What are our organisations views on the general principles of the Bill?

1. Aberdeenshire Council welcome the Scottish Governments recognition of the significant role that the historic environment has to play in developing a sustainable economic future for Scotland. The general principles of the Bill, to harmonise the 1979 & 1997 acts and align historic environment legislation within the Planning regime can be supported by this Authority. The principles and contents of the Bill strengthen the Local Authorities’ effectiveness and ability to protect and manage the built environment.

2. Fundamentally the principles of the Bill appear to be sound and robust, removing previous weaknesses that exist between the existing acts. To function efficiently it is essential that the Local Authorities’ burdens and duties are not increased as a result of the Bill and this principle of the Bill is equally as important.

How helpful do you find the policy memorandum and financial memorandum accompanying the Bill?

3. The policy memorandum is an extremely useful document as it clearly and concisely outlines the aims, objective and context behind the Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill. The Financial Memorandum seeks to outline what it believes will be possible financial implications as a result of the introduction of the Bill.

4. Although it is not envisaged that the Bill will not place any new significant burdens or duties on Local Authorities, the full financial significance cannot realistically be comprehended until the commencement of the Bill.

Do you have any comments on the consultation the Scottish Government carried out prior to the introduction of the Bill?

5. No Comment

Robert Gray
Head of Planning Policy and Environment
11 August 2010