

Sir Laurie Magnus
Chair English Heritage
1 Waterhouse Square
138 - 142 Holborn
London EC1N 2ST

12 November 2014

Dear Sir Laurie

HISTORIC ENGLAND DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN

Thank you very much for the opportunity to respond to Historic England's draft corporate plan. I am looking forward to developing even further the already strong partnership between English Heritage and local government.

Of course, the LGA and English Heritage already work together on a number of fronts. We support local leaders, seek out and share many examples of innovative practice, help to make the planning system work effectively, and support places to tackle heritage crime.

The draft plan sets out a positive and exciting framework and we are extremely supportive of it. The plan gives a strong and balanced account of this country's heritage sector, and clearly recognises the leadership role of local government.

In particular, we want to work with Historic England to support strong local political leadership, backed-up by conservation officers who are also strategic players in councils. This will help to embed heritage in a place's growth and investment plans, especially the Local Plan, and as part of a wider approach to making the most of sporting, heritage and cultural assets.

After a major simplification of the planning system, which councils strongly supported, we have an opportunity to build upon existing partnerships and embed the positive use of planning to boost growth through heritage assets. National advice and protection is strongest when exercised in close collaboration with councils, so that it reinforces joined-up working and supports local growth priorities. This is especially important in the current fiscal climate.

We are very encouraged by the proposed continued focus on supporting new local delivery models. The LGA's work with councils has shown the huge potential of cultural heritage and the historic built environment to drive growth locally by creating attractive

places that encourage visitors and businesses; create jobs at heritage attractions and in the wider economy, boost footfall in city and town centres, and revitalise rural communities.

When we met recently, we talked about a joint support programme for councils, and I am very keen to follow this up. Our work has shown that conservation services are working in new and different ways and we are seeking out and sharing many examples.

Councils are very keen that Historic England is properly resourced and has the capacity to engage effectively locally. We note the financial contribution Historic England will make to the English Heritage charity. It will be important that the charity becomes self-financing within the planned timeframe, so that future funding is not diverted away from Historic England.

I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Stephens', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Councillor Ian Stephens
Chair LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board