



To: Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport: Councillor Kevin Blencowe
Report by: Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire
Relevant scrutiny committee: ENVIRONMENT 27/06/17
Wards affected: Market, Castle, Newnham

Cambridge Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal

Non-Key Decision

1. Executive summary

1.1 The report concerns the results of consultation on the review of the Cambridge Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal. It sets out the consultation responses and proposes consequential amendments for the final document.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

2.1 To approve the Cambridge Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal review incorporating the amendments set out in the report appendices.

3. Background

3.1 The Conservation Area Appraisal covers the historic core area from Queens Road to Jesus Green and Parker's Piece. This report follows an initial report to the portfolio holder and Environment Scrutiny Committee followed by public consultation on the review of the Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal carried out in 2016. Resident's groups, Colleges, public bodies, and other organisations were consulted over a six week period in February/March and the resultant detailed comments are set-out by respondent in appendix 1 of this report together with officer responses and proposed amendments to the appraisal.

Respondents included some fifteen individual residents, two residents associations, CPPF, Cambridge University, several colleges (often via agents), and Historic England. Respondent's comments are set out fully. Some - common to CPPF, FECRA and a particular resident have been combined in the interests of space and to avoid repetition.

- 3.2 Individual's or organisation's comments often covered multiple points and various sections of the Appraisal. They included detailed comments on the street-by-street analyses (these analyses look in detail at each street in the core area in alphabetical order). It was also noted that buildings that make a positive contribution to the conservation area - not only Listed buildings/BLIs are now shown on the street plans (as is generally the case with the City's other conservation area appraisal documents).
- 3.3 Officer amendments proposed in the appendices have made factual corrections where pointed out by respondents, and sought to clarify matters raised.
- 3.4 A notable amendment now proposed is the inclusion of a revised section on The Historical Development of Cambridge, taking into account the results of recent archaeological work in the city (see appendix 2).
- 3.5 The Appraisal is not intended to be the overarching strategy suggested by some respondents. Respondent's comments included that the Appraisal should consider strategic issues or threats; it should include a strategy to address the wider issues of growth and development facing the city and the city's environmental capacity; that it should include detailed consideration of trees, or a tree management strategy. Also, that the Appraisal should integrate with an update of the 2001 Open Space Conservation plans and that it should address eg the City Deal projects to build bus-lanes. Whilst officers acknowledge that such considerations can be flagged-up in the Appraisal, their substance must be dealt with by policy and strategies in a range of documents including the Local Plan and the a City Centre Public Realm Strategy/ Streets and Movement Strategy document proposed under draft policy 9 of the Cambridge Local Plan 2014 (Submission Plan). The Historic Core Appraisal's distinct role is to identify on the basis of the existing physical characteristics and historical background what is of 'special architectural or historic interest' within the historic core and warranting protection and enhancement.

- 3.6 It is also intended that a Conservation Area Management Plan will be brought forward to more fully discuss the impact of issues on the historic core and to formulate responses to some of the matters raised here by respondents.
- 3.7 In this context, the proposed amendments in the appendices to this report are to be incorporated within the Appraisal, and the finalised document published on the Council Website.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

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

There are no direct equal opportunity implications arising from this report. 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 related to Local Plan policy, and construction or development outcomes and these are outside the scope of this report.

(e) Procurement

There are no direct procurement implications arising from this report.

(f) **Consultation and communication**

Consultation followed the established procedure for the series of Conservation Area Appraisals. A six week consultation period after which amendments were considered and the revised document reported back to Environmental Scrutiny for approval by the portfolio holder. A page covering the Historic Core Appraisal on the Council website was provided to link to the Appraisal review.

(g) **Community Safety**

There are no direct community safety implications arising from this report.

5. Background papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Cambridge Historic Core Conservation Area Appraisal. Nov 2015
<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/historic-core-appraisal>

6. Appendices

1. Table of comments and amendments.
2. Revised section "The Historical Development of Cambridge"

7. Inspection of papers

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

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