

An advisory Council to the  
Department of the Environment

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Prof. Gabriel Cooney BA MA PhD  
Chairman

27 August 2009

Manus Deery RIBA  
Principal Conservation Architect  
Assistant Director of NIEA: Built Heritage  
Chairman of the City Walls Conservation Plan Steering Group  
NI Environment Agency  
5-33 Hill Street  
Belfast  
BT1 2LR

Dear Mr Deery,

The Historic Monuments Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Derry City Walls Management Plan. The Council wishes to commend the City Walls Steering Group for the preparation of this important report, to be seen as a complement to the Conservation Plan published in 2007.

The Council welcomes the recommendation that a Management Group be set up to co-ordinate the management of the monument. The Council would fully support the appointment of a Monument Manager as a full-time appointment based in Derry.

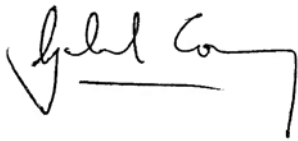
The Plan sets out in full detail the complexities of the management of the City Walls, the various elements of that management process and the agencies and bodies who work in a co-ordinated way to carry through that process. Council would like to make four comments on the management process as set out in the plan.

- In the context of the need for a rapid response in some cases in terms of maintenance and conservation, and the work being done by the competent agencies identified in the plan, Council would question whether it is necessary or efficient that all such conservation work has to be approved by the Management Group.
- In the plan it would be useful if there was greater recognition of the need of an ongoing archaeological input into the management of the City Walls.

Cont'd.

- It would be useful for the Management Group to identify a number of realistic and achievable management objectives to sustain and/or improve access and enjoyment of the monument over the lifetime of the plan.
- It is to be expected that in ensuring the maintenance and conservation of the walls the management plan should consider or articulate how to incorporate greater community involvement in the management process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabriel Cooney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Professor Gabriel Cooney  
Chair