
**LIS RESPONSE TO SNH CORPORATE PLAN 2015/18 DISCUSSION PAPER
SUBMITTED TO SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE – 03.12.2014**

BATCH 1 QUESTIONS

Question 1: Do you think SNH has correctly identified the main drivers for our work in the next 3 years?

LIS Response

LIS would like to suggest that the terms “nature” and “natural assets” need to be defined clearly in the Corporate Plan to ensure that these terms always include the landscape resource, landscape character and natural beauty as a key element alongside biodiversity, as an intrinsic part of Scotland’s natural assets.

Question 2: What are the key drivers affecting your own plans for 2015/18 and beyond?

LIS Response

The key driver for LIS in 2015-18 is as always, to promote the understanding and profile of landscape architecture, landscape design and landscape planning matters and issues to all sectors, especially in government and regulatory bodies. This driver also works alongside supporting all grades of members in their professional practice, CPD and active engagement in consultations, specifically in Scotland and now within the context of greater devolution.

A particular driver in 2015/18 will be following the directions set out in the new NPF3, SPP’s and other planning policy developments, guidance and applications, both at a national and local level with regard to how these may affect Scotland’s distinctive landscape resources.

Question 3: Do you think SNH has correctly identified the most important areas of activity given these drivers?

LIS Response

A rebalancing of activity to the wider environment beyond the previous protected areas focus is very much welcomed and encouraged. LIS consider this will also assist in promoting intentions and directions of the SNH CP to the benefit of a wider community of stakeholders.

Question 4: Are there any other issues you would like us to consider in developing our new Corporate Plan?

LIS Response

LIS are keen to see the new Corporate Plan including reference to a key planning policy which has seemingly and surprisingly been omitted so far, that is the Scottish Government's Creating Places Policy (June 2013). This has references and intentions in developing action plans for the placemaking agenda with landscape and biodiversity playing key parts in helping to increase benefits for people. LIS believes it will become increasingly important SNH to focus on the places created and managed in the urban and built environment close to where people live and initially experience the natural world. Whether this is done through greater support towards the educational charity/community group activity or published guidance and promotion to developers and managers in new or revitalised urban and urban edge settings. This will also help in connecting to the wider public health agenda which has been referenced more than once in the CP discussion paper.

BATCH 2 QUESTIONS

Question 5: Do you have any comment on our proposed focus on increasing the benefits delivered through Scotland's natural assets and on improving the health and resilience of those assets?

LIS Response

LIS are concerned that natural assets mentioned in 4 portfolios in bullets at top of page 6 need to explicitly state that this includes "landscape". Similarly, in the portfolio 1 paragraphs on Enriching People's Lives, landscapes need to be identified as well as natural assets. Scotland's natural capital could be increased through green infrastructure and connectivity.

Portfolio 2: LIS would suggest that managing landscape change and landscape diversity and distinctiveness is important to be included in this portfolio, perhaps in second bullet under "increasing natural capital". No mention here of the role of the Land Use Strategy?

Portfolio 3: Again, natural assets needs to include landscape. Under "increasing natural capital" it would be important to mention other habitats as well as peatlands, such as woodlands, which would benefit from restoration in key catchments as climate change will affect more than 1 habitat type.

Portfolio 4: Main query here for LIS is again about mentioning "landscape assets" as well as natural assets since people clearly identify with their local landscapes as part of their living environment which will be especially relevant in "Communicating with Stakeholders".

BATCH 3 QUESTIONS

Question 6: Do you see changes we are making in our priorities and activities as helping your work?

LIS Response

Yes – the wider focus of future activity is particularly helpful and welcome.

Question 7: Do you see new opportunities for collaborative working with SNH?

LIS Response

Yes - we are open to dialogue on this.

Question 8: Do you have any concerns?

LIS Response

In addition to the points made above on specific parts of the document, LIS are also concerned about:

- The potential implications of likely budget reductions and financial limitations on the intended agenda and how this will be prioritised.
- LIS note that “natural beauty” is mentioned only once in the Discussion Paper. As a known landscape descriptor often used by local people and visitors alike to describe what they value about Scotland’s landscape and scenery it may be appropriate to give this more prominence if the “people’s agenda” is a core consideration in the new CP.