

# TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Report to:</b>	Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	12 April 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Tewkesbury Borough Heritage Strategy
<b>Report of:</b>	Interim Planning Policy Manager
<b>Corporate Lead:</b>	Head of Development Services
<b>Lead Member:</b>	Lead Member for Built Environment
<b>Number of Appendices:</b>	Two (amended Heritage Strategy & Consultation Statement)

## **Executive Summary:**

A draft Tewkesbury Borough Heritage Strategy has been prepared, largely in response to the advice of Historic England – the government’s heritage body. The draft Strategy sets out general heritage considerations pertaining to the Borough along with clarifying the Council’s statutory duties and obligations as local planning authority. The draft 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.

Once adopted, the Strategy will underpin strategic policy and provide a context for the Council in achieving 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.

An initial draft Strategy was considered by Executive Committee on 1 September 2021 where it was resolved to approve the document for public consultation, before presenting to Council thereafter for formal adoption.

Accordingly, a six-week period of public consultation was undertaken between 17 September 2021 and 29 October 2021 with a wide range of organisations and individuals.

A total of 11 responses were received, the majority of which were supportive. Several suggestions for amendments to the document were submitted but, importantly, none of the comments received requested any substantive changes to the Strategy.

The representations received have been summarised and, together with a number of minor amendments being proposed by Officers in response, in the Consultation Statement at Appendix 2. With those amendments, Officers now consider that the draft Strategy (Appendix 1) fully reflects the outcome of the public consultation.

It is therefore requested that the amended draft document is now adopted by Council.

## **Recommendation:**

- 1. That the Draft Tewkesbury Heritage Strategy at Appendix 1 be ADOPTED; and**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Head of Development Services to make any necessary minor amendments to the draft document in order for it to be published in final form.**

## **Reasons for Recommendation:**

To adopt the draft Heritage Strategy in accordance with best practice and Historic England guidelines.

**Resource Implications:**

None directly arising from this report.

**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 encouraged this authority to produce a Heritage Strategy in particular to underpin policies within the emerging Borough 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:**

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 sets out a context for actions and policies designed to conserve and enhance detail design and the quality of the historic 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. In any event, 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. To this end, Historic England encourages all Councils to prepare an overarching Heritage Strategy to provide a context for its statutory and other work around conservation.

**1.2** Accordingly, Executive Committee resolved on 1 September 2021 to approve a draft Heritage Strategy for consultation with a view to a final draft version being subsequently considered and formally adopted by Council.

**1.3** The draft 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 Ancient Monuments. It also sets a context for other work such as conservation area appraisals and the High Street Heritage Action Zone.

- 1.4** In so doing, the draft Strategy presents an assessment of the Borough's heritage assets and a SWOT analysis. This information in turn 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 proposed Heritage Strategy would therefore fulfil a key aim of enabling 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** In line with the Executive Committee's resolution, public consultation was undertaken on a draft Strategy for a six-week period from Friday 17 September 2021 until Friday 29 October 2021.
- 1.6** Over 165 organisations and individuals were invited to make representations along with the general public. This includes all Parish Councils in the Borough, neighbouring local authorities, Gloucestershire County Council, as well as statutory consultees.
- 1.7** A total of 11 responses were received, however five of these were from statutory consultees confirming they had no comments. The majority of responses were positive and welcomed the purpose of the document. Importantly, none of the comments requested any substantive changes be made to the draft Strategy. Several suggestions for further development of the document were noted.
- 1.8** All comments received to the consultation have been collated and the Council's responses are set out in the Consultation Statement at Appendix 2. Where appropriate, minor changes have been proposed to the draft Strategy to address matters raised by responses. It is now considered that the Strategy fully reflects the outcome of the public consultation and can be adopted by Council. It is therefore requested that the amended draft document is adopted by Council.

## **2.0 NEXT STEPS**

- 2.1** It is recommended that Members approve the draft strategy for adoption. Officers will then arrange for a final version of the document to be prepared, incorporating any necessary minor corrections as appropriate, to be published on the Council's website.

## **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** None.

**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** Executive Committee - 1 September 2021.

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**Contact Officer:** Conservation Specialist

**Appendices:** 1 – Final Draft Tewkesbury Borough Heritage Strategy.  
2 - Tewkesbury Borough Heritage Strategy Consultation Statement.