Submission from North Ayrshire Council

1. How will the creation of Historic Environment Scotland help to improve the overall management and promotion of Scotland’s historic environment? Will it help to make Scotland’s historic environment more attractive to communities, families and tourists?

Comment: (a) The changes to amalgamate the work of HS and RCAHMS is welcome. The new body would have similar status to other National Agencies removing the need for referral to the Scottish Ministers and is welcomed, which should deliver improved efficiencies.

The historic environment refers not just to historic buildings but also to landscapes, designed gardens and archaeological sites which is to be welcomed.

(b) The links between the Bill and the new strategy will link a range of cultural assets and activities together to provide a richer approach to buildings and places. This will provide and ensure a richer cultural experiences for communities.

2. Are the functions proposed for Historic Environment Scotland the correct ones or are there any omissions? Are the outcomes expected of the new body ambitious enough or could they be strengthened?

Comment: (a) The changes are satisfactory. The strategy in particular focuses on inclusion, communities and collaboration and this is to be welcomed.

(b) There is a need for training and awareness raising to upskill frontline local authority officers and the volunteers delivering opportunities within this sector.

3. Does the Bill establish a clear and appropriate relationship between Historic Environment Scotland and all other public and private bodies with an interest in Scotland’s historic environment?

Comment: Yes

4. In what ways will the Bill help you/ your organisation to better manage and promote Scotland’s historic environment?

Comment: The removal of the referral to Scottish Ministers should deliver improved efficiencies.

5. Are there any areas of the Bill that you consider could be strengthened or improved?

Comment: No

6. Do you consider that the Bill’s Policy Memorandum adequately sets out: the Bill’s policy objectives; whether alternative ways of meeting the objectives were considered; the consultation undertaken on the objectives; the Bill’s effects on equal opportunities, human rights, island communities, local government and sustainable development?

Comment: Consideration could be given to the re-introduction of the Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas 1998 or similar, which was of great benefit to DM Officers and applicants.