
REPORT TO:	Environmental and Development Services Committee	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	27th January 2011	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Director of Community Services	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Marilyn Hallard, Design and Conservation Officer, x5747	DOC:
SUBJECT:	East Midlands Heritage Forum: 'Shared Statements of Ambition'	REF: EDS 04
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All Wards	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That members endorse the East Midlands Heritage Forum 'Shared Statement of Ambition' for the historic environment in South Derbyshire.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To consider the East Midlands Heritage Forum initiative to publish 'Shared Statements of Ambition', which is designed to raise the profile of issues affecting the historic environment in all districts in the East Midlands and to provide evidence of agreed priorities in support of funding bids and other resource allocation.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The East Midlands Heritage Forum has prepared 'Shared Statements of Ambition' for 43 of the 45 Local Authorities in the East Midlands. The Council's input has been to assist with the table of priorities. The Heritage Forum has asked all the participating Local Authorities to sign off the documents for publication.
- 3.2 Commissioned by English Heritage on behalf of the East Midlands Heritage Forum the documents have been prepared by consultants who have carried out an analysis of relevant policies and service provision at local level. The aim is to set out a joint vision and objectives for the historic environment of the region. The Statements are designed to take forward at local level the aspirations contained in a regional 'Prospectus for the Historic Environment', which English Heritage published on behalf of the Heritage Forum following a series of sub-regional 'historic environment summits' held around the East Midlands in 2008. Local members participated in the summit held in Bolsover.
- 3.3 A number of changes are taking place or are proposed in the region to the way local government is managed and regeneration is planned and funded. In this context of change, the Heritage Forum and English Heritage have identified the need to stimulate a new quality of evidence-gathering, engagement and decision-making on policies and development proposals which affect the historic environment. The statements seek to clarify outcomes, which the heritage sector believes are best for local people and the local economy, and to ensure that the opportunities presented by change are taken.

3.4 The Prospectus at regional level, and the Statements of Ambition at local level, are intended to make a coherent and comprehensive case not only for protecting heritage, but for using it to its full potential in realising the social, economic and environmental aspirations of the area.

3.5 Each Heritage Forum 'Statement of Ambition' aims to:

- Appraise the local context for management of the historic environment, through an assessment of local policies, resources and practices
- Identify priorities for future development and engagement
- Provide a focus for advocacy, negotiation and consensus-building between English Heritage and the wider Forum on one hand, and local authorities and their partners in the local community on the other
- Strengthen the influence and effectiveness of local historic environment services, Forum members and local partners in achieving these priorities
- Provide the organisations and individuals responsible for future economic, social and environmental policy and investment with a clear understanding of the opportunities which the historic environment presents, and of the care it needs
- Clarify the support local authorities and their partners need from English Heritage and other regional agencies.

3.6 The Statements include:

- An appraisal of the policy context
- A summary of current resources
- An overview of historic environment practices
- An agreed set of:
priority outcomes for the historic environment of the area as a whole,
priorities for investment and intervention in specific sites
priorities for management of the historic environment.
- A 1 year action plan to achieve the outcomes.

3.7 The proposed South Derbyshire Statement is appended at Annexe A. The local priorities are contained within the table, include current commitments and priorities of the Council and reflect the ongoing work of the Planning Policy team as follows:

Adopt policies for the historic environment in the Local Development Framework Core Strategy

Continue to implement the Masterplan proposals for public realm improvements in Swadlincote town centre

Continuation of the PSiCA grant scheme for Swadlincote

Increase awareness of the historic environment through adoption of character statements for all conservation areas, supporting Heritage Open days, publishing Heritage News and contributing information to the Historic Environment Record held by Derbyshire County Council via ongoing additions to the Council's Heritage data base

Consider increased protection for conservation areas by tightening planning controls in conservation areas at risk

Identify priority schemes for inclusion from the Buildings at Risk list

Promote high quality residential development

Facilitate a scheme that will protect the heritage assets and provide a viable long term use for Elvaston Castle and Park

Facilitate a scheme that will protect the heritage assets and secure a viable long term use for the former TG Green pottery site

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 Participation in this initiative will to help achieve Corporate Plan theme Sustainable Growth & Opportunity by contributing towards the vitality and viability of the historic environment. It will help to support bids for external funding for prioritised projects, including the continuation of improvements to Swadlincote's streets through the continued implementation of the 15 year Masterplan.

5.2 The publication of the regional document will help to communicate and support the case for heritage protection.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 Participation in this initiative will to help towards the Sustainable Community Strategy theme 'Vibrant Communities'. The District's historic buildings and conservation areas, many of which are located within the National Forest, are a key component of its vibrant communities, which offer opportunities for the future, such as tourism and job creation. The effective protection of these assets, through care and good management, enhances quality of life for all and safeguards the environment.

7.0 Background Papers

7.1 File ref: 13.1