

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	1 September 2021
Subject:	Tewkesbury Borough Heritage Strategy
Report of:	Planning Policy Manager
Corporate Lead:	Head of Development Services
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Built Environment
Number of Appendices:	One

Executive Summary:

Tewkesbury Borough Heritage Strategy sets out the general heritage considerations within the borough along with the statutory duties and obligations of Tewkesbury Borough Council as a planning authority regarding heritage. The Strategy also includes an analysis of heritage protection within the Borough as well as an Action Plan showing how the aims and objectives of the Strategy will be implemented.

The Strategy will underpin strategic policy and enable Tewkesbury Borough Council to achieve its objectives for the protection and enhancement of the historic environment as set out in the Joint Core Strategy and the emerging Tewkesbury Borough Plan.

Recommendation:

- 1. To APPROVE the draft Document for consultation: Tewkesbury Borough Heritage Strategy.**
- 2. To delegate authority to the Head of Development Services, to make any necessary minor amendments to the draft document as considered appropriate prior to consultation.**

Reasons for Recommendation:

To consult on the draft Heritage Strategy in accordance with the The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Resource Implications:

Resource implication on officer time to conduct the consultation, review responses and make amendments as appropriate.

Legal Implications:

The preparation of a Heritage Strategy is not a statutory requirement, but is a decision for each local planning authority based upon demands for further information to assist in the delivery of sustainable development. In this case the Government's advisors on heritage, Historic England, have required this authority to produce a Heritage Strategy as evidence to underpin policies within the emerging local plan.

Risk Management Implications:

There is no statutory requirement to prepare a Heritage Strategy. However, as a matter of good practice, central government encourages all planning authorities to produce a Heritage Strategy.

Performance Management Follow-up:

Subject to the approval of the final Heritage Strategy the effectiveness of the Strategy and the actions and guidance contained within will be monitored by the Conservation Specialist.

Environmental Implications:

The draft Heritage Strategy contains further detail and advice in relation to the emerging Joint Core Strategy and Tewkesbury Borough Plan policies on design and quality of the environment.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1** Tewkesbury Borough has a wide diversity of heritage assets, which reflect its rich history. This not only fosters a sense of identity, character and local distinctiveness but also attracts visitors and economic opportunities. It is therefore appropriate that heritage within the borough is managed strategically for the benefit of the community and for the economy. Notwithstanding this, Tewkesbury Borough Council also has a number of statutory obligations to protect heritage and manage change appropriately within the historic environment through the planning system.
- 1.2** It is intended that the Strategy provides a strategic and clear approach to conserving and enhancing Tewkesbury Borough's rich cultural heritage. In regard to plan making, central government encourages all planning authorities to produce a Heritage Strategy.
- 1.3** The Heritage Strategy identifies the range of heritage assets present within the Borough including; Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Registered Battlefields, Registered Parks and Gardens and Scheduled Monuments.
- 1.4** The Heritage Strategy provides an assessment of the Borough's Heritage Assets and a SWOT analysis. This information informs an 'Action Plan' with recommendations to ensure that any future policies and approaches to the Borough's heritage are based on a clear understanding of the place, its significance and its value. The aim of the Heritage Strategy is therefore to enable Tewkesbury Borough Council to achieve its objectives for the protection and enhancement of the historic environment as set out in the Joint Core Strategy and the emerging Tewkesbury Borough Plan.
- 1.5** The Strategy has been prepared and is in accordance with policies in the Development Plan (JCS and Local Plan).

2.0 NEXT STEPS

- 2.1** Further to Member approval, the draft Strategy will be published for a six week consultation period over Autumn 2021. Following the consultation, responses will be collated and any appropriate amendments made to the Strategy. The Strategy will then be put forward to the Council for final approval.

3.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

- 3.1 Tewkesbury Borough Local Plan to 2011.
Joint Core Strategy.
Emerging Tewkesbury Borough Plan (2011-2031).

4.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

- 4.1 National Planning Policy Framework.
National Planning Practice Guidance.

5.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

- 5.1 Resource implication on officer time to conduct the consultation, review responses and make any amendments as appropriate.

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

- 6.1 Preparation of the Tewkesbury Borough Heritage Strategy provides an opportunity to manage the historic environment in a manner that promotes tourism and trade to the Borough and maintains traditional craft skills materials and techniques which are long lasting and contribute positively to a low carbon future. Communities often have strong links with the cultural heritage and history of the Borough and benefit from an attractive and characterful environment which encourages stability and wellbeing in the population.

7.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)

- 7.1 None.

8.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

- 8.1 None.

Background: None.
Contact Officer: Conservation Specialist
Appendices: 1 – Tewkesbury Borough Heritage Strategy.