



Department for  
Digital, Culture  
Media & Sport

DCMS  
Fourth Floor  
100 Parliament Street  
London SW1A 2BQ

Dear Dr. Mechtild Rössler,

**State of Conservation of the World Heritage Property “LIVERPOOL MARITIME  
MERCANTILE CITY”**

I am writing to report on the actions taken by the UK State Party in response to World Heritage Committee decision 42 COM 7A.7. The report is structured in line with the template provided at Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines. The relevant sections of the Committee decision are printed in italics for ease of reference.

The UK State Party is content for this report to be posted on the UNESCO World Heritage Centre website. If you require further information or clarification do please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Enid Williams

## STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

### LIVERPOOL MARITIME MERCANTILE CITY (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C1150)

#### 1. Executive Summary

This report addresses the issues raised by the World Heritage Committee in its Decision 42 COM 7A.7. The Decision has as its focus the Liverpool Waters development scheme, part of which lies in the World Heritage Site with the remainder in the Buffer Zone.

It confirms that the State Party, Liverpool City Council (LCC), Peel Holdings (the Liverpool Waters developer) and Historic England (HE) remain committed to safeguarding the OUV of the property, including the conditions of authenticity and integrity and the protection and management regime.

It reports on the progress made in developing the Desired State of Conservation Report (DSOCR), which will be essential to secure the removal of Liverpool from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The DSOCR was overseen by the State Party and prepared by Liverpool City Council with the advice of Historic England.

It provides a progress report concerning the elaboration of the Liverpool Local Plan as well as an updated report on the State of Conservation of the property.

The report explains the basis on which planning decisions have continued to be taken with the objective of ensuring that the OUV, authenticity and integrity of the property is sustained

There is a summary of the work that has been undertaken, which is improving the condition of the WHS and of initiatives designed to promote awareness of the WHS and its values.

#### 2. Response from the State Party to the World Heritage Committee's Decision 42 COM 7A.7.

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7A.Add,*

2. *Recalling Decisions 37 COM 7A.35, 38 COM 7A.19, 39 COM 7A.43, 40 COM 7A.31, and 41 COM 7A.22 adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), and 41<sup>st</sup> (Krakow, 2017) sessions respectively,*

3. *Recalls that it has repeatedly expressed its serious concerns over the impact of the proposed Liverpool Waters developments in the form presented in the approved Outline Planning Consent (2013-2042);*

The State Party has considered very carefully the outstanding concerns of the Committee in the preparation of the DSOCR and in the revision of planning documentation. The developers have confirmed that the development will not be built out those parameters, and in the State Party's view, developments within Liverpool Waters to date have not caused harm to OUV. The DSOCR sets out the corrective measures that will be put in place to prevent future harm to the OUV.

The State Party continues to work in partnership with LCC, Historic England (HE) and developers to ensure that planning decisions are informed by Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) carried out to ICOMOS guidelines and that development will be permitted only where it does not, in the light of these HIAs, have an adverse effect on OUV. Where appropriate, we will continue to seek the advice of the World Heritage Centre through paragraph 172 notifications.

The State Party recalls that the permission for Liverpool Waters was granted in outline in 2013. The measures summarised in this report taken since then have reinforced planning procedures. The State Party, while always looking for ways to improve the protection afforded to world heritage properties, does not accept the Committee's view that governance systems are inadequate to sustain the OUV of the property.

*4. Acknowledges the increasing engagement of civil society in the care of the World Heritage property and its status, in particular the organization "Engage Liverpool";*

Engage Liverpool has continued to organise events aimed at increasing the involvement of civil society with the World Heritage site. This included a second series of seminar events focusing on the WHS during the autumn.

*5. Although noting that the State Party has proposed a draft Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), including a set of corrective measures, a timeframe for implementation, as well as indicators; also notes that comprehensive assessment of the proposed DSOCR by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies is not feasible at this stage, as the DSOCR is not yet complete and relies on the content of additional documents, which are yet to be prepared by the State Party, including the Local Plan, the revised Supplementary Planning Document, the neighbourhood masterplans, and the height ('skyline') policy;*

The preparation of new Local Plans is governed by a statutory process established by national government. The Liverpool Local Plan is not yet finalised and this impacts on the timing for completion and adoption of the WHS Supplementary Planning Document as the latter supplements the Local Plan with additional detail on the policies relating to the WHS. Therefore, the comprehensive assessment of the proposed DSOCR by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies is not yet possible.

### **Local Plan Position and Next Steps**

As part of a staged process the Local Plan was published for six weeks public consultation under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, on January 26<sup>th</sup> 2018. The consultation closed on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2018 and in May 2018 the City Council submitted the Local Plan to the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for the purposes of independent examination in public.

The Examination in public period will take up to 18 months to complete. At the end of the examination period, and assuming the Local Plan is found sound, the City Council will then be in a position to adopt the Local Plan. The potential adoption date is likely to be by November/December 2019.

## **Tall Buildings Policy**

With the support of the State Party and Historic England a series of measures have been put in place that offer substantive commitments to the effective regulation of new development. These include a **Tall Buildings policy** which is being developed for inclusion in the emerging Liverpool Local Plan **and a Tall Buildings Panel** which has held a preliminary meeting with the stakeholders.

As previously noted the conditions of the Liverpool Waters outline planning consent provide the means by which issues such as urban density and height in relation to OUV are taken into account when detailed proposals for development are put forward. The World Heritage Site Supplementary Planning Document (2008) provides clear guidelines to protect OUV and will be updated in parallel with the Liverpool Local Plan.

Furthermore, in addition to the 'Skyline'/Tall Buildings policy which is currently under development by LCC, the Council is strengthening its policy guidance for development across the City. The Council has commissioned independent consultants to prepare Supplementary Framework Documents for the Baltic Triangle, the Central Business District, The Knowledge Quarter Gateway and the Williamson Square/ Cavern Quarter District. These Framework Documents will be produced for adoption by the Council in 2019. The State Party will transmit these documents to the World Heritage Centre when they become available.

*6. Further notes that Peel Holdings (Liverpool Waters developer) has recently confirmed to Liverpool City Council that there is no likelihood of the scheme coming forward in the same form of the Outline Planning Consent, and that Peel Holdings is undertaking a comprehensive review of the scheme and drawing up new neighbourhood masterplans taking full account of heritage considerations and recorded commentary by the World Heritage Committee;*

The State Party accepts that *if* the outline planning permission for Liverpool Waters were built out to the maximum parameters allowed there would be substantial harm to the OUV of the property. There are however mechanisms for protecting the OUV of the property in the planning conditions and legal agreement that were attached to the permission. This includes the requirement for plans to be developed for each of the five neighbourhoods of Liverpool Waters before development takes place in each of these neighbourhoods.

