

Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site Management Plan – Consultation Draft

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Committee:

- (a) notes the process and timetable for undertaking the World Heritage Site Management Plan Review;**
- (b) endorses the Consultation Draft; and**
- (c) notes that the final version of the new Management Plan will be adopted by the County Council through the Cabinet Member decision process in Spring 2013.**

1. Summary

The report sets out the process for reviewing the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site (WHS) Management Plan and asks Committee to endorse the Consultation Draft. Any views of the Committee will be addressed through DCC's formal consultation response.

2. Background

The Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site (popularly known as "Cornish Mining") was Inscribed by UNESCO on its World Heritage List in 2005. At the same time as the Nomination Document was submitted, the WHS Management Plan for the period 2005-2010 was approved having been endorsed by the County Council's Executive in December 2004 (*Min 901 refers). The World Heritage designation covered ten geographical areas, nine in Cornwall and one in Devon covering the Tamar Valley and Tavistock.

The purpose of the Management Plan is to create a strategic policy framework within which the various management interests can operate. To do this it should explain the reasons for designation, describe the Site and its key features, define how it is protected, outline the key management issues and define policies and strategic actions.

The Review of the Plan is necessary to make sure that it remains relevant in the light of the changing operating environment (eg new Government policy and local government re-organisation in Cornwall), new knowledge and lessons learned from implementation of the original Plan. The task of the Review is to identify amendments that are necessary to ensure it remains a working document that reliably, and realistically, informs the management process itself and other processes such as the preparation of local plans.

3. Content of the Plan

The overall Vision for the WHS is that *"We believe that by protecting, conserving and enhancing the outstanding universal value of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site it will reinforce cultural distinctiveness and become a significant driver for economic regeneration and social inclusion"*.

The Management Plan review process to date has been led by the funding partners including DCC, the statutory and specialist agencies, and other key stakeholders who were invited to

help identify what the key priorities should be for the next five years. These are summarised in Section 5 of the Plan. Section 6 contains a high level, strategic overview of the major areas for action in the coming five years which will be supplemented by detailed annual work plans with budgets for each financial year. Section 7 describes the monitoring and evaluation system through which progress in delivering the Plan will be monitored. A critical new area of work has been the production of a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) which is also forming part of the consultation process.

The key considerations in the Plan for this Authority relate to the:

- (a) Application of planning policies, and development of a Supplementary Planning Document, for the protection and conservation of important buildings and features of historic interest within Tavistock and the Tamar Valley;
- (b) Promotion of access and interpretation through the recent investment by the Tamar Mining Heritage Project;
- (c) Review of criteria for key centre for interpretation and the impact this will have on bringing Tavistock forward as the Key Centre gateway for the eastern part of the WHS;
- (d) Further implementation of the signing strategy for the area;
- (e) Marketing of the WHS as a tourist destination.

Copies of the Consultation Draft will be available for detailed consideration both electronically (supplementary information to this report on the website) and in hard copy at the meeting venue on the day of the Committee.

4. The Process and Timetable in Devon

The Plan is currently at the Consultation Draft stage and informal DCC officer comments have been included in this Draft. It would have been normal practice for this Committee to formally agree a draft for public consultation but due to the timetabling of meetings this was not possible. However, the WHS Partnership Board, on which DCC is represented by Councillor Sellis, did approve the Consultation Draft at the end of October. Public consultation started for an eight week period on 14 November, running until 10 January. During this period the County Council will be able to submit formal comments including any views of this Committee.

Account will be taken of the feedback and comments and an amended draft Final Plan will be produced by the Management Plan Working Group for the Partnership Board at the end of January. Local authorities will be asked to adopt these Final Plans during February and March 2013. It is proposed that these will be signed off on behalf of the Authority by the Cabinet Member for the Environment and Community through the delegated decision process.

5. Financial Considerations

DCC currently contributes £30,000 per annum towards the work programme of the WHS Partnership targeted towards implementation of Management Plan policies. This contribution is set out formally in a three year Partnership Agreement for the period April 2011 to March 2014. The Review process is part of this work programme and does not incur additional costs.

6. Sustainability, Carbon Impact, Equality and Public Health Considerations

It is now a requirement that Management Plans are subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment. This is being drafted and will be subject to Consultation alongside the Management Plan. This should ensure that sustainability and environmental issues have been fully taken into account. An Equality Impacts and Needs Assessment will be undertaken as part of the consultation phase and any outstanding equality or public health issues will be addressed in the Final Plan.

7. Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal considerations for Devon County Council in this Management Plan process. It is the UK Government which has a duty to ensure WHSs are protected and managed although in practice, in many cases, this is informally devolved to local authorities. Appropriate management frameworks and plans are a means to deliver against the obligations of the World Heritage Convention.

8. Risk Management Considerations

Risks associated with the Management Plan can be categorised as reputational, relating to not undertaking full public consultation; legal, relating to not having statutory plans in place to ensure protection of the WHS; and financial; related to lack of strategic context for making funding bids to deliver activity. Risks related to the asset itself are covered in Section 5.3.4 of the Plan.

9. Options/Alternatives

The County Council could have resolved to not endorse the Management Plan Review process and to play no active part. However, this would have reduced its ability to influence future management of the WHS. The current Management Plan is now out of date and its review and updating accords with UNESCO Guidelines.

10. Reason for Recommendation/Conclusion

The Review procedure will allow the County Council to fulfil its obligation as a partner in managing the WHS and also to ensure that the Management Plan Review is subject to appropriate consultation.

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Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Reference
Consultation Draft of Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site management Plan 2013 - 2018	<i>November 2012</i>	

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