

OUR PAST, OUR FUTURE (OPOF) STRATEGY STEERING GROUP MINUTES

**13 May 2024, 1400-1600hrs
RIDDLES COURT, LAWNMARKET, Edinburgh**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ailsa Macfarlane (AM), Alison Turnbull (AT), Andrew Hopetoun (AH), Caroline Clark (CC), Callum Grigor (CG), Ian Freeman (IF), James Fowlie (JF), Lucy Casot (LC), Margaret McSporran (MM), Rob Dickson (RD), Adam Jackson (AJ), Eleanor Styles (ES), Jilly Burns (JB), Marjorie Perotto (MP)

DELEGATES:

Diarmid Hearn (DH) for Philip Long

APOLOGIES:

Allan Lindsay, Chris Brodie, Emma Berry, Jane Morrison-Ross, Gavin MacGregor, Tony McCaffery, Penelope Cooper, Philip Long, Sarah-Jane Laing

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Alison Turnbull (AT) welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Strategy Steering Group. New members introduced themselves.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

AT invited members to share comments on the minutes of the last meeting. No comments. Members were content to publish.

Members noted the need to change the wording of the Terms of Reference to reflect recent ministerial changes. They also requested a strengthening of the wording around accountability and reporting, and further clarity on the role of Historic Environment Scotland.

ACTION 1: National Strategy team to publish minutes on the Our Past, Our Future website.

ACTION 2: National Strategy team to amend Terms of Reference.

3. PROGRESS REPORT

Jilly Burns (JB), National Strategy Programme Manager, presented a first highlight report on activity undertaken since the last meeting summarised under eight workstreams: Net Zero, Community and Place, Wellbeing Economy, Skills, Investment, Communications, Equality, Diversity, Justice and Inclusion and Data & Evidence. JB reported good progress with the development of the infrastructure and plans across each workstream to support the delivery of the strategy. No significant risks or issues have been identified.

Members were content with the length, format and content of the report.

4. BASELINE EVALUATION REPORT

Marjorie Perotto (MP), National Strategy Data Analyst, presented the Baseline Evaluation report and invited reflections on the draft and comments on the data gaps identified in the associated research report.

Members discussed how new data sources, particularly for the environment and housing, might address data gaps. Suggestions were made to involve other relevant organisations like Changeworks and Sniffer.

Concerns were raised about the concept of the "Wellbeing Economy" with members noting the absence of this terminology in the recently announced new Scottish Government ministerial titles. Action was proposed to investigate this further however the need to maintain focus on the priority and outcomes associated with this in the National Strategy was recognised.

ACTION 3: Members to share information on new data sources and any case studies which illuminate the position of the baseline.

ACTION 4: MP to rework sections of the Baseline Evaluation Report based on feedback received.

ACTION 5: Members to maintain a watching brief around 'Wellbeing Economy' focus and development and share insights where relevant.

5. ADVISORY GROUP BRIEFS

JB presented three Advisory Groups Briefs (Net Zero, Community & Place, Wellbeing Economy) and invited any reflections on the drafts.

Members welcomed the briefs and recognition of the need to involve a broader range of voices, including lived experiences.

Members questioned the divide between community, place, and economy across the two latter groups, proposing a more integrated approach. Members also stressed the importance of alignment with other groups (like Skills) and aligning with wider ongoing activity.

Members suggested a steer on reworked briefs could perhaps be best provided outside the main meeting by Highland and Islands Enterprise South of Scotland Enterprise, VisitScotland, Museums Galleries Scotland and Archaeology Scotland.

ACTION 6: JB to rework Advisory Group briefs and share with representatives listed for their input.

6. YEAR ONE REPORT

Eleanor Styles (ES), National Strategy Coordinator, presented the draft Year One Report and invited feedback from Members.

Members emphasised the need for a good geographic spread of case studies and shared thoughts on some of the current activity highlighted within the report.

ACTION 7: Members to share case studies and examples of activity for inclusion in the Year One Report.

ACTION 8: ES to rework sections of the Year One Report based on feedback received.

7. SCOTLAND’S HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FORUM

ES invited discussion on the proposed date and location of the next Scotland Historic Environment Forum (SHEF) event.

Members suggested aligning SHEF to reporting publication dates, with a June date suggested for the 2025 event. Lucy Casot observed that this change would also have the benefit of avoiding a potential clash with the Scotland’s Museums and Galleries Symposium that takes place in February. Members suggested various venues.

Volunteers for a subgroup to take this work forward were requested.

ACTION 9: Members to identify potential members for a SHEF subgroup and to suggest venues.

8. FORWARD BUSINESS

AT outlined the topics of future meetings, including Advisory Group updates, progress reporting and further work on SHEF at the next meeting.

9. AOB

No further business was discussed. AT brought the meeting to a close and thanked all for their attendance.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The date of the next meeting is 20 November 2024 at the Engine Shed.

ACTION LOG

Action	Assigned to	Deadline
1. National Strategy team to publish minutes on the Our Past, Our Future website.	National Strategy team	31 May 2024
2. National Strategy team to amend Terms of Reference.	National Strategy team	31 May 2024
3. Members to share information on new data sources and any case studies which illuminate the position of the baseline.	ALL	27 May 2024
4. MP to rework sections of the Baseline Evaluation Report based on feedback received.	MP	June 2024
5. Members to maintain a watching brief around ‘Wellbeing Economy’ focus and development and share insights where relevant.	ALL	27 May 2024
6. JB to rework Advisory Group Brief and share with representatives from HIE, SOSE, VisitScotland, Museums Galleries Scotland and Archaeology Scotland for further discussion.	JB/ HIE, SOSE, VS, MGS and ArchScot	June 2024
7. Members to share case studies and examples of activity for inclusion in the Year One Report.	ALL	27 May 2024
8. ES to rework sections of the Year One Report to include suggestions and based on feedback received.	ES	June 2024
9. Members to identify potential members for a SHEF subgroup and to suggest venues.	ALL	27 May 2024