

## PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

22 June 2016

**COLLABORATIVE WORKING TO ENHANCE THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

**Joint Report by Senior Depute Chief Executive, ECS  
(Equality, Community Planning & Public Service Reform) and  
Depute Chief Executive, Environment  
(Sustainability and Entrepreneurial Development)**

This report sets out proposals for collaborative working on the historic environment of Perth and Kinross to protect it and to maximise its economic, social and other benefits. It seeks approval to develop strengthened collaboration proposals with Historic Environment Scotland as a key Community Planning Partner.

**1. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

- 1.1 Report **16/187** to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee set out the drivers for increased collaboration across the whole public service system in Scotland, to fulfil the principles of the Christie Commission and in line with the most recent Audit Scotland overview of local government in March 2016.
- 1.2 The historic environment of Perth and Kinross is a unique asset of local, regional, national and international significance. It comprises over 3000 listed buildings; archeology and sites of historical significance including 4 battlefield sites; museum and archive collections with National Recognition Status; 750 Scheduled Ancient Monuments; 35 conservation areas; 41 historic gardens and key aspects of intangible heritage and culture (for example the folklore and song traditions of travelling people and Gaelic communities in Perth and Kinross). There are also 23 Properties in Care within Perth and Kinross which are looked after by Historic Environment Scotland, including Loch Leven Castle, Stanley Mills, Elcho Castle and Dunkeld Cathedral.
- 1.3 The role of the Council in respect of the historic environment is far reaching and includes:
  - Economic development, including tourism growth through promotion of heritage; physical regeneration, including enhancing the historic built environment; supporting skills and employment in the heritage industry; and securing inward investment which enhances the local heritage tourism offer.
  - Fostering regional collaboration on development of the tourism and cultural offer, including through the emerging Tay Cities Deal. (Report No. XX/XX refers) and European funding through Horizon 2020 SPHeReS<sup>1</sup> proposal as a collaborative project with Historic Environment Scotland partnering with a network of cities in Europe

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<sup>1</sup> The SPHeReS Initiative focuses on culture as a driver of local economic growth by unlocking new capital and revenue sources to develop culture and heritage assets.

- As the statutory planning authority: protection and enhancement of the historic environment particularly in relation to Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.
- Direct funding of heritage provision through commissioned services with Trusts (Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, Culture Perth and Kinross), including management of historic sites
- Providing grants which support protection and enhancement of historic sites
- Education, outreach and interpretation e.g. the Living Communities project which engaged 6,000 children and young people from 2011-2015
- Community engagement and participation – working with community organisations to unlock external funding for local projects which enhance and protect the historic environment, such as the '150 Years on Track' project celebrating the arrival of the railway in Pitlochry, for which Pitlochry in Bloom secured £74,000 in HLF/other grant funding.

1.4 Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is a new national body established in 2015 which brings together the functions of Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission for Ancient Monuments in Scotland (RCHAMS). It is the lead body in delivering the Government's national framework, *Our Place in Time*, which sets a 10 year direction on how the historic environment will be understood (through investigating and recording); protected (through conservation and planning regulation) and valued (through interpretation and education). Within Perth and Kinross its role comprises:

- Surveying/recording/conserving/protecting historic sites in Perth and Kinross and designating buildings, sites and monuments of national importance
- Statutory consultee on applications for proposed works to Listed Buildings
- A formal advisory role to Ministers in relation to the protection, conservation and enhancement of Properties in Care and associated historic collections (such as the Meigle Stones) in Perth and Kinross
- Providing grants for repairs, conservation, archaeology, enhancement of conservation areas, support for community groups involved in managing their local heritage, training/skills development etc.
- Operating Properties in Care as visitor attractions to support local tourism development
- Initiating projects which mitigate the impact of climate change and other environmental challenges on the historic environment
- Education, outreach and interpretation related to HES sites in Perth and Kinross and delivery of wider education services including the SCRAN initiative which makes a range of online resources available to schools/others across Scotland.

- 1.5 The HES role in the planning system has changed from that of Historic Scotland. It still has responsibility for designating listed buildings and sites of national significance but it is now a statutory consultee in relation to listed building consent (LBC) applications. This means the Council as Planning Authority must consult with HES on applications relating to Listed Buildings (for example, Perth Theatre), however, the Council determines the application. HES can object and should the objection remain unresolved, and where the Council is minded to grant consent, the application may be 'called in' by Scottish Ministers. The purpose of this change is to streamline the planning system for historic buildings and make it more transparent. A key issue raised during the consultation process to establish HES was the need for skills transfer to local government which now plays the key determining role in such applications, rather than HES.

## 2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 The Chief Executive and the Head of Public Service Reform, Culture and Community Development, Perth and Kinross Council have had discussions with the Chair and Chief Executive of Historic Environment Scotland about scope for strengthened collaborative working given the key synergies between HES role and that of the Council in protecting and enhancing the historic environment, and the new statutory role of HES in Community Planning. HES has different roles and responsibilities in the local planning system from those of Historic Scotland, and as a public body has similar new duties to that of the Council in respect of community empowerment and furthering community participation in the historic environment. Alongside this, the potential key role of HES in strengthening the cultural tourism offer of Perth and Kinross was also highlighted.

