Annual Report of West of Scotland Archaeology Service 2021/22 approved.

4 There was submitted a report by the Manager of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service detailing the activities of the Service for the year from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 which had included the period of transition to new working practices in the recovery stage of the Covid-19 pandemic response, confirming that

(1) the Service had dealt with 1,805 new casework items, which represented an increase of 17.6% in casework and was fairly evenly spread across the service categories, but with greater variation in the categories of work generated in each member council area;

(2) the monitoring of the weekly lists, along with direct referrals from planning officers, had identified 915 new planning applications that required further detailed assessment, an 18% increase on the previous year, while a further 267 new casework items in other categories also arose in the reporting period, a 99% increase over the previous year;

(3) in addition to the identification of new casework and responding to consultations from planning officers, the Service carried forward work on 289 planning cases, which had been initiated in previous years;

(4) 410 new site records had been added to the HER database, 55 existing site records were amended and 199 archaeological events records were created;

(5) the Service's engagement with the public had been seriously compromised by the nature of the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, however the Service assisted or liaised with 3 local amateur archaeological or historical groups and 1 university department in preparation of heritage projects; and

(6) the balance of the Service's reserve account stood at £163,428, which was higher than had been predicted in budget forecasts and would be kept under annual review as specified in the Service's approved Reserves Policy.

After consideration, the Joint Committee approved the report, which gave details regarding

(a) planning applications for each of the joint committee's local authorities;

(b) the running of the service;

(c) Historic Environment Record Maintenance and Development;

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

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

(f) agri-environment advice;

(g) the annual performance statistics for 2021/22; and

(h) the revenue account for the year ended 31st March 2022.