ABSTRACT

This report seeks endorsement of the response to Historic Scotland’s Approach to Carved Stones.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committees

   a) Agree to the proposed response to Historic Scotland on their Approach to Carved Stones and
   b) Instruct the Directors to convey their response to Historic Scotland.

2. BACKGROUND

   Historic Scotland are to be congratulated on this consultative paper on their approach to Carved Stones. It is a comprehensive document which pulls together the current legislative and procedural position and plugs gaps, especially in areas where advice was required.

   The document has taken some years to put together, and notably the Council for Scottish Archaeology and the National Committee on the Carved Stones of Scotland have been involved in its drafting.

   The paper covers prehistoric rock carvings, early medieval carved stones (including Pictish sculpture), medieval sculpture and grave stones and includes helpful guidance notes and useful appendices.

   There are a few points, however, which require further emphasis, and a number of comments which are worthy of making which will hopefully improve the paper. These are included in the appendix to this report.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

   There are no financial implications associated with this report.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

   There are no Human Rights Implications arising from this Report.
5. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

JOHN R ZIMNY
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

ALEX L ANDERSON
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NOTE: The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to a material extent in preparing this report.

1.7 The paper rightly emphasises Scotland’s prominence in Europe for having one of the richest collections of medieval carved stones with some 1600 in total, of which 350 are in Historic Scotland’s care and a further 180 receiving scheduled ancient monument protection.

It does not mention, however, the role played by Scotland’s Museums, which care for another 4-500 carved stones in their collections. Both the National Museums of Scotland and the network of local museums, most of which are administered by local authorities, play a significant part in caring of this important aspect of Scotland’s heritage.

It is suggested that close co-operation between Historic Scotland and Scotland’s museums can only improve the care of this resource.

2.1.4 Although mentioned in appendix B, missing from section 2.1 is the legal requirement to protect the setting of a scheduled monument. Under the provisions of part 15(j)(v) to the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Scotland) Order 1992, a planning authority is required to consult the Scottish Ministers on any planning application likely to affect the site of a scheduled monument. Presumably this relates to the scheduled area because it would otherwise be impossible to define “site”. In many cases proposals don’t get as far as planning application stage because we stop them because of their impact on scheduled monuments. That needs highlighting because planning authority staff are at the coal face when it comes to these matters.

2.3.7 When it is in the conservation interest of carved stones to be moved, we agree that this relocation should be as near to the present site as possible, a policy which we carry out in Angus.

2.3.8 In this situation, however, it is crucial that the security and environment are of a suitable standard to ensure the long-term survival of the carved stones. We would advocate that local (registered) museums be favoured in these circumstances, especially in that public access can also be assured.