

## **Pots, Pans and People – Proposed Community Based Archaeological Project**

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**City of Edinburgh Council**

**25 August 2011**

### **Purpose of report**

- 1 To seek approval for the Council's involvement in the archaeological project.

### **Main report**

- 2 On 28 June 2011 the Culture and Leisure Committee considered a report detailing a funding application for a community-based archaeological project involving East Lothian Council and Scottish Borders Council.
- 3 The Committee agreed to refer the joint working arrangements to the Council in terms of Standing Order 35 and recommend that the Council:
  - a) notes the report.
  - b) welcomes the submission of the two-stage funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, as described in paragraph 5 of the Acting Director of Corporate Services' report.
  - c) approves the Council's involvement in the Project as described in the Acting Director of Corporate Services' report, provided Heritage Lottery Funding or alternative funding is secured.

### **Recommendation**

- 4 To consider the recommendations of the Culture and Leisure Committee.

**Alastair Maclean**  
Head of Legal and Administrative Services

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**Appendix** Report by the Acting Director of Corporate Services

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**Wards affected** Citywide - Portobello/Craigmillar in particular

**Background Papers**

# Pots, pans and people – proposed community-based archaeological project

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## Culture and Leisure Committee

28 June 2011

### Purpose of report

- 1 This report provides details of a funding application for a community-based archaeological project, *Pots, pans and people*, and asks the Committee to approve the Council's further involvement.

### Main report

- 2 The Culture and Sport service aims to undertake a community-based archaeological project with East Lothian Council and the Scottish Borders Council between mid-2012 and the end of 2014. If funding can be secured, the project will take place in sites at Portobello, along the south bank of the Forth between Prestonpans and Joppa, and at the Whim, near West Linton. The historical importance of these sites is briefly outlined in appendix 1.
- 3 The project's overall aim is to use the 18<sup>th</sup> century ceramic industry of the area to inspire local communities to participate in the discovery, management, enhancement and interrogation of their cultural heritage. If funding is secured, the project will be led by the Curator of Archaeology (Culture and Sport) and will include several archaeological digs followed by analysis and interpretation of any finds. Local communities will be invited to take part in the digs, and in follow-up work on the finds. Representatives from national heritage and research bodies will also be involved. By participating in the project, individuals and groups will enhance their knowledge of their local area, and its history; gain valuable experience in teamwork and receive training in various transferable skills. The project should generate a sense of community spirit in the areas concerned, and have wider socio-economic benefits for the communities involved.
- 4 Preliminary consultations with potential key stakeholders (see appendix 2) helped to shape the project design and enlist broad support for the proposed project.
- 5 *Pots, pans and people* is dependent on external grant funding and contributions in kind. An initial funding application for approximately £400,000 has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The full project design and proposal will be submitted by the end of the year, for consideration by the HLF awards panel in March 2012. If the application is successful, the project will not incur any direct costs to the Council, other than staff time. If unsuccessful and

funding cannot be obtained from alternative external sources, the project will not go ahead.

6 The project, which will run for 18 months from the summer of 2012 if funding can be secured, comprises four strands:

- a community archive programme;
- a community archaeology survey and excavation programme;
- a scientific archaeological research programme; and
- a community schools programme (including school visits and teachers' resource packs).

7 The project is expected to result in:

- publications for the general public;
- community exhibitions of interpretative boards at the three sites;
- a community website;
- a mobile phone application, 'Heritage iApp';
- the acquisition of specialist and transferable skills by participating members of the community;
- enhancement of the Site and Monument Records of the three participating authorities, and consequently better management and promotion of this important heritage;
- improved understanding of Scottish 18<sup>th</sup> century ceramics, potentially confirming the importance of the Whim in the development of technical progress in Scottish porcelain;
- a higher profile for Scottish 18<sup>th</sup> century ceramics and a boost to tourism across the project area;
- a series of archaeological publications for wider public and academic dissemination; and
- an exhibition on the findings, to be held at the Museum of Edinburgh in 2013 / 2014.

### **Financial Implications**

8 There are no additional financial costs to the Council. Staff time will be made available from an existing staff team in Culture and Sport. If the grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund is unsuccessful, alternative funding sources will be sought to enable the project to proceed.

### **Equalities Impact**

9 Involvement of local communities in this project may help to foster good community relations (for example, between older and younger participants).

10 The report's contents and recommendations are therefore of some relevance to equalities and human rights duties. The overall equalities relevance score is 3 (out of a possible 9). A full Equalities Impact Assessment was not required.

## Environmental Impact

- 11 Archaeological surveys and small scale excavations will be carried out at selected sites. There will be no adverse environmental impact and each excavation site will be reinstated on completion.

## Recommendations

- 12 It is recommended that the Committee:
- a) notes the contents of this report;
  - b) welcomes the submission of a two-stage funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, as described in paragraph five; and
  - c) approves the Council's involvement in the project as described, provided HLF or alternative external funding is secured.

**David Jack**  
Acting Director of Corporate Services

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Appendices	1. Historical background 2. Stakeholders consulted to date
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Wards affected	Portobello / Craigmillar in particular, and citywide
Single Outcome Agreement	National Outcome 12 - We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations
Background Papers	

### **Historical Background**

- 1 Modern day knowledge of the wares produced by Scotland's ceramic industry during the Enlightenment period of the 18<sup>th</sup> century is limited. The Scottish industry focused on the export market, particularly America, Canada, and many parts of South East Asia. Popular and affordable, these wares were usually not marked, so their Scottish origin remained largely unknown and relatively unappreciated until recently.
- 2 Archibald Campbell, 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Argyll, was an important figure in the Enlightenment. His interest in science, coupled with his political position and patronage of several of the foremost scholars of the time, greatly advanced the shape of Scottish industry and culture. In 1729 he purchased the Whim Estate in Peeblesshire, with the aim of producing a return on his investment.
- 3 Recent research has identified the Whim as almost certainly associated with the development of a certain type of porcelain of the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. Research at the Whim and at other pottery production sites in Edinburgh and East Lothian would test this finding. If verified, it would prove exceptionally important academically; would substantially raise the profile of Scotland's 18<sup>th</sup> century ceramics industry and would bring this body of knowledge into the public domain.

### **Appendix 2**

#### **Stakeholders consulted to date**

- Historic Scotland
- National Museums of Scotland
- The Kiln Club
- Scottish Pottery Society
- Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
- The Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre
- Glasgow University Department of Archaeology
- Scottish Borders Council (Archaeology Service)
- Peeblesshire Archaeological Society
- East Lothian Antiquarian & Field Naturalists Society
- East Lothian Council (Archaeological Service & Museums Education Service)
- Portobello Amenity Society
- Portobello History Society