

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: REFERRAL FROM LEISURE TOURISM & COMMUNITY
COMMITTEE – 15th SEPTEMBER 2009**
Meeting: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Date: 20TH OCTOBER 2009
**Author: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following Report was submitted to the Leisure Tourism & Community Committee at its meeting on 15th September 2009. The purpose of this Report is to refer recommendations made by the Leisure Tourism & Community Committee to Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

2. THE ANTONINE WALL

- 2.1 Committee considered the Report by the Directors of Community Services and Development Services on the proposal for an Antonine Wall Co-ordinator post funded by Historic Scotland for the first two years and by local authorities surrounding the Wall in the third year.
- 2.2 Committee was invited and agreed to:-
- (1) note the national and local activity supporting the Antonine Wall as a World Heritage Site;
 - (2) note the in principle proposal, to part fund the post of Antonine Wall Co-ordinator in Year 3, subject to funds being available; and
 - (3) refer the report to Policy and Resources Committee to consider the in principle funding proposal.
- 2.3 Councillor Mahoney, seconded by Provost Reid, moved that the recommendations within the Report be approved.
- 2.4 By way of an Amendment, Councillor J Constable, seconded by Councillor Coleman, moved the establishment of a Working Group to develop a strategy and vision for the Antonine Wall and the Kinneil Estate for the benefit of the Falkirk Council area to ensure full advantage of heritage and tourism opportunities.

- 2.5 On a division, 7 Members voted for the Motion and 4 for the Amendment.
- 2.6 Accordingly, Committee **AGREED** in principle the part funding of the post of Antonine Wall Co-ordinator in Year 3 (2011/2012), subject to funds being available, and refer to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

3. RECOMMENDATION

Committee is invited to agree in principle part funding of the post of Antonine Wall Co-ordinator in Year 3 (2011/2012), subject to funds being available.

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Director of Community Services

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Director of Development Services

Date: 8 October 2009

Contact Officer: Sue Selwyn ext 0903

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS
NIL

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: THE ANTONINE WALL
Meeting: LEISURE, TOURISM & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
Date: 15TH SEPTEMBER 2009
Author: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members of the Committee about the national framework set up to support the management of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and about local initiatives happening around the Antonine Wall in the Falkirk Council area, since it was inscribed as World Heritage Site (WHS) in July 2008.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In July 2008 the Antonine Wall achieved international recognition by being inscribed as part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site, by the World Heritage Committee. Up to that point, only Hadrian's Wall and a section of the Frontier in Germany had been inscribed. World Heritage Site status was achieved following a formal nomination in 2004 and a rigorous evaluation period that took place during the latter part of 2007. Members were advised of the successful outcome of the nomination in a committee report to the Environment and Heritage Committee on 16 September 2008. No additional funding has been made available to support the successful bid.
- 2.2 In Scotland, the nomination process was steered, until January 2008, by a partnership consisting of the lead partner, Historic Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and the five local authorities along the line of the Wall. This was then superseded by a Management Plan Group, which has a responsibility for managing the site. This groups consists of a main group representing those bodies that have a stake in the management of the Wall (as above), plus Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stirling Universities, the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS), Central Scotland Forest Trust, Forestry Commission, British Waterways Scotland, Visitscotland, the Council for Scottish Archaeology and the West of Scotland Archaeological Service. There are also a range of sub groups reporting to the Management Plan Group.

3. NATIONAL FRAMEWORK – THE MANAGEMENT PLAN GROUP

- 3.1 A Management Plan for the Antonine Wall (2007 – 2012) was developed as part of the nomination process and sets out an integrated and consensual approach to the management of the World heritage Site. It is steered by the Management Group, which in turn is supported by the following sub-groups:

- Protection Group – reviewing protection measures for the WHS and its buffer zone

- Access Group – advising on issues and developing the plans concerning access in its broadest sense
- Documentation Group – maintenance and updating of the mapping and related textual information
- Research Group – overseeing the production of a research framework for the WHS
- Landscape Group – considering the enhancement of the landscape setting of the WHS and its buffer zone

3.2 Falkirk Council is represented by Officers on the Management Group, and on the Protection and Access sub-groups. Much of the work of the Management Group and the sub-groups, in their first year, has been to develop working arrangements that will meet the expectations of the plan. The following aims have been agreed for the management of the Wall over the next 5 years:

