



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND DECISION MAKING

Scrutiny Commission
Council

23 November 2017
7 December 2017

WARDS AFFECTED: All Wards

HERITAGE STRATEGY 2018 - 2023

Report of Director (Environment and Planning)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek adoption of the Heritage Strategy 2018 – 2023 and accompanying Background and Action Plan document.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Heritage Strategy and accompanying Background and Action Plan document be adopted by Council.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 The borough has a unique and distinctive heritage which is required to be preserved and enhanced for present and future generations by statute and national policy. Currently the Borough Council has no overarching strategy to achieve this so the purpose of the Heritage Strategy is to guide conservation and heritage activities in the borough over the next five years.
- 3.2 The historic environment is a valuable asset which contributes to broader council ambitions for people, places and prosperity. Specifically it contributes to economic development, urban and rural regeneration, tourism, leisure and recreation, community development, good urban design and town planning, provision of formal and informal education, development of skills, and achieving sustainable development. The strategy aims to help define, reinforce and bring these diverse aspects together.
- 3.3 The strategy provides a vision and key aims and objectives for the borough's heritage. It is supported by a detailed Background and Action Plan document which

reviews the national and local heritage context, summarises key issues and challenges for the heritage sector and service delivery before setting out detailed actions and initiatives to achieve the aims and objectives of the strategy. It advocates a holistic and joined up approach to the management of the borough's heritage to achieve these aims and its delivery will require a partnership approach between the council, its partners and key stakeholders.

- 3.4 Views from national and local heritage organisations, relevant stakeholders, borough residents, borough council members and departments informed the preparation of both documents following direct consultation and two stakeholder workshops held in the summer of 2017. A round of public consultation on a draft of both documents took place for a period of four weeks which closed on 6 November 2017. Following consultation the content of the draft documents has been amended accordingly with a final version of both documents endorsed by the Scrutiny Commission.
- 3.5 Formal approval and adoption of the documents will increase the chances of a successful council application for funding to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to deliver a Townscape Heritage scheme within Hinckley town centre, which is to be submitted to the HLF by the deadline of 8 December 2017.

4. PUBLICATION OF STRATEGY

- 4.1 The strategy is being printed in-house so a limited number of copies will be available in hard copy format. The draft documents were available to download on the council's website during public consultation and the final documents will be available on the website once adopted. Electronic copies of the draft document were distributed to all interested stakeholders during the public consultation.
- 4.2 The strategy is in a short 3-sided format and is accompanied by a more detailed Background and Action Plan document. Both documents are attached to this report.

5. EXEMPTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES

- 5.1 This report is to be taken in open session.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [TF]

- 6.1 A hard copy of the strategy will be made available for a charge. The charge will need to be approved as part of the yearly fees and charges review.
- 6.2 On page 28 of the Background and Action Plan document there is an option to increase the Environmental Improvement Programme. Any such increase would require approval in accordance with financial procedure rules.
- 6.3 Should additional funding for schemes be required due to favourable feasibility studies, approval will need to be sort in accordance with financial procedure rules.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [AR]

- 7.1 None raised directly by this report. However the legal implications for individual projects outlined in the strategy will be considered as they progress

8. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

8.1 This report contributes to all three priority ambitions of the Council, in particular:

Places - creating clean and attractive places to live and work

Prosperity – encouraging growth, attracting businesses, improving skills and supporting regeneration

9. CONSULTATION

9.1 Draft versions of both documents were prepared and informed by content received following an article in the summer edition of the Borough Bulletin and two workshops held in the summer of 2017 which were well attended by relevant stakeholders. A round of public consultation on both draft documents took place for a period of four weeks which closed on 6 November 2017. Comments were received from members of the public, Council Officers, members, and the Hinckley & District Museum. Overall the comments were very supportive and these stakeholders would welcome the adoption of both documents. A summary of the comments received during the public consultation is included in Appendix 1, and where relevant the content of the draft documents has been amended accordingly within a final version.

10. RISK IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment.

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
None identified	Risks associated with the projects described in this strategy will be assessed on a project by project basis and dealt with accordingly	SM

11. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Projects suggested in the Heritage Strategy generally have a good spread over the whole of the Borough and this includes the rural areas.

12. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications: None directly arising from this report
- Environmental implications: None directly arising from this report
- ICT implications: None directly arising from this report
- Asset Management implications: None directly arising from this report
- Procurement implications: None directly arising from this report
- Human Resources implications: None directly arising from this report
- Planning implications: None directly arising from this report
- Data Protection implications: None directly arising from this report
- Voluntary Sector: None directly arising from this report

Background papers: None

Contact Officer: Paul Grundy, ext. 5671

Executive Member: Councillor M Surtees

Appendix 1. Summary of comments received (and subsequent amendments made to the Heritage Strategy and Background and Action Plan document) following public consultation

Comment submitter	Comment	Action
HBBC Officer and resident	Minor typing errors identified through the document	Relevant errors rectified in the final Strategy document
HBBC Officer	Reflect that Hinckley has a Chartered Market established in 1311	Hinckley Market has been identified as part of the existing heritage of the borough. No amendments are required
HBBC Officer	Increase the profile of the upcoming centenary of the end of WW1, reflecting the Armed Forces Covenant recently signed and the prominence of war memorials etc.	Increasing understanding and awareness of heritage is a key objective of the Strategy, which would include increasing the profile of WW1 as the centenary approaches. Many projects commemorating WW1 have recently been undertaken and will continue to be undertaken, supported by the EIP budget (and other relevant council budgets and initiatives) and meeting the objective of maximising funding opportunities for heritage projects and the delivery of enhancements to the historic environment. WW1 centenary events have now been specifically referenced against promoting a publicising a positive image of the borough's historic identity within the final document
HBBC Officer	Utilise the Council's STEAM Tourism data to provide baseline information on the economic impact of tourism in the borough	Reference has been made within the final document to utilising data sources (such as STEAM) to provide baseline information when exploring new and innovative tourism initiatives from key heritage assets
HBBC Officer	Reflect the potential for cross border heritage links with North Warwickshire BC, as per the recommendations of the Destination Management Plan	Potential for links with NWBC (and other neighbouring authorities) are identified within the final document under the objectives of promoting and supporting the existing tourism offer of key heritage assets and exploring new and innovative tourism initiatives from key heritage assets
HBBC resident	Consideration given to identifying hosiery, Bosworth Battlefield, Hansom Cab, Burbage Rose Gardens, Historic Spa Town, Burbage Common and Woods, Burbage settlement, Argents Mead and moat as heritage assets	A number of these sites/aspects have been specifically identified as part of the existing heritage of the borough within the document. However, the heritage of the borough section of the document is not an exhaustive list and instead it groups common themes of heritage together, so all of the suggested sites/aspects would be included within one of the common themes. No amendments are required
HBBC resident	Consideration given to identifying a range of buildings/sites/features/landscapes/aspects of the borough that are valued (it is a similar list to the comment above)	A number of these sites/aspects have been specifically identified as part of the existing heritage of the borough within the document, or they would form part of the grouped common themes of heritage in the borough. The aspects suggested are valued enough to already warrant relevant statutory or local designation in either a built or natural environment context. No amendments are required
HBBC resident	A five-year timescale is short in heritage delivery terms. Consideration should be given to extending the Strategy to a 10-year timeframe	The Action Plan identifies actions and initiatives to achieve each objective, to be developed and delivered over the next five years. The actions have been prioritised with a timeframe for development and delivery; some projects are