In accordance with the requirements of the outline permission these neighbourhood masterplans will provide a detailed spatial framework for future development within the docks. They will establish a baseline of minimum requirement and provide guidelines including detailed development briefs that re-set the maximum heights for individual plots and measures to ensure the OUV of the WHS and heritage assets are protected and enhanced including views from, within and to the property. The conditions of the outline permission require the neighbourhood masterplan to be approved before any detailed applications are submitted in each respective neighbourhood. Historic England will be important consultees on the emerging plans which will be critical to delivering a successful neighbourhood that respects the WHS. The World Heritage Centre will be notified of neighbourhood plans as they are progressed.

A revised draft of the DSOCR was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on **26 April** 2018, and has subsequently been updated and a revised version submitted alongside this SOCR. While still not ready for comprehensive assessment by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies for the reasons set out above, the revised draft DSOCR responds positively to the Committee decisions as it not only refers to the planning processes that will protect OUV, but also sets out more details of what the desired state of conservation actually is and defines more clearly the corrective measures that will enable this state of conservation to be attained.

*7. Reiterates its previous request to the State Party to adopt a moratorium for new buildings within the property and its buffer zone, until the Local Plan, the revised Supplementary Planning Document, the neighbourhood masterplans, and the height ('skyline') policy are all carefully reviewed and endorsed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and the DSOCR is completely finalized and approved by the World Heritage Committee;*

The State Party, Liverpool City Council, Peel Holdings and Historic England remain committed to safeguarding the OUV of the property, including the conditions of authenticity and integrity and implementation of an effective planning and management regime. In determining detailed proposals that come forward for individual phases of the Liverpool Waters development, attention is being and will continue to be given by Liverpool City Council (taking advice from its Liverpool Waters Conservation and Design Boards, HE and others where appropriate) to the impact of the proposals on the legibility of the architectural and town planning attributes of the city in so far as these attributes relate to the OUV of the property.

In seeking to protect authenticity and integrity, account will be taken of the condition of the property at the time of inscription and the fact that part of the 60 hectare Liverpool Waters lies within the WHS, while the remainder falls within in the Buffer Zone. In these circumstances the State Party believes that it is neither desirable nor practical to enforce a moratorium for new buildings within the property and its buffer zone and that OUV, authenticity and integrity are being sustained through the current planning regime.

*8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, the Local Plan, the revised Supplementary Planning Document, the neighbourhood masterplans, and the height (skyline) policy, or any other relevant document, for preliminary examination by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*

The State Party will submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre as they become available in line with the timetables indicated in this report and the DSOCR.

*9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2019** a revised DSOCR and a report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019 and, in this context, recalls its position expressed in Decision **41 COM 7A.22** - Paragraph 11, in case the State Party does not:*

*a) Provide substantive commitments to limitation on the quantity, location and size of allowable built form,*

*b) Link the strategic city development vision to a regulatory planning document,*

*c) Submit a fully-complete DSOCR and corrective measures in a form that might be considered for adoption by the Committee;*

The State Party is overseeing the development of a DSOCR which aligns as far as possible with the recommendations of the Committee. The statutory timescales for documents such as the new Liverpool Local Plan are such that the DSOCR is not sufficiently complete to be assessed by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies before the Committee meets for its 43 Session in July 2019. The State Party very much regrets that this is the case, but emphasizes that this is the result of statutory planning procedures, which are in place for good reason, rather than any lack of effort and commitment. This report and the DSOCR demonstrate that substantive progress is being made towards the limitation on the quantity, location and size of allowable built form, while the Local Plan and its supporting documents will provide the means of linking the strategic city development vision to the regulatory framework.

The **WHS Management Plan**, adopted by the Mayor's Cabinet in 2017, was submitted to the World Heritage Centre by the State Party on 25 May 2017. This is, and will continue to be, a critically important document in guiding WHS management actions within Liverpool including those associated with development, socio-economic considerations and phasing.

The preparation, consultation on, statutory public examination of and eventual adoption of the **Liverpool Local Plan** is prescribed by national legislation and progress is described in more detail above. The Local Plan, was submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for the purposes of an independent public examination in May 2018. The examination is in progress and LCC is preparing its responses to the Inspector's initial questions and comments after which there will be a period of public hearings later in 2019. The Inspector has already, and will during the hearings recommend modifications to the Local Plan which will be published and consulted upon. Following that consultation the Inspector, if no further modifications are required, will likely recommend the Local Plan be formally adopted by Liverpool City Council in November/December 2019.

The State Party will invite the Advisory Bodies to review the modifications proposed to the Liverpool Local Plan when it is made available for consultation and to submit their advice within the statutory 6 week consultation period.

**Policy UD6 Tall Buildings** requires proposals for tall buildings to be accompanied by a comprehensive Townscape and Visual Impact Assessment, a completed EIA including a Heritage Impact Assessment where necessary, a Design and Townscape Analysis and to undertake a Design Review process before submitting an application. Liverpool City Council has commissioned consultants, including those with expertise in heritage, to prepare a robust evidence base and revisions to **Policy UD6 Tall Buildings** in the Local Plan and in order to provide more detail about the application of the policy relative to the World Heritage Site the production of a ("skyline") **Tall Buildings Supplementary Planning Document**. The programme requires the evidence base and the revisions to Policy UD6 Tall Buildings to be completed prior to the public hearings on the Local Plan. The final draft of the SPD will then reflect the consideration of Policy UD6 Tall Buildings which in turn depends on the timing for Local Plan as indicated above. Note: Historic England is a key stakeholder in the consultation process and WHC/ICOMOS will be consulted on the draft Tall Buildings policy and prior to adoption of the final draft of the SPD scheduled for autumn 2019. The first draft

Evidence Base and policy for the Local Plan is anticipated for February/March 2019. This report on the State of Conservation of the World Heritage property constitutes the response to the Committee's request.

## **2. (a) Progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee**

Corrective measures have not been formally adopted by the Committee, pending consideration of the DSOCR prepared by Liverpool City Council and submitted by the State Party in April 2018. Progress against the measures recommended by the 2015 Advisory Mission was reported in detail in the SOCR submitted by the State Party on January 29 2017. Progress achieved since January 2018 is described in Section 1 above.

### **(b) Propose and justify an alternative time frame.**

A time frame for the implementation of the proposed corrective measures has been set out in the revised DSOCR.

### **(c) Progress achieved towards the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR)**

Detailed masterplans must be prepared for each of the five neighbourhoods that make up the Liverpool Waters scheme as a condition of the outline planning permission before any reserved matters application (ie detailed application) is submitted for development within any part of the site pursuant to the outline permission. These masterplans will establish the key design principles for all development within Liverpool Waters and provide details on the disposition, scale and massing of buildings, key open spaces and routes throughout the individual neighbourhoods. The masterplans are being developed sequentially and Peel have commissioned Masterplanning and Landscape consultants 'Planit' to prepare neighbourhood masterplans for both Princes and Central Docks.

