

Planning Committee

2.00pm, Wednesday, 31 January 2024

Funding Edinburgh World Heritage

Executive/routine
Wards

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Committee approves the sum of £51,000 for Edinburgh World Heritage (EWH) for financial years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

Contact: Jenny Bruce, Edinburgh World Heritage Site Co-ordinator

E-mail: jenny.bruce@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel 0131 529 3510

Funding for Edinburgh World Heritage

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report seeks approval for funding for financial years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 for Edinburgh World Heritage (EWH) under a Service Level Agreement (SLA). The activities proposed to be delivered under the SLA for 2024/25 are detailed in Appendix 1. The SLA would be reviewed for subsequent financial years.

3. Background

- 3.1 The aims and objectives of EWH are well aligned with Council planning and place-making objectives to protect, enhance and engage people with Edinburgh's built and natural heritage.

4. Main report

- 4.1 EWH is in unique position to partner with the Council to fulfil the obligations of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Management Plan and the Council's commitment to improve the environment for communities.
- 4.2 EWH works in partnership with the Council and Historic Environment Scotland (HES) to implement the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh (ONTE) World Heritage Site Management Plan 2017-22 and preparation (and subsequent partnership delivery) of the new management plan – fulfilling their collective obligation to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the World Heritage Site. Approval is being sought separately from Committee for approval of the draft Management Plan 2024 – 2035 for consultation.
- 4.3 EWH's work ranges from enabling vital on-site conservation work, to climate emergency solutions, engaging communities inclusively with shared heritage and acting as a balanced, expert city advisor. As a charity it raises significant funding for Edinburgh's conservation, made possible due to the Council's contribution to core funding. The daily liaison and monitoring and delivery of the Management Plan is led by the ONTE WHS Site Co-ordinator based in the Council's Planning Service.
- 4.4 EWH has continued to deliver the six SLA outcomes. For example:

- 4.4.1 The Conservation Funding Programme continues to provide specialist support, advice and funding to enable the rolling programme of active conservation. This has prioritised tenements, shopfronts and the public realm programme, including the completion of two tenement projects involving a total of 19 owners, and commencement of two further tenement projects involving 112 properties. Three grants for public realm projects have also been awarded, including Greyfriars Kirkyard, 'Twelve Closes' and Edinburgh Art Festival's 'Queering Public Space' Project. These projects involve conservation and interpretation work that contributes to enhancing the state of conservation of the WHS and to raising public awareness of what makes it special. This programme has promoted traditional skills employing stonemasons, slaters, lead-workers, plasterers and painters, including apprentices, helping to build capacity.
- 4.4.2 The Energy Efficiency programme has seen the development of Climate Emergency Grants to study conservation and energy efficiency interventions in different building types in the WHS to eventually publish clear and helpful guidance for owners. Around 100 applications have been received over two funding rounds, with five pilot projects underway and a further 60 currently being assessed. A Climate Action Plan and methodology has been developed to understand climate risk to the fabric and the communities of the WHS.
- 4.5 EWH can unlock and drive forward projects that enhance the quality of life for Edinburgh's communities by improving their local environment. It will continue to award grant funding to building conservation work. This includes stonework repairs, roof repairs, shopfront restoration, limework, restoration of missing original architectural details, window reinstatement and works to railing and steps. Grants are also used for public spaces including conserving, restoring or enhancing monuments and statues, creating greenspaces or new memorials, lighting schemes and repairing boundary walls.
- 4.6 To ensure EWH's ability to drive the delivery of these types of projects it is essential it is funded adequately. The Council has provided some of its core funding. The funding for EWH from the Council has not increased over the last five years and has remained at £46,000 per annum. To help address budget pressure within EWH, as a result of inflation, it is proposed to increase this to £51,000 for the financial year ahead. To provide increased budgetary surety for the organisation, it is also proposed that this is maintained for the following two years (2025/26 and 2026/27).
- 4.7 The activities proposed to be delivered under the SLA of 2024/25 are detailed in Appendix 1. The SLA will be kept under review for subsequent financial years.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If Committee approves the funding as recommended, a contract will be signed, and the delivery of the outputs will be overseen by the Council's World Heritage Site

Coordinator and other Council officers. The Council is represented by Councillors and senior officers on the EWH board and liaison, and monitoring will be ongoing throughout the financial year. An annual report will be required to be produced by EWH.

