SUBMISSION FROM PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

1. The Council responded to the draft Bill in August 2009. As previously expressed, in general the Council welcome the provisions of the Bill, and agree that the changes to existing legislation will assist the regulatory and planning authorities in managing the historic environment in a sustainable way. The Council note that some amendments have been made to the scope and detail of the Bill following consultation. However the Council has no substantive comment to make on these changes.

2. The policy memorandum and financial memorandum accompanying the Bill are useful in providing background explanation of the processes leading to the issue of the Bill and its predicted financial impact, although the Council question some of the assumptions and cost estimates, such as those for preparation of urgent works notices which appear to have been underestimated on the basis of local experience of the actual costs that have been incurred in relation to this activity.

3. The Council is generally content that no additional resources will be required for the implementation of the Bill in relation to the management of historic environment by regulatory and planning authorities and welcomes the enhanced penalties for those that damage the environment.

4. The Council does however have some concerns that there may be initial pressures to re-prioritise work responding to the new powers introduced by the Bill. For example, there may be some impact on Historic Scotland’s regular listing programme as a result of the listing team having to respond to requests for certificates that a building is not intended to be listed. This in turn may initially impact on the relationship between Historic Scotland and authorities’ front-line activities and hamper the policy objective to streamline the management of the historic environment through greater partnership working and local decision-making.

5. The Council has no comments on the consultation the Scottish Government carried out prior to the introduction of the Bill.

Bernadette Malone
Chief Executive
19 July 2010