Comment submitter	Comment	Action
		ongoing, some projects will be delivered within the time frame of the Strategy, and some projects will be long-term and likely be developed over the time-frame of the Strategy and beyond. The Heritage Strategy will be refreshed towards the end of the five-year period with actions/projects taken forward as necessary (likely depending on local and national priorities, etc.). There will be regular monitoring of the Action Plan to determine the progress of actions, review priorities and take appropriate measures if required. No amendments are required
HBBC resident	Consideration should be given to rethinking the “actions” section into “outcomes” to provide a focus to demonstrate the difference the Strategy will make over the chosen timeframe	There will be regular monitoring of the Action Plan to determine the progress of actions, review priorities and take appropriate action if required. Any projects successfully delivered will be identified as positive outcomes towards the vision of the Strategy whilst demonstrating the difference the Strategy has made. No amendments are required
HBBC resident	The Strategy leans towards the historic environment as the heritage focus, and whilst other areas are referenced, the draft would benefit from a realignment to ensure that the priorities cover the broad areas of memories and cultures, monuments and built heritage, landscape and biodiversity, museums and collections and transport and industry. This would then sit well with potential external funding opportunities.	As demonstrated by the public consultation exercise the scope of heritage within the borough is very wide, however the ownership and management responsibilities for heritage assets are often complex and shared amongst many bodies, organisations and individuals. Therefore the emphasis of the heritage strategy will be on the heritage where the council and its partners have a direct role and responsibility and some influence in the decision making or management process. The document will also seek to positively include or make reference to private and voluntary sector owned or influenced heritage and heritage related activities and highlight the council’s role in encouraging and supporting these. No amendments are required
HBBC resident	Buildings at Risk are an important inclusion and it would be good to see the recognition for those BAR which are making progress towards improvement as well of those deteriorating	Heritage at Risk is to be identified and addressed; positive action will be reported and advertised. Reference has been made to reporting on positive action and this is now included in the final document
HBBC resident	There is no reference to digital technology in terms of delivering heritage through on line solutions to increase access through virtual tours or collections on line	The use of digital technology is to be one of the ways to support the discovery and exploration of heritage and increase accessibility to the historic environment. It’s use was implied as part of objective 4, rather than specifically referenced but this is a pertinent point so it has now been included explicitly in the final document
HBBC resident	The Bosworth Battlefield Conservation Plan (2013) has been omitted from the list of key policy documents	The Bosworth Battlefield Conservation Plan (2013) has been added to the list of key policy documents in the final document
HBBC resident	Are there significant upcoming national or local events which in heritage terms are meaningful for the borough, such as the WW1 commemoration? Specific commemorations have the advantage of providing a	Increasing understanding and awareness of heritage is a key objective of the Strategy, which would include increasing the profile of WW1 as the centenary approaches. Many projects commemorating WW1 have recently been undertaken and will continue to be undertaken, supported by the EIP budget

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	cohesive opportunity for the Borough Council to join in a theme which could bring communities, schools etc. together	(and other relevant council budgets and initiatives) and meeting the objective of maximising funding opportunities for heritage projects and the delivery of enhancements to the historic environment. WW1 centenary events have now been specifically referenced against promoting a publicising a positive image of the borough's historic identity within the final document
HBBC resident	How the strategy is to be developed, delivered and reviewed, will be important -will there be a borough wide working group with representatives from HE/EH, LCC, etc.? Will there be a Forum?	Where appropriate working and steering groups will be instigated to develop and guide actions and initiatives, as referenced in the Implementation and Review of Action Plan section. No amendments are required
HBBC resident	With the launch of the Destination Management Plan, there is the need to ensure that heritage and tourism development is joined up and the bodies involved have active and ongoing dialogue. The new Bosworth tourism group needs to work hand in glove with heritage if duplication is to be avoided	Officers within the Major Projects Team are part of the new tourism group which will provide synergy between heritage and tourism. No amendments are required
HBBC resident	Consider reformatting and reordering into a simple headline strategic plan with key broad priorities which can act as an umbrella for projects currently recognised, and those which we don't currently have in mind. Moving all the detail into a set of appendices will allow the politicians to have a straightforward and clear working strategy backed up by the consultation findings, but not obscuring the main messages.	An overarching Strategy with a vision and key aims and objectives, accompanying with a more detailed background document with Action Plan is the current format of the overall Strategy. No amendments are required
HBBC resident	Perhaps you should remove the words "Hinckley town centre" in the Key Heritage Statistics section of the Heritage Strategy as I hope that there are other projects in the borough	Wording amended to "urban and rural sites" within the final document
HBBC resident	Change the words "decision taking" to "decision making" in aim 2 of the Heritage Strategy	The term decision taking reflects the specific reference to the function of Development Control in the NPPF. No amendments are required
HBBC resident	In the Background and Action Plan document I have reservations about the term Bosworth used to describe the rest of the borough outside Hinckley. I am sure the people of Markfield or Groby would think likewise	The term Bosworth always relates to a specific location within Market Bosworth rather than a generic term to identify the rural area of the borough. No amendments are required
HBBC resident	The reference to famous individuals does not include Davey Graham and Thomas Hooker for whom there are blue plaques in Market Bosworth and no doubt there are others elsewhere in the Borough	The heritage of the borough section of the document is not an exhaustive list and instead groups common themes of heritage together, so all of the suggested famous people would be included within one of the common themes. No amendments are required

