

Single Member Cabinet Decision

**Executive
Forward Plan
Reference**

E 2612

Bath World Heritage Site attributes

Decision maker/s	Cllr Paul Crossley, Leader of the Council Cllr Tim Ball, Cabinet Member for Homes and Planning
The Issue	UNESCO, the body governing World Heritage Sites, requests that key characteristics which convey or express the 'Outstanding Universal Value' of the site. In UNESCO guidance these characteristics are termed 'attributes' are identified for all WHSs. Draft attributes for the City of Bath have been developed, and these now need to be formally confirmed by B&NES before being issued to UNESCO.
Decision Date	14/04/2014
The decision	The Cabinet Members agree that the attributes of the City of Bath World Heritage Site are confirmed as a material consideration in Development Management and plan-making.
Rationale for decision	Production of this guidance aids site management through the greater clarification of planning policy relating to the Bath World Heritage Site. It will provide greater clarity both to decision makers and applicants. Endorsement of this guidance fulfils expectations contained in UNESCO Operating Guidelines, and therefore demonstrates responsible management of the World Heritage Site by the Council and the Steering Group.
Financial and budget implications	No resource implications are foreseen with this proposal. The attributes clarify or expand upon existing planning guidance, and it is not anticipated that endorsement will increase the workload of planning staff or applicants. It is intended that this work will be published to the website rather than in hard copy, and no printing costs are therefore anticipated.
Issues considered	Customer Focus; Sustainability; Property; Corporate; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations
Consultation undertaken	Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer
How consultation was carried out	The attributes were produced in close co-operation with English Heritage, both through their regional (Bristol) office and the International Advice office in London. English Heritage subsequently shared drafts of this work with the other UK World Heritage Sites, and with UNESCO advisory body ICOMOS UK.

	<p>Locally, the work was produced by the Council's World Heritage Manager in close co-operation with landscape, archaeology and conservation officers within the Planning Department. The World Heritage Site Steering Group was consulted on the document in February 2013. This group has wide representation, including senior council members and officers, Bath residents groups, heritage societies and other bodies involved in Bath World Heritage Site.</p> <p>Given the specialist technical aspect of this work, no bespoke wider public consultation has been undertaken.</p>
<p>Other options considered</p>	<p>Given the national expectation to produce this guidance, and the consistent approach taken across all UK sites, the only other option would have been not to proceed with this work. This would however have shown the Council not to be following UNESCO operating guidelines, and could have been construed as poor site management. For these reasons this option was discounted.</p>

<p>Signatures of Decision Makers</p>	
<p>Date of Signature</p>	
<p>Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision</p>	