

Historic Scotland Board

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Purpose

1. To report results for:
 - key performance targets 2007-08;
 - continuous improvement programme 2005-08; and
 - operational targets and other important measures set out in the corporate plan 2005-08 just ended.

Background

2. The statutory duty of securing best value requires continuous improvement in the performance of the Agency. This is set out more fully in our new Framework Document. Continuous improvement also runs through the new corporate plan (on which we currently await Ministerial approval) and is reflected by the range of reviews and other measures set out in the efficiency programme discussed at the April Board meeting.

Key Performance Targets

3. Scottish Government Internal Audit has confirmed that for 2007-08 Historic Scotland met or exceeded its 10 Key Performance Targets. This was subject to two qualifying comments – final confirmation on efficiency savings awaits supporting information and the earned income target is covered separately by Audit Scotland certification via the annual accounts. The meeting of the HS Audit Committee on 16 June will provide confirmation on these two points.

Continuous Improvement Programme (CIP)

4. As requested by the Board, we have moved to exception reporting for the CIP and Operational Targets and Other Important Measures. We have made good progress with projects in the CIP. Almost all of the projects are green. The two exceptions are:

- Complaints – this project has been re-programmed. It is now under way and due for completion by 31 August 2008.
- We have not met our target for time-releasing savings of £1 million 2005-08. Initiatives such as our new image management system, revised stocktaking procedures and our new annual staff reporting systems have delivered around half of this amount. Two factors have contributed to this – the rules against which savings score have not been clear and the basis on which the original target was set meant it was no more than a ‘guesstimate’. We are taking a robust approach with the Scottish Government in relation to efficiency definitions from the outset under the new efficiency agenda for 2008-11.

Operational Targets and Other Important Measures

5. There is little change from earlier updates to the Board. The reds cover:
 - Information on listed building consent applications for total demolition referred to Scottish Ministers (as previously reported, the target could not be met as the information was not available);
 - Information on conservation area consent applications for demolition referred to Scottish Ministers (as above); and
 - Exploring the possibility of establishing academic chairs in Scottish Conservation – not progressed.
6. The ambers cover:
 - Historic land use assessment – 68% coverage against target of 75%;
 - Completion of the national interpretation strategy by 31 March 2008. Work is now underway following the appointment of Head of the Understanding and Access Unit; and
 - Shortfall of one craft skills fellowship – now due to commence June 2008.

Conclusion

7. The Board is invited to note the above report. Looking to the future, the Board will also wish to note that:
 - We will continue to report quarterly on KPT progress;
 - The CIP 2005-08 will be wound up and any live projects will be captured under the new Efficiency Programme (effectively the list of projects/tasks which now underlie the new 2% Efficiency KPT/Efficient Government target). We anticipate quarterly reporting here also; and
 - ‘Business Improvement and Operational Targets’ in the new Corporate Plan replace Operational Targets and Other Important Measures. These lend themselves to annual rather than 6-monthly reporting.
8. I am happy to answer any questions directors may have.

LAURA PETRIE
Director of Finance
June 2008