

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director (Business) (Introduced by the Executive Member for Business)	Executive Cabinet	8 January 2009

HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION STRATEGY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To summarise the main contents of the Chorley Heritage and Conservation Strategy 2009-2013.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. To endorse the Heritage and Conservation Strategy and its associated Action Plan as a structure and programme for Chorley Council's conservation and heritage work over the next five years.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. The Heritage and Conservation Strategy aims to bring together conservation issues, setting out the Council's aims and objectives with regard to conservation and establishing clear procedures including an action plan for achieving them. It will enable a structured and co-ordinated approach to be taken to conserving and enhancing the historic environment. This is in line with the Council's Strategic objectives of; developing the character and feel of Chorley as a great place to live, and strengthening Chorley's economic position in the Central Lancashire sub-region.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

4. This Heritage and Conservation Strategy directly supports the Corporate Strategy aims of developing the character and feel of Chorley as a great place to live, and strengthening Chorley's economic position in the Central Lancashire sub-region.
5. It responds to Government Planning Policy Guidance (PPG15) Planning and the Historic Environment which requires local authorities to maintain and strengthen their commitment to the stewardship of the historic environment and to reflect this in their development plan policies and their allocation of resources.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

6. None

CORPORATE PRIORITIES



7. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Strengthen Chorley's Economic Position in the Central Lancashire Sub-Region	√	Develop local solutions to climate change.	√
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances	√	Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a great place to live	√
Involving people in their communities	√	Ensure Chorley Council is a consistently top performing organisation	

BACKGROUND

8. Chorley district contains a wealth of historic buildings of national, regional and local importance which are considered to have special architectural or historic interest. It currently has 475 listed buildings (buildings which are statutory listed for their architectural or historic interest), of which 30 have been identified as being of outstanding quality (grade I or II*) and all are protected from inappropriate alterations or demolition. The historic environment of the area also contains 10 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) and the Council has identified and designated 9 Conservation Areas which are architecturally attractive and/or which have a special historic character or appearance.
9. The Council is one of the key players in managing Chorley's heritage and promoting the preservation and enhancement of the historic built environment.
10. Good conservation practice is crucial to the long-term well being of Chorley's built heritage. It is also significant to the economic well being of the area and can act as a catalyst for regeneration.

CHORLEY HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION STRATEGY

11. The aim of the Strategy is to set out in detail how the Council will continue to preserve and enhance the Council's listed and other historic buildings, conservation areas and other elements of its historic environment including ancient monuments, and registered parks and gardens.

This will be achieved through:

- The continued survey, analysis and designation of conservation areas
 - The implementation of local plan and local development framework policies and proposals and supplementary planning documents by the use of development control powers and enforcement;
 - The identification of appropriate action/initiatives and the securing of funding for their implementation;
 - Working in partnership with other relevant statutory, private and voluntary bodies.
12. The objectives are:
- To develop an information base on the condition and character of Chorley's nine conservation areas, listed and other historic buildings.
 - To identify and secure funding for initiatives to achieve the aim of the strategy.
 - To protect the built heritage from damaging change by the use of planning enforcement powers through the local plan and local development framework and the development control process
 - To continue to promote good conservation practice by providing specialist conservation advice and to raise awareness and understanding of the built heritage.

13. This will involve recording and understanding the history and fabric of Chorley's built heritage. The field work and subsequent recording and presentation of information will be carried out in house by the Conservation Officer and the Regeneration and Urban Design Manager in consultation with owners/occupiers, Parish Councillors, Local historians and local amenity and civic groups. This exercise will initially concentrate on the existing conservation areas and listed buildings in Chorley.
14. The information recorded will be used in future local development framework reviews for the formulation of effective policies for the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.
15. The Regeneration and Urban Design Section has already been working on elements that appear in this Strategy since January of this year. To date St Georges Conservation Area Review has been completed and St Laurences and Rivington Conservation Area Reviews are currently under way, with a completion date for March 2009. The Listed Building and Locally Listed Building records have been updated and posted on the Council's website and the potential for grant aid in respect of Chorley's Heritage is currently being investigated.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

16. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Corporate Directors' comments are included:

Finance	√	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		No significant implications in this area	

COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION)

17. At this stage, there are no financial implications associated with this report. The Strategy does, however, point out that there may be financial implications in the future, but any commitment will need approval by Members and will be subject to due processes.

JANE MEEK
CORPORATE DIRECTOR (BUSINESS)

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Chorley Heritage and Conservation Strategy	December 2008	***	

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Peter McAnespie	5286		***