



Agenda Item

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**Antonine Wall Steering Group:
Development of Stage 2 Heritage
Lottery Fund Bid**

Falkirk Council

Title: Antonine Wall Steering Group: Development of Stage 2
Heritage Lottery Fund Bid

Meeting: Executive

Date: 9 January 2018

Submitted By: Director of Development Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a progress update on the Rediscovering the Antonine Wall project, set out the implications for Falkirk Council of a stage 2 bid and seek approval to proceed with the submission of a stage 2 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the project

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Executive:

- a) Notes progress made to date at stage 1 and the appointment of a Project Manager by West Dunbartonshire Council as lead authority.
- b) Approves in principle the submission of a stage 2 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Rediscovering the Antonine Wall project.
- c) Authorises West Dunbartonshire Council, as lead authority, to submit the stage 2 HLF application on Falkirk Council's behalf and undertake all required procurement, financial and other associated requirements as part of the project.
- d) Notes that officers will report the outcome of this stage 2 bid to elected members in a subsequent Information Bulletin Report.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 17 March 2015, Falkirk Council Executive approved the Antonine Wall Local Action Plan and the activities of the Council's Corporate Working Group to develop and implement this.
- 3.2 To assist with delivery of the Management Plan, the Antonine Wall partnership (the partnership) has agreed to progress a Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) bid. The partners are East Dunbartonshire Council, Falkirk Council, Glasgow City Council, Historic Environment Scotland (HES), North Lanarkshire Council and West Dunbartonshire Council.
- 3.3 Members were informed in the Information Bulletin of 11th May 2016 that Jura Consultants would prepare a Stage 1 HLF bid to be submitted at the end of July 2016 by West Dunbartonshire Council.

- 3.4 West Dunbartonshire Council is the lead applicant on this bid. However, the bid will include projects that deliver priority actions across the Antonine Wall including in the Falkirk Council area.
- 3.5 The Information Bulletin noted that officers would report to elected Members the outcome of this bid and the expected commitment and implications of submitting a joint Stage 2 HLF bid for the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 The stage 1 bid was approved by the Heritage Lottery Fund in March 2017 and the partnership was invited to make a stage 2 bid. HLF awarded the partnership £97,000 to assist with the preparation of this later bid and West Dunbartonshire Council appointed a project manager to oversee its preparation.
- 4.2 The Rediscovering the Antonine Wall project is the first project of its kind to see five local authorities working together with Historic Environment Scotland to increase awareness and understanding of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and to better connect communities and visitors to this World Heritage Site.
- 4.3 If the partnership is successful in their stage 2 bid to the HLF, this ambitious project will be delivered over three years and will include capital projects and a series of community-led projects, spread out across the 5 Council areas and amongst the different communities along the Wall. Further details are contained within appendix 1.
- 4.4 The projects planned for investment as part of this project in the Falkirk Council area include:
- a new Roman themed play facility at Callendar Park to replace the existing out of commission central play frame at the Castle Callendar play area;
 - a replica distance slab at Cow Wynd in Falkirk town centre, adjacent to site of Falkirk Roman Fort; and
 - 6 community projects across the Council area over the 3 year lifespan of the project. Dependent on the ideas of communities and the scale of match funding which can be levered in, these community projects could include capital elements. There are particular opportunities at Bonnybridge and at Kinneil Estate in Bo'ness to connect these communities better with the Antonine Wall sites at Seabegs Wood, Rough Castle and the fortlet at Kinneil.
- 4.5 Other projects include: the creation of the '21st Century Legion' a volunteer workforce to support the development and delivery of the project; and the re-shooting of the silent 'Walk the Wall' film from the 1960's as a community project.
- 4.6 Across the partnership area the total project value is likely to be in the region of £1.5M - £2.7M dependent on the success of other bids for match funding. Of this, between £195k - £405k is likely to be invested in the Falkirk Council area (costs relate to the capital projects in 4.4 above). An additional £202k - £412k is likely to be spent in the Falkirk Council area on other projects.

