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## **RESPONSE TO HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND'S DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN CONSULTATION**

**Report by Executive Director**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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**6 NOVEMBER 2018**

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### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this Report is to agree a formal Scottish Borders Council response to Historic Environment Scotland's (HES) Draft Corporate Plan, published on 31 August 2018.
- 1.2 The Consultation proposes a new Corporate Plan for HES, to run from 2019-2022. The Council has a significant role in preserving the historic environment in the Scottish Borders and promoting economic prosperity. HES proposes five outcomes, in relation to the social, environmental, economic, cultural, and organisation facets of its work. The Consultation is appended to this report as **Appendix A**.
- 1.3 A Scottish Borders Council response has been prepared and is appended to this Report as **Appendix B**.

### **2 STATUS OF REPORT**

The Consultation ended on 2 November 2018. Through agreement with HES, a copy of the draft response attached as Appendix A was lodged with the understanding that a finalised version would be submitted, subject to Member consideration, on or immediately after the Executive Committee meeting on 6 November 2018.

### **3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 I recommend that the Executive Committee:**
  - a) approves the draft Consultation Response appended to this Report as Appendix B.**

## 4 SUBJECT MATTER

- 4.1 Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is a charity and public body that is charged with protecting Scotland's historic environment. As part of this work, HES looks after 300 sites of natural importance, and is the largest operator of paid visitor attractions in Scotland. Additionally, HES works in other areas such as research, in addressing the impact of climate change on the historic environment, managing designations and consents, providing funding to local communities to repair and revitalise their historic environment, and finally providing advice and guidance.
- 4.2 The Draft Corporate plan sets out HES' vision for the Historic Environment, which is:- *"The historic environment is cherished, understood, shared and enjoyed with pride, by everyone"*.
- 4.3 Additionally, HES notes five outcomes which it is looking to achieve through its new Corporate Plan, these are:
- The historic environment makes a real difference to more people's lives (SOCIAL)
  - The historic environment is looked after, protected and managed for generations to come (ENVIRONMENTAL)
  - The historic environment makes a broader contribution to the economy of Scotland and its people (ECONOMIC)
  - The historic environment encourages approaches that are more inclusive and diverse and inspire creativity (CULTURAL)
  - The historic environment is cared for and championed by a high-performing organisation (ORGANISATIONAL)
- 4.4 The consultation has sought views on the vision and the five outcomes. Additionally further comments are sought on HES performance and equalities aspects of the document.
- 4.5 The Council's draft response considered a number of key points.
- That greater consideration needs to be given by HES to the vital role that Local Authorities play in protecting and preserving the historic environment.
  - More detail is required on how HES will engage with local actors (including communities) to deliver on key outcomes.
  - The need to take a broader perspective on the potential of local assets and the potential for partnership working.
  - That the Scottish Borders has significant untapped potential in its historically significant assets which can be further utilised to promote the Borders economically, particularly in light of the forthcoming South of Scotland Enterprise Agency.
  - The need to recognise the link between the historic environment and the natural environment.
  - That Regional or Sub-Regional Action Plans, which articulate the delivery of the new Corporate Plan in different areas, would be welcomed.

- 4.6 With the Consultation scheduled to end on 2 November 2018, and the Executive Committee meeting not due to take place until 6 November 2018, an extension of the deadline for the consultation has been agreed with HES. Pursuant to that agreement a draft response identical to that attached as Appendix B was lodged on the Consultation website on 2 November 2018, subject to Council approval.

## **5 IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Financial**

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this consultation.

### **5.2 Risk and Mitigations**

The risks associated with this Report relate to the decisions Historic Environment Scotland takes following conclusion of the present consultation exercise. By submitting a response, which considers and responds to the potential implications of Consultation proposals for Councils generally, and Scottish Borders Council specifically, the Council is taking action to mitigate those risks.

### **5.3 Equalities**

No equality impact assessment (EIA) has been undertaken in this case on the basis that the Report relates to proposals from Historic Environment Scotland, not the Council.

### **5.4 Acting Sustainably**

No direct economic, social or environmental effects directly flow from this report, but should proposals contained within the Consultation be enacted by Historic Environment Scotland, they would be expected to have a potential economic, social or environmental impact.

### **5.5 Carbon Management**

There is no direct carbon management impact as a result of this report. It is not clear what, if any, impacts on carbon management the proposals within the Consultation would have should they be enacted.

### **5.6 Rural Proofing**

The Council's Consultation Response actively seeks to promote greater utilisation of the historic assets of our rural areas. Doing so would help to strengthen the sustainability of our rural areas.

### **5.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

This Report has no implications for the Scheme of Administration nor the Scheme of Delegation.

**6 CONSULTATION**

6.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR, the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and comments received have been incorporated into the report.

**Approved by**

**Rob Dickson**  
**Executive Director**

**Signature .....**

**Author(s)**

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Michael Cook	Corporate Policy Advisor

**Background Papers:**

**Previous Minute Reference:** N/A

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