

SUBJECT:	BLAENAVON INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN (2018 - 2023)
MEETING:	Individual Cabinet Member Decision
DATE:	27 March 2019
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	Llanelly Hill, Llanwenarth Ultra, Llanfoist Fawr

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To seek approval of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site Management Plan (2018-2023).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To approve the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site Management Plan (2018-2023).

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site is managed by the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership within which Torfaen County Borough Council is the lead partner responsible for day to day management of the Site. Every World Heritage Site (WHS) is required to adhere to UNESCO's Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (12th July 2017) which requires each WHS to have an appropriate management plan or other documented management system which must specify how the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of a property should be preserved, preferably through participatory means.
- 3.2 WHS Management Plans must be reviewed and renewed every five years and set out actions for the effective protection, conservation and presentation of the Sites OUV for present generations as well as its transmission to future generations. The current Management Plan for the Site was approved in 2011 and therefore required renewal. This Plan superseded the first Management Plan approved upon inscription of the Site in 2000.
- 3.3 The current Plan has played a central role in managing the WHS and has been instrumental in informing and guiding landscape management, planning decisions, education and interpretation projects, marketing initiatives and project development as well as supporting individual funding applications and work programmes. Welsh Government in its policy document "Managing Change in World Heritage Sites Wales" (May 2017) recognises the Plan as an exemplar of best practise within the sector.
- 3.4 During the Plan period, the effective management of the WHS by the Blaenavon World Heritage Site Partnership has continued with positive cooperation between members and effective working with key community and stakeholder groups. There has been notable

success in implementing the Plan with the majority of projects and initiatives included within the Plan having been delivered.

Issues and findings

- 3.5 A revised WHS Management Plan for the period 2018-2023 has been prepared (attached at Appendix 2). The Plan seeks to build upon the success of both Management Plans implemented to date and ensure that the OUV of the WHS continues to be managed for the benefit of present and future generations.
- 3.6 The Plan identifies an overall vision and key principles for the management of the WHS, together with short, medium and long-term objectives. These are supported by a suite of policies that seek to deliver the continued and effective protection, conservation, presentation and transmission of the Site's OUV over the Plan period (2018-2023) identified under the following four themes:
1. Governance and Management of the World Heritage Site
 2. Caring for the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape
 3. Exploring and Enjoying the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape
 4. Learning and Community Engagement in World Heritage
- 3.7 Specific actions for projects and activities to be explored and delivered by all partners over the Plan period are identified for each theme, together with likely phasing and possible sources of funding. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is embedded into the Plan providing the opportunity to set in place policies and actions that recognise the present and future needs of the Site to ensure its future as a thriving, balanced and sustainable communities. The Plan's contribution to the Well-being Goals for both the Torfaen and Monmouthshire Public Service Boards is clearly identified.
- 3.8 Overall, the Plan aims to ensure that the policies and actions for management of the Site's heritage contribute to economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being and sustainable development goals. It demonstrates that heritage protection and heritage-led regeneration are complementary in helping to create a thriving, balanced and sustainable future for Blaenavon and the wider WHS.
- 3.9 The Plan covers the full extent of the World Heritage Site including those areas falling within the administrative boundaries of Torfaen County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Council and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. Torfaen CBC has taken the lead role but all organisations have been fully involved in the preparation of the Plan and are pursuing its formal approval within their own organisations.
- 3.10 It is intended that the Plan will be formally endorsed and launched at a Board Meeting of the Blaenavon WHS Partnership in the Spring of 2019.

Consultation

- 3.11 The revised Management Plan (2018- 2023) has been the subject of extensive consultation. Ahead of preparing a Consultation Draft, a series of scene setting

meetings were convened including with the Blaenavon WHS Partnership Board, Steering Group and thematic Working Groups. Two public consultation events were also convened at Blaenavon Workmens Hall and Llanfoist Village Hall. Information and comments received as part of this process was utilised to inform and prepare sections of the revised draft Plan ahead of wider public consultation.

3.12 A six week public consultation exercise on the draft Plan subsequently took place from 12th April – 24th May 2018. Relevant organisations were also be consulted over the same time period. A public exhibition took place at Blaenavon World Heritage Centre on Tuesday 24th April and at Llanfoist Village Hall on 26th April 2018 to allow everyone with an interest in the proposals the opportunity to give their views and discuss with relevant officers. 10 comments were received as a result of the public consultation exercise. Cadw, Historic England (the UK Governments lead for World Heritage matters) and ICOMOS UK have also provided comments. The Plan was amended accordingly where required. A copy of these comments and responses is available on request.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

4.1 The Plan will maintain long-term planning and management arrangements to ensure that outcomes are sustainable in the future. It will support continued efforts to create a cultural tourism destination; using this as a catalyst to deliver economic, social and environmental regeneration outcomes to the World Heritage Site and to provide improved physical and intellectual access, volunteering opportunities and activity.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Option	Benefits	Risks	Comments
Not have a current management plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not meeting UNESCO requirements No access to future grant Undermine the existing BILWHS partnerships 	UNESCO's Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention require each Site to have an appropriate management plan, failure to have a current management plan would ultimately put the designation at risk
Maintain a current management plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports appropriate management Supports existing relationships and partnership work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None identified 	Meets UNESCO's Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains potential access to future funding 		
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6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 6.1 An updated Management Plan for the WHS will ensure that the Council and the wider WHS Partnership has measures in place to effectively protect, conserve and present the Sites OUV to present generations and ensure its transmission to future generations. The plan contains identified outcomes, which will form the basis for future monitoring.

7. REASONS:

- 7.1 Every WHS is required to adhere to UNESCO's Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (12th July 2017) which requires each Site to have an appropriate management plan or other documented management system which must specify how the OUV of a property should be preserved, preferably through participatory means.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications to the Council from this proposal. The Plan sets out a matrix of projects to be delivered by all partners within the Plan period. Some projects are already underway with all funding secured. Other projects are aspirational and funding will be sought by individual partners from relevant external funding bodies during the Plan period as opportunities and resources arise.

9. CONSULTEES:

Enterprise DMT and see sections 3.11 and 3.12 for summary of consultation on the plan.

No further comments received.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1: Future Generations Evaluation

Appendix 2: Final Plan:

<http://moderngov.torfaen.gov.uk/documents/s35685/Blaenavon%20WHS%20Management%20Plan%20FINAL%20SEPTEMBER%202018.pdf>

11. AUTHOR & CONTACT DETAILS

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