

## Consultation on Proposal to Extend St Bees Head Heritage Coast Defined Area

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor A Holliday

**LEAD OFFICER:** Chris Hoban

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Councillors of the feedback received to the public consultation on the proposal to extend St Bees Head Heritage Coast and the Councils proposed response.

As the relevant Maritime Local Authority, it is the responsibility of Copeland Borough Council (CBC) to agree the extension of the defined area and the proposed new name to '*St Bees and Whitehaven Heritage Coast*'.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) That Members consider consultation comments received for the proposal to extend the St Bees Head Heritage Coast Defined Area and recommend adoption of the proposed extension to the Heritage Coast defined area.
- 2) That the newly extended heritage coast be renamed '*St Bees and Whitehaven Heritage Coast*'.

The recommendations will be taken to Full Council on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Heritage Coasts were established to conserve, protect and enhance:

- The natural beauty of the coastline
- Their terrestrial, coastal and marine flora and fauna
- Their heritage features

1.2 As the relevant Maritime Local Authority CBC is responsible for defining a Heritage Coast and any extension to the boundary (in agreement with Natural England).

1.3 St Bees Head is the only Heritage Coast between Wales and Scotland, and the only area of high sea cliffs in the north-west. It was defined in 1992 and encompasses the headland and cliffs, which benefit from environmental and landscape protection in the Copeland Local Plan.

1.4 In 2016 Land Use Consultants (LUC) were appointed by the National Trust to assess the land to the north of the existing St Bees Head Heritage Coast defined area to determine whether any of this land may have the characteristics that would merit its

inclusion within the St Bees Head Heritage Coast. This work assessed 10 coastal areas from St Bees Head to Whitehaven Harbour in 2016 against the specific criteria that determines whether land has the characteristics that would merit its inclusion.

1.5 The extent of the proposed extension and gateway for the Heritage Coast can be viewed at Appendix 1, with the full LUC report in Appendix 2.

1.5 This work formed the basis of the public consultation that took place between Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

## **2. REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED TO THE PROPOSED EXTENSION TO THE ST BEES HEAD HERITAGE COAST**

2.1 A total of 68 representations have been received in response to the public consultation and the key findings are as follows:

- 96% of respondents supported the proposal to extend the St Bees Head Heritage Coast;
- No respondents suggested that areas of the proposed extension should be removed;
- 12 representations suggested additional areas of land be included within the Heritage Coast extension. Each area was considered against the evaluation within the LUC Study and it was considered that none of the additional areas met with the requirements to be described as a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality

2.2 As a result no changes are proposed having assessed the representations received and the original work by Land Use Consultants (LUC).

2.3 A summary of responses can be viewed at Appendix 2 and detailed responses can be viewed at Appendix 4.

## **3. CONCLUSIONS**

3.1 The consultation resulted in a very positive response with 96% of respondents supporting the proposal to extend the Heritage Coast. In light of LUCs assessment and following consultation it is concluded that no additional areas to those already proposed by LUC should be included within the Heritage Coast defined area.

3.2 Members are being given the opportunity to consider the summary and detailed responses made.

3.3 Members are asked to recommend the adoption of the proposed extension to the St Bees Head Heritage Coast and the proposed name change to *St Bees and Whitehaven Heritage Coast*. This recommendation will be taken to Full Council on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1: Proposed St Bees Head Heritage Coast Extension Plan
- Appendix 2: LUC St Bees Heritage Coast Extension Study
- Appendix 3: Summary of Responses
- Appendix 4: Detailed Responses