



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 28TH OCTOBER 2014

**SUBJECT: 'THE VALUE OF HISTORIC PLACES' CONSERVATION STRATEGY
FOR THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT 2014-2019**

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform elected members of the stakeholder engagement undertaken in respect of the Draft Conservation Strategy for the Historic Environment 2014-2019 (July 2014).
- 1.2 To seek the Scrutiny Committee's views on the proposed changes to the Conservation Strategy as a consequence of public consultation.
- 1.3 To recommend that the Conservation Strategy be named 'The Value of Historic Places'.
- 1.4 To recommend to Cabinet that 'The Value of Historic Places' be approved by Caerphilly County Borough Council as the overarching strategic framework to positively and beneficially conserve, enhance and where appropriate preserve the historic environment for its intrinsic value and as an important historic asset.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 There are historic sites and buildings right across Caerphilly county borough, which form an integral part of the everyday environment we experience and enjoy. This built heritage not only enhances the character of our area but also plays a key role in the sustainable regeneration of our local economy and environment. Members are being asked to recommend to Cabinet that the CCBC Conservation Strategy for the Historic Environment 2014-2019, October 2014 also named 'The Value of Historic Places' be approved as the strategic framework to promote the historic environment of the county borough in a positive way.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan (Adopted November 2010) is the statutory framework for the development and conservation needs of the county borough up to 2021. A key objective of the LDP is to: -

22 Protect and enhance the overall quality of the historic natural and built environment of the County Borough.

Strategy Policy **SP6 Place Making** of the adopted LDP states:

"Development proposals should contribute to creating sustainable places by having full regard to the context of the local, natural, historic and built environment and its special features through:

- A An appropriate mix of uses that reflect the role and function of settlements
- B A high standard of design that reinforces attractive qualities of local distinctiveness
- C Design in accordance with best practice in terms of designing out crime
- D A location and layout that reflects sustainable transport and accessibility principles and provides full, easy and safe access for all
- E The incorporation of resource efficiency and passive solar gain through layout, materials, construction techniques, water conservation, and where appropriate the use of sustainable drainage systems
- F The efficient use of land, including higher densities where development is close to key transport nodes
- G The incorporation and enhancement of existing natural heritage features
- H The incorporation of mitigation measures that improve and maintain air quality.”

Paragraph 1.65 further states:

‘The LDP Strategy seeks to ensure that sustainable places are created that are socially cohesive, enhance quality of life, meet the needs of current and future residents and reflect the role and function of settlements. The promotion of good design, sustainable transport, resource efficiency and the enhancement of natural heritage will contribute to developments that encourage a sense of place and identity, whilst reflecting local distinctiveness.’

- 3.2 The Welsh Government sets out its key objectives in Planning Policy Wales Edition 7th July 2014 – Chapter 6 Conserving the Historic Environment, recognising that it is important that the historic environment is protected. Welsh Government’s objectives in this field are to:
- preserve or enhance the historic environment, recognising its contribution to economic vitality and culture, civic pride and the quality of life, and its importance as a resource for future generations; and specifically to;
 - protect archaeological remains, which are a finite and non-renewable resource, part of the historical and cultural identity of Wales, and valuable both for their own sake and for their role in education, leisure and the economy, particularly tourism;
 - ensure that the character of the historic buildings is safeguarded from alterations, extensions or demolition that would compromise a building’s special architectural and historic interest; and to;
 - ensure that conservation areas are protected or enhanced, while at the same time remaining alive and prosperous, avoiding unnecessarily detailed controls over businesses and householders.
- 3.3 PPW also states that ‘local planning authorities have an important role in securing the conservation of the historic environment while ensuring that it accommodates and remains responsive to present day needs.’ This is a key aspect of local authorities’ wider sustainable development responsibilities, which should be taken into account in both the formulation of planning policies and the exercise of development management functions.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Caerphilly County Borough Council is committed to protecting its historic environment and whilst the requirement to conserve and enhance our built heritage is implemented through various acts, legislation, circulars and guidance, there is currently a lack of local guidance on the protection and conservation of the historic environment.
- 4.2 Caerphilly CBC has therefore prepared a Draft Conservation Strategy for the Historic Environment 2014-2019 (July 2014) that seeks to highlight the opportunities provided by the County Borough’s historic environment in respect of regeneration, education, tourism and sustainable development. It is recommended that the Conservation Strategy as amended be renamed ‘The Value of Historic Places’ and be approved by Council as the strategic

framework to promote the historic environment of the county borough in a positive way and to identify and action a series of priorities to integrate the historic environment within the county borough.

