

Executive

11 May 2010

Report of the Director of City Strategy

York World Heritage Site Bid: – Information Only Report

Summary

1. This brief information report informs and updates the Executive on progress towards a York World Heritage Site bid since the Report to the Executive on 17th March 2009. It also gives details of the Stage 1 Application Form for a revised UK Tentative List of World Heritage Sites released by the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS).

Background & Context

2. The Executive considered a Report [Progress on York and possible World Heritage status](#) at its meeting on 17th March 2009. At that meeting, Executive resolved:
 3. that the DCMS's proposal to adopt a new, short UK Tentative List and the two-stage nomination and decision process to create the new UK Tentative List be supported;
 4. that: (a) A Stage 1 application be submitted for nomination to the new UK Tentative List, based on Option 3 and (b) If successful at Stage 1, a Stage 2 application be submitted for nomination to the new UK Tentative List;
 5. that approaches and investigations to secure partnership funding to facilitate the early appointment of a World Heritage Site Project Officer be supported;
 6. that the Executive be updated on progress at each stage and that a further report on partnership, finance, timetable, HR and other arrangements be brought to the Executive if York is successful at Stage 2.

Consultation

7. The York World Heritage Steering Group has continued to meet during 2009 and 2010. However, no other external consultation has been carried out over the preparation and content of this Report

Information / Update Provided

4. The City of York responded to the DCMS in support of their consultation proposal to adopt a new, short UK Tentative List and to put in place a two-stage nomination and decision process to create the new UK Tentative List.
5. The DCMS released its response to this consultation exercise in January 2010. The Government announced that it will prepare a new UK Tentative List. The current Tentative List has been formally closed; all sites on the old Tentative List must reapply through the new application process. On the 19th March 2010 DCMS released details of the application process which is designed to produce the new Tentative List of sites in the UK and Dependent Territories.
6. The information released on 19th March 2010 included details of the Stage 1 application process. The Stage 1 application has to be made on a short, concise electronic form. The completed Stage 1 form has to be submitted to the DCMS no later than 11th June 2010. Further information may subsequently be requested from candidate sites. DCMS has in effect adopted the two-stage application process supported by the Executive decision on 17th March 2009.
7. The final Tentative List will be announced in 2011; the first nomination to UNESCO World Heritage Committee from the new Tentative List will be made in 2012.
8. The form is deliberately brief so as not to impose unnecessary costs on applicants. Short statements should be provided in response to each of the questions. The form is intended to produce summary information to identify those sites which deserve more detailed consideration, because, on the face of it, they have the potential to meet UNESCO's stringent tests. All the applications will be considered by an independent expert panel and, in some cases, further information may be sought.
9. The application form will be completed and the bid submitted by the City of York Council. The York World Heritage Steering Group will continue to meet and provide expert technical advice to officers. The Steering Group will also continue to undertake activities to promote and publicise the case for York as a World Heritage Site.
10. Further work has been and continues to be carried out on the proposed World Heritage Site boundary. The proposed boundary will generally coincide with the Central Historic Core, but will be amended where appropriate to more accurately reflect the spatial distribution of waterlogged archaeological deposits at Hungate, St George's Fields and Holgate Dock. The proposed World Heritage Site Buffer Zone will coincide with the Area of Archaeological Importance which was designated in 1984 under Part 2 of the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act.
11. If York is successful in its bid to be included in the new Tentative List, it is possible that the City could be nominated to UNESCO in 2012. This would of course coincide with the 800th anniversary of the city gaining its charter and other important events happening in the UK in 2012.

12. Discussions will be resumed with potential partners to identify partnership funding so that an officer can be appointed who will be able to take on World Heritage roles and responsibilities if the Stage 1 bid is successful.
13. A great deal of strategic planning policy work is currently underway which could be used to create a Management Plan for a York World Heritage site. The reports which form the evidence base for the Local Development Framework (LDF), the LDF Core Strategy, the LDF City Centre Area Action Plan and the Central Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal, together with the current work by Prof Alan Simpson and his team for the York Renaissance Economic Vision and Master plan and the future work programme of the York Renaissance Team and the York Renaissance Academy will all provide a substantial and significant platform for a Management Plan. These strategic policy documents and reports will significantly reduce the costs of making a bid to UNESCO.
14. A further report will be brought back to the Executive when the results of the Stage 1 application are known and to report on progress on identifying partnership funding.

Corporate Strategy

- 15 World Heritage status will make a significant contribution to York as a Thriving City, a Sustainable City, a Learning City and a City of Culture.

Implications

- 16 Any implications arising from the issues raised in this information report will be addressed within any associated decision-making reports required in the future.

Risk Management

- 17 There are no risks arising from the contents of this Report

Conclusions

- 18 This report is for public and Member information only.

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Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

All relevant background papers must be listed here.

Executive Report [Progress on York and possible World Heritage status](#) 17th March 2009

Executive Report [Should York be a World Heritage Site?](#) 24th April 2007