultural Commission. The Chair reported that Council had been invited to a meeting arranged by the Commission to consider built environment issues. The Commission shared an

interest with HEACS in relation to education and also to social capital, and had commissioned a study of the input of the voluntary sector to culture in Scotland. It was noted that the Historic Environment was effectively on the margins of a range of initiatives, including the Cultural Strategy, the Policy on Architecture, and the Cultural Commission. Members were thanked for their contributions to the HEACS response to the Commission's Stakeholder Consultation Phase 2.

Information exchange with Historic Scotland

24. Council was informed of the announcement of revisions to Grants for the Historic Environment. Historic Scotland clarified that the £14.6m mentioned in the news release included the agency's funding for the voluntary sector. There would be an increased allocation for building repair grants of £0.5m for 2005-06. The agency was forecasting an underspend of £0.6m in the current year. The Corporate Plan would contain further financial detail for future years. It was pointed out to Historic Scotland that building construction indices had been rising faster than the rate of inflation.

25. It was reported that three non Executive Directors had been appointed: Marc Ellington, Sheila Terry and David McGibbon, who would chair the agency's Audit Committee. Historic Scotland would be beginning reviews of its support for the voluntary sector and support for ancient monuments soon. HEACS would be kept informed. The policy statement on Carved Stones would be published in April.

A O B

Historic Houses Association Dinner

26. Council had been represented at a recent dinner of the Historic Houses Association.

Date of next meeting

27. The next meeting would take place at the Crinan Hotel in Argyll at the end of the Council's Study Tour 16 to 18 June.

**HEACS
May 2005**