- Improve the management of the Antonine Wall, in particular through the actions of Historic Scotland and the five local authorities along the line of the Wall;
- Create an access strategy which would encompass sign-posting, car and cycle routes and car-parking;
- Improve the presentation of all those parts of the Antonine Wall which are in the care of ownership of public bodies such as Historic Scotland and the local authorities;
- Formulate an integrated interpretation and education strategy encompassing Historic Scotland, the five local authorities along the line of the Wall and all museums holding artefacts from the Antonine Wall;
- Prepare a landscape strategy which would seek to enhance the environment within which the Wall sits including improved management of the woodland through which the wall runs;
- Achieve co-operation with other facilities in the area, including the Forth and Clyde Canal/Falkirk Wheel;
- Help create standards for the mapping and documentation of Roman frontiers to enable the Antonine Wall to be studied better with its international framework;
- Co-operate with international bodies to place the Antonine Wall in its wider historical and tourist setting, for example through the Culture 2000 programme.

3.3 The Management Plan and World Heritage Site Status is being applied consistently in development discussions and Planning Applications across the 5 authorities. Feedback and monitoring of current progress and issues are collated by the Protection group to be used by authorities and agencies in forthcoming Public Local Enquiries and in developing Statutory Planning Guidance. Other key actions for the Management group in the first year include:

- Planning for the construction, location and implementation of World Heritage Site marker plaques. In the Falkirk Council area these will be sited in Callendar Park and Kinneil Estate and installed this autumn.
- Publishing a map (RCAHMS) of the Antonine Wall

- The development of an official Antonine Wall website - www.antoninewall.org (Falkirk Council's website has a direct link to this)
- Planning for the post of an Antonine Wall Coordinator post.

3.4 Antonine Wall Coordinator Post

To date, the coordination of the nomination process and subsequent activity has been managed by Historic Scotland. However, the officer responsible for this in Historic Scotland will be retiring in the autumn, so Historic Scotland has proposed an alternative model for supporting co-ordination. The proposal is to establish an Antonine Wall Coordinator Post, with a remit to ensure the effective implementation of the management plan across all local authorities and other agencies. In the first instance, it is proposed that this be a 3 year fixed term post, fully funded by Historic Scotland for the first 2 years on the understanding that all the local authorities will then contribute to the costs of the post in the final year. However, Historic Scotland have agreed to underwrite the third year if the total package of funding is not secured. Current estimates for salary, associated costs and expenses are around £70,000 per annum. North Lanarkshire Council have agreed to host the post, as a centrally located local authority, by providing accommodation and day-to-day administrative support, for the initial three years within their Planning and Development, Environmental Services team

The post will be managed by Historic Scotland and under Civil Service terms and conditions, but supported by all five local authorities along the Wall. The post holder will interact with other authorities and stakeholders on appointment, through key contact officers. The coordinator will be expected to draw upon an action plan for the implementation of the management plan, as well as securing funding and managing and developing the partnership. The post holder will ensure all parties meet their longer term goal may be to establish a separate entity to manage the World Heritage Site, as has recently happened for Hadrian's Wall.

3.5 Work of the Sub-Groups

The most active of the sub-groups have been the Protection and Access Sub-Groups. The Protection Group has commissioned the procurement of consultants to produce Supplementary Planning Guidance (and the legal requirement for a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the SPG), for development along the entire length of the Wall and its associated buffer zone across the 5 local authority areas. The document is being produced in tandem with a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in line with legal requirements. Both will involve elements of public and local authority consultation and once approved by all local authorities should be available by Spring 2010.

The Access Sub-Group is in the process of commissioning an Access Plan and an Interpretation Plan. The former will address how physical access to the Antonine Wall can be improved for all visitors, taking account of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995 and 2005) and will look at ways of encouraging non-motorised access. It will also consider intellectual, social and cultural access and provide outline costs for proposals and ongoing maintenance.

The Interpretation Plan will consider how best to present the story of the Antonine Wall and its component parts to visitors, educational establishments, local communities and businesses and make recommendations for the appropriate media to interpret the story and where this should be located. The development of both plans will require the

appointed consultants to consult and discuss widely with stakeholders. Funding for these two pieces of work has still to be secured and will be a key task for the Co-ordinator, once appointed.