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HBBC Cllr	Document is comprehensive and forward looking. Reference should be made to celebrating the different building styles within the town e.g. The 1930s semis , the 1960s Jelsons etc. Each style is worthy of note and encouragement to people to think about their surroundings	Celebrating different styles in the town will form part of celebrating and promoting achievement in the historic environment, which is one of the objectives of the Strategy, and promoting exemplars from a range of periods will form a fundamental part of any local design guidance produced by the council. Such a document forms part of the Local Development Scheme
HBBC Cllr	Include Groby History Society within Appendix 2	Groby History Society included within Appendix 2 of the final document
HBBC Cllr	Groby Blacksmiths should be called Groby Blacksmiths Cottage within Appendix 1	Name amended in the final document
HBBC Cllr	Burbage Common and Woods isn't identified as a natural landscape or listed as a tourist attraction	The lists of common themes of heritage within the document are not exhaustive, but Burbage Common and Woods has now specifically been identified as a natural landscape and tourist attraction within the final document
Sheepy Local History Society	A very well presented document. Request that the Society website link is added to Appendix 2 with the full Society name	Name amended and website link added within the final document
Hinckley & District Museum	<p>The Museum feels that there is significant opportunity within the publication of the strategy for the Council to recognise, accept and grasp with open hands. There is an opportunity to work with the Museum to create a 'Heritage Hub 'for the borough based on the Museum site in Hinckley. The Museum itself and the land surrounding it belong to the Council. The Council needs to take the opportunity to move significantly beyond the landlord/tenant relationship with the Museum and use its estate to create facilities for the discovery, exploration and investigation of our local heritage.</p> <p>The heritage hub would include the current Museum cottages but would include educational, exhibition and learning areas where the heritage of the area could be brought together. The site would include exhibition and interpretation space for the Hansom Cab in the Council's possession. The prime example locally for comparison and one which will be well known to Councillors would be the Battlefield Centre at Bosworth where the old Ambion Farm buildings have been transformed into interpretation, learning, exhibition and meeting spaces with the attendant visitor facilities.</p>	<p>The Strategy fully supports the Museum and when adopted commits the council to undertaking the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote all Museum events to increase accessibility to the historic environment and increase heritage related tourism • Direct interest to and support the Museum as an existing educational resource • Ask for support from the Museum to assist in the development and delivery of a Townscape Heritage Scheme within Hinckley town centre • Provide support to the Museum with their bid to expand their collection and construct an extension • Determine the feasibility of increased levels of council commitment (financial etc.) to the Museum • Grasp opportunities to acquire heritage items to be added to the Museum (and other council owned sites) <p>Consideration of the Museum's specific requests will be provided by undertaking these actions. No amendments are required</p>

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	<p>This would be a long-term strategy requiring Council investment over a period of years. The Museum would be the lead body managing the resource and this of course will present considerable changes and challenges for the Museum to contemplate.</p> <p>The Museum receives no annual financial support from the Council save a waiver on business rates. The strategy presents the opportunity for the Council to review this situation with a view to adopting a policy of annual support to the Museum. The Museum's collections are seen as an 'irreplaceable learning resource' and we would like to know that our aspirations for expansion and growth are echoed by the Council, not only in words, but in commitment to expenditure in support of those aspirations. The time has come to place cards on the table and to be talking about financial assistance.</p> <p>We feel that the Museum would be the ideal repository for the proposed list of 'local heritage assets'</p>	
Hinckley & District Museum	<p>Heritage Champion - this post has never been invested with or treated with any great importance. Members with this remit have rarely made contact with the Museum, for instance, except for the previous incumbent, who made it a matter of integrity to liaise with the Museum and to allow himself to be introduced the panoply of heritage across the borough.</p> <p>There is advice, training and support for Heritage Champions from Historic England. The post holder needs to significantly utilise this resource.</p> <p>The portfolio holder needs to be making contact with all the organisations that took place in the consultation exercise for instance. In effect they need to have their finger on the pulse of heritage matters. This role is not</p>	<p>The Strategy recognises the strengths of having a Heritage Champion and when adopted commits the Champion to undertaking the following actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilise the role of Heritage Champion to provide a positive image of the council's and promote heritage • The Heritage Champion has a role to ensure relevant members of the Council Executive, local members, officers and stakeholders are briefed of the benefits and values of heritage and to ensure integrated corporate working <p>No amendments are required</p>

