



CABINET (SPECIAL MEETING)

21ST APRIL 2016

AGENDA ITEM (5)

**HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY : ENHANCING THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OF
COTSWOLD DISTRICT**

Accountable Member	Councillor NJW Parsons Cabinet Member for Forward Planning
Accountable Officer	Sophia Price Heritage and Design Manager 01285 623000 sophia.price@cotswold.gov.uk

Purpose of Report	To seek approval of the 2016 Historic Environment Strategy
Recommendation(s)	That the 2016 Historic Environment Strategy, attached at Appendix 'A', be approved and endorsed as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan
Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)	(i) To ensure that the importance of the historic environment of the District is fully recognised, including through the Local Plan process. (ii) To provide a clear and positive strategy for the Council's work with respect to the historic environment, focusing limited resources where they can provide the most beneficial outcomes.

Ward(s) Affected	All
Key Decision	No
Recommendation to Council	No

Financial Implications	No significant financial implications - although there will be a (currently unquantified) cost associated with some of the Conservation Area work.
Legal and Human Rights Implications	None directly arising from this report
Environmental and Sustainability Implications	The proposals are aimed at sustaining and enhancing the historic environment of the District
Human Resource Implications	None directly arising from this report

Key Risks	The absence of robust strategies and evidence would present a risk of the Local Plan being deemed unsound at Examination
Equalities Analysis	No effect on protected groups identified

Related Decisions	Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation Documents of January and November 2015.
Background Documents	None
Appendices	Appendix 'A' - 2016 Historic Environment Strategy N.B. ENCLOSED AS A SEPARATE DOCUMENT

Performance Management Follow Up	Monitoring of the action plan
---	-------------------------------

Options for Joint Working	The strategy refers only to the Cotswold District, but there are areas of work within the strategy that could and should be undertaken in partnership with other local authorities and organisations.
----------------------------------	---

<p>Background Information</p> <p>1. A number of documents related to the Historic Environment in the Cotswold District have been prepared by the Council over the last three years.</p> <p>1.1. <u>Cotswold District Historic Environment Topic Paper 2014</u></p> <p>1.1.1 To provide robust evidence for the production of the Reg. 18 stages of the Cotswold District Local Plan, an Historic Environment Topic Paper was produced in 2014. It included an initial set of strategy objectives.</p> <p>1.1.2 The 2014 Historic Environment Topic Paper was the subject of informal consultation within the Council and with the following external partners:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic England; • Cotswolds Conservation Board; • Campaign to Protect Rural England; • Gloucestershire County Council; • Natural England; • Diocese of Gloucestershire; • Gloucestershire Gardens and Landscape Trust. <p>1.1.3 It was also available on the Council's Website as part of the evidence base for the preparation of the Local Plan. No comments were received on the paper as part of that process.</p> <p>1.2. <u>Conservation Areas (CA) in Cotswold District 2015 - Boundary Reviews; CA Appraisals; CA Management Plans; Community Involvement; Other Issues</u></p> <p>In response to queries raised by several Parish Councils about the Council's actions regarding CAs, the review paper referred to above was produced in 2015. The paper was the subject of consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing. It covers a range of CA tasks that the Council is, could or should be undertaking, looks at new ways of achieving the appropriate outcomes, and sets priorities for that work.</p>	
---	--

1.3. The Emerging Local Plan

1.3.1 The Reg. 18 consultation drafts include a range of strategic and development management policies on the historic environment as well as an early version of a 'positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment', as required by paragraph 126 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This evolved from the 2014 topic paper.

1.3.2 Whilst representations on the Reg. 18 consultations were largely positive, Historic England has emphasised the need for more detail and certainty of delivery in a revised historic environment strategy. The Council and Historic England have a mutual duty to co-operate.

2. Historic Environment Strategy 2016

2.1 The 2014 topic paper has been expanded to incorporate the 2015 work on CAs, as well as to reflect progress on the Local Plan; changes to Historic England guidance; and to provide a stronger framework for the 'positive strategy' for the historic environment. It was considered that a more robust approach was required, particularly in the context of the Reg.19 stage of the Local Plan, and therefore formal approval of the Strategy is now sought - a copy of the Strategy is attached at **Appendix 'A'**.

2.2 The 2016 Strategy provides clarity on the importance of the historic environment of the District and the ways in which the Council can conserve and enhance this important resource, in partnership with other relevant organisations and local communities.

2.3 The Strategy includes sections on:-

- the positive strategy for the historic environment of the District;
- historic environment evidence base;
 - legislation and guidance;
 - heritage assets;
 - summary of the historical development of the District;
 - analyses of the historic environment;
 - design guidance;
 - heritage at risk;
 - major heritage themes that contribute to local distinctiveness;
 - drivers for change;
 - consultation on local plan documents;
 - Officer-led SWOT analysis;
- current priorities.

2.4 It also incorporates an action plan, which highlights both on-going priorities, such as the consideration of historic environment issues within planning decisions, supporting local communities on relevant issues when preparing neighbourhood plans and ensuring that the heritage of the District is a key part of the attraction of the area for visitors, and new areas of work, such as piloting innovative ways of preparing CA appraisals and management plans and reviewing CA boundaries.

2.5 The implementation of this Strategy will be delivered mainly within existing budgets. However, the financial and staff resource implications of some actions will require further consideration, particularly after the CA pilot has been completed. It is possible in future that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding could be directed at delivering aspects of the Strategy.

(END)