

**COMMITTEE:** PLANNING

**DATE:** 7 JULY 2015

**SUBJECT:** **Draft Good Practice for the Selection of Local Heritage Assets (Buildings of Local Interest and Areas of High Townscape Value).**  
**To advise Members of existing guidance documents that have been updated in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.**

**REPORT OF:** Leigh Palmer, Senior Specialist Advisor (Planning and Conservation)

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**Ward(s):** All

**Purpose:** To seek authority to go out to public consultation on proposals for the draft Good Practice for the Selection of Local Heritage Assets (Buildings of Local Interest and Areas of High Townscape Value).

To advise Members that the Councils documents *Guidance for Designation and Review of Conservation Areas* and *Conservation Areas in Eastbourne Companion Document*, has been updated to include The National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF] which superseded Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS 5) in 2012.

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**Recommendation:**

1. Members are asked to authorise public consultation on the draft Good Practice for the Selection of Local Heritage Assets (Buildings of Local Interest and Areas of High Townscape Value)
2. On completion of the public consultation exercise the results shall be reported to Planning Committee prior to the referring the document onto Cabinet for adoption.
3. Members are asked to note that *Guidance for Designation and Review of Conservation Areas* and *Conservation Areas in Eastbourne Companion Document*, have been updated to include The National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF] which superseded Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS 5) in 2012

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## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of the draft Guidance Manual is to provide explanatory information and guidance on the purpose of a local heritage list and identifies the criteria local communities can use to select; assets such as buildings, areas, spaces and places that matter to them. The document sets a common framework of criteria that will be used to objectively determine the level of protection afforded to local heritage assets.

To further advise the Councils documents *Guidance for Designation and Review of Conservation Areas* and *Conservation Areas in Eastbourne Companion Document*, has been updated to include The National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF] which superseded Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS 5) in 2012

## **2.0 Good Practice Guidance for the Selection of Local Heritage Assets (Buildings of Local Interest and Areas of High Townscape Value).**

- 2.1 According to Historic England, local heritage lists play an important role in celebrating heritage that is valued by the community at a local level. Local heritage assets should be assessed against local criteria in order to ensure that a consistent, specific and objective approach is used throughout the Borough. There are currently no express criteria for the selection of local heritage assets, although there are a number of Historic England guidance documents which provide advice on undertaking formal assessments of internationally and nationally significant buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest. The advice contained in the guidance document informs the tailored criteria set out in Appendix A of the Good Practice Guidance Manual.
- 2.2 It is important that local heritage assets are seen to justify their status and the concept of local heritage criteria is not devalued by the identification of buildings or areas that lack special interest. The establishment of consistent local standards is therefore important in order to justify more rigorously why a particular heritage asset or feature has been included on the local heritage asset list, which can be defended on appeal.

## **3.0 Consultation Plan**

Internal consultation of the draft Good Practice for the Selection of Local Heritage Assets (Buildings of Local Interest and Areas of High Townscape Value) has been carried out; the Conservation Area Advisory Group has also been consulted and overall they are supportive of the draft Guidance Manual.

- 3.3 Subject to approval of the recommendations in this report, it is proposed to carry out public consultation on the draft Guidance Manual in compliance with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement. Consultation will be carried out with Historic England, Victorian Society, Twentieth Century Society, Historic Parks and Gardens, local amenity groups and historic societies, residents and occupiers of the Borough will be notified via a notice published in the local newspaper.

- 3.4 Copies of all documentation and any supporting information will be available to view and download on the Council's website at [www.eastbourne.gov.uk](http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk) and at the Council's main office at 1 Grove Road, Eastbourne during office hours for the whole consultation period. Copies of the relevant documentation will be sent to all statutory consultees and any other targeted groups where appropriate. A notice will be placed in the local newspaper and on the Council's website at [www.eastbourne.gov.uk](http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk). This will advise where and when the document can be inspected, how copies can be obtained, what the closing date is, and where to send representations. The consultation period will last for 12 weeks.
- 3.5 A further report will then be brought to this committee, outlining the results of the public consultation and making final recommendations.

#### **4.0 Financial and Staffing Implications:**

- 4.1 The cost of the consultation will be met from within existing budgets and will largely consist of staff time.

#### **5.0 Other Implications**

- 5.1 There are no youth, sustainability, anti-poverty, equality or community safety implications as a direct result of the draft documents.

#### **6.0 Conclusion**

- 6.1 The draft Guidance Manual establishes the framework through which identification of local heritage assets can be assessed objectively in order to ensure that their inclusion on the local heritage asset list, can be justified and are defensible.

#### **Recommendation**

4. Members are asked to authorise public consultation on the draft Good Practice for the Selection of Local Heritage Assets (Buildings of Local Interest and Areas of High Townscape Value)
  5. On completion of the public consultation exercise the results shall be reported to Planning Committee prior to the referring the document onto Cabinet for adoption.
  6. Members are asked to note that *Guidance for Designation and Review of Conservation Areas* and *Conservation Areas in Eastbourne Companion Document*, have been updated to include The National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF] which superseded Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS 5) in 2012
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**Sarah Leete-Groves  
Specialist Advisor (Conservation)**

**Background Papers:**

The Background Papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

Eastbourne Borough Plan (2001 – 2011)

Statement of Community Involvement (June 2009)