



Meeting of DHET Trustees

Wednesday 3 June 2026

Director's Report

Adam Swan

Item 4.1

Phased Return to Work 2026

I returned to work on a phased basis from 23 March after over 7 months of sick leave. Much of the initial period involved a gradual process of meeting people and finding out about what had been happening in my absence. I was pleased that the Trust had been in such capable hands: colleagues, Trustees, Sara, HES and DCC have all been very supportive. This initial period included putting the finishing touches to and submitting DHET's own funding bit to HES, as worked up by the team in my absence. Also meeting with HES and other CHTs to discuss their recently announced funding approvals.

Grant Project Work

Much of this has already been covered in reports to the grants committee. I have joined with Mylene in meeting with potential and existing DHET stakeholders and community group representatives advising where historic building repairs were involved. These included the West End Community Council, Helm Employment and Training, DYW (with a potential new project), Michael Wright, new local agent for Savills, and we attended a 'Meet the Funders' event organised by DCC.

I progressed an initial meeting with the Hot Chocolate Trust based in the Steeple Church and began discussions with them about a possible skills training repair project for a massive stained-glass window, including providing information about its original designer and commissioning. I had a catch-up meeting with Barbara regarding the (then) current position on grant projects. Also a meeting with Hillcrest Homes regarding progressing their legal contracts for the Burnside Street project.

I've monitored submissions and made payments as appropriate to enable the completion of the projects at King Street/Cowgate and 13 Albert Square (which receives its final defects/fee payment on 12 June). With Amanda I've followed up on active enquiry projects and am anticipating submission of a significant application for Ward Road in time for the anticipated HES funding approval from 1 October. This project is QS costed and was waiting for contractor tenders to be returned. Other projects discussed include Walkers, Union Street and projects initially coming to DCC Economic Development.

At a meeting with our HES grants manager on 21 May we were given agreement to reallocate specific underspent funding from the previous allocation to the St Mary's Hall project rather than return it to HES as anticipated. If approved by DHET this will allow that project to progress and DHET to fund more projects in the 2026-31 funding period. The decision to withdraw funding to 1A West Bell Street as part of that allocation was seen as enabling Drawing Projects, another worthy project, with additional time to source additional funding and then resubmit, rather than wait and lose the allocated funding in September.

I've provided occasional support as needed to Mylene in her sterling work in organising the Build Your Future event on Tuesday 26th May, joining with colleagues and trustees in helping out on the day.

Other initiatives

Conservation Accreditation

There is a regional shortage of architects who have the particular skills in conservation which are now a non-negotiable for grant applications for repairs, using HES funding. CPD training event for architects interested in conservation accreditation to be held in DHET office daytime on Thurs 4 June, organised by RIAS; I've been asked to introduce and chair the session. DHET has expanded the event and has arranged for two evening speakers and individually invited all existing accredited architects / surveyors / advisors in the wider regional area, including the daytime delegates, to this as a networking event. In practise this was also an opportunity to remind these professionals of their unique role in being able to provide the required guidance on grant applications.

- Attended meeting with Mylene and DYW introducing the Practical Craft Skills Project; potential for this to integrate with other DHET funded projects.
- Will attend Dundee Museum of Transport exhibition opening with Mylene.
- Project award evening in HELM re. Heritage Project
- Attended meet the funders forum
- Attending the upcoming Scotland's Historic Environment Forum organised by HES in Glasgow.