

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND

MINUTES OF MEETING 26 SEPTEMBER 2007

STIRLING HIGHLAND HOTEL, STIRLING

Present: Liz Burns (Chair)
Peter Burman
Ian Johnson
Colin McLean
Eila Macqueen
Colin Martin
Ross Noble
Richard Oram
Evelyn Silber
James Simpson
Andrew Wright
Olwyn Owen (Secretary)
Malcolm Bangor-Jones (Senior Administrator)

Meeting with Architecture & DesignScotland (A+DS)

1. Council met with Raymond Young, Chair of Architecture & DesignScotland, and Sebastian Tombs, the Chief Executive, who gave an overview of the work of A+DS and the priorities which would feature in its forthcoming Corporate Plan. The topics discussed with Council included: the role and status of local authorities and their professional staff; the work A+DS undertook with other agencies including The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment and The Prince's Regeneration Trust; tall buildings; the historical context for new development; and the roles of organisations in the built and natural heritage fields.

Welcome and apologies

2. The Chair welcomed new members to Council. There were apologies from Mark Hopton.

Minutes of the meeting of 23 June

3. The minutes of the meeting were approved.

Matters arising

Meetings with other agencies

4. Council discussed which other agencies it might meet with over the forthcoming months. The matter was remitted for consideration by the Chair's

Group. It was agreed that representatives of SNH and Forest Enterprise Scotland should be invited to the next Council meeting.

Rural issues

5. Council noted that discussions on support for the Historic Environment in the Scottish Rural Development Programme were continuing to take place at a senior level between Historic Scotland and the Rural Directorate of the Scottish Executive.

6. Council noted the response which had been made to the consultation on the Scottish Forestry Strategy Implementation Plan – Environmental Quality Reference Group.

Historic Scotland and RCAHMS

7. Council noted the consideration being given by the Scottish Government to the SNP Manifesto commitment in relation to a possible merger of Historic Scotland and RCAHMS. Council agreed that the matter might be further considered by the Chair's Group.

Scotland's Historic Environment Audit

8. Council noted that HEACS was represented on the Historic Environment Audit Stakeholder Advisory Group (HEASAG) and that Ian Johnson had agreed to attend the next meeting. Council looked forward to the publication of the first Audit Report. It was agreed that the importance of the continuing audit process and of the role of the Steering Group should be emphasised in any response Council might make to the Report.

Annual Conference and Open Meeting

9. Council considered that its Annual Conference, held the previous day, had been very successful. Council thanked the Secretariat for its contribution to the arrangements. It was agreed in principle to hold a conference in 2008. Planning of the conference was remitted to the Chair's Group.

Meeting with the Minister

10. Council noted the record of the meeting with the Minister.

Meeting with Historic Scotland (including discussion of SHEPs)

11. Council noted the record of the meeting with Historic Scotland and the correspondence between Council and Historic Scotland about the draft SHEPs.

[Peter Burman left the meeting]

Current work

Review of Working Group membership

12. Council considered the membership of its four topic Working Groups. It was agreed that Mark Hopton, Colin McLean, and Richard Oram would join the Economic Significance Working Group; Eila Macqueen would become an internal, as opposed to an external, member of the Infrastructure Working Group; Eila Macqueen would also join the Ecclesiastical Heritage Working Group; and Colin Martin and Richard Oram would join the Young Adults Working Group.

Economic significance

13. Ian Johnson introduced a paper analysing the Scoping Study undertaken by the Fraser of Allander Institute on the economic significance of the historic environment and setting out certain recommendations. Council noted that £30,000 had already been set aside for an economic impact study and agreed that:

- HEACS should commission an economic impact study of the historic environment sector;
- a small group of key players should be formed to act as a steering group for the study;
- advice should be sought from Scottish Government economists;
- Historic Scotland should be involved as per the agreed arrangements for commissioning research;
- tender documents for the study should be progressed as a priority;
- Ian Johnson should chair the Economic Significance Working Group; and
- the Working Group should give further consideration to a Contingent Valuation study and report back to Council in due course.

Infrastructure

14. Council noted the progress made by the Infrastructure Working Group.

Ecclesiastical Heritage

15. Council noted the progress made by the Ecclesiastical Heritage Working Group.

Young Adults

16. Council noted the progress made by the Young Adults Working Group.

Consultation papers

Investment Review: Archaeology Funding Programmes

17. Council noted the response made to the Historic Scotland consultation.

Chair's Group

18. Council noted the record of the Chair's Group. Council thanked James Simpson for serving as the ordinary member on the Group. Evelyn Silber agreed to serve as his replacement for the following year.

Study Tour of Caithness

19. Council agreed that it would undertake study tours of Caithness in 2008 and the Lothians in 2009. Council discussed possible arrangements for the tour to Caithness before remitting the matter to the Chair's Group.

Budget paper

20. Council noted the budget paper.

Dates and venues for Council meetings in 2008

21. Council agreed the following dates for 2008:

14 March	Duns, Borders
17 to 21 June	Study Tour of Caithness
18 September	Ayr (conference 17 September)
12 December	Perth

A O B

22. There were no items of other business.

Date of next meeting

23. The next Council meeting would take place on 23 November 2007 in Aberdeen.

**HEACS
October 2007**