4.7 If successful, Falkirk Council's contribution towards the project will be £20,000 per year for 3 years totalling £60,000. This figure will be met from within existing budgets.

4.8 Subject to Executive approval it is intended to submit the stage 2 bid to the HLF on 1st June 2018.

5. Implications

Financial

6.1 The Council will be required to pay £20,000 per year to West Dunbartonshire Council for the 3 year duration of the project. This will be met from within existing budgets. Partnership working and external funding opportunities will be maximised where possible.

Resources

6.2 Falkirk Council staff are likely to become involved in supporting the delivery of the project. If successful at stage 2, West Dunbartonshire Council will continue to employ the project manager and appoint two additional community staff to deliver the project spread across all 5 council areas including Falkirk Council area.

Legal

6.3 None

Risk

6.4 None

Equalities

6.5 None.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

6.6 The completed project will offer a unique and interactive experience for visitors and will encourage repeat visits, thereby improving the economic sustainability of Bonnybridge, Bo'ness and Falkirk.

7. Conclusions

7.1 The Rediscovering the Antonine Wall project will increase awareness and understanding of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and to better connect communities to their own heritage. A modest financial contribution to the project by Falkirk Council over a three year period is likely to lever in significant external funding, build on the Council area's growing reputation as a high quality tourist destination and improve the economic sustainability of our communities.

Director of Development Services

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Date: 19 December 2017

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Rediscovering the Antonine Wall Project.

List of Background Papers:

The Antonine Wall Local Action Plan 2015

Appendix 1 – Rediscovering the Antonine Wall Project

Project Summary

The Antonine Wall became part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site (alongside Hadrian's Wall and the German Limes) in 2008. It runs through 5 Council areas in central Scotland (West Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire, Glasgow, North Lanarkshire and Falkirk) with both urban and rural sections. Further information on the site and its history can be found on the website at www.antoninewall.org

The Antonine Wall World Heritage Site Management Group has secured a round 1 pass from the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver a three-year project to engage communities, and raise awareness and develop understanding of the Antonine Wall WHS and its associated heritage. This ambitious project will raise the profile of the World Heritage Site through the creation of visitor destinations and the delivery of a wide range of community projects designed to enhance engagement with and understanding of the World Heritage Site. The individual parts of the project will include:

Create the '21st Century Legion' a volunteer workforce to support the development and delivery of the project:

- Re-shooting of the silent 'Walk the Wall' film from the 1960's as a community project;
- Produce 5 replica stone distance slabs found on or near the Wall, with community involvement, to create points of interest for the Antonine Wall;
- A programme of community developed and delivered projects related to the Antonine Wall such as community-curated exhibitions, arts projects, learning projects, events etc; and
- Creation of 5 outdoor play facilities inspired by the Antonine Wall, installed in publicly owned grounds in close proximity to the Wall.

Project Development Structure

West Dunbartonshire Council is the lead applicant for this project with responsibility for developing and delivering the project on behalf of the Antonine Wall Management Group. Thus far the Project has been developed by the Antonine Wall Management Group, the Management Plan Coordinator and with some assistance from external consultants.

The Antonine Wall Management Group includes Historic Environment Scotland, West Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire, Glasgow City, North Lanarkshire and Falkirk Councils and is responsible for overseeing the delivery of the World Heritage Site Management Plan 2014–19 and all associated action plans.

Although led by West Dunbartonshire Council, this is a partnership project that reflects the shared aspirations and expectations of partner organisations. A

consultation exercise was undertaken to assist in preparing the round 1 application and this served to gain the views of a sample of communities with an interest in the Wall and to build consensus within the partners on the scope and extent of the project.

A Project Manager has been appointed by the West Dunbartonshire Council on behalf of the Antonine Wall WHS Management Group to oversee and manage the delivery of the development phase. The Project Manager is responsible for sourcing additional funding needed for the projects. The Management Group will act as the Steering Group for this commission.