



To: Executive Councillor for Planning
Policy and Transport.
Report by: Director of Environment
Relevant scrutiny
committee: Environment 12/01/16
Wards affected: Market, Castle, Newnham

Cambridge Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal Review

Non-Key Decision

1. Executive summary

1.1 This is an updating and review of the Cambridge Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal. The report seeks approval for public consultation on the review document.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

2.1 To approve the Cambridge Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal review for public consultation.

3. Background

3.1 Conservation area appraisals identify and describe what it is within areas of 'special architectural or historic interest' that makes them worth protecting and improving. They are a reference for guiding the form and content of new development and the determination of development proposals. An adopted appraisal will be material to appeal decisions. Appraisals are also regarded as part of the evidence base for Local Plans.

3.2 The central conservation area was designated on 25 February 1969 and has since been extended. It is the largest conservation area in Cambridge and in 1995, the City Council decided that it was unworkable to produce any meaningful proposals to cover such a wide and diverse area and set about dividing this conservation area into sectors. The appraisal the subject of this report covers the historic core area including open spaces such as the college backs and Jesus Green.

3.3 The historic core of Cambridge as well as being of huge architectural and historic interest is also a very complex area. It was therefore decided that a different structure to the other Appraisals produced for the city's Conservation Areas was appropriate. This review retains the "street by street" format of the 2006 version.

3.4 Significant changes have occurred since the 2006 Appraisal such as the completion of the Grand Arcade and the construction of mixed-use development at Bradwell's Court (Christ's Lane). Major new buildings for Cambridge University departments have been / are being erected at Fen Causeway and Tennis Court Lane.

3.5 The key part of the appraisal is the street-by-street analysis which looks in detail at all the streets in the core area. The street-by-street analysis has been thoroughly reviewed with the descriptions extended, corrections made, buildings that make a positive contribution shown on the maps, and the boundary of the area covered by each section more clearly.

3.6 Other alterations made to the street-by-street section include:

There is now an entry, "Lion Yard and The Grand Arcade".

Park Street Housing Area has been broken up into individual streets ie Lower Park Street and Portugal Street now also have entries.

Christ's Lane is now included (Drummer Street has become Drummer Street and Christ's Lane).

3.7 The section on Good Practice / Management links the Appraisal – with respect to improvement of the city centre street public realm – to the City Centre Public Realm Strategy supplementary planning document (SPD) proposed under draft policy 9 of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (Submission Plan). The Appraisal also signposts via the approved City Centre Accessibility Study (April 2015) to the needs of the visibility and mobility impaired.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

None specific: preparation of the Appraisal and provision for public consultation was provided for within the Design & Conservation team's approved budget.

(b) Staffing Implications

The Appraisal is within the existing approved Design & Conservation work programme and there are no additional staffing implications.

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

No Equality and Poverty Implications. The Appraisal is a descriptive report and does not make policy or change procedure or service delivery.

(d) **Environmental Implications**

The Appraisal describes the built environment of the city centre as a benchmark for conservation. There is “nil” climate change rating intrinsic to the Appraisal document itself. Assignment of any positive or negative climate change impact would have to be relate to Local Plan policy, and construction or development outcomes and these are outside the scope of this report

(e) **Procurement**

Part of the work for the review was carried out by consultants, The Conservation Studio. There are no further procurement implications.

(f) **Consultation and communication**

Consultation will follow the established procedure for the series of Conservation Area Appraisals. A six week consultation period (likely beginning end of January/February) after which amendments will be considered and a revised document reported back to Environmental Scrutiny for approval by the portfolio holder. The page covering the Historic Core Appraisal on the Council website will be changed to announce the consultation and link to the Appraisal. Exhibition panels will be displayed locally. A notice of the consultation period during which representations may be made will be published in the local press.

(g) **Community Safety**

None

5. Background papers

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Cambridge Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal June 2006

6. Appendices

Cambridge Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal 2015

7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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