- 5.2 The draft World Heritage Site Management Plan 2024 – 2035, and associated action plan, is included within the meeting papers for Planning Committee on this agenda for approval to proceed to consultation.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The overall cost of supporting this organisation will be £51,000 for each of the next three financial years and can be contained within the Planning Service revenue budget.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 EWH help the delivery of the World Heritage Site Management Plan. This draft document (aims to ensure that all our citizens will benefit from its support of wider Council actions in response to the climate emergency, sustainable visitor management, conservation of buildings, monuments, graveyards, public spaces and streets, with a focus on supporting community and interest groups to affect improvement and change in their local area, supporting community engagement and promoting mixed communities.

8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 The work of EWH helps support the delivery of the World Heritage Site Management Plan. The draft Management Plan helps address climate change.
- 8.2 Grants provided by the EWH are used to develop an understanding of the adaption and mitigation required to develop a pragmatic conservation response to the climate emergency.

9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

- 9.1 If EWH are not adequately funded, there is a risk that the management of the ONTE World Heritage Site will not be adequately supported and managed.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 [Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site – Management Plan 2017-2022.](#)

11. Appendices

11.1 Appendix 1 – Edinburgh World Heritage – Service Level Agreement Outcomes.

Appendix 1

Edinburgh World Heritage Trust - ONTE WHS Management Plan 2017/22 Outcomes of Service Level Agreement with City of Edinburgh Council 2023/24

Goals and Objectives	Stakeholder	Service, activities and tactics	Assumptions	Roles and resources	Targets and outcomes	Community Benefits	2023/24 Achievements	2024/25 Planned Activities
1. Delivery of the WHS Management Plan	World Heritage Site Steering Group CEC HES UNESCO Residents Visitors	EWH will: - lead and support on the implementation of actions (see below) - prepare, attend and follow-up at WHS Steering Group and other relevant meetings	EWH will work with CEC and HES to locate funding for other actions. This may necessitate a joint mandate from CEC and HES to act on behalf of the partnership in creating funding opportunities and EWH welcomes the opportunity to discuss this further with all partners	The resourcing required to deliver this will include : • Director (0.05 FTE) • Head of Engagement & Operations (0.05 FTE) • World Heritage Engagement Officer (1FTE)	• Implementation of actions (see below) • Implementation of actions from WHS Steering Group meetings	This objective helps to explain the special qualities and values of the WHS, advocates existing protective policies, influences day-to-day management issues, provides supporting information on managing the opportunities and threats facing the WHS for all of its communities and provides a framework for monitoring the condition of the built environment. Driving the effective and resource efficient proactive action required to protect Edinburgh's historic environment brings economic, social and environmental benefits to communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EWH grants programmes have been promoted through social and traditional media, including Community Spaces Heritage Grants and Climate Emergency Grants • Since March 2023, EWH has held ten events and twelve workshops/presentations with c1500 attending (actions 22, 27) • EWH has attended quarterly Steering Group meetings with CEC and Historic Environment Scotland to monitor the progress in the management of the Site (action 37) • EWH has attended a number of Edinburgh Tourism Action Group (ETAG) meetings and provided input into the delivery of the city-wide tourism strategy covering the period 2020 – 2030 (actions 31, 34) • EWH continues to work proactively with CEC, HES and other stakeholders to develop the Management Plan 23+ • Engagement events including online consultation have been held/are planned within the financial year in partnership with CEC, to inform development of the Management Plan • Distribution of a Quarterly 'Director's Update' on projects, and celebrating CEC's contributions to the historic