

## Forth Bridge World Heritage Site

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April 2017

### Background

The Forth Bridge was added to the list of World Heritage Sites by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on Sunday 5th July 2015 at its 39<sup>th</sup> meeting in Bonn, Germany.

The Forth Bridge Management Plan was prepared as part of the nomination document. The Plan sets out a prioritised list of 45 agreed actions for a six year period (2014-2020), with lead partners for each. The City of Edinburgh Council is a key partner in the Forth Bridge World Heritage Management Group - the Group tasked with delivery of the actions in the Management Plan.

The Forth Bridge World Heritage Site Management Group is made up of Historic Environment Scotland, Network Rail, Transport Scotland, Visit Scotland, City of Edinburgh, Fife and West Lothian Councils, Queensferry and District Community Council, Kirkliston Community Council, North Queensferry Community Council, Queensferry Ambition, North Queensferry Heritage Trust, the Briggers and the Bridge Replacement Interest Group.

The Group meets quarterly to review progress. Out of the 45 actions of the Management Plan, 5 actions involve the City of Edinburgh Council (see Table 1 below). The Council is also involved in other actions as part of the Group.

### Management Plan Update

Theme	Action	Progress
Protection	Ensure that the property and its wider setting are properly integrated into Local Development Plans and Frameworks	The recently adopted Edinburgh Local Development Plan applies in the southern bridgehead area. It includes policy and narrative which supports protection of key views to the Forth Bridge: Policy Des 11 Tall Buildings – Skyline and Key Views
Presentation	Introduce a programme of vegetation management around key public viewpoints	Four new key views are included in the revised Edinburgh Design Guide which is currently out for consultation. As these will be the protected public view points, vegetation management can be considered once they have been approved.

Community Benefit	In anticipation of further increases in visitors, initiate an infrastructure review, to include roads and parking, in both Queensferry and North Queensferry, as well as in adjacent areas where more capacity might be available	A Forth Bridges Traffic Impact Assessment was undertaken in April 2015. Work around traffic management and public transport will also be addressed as part of the work for the proposed visitor centres. A tourism study is also planned.
Community Benefit	Carry out a review of public transport serving the communities at both ends of the property, to include ways in which it can be better integrated and improved to help accommodate an anticipated increase in visitors	A Forth Bridges Traffic Impact Assessment was undertaken in April 2015. Work around traffic management and public transport will also be addressed as part of the work for the proposed visitor centres. A tourism study is also planned.
Management	The Steering group to ensure that the property (and this Management Plan, including later revisions) is properly included in any future Development Plans, planning policies, revisions etc. in both City of Edinburgh and Fife	A total of 10 key views have been identified by partners and submitted to UNESCO. The draft revision of the Edinburgh Design Guidance includes the 4 key views of the Forth Bridge from Edinburgh and outlines the requirement to protect these views.

## Other Actions

- Sites have been identified by CEC, HES and the community for UNESCO's WHS plaques.

## What's next?

### Celebrating World Heritage

- World Heritage Day events will take place on 11 April 2017 at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum where there will be a Forth Bridge stall with information and activities alongside Scotland's other World Heritage sites.
- Dig It is organising a series of innovative events – [Scotland in Six](#) - on 18 April 2017 to celebrate Scotland's iconic sites during the year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017
- The EICC is hosting 2 talks on [Innovation Bridges](#) on 18 April and 25 May 2017 to coincide with the completion of the new Queensferry Crossing in May 2017.

### Tourism

- Network Rail will focus on the South Queensferry Bridge Walk and the scheme will be developed for Planning.
- Consultancy bids have been submitted to develop a tourism strategy for the 3 bridges

### Management

- The Council will continue to report on the progress with the actions in the annual Planning Information Bulletin.
- A priority is to review the Forth Bridge Partnership Management Agreement in the light of Historic Scotland's changed status to become the non departmental public body Historic Environment Scotland

## Contact

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