

DECISION NOTICE OF AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET

DATE OF DECISION 23 May 2018

DATE DECISION PUBLISHED 23 May 2018

DATE DECISION WILL COME INTO FORCE and implemented,
unless the decision is called in, in accordance with section 7.25 of
the Gwynedd Council Constitution 31 May 2018

Cabinet Member: Cllr. Ioan Thomas Cabinet Member for Economic Development (On behalf of Cllr. Dafydd Meurig, Cabinet Member for Environment and Cllr. Gareth Griffith, Cabinet Member for Highways and Municipal Services

SUBJECT: The Management Plan for the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd 2018 - 2028

DECISION

1. That Gwynedd Council welcomes the development of a Management Plan for the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd 2018-2028 as a coordinated means of ensuring that the Welsh Government manages the four sites within the World Heritage Site with local authorities and stakeholders;
2. That Gwynedd Council notes that there is no resource commitment from becoming a co-signatory of the Management Plan and on this basis supports being a co-signatory for the Management Plan for the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd 2018-2028.

REASON WHY THE DECISION IS NEEDED

Please see attached Officer's Report

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE

None

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

Consultation with
Gwynedd Council Statutory Officers

The results of the consultations are reported upon in the attached report

Decision Notice of an Individual Member of Gwynedd Council Cabinet – Officer’s Report

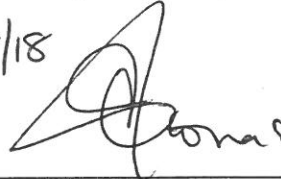
Name and title of Cabinet Member: Cllr. Ioan Thomas Cabinet Member for Economic Development (On behalf of Cllr. Dafydd Meurig, Cabinet Member for Environment and Cllr. Gareth Griffith, Cabinet Member for Highways and Municipal Services)

Name and title of Report Author Roland Evans
Senior Manager Economy and Community

Date of Decision:

23/5/18

Signature of Cabinet Member:



Subject: The Management Plan for the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd 2018 - 2028

Recommendation for the Decision:

1. That Gwynedd Council welcomes the development of a Management Plan for the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd 2018-2028 as a coordinated means of ensuring that the Welsh Government manages the four sites within the World Heritage Site with local authorities and stakeholders;
2. That Gwynedd Council notes that there is no resource commitment from becoming a co-signatory of the Management Plan and on this basis **supports** being a co-signatory for the Management Plan for the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd 2018-2028.

Reason why Decision is needed:

1. The Welsh Government has been developing a Management Plan over the past 18 months in partnership with stakeholders in Gwynedd, Conwy and Anglesey.
2. The Welsh Government has requested that all principal stakeholders formally support the Management Plan as key partners who have responsibilities for specific matters relating to the castles and adjoining towns.

Reason and Justification behind the Decision:

1. The Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd was inscribed as a single site by UNESCO in 1986 as a cultural site of outstanding universal value.
2. In Gwynedd, the site includes the Castle and Town Walls of Caernarfon and Harlech Castle.
3. The Management Plan is a critical part of managing a World Heritage Site and UNESCO recommends that management plans are written for all World Heritage sites to bring all parties together to manage sites in a coordinated way.

4. As part of its duties to protect and develop the World Heritage Site of the Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd, the Welsh Government (Cadw) is required to develop and adopt a Management Plan for the site.
5. Today, the 4 component castles that form the site attract over ½ million visitors each year and contribute around £8m to the local economy. They are international attractions that attract people from the four corners of the world.
6. Gwynedd Council has contributed to workshops and discussion during the Management Plan's development and has provided input throughout the process.
7. The Management Plan is comprised of 5 chapters with an appended Action Plan. The chapters are:
 - I. Introduction to the Site
 - II. Statement of Significance
 - III. Context of the 4 sites
 - IV. Management Needs and Policy Framework
 - V. Monitoring
 - VI. Action Plan
8. The Action Plan comprises of 12 specific Objectives:
 - i. Maintain the castles and town walls to the highest national and International conservation standards.
 - ii. Conserve, promote and interpret the archaeological heritage for the benefit of current and future generations.
 - iii. Safeguard the setting of the World Heritage Site for the benefit of future generations.
 - iv. Support and promote local distinctiveness within the World Heritage Site, recognising the characteristics and diversity of each of the four towns.
 - v. Use World Heritage Site status to support sustainable economic diversity and growth in the local and regional economy.
 - vi. Provide a visitor experience that is unique and of the highest quality.
 - vii. Market and promote the four locations of Beaumaris, Caernarfon, Conwy and Harlech as a single World Heritage Site to ensure a coherent and integrated approach.
 - viii. Encourage greater use of sustainable modes of travel as a means of visiting each of the destinations within the World Heritage Site without detriment to the qualities that demonstrate the uniqueness of the World Heritage Site on an international level.
 - ix. Raise awareness and promote understanding of World Heritage amongst a range of audiences, including local communities, engendering pride in their unique culture and heritage.
 - x. To develop improved understanding of the World Heritage Site and help better inform its future management.
 - xi. Identify, remove and/or mitigate risks to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site.
 - xii. Recognise the importance of nurturing existing partnerships and the development of new partnerships, as appropriate, to support the continued management of the World Heritage Site.
9. Although Cadw have confirmed that there is no resource commitment from being a co-signatory of the Management Plan, following a consultation process and discussions

between the Economy and Community, Highways and Municipal and Environment Departments; it has been noted that implementing the Management Plan in the future will be completely dependent on capacity in terms of staff, the work programme and financial resources.

Declaration of personal interest by any Cabinet Member consulted with and any relevant dispensations approved by the Standards Committee:

None

Any consultations undertaken before making the decision:

Head of Finance –

“I can confirm that there are no specific financial commitments to the Authority arising from the main Management Plan, however there are resource and staff time obligations arising from implementing many of the policy objectives of the Plan. I agree that the Council becomes a co-signatory of the Management Plan for the Castles and Walled Towns of King Edward in Gwynedd 2018-2028 on the condition that there is no financial commitment and that many of the objectives are part of the Authority’s statutory duties in any case.”

Monitoring Officer –

“It is recommended that the Council approves the Management Plan for the Castles and Walled Towns in collaboration with key partners. This decision is limited to the Management Plan that has been separated from the Activity Plan and therefore there are no specific resource commitments attached to the decision.”

Local Member(s) - **Not a local matter**

