

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
23RD OCTOBER 2008

Church Street Conservation Area – Draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal

OPEN

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	A Better Environment for today and tomorrow
CORPORATE PLAN AIM	A Sustainable Environment
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Stephen Clee,
HEAD OF SERVICE	Head of Planning, Health & Environment
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APPENDICES	Appendix 1: Draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal for the Church Street Conservation Area <i>The appendix to this report has been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details).</i>

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present Cabinet with a draft Conservation Area Appraisal for the Church Street Conservation Area, and to seek authority to undertake a public consultation on the proposals.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to DECIDE:

- 2.1 The draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal, as set out in Appendix 1 to the Cabinet Report, be supported and that officers be authorised to undertake a public consultation on the Appraisal before reporting back with a further recommendation.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Adopted Local Plan states (in paragraph 8.27), the District Council's intention to prepare appraisals for all Conservation Areas.
- 3.2 A Conservation Area Character Appraisal sets out the special architectural and historic characteristics of a Conservation Area and is intended to provide guidance for planning decisions.
- 3.3 The Church Street Conservation Area was designated in 1993 but until now no formal Character Appraisal has been prepared.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal has been undertaken in line with guidance from English Heritage published in February 2006.
- 4.5 In order to progress the Conservation Area Character Appraisal, it is considered that a consultation process should be undertaken with all persons and bodies with an interest in the Area. This would include the owner and/or occupier of properties within the boundary of the Area, and other interested parties. The consultation would take the form of public notification of intent, including a press release, a mail-drop to each individual property and interested party, the publication of the Appraisal on the Council's website and a display at the Worcestershire Hub, Kidderminster Town Hall. The consultation would run for a period of 6 weeks, from October 2008 to November 2008.
- 4.6 This Conservation Area Appraisal was originally intended to be accompanied by a Management Plan, to help identify and present proposals that, in addition to managing change, would also preserve and enhance the Area.
- 4.7 However, in light of the emerging Kidderminster Regeneration Prospectus, which concentrates in part on elements of the Church Street Conservation Area, it is proposed that the production of a Management Plan for this Conservation Area be postponed until after the publication of the Kidderminster Regeneration Prospectus, anticipated in April 2009.
- 4.8 Local Ward Members and Members of the Regeneration and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee have been consulted on the draft Appraisal. (Any comments received will be reported)

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Arrangements for a public consultation on the draft Conservation Area Appraisal can be undertaken within existing agreed budgets.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The proposed Conservation Area Appraisal has been drawn up in accordance with the guidance produced by English Heritage.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There are no risk management issues arising from this report.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 A draft Conservation Area Appraisal has been drawn up and Cabinet is asked to support the proposals for taking this forward to a public consultation, the results of which will be the subject of a future report.

9. CONSULTEES

- Head of Legal and Democratic Services
- Local Ward Members for the Conservation Area
- Members of the Regeneration and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Planning Policy Guidance Note 15
- Adopted District Local Plan (Jan. 2004)
- Guidance On Conservation Area Appraisals: English Heritage (Feb. 2006)

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