

[These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee
Scheduled to be held on the 28 March 2017]

Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee

28 February 2017

Present: Councillor S Day (Chair),
Councillors J Cassidy, N Craven, D Drummond, NJ Huscroft,
D McMeekan, A Newman and P Oliver.

Also Present: Councillor EN Darke, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture
and Tourism.

CL36/02/17 Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor K Lee.

CL37/02/17 Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members reported.

CL38/02/17 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.

CL39/02/17 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 January 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CL40/02/17 Hadrian's Wall Management Plan

A report was received on the developments relating to the management, conservation and promotion of Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site (WHS).

John Scott, Hadrian's Wall Management Plan Co-ordinator, presented the sub-committee with details for a sustainable management structure, together with details of a study to explore new funding and governance models.

Hadrian's Wall was inscribed as a World Heritage Site (WHS) in 1987, making this year the 30th Anniversary year. Since 2005 Hadrian's Wall had been a component part of the transnational Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site (FRE), which included the Antonine Wall in Scotland and the Upper German/Raetian Limes. The relevant European countries were working together to extend the WHS to reflect the maximum extent of the Roman frontier in the 2nd century AD. At that time the roman frontier stretched from the west coast of northern Britain through Europe to the Black Sea and from there to the Red Sea and across North Africa to the Atlantic coast.

The Hadrian's Wall element of the FRE ran for over a 130 miles from the western Roman coastal defences at Ravenglass, through Maryport to Bowness-on-Solway, along Hadrian's Wall through Carlisle and Hexham to Newcastle, Wallsend and South Shields, the largest ancient monument in the UK and regarded as the most complex UK World Heritage Site.

After inscription, the funding and governance of the WHS was coordinated directly by English Heritage. In 2005, these functions were transferred to Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd, later the Hadrian's Wall Trust: HWT, a 'not-for-profit' company within the public sector. This was well supported by the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) for the North East and North West, but due to the demise of the RDAs the Hadrian's Wall Trust was left with insufficient resources and it ceased operation.

Since the closure of the HWT a partnership approach had been adopted by the WHS' local authorities, local authority management being more the norm as a management model in the UK. Each of these principal stakeholders contributed to a central budget, held on their behalf by Northumberland County Council. A WHS Management Plan Coordinator was employed by the Partnership to cover all aspects of management coordination and a core level of marketing. The total budget was at present 90% less than that provided by the RDAs.

The Partnership Board was made up of representatives of the local authorities and relevant specialists oversaw activity and directed the work of its delivery groups - Conservation & Planning; Communications, Marketing and Transport; Education and Interpretation; and Archaeological Research. These project activity groups composed of officers from agencies and organisations operating across the WHS, chaired by senior officers in their particular thematic area. The aim of these groups was to explore ways in which to maintain and enhance the protection, understanding and promotion of the WHS.

Partnership Board organisational members were made up of representatives from local authorities in Allerdale, Carlisle, Copeland, Cumbria, Gateshead, Newcastle, Northumberland, North Tyneside and South Tyneside. In addition, the Board included the Chair of the Hadrian's Wall Partnership Board and Chairs of Partnership Board Delivery Groups. The current arrangements were fragile and it was widely accepted these were not likely to be sustainable in the long term, as it was resourced to maintain status rather than to develop potential.

However, this period had seen positive developments including enhanced visitor infrastructure, transport solutions, communications, community engagement and event activity. Officers had employed the core funding provided by the WHS Partners to achieve a return ratio of at least 5:1 each year. Equally recent research into visitor data highlighted 12 million visits to the WHS as a whole per annum, resulting in a multi million pound economic environment for local businesses to develop within, with plenty of potential for growth.

In order to move from this interim phase to a longer term sustainable management structure, the Partnership Board had commissioned a study to explore new funding and governance models, the findings of which would be delivered in September 2017.

The outcomes of this important study would present recommendations regarding:

- i. The potential scope of centrally organised and/or coordinated activity and the resources required to achieve that activity.
- ii. The methods of delivery for any activity which was not organised centrally but which was necessary to retain World Heritage Site status.
- iii. A future governance and operational model.
- iv. A sustainable funding model and assessment of the potential for this to become self-sustaining.
- v. How the potential for grant-aided project funding can be best unlocked and potential target areas for funding identified.
- vi. An outline of a seven year business plan with sufficient detail to enable relevant funding opportunities to be pursued.

Steve Bishop, Senior Manager, Cultural Services, commented on the extensive work done by Mr Scott on heritage planning which was supported by Mary Glendon MP, and also recognised in Parliament.

The Chair, on behalf of the sub-committee, thanked Mr Scott for attending the meeting and in recognising his enormous contributions to the development of the of the Hadrian's Wall Management Plan, congratulated him on his efforts.

CL41/02/17 Hadrian's Cavalry

A report was received which presented details of a major exhibition across Hadrian's Wall in 2017 featuring key pieces at Segedunum Roman Fort, Baths and Museum, Wallsend.

Bill Griffiths, Head of Programmes, Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums (TWAM), presented details of the proposed exhibition and main areas of interest during the planned events.

Segedunum was one of the 10 museums taking part. Most of the participating museums, due to lack of space, would be hosting a small number of objects however, Segedunum and Tullie House in Carlisle, would be making larger exhibition spaces available and would therefore be telling more of the cavalry story.

Segedunum would explore the topics of the types of cavalryman, their recruitment and training as the site at which the Roman Cavalry barrack plan was first fully excavated, in 1997. Objects proposed included horse harness, cavalry swords and helmets, many of which were highly decorated and together told the story of this often overlooked yet highly visible section of the Roman Army.

The exhibition would run from 8 April to 10 September 2017, and events would take place during this period. On the 1st and 2nd of July the largest Roman cavalry re-enactments ever seen in the UK, would take place throughout the day at Bitts Park in Carlisle as part of Hadrian's Cavalry. A troop (*turma*) of 30 Roman cavalrymen would come together to perform training exercises described by Hadrian himself 2000 years ago.

The project was funded through Arts Council England's Museums Resilience Fund and delivered by a partnership of the museum bodies along Hadrian's Wall i.e. Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums (TWAM), English Heritage, The Vindolanda Trust, Tullie House and the Senhouse Museum Trust; with the Northumberland National Park Authority being the body accountable. Loans had now been approved in principle, subject to meeting environmental monitoring conditions etc., from a number of national and international

lenders, both public and private, including the British Museum and the National Museum of Scotland.

Press coverage over the New Year saw several papers listing the exhibition as one of the top 10 best destinations in the UK this year, while the Telegraph went further, listing it as one of the top 20 best destinations in the World.

It was noted that the event was the only UK entry in the list.

The Chair, on behalf of the sub-committee, thanked Mr Griffiths for attending the meeting and congratulated him on the work done to create this exciting world recognised exhibition.