Heritage 2020:
collaboration in the historic environment sector

The Heritage 2020 initiative aims to strengthen partnerships and collaboration across the historic environment sector, in order to increase understanding, protection, promotion and engagement with heritage in England. It is grounded on the principle that by working together the sector will add value to individual efforts, for example by combining the skills, resources and experience of organisations and individuals.

Heritage 2020 activities are guided by the Heritage 2020 Framework, which captures the areas where outcomes are best achieved through collaboration. There are five themes, on which working groups have mapped activity and established initial priorities for action (2016-17) based on where gaps lie, and the importance and urgency of the issues.

The priority areas to be addressed in the short-term - and desired outcomes – are summarised for each theme. The Heritage 2020 consultation (details overleaf) is an opportunity to contribute your insight to these issues, provide examples that will strengthen how the sector can work together and identify how Heritage 2020 can support your work.

Discovery, Identification and Understanding

How research can inform our understanding, protection and enjoyment of the historic environment.

Priority:

Build stronger bridges with the higher education sector to address strategic and front-line priorities for the historic environment.

Outcome:

Enhance the impact of heritage research on practical challenges.

> **"Discovery and revelation are an essential part of the public appeal of heritage."**

Constructive Conservation and Sustainable Management

How the historic environment can be conserved and managed in a way that secures its future.

Priority:

Address the issue of the transfer and disposal of publicly owned heritage assets by collaborating on a package of guidance and support for local authorities, private developers and community groups.

Outcome:

Prevent and tackle heritage at risk.

> **"A well-managed and conserved historic environment secures environmental, economic and social benefits."**

Priority:

Understand the impact of social and economic forces for change on High Streets and promote a heritage-led response to addressing the changing face of the high street.

Outcome:

Improve the resilience of high streets and reconcile their traditional identities with changing demands.

Public Engagement

How to involve as many people as possible from all backgrounds in heritage.

Priority:

Understand what diversity means to the heritage sector and identify where the big possibilities for partnerships between heritage organisations and organisations that bring diversity lie.

Outcome:

An ethos of cultural entitlement where everyone has a right to understand the values of cultural heritage, has a sense of ownership of cultural assets, and advocates a collective responsibility for the cultural landscape.

> "Everyone in England is entitled to define, engage with, and make decisions about the historic environment and how it is cared for."

Capacity Building

How access to skills, knowledge and infrastructure can be ensured to manage the historic environment.

Priority:

Develop an integrated approach to the education, training and continuing development of heritage professionals – initially through a focus on the new Apprenticeship landscape.

Outcome:

A skilled, resilient and more representative heritage workforce.

Priority:

Identify core Local Authority historic environment service provision, to address a sustainable model for local authority conservation and archaeology services.

Outcome:

A sustainable approach to Local Authority conservation and archaeology services.

> "Understanding, conserving, explaining and championing our heritage depends on having the right people with the right skills in our communities."

Helping Things to Happen

How an environment can be created that supports the sector in its advocacy.

Priority:

Better understand, and reinforce, the evidence base demonstrating the social and economic value of heritage to society so that it can be powerfully communicated to Government.

Outcome:

A long-term shift to a positive vision for the contribution that heritage makes to Britain.

> "The historic environment sector must rise to new realities and continue to ensure that the right conditions are in place for our heritage to thrive long into the future."

Get involved

The Heritage 2020 consultation is an opportunity to contribute against calls for action in any or all of the five themes. The consultation is available at **www.heritage2020.net/get-involved/** until 20 December 2016. Responses will be used in the development of the group action plans for next year.

Further information about Heritage 2020 can be found at **www.heritage2020.net** or by contacting Caroline Peach, (Project Support) at **heritage2020@theheritagealliance.org.uk**

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