

Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS) is an umbrella body for organisations working in the built environment in Scotland. Drawing on extensive expertise in a membership-led forum, BEFS informs, debates and advocates on the strategic issues, opportunities and challenges facing Scotland's historic and contemporary built environment. BEFS is a supporting member of the [Climate Heritage Network](#).

Based on discussion at HEWG – and taking into account Member views expressed. BEFS submitted a short response.

1 What should be the Scottish Government's immediate priorities in supporting the culture sector's recovery through Budget 2022-23?

The cultural heritage sector has adapted at speed, proving itself to be flexible, resilient, and ingenious. With those changes comes the needs to support new and different skills and mechanisms for working. Intervention funding/skills support that can meet current needs (enhancing future sustainability and wider cultural heritage offers) include rapid need for:

Digital Skills

- Training in Digital skills
- Digital Asset production and management
- Confidence in and availability of advance booking for visiting tourist attractions. Including how to set up and use online ticketing.
- Enhanced knowledge and skills to maintain digital resources.

Business Planning and Financial Management skills.

Additionally, the matter of maintaining and repairing our cultural heritage is essential to its future, and the future of our communities and their places. Many sites have been closed and with that comes a reduced ability to maintain due to lack of access. So maintenance needs have grown - and funds to carry out that maintenance have also been hit hard through the outcomes of the pandemic. Without this maintenance our sites cannot support a cultural heritage workforce, the tourism industry, the local communities and places, as well as the attendant supporting industries and leisure sector.

2 Do you agree with UNESCO that “a degree of restructuring is inevitable” [1] as the sector recovers from COVID? If so, what approach should the Scottish Government adopt?

No response.

3 A crisis can also trigger new ways of thinking – should the Scottish Government rethink how it supports the culture sector?

Whether the intent, or outcome is a degree of restructuring, only time will tell. But there are a number of ways in which Cultural Heritage can be supported for a more sustainable future: Longer-term funding cycles are key. From government, to Agencies and NDPBs - and onward to those funded, through and by, those mechanisms should also be paramount. Longer funding cycles embed skills and stability, enabling greater sustainability of action, better outcomes delivered and increased strategic capacity.

There needs to be a greater understanding across Scottish Government directorates of what cultural heritage can deliver; exploring a cultural capital approach.

Supporting early years cultural heritage interventions makes future champions for cultural heritage - and supports a more sustainable future; as well as greater wellbeing, and skills development for those involved. BEFS will continue to highlight that the traditional skills are as essential to delivering net zero as they are to maintaining our cultural heritage.

4 Specifically, are there opportunities to develop a more strategic approach through, for example, the medium-term financial strategy, a multi-year spending review and the National Performance Framework?

How cultural-heritage can, and does, deliver across the policy spectrum is not fully articulated in Scotland's NPF. Our existing built environment, and our heritage assets (of all types and ages) can, and do, contribute positively towards net zero; as do traditional skills which not only enhance our places, but enable the provision of warm homes and long-term, skilled, employment opportunities. These are only some examples which are not yet captured.

Culture and heritage strategies need to be clarified so the funding is implemented accurately.

BEFS responses to a number of Consultations in relation to the Built Environment can be found at: <https://www.befs.org.uk/resources/consultations/>

RESPONDENT INFORMATION

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The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference: **Publish response with name**

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise? **YES**

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy. **I CONSENT**