Comment submitter	Comment	Action
	just an adjunct it is a vital point of reference for the council, community and organisations interested in heritage matters in the borough.	
Hinckley & District Museum	Many of the Council departments find themselves as custodians, guardians, and therefore possible influencers and enhancers of local heritage. Green Parks and Spaces (cemeteries, parks), Planning, Estates, Cultural Services, Chief Executive's etc. will either have heritage assets they look after or their work will impinge on the direction of heritage policy. An Audit of Council influenced/controlled heritage asset needs to be undertaken and defined. Heritage is not just the remit of the Conservation Officer it is much wider than that	An audit of council influenced/controlled heritage asset needs to be undertaken and defined is an action within the Strategy with the potential to increase access to council owned collections and sites. No amendments are required
Hinckley & District Museum	Exploring a role beyond the statutory requirements will need a commitment to finance or levering in finance to support heritage initiatives and projects. The Council needs to grasp the opportunities and the challenges this poses	The Strategy recognises the need to grasp opportunities for funding to develop and deliver projects and this is reflected within the proposed actions. No amendments are required
Hinckley & District Museum	The definition of heritage needs to include a reference to local institutions that have a "heritage" – the Rotary Clubs, the Masonic Lodges, the Golf Club, local WIs, Farmers groups, sports clubs, Churches, Schools, Shops, and Businesses etc. Many have their own archives, and these should be encouraged to be catalogued as heritage assets and then the availability/access issues could be developed. Heritage is also about language and dialect and the work of Arthur Benoni Evans of Market Bosworth in this regard, who gathered and published about our local Leicestershire dialect, should be acknowledged	People, as individuals, groups and communities, are recognised within the Strategy as having shaped the heritage of the borough. These groups will be approached to audit and catalogue their heritage and determine means of providing improved availability and access, this being one of the aims of the Strategy. The heritage of the borough section of the document is not an exhaustive list and instead groups common themes of heritage together, so suggested influential or famous people would be included within one of the common themes, and then celebrated accordingly moving forward with the Strategy. No amendments are required
Hinckley & District Museum	In general, the whole document deals with what we know, what we can see and what we have experienced. There is much that is unknown, unseen and has yet to be discovered and explored. For instance, it was not until 18 months ago that anyone had explored the links between Hinckley and William Bass. How had this gone under the radar of all the historians and researchers for so many	The Strategy includes the aim of supporting the discovery and exploration of heritage, with actions to increase accessibility to the historic environment and improving awareness (with improved accessibility) . This should also include supporting researchers and historians with the means of discovery and exploration so this has been added as an initiative in the final document

Comment submitter	Comment	Action
	<p>years?</p> <p>Much is yet to be discovered archaeologically about the area in urban and rural contexts – it remains beneath the ground. The battlefield evidence for Bosworth (1485), is an example of this</p>	
Hinckley & District Museum	<p>Why were the night owls allowed to roam unmolested over the spoil heaps from the building of Clickers Way with their metal detectors and then sell their finds on the open market? Why weren't the Council there first, legitimately with metal detectors, scouring the spoil heaps?</p> <p>When Snibston Discovery Park was closed and gutted what happened to those artefacts that had a local connection?– the smithy from Sheepy, for instance. The Museum welcomes the suggestion that the Council should be prepared to step in when a significant piece of local heritage may come onto the open market.</p> <p>Some aspects of our heritage find their way into other collections – the Hinckley Roman Bust at the Jewry Wall Museum in Leicester, the Saxon sword pommel head from Earl Shilton in Charnwood Museum, the Barwell Meteorite in the Natural History Museum, material in the Leicestershire Record Office and the National Archives etc. The Council's heritage strategy should include the compiling of an inventory of these items</p>	The Strategy includes the aim of supporting the discovery and exploration of heritage . An inventory of collections located outside the borough should be compiled and advertised so this has been added as an initiative in the final document
Hinckley & District Museum	The Heritage Strategy should include the possibility that the Council fund a publishing programme so that aspects of local heritage and be brought to the for by local researchers for sharing with a mass audience	The Strategy includes the aim of supporting the discovery and exploration of heritage, with actions to increase accessibility to the historic environment and improving awareness (with improved accessibility) which includes publishing heritage related data and information. No amendments are required