

---

**Argyll and Bute Council Historic Environment Strategy**

---

**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY****1.2** The purpose of this report is to present the results of the public consultation on the Council Approved Argyll and Bute Council Historic Environment Strategy.

Council approved the content of the strategy and the proposed public consultation on the strategy in April 2015.

**1.3** Consultation Summary:

- The overwhelming majority of the responses to the consultation were positive in tone and supportive of the concept and role of the Strategy.
- A number of respondents gave a balanced reply, which were in general supportive of the idea but concerned about some aspects of the Strategy.
- Based on the generally positive and supportive tone of the responses, it appears the majority of respondents believe that the Argyll and Bute Historic Environment Strategy is a valuable document and that Argyll and Bute's rich Historic Environment is a valuable resource.

As a result of the Consultation several positive and minor changes to the document are proposed and these are detailed in Appendix A. They are not substantive but improve emphasis and referencing within the document. These changes will be incorporated into the strategy (appendix b) when approved.

**1.4** The development of the strategy has raised the profile of Argyll and Bute Council. In recognition of the Council's innovative approach to the Historic Environment Strategy Council Officers were invited to speak at the conference held to launch Scotland's first National Strategy for the Historic Environment "Our Place in Time". A&BC are the first local authority in Scotland to take serious steps towards delivering the national strategy at a local level.

Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs gave the opening address. The event was attended by 120 partners from across Scotland representing key funders, community planning, planning, construction, volunteering, education, and tourism.

**1.5 Conclusion**

The strategy has been well received, particularly at a strategic level with key heritage organisations and funders. The development of the strategy has raised the profile of Argyll and Bute Council and how we value the historic environment. The strategy, with

its emphasis on mainstreaming the historic environment into strategic decision making, demonstrates that we:

- Recognise the Historic Environment's latent economic potential for the region
- Recognise the social, cultural and health benefits to our communities
- Are a safe investment opportunity for funders
- Are forward thinking and pro-active

## **1.6 Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Council note the contents of this report, agree the proposed changes to the strategy in Appendix A, and adopt the amended document as the Argyll and Bute Council Historic Environment Strategy

**Proposed Argyll and Bute Council Historic Environment Strategy**

---

**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to present the results of the public consultation on the Council Approved Argyll and Bute Council Historic Environment Strategy.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Council note the contents of this report, agree the proposed changes to the strategy in Appendix A, and adopt the amended document as the Argyll and Bute Council Historic Environment Strategy

**4.0 DETAIL****Back ground**

The Argyll and Bute Council's Historic Environment Strategy was introduced as a key deliverable of the Argyll and Bute Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2023.

The strategy was produced internally and was co-ordinated and developed with the assistance of a cross service working group. Historic Environment Scotland and the West of Scotland Archaeology Service were also represented on this working group.

Council approved the content of the strategy and the proposed public consultation on the strategy in April 2015.

**4.2 Consultation Distribution and Advertising**

The public consultation was announced on the 12th June 2015 through a Council press release, this was picked up by the Buteman and the Dunoon Observer. A subsequent article was featured in the Buteman in early September.

The Consultation was also promoted through the Council's Twitter & Facebook pages and on the Historic Environment Section of the Council's website.

A direct mail shot to 310 recipients was also undertaken inviting the views of local and national organisations, groups, trusts, individuals and community planning partners.

The community planning team also helped promote and circulate Consultation details amongst our community planning partners.

- The strategy was downloaded 170 times
- The consultation page was visited 594 times
- The online response form was visited 203 times.

The new Historic Environment section of the Council's website was launched simultaneously with the consultation period. The site has been visited over 1000 times since its launch.

#### 4.3 Responses

A total of 8 responses were received, a breakdown of responses by type is provided below.

Respondent Type	Number	Respondent
National Heritage Body	1	Historic Environment Scotland
National Group or Society	2	Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland, Scottish Land & Estates
Community Council	1	Rhu and Shandon Community Council
Local trust/group	2	Colonsay and Oransay Heritage Trust, Helensburgh Heritage Trust
Local heritage business	2	Dunollie Projects, Brandanii Archeology and Heritage

#### Key points

- The overwhelming majority of the responses to the consultation were positive in tone and supportive of the concept and role of the Strategy.
- A number of respondents gave a balanced reply, which were in general supportive of the idea but concerned about some aspects of the Strategy.
- Based on the generally positive and supportive tone of the responses, it appears the majority of respondents believe that the Argyll and Bute Historic Environment Strategy is a valuable document and that Argyll and Bute's rich Historic Environment is a valuable resource.