environment • Creation of new 'Friends of EWH' scheme and monthly newsletter • Representation and celebration of the Edinburgh Partnership internationally • Regular engagement with Scottish Government advocating for investment in Edinburgh and sharing successful CEC/EWH joint projects, including site visit to the Canongate Housing Development Project, presentations on CCRA and publication of CVI report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the EWH grants programme through social and traditional media (actions 1, 2, 3, 9, 11) • Deliver engagement events – likely to be eight to ten events in 2024-25, on a hybrid basis • Attend Edinburgh Tourism Action Group meetings and influence the delivery of the city-wide tourism strategy for 2020-2030 • Attend Steering Group meetings with CEC and Historic Environment Scotland to monitor the progress in the management of the Site • Work in partnership with CEC and HES to finalise and implement the new World Heritage Site Management Plan for 2023+ • Deliver an ongoing programme of active engagement with community representative groups, media professionals, policy-makers, elected officials and other stakeholders • Deliver one interpretation project with an under-represented community
2. Advice on Outstanding Universal Value (ONTE WHS Management Plan actions 6, 7, 14, 16, 19, 21, 28)	CEC HES Residents	EWH will provide advice to CEC Members and Officers in relation to Outstanding Universal Value, principally in relation to: • Planning applications (as set out in the Protocol for the Consideration of OUV in the Planning Process) • Public realm and streetscape, including on traffic reduction projects and pedestrianisation • Policy development and change	EWH will work with CEC and HES, in accordance with the Protocol for the Consideration of OUV in the Planning Process. EWH requires CEC's continued active engagement and appropriate internal coordination.	The resourcing required to deliver this is: • Director (0.1 FTE) • Head of Conservation (Public Realm) (0.4 FTE) Substantive work outwith these areas will be charged separately.	• Number of planning applications • Number of public realm and streetscape consultations • Policy development and change	This champions the importance of the Outstanding Universal Value to ensure that development takes account of this and preserves and enhances the OUV for the benefit of present and future generations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EWH has provided expert heritage and planning advice on over 24 targeted planning applications • EWH has provided heritage and planning advice through the Edinburgh Urban Design Panel • EWH has provided detailed and ongoing pre-application advice on major development proposals, including the Old Royal High School, Jenners Department Store, numerous tall building proposals and Waverley Station development • EWH has provided advice on and contributed support to key city strategies and initiatives, including the City Plan 2030, Edinburgh Slavery and Colonialism Review Group, Festivals management, Short-Term Lets and Transient Visitor Levy • EWH has provided advice as part of multi-disciplinary groups including the Edinburgh Tourism Action Group, Edinburgh International Group, Net Zero groups • EWH has provided regular meets with select Council Leadership to advise and discuss conservation and heritage matters • Due to value added for CEC and WHS management, EWH's Head of Conservation (Public Realm) has continued on secondment to CEC two days per week, providing expert input into a wide range of public realm and streetscape initiatives • Specific outcomes of the secondment include supporting CEC staff in public realm heritage management matters generally, and advising proactively supporting on over 30 CEC projects/work areas, including: communal bin hubs review, George Street public realm project, Active Travel, Graffiti Strategy, EV charging points, etc 	Continue to support CEC and CEC priorities as city partner in matters of historic city management, by continuing to: • Provide practical, expert advice on targeted pre-application and planning consultations • Attend and contribute to the Urban Design Panel • Advise on key city strategies • Provide practical advice to support city priorities via established interdisciplinary groups • Commit EWH staff and provide direct support through the secondment of our Head of Conservation (Public Realm) to CEC for two days per week to provide expert input in relation to public realm and streetscape initiatives