- 2.2 Discussions identified the following areas of potential future collaboration:

- Economic development:
  - Tourism development, through joint marketing of sites and events; collaboration on market intelligence to inform identification of new commercial opportunities and public programmes and national and European funding frameworks.
  - Jobs and skills, with particular focus on development of traditional and craft skills which support the conservation and enhancement of local historic sites. There are links to be explored with our local Apprenticeship programmes and wider Developing Scotland's Young Workforce priorities.
  - Joint resourcing: supporting the achievement of community ambitions for localities with joined-up working between the Council and HES to advise local communities on external funding (including HES and Council funding schemes); planning requirements; local asset transfer; conservation and sustainable management of local sites.

- Collections interpretation and care:
  - The potential to create loan agreements for iconic objects in the care of HES with strong local historic significance: both to enhance the cultural tourism offer of Perth and Kinross and to support HES in its ambition to increase the impact and benefits of its collections across Scotland as a whole.
  - The potential to develop regional storage and collections care facilities for Council and HES historic collections/archives.
  - Curatorial collaboration on research, interpretation and conservation of the local historic environment to support mutual priorities of HES and the Council
  - The role of the new HES conservation 'centre of excellence', The Engine Shed, which opens in mid 2016 in respect of protecting and enhancing the historic environment of Perth and Kinross
  
- Planning and Public realm:
  - The HES role, as a Community Planning partner, in developing new Statements of Ambition for localities, as required by the new national Community Planning Framework, so that the historic environment is protected and enhanced
  - Wider infrastructure and asset planning of historic sites in the care of HES and the Council
  - The role of HES as a Community Planning partner in furthering City Plan and City Heritage Fund ambitions
  
- Community Engagement and Participation:
  - Potential of open data initiatives to engender community engagement/participation in recording, interpreting and enhancing the historic environment, particularly during 2017 which is designated as the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology
  - Potential for local asset transfer of some historic sites under the Community Empowerment Act and the role of the Council and HES in supporting these as appropriate.
  - Joint volunteer initiatives (both the Council and HES have powerful volunteer asset bases who support collections care/interpretation, and site management)
  
- Sustainability Initiatives:
  - Potential for joint working to support local climate change initiatives and other actions which mitigate impact on the historic environment.

- 2.3 Discussions with HES concluded with agreement that these initial areas should be further explored in a workshop session, to identify those which have significant potential in terms of mutual benefits realisation. The next step would be to develop an outline Business Case to support a formal Collaboration Agreement between the Council and HES, in the context of their respective Community Planning roles, setting out defined areas for joint working over the next 2-3 years. It was recognised that a formal approach from the Council to HES in respect of possible loan arrangements for relevant objects in the care of HES would also be required.

### **3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Council:
- i. Notes the discussions to date with Historic Environment Scotland to identify potential areas for future collaboration.
  - ii. Instructs the Senior Depute Chief Executive, ECS (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform) and Depute Chief Executive, Environment (Sustainability, Strategic and Entrepreneurial Development) to progress these discussions as indicated in para 2.3.
  - iii. Instructs the Senior Depute Chief Executive, ECS (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform) and Depute Chief Executive, Environment (Sustainability, Strategic & Entrepreneurial Development) to prepare a formal approach to the Chair of HES for consideration of future loan arrangements relating to relevant objects in the care of HES.
  - iv. Instructs the Senior Depute Chief Executive, ECS (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform) and Depute Chief Executive, Environment (Sustainability, Strategic & Entrepreneurial Development) to bring a progress report to Council in October 2017

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#### **Approved**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Date</b>
John Fyffe	Senior Depute Chief Executive, ECS (Equality, Community Planning & Public Service Reform)	8 June 2016
Jim Valentine	Depute Chief Executive, Environment (Sustainability, Strategic and Entrepreneurial Development)	8 June 2016

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes / None</b>
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	<b>Yes</b>
Corporate Plan	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	<b>Yes</b>
Workforce	<b>Yes</b>
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	<b>None</b>
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	<b>None</b>
Strategic Environmental Assessment	<b>None</b>
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	<b>None</b>
Legal and Governance	<b>None</b>
Risk	<b>None</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	<b>Yes</b>
External	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	<b>No</b>

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 This report relates to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement in terms of the following priorities:

- Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
- Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

#### Corporate Plan

- 1.2 This report relates to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities:

- Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

## **2. Resource Implications**

### Financial

- 2.1 There are no financial implications relating to this report. Financial implications arising from specific collaboration proposals, including benefits realisation from joint resourcing, will be provided in the progress report to Council in October 2017.

### Workforce

- 2.2 There are no workforce implications arising from this report.

### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 There are no asset management issues arising from this report.

## **3. Assessments**

- 3.1 The proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

- (i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.
- 3.3 No further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

### Sustainability

- 3.4 None.

### Legal and Governance

- 3.5 There are no legal and governance implications to this report.

### Risk

- 3.6. There are no immediate issues or risks arising from this report.



#### **4. Consultation**

##### Internal

4.1 The following have been consulted in the preparation of this report:

- Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council
- Head of Planning and Development
- Head of Property Services

##### External

4.2 The following have been consulted in the preparation of this report:

- Chair and Interim Chief Executive, Historic Environment Scotland

#### **5. Communication**

5.1 A Communications Plan will be prepared to support the implementation of any Collaboration Agreement at the appropriate time.

#### **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

#### **3. APPENDICES**

None.

