



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Scrutiny Commission 28 July 2022

Wards affected: All Wards

**Hinckley & Bosworth Heritage Strategy 2018-2023
Action Plan Update**

Report of Director Community & Development Services

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To provide Members with an update on work undertaken in the last 24 months, including ongoing initiatives, in order to fulfil the aims and objectives of the Action Plan of the Heritage Strategy 2018 – 2023.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That Members:

- a. Note and endorse the heritage work undertaken and outcomes achieved.
- b. Endorse the ongoing work.

3. Background to the report

3.1 The Council, on 7 December 2017, approved the adoption of the Heritage Strategy and accompanying action plan.

3.2 The purpose of the strategy is to guide conservation and heritage activities in the borough from 2018 to 2023. The vision of the strategy is:

- To increase our understanding and awareness of the borough's heritage with improved accessibility to the historic environment
- To implement positive action and active management of the borough's heritage to ensure its conservation and enhancement

- To enable an approach of partnership and collaboration where people, groups and communities come together to care for the borough's heritage
- To celebrate and promote the borough's heritage and identity, allowing it to make a difference for people, groups and communities

3.3 To achieve the vision of the strategy there are four aims with associated objectives. The Action Plan identifies key actions, initiatives and interventions to achieve each objective, to be developed and delivered over short (0-1 years), medium (up to 3 years) and long-term (up to 5 years) timeframes. Actions developed and delivered during the last 24 months to meet each of the four aims and associated objective are summarised below, with more detailed information regarding each action available on request.

3.4 **Aim 1 – Increasing understanding and awareness of heritage with improved accessibility**

Summary and Highlights:

- Awareness of heritage has been improved with the installation of new blue plaques (William Gadsby plaques in Desford and Hinckley) and the production and development of heritage trails, including a Desford Heritage Trail, St Margaret's (Stoke Golding) Heritage Trail, and a shared heritage trail (a joint leaflet produced with North Warwickshire Borough Council)
- Despite COVID challenges successful and expanded Heritage Open Days events took place over two weekends in September 2020 and 2021
- Links have been established with arts and cultural colleagues at North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College to deliver activities as part of the Hinckley High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ)

3.5 **Aim 2- Implement positive action to manage and enhance heritage**

Summary and Highlights:

- Continued development and delivery of capital projects within Hinckley town centre as part of the HSHAZ, including
 - Grants offered for window repairs and replacements along Castle Street
 - Other shopfront and repair schemes being developed
 - Designs for public realm improvements to Church Walk, Castle Street and yards and jitties being finalised
 - Establishment of HSHAZ Hub with Atkins Building
- Statutory action to address the perilous condition of the grade II* listed Bradgate Stables, Groby has commenced with the use of grant aid from Historic England, culminating in the serving of a Section 54 Urgent Works notice upon the landowner
- Development of a HBBC Local Heritage List has continued, devised in part conjunction with a number of Neighbourhood Planning Groups

- A Wayfinding Strategy for Hinckley town centre has been endorsed with installations being planned around the town centre, including possibility of interpretation boards
- A number of enhancements to the historic environment have been delivered during 2020 and 2021 via the Environmental Improvement Programme including general wall repairs, Ashby Canal bridge and mooring repairs, repairs to Bagworth, Hinckley, Shenton and Stoke Golding war memorials, and repairs to the Hinckley United Reformed Church
- Specialist input was provided to the emerging Local Plan with new draft policies concerning the protection of the historic environment and suggested stronger protection for particular types of heritage assets including public houses
- Professional advice continues to be provided in a timely manner to Development Management, applicants and consultees in response to statutory consultations with sound and high-quality decisions issued

3.6 Aim 3 - Ensure a partnership approach to care for our heritage

Summary and Highlights:

- Support to Neighbourhood Planning Groups during the development of Plans has been provided to ensure that heritage and the historic environment is adequately planned for at the Neighbourhood level. During the two years advice has been provided to Barlestone, Market Bosworth, Markfield, Sheepy, Stoke Golding and Witherley Neighbourhood Groups
- As organised by the Conservation Officer annual Leicestershire & Rutland Conservation Officers Forum are held and the HBBC Conservation Officer continues to be the County Representative for the East Midlands branch of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC)
- Positive working practices with local heritage stakeholders have been maintained through various means, e.g., delivery of the Heritage Open Days events
- The involvement of the HBBC Heritage Champion in the assessment of blue plaque nominations has provided more scrutiny to the process
- Production of conservation area articles in conjunction with Market Bosworth Society for publication

3.7 Aim 4 - The promotion and enjoyment of heritage

Summary and Highlights:

- The expanded Heritage Open Days 2020 and 2021 events were utilised to promote heritage to a wide range of audiences
- HBBC Conservation Officer support given to the development of the 1485 project, which has the overall vision of installing six sculptures around Bosworth Battlefield to tell the story of the battle

- Delivery of HSHAZ community and cultural programmes including archeology events within the Hinckley Town Centre and the Shakespeare in Hinckley event

3.8 There are challenges to the successful delivery of the implementation of the aims and objectives of the Strategy which will need to be carefully monitored and managed. Such challenges include:

- The impact of COVID upon development and delivery of projects during the 2020 and 2021
- The required focus upon the development and delivery of the Hinckley HSHAZ during 2022 and 2023 may lead to difficulties in delivering some short-medium term objectives, e.g., completion of Conservation Area Re-appraisals etc.
- Delivery of some aims and objectives continue to rely on the time and will of the voluntary sector
- Ensuring information on heritage assets is fully up-to-date, accurate and accessible is resource intensive
- The difficulties of obtaining funding means some aims may not be delivered fully, e.g., acquiring a budget to comprehensively address heritage at risk, securing funding to deliver key elements of the Public Realm Masterplan etc.
- The challenges raised from the pressure of inflation of increased project costs

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

4.1 The report is to be taken in open session.

5. Financial implications [CS]

5.1 None

6. Legal implications [MR]

6.1 None

7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 The Heritage Strategy 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

8. Consultation

- 8.1 The Heritage Strategy was subject to public consultation as part of its adoption in 2017 and is published on the council's website.

9. Risk implications

- 9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.
- 9.3 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		

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

- 10.1 It is considered that this report will not have any effect on equality for any of the protected characteristics and therefore no further analysis or action is necessary.
- 10.2 Projects suggested in the Heritage Strategy generally have a good spread over the whole of the borough and this includes the rural areas.

11. Climate implications

- 11.1 We consider climate implications in all initiatives related to the Heritage Strategy e.g., the Hinckley Town Centre Public Realm Masterplan and Wayfinding Strategy promotes improved walking and soft landscaping in the Town Centre Conservation Area, and when new heritage lighting is installed, this is now done with LED lighting and many projects delivered as part of the Environmental Improvement Programme look to reuse appropriate materials where possible.

12. Corporate implications

- 12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
- Community Safety implications – none directly as a result of this report
 - Environmental implications – various projects identified in this report will have a positive impact

- ICT implications - none directly as a result of this report
 - Asset Management implications - none directly as a result of this report
 - Procurement implications - none directly as a result of this report
 - Human Resources implications - none directly as a result of this report
 - Planning implications – planning matters will be dealt with, when appropriate, through the regeneration projects being brought forward
 - Data Protection implications - none directly as a result of this report
 - Voluntary Sector – the voluntary sector is supported through a number of initiatives identified in this report
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Background papers: - Hinckley & Bosworth Heritage Strategy 2018 - 2023
- Hinckley & Bosworth Heritage Strategy 2018 - 2023
Background and Action Plan

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