



**By email to: [info@ads.gov.uk](mailto:info@ads.gov.uk)**

Architecture and Design Scotland  
Jim MacDonald

Longmore House  
Salisbury Place  
Edinburgh  
EH9 1SH

Enquiry Line: 0131-668-8716  
[HMConsultations@hes.scot](mailto:HMConsultations@hes.scot)

Our Case ID: 201603305

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Dear Mr MacDonald

### **Building on Success: A+DS Corporate Strategy 2017-2020 Consultation Document**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft A+DS Corporate Strategy. We welcome the production of the strategy and fully support the aims and aspirations contained within the consultation document and would offer the following detailed comments in response to the consultation questions. We have also submitted these comments through the provided online questionnaire.

#### **Do you support the vision?**

We fully support the vision and welcome the opportunity to assist A+DS in realising this vision through sharing our expertise in such areas as design forums, climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as partnership working across a range of activities and projects. We welcome that the strategy rightly keeps sustainability to the fore of the vision and the recognition of the role that well-designed and sustainable places can play in areas such as health, climate change and wellbeing.

#### **Do you agree with the objectives?**

We support the objectives identified for the strategy. The objective for community involvement in placemaking is particularly welcomed and this and the other objectives can be assisted and supported by the National Record of the Historic Environment (the collecting, surveying and recording component of HES). These resources can help A+DS over the next three years deliver your vision of inspiring and engaging people in their place as, inevitably the historic built environment needs to be considered in decision making and in the creation of new architecture and places.

#### **Do you agree with the priorities we have chosen for our work?**

We welcome the identification of housing as a priority and would encourage A+DS in continuing to work with the volume house-building industry in order to promote high architectural standards, good placemaking and sustainable practices. Furthermore, the recognition of the importance of stewardship in relation to the long-term care of the built environment is also particularly welcomed. In focusing on this core objective we would encourage work in the areas of creative adaptation of the historic environment to the changing climate as well as mitigation through energy efficiency measures. To this end you may wish to consider a greater emphasis

within the strategy on the important role that A+DS will play in promoting best practice in this area.

**Do you support the ways in which we propose to achieve our objectives?**

We have noted that a significant issue identified by many Local Authorities when preparing Local Development Plans is that of Design and Placemaking. A+DS have a key role to play here in promoting best practice and in light of this the commitment to helping local authorities to prepare spatial strategies is welcomed and we would encourage this advice at all strata of the spatial strategy where resources allow, focusing on where the most significant outcomes can be realised. We would also encourage A+DS to continue to advise on policy in this area and welcome the support given by A+DS to local authority staff and public sector clients.

We are supportive of the design forum approach taken by A+DS and look forward to continuing this important relationship over the period of the strategy. This refresh of the corporate strategy offers the opportunity to further consider the role of these forums and we consider that greater clarity regarding these in terms of the roles played by bodies such as HES and planning authorities would aid their function as well as offer opportunity for a more holistic assessment of schemes for discussion that includes the wider issues associated with any particular scheme.

**Is the work we propose likely to:**

- a) support you in achieving your objectives?**
- b) lead to improvements in Scotland's built environment?**
- c) achieve the impacts we are seeking?**

The aims and outcomes of A+DS corporate strategy are very much in line with the vision and strategic objectives contained within HESs Corporate Plan. The work carried out by A+DS also supports the aspirations of the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland Our Place in Time. HESs ability to deliver its desired outcomes for the historic environment is built on partnership working and we are committed to continuing to work with A+DS for mutual benefit.

**What do you value most about the work of A&DS?**

We value the partnership working promoted by A+DS and the expertise provided through such channels as the design forums. We are committed to continue to work closely with A+DS over the period of this strategy and would encourage further partnership working in such areas as community planning. As an example of this successful partnership working we would highlight the input of A+DS in the delivery of the Climate Ready Places resource.

<http://www.sniffer.org.uk/climatereadyplaces/>

We hope this is helpful. Please contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is Andrew Stevenson and they can be contacted by phone on 0131 668 8960 or by email on [andrew.stevenson2@hes.scot](mailto:andrew.stevenson2@hes.scot).

Yours sincerely

**Ann MacSween**  
Head of Casework