

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 22 AUGUST 2006

CONSULTATION ON DRAFT SCOTTISH HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT POLICIES SHEP 1: SCOTLAND'S HISTORIC AND ENVIRONMENT AND SHEP 3: GARDENS AND DESIGNED LANDSCAPES

Report by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To advise the Committee of the response of the Head of Planning, Development and Building Standards to Historic Scotland on the contents of their Scottish Historic Environment Policy documents SHEP 1: The Historic Environment and SHEP 3: Gardens and Designed Landscape and to seek homologation of the above response by the Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1.** The above policy documents SHEP 1: The Historic Environment and SHEP 3: Gardens and Designed Landscape were put out for consultation from 31 March 2006 until 23 June 2006. A response by the Head of Planning, Development and Building Standards has already been sent to Historic Scotland commenting on individual points raised by Historic Scotland.

3. MAIN PROVISIONS OF SHEP 1 AND 3

- 3.1** Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) is a new series of policy documents that both sets out Scottish Ministers' vision and strategic policies for the wider historic environment and provides greater policy direction for Historic Scotland.

SHEP 1: Scotland's Historic Environment

- 3.2** SHEP 1 is the overarching policy statement for the historic environment. It provides a framework for more detailed strategic policies and operational policies for organisations and authorities that have a role and interest in managing the historic environment including the Scottish Executive and local authorities.

- 3.3** Scottish Ministers have set out the following objectives in SHEP 1:

- to realise the historic environment's full potential as an economic, educational and cultural resource across every part of Scotland and by the widest range of people;
- to maximise the role of the historic environment in achieving the wider aims of social and economic regeneration;
- to identify what forms our historic environment and protect and manage it in a suitable way to guarantee its long-term survival, ensuring that we fully understand its component parts, their condition and relationships ;
- to break down the intellectual and physical barriers to its wider accessibility.

3.4 In order to achieve these objectives, Historic Scotland has identified in SHEP 1 three Key Outcomes they consider necessary for the above objectives to be realised. These Key Outcomes are:

- Key Outcome 1: That the historic environment is cared for, protected and enhanced for the benefit of our own and future generations.
- Key Outcome 2: That there is increased public appreciation and enjoyment of the historic environment amongst all the people of Scotland and visitors to the country.
- Key Outcome 3: That the historic environment's importance as a key asset in Scotland's economic, social and cultural success is recognised and skilfully harnessed.

3.5 The salient points included the response to SHEP 1, already forwarded to the Scottish Ministers by the Head of Planning, Development and Building Standards, can be summarised as follows.

Funding Partnerships:-

These are considered essential to enable any increased resources made available for future investment in the historic environment to be implemented by local authorities in consultation with Historic Scotland. In East Ayrshire the historic environment is considered a particularly valuable element in assisting the regeneration of communities which have suffered economic decline. With appropriate investment the historic environment can act as a powerful attractor for tourism and potential future population growth. Well funded partnerships would therefore be key drivers in regeneration initiatives where the historic environment forms a significant element of the urban fabric.

Sustaining Craft Skills:-

This is also considered a necessary part of the process of investing in the historic environment. In terms of developing a local skills base it is recommended that Historic Scotland work closely with Scottish Enterprise and Local Enterprise Companies as well as local authorities who could assist in developing contacts with local construction firms and in incorporating any current and potential future courses on the historic environment by Historic Scotland into existing skills training programmes.

3.6 SHEP 1 is accompanied by an Environmental Report and comment on this by the Head of Planning, Development and Building Standards is contained in his formal letter of response to Historic Scotland dated 21 June 2006.

SHEP 3: Gardens and Designed Landscapes

3.7 In its consultation on SHEP 3 Historic Scotland invites views on Scottish Ministers' policies for gardens and designed landscapes in respect of their identification and protection, the management of change, and how Historic Scotland will implement these policies.

- 3.8** The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland was published in five volumes in 1987-1988. Supplementary Extension volumes have been prepared - but not so far for additional sites in Ayrshire – these having expanded the original Scottish total from 275 to 346 sites. Compilation and management of the Inventory is undertaken on behalf of Scottish Ministers by Historic Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).
- 3.9** Under SHEP 3 Scottish Ministers are committed to maintain the Inventory and will continue to develop and review it to ensure that all sites of national importance are identified and included. In terms of maintaining the Inventory it would seem appropriate that this be made a statutory duty and that Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, which mostly include listed buildings and are fundamental contributors to their setting, should be accorded similar statutory status. It is considered that this view is reinforced through the recent 'Guidance on Local Landscape Designations' produced by SNH, which acknowledges the increasing recognition of the value of cultural aspects of the landscape and the part Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes can play in forming core areas for such potential designations.
- 3.10** A further central issue of the consultation paper is the need for comprehensive workable management of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes. This could include automatic protection of such sites through the planning system by bringing Inventory Sites within the scope of the General Development Procedure Order. This would mean there would be a formal consent regime to enable the potential impact of any proposed changes to the range of features comprising historic landscapes to be considered as a whole.
- 3.11** Recent Guidance by SNH on the potential reviews of local landscape designations sets out possible future opportunities to prepare management statements for such areas, many of which might include Inventory Sites. This approach indicates a way forward for improving management of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes through the combined offices of Historic Scotland and local authorities.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** None.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** None directly arising from the report. However, if Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes are brought under planning control, changes will be required to be made to planning legislation.

6. COMMUNITY PLAN & POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** It is considered that SHEP 1 and SHEP 3 have no implications for the Community Plan.

6.2 There are no specific planning policy implications in respect of SHEP 1. However, there are potential implications with regard to SHEP 3 comprising the following:

- (i) additional planning procedures would be required if planning control procedures were to be extended to Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes under the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Scotland) Order 1992 (the GPDO).
- (ii) Local Plan policies relating to Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes would require to be amended to take account of the potential involvement of the Council and Historic Scotland in possible future management agreements for these designated areas.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees:-

- (i) to approve the contents of this report; and
- (ii) to homologate the response already forwarded to Historic Scotland

James Lavery
Executive Director of Development and Property Services
JT/RH -
28 July 2006

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP 1): Scotland's Historic Environment – Consultation and Environmental Report (Historic Scotland – April 2006)
2. Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP 3): Gardens and Designed Landscapes – Consultation (Historic Scotland – April 2006)
3. Formal letter of response, and attachments, dated 21 June 2006, to consultation by Historic Scotland on contents of SHEP 1 and SHEP 3.

For further information on this report contact Julian Thorp, Planning Officer, Tel: 01563 - 576789.

Implementation Officer: Alan Neish, Head of Planning, Development & Building Standards.