#### 4.4 Proposed changes

All responses suggested some changes to the strategy, the key thematic points repeated amongst respondents and how they have been considered are detailed in the attached consultation analysis report (Appendix A). The proposed changes are positive and relatively minor. They are not substantive but improve emphasis and referencing within the document. These changes will be incorporated into the strategy (appendix b) when approved.

#### 4.5 Profile and publication

##### The Strategy's Profile

In recognition of the Council's innovative approach to the Historic Environment Strategy Council Officers were invited to speak at the conference held to launch Scotland's first National Strategy for the Historic Environment "Our Place in Time". A&BC are the first local authority in Scotland to take serious steps towards delivering the national strategy at a local level by producing its own strategy unique to the regions own diverse historic environment.

The conference was a nationwide event showcasing innovative work in the Historic Environment. Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs gave the opening address. The event was attended by 120 partners from across Scotland representing key funders, community planning, planning, construction, volunteering, education, and tourism.

### **The Strategy's publication**

The strategy will be professionally printed and distributed to Councillors and Key Partners to aid promotion of the Council's aims.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

5.1 The strategy has been well received, particularly at a strategic level with key heritage organisations and funders. The development of the strategy has raised the profile of Argyll and Bute Council and how we value the historic environment. The strategy, with its emphasis on mainstreaming the historic environment into strategic decision making, demonstrates that we:

- Recognise the Historic Environment's latent economic potential for the region
- Recognise the social, cultural and health benefits to our communities
- Are a safe investment opportunity for funders
- Are forward thinking and pro-active

The consultation shows that we have positive support and engagement from key sector areas, both local and national.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Policy: This strategy provides a corporate approach to the historic environment.

6.2 Financial: No financial implications that cannot be met through existing budgetary provision.

6.3 Legal : None

6.4 HR : None

6.5 Equalities : None

6.6 Risk : None

6.7 Customer Service : None

**Pippa Milne Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure**

**For further information contact:** Lynda Robertson 01546 604277

**Policy Lead:** David Kinniburgh

### **APPENDICES:**

**A:** Consultation Analysis Report and Proposed Changes on Argyll and Bute Council's Historic Environment Strategy. November 2015.

**B:** Argyll and Bute Council Historic Environment Strategy.

## **Appendix A**

# **Consultation Analysis Report and Proposed Changes Argyll and Bute Council's Historic Environment Strategy. November 2015**

## Contents

<b>Section 1: Acknowledgements.....</b>	<b>p1</b>
<b>Section 2: Executive Summary.....</b>	<b>P1</b>
<b>Section 3: Introduction.....</b>	<b>P2</b>
<b>Background.....</b>	<b>P2</b>
<b>Distribution and Advertising.....</b>	<b>P2</b>
<b>Section 4: Consultation Responses</b>	<b>P2</b>
<b>Key Points.....</b>	<b>P3</b>
<b>Detailed analysis of consultation responses.....</b>	<b>P3</b>
<b>Council’s proposed response and changes.....</b>	<b>P4</b>

## Section 1: Acknowledgements

1. Argyll and Bute Council would like to thank all those who responded to this consultation by providing written comments.

## Section 2: Executive Summary

2. Argyll and Bute Council are pleased to announce the findings of the consultation on Argyll and Bute Council's Historic Environment Strategy. The strategy is the first of its kind for the Council and is a direct response to :
  - Our Corporate plan
  - Our Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement
  - The Scottish Governments 16 National outcomes
  - Our Place in Time; The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland
3. The Strategy will put in place the necessary frame work to facilitate change in how we value, manage and benefit from the Historic Environment. Developing our corporate value for the historic environment means encouraging a cross service understanding that it plays an intrinsic part in our day to day lives; providing housing, education, tourism, culture, social and health benefits.
4. Between 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015 to 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 2015 Argyll and Bute Council ran a consultation which sought views on the DRAFT Historic Environment Strategy. Views were sought on the general approach to the strategy as well as specific views relating to the 8 key objectives contained in the strategy. 8 responses were received.



## Section 3 Introduction

### Background

5. The Argyll and Bute Council's Historic Environment Strategy was introduced as a key deliverable of the Argyll and Bute Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2023.
6. The strategy was produced internally and was co-ordinated and developed with the assistance of a cross service working group. Historic Environment Scotland and the West of Scotland Archaeology Service were also represented on this working group.
7. Council approved the content of the strategy and the proposed public consultation of the strategy in April 2015.

