

Subject: Conservation and Heritage Work
Update

Status: For Publication

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 18th February 2009

Report of: Executive Director - Business

Portfolio

Holder: Regeneration

Key Decision: No

Forward Plan

General Exception

Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update Cabinet on all the work we have progressed and what we have planned in relation to Conservation and Heritage within the Borough.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.

- Delivering Quality Services to Customers (Customers, Improvement)
- Delivering Regeneration across the Borough (Economy, Housing)
- Keeping Our Borough Clean and Green (Environment)
- Promoting Rossendale as a cracking place to live and visit (Economy)

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

4. WORK PROGRAMME

Conservation areas

Fall Barn

4.1 The Council has recently approved a new Conservation Area at Fall Barn and an interim management plan has been produced. The plan outlines policies and proposals aimed at protecting and enhancing the area's character.

Conservation Area Booklet

- 4.2 The Council has recently completed a Conservation Area booklet to highlight the importance of such areas and the rules which relate to them .A copy is attached at Appendix 1. A similar booklet is to be produced for the Borough's listed buildings, and this is currently being researched.

Bacup Heritage

- 4.3 A Conservation Area appraisal and character assessment for Bacup town centre has been commissioned and will be completed by the end of January 2009. At the same time the regeneration potential of the area is being assessed by the Forward Planning Team. It is expected that the work will be used as the basis of a heritage and regeneration strategy for the town that will be subject to community involvement early in 2009.

All this work will then inform progress on the Bacup Area Action Plan.

English Heritage

- 4.4 The Council is working closely with English Heritage on Conservation and Heritage and we have applied for 2 areas of funding support.
- 4.5 The first relates to grant assistance for Conservation Area appraisal and management plan work. Each of the borough's Conservation Areas will be studied and draft proposals and policies produced for community consultation. Once finalised these will be submitted to the Council for approval and then published as a management plan aimed at protecting and enhancing each area. An English Heritage grant of £22,500 towards a total estimated cost of £45,000 is hopefully being approved. The work will be tendered to conservation specialists, and is expected to be largely complete during 2009.
- 4.6 The second relates to funding to appoint a part-time experienced Conservation Officer with a full-time Conservation Officer (trainee graduate). The grant support will cover costs for a period of 3 years, after which a single Conservation Officer will remain on the Council's staff. The grant for the 3 year period is for £57,000 towards a total cost of £126,000. A decision from English heritage is imminent.
- 4.7 The appointment of permanent Conservation staff is essential to provide for the delivery of key projects and to ensure that our Heritage is protected when applications for planning permission are applied for and when we consider regeneration proposals.

Conservation Strategy

- 4.8 A detailed Conservation Strategy will be produced and presented to the March Cabinet meeting. This will determine the aims and objectives for the Borough's built heritage.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

5.1 Finance have been involved in the applications for grant funding.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

6.1 No comments.

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

7.1 No comments.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The Council is committed to protecting our Heritage and working with English Heritage and other partners / groups to raise the profile of the buildings and Conservations areas within the Borough.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

9.1 That Cabinet notes the progress made on Conservation and Heritage work across the Borough.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 Portfolio Holder / Shadow Portfolio Holder

11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required ~~Yes~~/ No

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached ~~Yes~~ / No

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required ~~Yes~~ / No

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached ~~Yes~~ / No

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