The Princes Dock Masterplan has been submitted to LCC along with information required to meet other conditions of the Liverpool Waters outline planning permission. These details were approved in June 2018 to satisfy the time limits and secure the outline permission. LCC would be pleased to provide a draft version of the Central Docks Masterplan and subsequent Liverpool Waters neighbourhood masterplans and take into account any views the WHC and ICOMOS express on the proposals. We should add that LCC consulted Historic England on the Princes Dock Masterplan and the Princes Dock Conservation Management Plan which is required by a separate condition of the outline permission and will continue to liaise closely on other masterplans as the LW development progresses.

Liverpool City Council has welcomed the opportunity to discuss and agree mutually convenient and practical arrangements and timescales for engagement on future masterplanning. The consultation will be an iterative and collaborative process that ensures the masterplan evolves to deliver the best strategy for Central Docks taking full account of the need to avoid harm to the OUV of the WHS.

The Liverpool Waters outline permission is also accompanied by a legal agreement which includes obligations on the developer Peel to convene a Liverpool Waters Co-ordination Board to oversee the implementation of the development, and a Design Review Panel to assess and provide impartial design advice on development proposals, and a Conservation

Management Board, which provides heritage advice to Peel, LCC and individual developers. Historic England is represented on the Conservation Management Board. These Boards have a key role in ensuring there is effective communication and the plans progress positively following the principles of the Historic Urban Landscape approach. If you would like further information about these boards and panel these can be provided.

### **3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State Party which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value**

Following the previous State of Conservation report dated January 2018, there have been a number of significant achievements in protecting, conserving and presenting the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site. In addition there has been significant progress in relation to the repair and re-use of historic buildings at risk as detailed below. Some of these projects were included in the 2018 SOCR, and updates are provided where available.

The previous Statement of Conservation report of January 2018 identified a number of listed buildings that had been repaired and brought back into use, including the II\* listed north warehouse at Stanley Dock, the II\* listed Royal Insurance building and II\* listed Albion House on James Street. These buildings continue to operate very successfully as hotels, and the success of the Titanic Hotel located at Stanley Dock has encouraged the owners to submit planning applications for the adjacent disused historic buildings within the Stanley Dock complex. The grade II Tobacco Warehouse is being converted to apartments, with commercial and exhibition space at ground and first floors, whilst it is intended that the South Stack warehouse will be converted to hotel and residential uses. The City Council's strategy for securing the future of historic buildings at risk, supported by Historic England is achieving one of the highest success rates in England.

Liverpool City Council continues to work with the local newspaper, the Liverpool Echo, on a project called 'Stop the Rot'. This has identified 25 historic buildings that require repair and new uses, and features a history of each building and an examination into the circumstances of their ownership, redundancy and the efforts being made into bringing them back into use. Several of these buildings are within the World Heritage Property and buffer zone, and the City Council has a working group of politicians and officers who meet regularly to plan their repair and re-use. The campaign has proved to be highly popular and is intended to bring transparency to the process of how these issues are dealt with by the Authority, as well as to raise awareness of the significance of historic buildings at risk among the residents of the City. Key buildings include the Wellington Rooms and St Luke's Church described below.

#### **Wellington Rooms**

The Wellington Rooms is a grade II\* listed former assembly room located in the buffer zone near to the Metropolitan Cathedral. The premises has been unoccupied for more than a decade and fallen into disrepair. The Wellington Rooms is recognised by the City Council and by Historic England as Liverpool's top priority heritage building at risk. The Council is therefore taking positive action with Merseyside Building Preservation Trust and partners to conserve this important heritage asset through a programme of urgent works and ultimately by securing a long-term sustainable future use for the Wellington Rooms. Options for future use include the creation of an "Innovation Hub" proving space for businesses, meeting space, a café and interpretation centre. Tenders are now out to identify a suitable partner to take the scheme forward.



### **St Luke's (Bombed Out) Church**

The former Church of St Luke is a Grade II\* listed building within the buffer zone and has been included on the Historic England Register of Buildings at Risk since the register's initial publication in 1998. The interior of this much-loved Liverpool landmark suffered catastrophic incendiary bomb damage at the hands of the Luftwaffe, which 'blitzed' Liverpool in 1941 leaving only the external masonry walls capable of salvage. In view of the building's outstanding architectural value and generally poor condition Liverpool City Council completed a £500,000 programme of urgent works to the building, jointly funded by the City Council and Historic England. St Luke's was removed from Historic England Register of Buildings at Risk in late 2017. It is now managed by a dedicated team of friends and volunteers, operating as a managed ruin and multidisciplinary arts venue with a programme of curated events, community engagement and creative learning projects..

### **URBACT III – 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance**

In 2015 Liverpool City Council was invited to join an URBACT network led by the Municipality of Napoli. Entitled 'Awaking the Sleeping Giants' the project examines the potential re-use of redundant historic buildings and shares best practice between Napoli, Porto, Ljubljana, Brussels and Maribor, and a number of other European cities. Liverpool's project buildings include - the Wellington Rooms, St Luke's Church and exemplar schemes in the Ropewalks. Outcomes arising from 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance included the development of good practice fact sheets on how to support the reactivation of vacant buildings and generate ideas for uses and awareness raising activities to attract users and published in May 2018.

These initiatives build on the highly effective Liverpool City Council Buildings at Risk project, the most successful project of its type in England, with the numbers of buildings at risk reduced from 12% of stock to less than 3% over the past 10 years.

### **Castle Street/Dale Street Commercial Centre - *the historic 'downtown' area that contains the City's key civic and financial buildings***

The Council has been encouraging more active uses for the former banks and building society buildings within the historic commercial heart of the city. Through pre-application discussions a number of these are being converted to hotels, offices or residential that will bring them back into use and secure their long-term future.

### **India Buildings Grade II Listed**

Liverpool's Grade II listed India Buildings is to become a UK government "hub". One of the most iconic buildings in the North West, it will provide an important contribution to the Government's National Hubs Programme. Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs will occupy the majority of the space, making it one of the city's largest employers. Staff will move in from 2019. Other government departments will also occupy space at the building.

Liverpool architect Falconer Chester Hall and historic building advisor DGM Conservation have been working with HMRC on remodelling and modernising the building's interiors in a way that remains sympathetic to the structures historic and architectural character. The works consist of a Category A fit out, which involves major refurbishment to the Grade II listed building including the provision of office space, remedial works and major external repairs to ensure it is viable as a fully working building.

Other schemes include the introduction of residential properties into the upper floors of the **Grade II listed Queen’s Insurance Building**; the conversion of the **Grade II listed Magistrates’ Court** in Dale Street to hotel use and discussions with new owners of the **Grade II\* listed St Martin’s Bank** to implement an earlier permission granted for conversion to a hotel.

### **Design and Heritage Review Panel**

To inform better quality design development within the planning process, LCC has appointed an independent **Design and Heritage Review Panel**, which has heritage expertise as part of its membership. This Panel meets at RIBA North to review appropriate major schemes of local and or national importance, including those within the World Heritage Site and its buffer zone.