4. LOCAL ACTIVITY

- 4.1 Until the plans as detailed above come into place, it is important that Falkirk Council provides interim locally based activity to enhance the World Heritage Site. Since the inscription took place in July 2008, both Development and Community Services have undertaken a number of activities designed to promote knowledge of the Antonine Wall in the Falkirk Council area and to enhance local community engagement with the concept of the World Heritage Site.
- 4.2 A visit to Rough Castle, Callendar House and Kinneil Roman Fortlet was arranged for the UK Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism and the Scottish Government's Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution on 10 March 2009. Local schoolchildren took part in the event, which received good publicity in local and national press.
- 4.3 The preparation, update and re-launch of the Antonine Wall WHS recreational walking guide was completed in April 2009. The guide promotes the key sites along the Antonine Wall in the Falkirk Council area and is available as a hard copy or on the Council's website. A translation of the guide into German was launched in June 2009.
- 4.4 An audit of signage of the WHS (both roadside and path signage) was carried out, as a pre-requisite which will inform future cross-authority action on access and promotion. This will require to be complemented by a logo and branding exercise currently being undertaken by Historic Scotland. In the meantime, interpretation panels at four locations in the Falkirk Council area have been refreshed (Polmont Hill, Ski slope, Kemper Avenue and Watt's Cottage).
- 4.5 Falkirk Council took part in the National Spring Clean of the Antonine Wall Litter Pick as part of Keep Scotland Beautiful, encouraging ongoing maintenance and tourism across the 5 local authorities.
- 4.6 Community engagement with the WHA has been raised by a number of projects in Community Services. Spaceunlimited, a social enterprise company, was jointly commissioned by Historic Scotland, Falkirk Council and Glasgow City Council to work with young people from schools along the length of the Wall. Four schools were involved – Bo'ness Academy, St. Ninian's High Schools, Kirkintilloch, Cleveden Academy, Glasgow and Clydebank High School. The project aimed to assist organisations to understand the challenges of engaging a young audience, as well as increasing the awareness, value and understanding of young people of the Wall. It was inspired by the importance UNESCO places on working with young people to realise the value of the World Heritage ideal.
- 4.7 A literacy and ESOL project entitled "Along the Wall" was developed. This consisted of a series of workshops that developed participants' literacy skills using the Romans and World Heritage as a subject. The participants were young Asian women, for whom English is a second language. The heritage dimension to the workshops allowed participants to explore and understand the contribution of immigrants to the area's

heritage. The project was well received and the workshops were extended from 6 to 12 weeks.

- 4.8 Community Services education work with school age young people expanded with a total of 39 workshops on the topic of the Romans being delivered by Museum staff over the academic year. A number of talks about the Romans were given to adult groups and a video download of “Life on the Antonine Wall” is available on the Forth’s’ Timeline website.

5. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

- 5.1 National developments will follow the appointment of an Antonine Wall Co-ordinator. In the meantime, an international project to digitally record three-dimensional models of world heritage sites is about to begin with Mount Rushmore in the USA. In Scotland, this project will include the Antonine Wall, St. Kilda and the City of Edinburgh.
- 5.2 Locally, the installation of the World Heritage Site plaques will take place in the autumn and a project to install a replica of the Bridgeness Distance Slab in Kinningars Park, Bo’ness is underway. A Roman themed event, “The Big Roman Week”, organised by community groups in Bo’ness, will take place in September.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial
The main financial implication arising from this report will be the potential part funding of the Antonine Wall Co-ordinator post in Year 3. Based on current figures the total annual cost is estimated to be £70,000, to which Falkirk Council will be asked to contribute during the financial year 2011/2012. Given the current financial climate, Falkirk Council may wish, at this stage, to agree in principle only.
- 6.2 Policy
The support and development of the Antonine Wall as a World Heritage Site fits with the aims and objective of the Single Outcome Agreement, the Strategic Community Plan and the Corporate Plan.
- 6.3 Personnel
There are no personnel implications.
- 6.4 Legal
There are no legal implications

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that Members of the Leisure, Tourism and Community Committee:
- a) note the national and local activity supporting the Antonine Wall as a World Heritage Site;
 - b) note the in principle proposal, to part fund the post of Antonine Wall Co-ordinator in Year 3, subject to funds being available;

- c) agree to refer the in principle funding proposal to the Policy and Resources Committee.



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Director of Community Services
Date 21 August 2009

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Director of Development Services
Date 21 August 2009

Contact Officer: Sue Selwyn Head of Culture & Lifelong Learning, Extn 0903

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Antonine Wall (Education and Heritage Committee, 16 September 2008).
2. Antonine Wall Proposed Roman Frontier World Heritage Site (Education and Heritage Committee, 22 June 2004).