

**These minutes are draft subject to approval at the next meeting of the sub-committee**

**Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee**

**29 September 2015**

Present: Councillor S Day (Chair)  
Councillors K Bolger, P Earley, A Newman and M Thirlaway.

**CL13/09/15 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors J Cassidy, D Drummond and P Oliver.

**CL14/09/15 Substitute Members**

There were no substitute members reported.

**CL15/09/15 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest reported.

**CL16/09/15 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 July 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**CL17/09/15 Segedunum: Proposed Master Plan**

The Sub-committee received a report and presentation which informed of the implementation of the spend agreed as part of the Northern Powerhouse proposals and sought the views of Members on the wider masterplan proposed for the Segedunum site.

In April 2015 a grant of £500,000 was awarded to Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums (TWAM), from HM Treasury, to develop the site at Segedunum. The aim of the project was to increase access for the general public to the eastern end of Hadrian's Wall. A fifty metre stretch of Hadrian's Wall at the site required a final element of excavation, followed by consolidation for display. The section of wall had three distinct elements for repair which collectively, once displayed, would tell the unique story of collapse and repair, and be instantly visually understandable.

A further element of the project was the continued excavations at the recently discovered Bath House at Wallsend. There was significant local interest in how this could be displayed in the future, situated adjacent to both the museum site and the Hadrian's Wall footpath and cycle way. This could involve setting out the remains, providing interpretation of the baths on the site and celebrating their discovery. An additional aspect of the works was centred on the main fort of Segedunum which was consolidated for display in 2000 but now needs some further, largely cosmetic, landscaping and consolidation.

The sub-committee was informed that a vital part of the project was tying together the disparate elements of the site at Segedunum: Museum, Fort site, Wall and Bath House. These needed to be presented and interpreted in a fashion that integrated with the Hadrian's Wall National Trail which runs alongside the Roman Fort and between the Fort and Bath House. A significant element of the master planning would be to look at how site boundaries and access routes could best be created to improve and enhance the offer for local people and tourists.

In order to meet HM Treasury deadlines all spend would have to be completed by end of March 2016. Based upon a specification agreed by TWAM and North Tyneside Council, architects Tench Maddison Ash had been appointed to undertake the initial masterplan work. A project team consisting of officers from TWAM, North Tyneside Council, Historic England and Tyne and Wear Archaeology had been meeting regularly to steer the project, ensuring timescales were met and appropriate consultation undertaken. It was noted that consultation with visitors to Segedunum had taken place over the summer and that the feedback had been incorporated into the masterplan.

Members thanked representatives of the project team for the presentation and commented on the positive impact the delivery of the project would have for visitors to Segedunum. The sub-committee highlighted the importance of creating a sense of presence when first visiting the site and agreed that the plans to realign the visitor entrance to the museum would achieve this. Members were pleased to see that the proposals included a Roman themed toddler and older children's play area which would provide another attraction for visitors. It was highlighted that a cohesive marketing strategy was essential for the site to promote the new developments and attract a wide range of visitors. It was hoped that the success of the project would be instrumental in attracting more funding in the future.

Members conveyed positive feedback for the proposals and it was agreed that the Democratic Support Officer would provide a contact at TWAM to Members so that they could pass on any further feedback/comments on the Segedunum site masterplan and the presentation delivered.

It was **agreed** that the report and presentation be noted and Members contact TWAM with any further comments on the proposals.

### **CL18/09/15 Hadrian's Wall Management Plan 2015-2019**

The sub-committee was informed that the presenter for this item had unfortunately been unable to attend the meeting and deliver the scheduled presentation. A brief report had been circulated with the agenda which informed Members of the requirement to oversee the implementation of the Policies and Actions in the Management Plan for the World Heritage Site and its Buffer Zone.

The Chair informed the sub-committee that a Members Briefing was due to take place in the near future on this topic and that Members would have the opportunity to listen to the presentation at that briefing.

It was **agreed** that Members interested in hearing the Hadrian's Wall Management Plan 2015-2019 presentation attend the relevant Member briefing to be held in October 2015.