

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT POLICY REVIEW

Andrew Fleming, Director of Policy, Historic Scotland



A Commitment in Historic Scotland's *Corporate Plan 2012-15*



“Carry out a fundamental review of the Scottish Historic Environment Policy to ensure it supports delivery of the Scottish Government’s commitment both to the historic environment and to sustainable growth and provides clarity over our role in key areas”

Fiona Hyslop, MSP

Cabinet Secretary for Culture & External Affairs

“As we embark on this policy review together we need to focus on the outcomes we wish to achieve. We must avoid being too wedded to any particular processes and structures. We need to ensure that we are using all our resources in the most effective way minimising duplication of effort and ensuring best value. We need to think outside the box, to consider all the evidence, and to learn from other countries” ...

...“more than ever it is important that we focus our energies on our common goals so that we can both sustain our creativity and maximise our impact.”

Key findings to date...

- The Historic Environment is a key sector and has achieved a lot for Scotland
- Significant challenges ahead – financial, public expectations, technological and environmental
- There is a need for a strategy guiding and helping to prioritise the actions of the key players both individually and collectively

In this context, we may face sustainability issues

- the regulatory regime,
- maintaining the current complement of our Properties in Care

Objectives

1. To reaffirm a vision for the historic environment which is actively shared and owned with partners and focused on achieving the optimum outcome in terms of economic, social and cultural benefits.
2. Develop a strategy that incorporates the roles and responsibilities of all parties to deliver that vision, covering the designated, non-designated historic environment, Properties in Care and assets owned by public bodies
3. Review the current legislative and policy framework to ensure that it aligns with that goal and does so in a manner which addresses future challenges.
4. Establish an evidence framework which measures collective progress of the strategy against the vision
5. Develop and implement an effective communication and engagement strategy with partners and stakeholders

Next Steps

- Programme Board set up with broad representation
- Phase 2 - 3 work streams established
 - Strategy, roles and governance in the Historic Environment
 - How to regulate and look after the Historic Environment
 - How to promote the Historic Environment
 - Broad sector-wide representation
 - All reporting by end of the year
- High-level conclusions to feed into a policy consultation on proposed legislation
- Depending on the outcome of the consultation and RCAHMS/HS merger, more detailed work to be commissioned

Opportunities for Industrial Heritage

- Historic Scotland has a dedicated Industrial Heritage team
- We are keen that the vision for the Historic Environment is inclusive of all types of heritage and peoples interests
- There are calls for an overarching strategy which gives clarity to all that we do as a sector, and supports coordinated delivery at a national, regional and local level
- We are encouraging all partners to participate in in this process, recognising shared interest and the common purpose
- We are actively engaging in a open way and welcome input