The **“Ten Streets” Spatial Regeneration Framework** was **adopted as an SPD** by the City Council’s Cabinet on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018. **Celebrating heritage is one of the ten ‘big ideas’** that underpins the shared vision for the area. *“It is crucial to conserve and nurture what’s extraordinary and unique about this area. Heritage, history and character are the Ten Streets most precious assets and will be the foundations for the area’s new identity.”*

Conserving and refurbishing all the area’s Listed and important heritage buildings, starting with Liverpool’s largest listed structure – the Tobacco Warehouse at Stanley Dock are fundamental to the Spatial Regeneration Framework.

Given the success of the Stanley Dock complex regeneration scheme undertaken by Harcourt Developments, this project has acted as a catalyst for the development of the surrounding area with new uses being attracted to the city fringe location and historic fabric. The area is now the home of a number of creative enterprises and events, and is continuing to attract creative, digital and cultural sectors. A hub for creative practitioners from across the city is now developing with the relocation of the ‘Invisible Wind Factory’ into the warehouse complex on the Dock Road, housing performance venue, rehearsal space, workshops music studio, artists’ studios and fabrication facility and ‘Make Liverpool’ who provide studio space to support artists, makers and small businesses. ‘Creamfields’ (a music festival) has relocated to a venue at Central Dock to deliver music events in the City.

Work is also progressing on implementing the City Centre Strategic Investment Framework, which includes the World Heritage Site and its buffer zone within its boundary. As plans are being developed to upgrade the public realm and highways, creative interpretation with artists that reveals the OUV is being designed as an integral element for key buildings and routes to assist with wayfinding and navigation of the Property and increase awareness and understanding of its significance for pedestrians.

### **Mayoral Task Force**

This external and independent group of experts, chaired by Sir David Henshaw, are continuing to meet and make recommendations to the Mayor on what should be done to secure the positive management of the WHS and retain Liverpool on the World Heritage List.

The Task Force recommendations in 2018 included a review of the management of the WHS and a review of the boundaries for the WHS. A report has been prepared for the LCC Cabinet recommending the appointment of consultants to undertake a review to explore models for

managing the WHS through the establishment of a Trust. This review will be undertaken in 2019.

### **WHS Steering Group and Civic Society**

The Terms of Reference for the WHS Steering Group were refreshed in 2017 and the Steering Group benefits from the continued support and representation of civil society through the membership of Engage Liverpool and the Merseyside Civic Society. Both organisations, through their programme of talks and events, continue to raise awareness of the value of the WHS to Liverpool and provide invaluable community engagement.

### **Presenting the OUV**

Following the adoption of the revised WHS Management Plan, the WHS Steering Group agreed that the focus over the next two years should be on communicating the positive stories of heritage led regeneration in the property and raising awareness of the benefits of World Heritage status on tourism, the economy and well-being.

### **Marketing Plan**

The World Heritage Site Steering Group agreed a Marketing Plan in 2018. The main focus of activity in 2018 has been to raise awareness of the WHS and provide a presence in the City through the establishment of the RIBA North Hub where the story of the WHS can be developed through the digital model (see below). In addition a number of banners and pop ups promoting WHS and the RIBA Hub have been created and installed throughout the city.

### **A Hub for Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City World Heritage Site - The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) North**

In 2018, LCC in partnership with RIBA North established a **Hub for Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City World Heritage Site** in the new national architecture centre, located on Liverpool's Waterfront. At the heart of RIBA North is the City Gallery where visitors can learn more about Liverpool's past, present and future, as well as the processes involved in urban development and the evolution of the built environment. The City Gallery includes the **Digital City Model**, an interactive 3D model that tells a variety of stories about Liverpool and the surrounding area, including the World Heritage Site, the six character areas and the OUV. The Digital City Model is also an extraordinary professional tool, which can be used by developers, architects and planners to host public consultations, anticipate the impact of future development and encourage the best design approaches.

LCC is also exploring potential for other hubs within the property including St George's Hall in the William Brown Street Conservation Area situated opposite the City's main Lime Street railway station.

### **Website**

The Council has also been developing a website for the WHS which will be launched shortly.

### **Seminars**

#### **Engage Seminar Series – 'Cities of Inspiration'**

**Engage Liverpool**, chaired by WHS Steering Group member Gerry Proctor, organised a second high-profile and well-attended series of seminar events focusing on the WHS during the autumn. The theme of the 2018 series 'Cities of Inspiration' invited speakers from Strasbourg, Bordeaux and Hamburg to share their experiences of using the status of WHS to

implement exemplary and inspiring development schemes and the challenges they faced. Building on the success of last year, the three seminars raised awareness of the complex issues and debates that surround the conservation and development of World Heritage Sites, and provided the opportunity for the public to share their ideas with national and international heritage experts and representatives from the City Council.

Engage is also developing a type of outdoor adventure game based in the neighbourhoods of the World Heritage Site to get more citizens, young people, elderly and visitors to walk the streets of the WHS and explore the buildings and monuments that create the outstanding universal value of the site. This work is on-going and hopes to launch in 2019.

### **ROCK programme**

In December 2016, LCC was awarded “Role Model” status in Europe’s largest sustainable Heritage project **Horizon 2020**. The project will examine how historic city centres can use heritage as a powerful engine for economic growth. In Liverpool the **ROCK programme** (Renewable Heritage in Creative and Knowledge Economies) is a three year plan to drive community engagement linked to the city’s Mercantile World Heritage Site.

In 2017-2018 Liverpool has participated in the EU Living Lab Conference EUCANET, European Culture Forum CCI Working Group, EU Sustainable Lighting Forum (LUCI), and dedicated ROCK knowledge transfer workshops in Bologna, Lyon, Cluj, Lisbon, Turin, and Eindhoven.

**Citizen Engagement activity in Liverpool** is focused on diverse groups, including children, disenfranchised young people, older adults, disabled citizens and migrants. The overall aim of the project is to promote a change in perception in the city promoting Heritage as a ‘common good’ and utilising Heritage as a ‘social prescription’ to uplift and improve citizen health and wellbeing, whilst promoting and encouraging improved mobility flows within the City. Pilot actions commenced with the role of out of the **Young Heritage Champions Initiative at St Georges Hall** in 2018, co-ordinated by **the Mayoral Lead for Heritage and Tourism**, Alice Bennett, with hosting in Liverpool programmed for summer 2019.

### **European Regional Development Fund – Military, Maritime and Industrial Heritage Project (MMIAH)**

The Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership has been awarded funding by Interreg with support from Liverpool Waterfront Business Partnership and Royal Albert Dock Liverpool to enable work with partners in the region including Liverpool City Council, National Museums Liverpool and Wirral Council. The project will focus on the recovery and rehabilitation of abandoned military or industrial heritage sites relating to the sea for tourism and the benefit of local communities and the study area will be the Liverpool waterfront from the Albert Dock through to the redundant dockland areas. Expert heritage consultants Chris Blandford Associates have been appointed to deliver a Management Plan for the Liverpool Waterfront and the production of a toolkit of best practice in heritage and urban transformation of maritime military industrial heritage sites for use in other cities. A steering group with representation from Liverpool’s WHS has been set up to provide expertise to support the development of the plans.

