



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**CULTURE AND PROSPERITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMISSION
27 MARCH 2006**

Report of the Director of Regeneration and Community

World Heritage Site Update

RECOMMENDATION

1. To comment on the progress made by the Council on the Commission's recommendations for the development of the World Heritage Site in Derby received by Council Cabinet on 26 April 2005.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 This report is an update on the Council Cabinet's response to the Commission's Topic Report dated 12 July 2005. A copy of this is attached at Appendix 2 to this report.
- 2.2 Further information is given here against each of the recommendations published in the Commission's original report.

Recommendation 1 - To actively encourage the Education Service to consider introducing the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site to Derby schools within the requirements of the National Curriculum by the start of the 2005 academic year:

- Darley Barn – the conversion project on Darley Barn is delayed for two reasons. The first is that there is a suspicion that bats are hibernating in the building and investigation into this will be complete by the end of March or the beginning of April. If bats are present a licence will be sought to relocate them. The second reason is that the funding decision from the Big Lottery is expected later in March 2006.
- Derby Museums Service took its full part in the World Heritage Site Discovery Day in 2005. This included a specially organised tour of the Joseph Wright Gallery. The Silk Mill also organised a family event built round the notion of completing a giant map of the World Heritage Site. The latest visitor figures at the Silk Mill Museum show an increase of 9.5% year-on-year. The number of events at the Silk Mill was six in 2004/05. So far, it stands at 25 in 2005/06.
- The Museums Hub research into teacher requirements has been published and is being used as the basis for developments throughout the Museums service.

- The draft Business Plan for the East Midlands Museums Hub is expected to deliver to Derby Museums the capacity to recruit an Educational Development Assistant. This will help to develop the educational use of the Silk Mill. The appointment is expected to take effect in April 2007. The post will focus on both formal and informal learning, mainly through partnerships.

Recommendation 2 – to investigate the installation of economically and environmentally sustainable pedestrian and transport links that could be established between the Silk Mill in the City Centre and the mills at Darley Abbey.

- The City Council has submitted a bid to the Living Landmarks Lottery Fund for improvements along the length of the riverside from Darley Abbey Mills southwards. The proposals feature improvements to footpaths, cycle tracks and it features the creation of three new bridges across the Derwent.

Recommendation 3 – to nominate a Derby City Council Officer to coordinate the activities of the Council and non Council representatives of the Derwent Valley Mills Partnership.

- The City Council's Officer Working Group on the World Heritage Site continues to operate under the joint Chairship of the Assistant Directors for Regeneration and for Cultural Services. Their next task is to create an action plan for the Derby end of the World Heritage Site and a first draft of this is expected to be ready at the end of March 2006.

Recommendation 4 – the Council to develop and promote its part of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site by:

a) pursuing funding for a feasibility study into the renovation of the Darley Abbey stable block on Darley Park for use as a visitor centre

b) assigning an Officer to identify and pursue World Heritage Site funding opportunities

c) ensuring that planning approvals for developments within the World Heritage Site buffer zone in Derby incorporates Section 106 Agreements that can be used to support Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site projects within the City.

- The conversion of Darley Abbey stable block into a visitor centre is included in the Living Landmarks Riverside Bid. We have been notified that the bid has passed its initial eligibility assessment and will be going forward for shortlisting in the next two months. If the project is shortlisted a two day visit will be conducted by Living Landmarks in Derby. Members of the Commission will be invited to take part in the various contacts with the assessment team

- Officers of the City Council continue to work closely with DCP's External Funding Unit to seek funding opportunities for the World Heritage Site in Derby. The most promising prospect at the moment appears to be the intense interest of the Heritage Lottery Fund in developments at the Silk Mill. A stage one heritage Lottery Bid is in preparation now within the Museums service and is due to be submitted later in 2006.

Recommendation 5 – for the Council to actively investigate the opportunities for promoting the part of the World Heritage Site in Darley Abbey Village and at the Mills by:

a) supporting the property owners within the World Heritage Site by identifying and informing them of grant funding opportunities and to provide them with advice for making appropriate applications

b) engaging with Darley Abbey Mills property owners about the possibility of mixed use development of the site, which may include some residential use and about generating renewable energy from hydro-electric power

c) communicating with Darley Abbey Mills property owners on issues which affect Derby's part of the World Heritage Site and provide regular updates on matters which specifically relate to their part of the site, including Darley Abbey residents.

- The draft economic development plan for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage site will examine the possibility of developing the Darley Abbey Mills site alongside the current property owners.

The Commission may also like to note that:

- Signage is now in place at the Silk Mill, both on the building and on Full Street, carrying the World Heritage designation
- The Derby marketing campaign which has just been unveiled by Derby City Partnership will make full use of the status of Derby as part of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site in defining the identity and unique selling points of the city
- We expect the footpath along the riverside at the Silk Mill to be open again for public use in June 2006

For more information contact:	Ray Rippingale (01332) 716601 e-mail ray.rippingale@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Council Cabinet Report 12 July 2005

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None directly from this report.

Legal

2. None.

Personnel

3. None.

Equalities impact

4. None.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 The proposal comes under the Council's objective to:

- Improve the quality of life in Derby's neighbourhoods

- 5.2 The proposal furthers the priorities of:

- Reinvigorating the City Centre and river areas
- Making Derby cleaner and greener
- Improving educational attainment