



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

MINUTE OF HES BOARD MEETING HELD ON 22 MARCH 2023

LONGMORE HOUSE, EDINBURGH

Present:

Hugh Hall
Ian Brennan
Janet Brennan
Andrew Davis
Emma Herd
Terry Levinthal
Fiona McLean
Paul Stollard

In attendance:

Alex Paterson, Chief Executive
Stephen Duncan, Director of Marketing and Engagement
Elly McCrone, Director of Heritage
Craig Mearns, Director of Operations
David Mitchell, Director of Cultural Assets
Alison Turnbull, Director of External Relations and Partnership
Donella Steel, Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Suzanne Casey, Head of CEO Office
Jules Davidson-Welch, Manager, Chief Executive's Office
Alasdair MacKenzie, Deputy Head of Heritage, Planning, Consents and Advice Service: Environmental Assessment (part)
Iona Murray, Deputy Head of Heritage, Planning, Consents and Advice Service: Ancient Monuments (part)

1. The Board considered two items of formal business as part of their wider strategy session:

Budget Surplus Proposal

2. The Chief Executive briefed the Board on the anticipated surplus position at year-end of approximately £1.7m, due in large part to continued better than anticipated commercial performance. Reflecting on the £5m reduction in grant in aid made earlier in the year from original budget levels, and HES absorbing increased pay settlement costs, he proposed submitting a case to Scottish Government to allow HES to retain the surplus ringfenced for investment in the Archive House project. The CEO referred to two options for retention: 1) transfer to the Historic Scotland Foundation as a restricted fund for the Archive House project; and 2) create a designated fund to underpin investment in Archive House. The CEO invited the Board to approve the proposal to seek SG approval to retain the surplus of approximately £1.7m generated in 2022/23.

3. The Board confirmed their approval of the proposal.

Regulatory Framework

4. Elly McCrone introduced the final draft of the Regulatory Framework, a document that brings together and explains the legal and policy context of HES' regulatory role. Following approval of the draft Regulatory Framework at the HES Board meeting on 20 October 2022, a consultation exercise was undertaken for 11 weeks, receiving supportive responses and a number of useful comments which have been incorporated into the final draft.
5. The Board discussed a small number of points in the document; members welcomed the inclusions on biodiversity and assurances that HES will work collaboratively with sector organisations and groups. The Framework will be updated in due course to reflect the forthcoming refreshed sector strategy for the historic environment.
6. Members echoed Elly's thanks to Alasdair MacKenzie and Iona Murray, who had led on the development of the document. The Board confirmed their approval of the Framework. Following completion of design work, the Framework will be published in April, with communications to follow.