

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: THE FRONTIERS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE (ANTONINE WALL) WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2014-19: FINAL DRAFT
Meeting: EXECUTIVE
Date: 8 OCTOBER 2013
Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The UK has obligations under the World Heritage Convention in relation to the effective management of World Heritage Sites which requires that every site has an appropriate management structure in place. Although Management Plans are not a statutory requirement in the UK, national policy encourages their use as best practice. The first Management Plan (2007-12) was prepared and approved by all partners as part of the bid for world heritage status at that time.
- 1.2 The appended Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site Management Plan 2014-19: Final Draft and accompanying Consultation Report have been prepared by Historic Scotland assisted by the 5 local authority partners (which includes Falkirk Council). This followed approval of the consultative draft by partners and a period of 12 weeks consultation between April and June 2013.
- 1.3 The Management Plan provides the ongoing context for the overall management of the wall and ensures the maintenance of its important 'outstanding universal value' over time. Each of the 5 local authority partners will be considering the Management Plan in parallel and it is hoped that an official launch event can be organised in December.

2.0 THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 2.1 The Management Plan states a clear **30 year Vision** for the wall.

The Antonine Wall will be:

- a World Heritage Site that is well maintained and sustainably managed to safeguard its Outstanding Universal Value;
- a property that is established as a world class visitor experience;
- a catalyst to connect and transform communities locally, nationally and internationally;
- a focus to realise sustainable benefits economically, socially and environmentally for locals and visitors alike; and

- a resource for inspiring learning and creating opportunity for participation and discovery.
- 2.2 The above **Vision** is supported by **Long Term Aims**. Each is developed into a series of **Issues** which are addressed directly by an extensive set of **Medium Term Objectives**. These objectives form the core of the Management Plan over the period.
- 2.3 Importantly, the Management Plan clearly emphasises the need to protect the ‘outstanding universal value’ of the wall but also recognises the potential that exists to develop the site as a key visitor attraction and one which should bring benefits to local economies through enhanced interpretation and promotion. To this end a **5 Year Action Plan** is included. In year one, for example, it is planned that work will be completed on creating a much improved Antonine Wall website, an Economic Benefits Study and common Signage Strategies for each partner area.
- 2.4 Other key actions over the 5 year period of the Action Plan include taking forward:
- the ‘Scottish 10’ scanning project 2014-15;
 - an education strategy 2014-15;
 - a business development strategy 2015-16;
 - a transportation strategy 2015-16;
 - a joint working strategy for museums and heritage centres 2015-16;
 - a visitor centre options appraisal study 2016-17;
 - a community engagement strategy 2016-17;
 - a governance review 2016-17;
 - a rangers service development programme 2017-18; and
 - the development of an international research project 2017-18.

3.0 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Only 14 submissions were received during the consultation period, mainly from interest groups and public bodies. These are summarised in the appended Consultation Report. Overall these were positive and proposed changes to the Management Plan are minor in nature. Responses to submissions are set out in Annex A of the Consultation Report and largely propose minor textual changes or refer to relevant measures set out in the 5 Year Action Plan. The Consultation Report also summarises the issues raised by the environmental report and the mitigation measures proposed to meet the requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Legal: None.
- 4.2 Financial: It is anticipated at this stage that the cost of delivering the Management Plan will be contained within existing budgets. However, there is the potential that ongoing partner funding may be required to ensure its effective implementation. External funding opportunities will also be fully explored.
- 4.3 Personnel: Historic Scotland has now agreed to fund the Antonine Wall Co-ordinator post as a permanent position. Council and Falkirk Community Trust officers will require to assist in the delivery of the Management Plan objectives through ongoing commitment to the partners steering group and the Council's corporate stakeholders' group.
- 4.4 Policy: The Management Plan will support the objectives of the Council's Strategic Community Plan, Development Plan and Tourism Action Plan. The expectation of the international community is that Management Plan visions, aims and objectives should be, wherever possible, incorporated into the strategies, plans and other policy guidance produced by local authority partners.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 **It is recommended that the Executive approves the amended Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) Management Plan 2014-19: Final Draft and the accompanying Consultation Report and Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement.**

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Director of Development Services

Date: 26 September 2013.

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APPENDICES

1. Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site Management Plan 2014-19 Final Draft.
2. Consultation Report and Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site Management Plan 2007-12.
2. Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) Management Plan 2014-19 Consultative Draft - Environmental Report.
3. Leisure, Tourism and Community Committee report 12 February 2013 – The Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) Management Plan 2013-18 Consultative Draft.

Any person wishing to see background papers should telephone 01324 504710 and ask for Alan Rodger.