**4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.**

The State Party, under Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, notifies the World Heritage Committee of the following developments within the property and buffer zone. Each have accompanying Heritage Impact Assessments and more information is available by searching the planning reference numbers at:

<http://northgate.liverpool.gov.uk/PlanningExplorer17/>

Planning application number 18F/3247 within the buffer zone of the World Heritage site. Plot C02, West Waterloo Dock: to erect residential development comprising 646 apartments and 232 sq.m. of ground floor commercial in six blocks of between 10 to 14 storeys in height, with single storey concierge pavilion building, associated partial dock infill, access, parking, servicing, soft and hard landscaping/public open space, including two floating timber jetties and dockside walkway.

Planning application numbers 18L/3232 and 18F/3231 within the World Heritage site. Isle of Man Ferry Terminal, West Waterloo Dock: to construct new Ferry Terminal for the Isle Of Man Government to replace existing ferry landing stage located at Pier Head with associated ancillary structures and associated marine equipment and works on land at Princes Half-Tide Dock with associated servicing and delivery via planned link road from Waterloo Road.

**5. Public access to the state of conservation report**

The State Party agrees that the full state of conservation report can be made publicly available via the WH Centre's Information System

*6. Signature of the Authority*



World Heritage Policy Adviser



Department for  
Digital, Culture  
Media & Sport

Fourth Floor  
100 Parliament Street  
London SW1A 2BQ  
[www.gov.uk/dcms](http://www.gov.uk/dcms)

Dear Dr. Mechtild Rössler,

**Desired State of Conservation of the World Heritage Property “LIVERPOOL MARITIME  
MERCANTILE CITY”**

I am writing to report on the actions taken by the UK State Party in response to World Heritage Committee decision 42 COM 7A.7. The report is structured in line with the template provided at Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines. The relevant sections of the Committee decision are printed in italics for ease of reference.

If you require further information or clarification do please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Enid Williams

## LIVERPOOL MARITIME MERCANTILE CITY (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

### Desired State of Conservation Report for the Removal of the Property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a set of Corrective Measures.

#### Preamble

The following DSOCR and Corrective Measures was developed on behalf of the UK State Party by Liverpool City Council with the advice of Historic England in response to the requests of the World Heritage Committee. It takes account of decisions taken by the Committee and is based on the approved Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for the Property and its attributes as defined in the Management Plan (2017-2024) that was approved by the Cabinet of Liverpool City Council in 2017, namely:

- *The spirit of **innovation** illustrated by the architecture, engineering, transport, port management and labour systems created and developed in Liverpool;*
- *The tradition of **cultural exchange** exemplified by Liverpool's roles in the development of popular music and as a patron of the visual arts.*
- *The buildings and monuments, stories and records that evidence Liverpool's central role in the development of the British Empire and **global trade**.*
- *The buildings and monuments, stories and records that evidence Liverpool's central role in global **migration**.*
- *The docks, warehouses, commercial buildings, cultural buildings and dwelling houses and their relationships to each other that illustrate Liverpool's development as a **port city** of global importance.*

The Property contains **six main character areas** that help to convey the above key attributes. These are:

- *The waterfront **Pier Head** that contains the emblematic trio of buildings known as the Three Graces, and acted as the prime gateway into the city from the River Mersey;*
- *The waterfront **Albert Dock**, its linkage to a series of neighbouring docks, and a group of privately owned warehouses now successfully and sensitively refurbished to include museums and galleries;*
- *The waterfront **Stanley Dock**, including three privately owned warehouses now successfully and sensitively refurbished as a hotel, and the massive Tobacco and Southern warehouses currently in progress of conversion to adaptive re-use;*
- ***Castle Street/Dale Street Commercial Centre** - the historic 'downtown' area that contains the City's key civic and financial buildings;*
- ***William Brown Street** that contains a cluster of monumental buildings, including St George's Hall, Museum, Art Gallery, Central Library, and Lime Street Station;*

- *Ropewalks* area that developed shortly after the opening of the Old Dock in 1715 and contains merchants' housing and warehouses close to the existing city centre and the Bluecoat, the oldest arts centre in Great Britain and the oldest surviving building in the city centre.

The above areas – taken as a whole - are manifestations of the commercial enterprise of Liverpool as a global trading port, and the civic and cultural institutions that grew as part of this trade. They help define its physical characteristics.

## State of Conservation

The **physical state of conservation** of the site has **improved substantially - and systematically** - since inscription in 2004; indeed, the repair and re-use of a number of outstanding historic buildings that were previously at risk was highlighted in the Report of the Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission (24-25 February 2015). This positive situation continues:

- *The number of **Buildings at Risk** (problematic heritage buildings requiring repair and re-use) **have been reduced** to below 2.75% of building stock - far below the UK national average – an achievement made possible by prioritisation of the substantial finances for heritage managed by Liverpool City Council;*
- *From 2015 each development proposal that has the potential to affect the OUV of the Property has been accompanied by an ICOMOS-compliant **Heritage Impact Assessment** that details the significance of the asset/s that may be affected, the nature of that impact and, where appropriate, how any harmful impacts can be mitigated. **Historic England**, as the national heritage advisory body, is **consulted on all of these proposals** and the State Party, taking into consideration the advice of Historic England, will continue to notify the World Heritage Centre, as necessary, under the provisions of the Operational Guidelines paragraph 172.*

**The issue which led to the WHS being placed on the list of World Heritage in Danger is the perceived threat of “the proposed development of Liverpool Waters”.** The State Party accepts that this scheme - *if it was to have been implemented in line with the illustrative masterplan that accompanied the outline planning permission granted on 18 June 2013 – would undoubtedly cause substantial harm to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property and would lead the World Heritage Committee to delete the Property from the World Heritage List.*

Planning consent for Liverpool Waters legally lasts until 2042. However, it should be emphasized that the masterplan, which illustrated the quantum of development for which approval has been granted, is not one of the ten parameter plans that, together with the development schedule, govern the consent. As such, it carries little weight in planning terms.



More importantly, Peel Holdings (the property owner that proposes the Liverpool Waters Regeneration Project) has confirmed to Liverpool City Council that there is no likelihood of the scheme coming forward in this form. Instead, over the past twelve months Peel Holdings has continued to undertake a comprehensive review of the scheme and has drawn up a new site-wide masterplan driven by the UNESCO HUL guidelines and therefore taking full account of heritage considerations including all recorded commentary by the World Heritage Committee.

