

# Meeting: Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee

Date: 1 March 2022

## Title: Hadrian 1900 Festival

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Service: Environment, Housing and Leisure

Wards affected: All

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### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to give the Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee an outline of plans to mark the 1900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of Hadrian's Wall in 2022.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Sub-committee is recommended to note the report and comment on the presentation.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 This year is the 1900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of Hadrian's Wall. Hadrian's Wall Partnership (HWP) will mark this with a year-long festival running from Hadrian's Birthday on 24<sup>th</sup> January to the end of the Roman festival of Saturnalia on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

The festival will be a celebration of 1900 years of the World Heritage Site, with organisations, venues, people and communities being asked to respond with what it means to them. Anyone can take part in the festival so long as they meet the themes and criteria. In terms of scale, it is envisaged that events from as small as a table at a village fete to as large as a major cultural commission could be included. A festival steering group is co-ordinating the programme and publicity.

### 4. Outline programme

Details of the evolving programme can be found here <https://1900.hadrianswallcountry.co.uk/>.

The thrust of the festival is to engage communities along the Wall; enhance the presence and relevance of the World Heritage site to them; and create a network of local ambassadors who will promote the World Heritage Site now and in years to come.

In addition, the festival will provide content to hook the anticipated staycation market in 2022, and to generate interest in Hadrian's Wall for international visitors in future years. Currently autumn 2022 is predicted as the earliest likely return for significant international tourism.