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Update Meeting with Liverpool City Council 25 November 2020

Via Zoom

Present: MCS Council: Andrew Evans, Pam Wilsher, Dave Chetwyn, Sebastian Dembski, Dai Gwynne, Eric Lybeck, David Massey, Adrian Swift

LCC: Sam Campbell, Lesley Woodbridge, James Simms, Cerys Edwards, Mike Eccles, Tom Edwards

PLANNING POLICY

- Hearings re the Liverpool Local Plan ended on 23 October – recordings are available on MS Teams
- Still plenty to do – modifications proposed by the Planning Inspector have to be published and are subject to a 6-week public consultation in the New Year. Local Plan likely to be adopted by mid-2021.
- If the national Planning for the Futures White paper is implemented a new style Local Plan will have to be published within 36 months
- The Tall Buildings policy was included and referenced as part of the documentation for the Local Plan hearing and should be accessible from the Local Plan portal on LCC website – not been made public as such. A statement of Common Ground with Historic England was also included. It includes 40 key views compared to just 9 for a similar one in London. Maps are included too.
- Supplementary Planning Documents – a number have been included as part of the Local Plan
- AS asked about the relationship of the Liverpool Local Plan to the City Region Spatial Strategy. LCC confirmed that this will be picked up in the next Local plan, not this one.
- LCC felt there were significant gaps in the Planning for the Future White Paper. DC commented that there has been a massive response to the consultation and that he was briefing both Houses and doing an online briefing for MPS on this over the coming weeks

STRATEGIC REGENERATION FRAMEWORKS

- LCC confirmed there is complete integration of the SRF's with transport proposals and the City Centre Connectivity Strategy
- A Master Plan for the area now released by the demolition of the Churchill Way flyovers is planned.
- Action plans will be prepared for each SRF – they are not at delivery stage yet

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WORLD HERITAGE SITE

- Everton Stadium Planning Application – will be determined in the New Year
- Two Listed Building Consents have been applied for – one for the dock itself and one for the Dock Wall on Regent Road
- LCC suggested MCS should ask for notification of the Committee date for the decision
- North Shore Vision – LCC confirmed that this document does not have any planning status but captures lots of land use and includes Ten Streets, Peel waters up to Bramley Moore Dock
- WHS status – no change. The ICOMOS meeting for 2020 was cancelled and will take place in June 2021. LCC doing lots of work on the DSOCR to address outstanding concerns. The Tall Buildings work has been well received by Historic England.

CONSERVATION OF BUILT HERITAGE

- Buildings at Risk:
 - Heaps Rice Mill – LCC met with the new developer 24 November – acquired site from Elliot group mid 2020 – package of repair work was being discussed However, developer confirmed their intention to start work on both the redevelopment of the Mill and the new build in the first half of 2021. Developer has asked for certain conditions attached to the planning application to be removed. These are mainly related to the roof structure. The condition stipulating that work on the mill must be at the beginning of the project will not be removed. An inspection within the last month has confirmed that the upper floors and roof are very unstable
 - Everton Library – MCS expressed concern that the community groups involved in the proposed new use do not feel that LCC is advancing this project at a pace. LCC confirmed that an exclusivity agreement is still in place
 - Wellington Rooms – ongoing discussion with Historic England for whom this is a priority project. Eric Lybeck mentioned a new project that could provide a model for reactivating buildings like Wellington Rooms as a kind of academic co-working space
 - Adrian Swift asked about the possibility of establishing a HELP (1990s) type initiative to help save some of our buildings at risk. LCC responded that in the 1990's Liverpool was a national conservation priority but that was no longer the case. However, they would respond to any offer of HELP like funding from Historic England or elsewhere
- **Zipwire Project** - MCS raised its particular concern re the LCC view at the time that LBC was not required. LCC conceded that their judgement at the time was incorrect and that the work at Central Library legally

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required LBC. They also reported that St John's Beacon had recently been listed. [St John's Beacon \(Radio City Tower\), Non Civil Parish - 1471669 | Historic England](#). The applicant had now applied for Listed Building consent for both 'ends' of the wire. LCC does not know if alternative locations are being considered

- **Heritage Priority List** – Pam Wilsher referred to this work that LCC had mentioned at the last meeting and LCC confirmed that it has not been published and that they were reviewing the 40 entries and looking at what project funding might be available. LCC mentioned that they had successfully bid for funds from the Cultural recovery fund for St George's Hall and were working with Richard Kirk on digital interpretation using augmented reality. This also linked in with the previous ROCK project
- A new European initiative called **ARCH**, had been drawn to their attention by Engage. MCS confirmed they were keen to get involved. This was about the impact on climate change on our cultural heritage. The invitation came from Hamburg. Both Sebastian and Eric have useful knowledge of Hamburg and could contribute to this project.

Design Standards

- LCC informed that they were producing a residential design guide sometime in the next year, focusing on place and what makes Liverpool special. This will be put out to consultation in due course. Adrian mentioned the Liverpool Urban Design Guide produced in 2003 and asked if there was any intention to set up an Urban design panel as back then. LCC did not seem to have a mind to do this.

Session for MCS members

- Pam asked LCC if they would be willing to do a virtual webinar as a City Centre update for our members as people had lost touch with the city centre during lockdown and would be interested in seeing progress on city centre connectivity etc. LCC will respond to the invitation

Planning Explorer

- Dai asked if there are any plans to upgrade the planning application Planning Explorer which was not very user friendly, lacked maps etc and was not 'best in class'. LCC confirmed that it was due to be overhauled and that Building Control had moved to a new system

MCS thanked LCC staff for their input and time and suggested a further meeting in 2 to 3 months' time

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