

**HISTORIC SCOTLAND'S INVESTMENT
IN THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

ANALYSIS REPORT

November 2006

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Historic Scotland would like to thank all those who responded to this consultation document and also the Built Environment Forum (BEFS) for organising a workshop about the consultation.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The review of investment in the voluntary sector arose from an commitment given by the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport in 2005 to review Historic Scotland's support for the voluntary sector. The investment review invited comments on the role of the voluntary sector in the Historic Environment, Historic Scotland's investment objectives and how Historic Scotland delivers that investment. It also posed a number of questions about the role of building preservation trusts.

1.2 The consultation document was published on 3 July 2006 and responses were invited by 25 September 2006.

1.3 Approximately 100 copies of the consultation document were sent to a wide variety of consultees. The consultation document was also available on the Historic Scotland website. A total of 23 responses were received. 20 from the voluntary sector: 2 came public bodies and 1 from a professional firm. A list of the respondents is at Annex A. In all cases the comments formed the official response of the body. One set of responses was identical but is being treated as a separate response. During the consultation period Historic Scotland ran a workshop with the Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS) The workshop was attended by 18 individuals and representatives of organisations with an interest in the voluntary sector. Historic Scotland received a report on the workshop and whilst its findings are not included in this analysis, they will inform the work on the outcome of the review.

RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION

RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS

2.1 The consultation document asked five specific questions. Not all respondents answered all of the questions. Most of the questions could have been answered by a straight “yes” or “no” but many respondents either set out their reasons for their view and /or qualified it in some way. As a result, there are very few unqualified “yes” or “no” responses on which to base a statistical analysis. Any statistics, therefore, should be treated with caution.

Question 1: Are there other roles played by the voluntary sector that have not been identified here but which are significant in the protection and conservation of the historic environment?

2.2 21 consultees (all but 2) answered this question. All agreed that the roles identified were appropriate but considered that there were additional roles. A number of consultees suggested that the role of building preservation trusts should be included as regenerators and educators. The role of educating the public also featured in a number of responses.

Question 2: Are these objectives for Historic Scotland’s investment in the voluntary sector appropriate?

2.3 This question related to the list of objectives of Historic Scotland set out in the framework document and the Corporate Plan. 20 consultees answered this question, most agreeing. A number wondered whether the objectives should not be weighted with primary emphasis on the caring, protection and enhancement of the historic environment.

Question 3: What are your views on providing funding on a FCR basis and making offers covering a maximum period of 3 years?

2.4 20 consultees answered this question. All agreed with the principle of FCR but wanted further information and guidance. Some consultees had concerns that the switch to FCR would mean that some activities currently supported would no longer receive funding. Building preservation trusts were concerned that FCR would limit project support from Historic Scotland to building repair projects. The extension of grant offers to 3 years was welcomed. One consultee suggested 4-year funding.

Question 4: What are your views on the potential to merge organisations or share common services?

2.5 There was a mixed response to this question in the 20 responses received. Most consultees were already sharing services or were happy to do so if the opportunity to arise. Some organisations indicated they would consider the matter further. However, it was felt that given some organisations specific remits, it might not be possible to merge. There was concern that it would be difficult to persuade members to merge given the potential for possible loss of identity. One consultee felt it was not within the remit of Historic Scotland to suggest mergers.

There was concern that mergers of building preservation trusts could lead to a feeling of loss of community involvement and might be contentious especially in the Central Belt.

Question 5: Should Historic Scotland ensure that funding of gaps in the infrastructure of the historic environment are plugged?

21 consultees responded to this question. Given that the study had just been published most responses felt it was too early to comment. Priorities needed to be established once gaps were identified as it might be possible for organisations already in receipt of funding to assist.

Question 6: Should Historic Scotland support local projects, and if so, how and what should be the priorities?

There was a mixed response from the 20 responses to this question. Comments varied from “it was important to support local initiatives that had national significance” to “should be left to other funders”. There was concern that the funding available for the voluntary sector national organisations from Historic Scotland would be diminished by support for local bodies.

Question 7: How might Historic Scotland provide additional support to the Building Preservation Trusts movement?

13 consultees answered this question. There was concern about the clawback of funds by Historic Scotland on completion of projects. Local authorities should be encouraged to utilise their compulsory purchase order powers. Core funding was essential for Trusts. Possible Central Belt bias in determining applications given new criteria for building repair grant scheme.

Question 8: How should Historic Scotland support Building Preservation Trusts in tackling the Buildings at Risk Register?

Comments from 14 consultees were received. There was no consensus on answers to this question. Comments ranged from most buildings on the Buildings at Risk were “isolated”, the Buildings at Risk register was “not comprehensive” and that “HS should give more funding”.

Question 9: What are your views on these proposals for deciding grant awards?

All 20 consultees welcomed the decision to provide funding for 3 years and the streamlining of the decision making process. There was some concern that 3 years might not be enough time for complex project. One consultee felt that once a year decision making might cause issues for organisations.

Question 10: What are your views on these proposals for deciding grant awards from the sponsorship fund?

Responses were received from 18 consultees. Most welcomed the new proposals although there was some concern at the proposed exclusion of bodies already in receipt of funding being excluded from bidding. It was suggested that HS monitor the new scheme for 3 years. Some respondents thought that greater advertising of the scheme was needed.

CONCLUSIONS

3.1 The consultation document stimulated interest in Historic Scotland's investment in the Voluntary Sector. There was a good response from the voluntary sector and the workshop organised by the Built Environment Forum Scotland was well attended.

3.2 Most of the proposals in the document were welcomed although there was some criticism over the inclusion of support for the building preservation trust movement in the document and the lack of any indication over possible future funding levels.

3.3 Historic Scotland has noted all the responses and shall consider the operational policy on its investment in the voluntary sector further.

ANNEX: CONSULTATION RESPONSES

VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Architectural Heritage Fund
Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland
BCTV
Built Environment Forum Scotland
Church of Scotland General Trustees
Council for Scottish Archaeology
Garden History Society in Scotland
Glasgow Building Preservation Trust
Heritage Railway Society
Highland Building Preservation Trust
Historic Houses Association for Scotland
Merchant City Townscape Initiative
National Trust for Scotland
Scottish Churches Committee
Scottish Church Heritage Research
Scottish Churches Redundant Trust
Scottish Civic Trust
Strathclyde Building Preservation Trust
SCAPE
UK Association of Building Preservation Trusts

PUBLIC BODIES

Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland
Scottish Natural Heritage

PROFESSIONAL FIRM

AOC Archaeology