

Meeting: Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee**Date: 29 September 2015****Title: Segedunum: Proposed Master Plan**

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1 Purpose of Report

To inform Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee of the implementation of the spend agreed as part of the Northern Powerhouse proposals and to seek views upon the wider masterplan proposed for the Segedunum site.

2 Recommendations

The committee is invited to note the information indicated in the report and outlined in the presentation.

3 Details

3.1 In April 2015 a grant of £500,000 was awarded to Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums (TWAM), from HM Treasury, in order to develop the site at Segedunum as part of the Northern Powerhouse project. The aim of the project is to increase access for the general public to the eastern end of Hadrian's Wall. The planned project has four elements to it.

3.1.1 Hadrian's Wall. A fifty metre stretch of Hadrian's Wall at the site requires a final element of excavation, followed by consolidation for display. The section of wall has three distinct elements. Part of it is original Hadrianic build, the only section of the frontier which we can say is actually Hadrian's Wall, i.e. with no modifications. Adjacent to this is a section of wall that crosses a small gully and which has collapsed twice in antiquity. On the north side, the Wall can be seen lying at an angle of collapse, while on the south side there is clear evidence of a Roman period repair, reusing large blocks of stone from a redundant Roman building, perhaps a tower or temple. Collectively, once displayed, this would be a stunning site, telling the unique story of collapse and repair, and instantly visually understandable.

3.1.2 The recently discovered Bath House. Excavations are continuing on the site of the Bath House at Wallsend, which created a regional sensation on its discovery and forms part of the WallQuest community archaeology project. There is significant local interest in how this could be displayed in the future, situated as it is adjacent both to 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.

- 3.1.3 The remains of the main fort of Segedunum which were consolidated for display in 2000 are now in need of some further, largely cosmetic, landscaping and consolidation.
- 3.1.4 A vital element of this project is tying together the disparate elements of the site at Segedunum: Museum, Fort site, Wall and Bath House. These also need to be presented and interpreted in a fashion that integrates 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 will look at how site boundaries and access routes can best be created to improve and enhance the offer for local people and tourists.
- 3.2 The immediate work to deliver the project and meet HM Treasury deadlines requires all spend to be completed by the end of March 2016. Based upon a specification agreed by TWAM and North Tyneside Council, architects Tench Maddison Ash were appointed to undertake the initial masterplan work.
- 3.3 A project team consisting of officers from TWAM, North Tyneside Council, Historic England and Tyne and Wear Archaeology has been meeting regularly to steer the project, ensure that timescales are met and appropriate consultation undertaken.
- 3.4 The presentation will give an overview of the proposals arising from the masterplan process and outline progress on the implementation of the project, against HM Treasury delivery targets.

4 Background Information

The following background papers have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- 1) Segedunum: Wallsend: Proposed Masterplan August 2015 (Tench Maddison Ash)