

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE STEEPLE
200 ANNIVERSARY EVENT**
Meeting: FALKIRK COMMON GOOD SUB COMMITTEE
Date: 17 SEPTEMBER 2014
**Author: HEAD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Falkirk Steeple 200th anniversary celebrations are being delivered in Falkirk town centre and identified as a key Falkirk Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) community engagement output as part of the Council's HLF approved heritage engagement activities. It is considered a critical element of awareness activity in advance of the physical restoration contract of the Steeple during 2015/16, approved as a priority project within the awarded THI. The Steeple 200 celebrations are coinciding with Doors Open Day 2014 activities.
- 1.2 Since May 2014 the Growth & Investment Unit's THI project team have been in discussions with the Provost's Office, FCT, Falkirk BID, Falkirk Local History Society, the Howgate Shopping Centre and Falkirk Herald about partner delivery of a celebratory event. Regular working group meetings have taken place establishing a programme of activities, raising community education and heritage awareness of the importance of the Steeple in the year of its 200th anniversary, from the demolition of Falkirk's earliest Steeple in 1697 till the present day. All Falkirk THI activity can be viewed on the THI website: <http://falkirkthi.com/>

2.0 STEEPLE 200TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMME

- 2.1 The following programme of community activities are to be delivered during September as part of a series of themed engagement initiatives funded by either direct or indirect partner support:
- *Steeple Photography Competition and Exhibition* - Falkirk BID are hosting a Steeple photographic exhibition and competition submitted by members of the public. This exhibit and prize event is in partnership with the Howgate Shopping Centre, who have made a unit available for the partners to use. (Delivery cost £3,750)
 - *Our Falkirk Steeple Exhibition* - the Falkirk THI team and FCT are running a dedicated exhibition on the history of the Steeple, from the demolition of Falkirk's earliest steeple in 1697 till present day, with display items from the museum collection. The exhibition will run from 18th September till 13th November again hosted in the same unit provided by the Howgate Shopping Centre. (Delivery cost £5,600)
 - *Picturing Our Steeple Art Project* - Working with Education Services, the P6 Classes from Carmuir, Laurieston, Maddiston and Victoria Primary Schools have engaged in the THI funded 'Picturing Our Steeple' Art Project. The artwork produced through the project will be displayed alongside the Our Falkirk Steeple Exhibition and the schools will be

invited to come along and see their work. Additionally the THI Heritage Engagement Officer has created a valuable resource document for teachers, this to be promoted within Education Services. Current educational engagement activities are updated at: <http://ourfalkirksteeple.wordpress.com/2014/05/23/week-one-lets-learn-about-our-steeple/> (Delivery cost £3,000)

- *Steeple 200th Anniversary weekend event* – A series of celebratory and heritage engagement events including local live music, street entertainment, historic re-enactment, schools and participation of various local community groups, all focussed on celebrating the bi-centenary of the Steeple, is being coordinated to take place on the 20th and 21st September in conjunction with Doors Open Day. As giving safe access to the Steeple was critical to facilitating initial access to the community to this iconic heritage asset, delivery of initial internal improvements has been facilitated through the THI. These works are advanced eligible works identified within the larger Steeple restoration project funded through the Falkirk THI to be delivered during 2015/16. The celebratory activities will formally be closed with the Provost and the Falkirk Local History Society recreating the historic toast to the Bairn's of Falkirk and everyone celebrating the Steeple's anniversary with a giant cake. Members of Falkirk Football Club will be involved. The day will close with performance by the Red Hot Chilli Pipers and the local Camelon Pipe band who will be working on a joint performance piece. (Delivery cost £29,000)

- 2.2 The total cost of delivery, promotion and running of the four THI project joint partner led activities and celebratory engagement activities during August & September is £41,350 of which £26,350 has been committed to by partners. Given the historic civic significance of the Steeple 200 anniversary, associated community and heritage engagement benefits and support for the town centre economy as a footfall driver, the Steeple 200 Anniversary Working Group is seeking a contribution of £15,000 to support costs associated with delivery of the overall activities.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The balance of the Falkirk Common Good Fund is currently £816,739 and income in the region of £25,500 is expected to be added during the current financial year. To date no other applications for financial assistance from the fund have been received.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

Members consider awarding £15,000 from the Falkirk Common Good Fund towards the cost of delivering civic and heritage engagement activities associated with the celebration of Steeple 200 anniversary.

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Head of Economic Development and Environmental Services

Date: 15th September, 2014

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