

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Planning Committee: 5 June 2013

Subject: Antonine Wall Management Plan 2013-2018 Consultation Draft

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To inform Committee of the preparation and content of a new Management Plan for the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and to seek approval of the Council's response to the consultation draft version of the plan.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that the Committee note the details of the consultation on a new Management Plan for the Antonine Wall and approve the comments in Appendix 1 as the Council's response to the consultation.

3. Background

- 3.1** The Antonine Wall was inscribed as a World Heritage Site in July 2008, becoming an extension of the trans-national Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site which includes Hadrian's Wall in England and the German Limes.
- 3.2** Inscription as a World Heritage Site brings with it obligations that the site will have an appropriate management structure in place. Whilst a Management Plan is not a statutory requirement, they are encouraged by national policy as best practice. The first Management Plan for the Antonine Wall covered the five-year period from nomination (2007-12) and therefore a revised plan is required.
- 3.3** West Dunbartonshire Council, along with the four other local authorities through which the Wall passes (Glasgow, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and Falkirk) and Historic Scotland are key partners in the management of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site. The partners, led by the Antonine Wall Co-ordinator have prepared a draft Management Plan for consultation.
- 3.4** The draft Management Plan has been prepared following a series of stakeholder and public workshops held between July and November 2012, including at Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick on 27 November. Comments on the Consultation Draft are requested by 28 June 2013.
- 3.5** The Committee previously approved and adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance in relation to the Antonine Wall. The preparation of that guidance

was an action of the previous Management Plan. Its status is not affected by the update of the Management Plan.

4. Main Issues

4.1 The draft Management Plan provides a broad framework for the management, conservation and enhancement of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site, encompassing a wide range of issues.

4.2 Chapters 1-3 of the draft Management Plan provide an introduction, the reasoning behind the requirement for the plan and details on how it has been developed. Chapters 4-6 outline the consultation process. Chapter 7 considers the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site's 'Statement of Outstanding Universal Value', which defines the elements with the site which make it important and which should be protected in order to maintain its significance. Chapter 8 identifies the partners and stakeholders in the management of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and their roles and responsibilities. Chapter 9 reviews the delivery of the 2007-12 Management Plan, focussing on some of the achievements and the lessons learned. Chapter 10 looks forward, setting a vision and six long-term aims (to 2043) under which there are 53 objectives for the Management Plan period.

4.3 The 30-year vision proposed for the Antonine Wall is:

"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."

4.4 The six long-term aims proposed to guide future decision-making relate to:

- managing, conserving and protecting the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site;
- promoting awareness and understanding by improving physical and intellectual access;
- realising the site's potential as an education and learning resource;
- building partnerships, strengthening and engagement, and contributing to sustainable economic growth;
- balancing wider environmental concerns; and
- increasing research opportunities.

4.5 Under each of these six aims, key issues have been identified along with medium-term objectives (53 in total), which form the core management of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site for the five-year period between 2013-2018.

- 4.6** At the end of the consultation period all comments received will inform the finalised Management Plan which will revert back to this Committee for its endorsement.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** There are no personnel issues associated with this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1** The co-ordination and implementation of the Management Plan, which allows the Council to meet its obligations in respect of the Antonine Wall's World Heritage Site status, are currently led by the Antonine Wall Co-ordinator. To date this post has been funded by Historic Scotland, although its budget for funding this post ends December 2013.
- 6.2** An Action Plan for the implementation of the Management Plan is currently under preparation. This will detail costs associated with various actions. There is no budget allocated for this purpose and this will influence West Dunbartonshire Council's input to the Action Plan process.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** It was not considered necessary to carry out a risk assessment in relation to this report. However, there could be a risk to the World Heritage Site status of the Antonine Wall if there was no Management Plan in place.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** It is not considered that the report or recommendations raise any equalities issues.

9. Consultation

- 9.1** Consultation was carried during the preparation of the Management Plan including stakeholder workshops in each of the 5 partner local authority areas. Internal consultation on the draft management Plan itself has been carried out amongst the Council's Antonine Wall Working Group with comments reflected in this report.

10. Strategic Assessment

- 10.1** The aims and objectives of the Antonine Wall are wide ranging and are considered to contribute across a number of the Council's Strategic Priorities including:
- improve economic growth and employability;
 - improve life chances for children and young people and
 - improve the wellbeing of communities and protect the welfare of vulnerable people.

Elaine Melrose
Executive Director of Housing,
Environmental and Economic Development
Date: 16 May 2013

Person to Contact: Pamela Clifford, Planning & Building Standards Manager,
Housing, Environmental and Economic Development,
Council Offices, Rosebery Place, Clydebank, G81 1TG

Alan Williamson, Team Leader – Forward Planning,
Housing, Environmental and Economic Development,
Council Offices, Clydebank G81 1TG
Tel: 01389 738539
Email: alan.williamson@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendices: Appendix 1: Response to consultation

Background Papers: The Antonine Wall Management Plan 2013-18 –
Consultation Draft

Wards Affected: 4 – Kilpatrick
5 - Waterfront