

**Jim MacDonald**  
***Deputy Chief Inspector***

Longmore House  
Salisbury Place  
Edinburgh  
EH9 1SH

To: All Local Authorities

Direct Line: 0131 668 8582  
Direct Fax: 0131 668 8699  
Switchboard: 0131 668 8600  
[jim.macdonald@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jim.macdonald@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

28 October 2008

**A Joint Working Agreement between Historic Scotland and Planning Authorities in Relation to Statutory Casework and Consultation**

I am pleased to enclose a draft of the proposed Joint Working Agreement for your comment. The draft has been prepared in discussion with Heads of Planning and other representatives from various local authorities. It is intended to set out how Historic Scotland can work with local authorities to manage Scotland's historic environment.

The draft addresses three main themes – designations, development planning and development management and explains who is responsible for what and how local authorities and Historic Scotland should work together on each theme. In addition, the draft sets out how more effective relationships can be built and maintained through strategic liaison.

Whilst we look forward to receiving your comments on any aspect of the document and the issues it addresses, we are particularly interested in your views on the questions attached to this letter.

You have until 28 January 2009 to respond but, in the meantime, if you have any queries please contact Jim MacDonald (0131-668-8582) or Victoria Murray (0131-668-8931) at Historic Scotland.

Yours sincerely



**Jim MacDonald**  
Deputy Chief Inspector

## **Responding to this consultation**

We are inviting responses by email to this consultation by **28 January 2008**. Please email your response to:

[Kathy@colsa.gov.uk](mailto:Kathy@colsa.gov.uk)

## **Handling your response**

You should be aware that Historic Scotland, as an agency of the Scottish Government, is subject to the provision of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. The agency would therefore have to consider any request made to them under this Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

## **Next Steps**

Once you have provided COSLA with your comments they will forward these to Historic Scotland who will review these before finalising the Joint Working Agreement. Where comments raise significant issues Historic Scotland will seek to resolve these through discussion with individual authorities or groups of authorities as appropriate. Where comments relate to matters of detail, fact or procedure they will amend the draft where appropriate. Once the Joint Working Agreement is finalised your authority will be invited to sign it.

## QUESTIONS

### 1. General

Do you consider that the Joint Working Agreement will be useful? Please explain why.

### 2. Paragraph 8

Are there any other areas besides those listed where Historic Scotland works with your local authority?

### 3. Paragraph 19

How effective are the current development plan consultation arrangements between Historic Scotland and your local authority? Can you suggest any improvements?

### 4. Paragraph 30

Do you think Historic Scotland and local authorities should work together more closely to protect World Heritage Sites? If so how would you suggest we do this?

### 5. Paragraph 32

How should Historic Scotland help resolve issues where they have objected?

### 6. Paragraphs 25-37

Do you think the current notification process could be improved? If so, how?

### 7. Paragraph 42

Are there any other ways Historic Scotland and local authorities liaise at a strategic level? If not, should there be?

### 8. Paragraph 43

Do you think your local authority has the necessary expertise and policies to deal with development proposals relating to the historic environment without reference to Historic Scotland? If so would you be interested in this should it be implemented?

### 9. Appendix 1

Is the list of information required for consultations with Historic Scotland on proposals affecting the historic environment appropriate?

### 10. Appendix 4

Do you agree with the definition of specialist conservation advice provided in Annex 4? If not can you suggest how it should be changed?

### 11. Appendix 5



Which issues  
Historic  
should remain involved with and why?

do you believe  
Scotland



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