



To: Economy & Jobs Policy Board

On: 23 March 2016

Report by: Director of Development and Housing Services

Heading: Buildings at Risk Register Update

1. Summary

- 1.1. At the November 2015 meeting Board members requested an update in terms of listed buildings at risk in Paisley and Renfrewshire in comparison to other towns and cities. This report is in direct response to that request.
 - 1.2. The Council is committed to protecting the built heritage of Renfrewshire, including monitoring listed and unlisted buildings which are on the Buildings at Risk Register (BARR). The BARR is maintained by Historic Environment Scotland and can be viewed at;
http://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/search/planning_authority/201
 - 1.3. Following a planned review of the Renfrewshire area carried out by RCAHMS in 2014 the number of buildings on the register increased from 42 to 46. However it should be noted that the Council has been successful in securing funding and developing heritage led regeneration projects that have resulted in the removal of buildings and structures from risk e.g. the Grand Fountain.
 - 1.4. There are currently five Buildings at Risk being restored, the development of those that are Category A listed contributing to the Scottish Government national indicator in relation to the BARR. The 5 buildings being restored are the Russell Institute, two buildings at Hawkhead Hospital, 27 Ferguslie and the former Arnotts building.
 - 1.5. A comparison has been made with the number of buildings at risk in other local authority areas (shown in section 4.4)
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2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Board:

- (i) Notes the number of Buildings at Risk in Renfrewshire and the comparison with other areas shown in section 4.4.
 - (ii) Notes the continued pro-active approach taken to promote Buildings at Risk as opportunities for positive enhancement of Renfrewshire's communities.
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3. Background

- 3.1. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) monitors buildings at risk and maintains the national Buildings at Risk Register (BARR). This role was previously carried out by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) until the restructure in October 2015.
 - 3.2. The BARR identifies buildings within the local authority area that are failing, some already beyond practical repair. The register includes both listed and unlisted buildings and structures.
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4. Progress to Date

- 4.1. The Council's approach and vision as outlined in the Heritage Regeneration Strategy seeks to utilise the wealth of Renfrewshire's built heritage assets as a basis for regeneration.
- 4.2. Following the publication of the Strategy the following progress has been made:
 - Restoration and removal from the BARR of the Category A listed Grand Fountain. In restoring part of Paisley's built heritage this project has transformed Paisley's oldest public park and made it a safer and more active space;
 - Facade retention and residential development at the former Category B listed Arnotts department store facilitating an increase in the number of people living in the town centre;
 - Restoration of the Category A listed Russell Institute to form modern office space to accommodate 80 jobs in a key town centre location;
 - The purchase by private developers of the former Territorial Army building (B listed) and of Kelvin House (C listed);
 - The progress by Kier Homes on the restoration of various listed buildings at the former Hawkhead Hospital site which includes the Category A listed Wards 7 and 8; and
 - Applications submitted to Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Environment Scotland for a second round of TH/CARS in Paisley town

centre which identifies three Buildings at Risk as potential priority projects.

- 4.3. The proactive approach taken by the Council to work with property owners is crucial where there is a risk of a building becoming vacant and being added to the BARR. A high profile example of this is the work currently ongoing with the Trustees of the Thomas Coats Memorial Church and the Princes Regeneration Trust to ensure the long-term future of this Category A listed building.
- 4.4. The following table provides a summary of Renfrewshire's and Paisley's buildings at risk together with Scotland's seven cities allowing a comparison.

Location	BAR	Category A	Category B	Category C	Unlisted
Glasgow	158	32	85	23	18
Edinburgh	96	36	34	17	9
Dundee	51	14	30	4	3
Renfrewshire	46	3	23	7	13
Perth	42	4	16	12	10
Stirling	42	8	18	7	9
Aberdeen	34	23	8	3	0
Paisley	33	2	17	4	10
Inverness	30	0	12	4	14

5. Next Steps

- 5.1. An annual review of Renfrewshire's Building at Risk Register will be carried out during the summer months with the appropriate level of action being taken to ensure owners are aware of their responsibilities in relation to the protection of the built heritage.
- 5.2. An update report will be presented each year to Board.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - None
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - None
3. **Community Planning**
Jobs and Economy – Progressing heritage led regeneration projects results in a stimulus to the local economy via contracts won and sustainable end uses for building.

4. **Legal** - None
 5. **Property/Assets** - None
 6. **Information Technology** - None
 7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
 8. **Health & Safety** - None
 9. **Procurement** – None
 10. **Risk** – None
 11. **Privacy Impact** - None
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List of Background Papers

- (a) None
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