Provision exists under s96A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, for amendments to be made to existing planning permissions where the proposed amendments do not materially change the permission. As part of the on-going review of the Liverpool Waters scheme, positive discussions have taken place between the applicant and the Local Planning Authority about how the original LW Masterplan could evolve within the overall framework of the existing Outline Planning Permission. Specifically, it has been agreed that changes to the layout of development plots, including the reduction in height of some of the buildings within them, would improve the scheme in urban design and heritage terms, and can be accommodated without invalidating the permission. These changes were formally approved by Liverpool City Council on 16 November 2018. Whilst the S96A permission only revised three of the consented parameter plans, and hence is considered non-material in planning terms, the out turn of these changes will be marked – not least in the reduction of building scale, and in particular the reduction in the number of buildings classified as ‘tall’ (that is in excess of 20 storeys) from seven to five, and with none of these sitting on the River Mersey water front. The new masterplan also adopts a perimeter-block approach to development, which works with the tangible and intangible heritage assets (both above and below ground) and seeks to incorporate physical features and inform and enable a better design of place to bring forward a development based around a clear hierarchy of streets, public spaces and key views. These measures have been devised taking into account the World Heritage Committee’s request in decision 41 COM 7A.22 to “*provide substantive commitments to limitation on quantity, location and size of built form*”.

The Neighbourhood Masterplan for the first phase of the development in Princes Dock has been submitted to and approved by Liverpool City Council and Conditions 9-24 of the Outline Planning Permission have been discharged in respect of the Princes Dock Neighbourhood allowing development to proceed on agreed terms. This document will become the primary guidance document for future development within Princes Dock. It should be noted that the approval of this Neighbourhood Masterplan has removed any ability of the consent to bring forward the building formerly known as the ‘Shanghai Tower’, furthermore backed up by an extant, stand-alone consent on that plot for a building which is some 20 storeys lower than the original consented maximum parameter.

Peel’s consultant team are now preparing a Neighbourhood Masterplan plans for Central Docks guided by the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach, which they aim to submit to Liverpool City Council for formal consideration in spring of 2019. It is expected that

consultation on the plans will begin later this year when the State Party's heritage adviser Historic England will be consulted.

The Central Docks neighbourhood masterplan articulates a new layout that comprises a reduced scale of perimeter block-led development that positively responds to the established urban fabric within and around the WHS. Presentations of the emerging plans for the Central Docks Neighbourhood Masterplan reveal the main changes are to the layout of the buildings. The number and height of tall buildings has been reduced, with any buildings of height taking a different form (as part of the perimeter blocks rather than stand-alone) though occupying a similar zone within the masterplan, as was tested through the original Environmental Assessment. As a result, building blocks and massing will have a more human scale, with a gradual stepping back from the River Mersey and there is a substantial reduction in scale adjacent to the Dock Wall that will create a new north-south route not previously envisaged - allowing a fuller appreciation of the Dock Wall that links the Pier Head, Princes Half-Tide Dock/Waterloo Warehouse/East Waterloo Dock and Stanley Dock components of the WHS in line with the recommendation of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission Report concerning *"changes to the extent and scope, including densities and heights, of the proposed Liverpool Waters scheme to ensure urban design guidelines that will provide continued coherence for the architectural and town-planning values"* Proposed development is being arranged with a more considered and contextual three-dimensional envelope. The State Party welcomes these changes as a positive step, which takes the scheme in a better direction, potentially improves the composition of the development and reduces the harmful impact on OUV.

As stated in the April 2018 draft DSOCR, and, while the State Party appreciates the clear recommendations of the World Heritage Committee and ICOMOS, the key stakeholders would welcome the advice and active involvement of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS as the new masterplans come forward, particularly in the context of the HUL Recommendation and subsequent guidance. In addition, it should be remembered that the plans for the implementation of the outline consent require detailed planning (Reserved Matters) consent for the layout, scale, appearance, access and landscaping of all components of the scheme. The new masterplanning work is taking account of these requirements, particularly as they relate to OUV, and reflects exactly the 2015 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission report which states *"As the Liverpool Waters is a 30 year plus long-term development project, involving some parts of the World Heritage property, it is likely to become an evolving concept, transmuting and developing through time in response to changing context."* To provide clarity on progress with the Liverpool Waters scheme, LCC prepared an updated Briefing Package on the LW development on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 for circulation by DCMS and discussion with UNESCO/ICOMOS in a telecon meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2018.

Detailed planning proposals that have subsequently been approved within the Princes Dock neighbourhood of Liverpool Waters have, however, not been deemed to have negatively impacted on the attributes that convey the OUV of the property by Historic England, the State Party's heritage adviser. Such proposals have been guided by the 2009 Supplementary

Planning Document (to be revised in 2019), which contains detailed guidance on how development is managed to sustain OUV within the World Heritage Site and its Buffer Zone. However, the World Heritage Committee considered the approval (2016) of a planning proposal for a 34-storey residential tower block on Princes Dock in the Buffer Zone unacceptable due to excessive height, albeit recognising that this was much lower than the 2013 Outline Planning Consent. ICOMOS also found the approved student residences at Skelhorne Street, in the Buffer Zone of the Property adjacent to Lime Street railway station unacceptable. Further approvals, whilst again acceptable to the State Party's heritage adviser, Historic England, were granted in 2017. These applications were each carefully assessed through ICOMOS-compliant Heritage Impact Assessments.

### **Desired State of Conservation for Removal**

The State Party wants to ensure that the following elements are in place so that the Committee may have the confidence to remove the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

- *Effective protection of the physical dimension and the characteristics of the townscape and port landscape, together with an understanding of the historic function, which underpins the **Outstanding Universal Value** of the Property and its Buffer Zone;*
- *Effective protection of important views related to the Property and its Buffer Zone;*
- *Threats to the World Heritage Property from the **Liverpool Waters** development (whether from within the Property, or its Buffer Zone) have been **reversed or mitigated** to such an extent that they no longer pose a threat to the OUV of the Property;*
- *Policy and regulatory measures in place to **regulate maximum heights and three dimensional envelope** for new developments (“**Liverpool Skyline**” policy to be adopted);*
- *Awareness and appreciation of Liverpool's **World Heritage status** by its citizens and visitors enhanced through the successful implementation and evaluation of a heritage interpretation and communication strategy;*
- *Awareness, by developers, planners and building professionals, of the World Heritage Property, its **Outstanding Universal Value and conservation and management requirements** under the World Heritage Convention enhanced through progressive engagement by stakeholders;*

- *Integrity of the World Heritage Property **enhanced** through the inscription of an extension to the World Heritage Property and its Buffer Zone.*