- 4.3 Importantly the Conservation Strategy seeks to highlight opportunities to positively and beneficially conserve, enhance and where appropriate preserve the historic environment for its intrinsic value and as an important historic asset for the benefit of the people and communities that live alongside it.
- 4.4 When approved, the Conservation Strategy will cover a period of five years (2014 – 2019) and will set out the key priorities for the historic environment during this period in respect of the following:
- Sustainable Development and the Historic Environment;
 - Regeneration and Tourism in the Historic Environment;
 - Listed Buildings;
 - Historic Assets of Local Significance;
 - Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens;
 - Scheduled Monuments / Archaeology.

It is intended that the strategy will be reviewed on a five yearly basis.

- 4.5 In order to ensure that the Council has considered all of the necessary aspects of the historic environment within the Conservation Strategy, expert views were sought on the draft document. A list of those formally consulted is attached at Appendix 1. The Council held a 6-week consultation period that commenced on Friday, 18th July 2014 and ended on Friday, 29th August 2014, during which time a copy of the draft Conservation Strategy consultation document was made available to view on line (at www.caerphilly.gov.uk) and a hard copy was also available for inspection at the Planning Reception, Pontllanfraith House, Blackwood NP12 2YW.

- 4.6 There were 3 respondents to the consultation:
- Bargoed Town Council requested that the reference in the list of Listed Buildings in Caerphilly County Borough section to Bargoed Police Station, Hanbury Road, Bargoed be amended to read 'Bargoed Town Hall.'
 - Van Community Council requested that the reference in the list of Listed Buildings in Caerphilly County Borough section to Van House be amended to read 'Van Mansion.'
 - Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd. requested an insertion in the document reference to the Historic Environment Record or HER which this authority has already adopted and which GGAT curate. It is this data that GGAT bases its recommendations on and this authority recognises that it contains much detailed information regarding archaeological findspots, features and areas and is also a physical library of much more than is digital.

- 4.7 As a result of the consultation, amendments have been made to update references to the two Listed Buildings, now known as Bargoed Town Hall and Van Mansion throughout the document and also reference is made to the HER and its functions as well as to guidance from GGAT that is provided in their leaflet 'Archaeology and Your Planning Application.'

- 4.8 Elected members are now invited to consider the document as amended with a view to recommending its approval (with any changes as appropriate) to Cabinet.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no specific equalities implications arising as a result of this report.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The report reflects the views of the listed consultees.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That elected members note the stakeholder engagement undertaken in respect of the Draft Conservation Strategy for the Historic Environment 2014-2019 (July 2014).

9.2 That the Scrutiny Committee consider the proposed changes to the Draft Conservation Strategy as a consequence of the public consultation.

9.3 The Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet that the amended Conservation Strategy be named 'The Value of Historic Places'.

9.4 Cabinet approve the strategic framework which will positively and beneficially conserve, enhance and where appropriate preserve the historic environment for its intrinsic value and for containing important historic assets.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To preserve or enhance the historic environment, recognising its contribution to economic vitality and culture, civic pride and quality of life, and its importance as a resource for future generations.

11. STATUTORY POWERS

11.1 As part of key objectives set out in the CCBC LDP up to 2021, Adopted November 2010.

11.2 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

11.3 Welsh Government's Planning Policy Wales, Ch 6, Edition 7th July 2014.

11.4 Local Government Act, 1972.

11.5 Local Government Act, 2000.

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Jan Bennett, Group Manager Business Enterprise Support
Terry Shaw, Head of Engineering Services

Clive Campbell, Transportation Engineering Manager
Jacqueline Mynott, Principal Engineer
Donald Grewar, Senior Assistant Engineer
Sandra Aspinall – Acting Deputy Chief Executive
Pauline Elliott – Head of Regeneration & Planning
Rhian Kyte – Team Leader (Strategic & Development Plans)
G Williams - Interim Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer
John Rogers - Legal Services
Cllr. Ken James – Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning & Sustainable
Development
Cllr. Gerald Jones – Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Housing

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Summary of Consultees

Background Papers:

The Value of Historic Places (November 2014) - Made available in the resource library