

To: City Executive Board
Date: 2 April 2015
Report of: Head of City Development
Title of Report: Heritage Plan Framework

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: Endorsement of the Heritage Plan Framework.

Key decision No

Executive lead member: Cllr Bob Price, Corporate Strategy, Economic Development and Planning

Policy Framework: National Planning Policy Framework; Oxford Local Plan Core Strategy; Policy CS18 Urban Design and the Historic Environment.

Recommendation: That the City Executive Board ENDORSE the Heritage Plan Framework.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Heritage Plan Framework

Appendix 2 Risk Register

Appendix 3 Equalities Impact Assessment screening

Background

1. The Heritage Plan is not one document, but a rolling programme of work. The Heritage Plan Framework provides an overarching strategy for the future management of the city's heritage through the Heritage Plan. The intention of the Heritage Plan Framework is to assess what is included and what needs to be included in the Heritage Plan and to help coordinate on-going, planned and future studies.

Consultations on what should be included in the Heritage Plan

2. Consultation with key stakeholders helped develop an understanding of the way Oxford's heritage is understood and how current guidance and advice is utilised. This has improved understanding of what the

Heritage Plan needs to do and this has informed development of the Heritage Plan Framework.

3. A scoping assessment and consultation were carried out to assess existing policies and evidence base studies. The scoping report brings together existing information on Oxford's heritage and assesses how heritage assets are valued at present. A number of consultation exercises were carried out to enable an assessment of the existing heritage evidence base and whether it is adequate. The consultation deepened understanding of the way Oxford's heritage is understood and the way that current guidance and advice is accessed and utilised.
4. The groups consulted were: Oxford heritage stakeholders; the Oxford Strategic partnership (OSP); Oxford City Council planning officers and heritage asset managers; and the public. The results of the consultation exercises are summarised in the Heritage Plan Framework. These consultation exercises helped inform the other sections of the Framework, including the Action Plan.

Main content of the Heritage Plan Framework

5. The document includes a section aimed at ensuring the integration of the heritage management with other strategies, an engagement strategy and an action plan.
6. The section on integrating heritage with other strategies sets out what the heritage plan should do to help realise the full potential of this integration. It also lists elements of the heritage plan or other strategies that already exists that may help those working on other strategies to take account of heritage.
7. The engagement strategy sets out existing toolkits to help understanding and engagement with heritage issues. It also suggests other strategies for engaging a wide range of stakeholders with heritage issues.
8. The scoping, integration and engagement work informed the development of an action plan.

Action Plan

9. The Action Plan includes a list of initiatives to help deliver the vision and objectives of the heritage plan. It set out a programme of work as part of the Heritage Plan, which will be subject to periodic review. Consultation helped identify what documents should be included in the Heritage Plan programme. A particular need was identified for a document to set out and explain this work programme publicly, showing what documents are available as part of the Heritage Plan and what documents are being developed, hence the inclusion of the Action

Plan in the Heritage Plan Framework and the request for endorsement at CEB. Much of the work listed in the Action Plan is on-going or complete. All documents identified as needed as part of the Heritage Plan are expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

Legal Issues

10. There are no legal implications of this report.

Financial Issues

11. The cost associated with work on the Heritage Plan so far has been met through funding from English Heritage and resources of the Planning Policy and Heritage teams and budgets.

12. Some costs associated with the on-going work listed in the Action Plan will be met through the current resources and budgets of these teams. The conservation Area Appraisals will need other sources of funding. A programme for producing these is being developed currently.

13. Other 'desirable' projects listed in the Action Plan are likely to need outside sources of funding or management in order for them to take place.

Environmental Impact

14. No specific environmental impacts identified

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List of background papers: None

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