## **Corrective Measures and Timeframe for their Implementation**

In order to achieve this Desired State of Conservation, we are taking the following corrective measures:

a) **Update of planning tool in force**, responding to the 2015 mission to “...*provide comprehensive documentation concerning the management system/plan to be put in place...*”: a **comprehensive updated Management Plan** was **adopted in 2017** that integrates the attributes of the World Heritage property to guide Citywide policies and actions (responsive to the economics of the city-growth target of a population of 460,000 for the year 2020), and that clearly integrates the necessary public-private investments from 2018 onwards to ensure a feasible phasing of action for the World Heritage Property in particular, and the City centre and wider Liverpool regeneration in general;

b) **Update of planning tool in force**, by the definition and adoption of policy and regulatory measures embodied in a **Local Plan** (link to final draft documentation pack at **Appendix A**) based on townscape characteristics, functional relationships in the port area, together with relevant important views, to ensure protection of the attributes of the World Heritage Property. U.K. National Planning Policy places Local Plans at the heart of the planning system. The Liverpool Local Plan, together with the Neighbourhood Masterplans being developed for Liverpool Waters, the adopted World Heritage Site Management Plan, and the Supplementary Planning Document (being updated in 2019), are the regulatory planning documents which provide: clear legal guidelines to protect the OUV of the Property; assistance for developers to design their projects accordingly based on early incorporation of proposals within a jointly-curated 3D city model produced by Liverpool City Council and their private sector partners, in particular Peel and the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA); and the basis for considering whether applications can be approved. Historic England is a statutory consultee. This will manage the comprehensive regeneration of the city, set the context for the World Heritage Site, and will integrate heritage conservation with the on-going socio-economic and regeneration imperative for Liverpool within the City Region;

## **Local Plan Position and Next Steps**

As part of a staged process the Local Plan was published for six weeks public consultation under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, on January 26<sup>th</sup> 2018. The consultation closed on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2018 and in May 2018 the City Council submitted the Local Plan to the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for the purposes of independent examination in public.

The Examination in public period will take up to 18 months to complete as set out in national policy. At the end of the examination period, and assuming the Local Plan is found sound, the City Council will then be in a position to adopt the Local Plan. The potential adoption date is therefore likely to be in late 2019. Note: the timing for adoption of the Local Plan impacts on the timing for completion and adoption of the WHS Supplementary Planning Document as the latter supplements the Local Plan with additional detail on the policies relating to the WHS.

c) **Update of planning tool in force, following the adoption of the Local Plan**, through the revision of the World Heritage Site **Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)** that adopts the Historic Urban Landscape approach and further strengthens the clear analysis and description of the townscape characteristics relevant to the attributes of the OUV of the Property that has been described in the **SPD Evidential Report** (submitted separately by WeTransfer) The existing SPD will be subject to a full review and, if necessary, enhancement of the section on important views related to the Property and its Buffer Zone, as currently defined, together with a clear description of the functional relationships and public circulation in the port area (with the community of Liverpool in mind). In relation to important views the existing SPD provides a strong framework in Section 4.4., which clearly defines views to, from and within the WHS on maps and in text descriptions; Appendix 2 of the SPD also presents an analysis of significance of the key views identified. The review of the SPD will allow the provision for important views to be strengthened in the light of the attributes of OUV that have been defined in the 2017 WHS Management Plan and the potential to extend the use of digital modeling;

d) **Review the development in progress for the Princes Dock Neighbourhood** (approvals received no objections from Historic England) and, by negotiation with all parties concerned, to continue the pattern of substantially lowering the height of schemes which receive detailed permission as compared to the maximum envelope granted under the Liverpool Waters Outline Planning Consent. In accordance with the conditions of the Liverpool Waters outline planning permission the detailed Princes Dock Neighbourhood Masterplan has been submitted to Liverpool City Council for approval. In line with agreed working arrangements Historic England have been consulted on the document and Peel and the City Council have agreed how the plan will be refined to ensure it delivers an appropriate level of development in Princes Dock and complements the area beyond.

e) **Develop and finalize a height (“skyline”) policy for tall buildings** within the Property and its Buffer Zone. Note: - A tall buildings policy (Policy UD6) has been included in the submission draft of the Liverpool Local Plan, but this is currently under review following representations made during the Local Plan consultation period in early 2018. **Policy UD6 Tall Buildings** requires proposals for tall buildings to be accompanied by a comprehensive Townscape and Visual Impact Assessment, a completed EIA, Heritage Impact Assessment, a Design and Townscape Analysis and to undertake a Design Review process before submitting an application.

Liverpool City Council has commissioned consultants, including those with expertise in heritage, to prepare a robust evidence base and revisions to Policy UD6 Tall Buildings in the Local Plan and in order to provide more detail about the application of the policy relative to the World Heritage Site the production of a (“skyline”) Tall Buildings Supplementary Planning Document. The programme requires the evidence base and the revisions to Policy UD6 Tall Buildings to be completed prior to the public hearings on the Local Plan. The final draft of the SPD will then reflect the consideration of Policy UD6 Tall Buildings which in turn depends on the timing for Local Plan as indicated above. Note: Historic England are a key stakeholder in the consultation process and WHC/ICOMOS will be consulted on the draft Tall Buildings policy and prior to adoption of the final draft of the SPD scheduled for autumn 2019.

f) Responding to the 2015 mission to “...ensure urban design guidelines that will provide continued coherence for the architectural and town-planning values and that will be proactive to ensure the management of the World Heritage property and the city centre...” the **Neighbourhood Masterplans** for Central Docks and for Northern Docks and their respective surroundings are being reviewed and finalized, in close consultation with the national statutory heritage advisor Historic England and guided by the core principle of the DSOCR to ensure that the architectural and town-planning coherence and the conditions of authenticity and integrity of the World Heritage Property are sustained.

The detailed plans will integrate all the different dock areas of the property into one continuous historic urban landscape, maintaining the existing horizontal layering of the city profile, expressed as a three-tiered urban structure, and the important views from the northern and central docks back to the Three Graces and the strategic views of the city from the opposite side of the River Mersey. The plans will also provide detailed content on: the general disposition of buildings in each neighbourhood and plan for a general reduction in the height and urban density from the maximum indicated in the outline permission, in order to minimise harm to OUV and attain a more sustainable and deliverable development that will re-vitalise the City for the well-being of the community and its visitors alike; the rationale for the height limitation of buildings by relating to, and being guided by, specific buildings in the World Heritage Property (some individual buildings might break height threshold but will nonetheless reflect historic elements); and how the morphology and functional hierarchy expressed by the port circulation system is maintained. To demonstrate the very real progress that is being made to realize this desired state of conservation, the emerging Central Docks neighbourhood plan has initiated a fresh approach, which utilizes OUV as a driver for place making. This progress has been achieved by local and national public sector organisations working in close partnership with the private developer and is evidence of all parties’ desire to follow the principles of Historic Urban Landscape Recommendation in planning for the site.

