

## **HISTORIC SCOTLAND BOARD**

### **HISTORIC SCOTLAND'S CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVITIES RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

#### **Purpose**

1. To provide the Historic Scotland Board (HSB) with an update on Agency climate change activities and progress being made in joining them up.

#### **Decisions/Actions required of Historic Scotland Board**

2. The Board is invited to note the recent developments in climate change activities and comment on the proposals for an action plan to join up activities.

#### **Key information the Board will need to support its decisions/action**

3. An analysis of HS climate change activities was presented in the Board paper (HSB 23/08) of 23 June 2008. Two areas were identified as being underdeveloped: communications and publications and corporate/organisational issues. It was agreed that HS should consider how to develop these activities and also consider how to join up all activities across the Agency. This paper provides an overview of all activities with specific focus on organisational/corporate and communications issues. It also provides suggestions for how to join up activities to develop a more strategic approach.
4. The Agency needs to consider how it will develop its climate change strategy in light of the Scottish Climate Change Bill's target of a reduction in 80% carbon dioxide emissions. The Bill is scheduled to be presented to Parliament this month. The Agency needs to consider how it will measure its direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and also its carbon footprint (the indirect emissions due to consumption of CO<sub>2</sub>).
5. The Agency needs to consider how it will work strategically with other organisations such as Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and English Heritage. This will help us realise our green ambitions; influence others and enable us to accommodate the wider policy context. It will ensure that we are holistic in our thinking and processes.
6. HS is starting to look at adaptation to climate change and has an obvious concern about the effects of sea level rise and coastal erosion on coastal archaeology. Working with other agencies such as SNH and SEPA may be an effective way of strategically developing our approach to adaptation issues.

## **Joining up Agency climate change activity**

7. The following activities have been arranged to gather views from across the Agency and to bring staff together to consider how activities could be joined up:

- Internal talk on HS climate change activities on 12 November 2008
- Staff consultation day on climate change activities planned December 2008 and similar consultation exercise at Stirling and Fort George in 2009
- Agency climate change working group to be set up November 2008
- Development of climate change pages for the HS website

### Other Agencies' Climate Change Action Plans

8. Policy Group has met with policy colleagues in SNH, SEPA and FCS to review the content of the Agencies' respective climate change plans, to identify any areas of potential conflict, scope for synergy, cooperation and joint working. Our intention in attending this meeting was to determine how and if HS's activities could be integrated into this network. HS will consider if it should create an action plan along the lines of other Agencies plans. It was agreed that the Agencies should aim for a joint statement which brought together four action plans – or three action plans plus one to come, given others are much further advanced - depending on whether HS decided to develop an action plan. This statement could include a joint position statement about how all agencies would help address climate change, and express the unique role which each agency would discharge within that. It would act as a preface to each Action Plan.

## **Influencing and contributing to Scottish Government Policy**

### Climate Change Delivery Group

9. The Agency is now represented at the Scottish Government's Climate Change Delivery Group, the main forum in which a strategic overview is taken by senior officials of climate change activity across the SG.

### Scottish Climate Change Bill: consultation paper: Proposals for improving the energy performance of non-domestic buildings

10. Historic Scotland has a dedicated section in this consultation paper on the assessment of energy efficiency of historic and traditional buildings. Historic and traditional have to play their part in reducing emissions. This paper sets out the important issues for the historic built environment and energy efficiency and considers whether traditional buildings require a different energy and carbon assessment process to take into account issues such as the historic character of the building and the embodied energy of existing materials and any replacement materials.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/08/15155233>

### Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Proposals consultation paper

11. A case study of Skara Brae features in this paper detailing the threats from climate change and the vulnerability of archaeology to the changing climate. Examples of some of our technical research also feature.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/07/15093312>

## **HS Policy and Practice**

### Reducing Emissions Project

12. A *Reducing Emissions* project has commenced to establish the Agency's carbon footprint and thereafter set targets. A regular report will be produced from this work which will be based on a baseline 2007/08 carbon footprint. This project has the potential to deliver efficiency savings as a by-product, but at the same time it is likely that there will be costs involved. As a starting point information is to be gathered from the following sites; Longmore House, Edinburgh Castle, Stirling castle and Urquhart Castle. The project also includes assessing HS's travel, recycling, procurement and communications.

### Green Procurement

13. HS follows the Scottish Government's Procurement policies to take account of environmental issues in its procurement of goods, works and services including for example:

- Where environmentally preferable goods and services are viable on cost and quality grounds and are both affordable and readily available, they will usually be specified to the exclusion of others;
- Whole life costs will be taken into account in the award of contracts;
- Where it is practical and economically viable to do so, the Scottish Government intends to specify the use of renewable or recycled materials in its contracts.

### Properties

14. HS's participation in Green Tourism is ongoing and our properties will be re-assessed next year. The Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS) assessment criteria is changing to become more stringent so HS is working to identify ways in which we can meet the revised standards and also working closely with other GTBS people.

