



WORLD HERITAGE WATCH



Save Waterloo Dock

Neighbourhood Association

To
The Members of the World Heritage Committee

via email

Item 7A.34 Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City

Berlin and Liverpool, 18 July 2021

Distinguished members of the World Heritage Committee,

we address you concerning the pending decision on de-listing the Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City both because we may not be given the floor before the decision will be adopted and we have a suggestion to make for a possible compromise between those who are in favour of de-listing now and those who are in favour of a one-year deferral.

Save Waterloo Dock and Engage Liverpool represent residents and others determined to protect and preserve the integrity of the historic waterfront and city centre, and resist inappropriate development in the World Heritage Site and Buffer Zone. We deplore the failure of developers, Liverpool City Council and the State Party to respect and protect the OUV of the property and the requirements of the World Heritage Convention.

Many ordinary citizens in Liverpool hold the World Heritage designation in the highest esteem. The damage to reputation and prestige of our city, and the very significant adverse economic consequences its loss would cause, would be especially unfortunate as efforts are made to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Important changes have begun within Liverpool City Council signalling a real shift towards a more collaborative approach to UNESCO, and commitments to uphold the OUV of the entire WHS. We support the call from the State Party for a deferral of the decision and endorse the proposals made by Save Britain's Heritage to the Department of Culture, Media and Sports. We hope a resultant tightening of planning regulation as applied to Liverpool would ensure that past mistakes are not repeated.

The real regret for many is that if this decision to delete Liverpool goes ahead today then those who have done most damage to the OUV of the site will be the ones who ultimately benefit, and the efforts of those who have campaigned in support of the UNESCO designation will have been in vain.

May we recall the decision-making process in the only other case when a World Heritage City has been de-listed: Dresden. In that case, the Committee decided to de-list the property in the following year automatically - without any new decision necessary to be taken – unless the concerns of the Committee were removed by then. Similarly the Committee may consider deciding in the same way for Liverpool that unless certain corrective measures had been taken the property will be de-listed automatically next year. We hope that this approach may lead to finding a consensus in the Committee.

With the expression of our highest consideration
Sincerely

Gerry Proctor
Engage Liverpool

David Wertheim
Save Waterloo Dock
Neighbourhood Association

Stephan Doempke
World Heritage Watch