### Distribution and Advertising

8. The public consultation was announced on the 12th June 2015 through a Council press release, the Council's Twitter & Facebook pages and on the Historic Environment Section of the Council's website. A direct mail shot to 310 recipients was also undertaken inviting the views of local and national organisations, groups, trusts, individuals and community planning partners. The community planning team also helped promote and circulate Consultation details amongst our community planning partners. Towards the end of the consultation period this process was repeated.
  - The strategy was downloaded 170 times
  - The consultation page was visited 594 times
  - The online response form was visited 203 times.

## Section 4 Responses

9. A total of 8 responses were received, a breakdown of responses by type is provided below.

Respondent Type	Number	Respondent
National Heritage Body	1	Historic Environment Scotland
National Group or Society	2	Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland, Scottish Land & Estates
Community Council	1	Rhu and Shandon Community Council
Local trust/group	2	Colonsay and Oransay Heritage Trust, Helensburgh Heritage Trust
Local heritage business	2	Dunollie Projects, Brandanii Archeology and Heritage

## Key points

- The overwhelming majority of the responses to the consultation were positive in tone and supportive of the concept and role of the Strategy.
- A number of respondents gave a balanced reply, which were in general supportive of the idea but concerned about some aspects of the Strategy.
- Based on the generally positive and supportive tone of the responses, it appears the majority of respondents believe that the Argyll and Bute Historic Environment Strategy is a valuable document and that Argyll and Bute's rich Historic Environment is a valuable resource.

## Detailed Analysis of Consultation Responses

10. All responses suggested some changes to the strategy, the key thematic points repeated amongst respondents are summarised below. All minor editorial comments from respondents will be included in the final version of the document.

A full copy of all responses can be accessed here:

<http://intranet.argyll-bute.gov.uk/content/hes>

Key Theme	Summary of responses
Archaeological assets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Several respondents note that more attention should be given to archaeological sites or that the document does not promote such sites as key heritage assets.</li> <li>2. It was suggested that links between archaeology, planning and the role of WoSAS was not clear enough.</li> <li>3. It was suggested that one of the case studies (not specified) be replaced with one specific to archaeology.</li> </ol>
Political Heritage Champion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. It was suggested by several respondents that the role of this champion be clarified.</li> <li>5. It was also suggested that local area champions be considered, ideally within Community Councils.</li> </ol>
Partnership working	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Several organisations/groups were suggested as key partners.</li> </ol>
Deliverability	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. The action point regarding integration of strategy into wider mainstream council documents should be given a deadline.</li> <li>8. The action plan should include post action evaluation</li> <li>9. Staff resources should be increased to ensure delivery</li> </ol>
Council Owned Assets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Specific statements were suggested relating to how the Council manages its own assets and the impact this has on reputation and the perception of the Value the Council places on Heritage assets.</li> <li>11. Public consultation relating to disposal of assets was suggested by several respondents.</li> </ol>
Planning Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. Specific statements were suggested relating to how the Council will deliver Conservation Area Appraisals.</li> <li>13. Greater clarity on archaeology and the role of WoSAS in planning was suggested</li> <li>14. New path networks should be preceded by archaeological assessment.</li> <li>15. Council Permitted Development Protocol should include checks for impacts on</li> </ol>

	archaeology.
Derelict buildings	16. The Traditional Buildings Health Check Scheme being piloted in Stirling was suggested as something A&BC should consider.

