

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the City of Edinburgh's coat of arms. It includes a crown at the top with four thistles, a shield divided into four quarters (a ship, a lion, a castle, and a unicorn), and a motto scroll at the bottom.

AGENDA ITEM 12

HLF Bid – Rediscovering the Antonine Wall

Falkirk Council

Title: Heritage Lottery Fund Bid – Rediscovering the Antonine Wall
Meeting: Executive
Date: 18 October 2016
Submitted By: Director of Development Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to support and part-fund a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in partnership with the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site Management Group for a programme of community projects that will help people find out about and enjoy the Antonine Wall.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Executive is asked to agree to:-

(1) support for the HLF bid in principle; and

(2) forward commit £70,000 to this project over 4 years:

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|----------------------|---------|
| a. Year 1: 2017-2018 | £10,000 |
| b. Year 2: 2018-2019 | £20,000 |
| c. Year 3: 2019-2020 | £20,000 |
| d. Year 4: 2020-2021 | £20,000 |

3. Background

- 3.1 The Antonine Wall (www.antoninewall.org) is one part of the much larger Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site. The Wall extends 37 miles from Old Kilpatrick in West Dunbartonshire to Carriden in Bo'ness and represents the most north westerly extent of the Roman Empire's general system of defence.
- 3.2 The Antonine Wall Management Group includes Historic Environment Scotland (HES), West and East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, Glasgow and Falkirk Councils. Project development work is guided by a Management Plan for the Wall. There is also an annual Work Plan detailing activities being delivered in the Falkirk Council area and an Antonine Wall Interpretation Plan.
- 3.3 Economic and visitor studies have been commissioned by the Management Group and results are available on the Antonine Wall website. Studies found a general lack of awareness and understanding of the location and significance of the Antonine Wall. The Management Plan highlights opportunities for developing projects that aim to address this which may be eligible for HLF funding.

3.4 It is envisaged that, if successful, this HLF project would address these opportunities. The project will run from June 2018 to June 2021 with a funded project development phase running from April 2017 until March 2018 subject to Council approval, partner approvals and HLF funding bid success. A single Council will be lead applicant to HLF. This is still to be confirmed as either West Dunbartonshire Council or North Lanarkshire Council. The proposal includes staffing and a range of community projects within the 5 local authority areas along the length of the Antonine Wall including:

- Appoint 3 staff (1 Project Manager and 2 Engagement Officers).
- Create a volunteer workforce to support delivery of the project.
- Reshoot a black and white film “Walk the Wall” to show landscape change on and around the Wall since 1960. This will be a community project filmed by a professional team.
- Produce 5 replica stone distance markers – one in each Council area. This will be a community project similar to the Bridgeness Slab project in Bo’ness. The Management Group still has to agree sites for the replica markers.
- Community research project with Hunterian Museum to help people understand how carved distance markers would have looked.
- A range of community projects informed by the Antonine Wall Interpretation Plan such as community curated exhibitions, arts projects, learning projects and events.
- Create 5 outdoor interpretation features close to the Wall making use of play and technology. This project is aimed at engaging young people and families.
- Outreach programme with Antonine Wall themes and stories taken to “Hub Museums” across Scotland to reconnect the site to museum artefacts.
- Large-scale public celebration to raise awareness and understanding of the Wall as well as to recognise participant’s contributions.
- School resource packs to support cross-curricular learning related to the Antonine Wall.

3.5 The project is expected to cost £1,698,100 in total, with the following elements:

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| Development Phase from 2017 to 2018 | £160,000 |
| Project delivery: April 2018 to March 2021 | £1,538,100 |

3.6 Expected project costs are as follows:

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| • Staffing and associated costs | £360,000 |
| • Walk the Wall Film | £82,000 |
| • Replica Distance Slabs | £250,000 |
| • Research project on colour of slabs | £10,000 |
| • Community projects | £300,000 |
| • Interpretation and activity structures | £425,000 |
| • Outreach to Hub Museums | £10,000 |
| • End of Project Celebration | £100,000 |

4. Considerations

- 4.1 The Antonine Wall Management Group bid is seeking £1,103,765 from HLF towards a total project costing £1,698,100. The projects within the bid will help Falkirk Council meet the aims and objectives set out in the Antonine Wall Management Plan and the Antonine Wall Interpretation Plan. However, project activities will be spread across the 5 local authority areas through which the Antonine Wall passes. Details on project locations and exact amounts of levered funding to the Falkirk Council area would become clearer as the project develops and, if successful, at subsequent HLF rounds.
- 4.2 A similar model is the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative (IFLI) which is a multi agency HLF funded programme currently supported by Falkirk Council. This is due to finish in March 2018, at which time Falkirk Council's financial contribution to IFLI could be reallocated to this Antonine Wall HLF bid from within existing budgets. Planning and Environment Unit officers are the Council's lead representatives on the Antonine Wall Management Group.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 In early 2016 HES appointed Jura Consultants to help develop the HLF proposal. As part of this commission, a range of stakeholders were consulted including Falkirk Council, Falkirk Community Trust, and representatives from a range of community groups with an interest the Antonine Wall namely:
- Polmont Woods group
 - Bonnybridge Community Council
 - Greenhills Historical Society
 - The Friends of Kinneil group
- 5.2 These positive meetings and conversations have helped shape the list of potential projects that will form part of the final HLF submission. These stakeholders will also be future partners should the HLF bid be successful.
- 5.3 Initial liaison with Falkirk Community Trust has taken place. Many of the outcomes outlined in section 3.4 above are closely aligned to FCT's approved Heritage Delivery Plan for Falkirk 2015-18 and may take place at key FCT lease sites at Kinneil Estate and Callendar Park. On-going liaison between the Antonine Wall Management Group and FCT would be required.

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1 This project cost to Falkirk Council would be £70,000 (£10,000 for the development phase, and then £20,000 per year for 3 years) and would be met from within existing budgets.

Resources

- 6.2 None for Falkirk Council. Additional staff resource of 3 FTE posts are included as part of the HLF application costing. New staff resource would be hosted by the lead Council and allocated across all 5 local authorities including Falkirk Council area.

Legal

- 6.3 Legal agreement is likely to be between Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and the lead Council. Falkirk Council would need to sign any concordat between the 5 Councils and HES. Officers would continue with existing or additional governance arrangements.

Risk

- 6.4 None

Equalities

- 6.5 None

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.6 None

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 If successful, this programme of community activities would deliver a range of key actions and outcomes in the Antonine Wall Management Plan.
- 7.2 The Council and many of the community groups in our area have a history of strong partnership working. The Friends of Kinneil worked closely with Falkirk Council to deliver the Bridgeness Slab project, and lead the way with the 'Big Roman Week' programme of events every September.

- 7.3 Modest investment in the HLF project “Rediscovering the Antonine Wall” would bring a range of additional Roman-themed activities to the Falkirk Council area. As well as encouraging a greater awareness of the built heritage asset that is the Antonine Wall: Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site, the HLF bid would also give communities an opportunity for an active role in this project as well as providing visitors with a better experience using improved interpretative and educational resources.

Director of Development Services

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Date: 6 October 2016

Appendices

None

List of Background Papers:

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:

- HLF Project Enquiry Form