

**STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA  
ITEM NO**

**15 DECEMBER 2016**

**10**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>CONSULTATION DRAFT HERITAGE STRATEGY (DELIVERY POLICY ES10)</b>
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To seek approval of the Draft Heritage Strategy and supporting Issues & Options Discussion Paper for public consultation.
<b>Decision(s)</b>	<b>Committee RESOLVES to:-</b> <b>a) Approve the Draft Heritage Strategy (Appendix A) and Issues &amp; Options Discussion Paper (Appendix B) for the purposes of public consultation.</b> <b>b) Agree the use of the Draft Heritage Strategy and Issues &amp; Options Discussion Paper as a basis for the drafting of a Heritage Action Plan.</b>
<b>Consultation and Feedback</b>	Members engaged through Planning Review Panel: from early evidence-gathering through to recent discussion around an 'executive summary' of the emerging draft (15/11/16). There has been ongoing informal engagement with Historic England since February. Parish Councils and other key stakeholders (e.g. civic societies, local history groups) had the opportunity to input during early evidence-gathering (June/July): a questionnaire sought views, experiences and suggestions in relation to some specific areas of heritage management. Ongoing informal consultation and engagement with key officers and relevant Council service areas.
<b>Financial Implications and Risk Assessment</b>	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.  Ian Purcell, Senior Accounting Technician Tel: 01453 754141 Email: <a href="mailto:ian.purcell@stroud.gov.uk">ian.purcell@stroud.gov.uk</a>  There is a risk that failure to adopt a positive and robust strategy could impact negatively on Historic England's input into the future Local Plan review, as well as on day-to-day planning matters.

<b>Financial Implications and Risk Assessment</b> Cont'd/...	There is a further risk that the lack of an appropriate Strategy and Action Plan might inhibit the Council's ability to make informed decisions about the allocation of resources or to effectively discharge all its statutory obligations and duties in relation to the historic environment.
<b>Legal Implications</b>	No significant legal implications to report on this particular stage of the strategy development.  Karen Trickey, Legal Services Manager Email: <a href="mailto:karen.trickey@stroud.gov.uk">karen.trickey@stroud.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report Author</b>	Natalie Whalley, Senior Planning Strategy Officer Tel: 01453 754324 Email: <a href="mailto:natalie.whalley@stroud.gov.uk">natalie.whalley@stroud.gov.uk</a>
<b>Options</b>	Options are: 1. Not to take forward a draft strategy for public consultation; or 2. Approve the draft Strategy and discussion paper for public consultation; or 3. Delay public consultation to allow for amendments to the draft Strategy and/or discussion paper.
<b>Performance Management Follow Up</b>	The Local Plan sets out five key indicators for measuring the success of Policy ES10 (and the Heritage Strategy) and how effectively the policy influences planning decisions (SDLP Appendix 1, p184). These should be monitored year by year. A performance appraisal will form part of the periodic review and refresh of the Heritage Action Plan, helping to inform future actions and priorities.
<b>Background Papers/ Appendices</b>	Background papers Appendix A – Draft Heritage Strategy Appendix B – Issues & Options Discussion Paper (to follow)

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** The NNPF advocates that local planning authorities should produce a clear and positive strategy for the conservation and management of their area's heritage: "*Local Plans should ... contain a clear strategy for enhancing the natural, built and historic environment...*" (para.157) and "*Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats*" (para.126).
- 1.2** At the Local Plan examination, Historic England's support of the Plan was conditional upon the Council strengthening its explicit commitment to the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.

- 1.3** Consequently, a Statement of Common Ground with Historic England committed the Council to producing a separate Heritage Strategy document, to support the Local Plan; the Local Plan's monitoring framework also identifies this project as a key target for the Plan.
- 1.4** The adopted Local Plan also sets out a series of five key 'indicators' that relate to Policy ES10 (SDLP Appendix 1). These are things which can be measured and monitored year by year, to give an indication of how successful the policy is and how effectively it influences planning decisions. At present, however, some of these things are not consistently practiced, recorded or monitored, so the Heritage Strategy and Action Plan need to set out:
- i) the nature and extent of a programme to monitor the District's heritage assets that are "at risk", including the degree of positive and proactive influence the Council may be capable of;
  - ii) a programme for the appraisal and management of the District's conservation areas;
  - iii) an appropriate methodology for the identification and assessment of non-designated heritage assets, including options for 'local listing' or alternative means of monitoring and managing such assets.

## **2. APPROACH**

- 2.1** The Strategy has three main objectives:
- i) to identify ways to maximise the contribution that the historic environment makes to the character of the District, its economic well-being, and the quality of life of its communities;
  - ii) to identify ways to positively address the issues and pressures that are facing our heritage assets;
  - iii) to maximise opportunities for the historic environment to help deliver the Council's wider corporate objectives, including those of the Local Plan.
- 2.2** The Strategy will provide evidence and explanation that will allow the Council to set informed priorities in relation to the conservation, management and monitoring of the District's heritage assets.
- 2.3** To support it, a Council Heritage Action Plan will be produced, consisting of a programme of works relating to priorities identified in this Strategy. The Action Plan will be periodically reviewed and refreshed, with an annual progress report to Environment Committee.
- 2.4** The intention is that the Strategy and supporting Action Plan will enable better and more efficient performance and more effectively targeted action, including through the identification of opportunities for partnership working, funding, training, education and capacity-building – for our communities as well as for those operating within Stroud District Council.

### **3. NEXT STEPS**

- 3.1** Subject to the Committee's approval, the Draft Heritage Strategy and the Issues & Options Discussion Paper will be published for six weeks' public consultation in January 2017. The consultation will seek views about whether the priorities and big issues identified within the draft Strategy are the right things to focus on; what options exist for tackling them; any practical or financial implications; and whether there are other options or opportunities that have been missed by either the draft Strategy or the discussion paper.
- 3.2** Feedback from this consultation will help to inform the first Action Plan, which should be adopted alongside the final Heritage Strategy. The Action Plan will set out realistic objectives and actions for the following five years. Performance will be monitored and the Action Plan will be periodically refreshed with a rolling five year timeframe.
- 3.3** The findings of the public consultation and any resulting modifications will be reported to Environment Committee in spring 2017, when it is anticipated that the Heritage Strategy could be adopted as Supplementary Planning Advice (SPA), supported by the Heritage Action Plan. Progress and key findings will be reported to Planning Review Panel in the interim.