### Council’s Proposed Responses & Changes

11. The proposed consultation responses are responded to in detail below and appropriate changes outlined.

Key Theme	Response to suggested changes
Archaeological assets	<p>1&amp;2</p> <p>P9 of the strategy clearly defines what is meant when the document refers to either the historic Environment or a heritage asset, this includes “Argyll and Bute’s rich assortment of ancient monuments, archaeological sites and evidence of rural development”.</p> <p>All references to Heritage Assets and the Historic Environment as well as specific references to Scheduled Monuments, archaeology and the 19,000 sites of heritage value on the Historic Environment Record, by definition, encompass “archaeological sites”, “buried heritage” or undesignated sites of heritage value. It is therefore considered that the strategy is clear that archeology is a key heritage asset and no fundamental changes to the document are therefore proposed. However some specific changes are proposed as a result of the consultation:</p> <p>The foreword on page 6 will be amended to read:</p> <p>...I believe this document shows people what an enormously rich historic environment Argyll and Bute has. The Council is responsible for significant collection of heritage assets including schools, museums, libraries, public art, Scheduled Monuments, grave yards, <i>archaeological assets and more ...</i></p> <p>On P9 bullet list under How is A&amp;BC involved in Heritage will be amended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>As a property developer and landowner with a considerable portfolio of heritage assets.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>As a planning authority Argyll and Bute Council have a statutory responsibility to protect the historic environment under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act and the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</i></li> <li>▪ <i>As a planning authority Argyll and Bute Council have a statutory responsibility to apply local and national policies relating to the historic environment through the planning process.</i></li> </ul> <p>The Scottish Government recently launched Archaeology Strategy (Sept 2015) this strategy will be added to the list of key documents under key objective 1 P12</p> <p>P57, the following changes to the text will be made to better include consideration for archeologically when discussing development management, consents, submissions etc:</p> <p>Last para left column: ...consider and understand the special qualities of an <i>area or asset</i> from the outset...</p>

	<p>First para right column: Understanding the significance and context of a site as well as the special architectural, <i>archaeological</i> or historical qualities is fundamental to...</p> <p>Second Para right column: ... specialist input from the Council’s Conservation Officer or early dialogue with Historic Scotland <i>and/or West of Scotland Archaeology Service</i> is required in order to...</p> <p>Last para right column:... The Council’s Built Heritage Conservation Officer advises on such matters, providing technical advice and guidance on the impact of proposals. <i>Historic Environment Scotland and West of Scotland Archaeology Service also work with applicants and the Planning service offering valuable advice, both organisations encourage early, pre-application engagement to discuss proposals.</i></p> <p>P60 The section “Unlisted historic buildings” will be retitled to <i>Undesignated Historic Sites</i>. The text will now read:</p> <p>There are many undesignated <i>heritage assets</i> in Argyll that have architectural, <i>archaeological</i> or historic qualities that are of value to the local communities, town/streetscapes and the fact that these are undesignated does not mean that they are of no value. Their <i>protection and</i> retention can be valuable in terms of <i>education and</i> environmental sustainability as well as in terms of quality of place. In recognition of this the Council’s Development Plan includes Local Policy SG LDP ENV 21—Protection and Enhancement of Buildings, which encourages the retention and reuse of vacant historic buildings. <i>Equally SG LDP ENV 20 offers protection for sites of archaeological importance.</i></p> <p><i>The West of Scotland Archaeology Service hold and maintain on behalf of the Council our Historic Environment Record for the region, this includes both undesignated and designated. It is publically accessible to search and can be accessed here.</i> (hyperlink will be provided)</p> <p>3 The case studies chosen reflect the text of each key objective they relate to. As per points made re 1&amp;2; It is considered that the strategy is clear that archelogy is a key heritage asset and no replacement or supplementary case studies are therefore proposed.</p>
Political Heritage Champion	<p>4. The strategy clearly states the role of the heritage champion In the Action Plan on page 68. Equally throughout the strategy, the text clearly states where the role of heritage strategy will come into effect, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Final Para P21</li> <li>▪ End of first para under 2.3 P26</li> <li>▪ End of first para under 3.2 P31</li> <li>▪ First Para of key objective 7 P56</li> </ul> <p>It is agreed that it may not be clear early in the document, when the champion is first proposed, what their role is intended to be. The <i>role definition on page 68</i> will be added the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph under point 1.1 P13. The text will now read:</p> <p>...It is proposed that the Council’s Policy lead for Planning, Protective Services and Licensing takes on this role. <i>The role of the heritage champion will be to provide member/political support for the Historic Environment and this Strategy, ensuring cross service adoption of the Strategy’s agreed aspirations and action plan, and promoting the value of the Historic Environment to fellow members and our communities.</i></p> <p>5. There are 56 Community Councils across Argyll and Bute and it would be for each one to consider having its own heritage champion. The strategy couldn’t</p>

