Key Messages

A new lead body for Scotland’s historic environment

• Bringing Historic Scotland and RCAHMS together into one new body will deliver a more resilient, sustainable and effective heritage organisation, streamlining and improving current functions to deliver an enhanced service for the historic environment – now and in years to come

• The new Historic Environment Scotland (HES) will start work in 2015 and help deliver the Historic Environment Strategy - benefitting from the unique skills, experience, knowledge and expertise of staff in Historic Scotland and RCAHMS

• The fact the Scottish Government has decided to place the new organisation on a statutory footing (via the Historic Environment Scotland Bill, 2014) is a huge vote of confidence in the quality, expertise and professionalism of both organisations and their ability to create a new, joint organisation to promote and protect Scotland’s historic environment

• Ahead of HES starting work, there are already many examples of both organisations coming together – e.g.: joint CEOs and Senior Management Team; joint Leadership Forum and Transition Programme Team; harmonisation of pay and conditions across both current bodies; joint staff surveys; increasing shared services across the likes of IT, HR, communications, finance, libraries and joint work on strategic projects such as corporate planning and new business model

• The preferred model for the new organisation is a Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB) which will be expected to apply for charitable status. This would give it a greater degree of operational independence than executive agencies and bring it closer in line with sector partners including the National Library; Galleries and Museums of Scotland; Creative Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage - all of whom are NDPBs

• Charitable status will be sought for the new body to recognise the public benefit derived from its work

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Historic Environment Scotland Bill and Strategy

- The Historic Environment Scotland Bill (2014) – the Bill to set up the new joint organisation - was introduced to the Scottish Parliament in March 2014. The Bill will now move through the usual legislative process ahead of the new organisation starting work next year.

- The first ever Historic Environment Strategy – *Our Place in Time* - will inform the direction and operation of the new joint organisation. It was published in March 2014.

- Our globally renowned historic environment must be understood, valued, cared for, enjoyed and enhanced now and for the benefit of future generations. HES will play a lead role in delivering the new Historic Environment Strategy, a strategy which demonstrates the Scottish Government’s commitment to the historic environment and the contribution it makes to Scotland’s culture, society and economy.

- *Our Place in Time* is Scotland’s strategy and delivering it will require commitment and enthusiasm across the historic environment sector – from a wide range of stakeholders, including: academics and professionals with specialist knowledge and skills, through all aspects of local and national government, to individuals and communities interested in their local historic environment.

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