Annual Report of West of Scotland Archaeology Service 2022/23 approved etc.

4 There was submitted a report by the WoSAS Manager detailing the activities of the Service for the year from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 which covered the first full reporting period following the transition to new hybrid working practices adopted by the Service in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, confirming that

(1) the Service had dealt with 1,935 new casework items, which represented an increase of 7.2% increase compared to the previous year;

(2) the monitoring of the weekly lists, along with direct referrals from planning officers, had identified 973 new planning applications that required further detailed assessment, a 6.3% increase on the previous year, while a further 341 new casework items in other types had been opened during the reporting period,

(3) in addition to the identification of new casework and responding to consultations from planning officers, the Service had also carried forward work on 319 planning cases, which had been initiated in previous years;

(4) Service staff had added 271 verified new site records to the Historic Environment Record (HER) database, amended 96 existing site records and created 208 archaeological event records, in addition to importing a major download on new site information from Historic Environment Scotland for later verification;

(5) the Service had assisted or liaised with 2 local amateur archaeological or historical groups and 1 university department in preparation of heritage fieldwork projects or funding bids; and

(6) the balance of the Service's reserve account, based on the pre-audited accounts, stood at £159,498.

After consideration, the Joint Committee

(a) approved the report, which gave details regarding

(i) planning applications for each of the Joint Committee's local authorities;

(ii) the running of the service;

(iii) HER Maintenance and Development;

(iv) advice provided to other local authorities and organisations;

(v) information and advice to developers/agents and to statutory undertakers;

(vi) agri-environment advice;

(vii) the annual performance statistics for 2022/23; and

(viii) the revenue account for the year ended 31st March 2023; and

(b) agreed that a paper be submitted to the next meeting of the Joint Committee outlining the current issues affecting the Service's website and to consider whether additional resources could be identified in order to resolve those issues.