

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND

MINUTES OF MEETING 17 SEPTEMBER 2008

HOLIDAY INN HOTEL, EDINBURGH

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

Welcome and apologies

1. The Chair welcomed members. There were no apologies.

HEACS Annual Report 2007-2008

2. The Chair acknowledged the publication of Council's Annual Report which had recently been laid before the Scottish Parliament and thanked contributors.

Minutes of the meeting of 17 June 2008

3. The minutes were approved.

Matters arising

Rural issues

4. Council welcomed the recent Forestry Commission publication, *Scotland's Woodlands and the Historic Environment*.

Scotland's Historic Environment Audit

5. Council noted the correspondence between the Chair and Historic Scotland about the Historic Environment Audit. Concern was expressed about the selection of Category A-listed buildings at risk as a single indicator for the historic environment.

Performance appraisals

6. Council noted that members would receive one final performance appraisal. Secretariat would arrange for members to receive appraisal forms and prepare a programme for individual appraisals with the Chair in the margins of the December and March Council meetings.

HEACS budget 2008/09

7. Council noted that Historic Scotland had indicated that no additional funding could be made available to HEACS during the current financial year due to the expected spend-up on grants and a drop in visitor income.

Meetings with other agencies 2009

8. Council noted the proposals for meeting various other agencies in the spring of 2009. It was agreed that Chair's Group would lead on this, with other members welcome to attend meetings if they wished. It was noted that one aim of the meetings was to obtain wider input for the closing report; meetings should therefore take place in early 2009. It was suggested that HEACS might write to organisations inviting their views; this would be discussed further at the December Council meeting.

Current work

Infrastructure

9. Council considered the draft report on the infrastructure for the historic environment. It was agreed that, subject to various amendments and final editing, the report might be printed and submitted to the Minister.

Audit and Review of Volunteering

10. Council noted progress with the audit and review of volunteering being undertaken for HEACS by Volunteer Development Scotland (VDS). The study would be completed by mid-November and would be a stand-alone product, available through the HEACS and VDS websites. Decisions on other forms of dissemination, such as printing and distribution of hard copies, were deferred to Chair's Group.

Economic Significance

11. Council discussed the final draft report produced by ECOTEC of the Economic Impact of the Historic Environment in Scotland. The report would be finalised before the planned meeting between HEACS and Historic Scotland on 16 October. It was agreed that a draft HEACS covering report for submission to the Minister would be produced for initial consideration by Chair's Group at its meeting on 20 October.

12. Council agreed to discuss the timing of the submission and publication of the report with Historic Scotland at the 16 October meeting, particularly in the light of the

forthcoming launch of a study undertaken for SNH on the economic impact of the natural environment.

Ecclesiastical Heritage

13. Council discussed an outline report produced for the Ecclesiastical Heritage Working Group. It was noted that, while two research reports had been produced for the Group and the process of evidence gathering had been largely completed, the Group had not yet had an opportunity to meet with the Church of Scotland. It was agreed this was a priority and that, if necessary, the Chair would write to the Church of Scotland. A draft report would be produced for the next Council meeting in December.

Young Adults

14. Council discussed the recommendations of a first draft report of the Young Adults Working Group. Applejuice Consultants were undertaking a study to identify and analyse case studies of projects involving young adults which would be completed by 30 November. A further draft would be produced for the next Council meeting in December.

Timetable for completion of reports and research commissions

15. Council noted the provisional timetable for the completion of the four reports and commissioned research. The Chairs of Working Groups were invited to give further consideration to the timetable. The need also to keep in mind the production of Council's closing report was noted.

Communications strategy

16. Council discussed the status and handling of its commissioned reports and studies. It was agreed that, apart from the ECOTEC study, most would not be submitted to the Minister, but would be made available on the HEACS website when the report with which they were associated was submitted to the Minister. No decision was reached on whether the ECOTEC report should be re-formatted and bound in with the HEACS report, or whether the two separate reports should be submitted together. It was noted that VDS wished to publish the study they were undertaking on volunteering on their own website.

Chair's Group

Minutes of the meeting of 22 July 2008

17. Council noted the minutes of the Chair's Group meeting.

Changes in Secretariat

18. Council noted the implications of various changes in the Secretariat, particularly the resignation of Trish Stewart as Administrator.

Closing report 2009

19. Council noted that members were invited to take part in a meeting to discuss the closing report on the morning of 13 December, immediately after the next Council meeting.

Closing Conference 2009 – Edinburgh

20. Council noted the draft minutes of the first meeting of the Conference steering group. These would be circulated to partners.

Budget paper

21. Council noted the budget paper.

A O B

Visit of Historic Monuments Council, Northern Ireland

22. Council noted that the Secretary would be making a presentation to the Historic Monuments Council of Northern Ireland when it visited Scotland at the end of September.

Scottish Lime Centre Trust

23. Council noted correspondence concerning the financial position of the Scottish Lime Centre Trust. It was agreed the Secretary would draft a letter to be sent to the Trust.

Public Services Reform Bill

24. Council noted that a Public Services Reform Bill which would, among other things, formally abolish HEACS, was due to be introduced to Parliament in February 2009. It was understood that it would not come into force until February 2010 at earliest.

Resignation of Mark Adderley, Chief Executive of the NTS

25. Council noted that a letter had been received intimating the resignation of Mark Adderley, the Chief Executive of the National Trust for Scotland.

Natural and cultural heritage

26. James Simpson reported that he had written in a personal capacity to the First Minister and to Mike Russell about the protection of the natural and cultural heritage.

March 2009 meeting

27. Council agreed to hold its meeting in March 2009 in Glasgow rather than at Dumfries House.

Trish Stewart

28. Council thanked Trish Stewart for her contribution to Council's work. Council greatly appreciated her support since its establishment and the extent to which she had made it possible for Council to work effectively.

Date of next meeting

29. The next meeting would take place on 12 December in Perth. A special meeting to consider the closing report would take place on 13 December, also in Perth.

**HEACS
September 2008**