	<p>prescribe an Action for community Councils to deliver, however in order to achieve increased local engagement in heritage activity the document does encourage a heritage focus in the development of community action plans, in which community councils would clearly play an important part. It is considered that the Action “Promoting and supporting connectivity between community projects” P74, as well as all references to Community Planning Partners, which by definition includes Community Councils (P9, P13, P27, P31, P44 and Page 68.), supports and encourages local heritage engagement, no change is therefore proposed.</p>
Partnership working	<p>6. The following will be added to the key partners section 1.2 p13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Architectural heritage Society of Scotland</li> <li>▪ Architectural Heritage Fund</li> <li>▪ Scottish Civic Trust</li> <li>▪ Scottish Land and Estates</li> <li>▪ Historic Houses Association</li> </ul> <p>Local Heritage organisations and Small to Medium Enterprises were considered to be represented as a key partner under, “Public and private organisations, owners and developers.” However for improved clarity this bullet will be removed and replaced by 2 separate bullets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public and private organisations</li> <li>▪ Owners and developers</li> </ul>
Deliverability	<p>7. Integration of strategy to wider Council Policies/Plans: As many of the documents involved are reviewed at different durations, a specific deadline date was not proposed however the text in action plan will be clarified to ensure the strategy is integrated as wider council documents are <u>next</u> reviewed. The action point on page 68 will now read:</p> <p><b>Alignment of corporate and strategic documents:</b> In order to strengthen the alignment of this strategy with the Council’s Corporate Plan, Carbon Management Plan, Asset Management Strategy, Local Development Plan, Economic Development Plans and the Argyll and Bute Community Pan and Single Outcome Agreement, the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services will request through Strategic Management Team meetings that the respective services responsible for these documents factor in the agreed Historic Environment Strategy’s key aims, objectives and action plan when the above documents are <u>next</u> reviewed.</p> <p>8. Agreed. An action will be inserted into the Action Plan to carry out an evaluation at the end of the Strategies 5 year plan. The Action will read:</p> <p><b>Post Action Evaluation:</b> At the end of the 5 year action plan period a review on delivery, achievements and impacts will be undertaken. The results of this review will be presented to the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing committee, be published on line and circulated to all elected members.</p> <p>9. The Action on page 77 “<b>Strategic approach to Conservation work and Strategy implementation</b>” states temporary staffing support will be investigated to support delivery of this strategy and ensure on-going support for development management. No change is therefore proposed.</p>
Council Owned Assets	<p>10. Suggested statements are positive in aspiration but could not realistically be applied at this stage. The same aspiration is clearly shared by the strategy and</p>

	<p>the document has been worded to reflect what is deliverable. No changes are therefore proposed.</p> <p>11. The Bute Asset Management Pilot will look at improving internal processes related to Council Owned Asset management. It is agreed that whilst the Bute Pilot project does include how we consider Public Consultation in regard to Asset disposal, this is not clear enough in the text of the strategy, the following changes are proposed:</p> <p><b>P71: Asset disposal:</b> Through the Bute Pilot Study an improved methodology for asset disposal will be created. This will include considering; data management, exit strategies, future planning <i>and public consultation</i>.</p>
Planning Action	<p>12. The strategy says it will investigate required resource to deliver remaining appraisals until this is done we could not commit to providing dates for the delivery of the remaining 28 appraisals. The strategy has been worded to reflect what is deliverable, no changes are therefore proposed.</p> <p>13. Please see changes proposed under 1&amp;2</p> <p>14. The Council Permitted Development Protocol is programmed to be reviewed as part of the action plan. This is to ensure that all services that can benefit from the process are involved. The current system, triggers checks from Planning regarding any potential impact on archaeology. However the use of the protocol by those responsible for delivering new path networks will be added by the following change:</p> <p><b>P34 under Council Permitted Development</b> first para: ...This protocol has traditionally been used predominantly in relation to buildings; however works undertaken in relation to public realm, piers, public art, memorials, shelters, grave yards, infrastructure, <i>new path networks</i> etc. could be better addressed by this process.</p> <p>15. The Council Permitted Development Protocol is programmed to be reviewed as part of the action plan. This is to ensure that all services that can benefit from the process are involved. The current system, triggers checks from Planning regarding any potential impact on archaeology. No Change is therefore proposed.</p>
Derelict buildings	<p>16. HES have recently announced they are seeking other partners/regions to work with on similar schemes, this could be beneficial to A&amp;B and will be added to the existing action point :</p> <p><b>P70: Raising awareness of the importance of maintenance and of the assistance available:</b> Annual maintenance week events will be developed to engage local communities and local Community Councils in the importance of maintenance. Existing assistance and guidance will be promoted, through area events, the new Historic Environment website, area offices and through regeneration projects. Any grant assistance will also be promoted through the same routes. <i>The potential for Argyll and Bute to facilitate the introduction of a Traditional Buildings Health Check Scheme will be investigated.</i></p>

**APPENDIX B**

**Historic Environment Strategy**