

Chichester District Council

THE CABINET

7 February 2017

Historic Environment Strategy and Action Plan

1. Contacts

Report Author:

Mike Allgrove - Planning Policy Conservation and Design Service Manager
Tel: 01243 534688 E-mail: mallgrove@chichester.gov.uk

Cabinet Member:

Susan Taylor - Cabinet Member for Planning Services
Tel: 01243 514034 E-mail: sttaylor@chichester.gov.uk

2. Recommendation

- 1) That the Cabinet agrees the principles and approach to achieving protection and conservation of the historic environment within the district as set out in the Historic Environment Strategy and Action Plan, attached as appendix 1 to this report; and
- 2) That the Strategy and Action Plan be approved and endorsed as part of the evidence base for the review of the Local Plan and be published on the Council's website; and
- 3) That authority is delegated to the Head of Planning Services to enable minor typographical amendments to be made to the document prior to publication.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Historic Environment Strategy has been prepared to set out the Council's approach to the management of the Historic Environment in Chichester District. A copy of the Strategy recommended for approval is attached at Appendix 1 to this Report.
- 3.2. It is intended that the Strategy document will be used as a procedural document in the development management process to ensure that the council continues to meet its duties and responsibilities in relation to the historic environment having regard to the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The document also sets out priorities for future work in relation to the historic environment and includes an Action Plan that will be regularly refreshed.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

- 4.1. A clear and positive strategy for the Council's work in relation to the historic environment and ensuring resources are focused where they can provide most beneficial outcomes.
- 4.2. That the importance of the historic environment of the District is fully recognised including through the local plan review process.

5. Proposal

- 5.1. That the Cabinet approves the Strategy and Action Plan. The Strategy has been prepared to confirm the importance the Council attaches to the historic

environment and to outline our approach to raising awareness of the importance of the historic environment and to ensure that we achieve its conservation in a positive way. The Strategy is intended to underpin the Local Plan as recommended in the NPPF.

- 5.2. The Strategy embraces all aspects of the historic environment including the built environment, archaeological remains or features and man-made landscape and recognises that it is dynamic and changes over time. The aim of the strategy is to manage change by ensuring that development or change affecting the historic environment is appropriate in terms of its impact, and to ensure appropriate policies and programs of work are developed and put in place for its management. It is supported by a more detailed action plan setting out prioritised actions linked to strategic priorities to secure best use of available resources to achieve the Strategy objectives.
- 5.3. The Strategy describes and explains the various powers, processes and tools available which can contribute to conserving the historic environment and sets out our approach to their use to secure positive conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. It also sets out areas of work to secure proactive conservation of the Districts heritage assets. These include advice on development proposals, preparation of conservation area appraisals, use of Article 4 Directions, approaches to Heritage at Risk and preparation of technical guidance.
- 5.4. The aim of the document is to provide a clearly defined approach to the conservation of the historic environment and to give developers certainty about the internal procedures for assessing proposals and the processes we will employ.

6. Alternatives Considered

- 6.1. Alternatives could include the preparation of an Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This Strategy could form the basis of a future SPD should a decision be taken to prepare one.

7. Resource and Legal Implications

- 7.1. The draft Strategy has been prepared in house within existing staff resources. There are no financial or legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

8. Consultation

- 8.1. The draft of the document was approved for public consultation by the Cabinet on 4 October 2016. Pursuant to that decision an informal consultation was undertaken, between 28 October and 9 December 2016, within the Council and with external partners including:-
 - Historic England;
 - West Sussex County Council;
 - The South Downs National Park Authority; and
 - Local amenity groups.

Local agents and architects, regularly using the Planning Service, were also consulted.

- 8.2. In response to the representations received a number of changes have been made to the document; these have been highlighted with new text in bold and deleted text struck through. Details of the representations received and officers' responses to them are attached at Appendix 2 to this report.

9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 9.1. None

10. Other Implications

Are there any implications for the following?		
	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder The Strategy includes recommendations for future work to tackle issues around heritage crime, probably as part of a wider rural crime reduction initiative in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding entered into with Historic England by the Community Safety Partnership in 2012.	✓	
Climate Change The Strategy includes recommendations for future technical advice notes that will include advice on improving environmental performance of traditional buildings.	✓	
Human Rights and Equality Impact		✓
Safeguarding and Early Help		✓
Other		✓

11. Appendices

- 11.1. Appendix 1 – Historic Environment Strategy
- 11.2. Appendix 2 - Details of representations received and proposed responses to them.

12. Background Papers

None