Key protected views are being maintained and enhanced and a legible pattern of historic streets is being established reflecting historical characteristics. This is work in progress and

we invite the active participation of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS in the masterplanning process to assist us in reaching the desired state of conservation that is set out here.

g) **Implement the new complementary framework** within the WHS Buffer Zone of the “Ten Streets” proposals area of the City (south of the Stanley Dock complex comprising the remnants of historic warehousing that have been redundant for decades). The City Council has produced a “Ten Streets” Spatial Regeneration Framework (SRF). The final document was adopted as an SPD by the City Council’s Cabinet in February 2018. This articulates a shared vision for the area, provides an overarching context for regeneration, establishes principles for development, and a focus for investment and regeneration. Celebrating heritage is one of the ten ‘big ideas’ that are fundamental to the SRF and support the vision and conservation and refurbishment of all the area’s listed and important heritage buildings within the WHS and its buffer zone starting with Liverpool’s largest listed structure – the Tobacco Warehouse at Stanley Dock.

h) **Strengthen the management system for the Property, and the consistency of approach in managing the development process**, through an integrated multi-stakeholder approach, including consideration of the **creation of a Liverpool World Heritage Trust (LWHT)**, a new partnership under an agreed mandate on behalf of the wider stakeholder interest including: the UK Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport; Historic England; ICOMOS UK; Liverpool City Council; property owners; developer interests; Merseyside Civic Society and ‘Engage Liverpool’. LWHT is designed to embrace the comprehensive interests of Liverpool not only in the management of the Property but for the benefit of the City’s wider historic environment. Note: - The Terms of Reference for the WHS Steering Group were reviewed and refreshed in 2017 and are included in the WHS Management Plan adopted in April 2017. An independent Design and Heritage Review Panel has also been set up in 2017 which considers appropriate major schemes of local and or national importance including those within the World Heritage Site and its Buffer Zone. A draft scoping paper was produced for the Mayoral WHS Task Force in October 2018. A final report and recommendations is anticipated for February 2019.

i) Develop and implement a **World Heritage interpretation and communication strategy** aimed at the community of Liverpool, and its visitors, and an awareness-raising programme aimed at developers and building professionals, of the World Heritage Property, its **Outstanding Universal Value and conservation and management requirements** under the World Heritage Convention. Note: - The City Council in partnership with Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) North has established a **Hub for Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City World Heritage Site** in the City Gallery of the new national architecture centre, which opened on Liverpool’s Waterfront in 2017. The **Digital City Model** in the City Gallery provides accessible information on the WHS and its OUV to a wide range of audiences and can be used as a planning and development tool with developers and buildings professionals;

j) Review the Property boundaries and Buffer Zone, and consider an enhancement of its integrity by an **extension of Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City World Heritage Site** to better reflect her maritime and mercantile pre-eminence as the greatest Western European seaport, from the early eighteenth to the mid -twentieth centuries. Note: The boundaries and buffer zone for the Liverpool WHS followed the advice available at the time from UNESCO, English Heritage (now Historic England), and the State Party through the advice of ICOMOS UK, and were recognised as pragmatic and sufficient to capture the OUV of the Property, and issues around setting, management and protection.

The boundaries of the Liverpool WHS have been subject to a number of considerations by others, and questions have arisen over their current location and efficacy, most recently through the Merseyside Civic Society draft green paper (2018) on the WHS. In this it is suggested that the boundaries be extended. A scoping paper has been presented to the Mayoral Task Force that has recommended further work now be undertaken to fully explore the issues, potential boundary modifications and how those areas relate to the OUV of the Property, and the degree of residual authenticity and integrity still evident in the built environment in areas which are not part of the existing WHS. A report with recommendations will be prepared for consideration by the Task Force in 2019.

### **Timeframe**

a)	Implementation of the comprehensive updated Management Plan	2018 (ongoing)
b)	Adoption of Local Plan	November/December 2019
c)	Revised Supplementary Planning Document	December 2019 following local plan adoption
d)	Princes Dock development amendments approved	October 2018
e)	Develop and finalize a Tall Buildings (“skyline”) policy: Stage one – Evidence Base and policy for Local Plan Stage two – Supplementary Planning Document	Stage one - April 2019 Stage two (subject to Local Plan) – Late 2019
f)	Review and approval of LW neighbourhood plans: Central Docks	2018 (ongoing) March/April 2019
g)	Implement the new complementary framework	2018 (and ongoing)
h)	Consider report recommendations on creation of a Liverpool World Heritage Trust	Late 2019
i)	World Heritage interpretation and communication strategy	2018 (RIBA North WHS Hub) and ongoing
j)	Extension of Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City	2025



## Desired State Indicators

The following Desired State Indicators have been developed specifically for the DSOCR and respond to its Corrective Measures. In the case of Liverpool, it is fundamental to understand that the indicators are not measures of the restoration of the attributes that convey the OUV of the Property. The indicators are measures that monitor progress towards the elimination of a major perceived development threat, and of the strengthening of the Property's overall effective protection and management and consequently the strengthening of OUV as a whole. Such Desired State Indicators augment existing indicators implemented since inscription to monitor the condition of the OUV of the Property.

Corrective Measure	Indicator for removal of the Property from the List in Danger	Rationale	Method of Verification
a)	Adoption of an approved updated Management Plan	Update of planning tool in force	Complete April 2017
b)	Adoption of Local Plan	Update of planning tool in force	Date approved (late 2019/early 2020)
c)	Supplementary Planning Document	Update of planning tool in force	As per Adoption of the Local Plan.
d)	Adoption of Neighbourhood Masterplan for Princes Dock	Update of planning tool in force	Date approved June 2018
e)	Height policy for the WHS and its Buffer Zone	Update of planning tool in force	Date of an approved tall buildings policy adopted in Local Plan (late 2019)
f)	Adoption of Neighbourhood Masterplans for Central Docks and Northern Docks	Update of planning tool in force	Summer 2019
g)	Spatial Regeneration Framework for "Ten Streets"	Update of planning tool in force	Approved February 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2018; Implementation ongoing
h)	Creation of a Liverpool World Heritage Trust	Strengthened, independent management of the WHS and its Buffer Zone	Late 2019
i)	World Heritage Interpretation and Communication Strategy, and an awareness-raising programme	Enhanced awareness and understanding of World Heritage values	Dates implemented RIBA North WHS Hub opened 2018
j)	Extension of the WHS and its Buffer Zone	Enhanced integrity and better reflection of OUV	Date of nomination, date of inscription 2025



## Appendix A

Links to Liverpool City Council Local Plan Final Draft – January 2018:

1. Link to the Submission Draft Local Plan document only

<http://consult.liverpool.gov.uk/file/4855757>

<http://liverpool.gov.uk/media/1356834/01-local-plan-january-2018-final.pdf>

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/council/strategies-plans-and-policies/environment-and-planning/plan-making-in-liverpool/current-local-plan-documents/local-plan/>

2. Link to the Policies Map – City Centre Inset

<http://consult.liverpool.gov.uk/file/4852923>

- shows whole of the WHS and most of the Buffer

3. Link to Policies Map – rest of Liverpool <http://consult.liverpool.gov.uk/file/4852923>

- note a small part of the Buffer Zone is shown on this map

4. Link to the current World Heritage Site Supplementary Planning Document

<http://liverpool.gov.uk/council/strategies-plans-and-policies/environment-and-planning/plan-making-in-liverpool/current-local-plan-documents/world-heritage-site-spd/>

5. Link to the World Heritage Site Management Plan

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/council/strategies-plans-and-policies/environment-and-planning/plan-making-in-liverpool/liverpool-maritime-mercantile-city-world-heritage-site-management-plan-2017-2024/>

6. Liverpool Waters Briefing Package update, 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2018