1.0 Introductions and apologies

MG welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2.0 Operational issues

2.1 Management Plan updates

MD said that he had updated the Management Plan, but asked the group to send him any suggested amendments

Action: All group members to email MD accordingly.

2.2. Regulatory signage update.

MGo reported that 7 signs had been erected and thanked the entire group for their cooperation. MGo said that the regulatory sign next to the Magazine Gate interpretive sign needed amending, to be titled Coward’s Bastion and this was already commissioned. MD raised the possibility that there could be additional signs or signs moved (e.g. at Newmarket Street or opposite the Craft Village). MGo said that she would be happy to move or add new signs if the group felt it appropriate and that the matter would be revisited at the next meeting.

MGo also said that a Health and Safety paper regarding the Walls was currently with Iain Greenway and she would circulate once approved. This paper is in response to
the Visitor Safety Audit carried out by the DfC Health and Safety Advisor. In addition, HED has written to 19 identified tour operators that provide tours on the Walls to highlight key hazards and the introduction of new safety signage. **Action: MGo to circulate paper once approved.**

### 2.3 Walls Health and Safety options appraisal.

This was discussed under point 2.2.

### 2.4 Conservation Update

MG provided an update from SMcM:

- Royal Bastion – Conservation Works Team (CWT) have completed works on the plinth with the exception of lithomex repairs to the sandstone pillars. This has been temporarily delayed due to the weather. CCI have agreed to assist in the lowering of the Stable Lane bollard in order to facilitate access for vehicles connected to the contractor works at the plinth. These vehicles will only be used to transport materials and will not remain parked on the Walls for any length of time.

- Hibernian Hall – CWT have also completed the initial phase of conservation next to the rear of Hibernian Hall, but the next phase can only be carried out once structure such as fire escape and railings have been removed, HED awaits notification of this.

- Waterloo Street – works have been carried out re the water run off but issues still remain. This will require further review.

- Graffiti – removal of the graffiti on the Western Perspective has been commissioned and the contractor needs to will liaise with JR. **Action: MGo to ask contractor to contact JR.**

### 2.5 Lighting update

MD said that the scheme was due to have been finalised at the end of the financial year, but there had seemingly been a delay in the manufacturing process. ME said she would confirm the position with the council. **Action: ME to confirm position with council to MD.**

### 2.6 Cannon update

ME confirmed that the tenders for the assessment of the cannon were out but not yet returned. A further update would be available for the next meeting.
2.7 Public realm scheme: presentation of bastions

CG his apologies and provided the following written update:

- the Inner Walled City Public Realm scheme received planning approval on 25 Mar 2019. However the Department has not yet approved the business case for the project nor has the required budget cover (circa £4.5m) been secured. The project remains a priority for the Department. Subject to approval of the business case and securing budget cover works could potentially commence in the 20/21 financial year.

ML raised concerns about the presentation of the bastions around the Walls, suggesting they could be presented in a more consistent and strategic manner, in the context of the Walls generally, as key features of the monument. He also referenced the missing bastion, which could perhaps be included in any future scheduling.

MGo and MD recognised the value of this suggestion. It does make it more difficult as the immediate exterior environs of the bastions are not in the Guardianship of the Department, particularly since water bastion is now partially built upon, however key principles could be developed. This could be within the context of a review of the Conservation Plan, which is timely. Principles regarding the bastions as specific features should be incorporated specifically.

**Actions:**
MD to take forward review of the Conservation Plan, to include the presentation of the bastions.
MGo to suggest the Heritage Records and Designations Branch of DfC consider the scheduling of the entire area of water bastion.

2.8 Planning update

JMcN sent his apologies but provided the following written update:

- LA 11 2018 0702 DfC Public Realm Scheme (Park, seating, trees paving etc. - Palace St, Society St, Magazine St Augustine’s ) Approved – March 2019 Planning Committee – Issued 1st April 2019.

