
MUSEUMS
TASKFORCE
STATEMENT
ON FUNDING,
SCOTLAND

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Recommendations to support the sustainability of museums in Scotland:

- Scottish Government's strategic support for museums should continue with sector-wide consultation to ensure the National Strategy for Scotland's Museums and Galleries' alignment and synergy with the emerging Cultural Strategy. Museums ought to be key stakeholders in its development, and participate as active partners in its delivery.
- Sector support bodies should work collaboratively on a pan-UK basis, to pull together and collectively publicise evidence of social and economic impacts which can help museums to make the case for national and local public funding.
- Government, strategic agencies and funders should work with museums to maximise their assets – both buildings and collections – more creatively. In order to enable an increasingly strategic approach and in order to address concerns around sustainability, Lottery applicants should be encouraged to pursue a long-term relationship with the funder, working collaboratively to anticipate life-time costs of their museum buildings and essential facilities.
- The historic buildings that house many museums often play a crucial role in creating a sense of place, local identity and community pride. Strong advocacy is required to ensure the potential of these assets is also recognised in terms of economic development and that museums feature in developing City Deal proposals and smaller scale local business investment partnerships.
- Many museums are aware of the need to innovate and secure new sources of income while maintaining and developing their role as public institutions, though for local authority services in particular, this can be challenging culturally. Those which have succeeded in adopting a more commercial and flexible approach ought to be highlighted and mechanisms developed so that good practice can be shared and instituted more widely.
- Museums have a strong track record of contributing to programmes that improve wellbeing and quality of life and which provide inclusive learning opportunities; though the sector is generally less good at demonstrating the scope and full impacts of such work. Government, strategic agencies and museums need to work together more effectively to raise awareness of museum resources with other sectors and encourage partnership working at a local and national level on specific programmes and projects.
- All means of encouraging philanthropic giving in the sector ought to be strengthened, whether through further development of tax incentives, legislative change or skills development.
- Investment in the development of a new cultural skills framework, focussing on areas beyond and in support of core museum specialisms, is essential to ensure sector flexibility, diversity and sustainability.

**MUSEUMS
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