



Full Council Meeting 12th January 2021

Report Title : Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site update

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To update members on the Management Plan for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage site

2.0 Background

2.1 The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site is required by UNESCO to produce a Management Plan to set out its actions to maintain and enhance the status of the Derwent Valley Mills area. A copy of their recently adopted Management Plan for the period 2020 – 2025 can be found at the following link : <http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/derwent-valley-mills-management-plan-2020-2025/>

2.2 Supporting the retention of World Heritage Status is important for Belper as it helps to make the area attractive to visitors and investors and it is something which the people who live in and around Belper can be justifiably proud of.

3.0 Delivering the Management Plan

3.1 There are 6 main themes in the Management Plan all with direct or indirect relevance to Belper which include Conservation, Engagement, Tourism, Communities, Transport and Accessibility and Spatial priorities.

3.2 Part of the revised management arrangements for the DVMWHS is the creation of a Technical Group (an officer group) drawn from organisations which have an interest in the ongoing success of the site and its activities. Belper Town Council have been invited on to the group.

3.3 As part of the preparation for the first meeting of the group in February 2021 all interested organisations have been asked to indicate where they can support particular actions in the plan. The attached appendix includes an analysis of the actions and marks out those where Belper Town Council may have an interest. Many relate to items which are of importance to the town such as Tourism, Community Development, Accessibility, Sustainability and Conservation.

3.4 Involvement in the Technical Group provides the Council with a voice and an opportunity to work with the DVMWHS in developing initiatives which the Council is already interested in developing in its own right. It enables a mutually supportive approach which can serve to enhance the Council's aspirations for the town at the same time as delivering the DVMWHS Management Plan over the next 5 years.

Adopted by Full Council in July 2020
Review Date of July 2021



3.5 It is suggested that if Members are supportive of the Council's involvement regular feedback can be provided to the Arts Events and Heritage Committee or Full Council as required

Legislation

None directly

Financial Implications

The DVMWHS is not seeking any direct financial contribution but indirectly some officer time will be required. Although the precise amount of time is not clear at this time the Technical Group will only meet twice a year. Many of the actions in the plan align with initiatives the Town Council wishes to take forward in promoting the town and interpreting and celebrating its heritage.

The work required is closely associated with the role of the Marketing, Economic Development and Tourism Co Ordinator.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Supports the involvement of the Council on the DVMWHS Technical group
- (b) Receives regular update reports on the progress being made in delivering the Plan as it relates to Belper including how the benefits of the Council's involvement impact positively on the town.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

The DVMWHS Management Plan is an important piece of work which impacts on Belper so it is important that the Council has a voice in discussions about the plan and is kept informed about its progress.