2.9 Visitor and tourism update

OD said that the visitor figures for 2018 (c424,000 visitors) represented small growth in 2017, with more visitors from GB and China and a drop in USA visitors. In 2018 there had been 270,000 overnight stays.

OD said that the Visit Derry visitor centre will move from Foyle Street to Waterloo Place in Spring 2020, as having a presence adjacent to Guildhall Square will be more beneficial to visitors.
ML suggested that this new Visitor Centre could be used as a direct access point onto the Walls. OD said the initial priority was to relocate into the new building. Some discussion regarding the making of a new opening to facilitate access onto the Walls at this location took place, however the integrity of the monument must be always the primary concern.

JO'D said that the Walled City – 400 Years brand had a series of events planned from June to September.

JO'D also mentioned that c.30 temporary visitor footfall sensors were being developed by DCSDC in conjunction with Tourism NI, which are planned to be placed onto the Walls at various locations. MGo noted that this would require discussion and agreement and early consultation would be helpful.

**Action:** JO'D to send map of proposed sensor locations to PM for circulation to the group.

JO'D also referenced the development of an augmented reality phone app that would enable users to get a 360 degree aerial tour of the City. This would be tested in May 2019.

There was a discussion on museum displays – RD said she was working with the Nerve Centre to mount an exhibition on the Walls e.g. the excavations in the 1970s and EM also referenced the PRONI exhibition on the Plantation that was currently touring libraries.

MGr said that Tourism NI had recently organised a ‘meet the buyer’ workshop attended by c160 tour operators; and that Tourism NI was currently developing a new experience brand for the whole of NI to be launched at the November 2019 World Travel Market.

### 2.10 Events consultation: HED application form

There was a discussion on the application form & procedure for events on the Walls. JO'D said that the current procedures for comparatively straightforward applications (e.g. photography applications) appear too bureaucratic and discouraged usage of the Walls.

MGo said that State Care team had been working since Christmas 2018 to streamline the application process and this work was ongoing. MGo made the commitment to look into the Walls applications to see if there was a way that HED could make this process easier for applicants.

**Action:** MGo to review with her team the recent applications and to investigate ways to make this process more expedient and user-friendly.
MGr referenced access to footage of events. MGo said the application form could be amended to include the request for copy of footage (although this could never be mandatory), however GDPR considerations would also have to be taken into account.

**Action:** MGo to investigate GDPR issues regarding 3rd party footage and to amend the application form if appropriate.

### 2.11 Access Audit

ME noted that the council has been given DfC funding for a number of works as recommended in the report, but required approval of these works by HED. She requested that this was moved forward in advance of the next Implementation Group meeting.

MGo suggested that HED discuss internally and then provide a draft response, along with convening an extraordinary meeting to agree works formally; attendees from the Implementation Group at this meeting as they feel necessary/relevant.

**Action:** MGo to convene internal HED meeting with MD and SMcM and then extraordinary meeting in Derry in advance of next Implementation Group meeting.

### 2.12 Social Media principles / guidelines

MGo reminded the group that it was important that images on social media should encourage responsible use of the Walls, particularly by members of the management group exemplifying best practice. She noted that it might be helpful to have some general principles that could be agreed. ME said that the council had guidelines already. MGo noted that it might be useful to review these and to formulate specific general guidelines for the Walls. MD agreed to lead on this with ME.

**Actions:**

- ME to share DCSDC guidelines.
- MD to convene meeting with ME and any other members appropriate to have a draft for discussion at the next Implementation meeting.

### 3.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**Action:** PM to publish minutes on the website.

MG noted that the vegetation report from the previous minutes (2.3) had not been shared.

**Action:** PM to share in advance of the next meeting and to place on the agenda.

BN confirmed that £10million insurance was required as per Dept. of Finance guidance. JR said that this difference in requirements was confusing for event applicants and a standard would be important.

**Action:** JR to raise this matter at the next Safety Advisory Group meeting.
4.0 Other

The next meeting was arranged for 2pm on 06 June 2019.

There being no other business the meeting concluded at 12:30.