

## **Old And New Towns Of Edinburgh World Heritage Site: Annual Monitoring Report**

---

**Planning Committee**  
**7 August 2008**

### **1 Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To report to Committee on the Annual Monitoring Report 2006/07 of the World Heritage Site.

### **2 Summary**

- 2.1 One of the responsibilities of inscription as a World Heritage Site is to monitor the state of conservation of the site. Appendix 1 contains the Annual Monitoring Report for 2006/07. The site is monitored against a series of indicators which measure changes and trends across the Site. Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

### **3 Main report**

#### **Background**

- 3.1 The Operational Guidelines set out by UNESCO state that the effective management of a site is dependent upon “a cycle of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and feedback.” The production of an Annual Monitoring Report is considered good practice and this Monitoring Report has been produced by Edinburgh World Heritage (EWH) on behalf of the World Heritage Site Steering Group which contains representation from Historic Scotland, City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish Enterprise East, and the Edinburgh City Centre Management Company (Essential Edinburgh).
- 3.2 Reports have been produced in previous years but not consistently reported to Committee. Formal reporting back to UNESCO, ‘Periodic Reporting’ takes place on a six year cycle. The next Periodic Report is not due until 2010/11. The Annual Monitoring Reports inform the periodic reporting process and provide information for the partners on the state of conservation of the Site. A set of largely generic indicators has been identified by ICOMOS UK for use by local

authorities across the UK containing World Heritage Sites. Given the very different nature of the UK sites, it is difficult to apply a single set of indicators across the board. There may be some benefit in reviewing them next year to ensure they capture the particular characteristics of Edinburgh's World Heritage Site.

3.3 The Monitoring report concludes that the general state of conservation of the Site is good. The indicators used to monitor the Site are grouped under the following headings:

- Conservation and protection
- Condition of the WHS environment
- Development pressure and change
- Economic value
- Awareness and community involvement
- Resources and management.

#### **Conservation and protection**

3.4 This looks at the guidance in place to safeguard the WHS. The conclusion is that adequate guidance exists and evolving guidance (eg the skyline study) is meeting changing needs. There has been some debate over whether a specific policy in the finalised Edinburgh City Local Plan relating to the WHS is appropriate, and this matter has divided opinion on the steering group. The Council's consistent view over some time has been that having the WHS and its values at the core of the Local Plan's strategy and therefore helping to shape and implement all policies is more effective protection than a stand alone policy. The publication of the Edinburgh Standards for Streets in 2006 is noted as addressing a missing piece of guidance.

#### **Condition of the WHS environment**

3.5 This looks at the asset in terms of conservation areas, listed buildings and scheduled monuments which have remained largely constant over the period. The conservation funding awarded by EWH rose slightly over the period, and the report notes the existence of flood prevention measures. An unresolved issue is that of whether a buffer zone for the site requires to be formally identified. This will be a matter for consideration over the next year.

#### **Development pressure and change**

3.6 The number of applications determined within the WHS rose over the period by 12% approx from 787 in the previous year to 874 and is an indication of the continuing development pressures in a growing capital city.

#### **Economic value**

3.7 It is noted that the city is performing well, economically. This role as a major economic, institutional and cultural centre is essential to the character and

wellbeing of the WHS. Office and retail rentals remained largely constant, and the value of residential property rose by over 11% over the period. Visitor numbers in 2005 were at 3.6 million with a visitor spend of £1,069m. Comparable data for previous years was not available.

#### **Awareness and community involvement**

- 3.8 Improving an understanding of the WHS and its protection among visitors and the community will achieve long term benefits. Data on this is limited, but a study by Napier University indicated that 56% of residents and 41% visitors were aware of Edinburgh's World Heritage Site status. There was an increase in the use of the WHS emblem on promotional material. There is a large and varied programme of public events throughout the year.

#### **Resources and management**

- 3.9 These have remained constant over the period.

### **4 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 None

### **5 Conclusions**

- 5.1 The indicators suggest the state of conservation of the World Heritage Site is generally good. There may be some benefit in reviewing the range of indicators to ensure they capture the particular characteristics of Edinburgh's World Heritage Site and this will be pursued with other partners.

### **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the World Heritage Site Annual Monitoring Report 2006/07.



**Dave Anderson**  
Director of City Development

---

<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix 1: The Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site: Annual Monitoring Report 2006/07
<b>Contact/tel</b>	Will Garrett: 0131 469-3636 <a href="mailto:will.garrett@edinburgh.gov.uk">will.garrett@edinburgh.gov.uk</a>
<b>Wards affected</b>	City Centre, Inverleith, Corstorphine/Murrayfield, Meadows/Morningside, Southside/Newington
<b>Background Papers</b>	None