

Historic Environment Forum

12 February 2015
Item 5.1

Heritage 2020

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I Introduction

- 1.1 At the HEF meeting in September 2014 it was agreed that the Forum should take over ownership of the new Heritage 2020 framework. The purpose of the framework is to set out priorities for collaborative action where this will add value to the work of individual organisations across the historic environment sector in England.
- 1.2 The framework covers five key themes:
 - Discovery, identification and understanding
 - Constructive conservation and sustainable management
 - Public engagement
 - Capacity building
 - Helping things to happen
- 1.3 The draft framework text was published online via the web site of the Heritage Alliance in October 2014 (<http://www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/historic-environment-forum/heritage2020>) and comments were invited.
- 1.4 Five working groups are being established, one for each theme within the new framework. The working groups are tasked with developing an agenda for their area of activity to support the delivery of the framework. The chairs of the working groups will meet regularly via a HEF sub-committee with an independent Chair from the HEF to monitor progress and ensure that the activities are fully joined up.
- 1.5 The working groups and the HEF sub-committee will be supported by a dedicated programme manager and communications assistant, and the whole structure will be underpinned by The Heritage Alliance (subject to ongoing financial support from Historic England).
- 1.6 Regular reports will be provided on the activities associated with the framework via Heritage Counts and a new Heritage 2020 web site.

2 Consultation on the draft framework

- 2.1 The publication of the draft framework was publicised principally via Update from the Heritage Alliance and by associated social media activity (utilising the dedicated Twitter account: @heritage2020).
- 2.2 Comments on the draft framework text were invited by early January 2015. By the closing date, seventeen responses had been received (ten from institutions and seven from individuals). The full text of the comments are also forwarded to HEF members.
- 2.3 The constructive responses will be utilised by the working groups in developing their individual agendas, and the comments will be taken into consideration in the editing of the final version of the framework text to be published in autumn 2015.

3 Progress with the working groups

- 3.1 The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the working groups have now been appointed. The current list is as follows:
 - Discovery, identification and understanding
 - Chair: Joe Elders (Church of England)
 - Vice Chair: Gary Grubb (Arts & Humanities Research Council)
 - Constructive conservation & sustainable management
 - Chair: Carol Pyrah (English Heritage/Historic England)
 - Vice-Chair: Jonathan Thompson (Country Land & Business Association)
 - Public engagement
 - Chair: Ian Morrison (Heritage Lottery Fund)
 - Vice-Chair: Rosi Lister (Churches Conservation Trust)
 - Capacity building
 - Chair: Mike Brown (Institute of Historic Building Conservation)
 - Vice-Chair: Jan Wills (Chartered Institute for Archaeology)
 - Helping things to happen
 - Chair: Ingrid Samuel (National Trust)
 - Vice-Chair: Nick Way (Historic Houses Association)
- 3.2 The first meeting of the HEF sub-committee which brings the working group chairs together took place on 30 January 2015. All five working groups were represented at the meeting.
- 3.3 It was agreed that in the first instance the initial membership of the working groups should be set up by invitation from the Chair & Vice-Chair. Membership of each working group was likely to be limited to between 5-10 organisations, though there would be an opportunity for an unlimited number of corresponding members to be connected with the working group via email.
- 3.4 Membership of the working groups should be reviewed annually, with an initial membership term limited to three years, with the possibility of renewal.

- 3.5 The working groups should be encouraged to meet on a regular basis, with meetings not always held in London – although this would depend to some extent on the geographical distribution of the members.
- 3.6 The working groups should operate under Chatham House rules to encourage the members to think widely and independently, but with regular reports published to enable corresponding members to engage with their debates and plans.
- 3.7 Working groups should be encouraged to think about measures of success to give a clear indication of progress with the delivery of the new framework and the ambitions for enhanced collaborative working.

4 Staff support for the framework

- 4.1 A project proposal is being drafted to seek financial support from Historic England from April 2015 for dedicated staffing to deliver the programme associated with the new framework and support the working groups and HEF sub-committee chair.
- 4.2 A dedicated Programme Manager is envisaged, together with a part-time Communications Officer. The need for the communication support is likely to grow as the activity associated with the framework expands.
- 4.3 The Institute of Historic Building Conservation has also offered to support the development of the framework and this is much appreciated. It is hoped that other organisations will also be in a position to offer resources, as needed, as the initiative moves forward.
- 4.4 It is hoped to get the staff in post in April/May.

5 Next steps

- 5.1 The working group chairs are meeting again on 12 February to discuss membership issues and terms of reference for the working groups. It is hoped to have full membership of each working group in place by the end of March 2015 when the HEF sub-committee will next meet to review progress.
- 5.2 The first full meeting of the working groups will each take place before the middle of May 2015 and a report will be provided to the mid May HEF meeting.
- 5.3 The working groups are tasked with producing a detailed action plan for their area by the date of the mid September 2015 HEF meeting. These documents will then be published on the new Heritage 2020 web site, along with an updated framework text. A report on the first year's activity will be prepared for publication in Heritage Counts in the autumn.
- 5.4 A modest number of printed copies of the final framework text (following design work to incorporate images in an attractive layout) will be made available for key influencers and leading players who relate to the historic environment in England. The text will also be made available as a downloadable PDF file on the Heritage 2020 web site.

6 Actions

6.1 HEF members are asked to note and invited to comment on:

- **the results of the consultation on the draft framework text;**
- **progress with establishing the working groups and their terms of reference;**
- **plans for staff support to help with the development of the initiative.**

6.2 HEF members are asked to agree:

- **the timetable for next steps leading up to the proposed publication of the detailed plans from the working groups in autumn 2015**

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