



Planning Committee

29 March 2017

Title	Members' Items
Report of	Head of Governance
Wards	All Wards
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None
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Summary

The report informs the Planning Committee of a Members' Items and requests instructions from the Committee.

Recommendations

1. Instructions from Planning Committee are requested in relation to this Members item.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Historic England advises local planning authorities that key to the ongoing success of conservation areas is to have a good understanding of what makes them special, and to ensure active management once they are designated.
- 1.2 The majority of the Borough's 17 Conservation Area Appraisal statements have not been reviewed (as originally intended) every 5 years. In fact a number have not been reviewed in over 10 years. This suggests our current policy framework may not be providing a reliable understanding of the special character of our conservation areas to ensure their ongoing relevance.
- 1.3 The nature and quality of engagement with the planning process of some of the Conservation Area Advisory Committees (CAACs) appears variable; the governance structure under which the CAACs operate have been in place for many years and may benefit from a refresh, particularly in terms of community representation and transparency; therefore a review of CAAC arrangements would provide a useful insight into the effectiveness of the current arrangements for actively managing our conservation areas.
- 1.4 The list of buildings of local architectural or historic interest has not been updated for a number of years, and therefore it would be useful understanding whether this is something that is expected due or overdue in relation to the current programme of work.
- 1.5 Considering the risks from inappropriate, unsympathetic and harmful development to our Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings and the need for review of our current arrangements for managing the risks to conservation areas, I request that Planning Services arrange a review of:
 - i) Processes and resources for updating Conservation Area Appraisal Statements;
 - ii) The governance structures and any management plans associated with day to day oversight of Conservation Areas including CAACs;
 - iii) The need to update the local list used to define heritage buildings for special protection; and
 - iv) Ongoing Planning Committee engagement with the review process (it may be necessary for a special sub-group of the Planning Committee to be established for the purpose)

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 No recommendations have been made. Committee is therefore requested to give consideration to the Member's Item above and provide instruction.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 Not applicable.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Post decision implementation will depend on the decision taken by the Committee.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 As and when issues raised through a Member's Item are progressed, they will need to be evaluated against the Corporate Plan and other relevant policies.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 None in the context of this report.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 Members Item's provide an avenue for Members to request Officer reports for discussion within a Committee setting at a future meeting.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 The Council's Constitution Meeting Procedure Rules (section 6) states that a Member, including appointed substitute Members of a Committee may have one item only on an agenda that he/she serves. Members items must be within the term of reference of the decision making body which will consider the item.

6. Risk Management

6.1 None in the context of this report.

7. Equalities and Diversity

7.1 Member's Items allow Members of a Committee to bring a wide range of issues to the attention of a Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution. All of these issues must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications.

8. Consultation and Engagement

8.1 None in the context of this report.

8.2 The process for receiving a Member's Item is set out in the Council's Constitution, as outlined in section 5.4 of this report. Members will be

requested to consider the item and determine any further action that they may wish in relation to the issues highlighted within the Member's Item.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 Emails to the Governance Service.