Goals and Objectives	Stakeholder	Service, activities and tactics	Assumptions	Roles and resources	Targets and outcomes	Community Benefits	2023/24 Achievements	2024/25 Planned Activities
3. Grants and Support (WHS Management Plan action 2, 3)	CEC HES Residents of ONTE WHS	<p>EWH will deliver the Conservation Funding Programme. EWH's key priorities for the 2018/21 HES funding period are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenements • Shopfronts • The Twelve Closes programme <p>Criteria for applicants include areas of social deprivation.</p> <p>EWH also expects to be involved in a number of World Heritage Site projects</p>	<p>Since CEC capital funding for this ceased in 2015, HES has provided 100% of the capital costs, as well as most (90%) of the operational costs.</p> <p>EWH requires CEC's active engagement and appropriate internal coordination to support delivery.</p>	<p>The resourcing required to deliver this is (CEC funding will contribute 7% operational costs only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Conservation (Buildings) (0.2 FTE) • Conservation Programme Officer (0.1 FTE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Tenements • Number of Shopfronts • Implementation of the Twelve Closes programme 	<p>There is benefit to the communities who own or occupy these buildings and there is wider benefit to the wider community in enjoying a quality built environment. All works are carried out using traditional building methods and materials in order to meet the best standards of conservation; there is a benefit to those working and training in traditional skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the Conservation Funding Programme, prioritising tenements, shopfronts and the Twelve Closes programme including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - completion of two tenement projects involving a total of 19 owners - develop 2 major tenement projects involving 112 properties - completion of two other conservation projects including one historic shopfront and one office building - development of pipeline of projects - 3 grants for public realm projects, such as Greyfriars Kirkyard, Edinburgh Art Festival 'Queering Public Space' Project, Twelve Closes - promotion of Neighbourhood Focus approach to increase impact of EWH grants/advice and better support community needs and CEC aspirations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the Conservation Funding Programme, prioritising tenements, shopfronts and other projects of high social value • Continue to deliver our proactive public realm projects, including statues, monuments, artwork, lighting, community-led initiatives, interpretation, kirkyards and the Twelve Closes programme • Maximise the heritage, social and economic impact of the above programmes by focussing our work on areas of greatest need in/around the World Heritage Site through Neighbourhood Focus • Review and update CFP methodology to ensure that it meets the needs of applicants and aligns with Neighbourhood Focus priorities
4. Maintenance (WHS Management Plan action 1)	CEC HES Residents of ONTE WHS	<p>As part of the Conservation Funding Programme, EWH will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support to owners and communities on maintenance issues • Provide educational events and materials • Deliver training events 	<p>EWH will continue to work with partners including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh ADAPTS • Community groups 	<p>The resourcing required to deliver this is (CEC funding will contribute 7% operational costs only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Conservation (Buildings) (0.2 FTE) • Conservation Programme Officer (0.1 FTE) 		<p>There is benefit to the local residents of the WHS who engage with the expert advice and guidance produced to support building maintenance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance programme reviewed and partnership agreed with ETBF and Developing Young Workforce to provide schools programme and community events from spring 2023 • Social media campaign to promote maintenance and climate emergency grants (17000 reach) • Attended parliamentary event and Royal Highland Show to promote maintenance, traditional skills, conservation and energy efficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support to owners and communities on maintenance issues, including educational / training events and materials
5. Traditional Skills (WHS Management Plan action 22)	CEC HES Residents Visitors	<p>EWH will promote and create opportunities to support traditional skills, supporting employability and the skills pipeline, as part of the Conservation Funding Programme and through events such as the Traditional Building Festival</p>	<p>EWH will work with partners including HES, CEC, the Traditional Building Forum and apprentices</p>	<p>The resourcing required to deliver this is covered by item 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of traditional skills activities • Number of people engaged • Number of apprentices working on projects 	<p>There is a benefit to the local residents and visitors to the WHS who engage with practical workshops and demonstrations of traditional skills through the Traditional Buildings Festival. There is a benefit to the community of traditional tradespeople employed to develop their own skills and those of apprentices in their craft.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 traditional tradespeople have been employed across Conservation Funding Programme funded projects, this included stonemasons, slaters and leadworkers • 5 apprentices have worked on our grant-aided projects • Hosted week-long Traditional Building Festival, over 500 attendees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ traditional tradespeople, including apprentices, across our Conservation Funding Programme funded tenement projects • Collaborate with existing traditional craft skills delivery organisations from across UK to assess effective means to encourage contractors to upskill their workforce in best practice building conservation skills • Support the Traditional Building Festival in August 2024
6. Energy efficiency (WHS Management Plan action 11)	CEC HES Residents	<p>EWH will engage with communities and other stakeholders to deliver a Climate Action Plan that contributes to achieving CEC's 2030 Strategy, through building on the successful methodology developed for the Basil Spence Canongate Project in implementing integrated conservation work and climate action on historic buildings</p>	<p>EWH requires CEC's continued active engagement and appropriate internal coordination to support delivery.</p>	<p>The resourcing required to deliver this is (CEC funding will contribute 7% operational costs only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Climate Change (0.2 FTE) • Energy Efficiency Retrofit Specialist (0.1 FTE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of successful project • Engagement with owners and community 	<p>The benefit here is to the immediate community that owns/occupies these buildings. The wider benefit will be felt across the city where lessons learned from these projects can be taken forward and adapted for other buildings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHS Climate Action developed and implemented, and integrated within the developing WHS Management Plan • Development and launch of Climate Emergency Grant programme to study conservation and energy efficiency interventions specifically as they are applied to building typologies in the WHS • Award of 5 CE Grants to pilot projects, design team appointed (round 1); 60+ applications under assessment for round 2 • Engagement with Scottish Veterans Residences to explore potential for large-scale climate emergency project, including advice on net-zero technologies • Publication of report summarising the methodology and learning from application of the CVI to the WHS • EWH presented CCRA project results and participated in meetings organised by Energy Efficiency Public Buildings Partnership and the Edinburgh Adaptation Partnership • EWH responded to consultations on the Conservation & Adaptation and Permitted Development Rights Phase 2 • Draft of updated, comprehensive and accessible guidance on adaptation and mitigation measures sensitive to the WHS (planned publication summer 24) • Engagement with residents, buildings owners and community groups to provide advice on energy efficiency and climate change adaptation issues, including site visits and over 50 helpdesk responses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue using the CCRA, CVI and other work to further implement the Climate Action Plan to support CEC 2030 targets • Continue and refine our advocacy programme - focusing on local residents, professionals and decision makers - to mainstream principles and guidance for climate action and align EWH conservation-led approach based on best practice • Continue representation on key city cross-organisational working groups, presentations and strategic engagement • Develop an informed understanding of the optimal Climate Emergency approach for key Edinburgh historic building types and public realm within the WHS • Produce and disseminate at least one case study on targeted climate change adaptation interventions • Produce Edinburgh-specific guidance on interventions, providing a 'clear path to adaptation' for Edinburgh's most common historic building types • Work with owners and partners to develop and implement integrated conservation work and climate action projects