15. Conservation and Maintenance are ready to advertise and appoint a Mechanical and Electrical Engineer who will manage a programme of energy efficiency across the estate and report on reduced emissions.

16. Work has started on revised Statements of Environmental Significance for the sites. These update information on the sites and will inform management decisions to ensure protection of natural heritage and enhance biodiversity across our estate where this is possible.

17. Risk Assessments and Disaster Plans are being produced and reviewed on an ongoing basis. Interim repairs to the existing seawall are about to start at Skara Brae. A meeting with

stakeholders to discuss the longer term, and larger scale, coastal defences is to take place on 17 October.

18. There is ongoing participation on the Sustainable Tourism Partnership, and input into the Sustainable Urban Tourism Strategy for Edinburgh Tourism Action Group (through Barbara Smith's involvement with ETAG).

#### SEA Climate Change Guidance Project

19. HS is to join a steering group led by SEPA which seeks to develop SEA Guidance on Climate Change for SEA Practitioners. SEA partners (SNH, Historic Scotland, Scottish Government and SEA practitioners) will work together to produce guidance to those undertaking SEA on considering climate change impacts (mitigation and adaptation), suggest where quantification and qualification may be applied and provide advice on how to go about this.

#### HS Research

20. The results of recent research by HS Technical Research Group into energy efficiency issues for traditional buildings is to be presented at a one day seminar titled Combating Climate Change at the Hub, Edinburgh on 26 November 2008. Recent research findings and work in progress will be presented such as the work on windows and walls. All the external speakers are current HS research partners.

21. Some of the research outputs will be distilled down into an INFORM guide on Energy Efficiency for Traditional Buildings. This will also be presented at the seminar in the Hub as well as being made available on the HS website.

22. Technical research is progressing on modelling of traditional building energy performance and raising data quality here, and in providing baseline data for embodied energy and embodied carbon

#### HSI Regulatory work/casework

23. A pilot scheme running in the last quarter of 2008 removes the duty on three local authorities to notify Ministers of certain types of Listed Building Consent application. Self-reporting to HS by the local authorities of these applications, and their monitoring by HS Inspectors, enables HS to measure pressures for micro-renewable projects, changes to windows etc while achieving the main objective of reducing the time taken by Planning Authorities to issue consents that conform to guidelines. This may be extrapolated across Scotland with some weighting for urban and central belt bias arising from the fact that the two largest cities are included in the pilot.

24. As part of the process of replacing the Memorandum of Guidance, HS is preparing a series of leaflets on topics such as windows and microrenewables to inform owners of listed buildings.

Historic Building Grants

25. HS has recently received bids from local authorities under the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) round 3 which had a closing date of 30 September 2008. HS will work with the successful local authorities on issues such as sustainability and best practice. In addition, HS is considering specific guidance on sustainability for other relevant grant schemes.

Archaeology Grants/Coastal Erosion

26. The most significant update since last report is that, with the SCAPE Trust, HS has now developed the promised prioritisation model for known sites at risk. HS has sent out the preliminary results to local authority archaeologists and will be debating the merits and practical application of the model with them in mid-November. The intention is to move from excavating targets of opportunity (essentially sites which catch the interest of someone who then advocates action) to excavating targets which have been prioritised by a reasonably objective process. Limitations on funds and issues of access mean that while we may achieve a semi-objective *shortlist* of candidates for excavation, the *final selection* will factor in matters such as local community support and logistical considerations.

27. Since last report, there has been positive newspaper coverage of various coastal excavations, notably post-medieval salt pans at Brora and later prehistoric settlement on North Uist, both dug with local volunteer groups. Research into sea-level change in Orkney continues, in close collaboration with considering the prehistory and research agenda for the World Heritage Site. We have also taken our Minister to see the situation at Wemyss Caves, Fife, where caves containing Pictish and other carvings, as well as archaeological deposits, are at risk from continuing erosion.

Protocols for the Conservation of the Historic Environment by government bodies in Scotland Review of the Government

28. The current draft of the Protocol currently undergoing revision now includes climate change guidance. This is work in progress and agreement has yet to be reached on whether this is appropriate and what the wording should be. The completed document will be included into the revised SHEP although not until early 2009.

Publications/Communications

29. HS has prepared interim climate change pages for its website which went live on [date – if live by date Board paper issues] and intends to prepare a project brief for further development on the web of either the existing website or a dedicated website. The current climate change pages include an introduction to the main issues for the Agency and links to further advice.

30. A number of documents dealing with energy efficiency issues (the INFORM guide and research on traditional windows) are to be published in hard copy and on the web and launched at the Energy Efficiency Seminar at the Hub.

**Conclusions**

31. The Board is invited to note and comment on recent developments in climate change activities in the Agency and to give their views on what the Agency is currently doing to join up activities within the Agency and with external colleagues.

**Policy Group  
October 2008**