

HISTORIC SCOTLAND BOARD MEETING

Minutes of Meeting

Monday 27th April 2009, 12.30- 15.30

Longmore House

Those Present:

John Graham	Chief Executive
Lucy Blackburn	Director of Policy
Peter Bromley	Director of PiC
Pat Connor	Director of Media and Communications
Malcolm Cooper	Chief Inspector
Marc Ellington	Non-Executive Director
John Lennon	Non-Executive Director
David McGibbon	Non-Executive Director
David Mitchell	Director of TCG
Brian O'Neil	Director of HR
Laura Petrie	Director of Finance
Ann Marie Stannard	Non-Executive Director
Bob Stewart	Non-Executive Director
Raymond Young	Non-Executive Director

In Attendance:

Alexandra Devoy	HSB Secretary
Chris McGregor and Doug Pritchard	Joint working on Laser Scanning (item 4)
Martin Fairley	Head of Grants (item 13)
Gordon Barclay	Head of Policy (item 14)

1. Apologies

1.1 There were no apologies.

4. TCG/ GSA Presentation on Laser Scanning and Digital Visualisation

4.1 The Board received a presentation given by Chris McGregor and Doug Pritchard. It described the joint working between HS and GSA on the development of laser scanning and digital visualisation.

4.2 It was noted by the Board that this programme had many uses in the heritage environment:

- it could develop a digital library of buildings at risk;
- it could be useful for looking at movement and evolution of buildings and managing problems before they develop;
- it allows user to visualise the impact of potential change to buildings and their setting

4.3 DSM told the Board that the Minister had noted significant interest in this and had committed the Agency to scan a selection of Scotland's WHSs and several sites overseas.

Action 1: DSM will report back to the Board with agreed list of sites to be scanned.

2. Minutes of Previous meeting

2.1 JG reported on Action 4.6, and advised that the Minister was content with the steps HS planned to take to live within its budget for 2009-10.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 There were no matters arising.

5. Finance Report

5.1 As this was the first month of the new financial year there was no finance report.

6. KPTs Quarter 4 Report: January to March

6.1 LAP introduced the KPT report to the Board. She asked the Board to note that the Agency was performing well on efficiency savings and might after all meet the target for the year. MC asked the Board to note that the Inspectorate had done well in meeting the new target for planning applications, in addition to its other targets. All agreed. RY asked whether these positive planning targets should be brought to the attention of John Swinney, MC thought this would be possible.

6.2 DM noted that the delivery of the SHEPs target was also a significant achievement, as was the performance of PIC in quality of service.

6.3 JG reported that KPTs for 2009-10 could include delivery of the Action Plan. It was for Leslie Evans to put proposals to the Minister.

7. Risk Register: Annual Review

7.1 LAP introduced the Risk Register report to the Board. She updated the written report with a comment about the Agency's planning for a response to pandemic flu. The Agency would be largely guided by the Health Department in any action it took.

7.2 LAP asked the Board to note that the PiC income position remained at 'extreme' because of the economic climate and that this risk would be re-visited in time for the next Audit Committee meeting in late June.

8. Inspectorate Highlight Report

8.1 MC introduced the Highlight Report to the Board. He asked the meeting to note that the Prestonpans building had been demolished and the site was being developed by Lidl into affordable housing. He said that the SPSO might yet become involved. Information about HS's position was available on the website.

8.2 AMS enquired whether the rise of PiC consents had been problematic. MC replied that the surge had been managed through working with PB, they ensured that the consents procedures were transparent and that proposals were handled in exactly the same manner as those from external applicants.

8.3 BS asked whether e-planning had proved successful? MC replied that the pilots were now complete and had been successful and that equipment had been rolled out to staff.

9. Grants: Getting to 2013

9.1 LB introduced the grants report to the Board and described the activities recorded there. She noted that the change in the economic environment had not yet had much of an impact on existing cases, but that it might affect the number of projects that apply for grant. She highlighted a commitment to review the impact of changes made to Building Repair Grant Scheme in 2005.

9.2 The Board noted that the Agency grant system was a good facilitation tool for building relationships with the public, and care needed to be taken on changing the system. The Board also noted, however, that grants represented a significant element of the agency's spend and, in current circumstances, the pattern of spending had needed to be kept under regular scrutiny.

Action 2: LB will report back to the Board in October.

10. HEACS Reports: Infrastructure and Economic Impact

10.1 LB introduced the Board to the Economic Impact Report. The report would be published in mid-May. The Infrastructure Report had been the subject of an initial discussion with the Minister. She advised that so far the Minister had no particular preference for a way forward but was willing to seek views. LB advised that she would be chairing a Chatham House rules meeting with sector bodies on 30 April and that the findings from this would inform the further discussion with the Minister.

10.2 RY thought BEFS did not have the campaigning and lobbying experience that a group in this position would need. ME added that a good example of collective lobbying came from the environment sector and that those active in England get good financial support from the private sector.

10.3 AMS suggested that an intermediary body could seek funding from the tourism and construction industries. PB noted that the heritage sector was a very small part of the tourism and construction industry and LB thought it unlikely that significant funding could be drawn in from these sources.

10.4 JL noted that the economic impact report brought out that the heritage sector was a large employer. He asked whether the Minister had responded to the report. LB replied that he had yet to be briefed and would be respond when the report was formally published.

10.5 The Board considered HEACS' comments on the implications of the Scottish Compact and agreed with the analysis that the Agency had a role in funding organisations which may at times challenge government policy. LB noted that HEACS had recommended a review of HS's relationship with the voluntary sector.

10.6 LB advised the Board that HEACS would not be kept active after May 2009 pending the abolition legislation successfully completing its parliamentary passage in summer 2010.

Action 3: LB to send a copy of the conference programme to the NEDs and arrange places for those who noted interest.

11. Current Issues/AOB

11.1 LB noted that discussions were pending with DCMS on the World Heritage Review, on which we had yet to advise Ministers.

Action 4: LB to update the Board at the June Board meeting.

11.2 JG confirmed that the next meeting on 24-25 June would be held in Argyll and Bute.

12. Discussion with the Minister

12.1 JG gave a presentation about the action the Board had agreed the Agency should take to respond to the points made in the discussion with the minister at the February meeting.

12.2 The Minister was encouraged by the proposed action plan, and after some discussion asked for the opportunity to consider it further.

**Board Secretariat
30 April 2009**